

**Efforts to relieve drought victims**

Two Canadians, thousands of miles apart, have made unique contributions to the continuing effort to relieve human suffering in drought-stricken Africa.

An anonymous Montrealer has given possibly the largest single donation to the current Sahel-Ethiopia campaign. Early in May a trust company officer presented a \$100,000-cheque to the Canadian Red Cross. The donor, shocked by newspaper descriptions of individual victims of the drought, expressed the hope that this contribution might draw attention and cause other concerned Canadians to act. The \$100,000 was transferred to the League of Red Cross Societies and is being used as emergency money to provide and distribute food, such as powdered milk, and medical aid.

**Camel transport**

Meanwhile, a 24-year-old Canadian Red Cross worker, Ron Feist, has been organizing a workable way of transporting grain and other supplies in Ethiopia, where trucks cannot reach many of the people who are without food. Some 700 camels and drivers have been hired to carry grain sent by Canada and other countries into Wollo Province. The Red Cross plans to use the same system in other countries.

**Investment of Canada Pension Plan funds**

Canada Pension Plan funds totalling \$407,098,000 were invested in provincial and federal securities during the second quarter of 1974, Finance Minister Turner reports, compared to funds invested in the second quarter of 1973 of \$393,533,000.

The amounts offered to each of the provinces are proportional to the cumulative total of contributions paid in each province. The amounts available to the Province of Quebec, which has its own pension plan, relate only to the contributions of some federal employees in that province, such as armed services personnel, who are not included in the Quebec plan but who were brought into the Canada Pension Plan by special legislation during 1966.

**New boom contains oil spills in flowing water**

With more than \$50,000 in financial backing from PACE, Petroleum Association for Conservation of the Canadian Environment, a St. Catharines, Ontario inventor has developed the first oil-spill cleanup boom demonstrated to be effective in flowing water with medium and fast currents.

At a recent annual meeting of PACE, the Research Committee reported that the next phase in the boom project would be to arrange for its manufacture and availability on the market.

The boom was developed over a period of two and one-half years by Hermann Steltner, president of Steltner Development and Manufacturing Company Limited, of St. Catharines. This hydrodynamically effective horizontal oil-guide boom uses the natural forces of flowing water to contain spilled oil for recovery, which is a breakthrough in the battle against oil spills.

In the last half of 1973 the prototype boom was tested successfully in the St. Clair River near Sarnia with a cur-

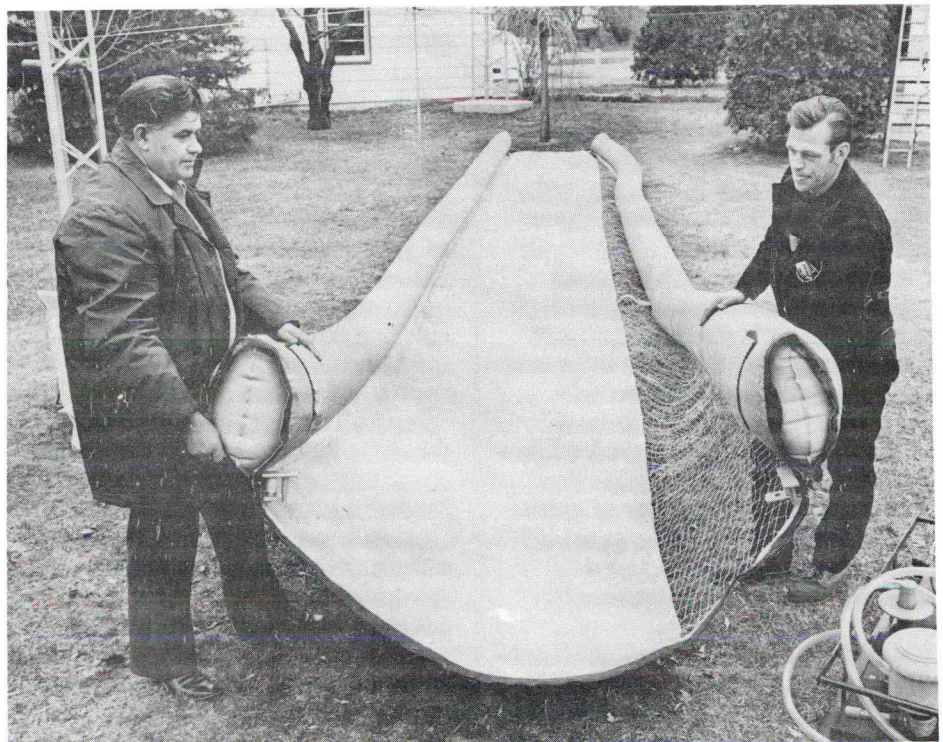
rent of 1.5 miles an hour and in the St. Lawrence River at Montreal with a current of 2.6-2.8 miles an hour. Conventional barrier-type booms are ineffective in currents of about 1 mile an hour.

**Floating sausages**

The PACE boom resembles two parallel strings of sausages floating on the water. Each "sausage" is, in fact, a flotation device about 50 feet long that is connected to the "sausage" next to it by a fast-coupling method. The boom, which weighs only two pounds a foot, can be shortened and lengthened as desired, in sections.

Linking the parallel floats and running the full length of the boom beneath the surface of the water is a suspended segment of netting fastened to non-woven material.

In operation, the PACE boom is placed across the current flow at an angle. Some oil is diverted by the leading float towards the downstream end



*The first effective weapon for containing and cleaning up oil spills on medium to fast-flowing water has been developed in Canada under the auspices of PACE, the Petroleum Association for Conservation of the Canadian Environment, which has put more than*

*\$50,000 behind the project. Demonstrating the PACE boom's features is its inventor, Hermann Steltner, (left), president of Steltner Development and Manufacturing Company Limited of St. Catharines, Ontario, and the firm's field engineer, Bill Van Maanen.*