

Canada Weekly

CAI EAS
C18
10 Aug 177
REF C1

Volume 5, No. 32

August 10, 1977



Ottawa, Canada.

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Discussion paper released on "freedom-of-information"

Secretary of State John Roberts recently tabled in the House of Commons the Government's green paper, *Legislation on Public Access to Government Documents*, which sets out the implications for Government of alternative approaches that might be adopted in legislation on "freedom of information". Mr. Roberts expressed the hope that the document would serve as the basis for broad public discussion of the issue. The Government has adopted no final position with respect to the considerations raised, and will follow closely discussion of them by the public and by the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments.

The Government believes in the basic principle that information developed at public expense ought to be publicly available wherever possible. Furthermore, it recognizes that government documents often contain information vital to the effective participation of citizens and organizations in public decision-making. Finally, the Government regards citizens' access to documents concerning the basis of management and the investigation of public problems as an element of monitoring. Such an element might help to maintain the probity of administration, the

consistency of the handling of individual cases, and the quality of the analysis of policies and programs.

Concerning "freedom of information", the Government realizes that an appropriate degree of privacy protects basic public and private interests such as personal privacy, efficient handling of public monies, effective law enforcement and harmonious international and federal-provincial relations. In addition, respect for the fundamental principles of the Canadian system of government - the collective responsibility of Cabinet and the individual responsibility of Cabinet ministers, the anonymity and political neutrality of the Public Service - requires a minimum of confidentiality in the governing process.

Exemptions

A policy to increase by law public access to government documents would therefore involve a principle of "open access subject to specified exemptions", where the exemptions represent the public interest in confidentiality. The question of exemptions is complex, and the examples put forward in the paper are intended to serve as no more than a point of departure for purposes of discussion. The green paper includes a set of exemptions covering those documents the disclosure of which, or the release of information in which, might:

- (a) be injurious to international relations, national defence or security or federal-provincial relations;
- (b) disclose a confidence of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada;
- (c) disclose information obtained or prepared by any government institution or part of a government institution, that is an investigative body: in relation to national security; in the course of investigations pertaining to the detection or suppression of crime generally; or in the course of investigations pertaining to the administration or enforcement of any act of Parliament;
- (d) disclose personal information as defined in Part IV of the Canadian

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Secretary of State John Roberts

Pipeline debate

As this issue was going to press on August 4, Members of Parliament were returning to the Commons after a short break to debate the location of a possible gas pipeline from the North. Details in a subsequent issue.

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Human Rights Act or threaten the safety of any individual or disclose correspondence between a member of the public and a Member of Parliament or the Government;

(e) impede the functioning of, or the examination of a case or issue before, a court of law, a quasi-judicial board, commission or other tribunal, or any inquiry established under the Inquiries Act;

(f) disclose legal opinions or advice provided to a government institution or privileged communications between lawyer and client in a matter of government business;

(g) disclose financial or commercial information which: would jeopardize the position of a government institution in relation to contractual or other negotiations or the position of any other party to such negotiations; or would result in significant and undue financial loss or gain by a person, group, organization or government institution; or would affect adversely a person, group, organization or government institution in regard to its competitive position.

An eighth exemption would cover the need to preserve the fullness and frankness of advice serving the decision-making process, particularly in relation to advice to or by ministers, deputy heads, and senior officials, to preparation of legislation, or to the conduct of parliamentary business. This exemption would parallel the United States exemption which applies to: inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. An alternative formulation is provided by the proposed Australian exemption which exempts documents containing: matter in the nature of opinion, advice or recommendation; or other matter, reflecting deliberative or policy-making processes.

A final exemption might apply to documents whose disclosure would be prohibited by any federal enactment.

Complaint review

The green paper discusses various options for review of complaints by applicants who have been denied access to government documents. The options include:

(a) Parliamentary review of the administration of the legislation.

(b) An "information auditor" with powers to monitor the administration of the legislation, similar to the powers of the Auditor General in respect of financial management.

(c) An information commissioner who would act as an ombudsman to consider complaints from applicants, examine in camera the documents requested, and issue public advice to the Government as to his agreement or disagreement as to the application of the exemptions to the documents in question.

(d) An information commissioner with powers to consider complaints from applicants, examine in camera the documents requested, and issue a binding order to the Government to release a document where he does not agree with the Government's position as to application of the exemptions.

(e) Review by the courts of the administration of the legislation.

Reduction of the use of antibiotics in animal feeds

Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde and Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan recently announced that the Health Protection Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, is instituting a policy to reduce the unnecessary use of antibiotics in animal feeds.

Public concern regarding indiscriminate use of antibiotics in animal feeds has been expressed by scientists and consumer groups, since it is known that this practice may cause in animals bacteria that resist antibiotics. The antibiotics used in human medicines and in animal production are to some extent the same. There is, therefore, concern that if man is infected with resistant organisms of animal origin, and if disease occurs, it may be resistant to treatment by antibiotics used in humans.

The Health Department says however, that based on available evidence, a total ban on the use of antibiotics in animals is unwarranted. These substances are essential for the production at reasonable costs of animal foods under the large scale, intensive conditions utilized by Canadian farmers.

The Health Protection Branch will reduce unnecessary use of antibiotics for growth promotion and disease pre-

vention by: (a) continuing the policy of permitting new antibiotics useful in human therapy to be sold only on prescription when used on animals; (b) requiring manufacturers to produce new supporting data on the efficacy of all antibiotic growth promotants used in Canada and banning those shown not to be effective; and (c) requiring manufacturers to produce new supporting data for selected antibiotic uses in feeds where there are doubts regarding their efficacy in disease prevention. Uses which are not justified by these new data will be prohibited.

A whale of a baby

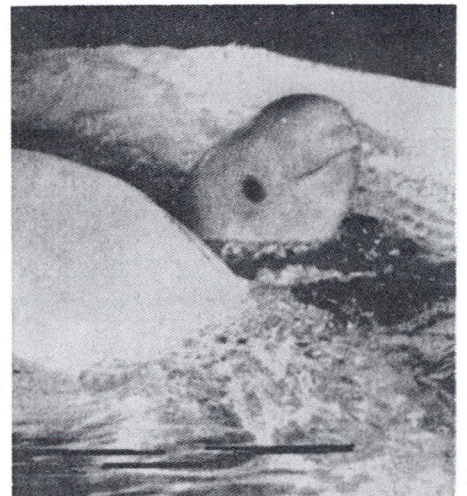
Vancouver Aquarium officials say a newborn 75-pound Beluga whale has a good chance to become the first to survive birth in captivity.

The calf was born on July 13, three hours after its mother, a 1,250-pound Beluga captured last year in Hudson Bay, went into labour.

"We're tickled pink. The calf looks fine and so far we're quite pleased," said curator Gil Hewlett. "Right now we're just leaving it alone and letting it nurse from its mother." The mother, Kavna, was reported to be doing fine.

"It was pretty exciting. Kavna released water and we could see her beginning contractions. The calf came out head first which is unusual," Hewlett said.

Aquarium staff members watched in delight as mother and four-foot-long son frolicked in the aquarium tank.



Kavna (right) and her 75-pound son frolick at the Vancouver Aquarium.

Canada supports admission of Vietnam to the United Nations

Canada has announced its support of the resolution offering membership in the United Nations General Assembly to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. In his address to the Security Council, Paul A. Lapointe, Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN, stated that:

"Vietnam's membership in the United Nations is not only desirable in itself but would also serve to demonstrate the organization's commitment to universal membership as the best guarantee of international understanding...."

"Canada's support for Vietnamese membership in the United Nations, and in other international organizations, thus reflects a continuation of our earlier activities in Vietnam. It also reflects our interest in the promotion of peace, stability and economic development throughout Southeast Asia. Canada is, of course, a Pacific as well as an Atlantic country and is very much concerned with peace and stability in the Pacific and has long worked to achieve greater co-operation among nations of the Pacific area."

"Canada's relations with Vietnam

are, Mr. President, established on a firm footing. A Canadian ambassador was accredited to Hanoi prior to the inception of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and last year Hoang Luong, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited Canada. Shortly thereafter a resident Vietnamese embassy was installed in Ottawa. Only last Friday, on July 15, we were happy to receive Vietnam's first resident Ambassador to Canada, Tran Tuan Anh. We have extended in the past and will continue to extend humanitarian assistance to Vietnam in recognition of their post-war needs. Through the United Nations system, we have contributed in recent years to projects being implemented in Vietnam under the auspices of UNICEF, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Program. We are also discussing other forms of economic co-operation in line with the interests of both countries. We look forward to continuing in the forum of the United Nations our 'dialogue' with Vietnam on issues of peace and prosperity in Asia and in the world at large...."

are the salient etiological variables that determine the occurrence of a sexual offence. The present results "disconfirm" the theory that any conscious or unconscious motivation on the part of the female victim may have contributed to the offence.

During the 1974 Toronto Transit strike the number of sexual offences against female hitch-hikers increased nine times, while the total number of sexual offences against females remained constant. It would appear that there is a relatively constant number of males in Metropolitan Toronto who commit sexual offences against adult females. An increase in the opportunity to commit a sexual offence, such as occurred during the TTC strike, when numerous females hitch-hiked, affects only the particular method by which a sex offender contacts his victim, and does not alter the total number of sexual offences. During the TTC strike many females used hitch-hiking as a means of transportation and the sex offender used this method to contact his victim instead of other means.

During the TTC strike, the proportion of sexual offences against female hitch-hikers increased by eight times as compared to the pre-strike and post-strike periods in 1974. Seasonal factors were unable to account for this increase, since it was found that during the three periods studied in 1973 the proportion of sexual offences against hitch-hikers remained constant. This suggests that the TTC strike and resulting increase in the number of hitch-hiking females was directly related to the increase in the number of sexual offences against hitch-hikers. It was hypothesized that if the female had either deliberately or unconsciously invited the sexual offence, then the total number of sexual offences would increase during the TTC strike. No support was found for the theory that sexual offences are generally victim-precipitated since the total number of offences was unaffected by the strike....

Preventative measures

Based on the findings of this study and other research reports, five preventative measures designed to reduce the incidence of female sexual assault were proposed:

...Females should be advised not to hitch-hike or engage in other activities

The sexually-assaulted female: innocent victim or temptress?

An article in the March 1977 issue of Canada's Mental Health by Dr. Sheldon W. Geller, a clinical psychologist, refutes the theory that sexual offences against females are provoked by the victim.

Dr. Geller, who works for the Employee Health Service of the Ontario government, as well as operating a private practice and teaching at Toronto's Seneca College, discusses his research as follows:

During the latter part of the summer of 1974, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) employees were on a 23-day strike, resulting in a total shut-down of bus, street car and subway service for the 2,628,043 inhabitants of Metropolitan Toronto.

The public transit strike provided a novel and unique opportunity to systematically evaluate the validity of sexual assault theories by determining if the frequency and nature of sexual assault against females was affected by the TTC strike, which resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of female hitch-hikers within Metropolitan Toronto.

Within a distance of only a few

blocks, it was not uncommon for a driver during the strike period to observe as many as 20 women hitch-hiking. One Toronto newspaper mounted a campaign to encourage drivers to offer rides to hitch-hikers. During the strike period there was a degree of respectability accorded to the practice of hitch-hiking....

Victim not responsible

The results of the present study provide the first empirical demonstration that the female victim is not responsible for the sexual offence committed against her. It appears that both the opportunity to commit a sexual offence and the availability of a female victim

that may place them in isolated situations with unfamiliar males....

A second measure...is that of informing females of the characteristics of men who commit sex offences....

A third measure...is to prepare the female for an encounter with a sex offender, should she be assaulted, by making her aware of the common elements in most sexual offences....

The fourth...consists of the female assuming an active role in her defence...screaming, knocking over garbage cans....

A fifth novel method designed to prevent sexual offences is advocated by F. Storaska (*How to Say No To A Rapist and Survive*, New York, Random House, 1975). He suggests that females comply initially with the requests of the offender, in order to gain his confidence, until they have a chance to safely escape....

Conclusion

The results of the present study "disconfirm" the theory that sexual offences are victim-initiated. It appears that the male sex offender simply decides to assault the next female he sees, conditions permitting.

Appointments to Order of Canada

Jean-Luc Pepin, newly-appointed co-chairman of the task force on national unity, is one of three men awarded the highest Order of Canada honour, Companion of the Order of Canada (CC), in the tenth anniversary list announced last month.

Charles Lynch, chief of Southam News Services, is one of 22 men and women appointed Officers of the Order (OC). Thirty-seven others are named members of the order (CM).

The other CCs are George A. Gale, chief justice of Ontario from 1967 to 1976, and Roland Giroux, president of the Quebec Hydro-Electric Commission.

The Order of Canada was created in 1967 to recognize outstanding achievement by Canadians in all fields of endeavour.

Among well known figures appointed Officers of the Order are:

- G. Hamilton Southam, who is given primary credit for the creation of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. He was its director-general since before

it was built until he retired this year after ten years in the post.

- Sam Steinberg, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Steinberg's, the national grocery and retail chain. He is national co-chairman of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, which he helped to found.

- G. Sydney Halter, first commissioner of the Canadian Football League from 1958 to 1966. Halter a Winnipeg lawyer, was voted Manitoba sportsman of the year for eight years running.

- Ian Macdonald, president of York University and formerly a senior civil servant in the Ontario government. Macdonald recently organized the national "Destiny" conference at York.

- David Golden, originally a Manitoban but for more than 20 years a community leader in Ottawa. He is president and chief executive officer of Telesat Canada.

- P.K. Page (Mrs. Arthur Irwin) of Victoria, poet and painter for 30 years. Her second book of poetry, *The Metal and the Flower*, won the Governor General's Literary Award in 1954. Her husband, journalist and diplomat Arthur Irwin, is also an Officer of the Order.

Among the 37 new Members of the Order is outstanding Eskimo artist

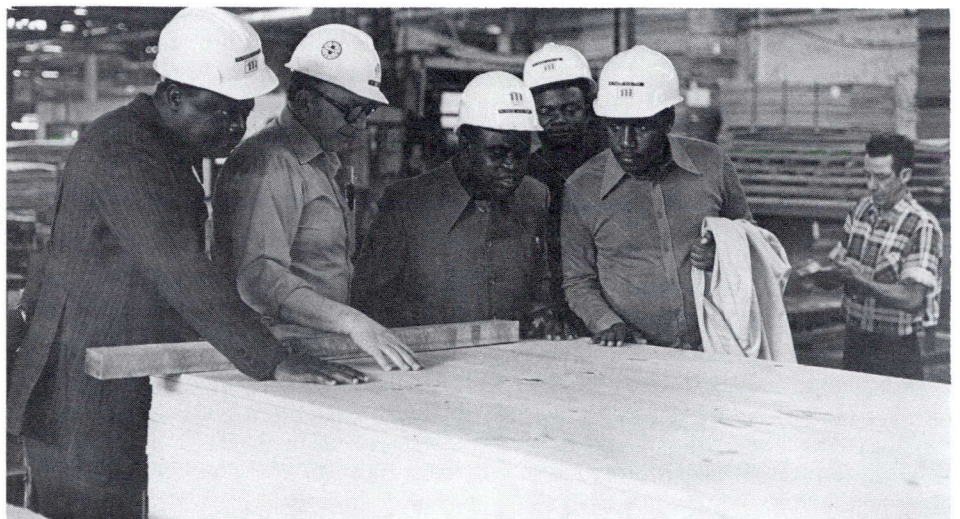
Pitseolak, now in her late Seventies. Her autobiography, *Pictures Out of My Life*, was the second Eskimo book published in Canada when it came out in 1971.

Survey of old sea wreck

The Newfoundland Department of Tourism and the Historic Parks and Sites Branch, of the Federal Government will undertake a joint underwater survey of the nearly 300-year-old British frigate *Sapphire*, located in Bay Bulls Harbour.

The *Sapphire*, the oldest identified wreck in Canadian waters, was placed under provincial protection in 1975 as a provincial historic site. Sunk in 1696, the ship rests in about 60 feet of water on the north side of Bay Bulls Harbour along with two other historically important wrecks, the *Asia* and *Loyalty*.

The divers will try to determine the condition of the *Sapphire's* hull and report how it might be recovered and preserved. They will also look for historical artifacts in the protected zone with a view to determining the feasibility of undertaking a major excavation of the wrecksite in the near future.



A group of businessmen and government officials from Zaire examine plywood at Masonite of Canada's plant in Gatineau, Quebec. They were recently on a tour of Canadian wood-processing plants organized by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Members of the group (left to right), Mr. Kinzunga of Forescom company, Mr. Nyimi from the National Wood Office, Mr. KiMonda of the Induforza company, and Mr. Tanganika, Director-General of the Department of the Environment speak with Herb Arnold, guide at the Gatineau plant.

News of the arts

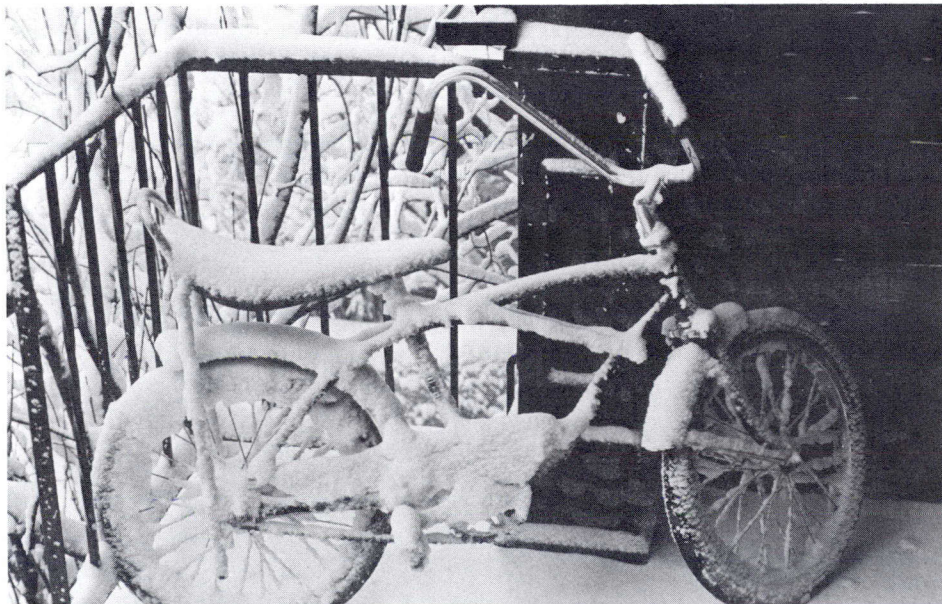
Canadian art exhibits delight Spanish audiences

The National Film Board's photo exhibit "Winter Kaleidoscope" has enjoyed an enthusiastic reception during its spring and summer tour of eight Spanish cities. With the co-operation of the Canadian Embassy, art galleries and museums have also featured a display of photographs entitled "Canada", selected NFB films, dolls clothed in

historic costumes, and a collection of prints called "Eskimo Birds and Spirits". In many centres a "Canada Week" has been organized in an effort to foster a greater appreciation of Canada by Spaniards. Critical response has proved so favourable that the "Winter Kaleidoscope" tour may well extend into March or April of next year.



Canadian Ambassador Georges Blouin (fourth from left) opens the photo exhibit, "Canada" at the Instituto de Cultura Hispánica, Madrid, on April 12. The exhibit will tour Spain until December. Mr. Blouin greets the Duke of Cádiz, President of the Institute. Also shown at the opening are (from left) Mrs. Blouin, Sr. D. Salvador Bermúdez de Castro y Bernaldes, Director General of Foreign Policy for Latin America, Sr. D. Ricardo de Garnica, Minister-Counsellor for Trade of Guatemala, Sr. D. Mariano Vidal, Deputy-Director of Foreign Policy for Latin America, and Sr. D. José Antonio Cuadra Echaide, Spanish Ambassador to Honduras.



Ethnic TV programs

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission has ordered cable television operators to set aside 10 per cent of gross revenues for community programming which, says Alyn Edwards writing in *Canadian Scene*, is having a "marked effect" on ethnic television programs in Canada.

The Vancouver-based Premier Cablevision group operates, it is believed, the largest cable television system in the world. In Vancouver, Premier Cablevision has 225,000 subscribers paying \$6 a month for reception of a variety of Canadian and American television channels. In just two years, Premier has doubled its efforts in producing programming over its own community channel - Vancouver's Cable 10.

The company put \$608,000 back into Vancouver's community programming in 1976 and will spend even more this year. Nearly half the programming was aimed at the 38 per cent of the company's viewer subscribers who belong to the German, Chinese, Italian, Dutch and East Indian communities.

German Diary

Probably the most famous show produced by Vancouver's Cable 10 is Horst Koehler's *German Diary*, which is shown across Canada every week. However, there are many more: *Shalom*, a Jewish program produced in Toronto; *Incontri* and *Italian Panorama*, giving local news, sports and comment of interest to the Italian community in their own language; and *Aunt Kvitka's*, a Ukrainian children's program produced in Toronto.

Also, there is a weekly two-hour Chinese program presented in Cantonese and English; *Practical English*, designed to help Chinese immigrants learn English; the *Canadian Mosaic*, an eight-part series produced by Vancouver's East Indian community; *La Francophonie and You*, along with *Chronique de France*, giving weekend

(Continued on P. 6)

◀ "Winter Kaleidoscope", on tour from February '77 through March '78, has visited Salamanca, Barcelona, Gijon, Oviedo, San Sebastian, Reus, Heusca and Cuenca. From the collection is this photograph by Jean-Louis Frund.

Pharmacy discovery

While looking for a new kind of compound with anti-depressant properties, two researchers at the University of Alberta discovered a compound that will produce drugs effective in the treatment of arthritis symptoms and useful for weight control or loss.

Edward Knaus, associate professor of pharmaceutical chemistry, and Kinfe Redda, a student under his supervision, created compounds that yield a drug with three properties: it kills pain, it reduces inflammation, and it creates hyperglycemia (a condition of excessive blood sugar levels). The first two properties have many applications; the third could be used to control weight: when the blood sugar level is raised, the body must break down stored fats to create the necessary glucose. Once the glucose is in the blood, it is easily burned up or excreted.

Dr. Knaus and Mr. Redda have taken out a number of patents on the compounds that yield the drugs — the first patents in the 60-year history of the University's faculty of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences.

The three properties of the drugs are now being separated and investigated by other researchers.

Ethnic TV (cont'd. from P. 5)

news from France. And there are many individual shows such as a *Ukrainian Christmas Eve* dinner and a *Ukrainian children's puppet show*, both produced in Winnipeg; *Children's Passover*, produced by Vancouver's Jewish community; and a one-hour show on Vancouver's Armenian community sharing their folk dancing, music and poetry.

There are events which get special

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

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

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

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.

coverage on Vancouver's Cable 10, such as the annual *July Folkfest Parade*, bringing the best of Vancouver's many cultural groups together for a day of national celebration. Last year on July 13, the Italian community presented their own folk festival in Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Theatre, which, recorded by Cable 10 and the video tape, has been shown several times. The same was done when the Japanese community put on an evening of traditional music with local artists.

The city's Pakistani community put on two specials last year, as well as

Festivities from the Fjords. The Norwegian music and Christmas Eve celebration included a visit to Vancouver's Amundsen Seamen's Centre, with interviews with visiting Norwegian sailors far away from their homeland at Christmas.

Premier Cablevision plans to establish a separate multilingual cable channel on the expanded service which would require subscribers to have a mid-band converter. The company hopes to have this and other cable channels providing community information early in 1978.

News briefs

■ The Canadian Wheat Board has sold 62.5 million bushels of wheat to the Soviet Union for shipment next year. The contract calls for shipment of 1.45 million tons of No. 1 and No. 2 Canada Western red spring wheat and 250,000 tons of Canada Western Amber durum wheat during 1978. According to current Canadian export prices, the sale has an estimated value of \$180 million.

■ The Government bill making it more difficult to collect unemployment insurance was given third and final reading in the Commons on July 19. Main features of the bill are: A ten-week to 14-week period of employment, increased from eight weeks, to become eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. The ten-week period is for areas where the unemployment rate exceeds 9 per cent ranging to 14 weeks where unemployment is below 6 per cent. A minimum of ten weeks to a maximum of 50 weeks is required for receipt of benefits; a series of experimental programs of job creation and work sharing is planned, as well as an offering to unemployment insurance recipients of voluntary participation in community-oriented work projects.

■ Production in the economy increased by a strong three-tenths of one per cent in May, after April's decline, Statistics Canada reported on July 26. The federal agency's seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product stood at 127.2 in May, up from 126.8 in April. In January, the index was 127.0 and the five-month rise in production was less than two-tenths of 1 per cent.

■ The Prime Minister's Office has announced that Marcel Cadieux, the former Ambassador to the United States, will take over the intensive negotiations with the U.S. over boundaries to the two countries' 200-mile fishing limits. The U.S. representative will be Lloyd Carter, a Washington lawyer who will have rank of ambassador. The negotiators have until October 15 to report their recommendations covering boundaries and fishing in and near those boundaries. A temporary interim reciprocal fisheries agreement will continue until the end of the year.

■ Western Canadian farmers may be able to discard fears that the acre will be eliminated in favour of the hectares. The Government has told MPs who were fighting conversion to the metric system in the grain industry that it was willing to negotiate.

■ An Ottawa man has been awarded \$400 damages in small claims court for a prematurely-rusted Ford car in what is believed to be the first reported case of its kind in Ontario.

■ Manitoba Finance Minister Saul Miller has announced the sale in Germany of a provincial government bond issue amounting to 150 million Deutsche Marks — about \$65 million in Canadian funds. The issue carries an interest coupon of 6½ per cent, and was sold at 99.50 to yield the investor 6.59 per cent. The issue, dated June 30, 1977, is for seven years. Proceeds of the sale are to be advanced to Manitoba Hydro for its capital undertakings.