

operation and maintenance costs.

Seaway tolls are subject to review at the end of the 1970 navigation season, at the request of either Canada or the United States, and the Authority has appointed a firm of consultants to make a comprehensive study of the economic and financial aspects of the total system.

Research, study and trials continued on the development of a computer-assisted traffic control system, integrated for the entire Seaway from Montreal to Lake Erie. A major step toward this integration was the centralization of traffic control at St. Lambert on the Montreal-Lake Ontario section at the start of the 1970 season. The Welland section has had a centralized traffic control centre in St. Catharines since 1967.

#### INFORMATION SERVICE

A marine information service was put into operation at the beginning of the 1969 season in co-operation with the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation of the United States. The service complements and improves the traffic-control capability of the Seaway by obtaining information necessary for safer and more efficient scheduling of vessel traffic, the scheduling of pilots and the search and rescue service.

Owing to the necessity of reinventing a construction tender for the Townline Road tunnel at Welland, the completion of a new eight-and-a-half mile section of the Welland Canal channel between Port Robinson and Ramey's Bend, bypassing the city of Welland, has been rescheduled for the opening of the 1973 navigation season, rather than 1972.

A new maintenance centre for the Montreal-Lake Ontario section was completed at Brossard, Quebec. The centralization at this centre of modern maintenance facilities has ensured that personnel and equipment are within short distance of all four Canadian high-lift locks in the region. The fifth lock, at Iroquois, is a control lock requiring minimal upkeep.

#### DEBT-CONSOLIDATION EASED

The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Mr. Ron Basford, has announced changes to expand the scope of the Bankruptcy Act procedure for the consolidation of debts and orderly repayment by individual wage-earners. The procedure, under Part X of the Act, is in force in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, the provinces that have chosen to implement it. Consultation is under way with British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, two other provinces wishing to take advantage of the federal legislation.

Mr. Basford said the changes he had made in the regulations remove any limit on the amount of debt that a province may allow wage-earners to consolidate through a court order. Previously, the limit was \$1,000.

Manitoba has already chosen to double the limit to \$2,000 and Saskatchewan and Alberta have decided to let the procedure apply to debts of any amount.

#### HOW PLAN WORKS

The individual who is in debt applies to a court clerk for an order consolidating the debts and setting out the terms and schedule of repayment. The court approves a plan within the debtor's means.

Regular payments are distributed among the creditors on a *pro rata* basis, until the debts are fully repaid. The individual is thus rendered immune from legal proceedings and cannot be sued by his creditors.

At the same time, the individual is prohibited from contracting new debts, above a level of \$500, until the consolidated amount is fully repaid.

"This plan can provide badly-needed assistance to unfortunate wage-earners who can't cope with their debts and who can't afford the more costly step of declaring a personal bankruptcy," Mr. Basford said. "From the creditor's point of view, it means he can give the debtor time to pay without any fear that another creditor might seize the assets of the debtor through legal proceedings."

He emphasized that the entire Bankruptcy Act is being reviewed with a view to complete revision, including Part X. "But I consider the relief these changes make right away to be so desirable that I wanted to go as far as we can now with the existing Act," the Minister added.

#### EDUCATION BY CORRESPONDENCE

During 1967-68, 121,632 students were enrolled in correspondence courses in Canada. The sources of correspondence study included provincial government departments, institutes of technology, universities, private trade and business schools, and business and professional associations.

Of the total number of students, 72 per cent were enrolled in elementary and secondary academic courses and vocational courses provided by the correspondence school branches of the provincial departments of education. Courses offered by various business and professional associations, either through their own facilities or those of universities, accounted for 16 per cent of the total. Enrolment in university degree credit courses by correspondence, on a downward trend since 1964-65, was 4.3 per cent. Institutes of technology and private trade and business schools accounted for the remainder.

Another 16,000 students were reported by five American private correspondence schools having outlets in Canada.

The correspondence-school branches of provincial governments reported an administrative staff of 155, while the instructional staff numbered 424, the majority part-time. Of the 530 instructors reported by the universities, all but three were part-time.