

## News briefs

**Energy Minister** Marc Lalonde has announced the establishment of a certification requirement for residential insulation contractors performing work under the Canadian Home Insulation Programs, CHIP and the new SuperCHIP. The requirement is designed to improve the effectiveness of the federally funded insulation programs. Contractors performing work under these programs and their counterparts in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the Home Insulation Program, will be required to be certified by the Canadian General Standards Board.

**More than 40 per cent** of Canadians now belong to credit unions and caisses populaires, up from 33 per cent in 1975, according to statistics compiled by the Canadian Co-operative Credit Society Limited. Credit union membership is growing particularly quickly in the western provinces. Membership in British Columbia rose by 61.7 per cent over the five years, and the increase in Alberta was 87.4 per cent.

**Secretary of State** Francis Fox has announced a \$3 million increase in the budget of the Women's Program in his department, which will triple the program's total funds to \$4.1 million. The women's program was established in 1973 to promote social development and voluntary organizations for the support of advocacy, skill development, research, information exchange, co-ordination and public education on the status of women.

**Mobil Oil** has signed a contract for the purchase of one de Havilland Canada DASH-7 and has optioned a second. The DASH-7 will be used to support exploration, development and production activities in Southeast Asian oil fields. Mobil has operated *Twin Otters* in Southeast Asia and throughout the world for the past 12 years.

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**Bell Canada** handled more than 12 billion local calls and close to 700 million long distance messages during 1980, according to the company's 1980 annual report. Some 2.2 million telephones were connected and 1.9 million disconnected during 1980, for a net gain of 321,000 telephones. Approximately \$185 million was spent in 1980 on Bell's non-urban service improvement program, one of the company's largest single items in its construction program, designed to provide and improve services in non-urban areas.

**The Canadian Armed Forces** has awarded Bombardier Inc. of Montreal, Quebec, a \$150-million contract for the purchase of 2,767 military trucks. The contract calls for delivery of the first vehicles by the end of this year and a completion date of May 1984.

**Massey-Ferguson Limited** has received a \$41-million (U.S.) order from Saudi Arabia for tractors and farm implements. The order is for 2,300 tractors and 8,500 Massey implements, such as ploughs, tillers and trailers.

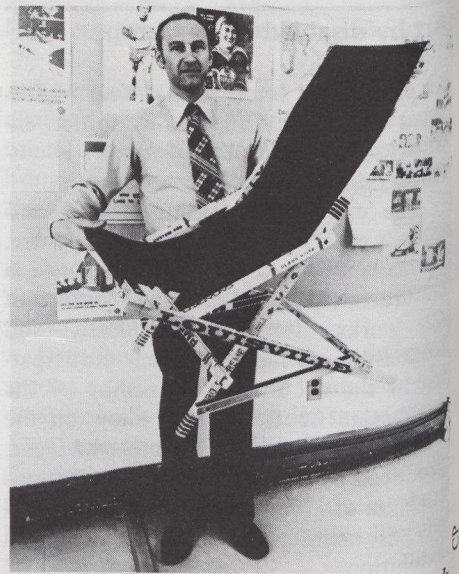
**SED Systems Limited** of Saskatoon is developing a low-cost, two-way telecommunications service for use in remote areas. Michael Hodson, company president, said plans are to incorporate ground stations with satellites where overland telephone line service is impractical.

**Potash Corporation** of Saskatchewan had a profit of \$167.5 million in 1980, according to chairman Roy Romanow. Mr. Romanow said that a dividend will be paid for the first time in its five-year history.

**The Export Development Corporation** (EDC) has announced the signing of an \$18.5-million (U.S.) financing agreement to support a \$23.1-million (Cdn.) sale by de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited of Downsview, Ontario to Cameroun. The transaction involves the sale of two DHC-50 Buffalo aircraft, spare parts, and product support services. The sale will generate some 400 man-years of employment at de Havilland and its suppliers.

**Health and Welfare Minister** Monique Bégin has announced that projects involving 198 senior citizens groups across Canada will receive \$1,387,489 in federal funds. Over 25,000 participants are directly involved. The funds are made available through the department's New Horizons program.

**Agriculture Minister** Eugene Whelan has announced additional cattle import



*Allan Cross displays one of the deck chairs made of broken hockey sticks by his industrial arts students at the Friendship School for the Retarded in St. Thomas, Ontario. The 36 students have elevated the hockey sticks to a new art form. With a little work, pieces of shattered ash make comfortable deck chairs. And the price is right — \$10, compared to \$30 for similar chairs at conventional retail outlets. The funds from the sales of the chairs are used for outings, purchase of equipment and other school needs. Broken hockey sticks are collected at local arenas and ten sticks go into each chair. To retain the novelty, brand names are left on the sticks.*

regulations to strengthen the federal brucellosis eradication program. Cattle vaccinated against brucellosis under the whole-herd vaccination plan in the United States, as of April 1, are not being allowed into Canada. In Canada, the number of cattle herds under quarantine is declining. On March 1, 1981 there were 88 herds — 0.3 per cent of the total Canadian cattle population — under quarantine.

A "plastic cheque" or "debit card" system, said to be the first in Canada, will be introduced by Alberta and Saskatchewan credit unions in 1982. Rather than creating loans as with credit cards, the system will allow customers to have purchase charges directly withdrawn from their savings or chequing accounts, according to B. Johnson, general manager of Credit Union Central of Alberta. If accounts are overdrawn, loans can be automatically created, although the scheme will be optional.