

News briefs

The Department of Employment and Immigration has introduced a computerized system in the Montreal area to match workers and jobs more effectively. The system, known as MOPS, for Metropolitan Order Processing System, means that a job order or worker file placed in any Canada Employment Centre around Montreal will be immediately available to all the 27 centres in the area. In addition to Montreal, the MOPS is operating in Vancouver, Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa-Hull.

Quasar Systems Limited of Ottawa, one of the largest software companies in Canada has purchased Palo Alto Group, a California firm with sales of \$500,000 last year. The main software product being marketed by the Palo Alto Group was a financial planning package, which when used on a computer helps analysts and accountants do cash flow reports, forecasts and other financial planning. The group will continue to work as a research and development team in California in conjunction with Quasar's San Francisco office.

The Manitoba government has begun a \$53-million universal dental care plan to be phased in over a six-year period. The plan, which will be implemented in three stages, is expected to provide full dental coverage to all Manitobans by 1988.

The Quebec government and Asahi Glass Company of Japan will jointly build and operate a soda ash plant in the province by 1985. Soda ash is used in the manufacture of glass, steel and detergents. Quebec will provide a third of the required investment for the plant.

Health and Welfare Canada will provide \$1.28 million for projects involving 24,381 participants in 178 senior citizens groups across Canada. The funds are made available through the department's New Horizons program.

G. Hamilton Southam of the Canadian Southam newspaper chain recently inaugurated a Canadian academic centre, which will function jointly as a Canadian academy and a culture centre in Rome. The centre, part of the Ottawa-based Canadian Mediterranean Institute, seeks to promote a better knowledge of Canadian culture in the Mediterranean countries and to assist scholars with research in the area.

Surplus heat from ethylene production is to help produce about one million pounds of fresh vegetables annually for



John Trew, an inventor from Sunbury, near Kingston, Ontario, demonstrates a new smoke hood designed to allow those caught in a fire to breathe in a smoky area for up to 30 minutes.

western Canadian consumers in a large commercial greenhouse complex at a petrochemical site ten miles east of Red Deer, Alberta. The waste-heat greenhouse complex is being built at an estimated cost of \$5.5 million by Noval Technologies Limited on the 1,920-acre site of Alberta Gas Ethylene Company. Both companies are wholly owned subsidiaries of Nova Corporation of Calgary.

The New Democratic Party, under leader Howard Pawley, defeated the Progressive Conservative Party in a recent election held in Manitoba. The NDP, which takes over government of the province from the Conservatives under Sterling Lyon, took 33 of the 57 Legislature seats and 47.3 per cent of the popular vote. The Conservatives won the remaining 24 seats. The Liberal Party, which had one seat before dissolution, did not win any seats along with the new Progressive Party.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has approved export finance transactions totalling \$503.2 million involving loans of \$443.7 million, insurance of \$50.7 million and guarantees of \$8.8 million to 21 countries: Algeria, Bermuda, Brazil, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Finland, France, the German Federal

Republic, India, Italy, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Swaziland, Britain, Uruguay, the United States and Zimbabwe.

An Ottawa firm has won a \$500,000 contract with the Netherlands to build a computer system which analyzes satellite information. Dipix Systems Limited will supply the national aerospace laboratory of the Netherlands with a digital image analysis system. It will allow the analysis of images obtained from satellites high above the earth's atmosphere and use the information in resource development, exploration and mapping. Dipix has sold 25 systems world wide.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada has announced the awarding of grants totalling \$15.17 million for research equipment. Of that total \$5.15 million is for the funding of major research installation costs in excess of \$200,000 each and \$10 million is for the purchase of major equipment with unit costs between \$75,000 and \$200,000.

The European Community has indicated that Canada might be of "particular interest" as a possible supplier of gas to the EC because of its significant reserves and promising potential. The EC has announced that it is undertaking a detailed analysis of the role of gas in its future energy supply and demand structure and will examine Canada as a potential supplier.

Linda Staudt of Windsor, Ontario recently won the 1981 Tokyo International women's marathon in two hours 34 minutes 28 seconds. Staudt, winner of the 1981 Montreal International marathon, finished slightly less than four minutes ahead of second-place Jane Aipe of the United States.

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