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Throne Speech promises closer co-operation with the provinces, 1

Crown corporations for sale to Canadian buyers, 3

Unions contribute to Nicaraguan relief fund, 3

Canada-France-Hawaii telescope the world's newest, 4

Residents assess holidays in Canada, 4

Access to government information study published, 5

Police get innovative system, 5

Sea level lower, 6

Automated fluid-testing speeds diagnosis, cuts costs, 6

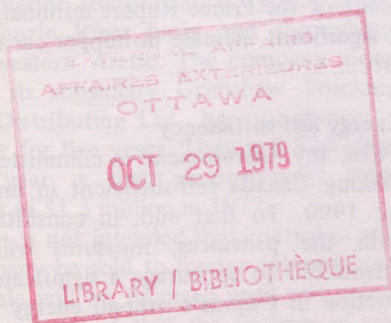
Robot business booming, 6

TV programs can skip sex, 6

News of the arts — theatre, TV, film, 7

Job absenteeism, 8

News briefs, 8



Two-hundred-and-eighty-seven years ago this week...

Marie Madeleine Jarret de Verchères, at the age of 14, became a heroine of New France when she marshalled settlers at the seigniorial fort on the St. Lawrence River to resist an Indian attack, which lasted for eight days.

Throne Speech promises closer co-operation with the provinces

Reading the Speech from the Throne opening the first session of Canada's thirty-first Parliament, October 9, Governor-General Edward Schreyer pledged on behalf of the Government "a new era in federal-provincial relations".

The first Throne Speech of the new Progressive Conservative Government elected May 22 also contained proposals for freedom of information legislation, stronger parliamentary committees and a five-part economic strategy. Excerpts follow:

...To make federalism work, it is essential to change the attitudes of the past and the Federal Government must set the example. Accordingly, it is a primary goal of my Government to bring about a new era in federal-provincial relations. Consultation and co-operation will be the hallmarks of that new era....

Citizens and Parliament can control Government only if information is public. You will be asked to approve freedom of information legislation based on the principle that Government information should be available to the people, that necessary exceptions to that principle should be limited and specified, and that disputes over the application of those exceptions should be resolved independently of the Government.

To correct inequities currently borne by some Canadian individuals, you will be asked to amend sections of the Indian Act, to extend spouses' allowances in circumstances where they are now denied, to amend certain legislation respecting veterans, and to further protect the privacy of individual Canadians.

You will also be asked to consider reforms to extend the power of Parliament. Proposals will be submitted to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization to strengthen the powers and resources of parliamentary committees, to accord more prominence to private members' initiatives....

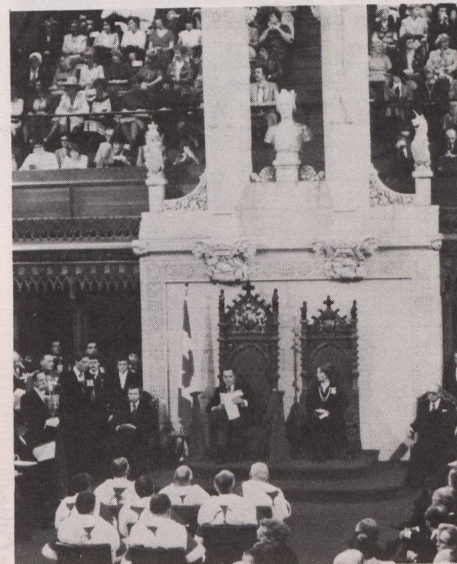
Special committees

...You will be asked to approve the immediate establishment of four small select committees, with the resources and powers necessary to enquire fully into the special needs of handicapped and disabled

Canadians; measures to strengthen the role of the voluntary sector in our society; policies with respect to foreign ownership, including the operations of the Foreign Investment Review Agency; and measures necessary to prevent recurring cost overruns on major Government projects. You will be invited to establish a joint committee to undertake a broad enquiry into the future development of nuclear energy in Canada. In addition, Standing Committees of Parliament will be invited to examine Canadian cultural policy, Canadian foreign policy, and the retirement income needs of Canadians in the 1980s....

Economic strategy

My Ministers believe the greatest imme-



Governor-General Schreyer reads the speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament, October 9.

Oct. 24/79

The Citizen

diate challenge facing Canada today is to restore growth, confidence and jobs to the Canadian economy. While our economy faces serious immediate problems, my Government believes the economic potential of Canada is the strongest in the world. My Ministers will propose a five-part strategy to build on that potential.

First, my Ministers will reduce the burden of Government on the economy by better controlling expenditures. A new expenditure management system has been introduced within the Government to set strict over-all spending limits, to ensure that all Ministers accept full responsibility for spending restraint, and to require that funds for new programs come from savings in existing programs. In that context, you will be asked to approve creation of a Ministry of State for Social Development to better co-ordinate social programs and expenditures.

My Government has initiated action to reduce the size of the federal Public Service and to offer for private purchase and ownership Crown corporations operating in areas where direct government intervention is no longer necessary. Legislation will be introduced to strengthen control over and accountability of remaining Crown corporations. You will also be asked to approve "sunset" legislation to provide a regular opportunity for Parliament to judge whether Government programs and agencies need continue in their present form, if at all....

Individual initiative

Second, my Government will place greater reliance on individual initiative to generate



The Governor General and Mrs. Schreyer arrive for the opening in their landau.

The Citizen



Members of Parliament, the Senate and their guests crowded into the Senate Chamber.

The Citizen

growth and jobs for Canadians. You will receive proposals for regulatory reform, designed to ensure that the certainty and nature of Government regulations encourages individual initiative and planning. Measures will be introduced to expand research and development in Canada and to further promote exports of Canadian goods and services. You will be asked to approve agreements arising from the Tokyo round of multilateral trade negotiations, including adjustment measures for industries adversely affected by those agreements. The Minister of State for Economic Development will convene a national economic development conference to discuss with the provinces, business, labour, co-operatives and other groups Canada's economic goals for the decade ahead, and how they might best be achieved in a spirit of full economic partnership....

Tax credit for mortgage interest

Third, my Government will propose measures to help individual Canadians build a stake in our country. You will be asked to approve a program of tax credits for mortgage interest and property taxes. Measures will be placed before you to assist small and medium-size enterprises, and to encourage more Canadians to participate in the ownership of public and private enterprises. You will be asked to consider revisions to the Employment Tax Credit program, the creation of a youth employment secretariat, and other measures to create new jobs for young Canadians. An employment strategy for

women will be placed before you. Programs to assist native Canadians to develop and apply work skills will be expanded....

Fourth, my Government will ask you to support programs which build upon the strengths of the regions of Canada. Legislation will be placed before you to strengthen the mandate of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. You will be asked to consider a white paper on future development of our fisheries resources, prepared in consultation with fishermen, the fishing industry and the provinces. My Ministers have begun to overhaul the grain transportation system through appointment of a grain transportation co-ordinator, the signing of agreements for the development of the Prince Rupert terminal, and a significant increase in hopper car capacity....

Energy self-sufficiency

Fifth, my Government is committed to making Canada self-sufficient in energy by 1990. To that end, in consultation with the provinces, measures will be introduced to encourage a significant reduction in Canada's over-all energy consumption, and to stimulate a major expansion in our capacity to supply and distribute energy in various forms. In bringing forth these measures, my Government accepts and respects provincial jurisdiction over resources, as it accepts its own responsibility to ensure economic stability, competitive advantage and other national objectives....

Crown corporations for sale to Canadian buyers

Eight Crown corporations with assets of \$804.3 million will be sold if Canadian buyers can be found for them, Treasury Board President Sinclair Stevens announced September 28.

The four companies and their four subsidiaries with a total of 12,468 employees are:

- Canadair Ltd. of Montreal which was bought for \$46 million in 1976 from the U.S.-owned General Dynamics Corporation. Business has revolved round the development of the *Challenger* long range business jet. Assets of the company and Canadair Inc., its U.S. sales and service subsidiary are valued at \$246.6 million;
- De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd., Toronto, which was purchased in 1974 for \$40.5 million from the British-owned Hawker Siddeley group. A pioneer in short take-off and landing (STOL) aircraft, it has sold 700 of its *Twin Otter* aircraft in many parts of the world. The company's new *Dash-7*, 50-passenger STOL plane has deliveries, orders and options to purchase now totalling 57. Assets are valued at \$185.2 million;
- Eldorado Nuclear Ltd., which was purchased by the Government in 1942 for uranium production. It is the only refiner of raw uranium ore in Canada (which it carries out for the other two major producers, Denison Mines Ltd. and Rio Algom Ltd.). With subsidiaries Eldor Resources and Eldorado Aviation, its assets are valued at \$315 million;
- Northern Transportation Company Ltd., Edmonton, which operates a land and marine transportation system in the Mackenzie River basin and throughout the western Arctic. The company along with its subsidiary Grimshaw Trucking and Distributing Ltd., has not showed a profit for five years. They lost \$340,000 last year, a slight improvement from losses of \$1.5 million in 1977.

"It is not intended that control of any company be sold to foreign interests and no sale will be finalized until and unless we are satisfied that the findings of certain studies now under way are compatible with such sales," Mr. Stevens said.

The Government is prepared in principle to return these Crown corporations entirely to the private sector, said Mr. Stevens, but it reserves the right to retain functions pending further study. The Government is also considering transfer-

ring all or parts of Nordair and Petrocan to the private sector.

As an example, the Minister pointed out that Canada's nuclear policy and aerospace sectoral strategy were under review. He also stressed that Northern Transportation Company Limited would not be sold unless the new owner would be prepared to continue the public policy objectives for northern and social development now served by that company.

In 1978, Canada's total investment (share equity, retained earnings or accumulated deficit) in the eight companies amounted to more than \$187 million. In addition, the corporate debt including guarantees and contingent liabilities by the Government was \$322 million. The Government's total involvement was \$804 million, on which it had net earnings of \$22 million.

The final report of the Royal Commission on Financial Management and Accountability indicated that out of total government assets of more than \$74 billion, the share controlled by Crown corporations in 1977-78 amounted to \$29 billion or 39 per cent, said Mr. Stevens.

"...Nevertheless, the growth of the government sector in Canada and the high proportion of Crown corporations within the Federal Government has to be reversed. Some Crown corporations need the discipline of the marketplace and others are already mature enough to cope independently. Selling some Crown corporations will help us achieve a leaner and less expensive Government," Mr. Stevens said.

In 1957, Albertans were given first option to purchase shares in Alberta Gas Trunk Line whose common equity is now virtually wholly-owned by the investing public. In the 1960s, Panarctic Oils was a successful sharing arrangement between governments and a private consortium. Subsequent sharing ventures have included Canada Development Corporation and Telesat Canada at the federal level, and Alberta Energy Co. and British Columbia Resources Investment Corporation (BCRIC) provincially, the Treasury Board President pointed out.

"We have international examples as well," Mr. Stevens said. "British Petroleum in England, Volkswagenwerk in Germany, Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI) in Italy and Lufthansa, SAS and KLM among the airlines."

Unions contribute to Nicaraguan relief fund

Medication, food, clothing and shelter — valued at \$500,000 — was included in the first air freight shipment to Nicaragua sponsored by the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC).

A total of \$250,000 in cheques and pledges was collected for the Nicaraguan relief fund in the first two weeks, following an appeal by CLC President Dennis McDermott.

A team from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions who had visited Nicaragua on July 28, found the people "starving, destitute and economically ruined". John Simonds, assistant to the CLC president and executive secretary of the Congress, was a member of this ICFTU team.

Delegates to the triennial convention of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, held in Quebec City in August, authorized the contribution of a dollar a member for the Nicaragua fund, totalling about \$180,000. The Canadian Union of Public Employees, the United Automobile Workers, the British Columbia Government Employees' Union, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers and the Ontario Federation of Labour also have pledged funds.

In the Ottawa area four to five tons of used clothing were collected. This appeal was endorsed by Ottawa Mayor Marion Dewar, and the members of the International Association of Fire Fighters used sections of three Ottawa fire stations as collection depots.

"Some of the monetary contributions have been used to provide shelter, buy baby food and powdered milk," Mr. Simonds said. "We have family-size tents for 500 trade union families."

The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers' Union, in arrangements with their employers in the Toronto area, provided new clothing valued at \$65,000 for the shipment.

The shipment also provided a complete immunization program, including a freezer, refrigerator, portable coolers and one million doses of vaccine, said Mr. Simonds, who accompanied the CLC relief shipment to Nicaragua.

The CLC has arranged for the training of Nicaraguans in immunization procedures, by the Pan-American Health Organization.

Canada-France-Hawaii telescope the world's newest

The world's newest optical observatory, the Canada-France-Hawaii telescope, was officially opened recently, concluding nearly five years of planning and construction.

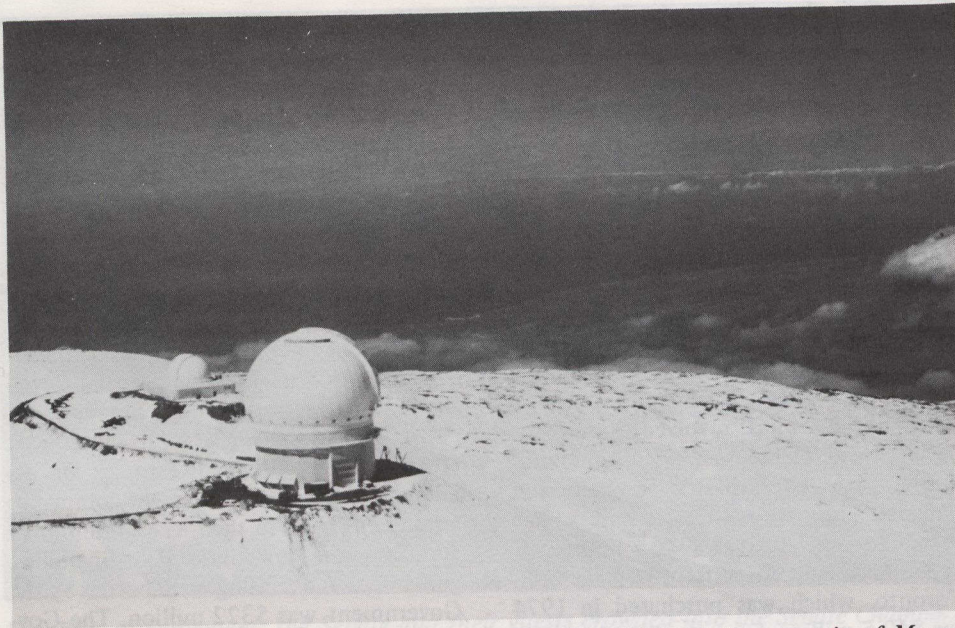
Located at the 4,200 metre-high summit of Mauna Kea, an extinct volcano on the island of Hawaii, the facility was built as a joint project involving the National Research Council of Canada (NRC), the Centre national de la recherche scientifique of France and the University of Hawaii. Among the largest observing instruments in the world, the new telescope will enable Canadian and French astronomers to look farther into space and to collect data unavailable from older and smaller telescopes in their own countries.

Mauna Kea is considered to be one of the best places on earth for carrying out astronomical observations. The air above the peak, the highest point of land in the Pacific Ocean, is much drier than at sea level, a condition particularly well-suited to detection of infrared emissions from space. The atmosphere around the site is also very still and transparent, affording clear, unblurred images of stars and most nights at the summit are cloud-free and suitable for observation. Cloud layers normally form at lower levels on the mountain, blocking out interfering lights from Hilo, the major city on the island. Mauna Kea's location in the tropics also provides an excellent vantage point from which to view almost the entire sky.

The mirror

The new telescope's main mirror, which is used to collect and focus starlight, is nearly twice the diameter (3.66 metres) of any other now available in Canada or France. (At present, the largest telescopes in Canada are the NRC's Dominion Astrophysical Observatory near Victoria, British Columbia, and the David Dunlap Observatory near Toronto.) The mirror can enable the new telescope to make out both eyes of a person standing 20 kilometres away or pick up the glow of a light bulb on the darkened side of the moon. The mirror was installed on Mauna Kea in July of this year, to complete construction of the main telescope structure.

The other components of the telescope had been built and tested in various



The Canada-France-Hawaii telescope, surrounded by clouds at the summit of Mauna Kea. A smaller U.S. infrared telescope stands next to the dome of the new observatory.

locations in Canada and France, then shipped to Hawaii for assembly. The work on all phases of the project was coordinated by the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Corporation, an agency set up by the three partners. The construction costs of \$30 million (U.S.) were shared equally by Canada and France, while the University of Hawaii provided the moun-

taintop site and other support facilities.

Canada and France will each be entitled to 42.5 per cent of the available observing time while the University of Hawaii will receive 15 per cent. A staff of 30 will work both on Mauna Kea and at the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Corporation headquarters in the village of Waimea at the foot of the mountain.

Residents assess holidays in Canada

Canadians from coast-to-coast ranked British Columbia as their number one choice for a travel destination in a recent tourism survey prepared for the Canadian Government Office of Tourism.

The survey was aimed at determining the attitudes of Canadians towards Canada as a vacation destination, especially in relation to the United States.

The 500 respondents, in each of six metropolitan centres located near the U.S./Canada border (Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax), were asked to compare Canada with the United States by rating 20 vacation activities and 23 vacation attributes on a scale of one to ten. Respondents were all 18 years of age or over, had been on a trip of at least 160 km (100 miles), and had stayed away from home for at least one night in the past two years.

British Columbia was rated as the number one travel destination by each group with the exception of Montreal

(French-speaking), which chose Quebec. The U.S. was the second choice as a destination in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Montreal (English-speaking); third in Calgary and Montreal (French-speaking); and fourth in Halifax.

When asked to compare accommodations in the two countries, the respondents indicated that the United States offered a wider variety of hotels and motels, and felt they received better value for their money south of the border.

According to the survey, Canadian cities have the image of being safe to walk in, and for this reason were rated above American cities as tourist destinations. Canada also scored higher than the U.S. for good restaurants, being a place to explore the countryside and talk to the local people. The ease of getting travel information before leaving on a trip also made Canada more appealing to many travellers. On the other hand, the U.S. rated higher than Canada as a place to shop and to visit beaches and art galleries, as well as offering a more exciting nightlife.

Access to government information study published

A new voice has been added to the debate in Canada on access to government information, with the publication this month of Robert T. Franson's study for the Law Reform Commission.

Franson, a professor of law at the University of British Columbia, examined the disclosure policies of several prominent administrative agencies such as the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission; the Unemployment Insurance Commission; and, the National Parole Board to see "how they should deal with information they receive, who they should share it with, and when they should keep it to themselves".

He identifies three basic considerations for access to information: the interest of the person requesting it; the context of agency functions (adjudicative or policy-making) within which requests for information are made; and the kind of information requested (personal, technical or commercial or agency-management information).

Hold "harmful" info.

While favouring as much disclosure as possible of documents such as staff manuals and directives, agency rules and decisions that delineate agency law or policy, Franson concedes that certain information cannot be disclosed. He recommends that "the public be given right to any information contained in the files of administrative agencies, as long as the information can be released without creating harm". Harmful information (such as the names of informants in parole matters or specific technical information on business procedures which could jeopardize fair competition) could be screened out, leaving the remainder of the document or file accessible, he suggests.

Preventing the release of material which might cause harm, Franson states, could be achieved by exempting from disclosure only information relating to particular interests which merit support or protection. Provisions exempting certain information from disclosure constitute one of the most important parts of any legislation regarding access to information.

Franson also recommends that any

legislation on disclosure of information carry protection for the rights of people or firms who supply, or are the subject of, information contained in agency files. He points to the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, which did not provide this protection and to the number of court actions brought by people seeking to block disclosure of personal or commercial information by an agency, as evidence of the need for this kind of protection.

Franson concludes with the suggestion that administrative agencies can and should develop policies for disclosing information and respecting confidentiality where necessary without waiting for legislation to do it for them.

Police get innovative system

The most advanced computer being used by a police force in North America went into operation recently at Ottawa police headquarters.

CADRE (computer aided dispatch and records entry) is a series of mini-computers designed to operate the communications centre and maintain records.

Simple, fast and accurate, CADRE facilitates the checking of stolen vehicles, missing persons, known criminals and other routine police queries by means of a visual read-out screen and digital terminal in the patrolman's cruiser.

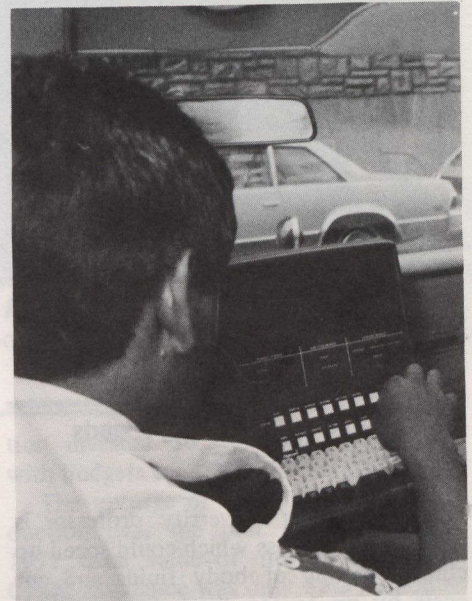
Keyed to the Canadian Police Information Centre, the system can provide an-



A dispatcher demonstrates the computerized communication system to Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry.

swers for the on-duty patrolman in a matter of seconds.

There are two main components to the system: the computer aided dispatch and the records entry. The CAD component automates the dispatcher's function. All calls for police service are logged into the data banks and cars are dispatched by flashing a message on the mobile terminal screen. The system can also handle numerous other duties of the patrolman, such as requesting ambulances and fire trucks. The computer will give the patrolman relevant information on the type of



Mobile digital terminal allows policemen to talk directly to computer.

call and possible information on suspects – in short, as much information as possible to give the investigating officer the best chance of performing the task safely. The computer maintains an up-to-the-minute status report on all field units.

CAD also provides a compilation of statistics on location and frequency of calls, the type of calls, and the time it takes to service them. This enables police management to observe the areas of the city which require service and to employ field forces effectively.

The records entry portion of the system, essential to the compilation of statistics, maintains operational files on crimes, accidents, summons and tickets and maintains duty rosters.

CADRE, which cost \$2 million and took two years to install, has become a model for North American forces and, say its proponents, may well signal a new era in police work and crime prevention.

(From Liaison, June 1979.)

Sea level lower

A team of Canadian geologists, which dived into caverns more than 147 feet below sea level in the Bahamas, have found stalagmites that were deposited 160,000 to 139,000 years ago when the caves were above sea level.

The age of the stalagmites corresponds with the Illinoian glacial event that covered part of the North American continent and lowered the sea level.

The geologists, affiliated with McMaster University in Hamilton, reported in the journal, *Science*, that they broke off the submerged stalagmites and, using a pneumatic drill, chipped out samples of the cores and analyzed them to determine age.

Then, knowing the present depth of the caves and that the maximum subsidence of the site over the period of some 150,000 years was about nine feet, they estimated that sea level was about 137 feet lower than now.

Automated fluid-testing speeds diagnosis, cuts costs

A Saskatchewan university professor is patenting a process which could speed up clinical testing of body fluids and cut costs by up to ten times over previous processes.

Fluid sample testing is one of the quickest and most economical means for diagnosing illness and monitoring the recovery process of a large number of patients in big hospitals. Although basic testing is now almost completely automated, special chemistry tests must still be done manually.

Many high-technology instruments have been developed over the past few years and are in wide use in some of Canada's larger clinics. However, in most cases their cost has been well out of the range of smaller clinics.

Dr. Karl Blass of the University of Regina is developing an automated analyzer for analyzing glucose in urine and serum samples. The analyzer could cost as little as \$2,000 to mass produce.

Dr. Blass' process has been developed over the past two years under a \$20,000-contract from the Saskatchewan Department of Industry and Commerce.

Clinical tests are usually performed by technologists who begin by taking the

sample, splitting it into its components (serum, plasma, etc.), mixing the sample with reagents and dilutants, allowing for reaction time and instrument measurement time and recording results. The whole process could take several hours. With automated technology it can be done in a matter of minutes and a larger number of samples can be tested simultaneously.

Rapid automated testing is possible because of the electrochemical nature of certain body fluids when mixed with sensitive and selective reagents. Dr. Blass' device yields readouts in microamperes which can immediately be fed into a computer terminal for data processing. The resulting analysis is almost instantaneous. An accurate assessment of the body fluid composition is available in graphic or printout form.

Dr. Blass said that although his first prototype unit was only designed for glucose testing, future designs could be developed to conduct a number of different tests, some of them considerably more complex than the glucose reaction. Some examples include tests for liver and kidney function, testing for the presence of blood cancers or some specific inborn errors of metabolism.

For further information contact: *Insight*, Room 509, Administration-Humanities Building, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2.

Robot business booming

The robot business is booming for a young Canadian inventor and his newly-formed company in Toronto.

The future for Robolabs, The Robot People, looks bright with international contracts, personal appearances at trade shows and export of the company's copyrighted robots round the world.

It all started a year ago when, 18-year-old Brian Matthews of Toronto, made an R2D2 robot, like the one in the movie *Star Wars*, "just for the fun of it". The three-and-a-half foot copy was controlled by a seven-channel remote-control radio.

Mr. Matthews received more than 100 calls from firms seeking to hire his robot. But the R2D2 character was covered by a world copyright and the Matthews' robot could not be used for profit. So Mr. Matthews created Q6, a similar robot with the added features of moving an arm and

saying "I love you".

He got so many job offers as a result that he incorporated last autumn taking his friends, Sim Brigden, 21, Matthew Brigden, 19, and Chris Tattersall, 19, into the business.

The company has been adding more robots to the Robolab's family: Agamis 5; Max, a robot dog; Mister Metre and 2E (named after part of the Matthew's postal code). They also have added features such as being able to talk and take photographs.

The Robolabs' team will be travelling this year for Sperry Univac Computer Systems to all the major trade shows, making appearances for Eastman Kodak or Kodak Canada, performing for IKEA, a furniture company, appearing for another year on a children's television show in Toronto and making a television commercial for a Japanese car company.

Business is doing so well, especially in the United States, that the company is planning to open an office in Tampa.

TV programs can skip sex

Canadians are becoming more tolerant of sex in movies, magazines and night clubs, but continue to believe it has no place in the living rooms of the nation.

A recently-released Gallup poll shows fewer Canadians today than there were ten years ago are bothered by the treatment of sex in movies and magazines, but almost the same proportion finds sex on television objectionable.

Results of the poll are based on 1,044 personal interviews with adults 18 years and over, conducted in August in homes across Canada.

Twenty-nine per cent of those polled in 1969 objected to the treatment of sex on television, compared with 28 per cent today. Only 30 per cent object to sex in movies and magazines today, compared to 41 per cent in 1969.

In 1969, 49 per cent found pictures of nudes in magazines objectionable, compared to 35 per cent today.

And in 1969, 67 per cent found topless night-club waitresses objectionable, compared with 51 per cent today.

"Views on what is objectionable in the treatment of sex depend, in a large measure on age and sex," says the Gallup report. "Men and younger people accept such matters with far greater equanimity than women or older folk."

News of the arts

Tremblay play tours Europe

The Compagnie des deux chaises of Montreal is touring Europe with Michel Tremblay's play, *A toi, pour toujours, ta Marie-Lou*, directed by André Brassard.

The 11-week tour, which began October 9 and ends November 23, includes Belgium, France, Britain (English readings only) and Switzerland.

In addition to 61 performances, film showings are being presented in some centres and Michel Tremblay's latest work, *La Grosse Femme d'a côté est enceinte*, will be performed by the company during its stay in Paris.

The tour is sponsored by the Department of External Affairs as part of its program to promote Canadian literature and theatre abroad. The choice of the Compagnie des deux chaises and of Michel Tremblay's work was a result of the company's successful presentation of the playwright's *Les Belles Soeurs*, in Paris in 1973.



Members of the company (left to right) Gilles Renaud, Sophie Clement, Rita Lafontaine and Monique Mercure, in a scene from *A toi pour toujours, ta Marie-Lou*.

D. Kieffer

Television advertising studied

A study prepared for the federal Department of Communications concludes that a controversial tax amendment has achieved one of its principal objectives in redirecting Canadian advertising expenditures to Canadian broadcasters, Communications Minister David MacDonald has announced.

The study, *The Impact of the 1976 Income Tax Amendment on U.S. and Canadian TV Broadcasters*, was undertaken for the Department of Communications to judge the effectiveness of Section 19.1 of Canada's Income Tax Act.

When the tax amendment was first considered in 1974, about \$20 million a year in Canadian advertising revenues was flowing to United States border television stations for commercials directed at Canadians. At that time, this represented about 10 per cent of total Canadian advertising revenues and more than the net after-tax profits of Canada's entire private television industry.

The tax measure, the reports says, has reduced the annual flow of funds to U.S. border stations from \$21.5 million (U.S.) in 1975 to \$6.5 million by 1978. The main beneficiaries are the five most recently licensed stations in Canada — CKVU-TV, Vancouver; CITY-TV, Ed-

monton; CKND-TV, Winnipeg; CKGN (the Global Television Network) and CITY-TV in Toronto.

The study is available on request from the department's Information Services, 300 Slater Street, Ottawa, K1A 0C8.

Film production on the rise

Feature film production by Canadian companies may reach \$150 million in 1979, double the previous year's record figure, said Michael McCabe, executive director of the Canadian Film Development Corporation (CFDC).

The CFDC has already made commitments to participate in 32 films with budgets totalling \$82 million. In addition, another 11 movies with combined budgets of \$35 million are being produced without CFDC assistance.

"And I'm aware of several other films to be made before the end of the year, which should bring total production to the \$150 million mark," Mr. McCabe stated in a review of production activities since the start of the CFDC's 1979 fiscal year, April 1.

CFDC commitments to the 32 films in which it is participating so far this year is \$7 million. In 1978, the Crown corpora-

tion invested \$6.3 million in 30 films with budgets totalling \$50 million.

The upsurge of Canadian feature production over the past two years — in 1977 total value of movies made with CFDC assistance was only \$5.5 million — "has vaulted Canada into the top ranks of film producing countries", Mr. McCabe emphasized.

He said that Canadian films were selling "all over the globe" and were being seen by millions of people. *Meatballs* promised to be "one of the all-time highest grossing movies".

Producers are now undertaking higher budget films; the average budget of movies in which the CFDC is participating this year is running around \$2.6 million, compared to the 1978 average of \$1.6 million, Mr. McCabe pointed out. A larger number of pictures are being made without CFDC assistance.

Mr. McCabe said he was extremely pleased that the production boom was enabling many Canadian actors, directors and technicians to work regularly in films that are being seen around the world.

"In addition, I'm extremely proud that the boom is enabling such stars of the magnitude of Geneviève Bujold, Rich Little, David Steinberg and Arthur Hill to return home to Canada to make movies," he stated.

Job absenteeism

Canada is losing about \$21 million a day as thousands of workers do not show up for their jobs, according to a study on absenteeism.

The study, conducted by George Sanderson at the recently-disbanded Centre for the Study of Inflation and Productivity, is one of several documents being examined by Labour Department officials preparing a policy discussion paper for Labour Minister Lincoln Alexander.

The Minister is to decide, after he gets the policy paper, whether Cabinet should tackle the problem of absenteeism immediately.

The first step would be to commission labour and management representatives to conduct a study on absenteeism and how to reduce it.

The Sanderson study, based on Statistics Canada figures and research by private industry and provincial governments, says about 83 million days of work were lost to the economy through absenteeism last year. That's more than ten times the 7.3 million days lost through strikes, lockouts and similar symptoms of labour-management disputes.

Mr. Sanderson found that rates of absenteeism vary in different regions, companies, occupations and industries although there is no conclusive evidence of national patterns.

Some figures showed that unscheduled absence is highest in the winter because the weather is bad. But some companies say it is worse in the summer when workers take extra time for hunting, fishing and other leisure activities.

The farther a worker lives from the plant or office, the likelier he will be absent, said Mr. Sanderson. And while younger workers are likely to have the highest frequency of absence, older workers are absent for longer periods at a time.

Some industries said absenteeism drops as the unemployment rate rises, but others said absenteeism rises "because workers hold onto jobs they would normally quit, but compensate for this by taking time off work".

News briefs

The first oil discovery in Ontario in seven years was made recently by a Calgary company. Bluewater Oil and Gas Limited said the discovery well in Plymouth Township, about 40 kilometres east of Sarnia, Ontario, had an initial flow of more than 1,200 barrels a day. Herbert Pietsch, company vice-president for production, described the well as "pretty big, even by western standards".

The Federal Government and the government of Nova Scotia will co-operate to help young people in that province find employment. The two governments recently signed Canada's first federal-provincial agreement in the area of youth employment. The agreement commits the provincial and the Federal Government to an exchange of employment-related information and to consult prior to the implementation of new youth employment programs and services or related policies.

A Buddhist college was opened in September at Brock University in St. Catharines, the first college of its kind in Canada, university officials say. The Karma

Buddhist College, which will be associated with Brock but not affiliated, will be a teaching centre and the North American home for the Karma Kargyu Society, a Buddhist group. The college will provide instruction for a residential community of about 30 students and to some non-resident students. All members of the Buddhist college will be fully registered Brock students who will combine regular academic studies with Buddhist teachings and meditation.

A \$46.8-million Arctic vessel and marine research institute, to be built in St. John's, moves Newfoundland a big step closer to becoming a world leader in cold ocean science, says provincial Premier Brian Peckford, who has announced federal approval of the institute, scheduled for completion in 1983.

Hearing aids are now available free of charge to handicapped Quebecers 35 years-old-and-under, the provincial government has announced. Social Affairs Minister Denis Lazure says 6,000 persons are expected to benefit from the program, expected to cost \$1 million in its first year.

Quebec's first centre for evaluating cars damaged in accidents was opened in Quebec City recently. Operated by the Association of Automobile Insurers, it will provide a rapid estimate of car damages after an accident for insurance purposes. Sixteen similar centres are scheduled to open in five other cities by next spring.

Anyone charged under the Criminal Code will have the right in Ontario to a trial by judge or jury speaking in French or English beginning December 31. This

extension of French-language court services in Ontario follows changes to the Criminal Code passed last year in Ottawa, which gave each province the option of permitting the accused person the right to be heard by a bilingual judge, and bilingual jurors in jury trials. Ontario will join New Brunswick as the only other province where the amendments have been proclaimed. In Quebec, English-speaking residents have had trials in English since Confederation, but that province has not yet enshrined the Criminal Code amendments.

The Whitefish gas field in the Arctic Islands, already considered as perhaps the biggest in Canada, is probably bigger than was originally thought, said John Buckley, chairman of Southern Petroleum Ltd. He said seismic data indicated the Whitefish structure extends well into an area in which his company has a 30 per cent interest, and total reserves may be as high as five trillion cubic feet. Outside of Whitefish, gas reserves in the Arctic Islands are estimated by Panarctic consultants at 12.7 trillion cubic feet.

Dan Swasfield of Calgary is establishing a firm called Sober Friend Home Escort Service. "Basically, we're offering a drive-home service to people who've had a few too many," Mr. Swasfield said. "It's like an auto club. Customers pay a \$2 fee, register their insurance with us, and for \$15 a trip we'll drive them home when they have a glow on." The company will serve only the "cheerfully inebriated". Obnoxious drunks and unconscious ones will have to fend for themselves.

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