

SHIPPING ACT REVIEW

The Federal Government has initiated a study of maritime law to prepare legislation that will be more in accord with Canada's position as one of the major shipping countries in the world.

In a joint announcement by the Ministers of Transport and Justice, Transport Minister Paul Hellyer said that the Government had been aware for some time that the Canada Shipping Act was in need of basic revision but that active work on the project was being delayed pending receipt of reports and recommendations from the Royal Commission on Pilotage, the Canadian Transport Commission and other study groups.

Although the Department of Transport had been preparing plans for revision during the past three or four years, the Minister said, it was now recognized that the task was too large to be carried out speedily by those engaged in administering the legislation.

STUDY OF OTHER SHIPPING LAWS

Discussions were held with Justice Minister John Turner, and it was recognized that the need for revising the Canada Shipping Act presented a unique opportunity for fundamental law reform in co-ordinating the subjects covered by that legislation with other shipping laws which are equally in need of revision. The Justice Minister pointed out the close relation between the Shipping Act and the Admiralty Act which is the foundation for the jurisdiction of the Exchequer Court in shipping matters, and he

added that Canada made more use of foreign shipping than any other of the world's trading nations. He considered it important, therefore, for the protection of Canadian interests not only to modernize the content of the shipping laws but also to take into account points of view that are somewhat different from the positions shown in the more traditional shipping acts of other countries.

The Minister of Justice has accordingly engaged the services of John J. Mahoney, Q.C., of Toronto, a member of the Ontario Bar and lecturer on admiralty law, with long experience in shipping and admiralty matters. Mr. Mahoney has been asked to consider all parts of the Canada Shipping Act, the Admiralty Act, the Water Carriage of Goods Act and related statutes with the object of enabling the Government to draft fundamental legislation dealing with ships, personnel and cargo.

SPECIAL LOOK AT PILOTAGE

The question of pilotage is a matter of special study arising from the recommendations of the Royal Commission and will not form part of the general programme but will be integrated into the general plan when policy has been established. The matter of public harbours is also eliminated because of the view that the legislation under study should be concerned with the operation of ships rather than port facilities. The question of harbours is now under special study by the Department of Transport.

CHEAPER COLOUR-PRINTS

A new machine for the automatic production of photographic colour-prints is the project of Dr. Tom Gray, a scientist who directs the Atlantic Industrial Research Institute in Halifax. "In the photographic business electrostatic colour-printing will be the hottest thing of the decade," Dr. Gray said. Colour-prints, he added, would eventually "cost peanuts."

U.S. BACKING

Dr. Gray has worked for years on a new electrostatic process for rapidly producing both colour and black-and-white prints. A large United States corporation recently agreed to finance the development of a system to mechanize the process, and Dr. Gray has begun work on the project. The new machine, using a new process, could revolutionize photography.

The implications of the fast, cheap printing of colour photographs are enormous, according to Dr. Gray. Not only would the new machine process replace present colour-printing methods in photography, it could take over much of the present market for colour-slides. More important, the advent of inexpensive colour photography, now promised by the new machine, should expand greatly the market for colour pictures everywhere.

ARCTIC OIL AND GAS LAND SALE

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Jean Chrétien, announced recently that 320 tenders had been received from 47 natural-resource exploration companies and individuals for 60 parcels and blocks covering more than 7,400,000 acres of oil-and-gas lands in Canada's North.

A total of 5,852,528 acres in the Yukon and Northwest Territories was bought in the Crown Reserve Sale, the second held by Mr. Chrétien's Department in 1968. The sale yielded \$2,790,480 in cash bonus, and \$10,909,395 equivalent in commitments to conduct exploratory work.

The oil-and-gas lands offered for sale consisted of small tracts scattered throughout the sedimentary basin that covers a wide belt in the western sector of the Northwest Territories, the central and northern sector of the Yukon and Canada's Arctic islands.

FOOD SHOW IN LONDON

In London recently, at Britain's biggest food show, consumers drank Canadian apple juice, munched warm apples straight from an ultra-modern micro-wave oven and sampled Canadian applesauce.