

News briefs

The federal government has announced funding to assist in the establishment of the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Manitoba. The funding will begin this year with an initial grant of \$150,000. The grant could reach a total of approximately \$900,000 over the next five years. The Institute for Social and Economic Research will encourage a wide range of social research and policy studies of interest to all levels of government as well as the private sector.

The Ontario government has introduced a \$42-million, interest-free loan program to stimulate apartment construction. The program is designed to lead to an additional 10,000 units this year. Builders who qualify for the interest-free loans of up to \$4,200 a unit must offer up to 15 per cent of apartments for housing assistance.

Cold temperatures and sparse snow-cover last November may have caused serious winter injury to alfalfa and other forage crops in northern parts of the prairie provinces. Scientists at Agriculture Canada's research station in Beaverlodge, Alberta, estimate that up to 15 per cent of the alfalfa crop was killed and much of the remaining crop will suffer loss of vigour. This could result in serious losses as the surviving plants will be more susceptible to disease and may not be able to compete with weeds this spring.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce have announced the signing of a \$2.8-million (U.S.) line of credit with Banco Hipotecario y de Fomento de Chile (Banco BHC) to support sales of Canadian capital goods and services by various Canadian exporters to Chilean buyers.

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The number of foreign visitors to Canada jumped 22.5 per cent to 40.7 million in 1980 over the 1979 figure, Statistics Canada reports. Travellers from the United States were up 23.4 per cent to 38.5 million because of a 40 per cent increase in same-day car traffic lured by cheaper gasoline prices in Canada. However, the number of U.S. visitors staying more than one day dropped 0.9 per cent to 11.1 million.

Petro-Canada and an Ottawa-based electronics firm are joining together to develop some of the high technology needed to exploit Canada's energy resources. The federal oil company and Leigh Instruments Limited will contribute \$150,000 each to establish a jointly-owned company called Viatic Resource Systems Inc., which will be based in Calgary. The new company will be involved in project management and developing the engineering systems related to high technology for energy and energy transportation.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has appointed Dr. Maurice LeClair to the board of governors of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Dr. LeClair is corporate vice-president of Canadian National Railways. IDRC is a public corporation created by the Canadian government to enhance the research competence of scientists in developing countries. The centre has a 21-person board of governors, 11 of the governors including the chairman, must be Canadian citizens.

Nova and Shell Canada Limited have filed an application for a permit with the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board to build a \$250-million world-scale linear low density polyethylene plant at Joffre, Alberta. The proposed plant is scheduled to open in 1984. Nova's subsidiary, Alberta Gas Ethylene Company Limited has also filed for permission to build a \$590-million world-scale ethylene plant, also at Joffre.

British Columbia's 1980 surge of mineral exploration was greater than projected and the rise will continue in 1981, according to Jack Patterson, general manager of the British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines. Exploration spending doubled to more than \$100 million and claims staked increased to 72,621 from the 1979 total of 55,352.

Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs John Munro confirmed that recently issued draft oil and gas revenue regula-



The one-millionth bottle of Baby Duck to be sold in Britain since its launch just over a year ago is handed to J. McCarthy (centre), senior wine and spirits buyer, Safeway Food Stores Limited. Britain distribution of Baby Duck — a special blend of red and white sparkling wine introduced by Andrés Wine of Canada, Winona, Ontario — is through Matthew Clark & Sons, Whitbread Take Home Division and in Scotland by Whitbread Scotland Limited. With Mr. McCarthy are (left) Robert Ketchin, Britain brand manager for Andrés Wines and A. Talboys, wine and spirits buyer, Safeway Food Stores.

tions will ensure that Indian Bands producing oil and gas will not be adversely affected by the proposed Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax. Indians leaders have recently expressed their concern that the tax would discourage oil and gas development on reserves.

TransCanada PipeLines has announced it has signed a ten-year natural gas export agreement with Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, a division of Tenneco, Inc. The agreement is subject to approvals by regulatory authorities in both Canada and the United States. TransCanada hopes to begin deliveries of gas under this agreement by November 1, 1982.

A device that decodes captioned U.S. television programs for deaf TV viewers will be sold in Canada beginning this month. Simpson-Sears Limited said it had been granted a three-year contract by the National Captioning Institute in Washington to market the devices, which shows dialogue in print at the bottom of the screen.