

## POSTAL CODE FOR CANADA<sup>(1)</sup>

A report recommending the establishment of a national postal code in Canada was tabled in the House of Commons on February 19 by Mr. Eric Kierans, Postmaster-General and Minister of Communications.

Mr. Kierans described the proposed code as follows:

...Last July, the Post Office engaged the consulting firm of Samson Belair Riddell Stead Inc. to carry out a study of a possible national postal code. Their report was completed last December and, as a result, we intend to implement a national public-address postal code.

Several countries now use, or plan to use, postal codes, among them the United States, Britain, Germany and Japan. The code which has been designed for Canada will be unique. It will provide great flexibility, precision, and be able to accommodate changes in population distribution.

The code itself will consist of six alphabetical and numerical characters. The first three characters will be used for forward sortation - that is, they will describe the area to which the letter is being sent. As an example - and this is purely an example - the address code of a letter mailed to a customer in Scarborough, Ontario, could begin with the letter "T" to designate the Toronto coding region and be followed by the numerics 8 and 7 to designate both Scarborough and the appropriate postal station. The last three characters of the six-character code will describe the local delivery unit, which might be an apartment building, a street block, and so on....

### TRIAL PERIOD

The basic design of the national code will be completed by November 1970. Implementation will begin with a detailed pilot project scheduled to start in April 1971. A period of testing and analysis will be followed by implementation in other cities. Ottawa is likely to be chosen as the test site because the new postal terminal due to be opened here this summer will include facilities to test new models of equipment, thus enabling us to examine the performance of the code under existing as well as future conditions.

(1) See also Vol. 24, No. 33, P. 4, August 13, 1969.

## NUCLEAR LIGHT SHOWS THE WAY

Brockville, Ontario, will be the first city in Canada to have the newest in navigational aids - a light that requires no maintenance which was designed primarily for use in the Arctic and in other places where access and repairs are difficult.

Federal Transport Minister Don Jamieson said that the new light, with which his Department will replace the old one now on the public dock, is standard except for the source of its power, which is

provided by means of a radioisotope generating heat in an enclosing cylinder. The heat is transformed into electricity through a thermoelectric process, providing continuous power to the lamp. It is expected that this device will generate power continuously for at least three years.

The unit, which uses gamma energy, has been designed to ensure that the outside surface will have a lower radiation level than that of a domestic color-television set. It was developed by the Commercial Products Division of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited in co-operation with the federal Department of Transport, and has been approved by the Department of Health and Welfare.

## TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Motor vehicle traffic accidents on Canada's streets and highways in November 1969 claimed 484 lives, an increase of 6.1 per cent from the November 1968 total of 456.

All provinces showed increases in fatal accidents over their totals for the same month in 1968, with the exception of British Columbia, which remained the same (45), New Brunswick, which decreased slightly, from 16 to 14, and Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, which showed significant decreases. Fatal accidents in Saskatchewan decreased from 24 in 1968 to 16 in 1969, while in Nova Scotia they decreased from 23 in 1968 to 16 in 1969.

The number of persons killed increased in 1969 over the number in the same month of 1968. British Columbia however, showed a decrease from 53 in 1968 to 49 in 1969. New Brunswick fatalities decreased slightly from 17 in 1968 to 15 in 1969. Saskatchewan fatalities decreased to 19 from 30 in 1968, and Nova Scotia fatalities decreased to 18 from 28.

Saskatchewan also reported that 76 fewer persons were injured in 1969, compared to those in November 1968.

## CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT BODY

Thirty-five leaders of industry, labor, education and government have been appointed by Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, to the newly-established Construction Industry Development Council.

The Council has been described by Mr. Pepin as national in scope and representative at the policy level of the construction industry. It represents a first for the industry by making such an outstanding group available to government as advisers on the industrialization and development of the Canadian construction industry.

The CIDC, which is expected to meet three times a year, will provide a forum for discussion by industry and government on matters of economic and