

An electronically-controlled conveyor system will facilitate the delivery of books between the stacks, the reading rooms, the photocopy workrooms, the mail room and other main areas.

The Library will be situated in a natural landscaped setting to form a central pivot for the first phase of the South Campus at the National Research Council. The project is scheduled for completion late in 1973.

PENSION BENEFITS INCREASE

Benefits and contributions under the Canada Pension Plan will increase in 1972, it was announced recently by National Health and Welfare Minister John Munro and National Revenue Minister Herb Gray. Mr. Munro's Department is responsible for the administration of benefits under the CPP, while National Revenue is responsible for the coverage and collection of contributions under the Plan.

The increases result from a 2 percent rise in the pension index, the legal maximum. Pension index changes reflect increases in the consumer price index.

Mr. Gray said that maximum annual pensionable earnings under the Canada Pension Plan would be \$5,500 in 1972 (\$5,400 in 1971). Maximum yearly contributions by employers and employees will become \$88.20 each, increased from \$86.40. Self-employed persons will contribute a maximum of \$176.40, compared to the 1971 figure of \$172.80.

More than 300,000 retirement, survivors' and disability benefits will be increased in January 1972.

Benefits for orphans and the children of disabled contributors, and the flat-rate components of pensions to widows, disabled widowers and disabled contributors will increase to \$27.60 monthly, from \$27.06.

The maximum death benefit under the Canada Pension Plan, payable in a lump sum to the estate of a deceased contributor, will be \$550 for deaths occurring in 1972. The 1971 maximum is \$540.

Mr. Munro added that the Guaranteed Income Supplement payable to lower-income old-age pensioners will also increase as a result of the rise in the pension index.

The maximum combined Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement for a single person or a married person whose spouse is not also a pensioner, will increase in April 1972, to \$137.70 from \$135, the maximum supplement portion becoming \$57.70.

The maximum supplement combined with the pension, for a married person whose spouse is also a pensioner, will increase to \$130.05 from its present \$127.50. That is, each spouse will receive a total payment of \$130.05, the supplement portion being \$50.05. A married couple 65 or older can be eligible for a maximum combined monthly benefit of \$260.10 a month, compared with \$255.00 at present.

DRONE DEMONSTRATED TO ITALIANS

The Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce announced recently that representatives of the Italian Army had witnessed the successful demonstration and evaluation flights of a Canadian airborne surveillance-drone system at the Salto di Quirra Range in Sardinia.

The flights were carried out by a combined unit comprising the British Drone Troop, Royal Artillery and German Drogen Lehr und Versuchsstaffel under the direction of a Canadian planning team headed by Lieutenant Colonel Walter Johnston of Minnedosa, Manitoba. In conjunction with the demonstration, observers from Brazil, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela and the United States of America witnessed the flights on June 16 and 17.

The self-contained, mobile drone system can be used for day and night reconnaissance and target acquisition as well as surveillance, using either cameras developed by Zeiss or an infrared linescan developed by Hawker Siddeley Dynamics Limited. Its development was started in 1961 by Canadair on a cost-shared basis with the Canadian Government. The following year, Britain joined with Canada to support the development program and, in 1965, the Federal Republic of Germany became a partner.

The drone is 8 feet long, about 1 foot in diameter and is launched by a rocket-booster. It flies on a pre-selected path and returns to a pre-determined point where the final phase of its flight is controlled by a homing beacon. When the drone reaches the recovery area, its engine cuts off and a parachute floats the drone to the ground. Photographs taken during its flight can be rapidly developed and the drone sent off on another mission.

The drone, which was developed by Canada, Britain and Germany on a shared-cost basis, has been produced and controlled by a project management team in Ottawa, staffed with British, German and Canadian military and civilian personnel.

CANADA-LEBANON AIR TALKS

Delegations from Lebanon and Canada met in Ottawa on August 19 and 20 to discuss proposals relating to a bilateral air transport agreement to govern commercial scheduled air services between Canada and Lebanon.

The discussions took place in a friendly and co-operative atmosphere and there was a useful exchange of views on the provisions of such an agreement. It was agreed that further discussions would take place soon.

The Lebanese delegation was headed by Dr. Alif Gébara, Lebanese Ambassador to Canada; the head of the Canadian delegation was Mr. G. Morisset, Chairman of the International Transport Policy Committee of the Canadian Transport Commission.