

meet unusual trading patterns resulting from unnatural marketing conditions.

An invitation to the provinces will be issued for a conference in September at the ministerial level to consider and agree on principles and policies designed to produce orderly increases in food supplies. This should be done in such a way as to enable farmers to plan increases in production with the assurance that when the goods come to market they will receive reasonable returns.

#### To protect the consumer

The terms of reference of the Food Prices Review Board will be extended to provide for investigation of price increases on individual food items.

The staff of the Food Prices Review Board will be strengthened by the assignment to it of experienced investigative officers, including officers from the misleading advertising branch of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

The Government will ask the Canadian Association of Consumers to mobilize its members to assist the Board in identifying cases of unwarranted price increases.

Where unwarranted price increases are identified the facts will be made public by the Board and given wide publicity, and the principals of enterprises involved may expect to be called before the Board.

In the event that the Board reports that significant instances of profiteering have occurred which the parties concerned are unwilling to correct voluntarily the Government will seek Parliamentary authority to undertake corrective action.

#### To mitigate effect of high costs

Measures already accepted by Parliament to increase the disposable income of Canadians include the major personal income and sales tax reductions made in the last budget, the indexing of the personal income tax system and substantial increases in the Old Age Security Pensions.

Parliament will be asked to approve several measures to help the Canadian consumer:

First, family allowances will be nearly tripled to an average of \$20 per child per month, effective January 1, 1974;

second, to make the benefits under the Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement Plans more responsive to price increases, pension payments will be escalated quarterly rather than annually, meaning a further increase in pensions effective October 1;

third, the Canada Pension Plan will be amended, with the concurrence of the provinces, to provide for the full escalation of these pensions, fully protecting their purchasing power.

To accompany full escalation of pensions under the Canada Pension Plan, the limitation of the 2 percent annual escalation in registered employees' pension plans will be removed to provide for registration of plans providing full escalation.

Under the Canada Assistance Plan the Federal Government shares 50 percent of the costs of social assistance paid by the provinces to persons in need. The Government will pay 50 percent of provincial increases in social assistance designed to meet increases in the cost of living.

This three-part plan is what is required today. I can assure you that if any further action is called for to protect the food supplies of Canadians or to protect Canadians against further erosion of their purchasing power it will be taken without delay.

#### Arctic oil and gas — federal rail-transportation study

A study has begun on the engineering feasibility and the cost of a railroad to move oil and natural gas southward from the Arctic over the permafrost region, Transport Minister Jean Marchand, Energy Minister Donald Macdonald, Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Jean Chrétien and Environment Minister Jack Davis announced recently.

The study, which will cost the Federal Government about \$1.5 million, will be carried out by a combined team of consultants of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways.

The consultants, whose target date for completion is December, will avail themselves of an earlier study entitled *Railway to the Arctic*, made during 1971-72 by the Canadian Institute of Guided Ground Transport.

#### Canada's gift to the Queen

The Prime Minister announced recently that, in honour of the Queen's visit to Canada from July 31 to August 4, the Federal Government would establish "Queen's Fellowships" for work by graduate students in the field of Canadian studies. The Queen expressed pleasure at the proposal.

The fellowships, which will be administered by the Canada Council, will be financed by income from a capital fund of \$250,000 to be set aside by the Government.

The number and amount of the awards will be determined by the Council in relation to the income from the fund and the nature of the individual projects.

The fellowships will be limited to Canadian citizens, and will be for work in Canadian studies to be pursued at any university in Canada or abroad, or without attachment to a university, provided the project is approved by the Canada Council.

#### Young Canadians play ping pong in Peking

Canada's junior table tennis team, which recently returned home, made its debut in China on July 28 before a crowd of over 18,000 cheering spectators in Peking's Capital Stadium, where it played against a squad of Chinese juniors.

The Canadians were in China for about a month to take part in training sessions with Chinese coaches. Table tennis is the national sport of China and under the expert guidance of the Chinese, who are renowned for their mastery of the game, the Canadians have reported considerable improvement in their playing.

A crew from the National Film Board, which accompanied the team, will produce a film about the tour.

Under the joint sponsorship of the Department of External Affairs and Sport Canada, the young players spent about a week each in Peking, Shenyang, Shanghai and Canton.

After a few days rest on return to Canada, the team is taking part in the Canadian junior championships that began today.