

Canada/United States discussions on water quality

Following is the text of a joint communiqué issued July 13:

Representatives of the Governments of the United States and Canada and of the Governments of the State of Montana and the Province of Saskatchewan met in Washington on July 12, 1976 to discuss transfrontier water-quality impacts of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation's thermal generation project. In an earlier meeting held in Regina, Saskatchewan, on March 5, governments had agreed to the need for a formal mechanism to address water-quality issues, and today's meeting centred on a proposal to refer water-quality questions to the International Joint Commission.

A full exchange of views took place, and *ad referendum* agreement was reached that governments would negotiate terms of a joint water-quality reference to the International Joint Commission. The Commission, established by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, has assisted governments in studying mutual environmental problems along the common boundary. Both sides agreed to proceed as promptly as possible with consideration of exact terms of reference.

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Apartment vacancy survey

The average vacancy rate for privately-initiated rental apartment structures of six or more units in Canada's 22 metropolitan areas in April decreased to 1.1 per cent from 1.2 per cent in April and October of last year, according to a survey undertaken by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This figure excludes structures

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completed six months before the survey.

The tightest market conditions for rental apartments were in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan at 0.1 per cent, Edmonton, Alberta at 0.2 per cent, Victoria, British Columbia at 0.3 per cent, Calgary, Alberta, Regina, Sask., Thunder Bay, Ontario and Vancouver, B.C. at

0.4 per cent, and Montreal, Quebec at 0.6 per cent.

Highest vacancy levels were found to be in Hull, Quebec at 6.0 per cent, Saint John, New Brunswick at 3.7 per cent, Kitchener at 3.6 per cent, and the Ontario cities of Hamilton and Windsor at 3.2 per cent and London at 3.1 per cent.

News briefs

■ On July 19, most of the African countries had withdrawn from the Olympic Games in protest against the International Olympic Committee's decision not to censure New Zealand because a New Zealand rugby team was touring South Africa, which has been expelled from the IOC. The IOC said rugby was not an Olympic sport. Some Arabic and Caribbean countries were expected to leave also.

■ Taiwan, refusing Canada's proposal, backed by the IOC, to compete under the flag and anthem of the Republic of China but not to use that name, withdrew from the Games on July 16. Canada's original stand was that they compete as Taiwanese, not as representatives of the Republic of China in any way.

■ An unusually small increase in food prices in June contributed largely to the lowest 12-month increase of 7.8 per cent in the consumer price index in almost three years, reports Statistics Canada. The food-price component of the index rose by 0.2 per cent.

■ The Senate has approved legislation that strips Canadian advertisers in foreign-owned publications such as *Time*, and advertisers on U.S. border television stations, of 100 percent tax deductions for advertisements.

■ National unemployment decreased to 7 per cent during June from 7.1 in May, the third successive month it had declined. The number of persons out of work dropped by 6,000 to 702,000.

■ The Supreme Court of Canada ruled the Anti-Inflation Act constitutional on July 12, but declared invalid the wage-control agreement that placed Ontario public servants under the jurisdiction of the federal Anti-Inflation Board. Because some Ontario teachers had challenged the legality of the Ontario/Federal Government

agreement, Justice Minister Ron Basford had asked the Supreme Court to rule on the federal Act, which places Canada under three years of economic controls. Premier William Davis of Ontario, recalled the Legislature back from their summer break to pass legislation bringing Ontario public servants under federal wage guidelines. The bill passed on July 15.

■ The Federal Government has instructed its Crown corporations in Quebec not to comply with the province's Official Languages Act, which is aimed at making French the working language of business. The Government's policy of bilingualism, says a federal spokesman, must prevail over the provincial act for Crown corporations.

■ Canada's automobile-products deficit with the United States declined to \$318 million in the first quarter of 1976 from \$415 million a year earlier.

■ George Knudson of Toronto won the Canadian Professional Golfers' Association championship in Winnipeg on July 11 — a prize of \$10,000 for a 72-hole total of 275, 13 shots under par. Dave Barr of Kelowna, British Columbia was second with 277 — he won \$7,500 — and Adrien Bigras of Rosemount, Quebec was third with 279, winning \$5,000.

■ Quebec's Minister for Municipal Affairs, Victor Goldbloom, said that the Quebec provincial government would retain control over the Olympic Stadium in Montreal for the next seven or eight years — until the \$850-million facility was paid for.

■ Carling O'Keefe Ltd has acquired a 40 percent interest in the Toronto Argonauts football team. Competing brewery firm John Labatt Ltd, of London, Ontario, sponsors Canadian Football League television broadcasts on the CBC and CTV networks. It owns part of a baseball team, which takes to the field in 1977.