

SENATE REFORM

The Prime Minister announced recently that Mr. Hédard J. Robichaud, former Minister of Fisheries, had been summoned to the Senate of Canada. In announcing the appointment, the Prime Minister commented on the progress of the Government's consideration of Senate reform.

He said that, in the booklet *Federalism for the Future*, containing the statement of constitutional policy of the Federal Government for the Constitutional Conference held last February, the Government had indicated "that the role and the powers of the Senate should be reviewed". It had made clear its desire to have the Upper Chamber of Parliament become a more effective institution of federalism and had emphasized its willingness to discuss the matter in the federal-provincial constitutional conferences as a part of the constitutional review. This policy had not changed, Mr. Trudeau said. Plans for reform were being studied. It would be preferable that they should be implemented on the basis of discussion with the provinces, but the Prime Minister said he did not exclude the possibility that, if this took too long, some reforms might have to be proceeded with without such a basis.

Mr. Trudeau said that, pending changes in the Senate, it was necessary to proceed with appointments that would maintain the continuing operation of the Chamber in its present role and form.

WIDER TV RECEPTION

In announcing the Federal Government's policy on the opening up of Ultra High Frequency (UHF) television channels, Secretary of State Gérard Pelletier said recently that the Canadian Radio-Television Commission had been asked to take the action necessary to make the UHF band available to television broadcasting in accordance with the national policy set forth in the Broadcasting Act of 1968, and other related legislation, and to give first priority to the provision of facilities for educational broadcasts within that band.

The present policy of reserving VHF channels for the further development of the public and private sectors of the national system will be continued.

The Government has asked the Minister of Transport to submit proposals for a regulation requiring that television receivers manufactured or imported for sale in Canada be fitted for receiving both VHF and UHF channels. The effective date in 1969 for implementation of this regulation will be fixed after consultation with the industry. Because there will be some sets on the shelves of retailers and in stock, that were manufactured or imported before that date, the regulation will also provide that receivers manufactured or imported before that date may continue to be sold.

CAUSE OF INCREASED DEMAND

These policy developments reflect the rapidly increasing demand for the use of more channels to

provide TV services in areas not now covered; to extend services in English or French in order to expand national coverage in both languages; to provide alternative services; and to make national facilities available for educational television.

In most metropolitan areas where there are no additional VHF channels available, the only way the demand for new channels can be met is to use the UHF band, the opening-up of which will make it possible to provide several more television channels.

UHF transmission has two main advantages over VHF - 70 channels compared to 12 for the VHF, and a clearer picture with less interference.

TARIFF CHANGES DELAYED

Mr. E.J. Benson, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board, recently announced that Canada had received authority under the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to enter into negotiations to postpone to not later than January 1, 1969, the coming into force of certain tariff changes on chemicals and plastics agreed to in the Kennedy Round. Under the terms of the agreement, these changes should have been in effect by July 1, but the necessary legislation was not enacted by Parliament during the last session.

Mr. Benson stated that Canada had now completed negotiations with the United States, which is Canada's major supplier of chemicals and plastics. As a result of these negotiations there are certain reductions in the rates of duty on a number of chemicals and plastics, as of July 1.

STORY OF NAVAL AVIATION

The French edition of the official history of Canadian naval aviation from the First World War to the eve of the integration of the armed services has been published. Issued under the authority of the Minister of National Defence, *Histoire de l'Aéronavale canadienne 1918-1962* was written by J.D.F. Kealy and E.C. Russell, both of whom were with the naval historian section before the unification of the Directorate of History.

Beginning with the activities of the little-known Royal Canadian Naval Air Service established in 1918 to defend merchant ships from submarine attack off Canada's east coast, the account covers the postwar years of financial stringency before the Navy had to turn again to aviation because of tactical requirements during the hard-fought Battle of the Atlantic in the Second World War.

Later chapters discuss the re-establishment of a naval air arm in 1945, the many activities of aircraft carriers and their squadrons, which have become such a vital part of the modern fleet and the role of seaborne aircraft in the era of the nuclear-powered submarine.

General services units of the federal Department of Agriculture inspect 10,000 retail food stores a year.