

## Visitor from China

Vice-Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of the People's Republic of China Li Yukui visited Canada from April 2 to 12 at the invitation of Minister of Communications Jeanne Sauvé.

He and his delegation toured the Communications Research Centre near Ottawa meeting with representatives of Teleglobe Canada, Telesat Canada, Northern Telecom Ltd., Bell Northern Research Ltd., Bell Canada, Spar Aerospace Ltd., several postal equipment manufacturing firms, the Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association of Canada and the Canadian Advanced Technology Association.

Mr. Li's trip follows the January visit to Peking by Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Jack Horner with a delegation of Canadian businessmen, who hope to develop economic and industrial co-operation with China.

## Senior citizen study

Contrary to wide belief, less than nine out of 100 elderly people live in institutions, reports Statistics Canada in a study released recently.

The profile of the population 65 years and older also shows that households in this group have an average income less than two thirds of the national average.

An individual in this age category spends 53 per cent of income on food and shelter compared to 37 per cent for all others.

## Retirement age study urged

The report urges an examination of the pros and cons of changing the retirement age, the effects of inflation on the elderly and the need for better leisure activities and facilities for the aged.

Other results were:

- Seven out of ten elderly men live with their wives, while four out of ten women live with their husbands.
- There are 777 males to every 1,000 females in this age group.
- In 1976, 12.2 per cent of the elderly were in the labour force, compared to 33 per cent in 1921.
- At 65 a man can expect to live for another 13.7 years and a woman, 17.5 years.
- The most common cause of death in this group is heart disease. Strokes are second and cancer is third.

## Underwater craft carries TV camera



*An underwater vehicle, which is remotely-controlled, has been developed by an engineering company in Port Moody, British Columbia.*

*The 37-inch Dart, weighing 70 pounds, carries a television camera and 300 watts of lighting. The craft, controlled by a joystick, can develop a nominal thrust of 25 pounds from each of four thrusters. It is manufactured by International Submarine Engineering Ltd., 2601 Murray Street, Port Moody, British Columbia, Canada V3H 1X1.*

## B.C. lawyers may advertise

Lawyers in British Columbia may now advertise their services and fees, following a ruling by the B.C. Supreme Court on April 11.

Justice A.A. Mackoff said the Law Society of B.C. had no authority to prohibit its members from advertising. He also ruled that the society fell under federal Combines Act jurisdiction, opening the way for a possible inquiry by combines investigators.

He said, however, that the society had a duty to ensure that any advertising a lawyer bought conformed to the society's code of conduct.

The decision allows North Vancouver lawyer Don Jabour to proceed with a suit for damages against the society. Jabour was suspended by the society last year when he was found guilty of conduct unbecoming a lawyer after he was cited for advertising.

## Beef and pork production

This year's slaughter of beef cattle could end up 12 to 15 percent below the 1978 level, say Agriculture Canada economists, who also expect a further 10 to 15 percent drop in supply in 1980. The price outlook for 1979 is uncertain.

The supply of other meats is increasing and will tend to moderate beef prices. Pork production is expected to rise by at least 15 per cent in North America during the second half of the year, while poultry output is also increasing.

The economists note that the key factor in the decreased supply of beef is the greatly reduced slaughter of female cattle (which are being kept for breeding).

Canadian heifer slaughter during January and February was about 20 percent below the level recorded a year earlier, while in the U.S., heifer slaughter was down only 8 per cent.

The beef industry on this continent has, since 1975, experienced its first major reduction in productive capacity since 1957-58; the expected decline in production during 1979 will be the sharpest since 1947.

## Pork production

Canadian pork production is expected to rise by 12 to 14 per cent this year over that of 1978, surpassing the all-time record of 10.2 million head of hogs slaughtered in 1971.

Prices should remain fairly strong for at least the rest of the year because of reduced beef supplies and good demand for Canadian pork on export markets.

A major factor behind the strong prices is the U.S. market, whose production in 1978 was virtually the same as the previous year's, despite relatively good returns in recent years.

Canada, whose 1978 production increased 15 per cent in 1978, has been exporting hogs and pork to the U.S. in relatively larger amounts, aided by the lower value of the Canadian dollar.

Including the net export value of \$22.5 million for live hogs and \$53.1 million for dressed pork products, Canada's pork trade surplus amounted to \$75.6 million last year, compared with a deficit of \$35 million in 1977.

The U.S. however, is expecting a general increase of 10 per cent in 1979, which will make exports to that country more difficult and will lower prices.