

Solar energy meeting in Manitoba

Manitoba's Industry and Commerce Minister Len Evans has announced that a \$5,000-provincial grant will be provided to help finance a conference on solar technology to be held in Winnipeg August 15 to 20.

The conference, sponsored by the American section of the International Solar Energy Society and the Solar Energy Society of Canada Inc., is expected to attract about 2,000 delegates who will discuss the use of solar energy to meet a variety of energy requirements.

Entitled, "Sharing the Sun", the conference will focus on such matters as solar heating and cooling of buildings, solar thermal stations and furnaces, the use of ocean tides and winds as energy sources and the prospects for storing thermal, electric, chemical and mechanical energy.

Mr. Evans, who is chairman of the Manitoba Energy Council, noted that the province relies on imported non-renewable fossil fuels for 84 per cent of its energy requirements.

"With the depletion of these reserves and their increasing costs, it is important to consider alternative sources of energy, particularly renewable sources of which solar energy — both direct and indirect — is the most important," he said.

It had been estimated, said Mr. Evans, that direct solar energy — about 2,300 hours of bright sunshine annually — is capable of generating 153 watts for every square meter of Manitoba. The use of indirect solar energy, in the form of biomass (vegetable matter transformed into energy resources), also offers Manitoba a significant energy alternative to fossil fuels.

He noted that the province's Legisla-

tive Building had been selected as a site for solar energy experiments to focus greater public attention on the use of this alternative energy resource and to provide technicians with reliable data on which to base projec-

tions for future years.

Conference participants will have an opportunity to see solar energy equipment in operation on a parking lot immediately south of the Convention Centre.

News briefs

■ The executive of the 2.3-million member Canadian Labour Congress was given a strong mandate at their convention on May 17 to call a general strike if such action is considered necessary to end wage and price controls.

■ An increase in the price of bread of at least 2 cents a loaf is expected in June. Current prices range from about 49 cents to 57 cents a loaf.

■ After a slow time in 1975, air cargo shipments are beginning to turn and are running well ahead of those in the corresponding period last year. Traditionally, air cargo has been regarded as one of the main indicators to trends in the airline industry.

■ Personal savings of Canadians at chartered banks have doubled since the end of 1970, says the Canadian Bankers' Association.

■ The province of Saskatchewan is undertaking studies for a 252-megawatt hydro-electric power project on the Saskatchewan River at Nipawin, 70 miles east of Prince Albert.

■ Saskatchewan Premier Allan Blakeney was in Japan, China and other Pacific Rim countries in May seeking trading opportunities for potash, rapeseed, rapeseed meal, breeding cattle and other livestock.

■ Canadian diplomat Gordon G. Crean died in London, England, recently at the age of 62. He was to have become the first non-military commandant of the National Defence College, Kingston, Ontario, in September.

■ A consortium of Canadian, U.S. and Japanese interests proposes to build and operate a huge benzene plant near Edmonton. The Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board will hold public hearings June 15 to determine whether to grant an industrial permit for the \$255-million project. If approval is given, construction could begin late in 1977 and the plant could be in full production by late 1979.

■ An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale, rumbled through an area south of Vancouver on May 16 at 4.35 in the morning. While no damage or serious injuries were reported, some apartment-dwellers in Vancouver had windows broken and people in the White Rock area reported cracked walls. The 'quake's epicentre was located just northeast of Pendar Island, immediately south of Vancouver in the Georgia Strait.

■ The price of cigarettes in most vending machines went up in the province of Manitoba on May 17 to \$1 for 25.

■ Conrad Bain, Canadian-born actor, who plays Dr. Arthur Harmon in the *Maud* television series, was in Toronto recently for a show. His home town is Lethbridge, Alberta and he first started acting under the direction of Dr. Betty Mitchell when attending high school in Calgary.

■ Canadians were among the winners of Emmy Awards — television prizes — at the twenty-eighth annual show in Los Angeles, California on May 19: Susan Clark of Toronto was chosen best lead actress for her portrayal in *Babe*; Daniel Petrie of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, was named best director for *Eleanor and Franklin*; and Ralph Mellanby of Toronto, producer of *Hockey Night in Canada*, won an Emmy for sports directorial excellence. Lorne Michaels, producer, won his award for *Saturday Night*, which he had tried unsuccessfully to put on in Canada before taking it to New York.

■ Canadian manufacturers produced 6,497,005 phonograph records in March, up from 5,022,883 in March last year. Production of pre-recorded tapes increased to 1,436,061 from 1,084,027 in March 1975.

■ Reg Leach of the Philadelphia Flyers won the Conn Smythe trophy as the most valuable player in the National Hockey League playoffs, scoring a record number of 19 goals and earning 24 points. He scored a total of 80 goals during the season.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.