

an independent body, it reports to the government through Education Minister William Davis.

Channel 19, which began operating on September 28, is on the air 13 hours a day Monday to Friday, and five hours a day on Saturday and Sunday. During the week, there are school programs in the day, and adult programs in the evening. On weekends, adult programs and professional development programs for teachers predominate.

Channel 19 can draw on its own stock of 3,200 programs, amounting to about 3,500 hours of program time. Most have been produced by the previous ETV Branch of the Department of Education; about 95 per cent of all school programming will have an initial Canadian content of about 68 per cent.

RANGE AND AUDIENCE

Covering a viewing area stretching around Ontario's "Golden Horseshoe" from St. Catharines to Oshawa (with Toronto at the apex), Channel 19 is within range of a million pupils, about half of the province's school population. There are about 2,200 elementary and secondary schools in the viewing area, as well as five universities and several colleges of applied arts and technology.

Also within range is almost a quarter of Ontario's total population, but it will be some time before sizable numbers of individual homes will be able to pick up Channel 19. The station is beamed on ultra high frequency, and thus can be received only by viewers with UHF-equipped sets and antennas; only a small percentage of home television sets are at present capable of picking up UHF signals, and few of these have the necessary special antenna to go along with it.

However, many homes hooked into cable television systems may soon be able to receive Channel 19. Although this has still to be approved by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission (CRTC) it is expected that cable operators will be allowed to carry the new channel. In the meantime, pending CRTC ratification, tentative arrangements have been worked out with all Toronto-area cable firms to do just that.

If the arrangements are approved, Channel 19 will be available to about one-third of Toronto-area viewers. With the general growth of cable systems the situation is expected to improve steadily.

PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

Canada's federal Prices and Incomes Commission was established on June 19, 1969, "to inquire into and report upon the causes, processes and consequences of inflation and to inform those making current price and income decisions, the general public and the Government on how price stability may best be achieved".

After numerous discussions with representatives of the Canadian business community, including the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Retail Council of

Canada and the Canadian Bankers' Association, the Commission decided to call a national conference on price stability in order to obtain a consensus on a national policy to combat inflation. The conference, held in Ottawa on February 9 and 10, was attended by senior officers of national business and farm associations, representatives of professional groups, leaders of the Canadian business community and officials of the federal and provincial governments. Those present indicated a willingness to exercise a meaningful degree of restraint in their pricing policies in 1970 and there was broad agreement that:

(1) business firms generally, if called on to do so, would reduce the number and size of price increases they would normally make in 1970;

(2) more specifically, where higher prices were needed to cover higher costs, and market conditions made them feasible, business firms generally, if called upon to do so, would ensure that price increases were clearly less than the amount needed to cover the increases in costs at a normal volume of output and sales.

MINISTERIAL MEETING

At a Federal-Provincial Conference of First Ministers, held in Ottawa on February 16 and 17, the Federal Government and all provincial governments endorsed the Commission's plan to call without delay on business firms generally to follow the basic price restraint principle adopted by the National Conference on Price Stability. The ministers urged Canadians to co-operate actively in restraining price and income increases during 1970.

Provision was made at the National Conference on Price Stability for a price-review procedure whereby the Prices and Incomes Commission would review price increases to determine whether they comply with the accepted criteria.

The Government of Canada and most provincial governments expressed the hope that government sanctions would not be required but agreed that, if necessary, they would use such means as were within their control to deal with cases of serious non-compliance with the pricing criteria as reported by the Commission.

RED CROSS WATER-SAFETY GRANT

National Health and Welfare Minister John Munro has approved an \$18,638-federal grant to the Canadian Red Cross Society for the development of a national water-safety program.

The three-year project will integrate existing Red Cross water-safety programs into a uniform national plan for teaching water-safety and life-saving procedures. The program is being developed with the co-operation of the Royal Life Saving Society.

The federal grant will help pay for technical conferences, administration and the production of handbooks, posters and pamphlets.