

New Cabinet minister

The Prime Minister recently announced the appointment of J. Gilles Lamontagne as Minister without Portfolio.



J. Gilles Lamontagne

Mr. Lamontagne, mayor of Quebec City for many years, was also president of the Union des municipalités du Québec, vice-president of the Fédération canadienne des municipalités and a member of the Economic Council of Canada.

In 1977, Mr. Lamontagne was elected Member of Parliament for the federal constituency of Langelier in a byelection. In October he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Smoking — a costly habit

Cigarette smoking cost Canadians an estimated \$506 million in 1971, according to a study recently conducted by the Department of National Health and Welfare.

The study updates a 1966 departmental report concerning the estimated cost of identifiable consequences of cigarette smoking upon health, longevity and property losses in Canada.

Results of the study indicate that in 1971 the economic cost associated with lung cancer, arising from physicians' services, hospital costs and income lost after death, was \$76.9 million; coronary heart disease accounted for \$212.2 million, chronic bronchitis, \$15.6 million, and emphysema, \$16.7 million. The total

health care cost attributed to smoking-related diseases in 1971 was \$56.1 million. Lost income from smoking-related illness amounted to \$164.5 million.

Comparison of 1966 and 1971 figures shows a 20 percent increase in the economic costs of consequences attributed to cigarette smoking (\$422 million in 1966 compared with \$506.3 million in 1971). Hospital care costs and physicians' services fees increased significantly during this period.

The study also reports that 9.2 per cent of all fires of known cause in 1971 were attributed to smoking, resulting in property damage and lost income of approximately \$20.4 million. A total of 112 persons died in fires caused by smoking, accounting for 29 per cent of deaths in fires of known cause.

Fewer smokers in 1975

A more optimistic report, released by the Department during this year's National Education Week on Smoking, shows a continuing decline in the percentage of Canadians who smoke cigarettes regularly. Approximately 37.3 per cent of the population 15 years of age and over were daily cigarette smokers in 1975, compared with 38.3 per cent in 1974. Substantial decreases in regular smoking by adult males during the past ten years have been largely responsible for this decline.

According to the survey, the percentage of female smokers 15 years of age and over remained relatively unchanged between 1974 and 1975; approximately 31 per cent reported regular smoking.

The percentage of regular smokers in the teenage population declined 1.6 per cent between 1974 and 1975 to 28.5 per cent. In 1975, 29.5 per cent of teenage boys and 27.4 per cent of teenage girls reported smoking regularly.

The survey reveals considerable differences in the regional distribution of regular cigarette smokers. As in previous years, Quebec was found to have the highest percentage of both male and female smokers 15 years of age and over. About 50 per cent of the Quebec male population indicated they smoked regularly, followed in order by the Atlantic provinces (44.5 per cent), Ontario (40.6 per cent), prairie provinces (39.5 per cent) and British Columbia (39.2 per cent). Regional distribution of the female smoking population was: Quebec, 34.6 per cent; Atlantic, 30.3 per cent; British Columbia, 30.3 per cent; Ontario, 30.1 per cent; and the

prairie provinces, 29.9 per cent.

It is encouraging to note that as of 1975, almost 12 per cent of the Canadian adult population have successfully quit "the habit".

CAE builds in West Germany

CAE Industries Ltd.'s subsidiary, CAE Electronics GmbH, in Stolberg/Aachen, West Germany, will build a new \$3-million facility in Stolberg to accommodate growing European business.

The German company maintains, repairs and overhauls aircraft flight simulators built by CAE Electronics Ltd., Montreal, another CAE subsidiary, and by other manufacturers for the German defence forces; and designs, manufactures and markets a line of peripheral telecommunications equipment sold throughout Europe.

It is also engaged in the development and manufacturing of a variety of maintenance training aids and other training devices for the German defence forces, and conducts depot level electronic equipment and instrument repair, overhaul and calibration services for the military.

CAE Electronics GmbH maintains Germany's F-104G fighter aircraft simulators, and UH-1D and CH-53 helicopter simulators, built in Montreal, and F-4 Phantom simulators constructed for Germany by another manufacturer.

It will also maintain *Sea King* helicopter, *Alpha Jet* trainer and MRCA (Multi-Role Combat Aircraft) *Tornado* simulators for the German defence forces when these simulators, now under development by CAE in Montreal, are delivered.

The new structure will include a large stores area, repair and overhaul shops, engineering offices, a security area and general administration offices.

CAE Industries Ltd., a Canadian company with 16 operating divisions, is engaged in manufacturing high-technology electronic, aerospace and metal products for international markets, and in the distribution of machine tools, industrial equipment and forestry and construction equipment and machinery across Canada.

The new facility in West Germany is the second major expansion announced by CAE in recent weeks. In Vancouver, British Columbia, CAE Machinery Ltd. is embarking upon a five-year redevelopment program that will double its production.