

News briefs

A world conference examining methane as a motor vehicle fuel was held recently in Vancouver. The conference, sponsored by the British Columbia government, attracted support from the governments of the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Italy and the Netherlands. The conference was intended to demonstrate that sufficient supplies of methane can be assured to operate automobiles indefinitely into the future.

Canadian Department of Agriculture scientists have discovered that chickens that are kept in the dark do not need as much grain to mature as those that spend their time in light. Researchers tested 1,200 birds from the main commercial strains and found that reduced light produces a leaner bird that needs less feed.

The federal government has announced that it has authorized a duty-free entry arrangement with Volkswagen which will include the establishment of a parts production plant in Canada and increase purchases from independent Canadian parts suppliers. The arrangement is expected to create some 1,500 direct jobs in Canada, 500 of them in the VW production facility, and another 1,000 in the plants of independent parts manufacturers.

Canada has pledged \$50,000 to an appeal of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to assist prisoners-of-war and displaced persons in the Iran-Iraq conflict. The funds will come from the humanitarian assistance budget of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and will be channelled through the Canadian Red Cross Society. The ICRC appealed for increased contributions after a recent increase in the number of casualties arising from the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The Canadian Government Office of Tourism (CGOT) of the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, has published a 87-page Youth Travel book. This manual contains 20 suggested itineraries suited to the interests and income of young people. Many of the sample itineraries are outdoor-oriented, including everything from cycling and boating tours in the city to canoe/hiking trips through the wilderness. There are also sightseeing and shopping tours in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto.

The Export Development Corporation has announced a \$6.05-million (U.S.) fi-



Puppeteers Lynn Spears (left) and Patti Walker (right) perform in the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation's travelling puppet show, Kids on the Block. The show is part of the provincial government's International Year of Disabled Persons events, and is aimed at helping both handicapped and able-bodied children get along. The show uses jokes and everyday events to illustrate the capabilities of the handicapped. The ministry has six such troupes touring the province.

nancing agreement to support a sale worth \$7.1 million (U.S.) by the de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited to Aerolineas Centrales de Colombia S.A. (ACES). This transaction covers five of the ten *Twin Otter 300* aircraft recently sold by the exporter to ACES.

The Canadian chartered accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand has published *Canada: A Guide for Businessmen and Investors*. The book is intended as a reference source for investors seeking current information on the business climate in Canada. The publication analyzes Canada's unique political and business characteristics, warns of possible future problem areas, and concludes with an optimistic economic outlook for the 1980s. Copies of the publication are available from Coopers & Lybrand, 2 Sheppard Avenue East, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5Y7.

Canadian universities are taking part in a North American program designed to publicize their services. The advertising campaign, devised by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, is designed to pass on the message to Canadians that "Canada's energy is mind-power". Will Sayers, director of informa-

tion for the Council of Ontario Universities, said the plan is to stress positive aspects of universities.

The Canadian Aeronautics & Space Institute (CASI) has announced the creation of the John H. Chapman Memorial Prize in Communications Engineering. The prize was established to honour the memory of the late Dr. John H. Chapman, who has been described as "the father of Canada's space program". The ten \$1,000 awards, funded by Spar Aerospace Limited, Toronto, will be given annually by CASI, starting in 1982, to outstanding engineering students completing their fourth year in a communications option — one at each of the following universities: Carleton, Concordia, Laval, McGill, McMaster, Ottawa, Ecole Polytechnique (Montreal), Queens, Toronto and Waterloo.

Key Lake Mining Corporation and the Saskatchewan government have signed the lease for the Key Lake uranium mine, meaning that construction on the mine and mill can begin immediately. The mine will be the largest of its kind in the country. Saskatchewan will earn up to \$3 billion through royalties, taxes and revenues generated through the Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation during the life of the project.

Human insulin manufactured by bacteria — biosynthetic insulin — is undergoing its first trials in Canadian diabetics in Toronto and Montreal. Toronto's Wellesley Hospital is co-ordinating clinical trials in 100 new diabetics in Toronto over the next two years. Similar trials among 100 diabetics will be carried out in Montreal. The trials are sponsored by Eli Lilly and Co. (Canada) Limited, whose U.S. parent company, Eli Lilly and Company, manufactures biosynthetic insulin.

Canada Weekly is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to the editor, Joanna Kerr.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.

Canada

ISSN 0384-2312