



Bulletin

Vol. 23, No. 11

March 13, 1968

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A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF STANDARDS

The following excerpts are from an address by Mr. C.M. Drury, Minister of Industry, at a meeting on February 27 of federal officials and representatives of the ten provinces:

...Standards are the language of production — they describe ways of making things, using things, or doing things. They are the means by which the needs of the user are expressed. They are also the means by which the design or performance of products offered for sale is specified, enabling the customer to select that which best suits his individual requirements and offers maximum cost-effectiveness for his particular application....

PUBLIC INTEREST

In the past, governments have only become directly involved in the formulation or enforcement of general standards, where the public interest is concerned or for the purpose of procuring goods or services for which the Government is a customer. The public interest embraces such matters as public health (e.g. the purity and quality of foods and drugs), public safety (e.g. the airworthiness of commercial transport aircraft, the construction of electrical appliances, the use of explosive or radioactive materials, etc.), and the protection of the public against fraud or misrepresentation (e.g. weights and measures, false labelling, etc.) Standards designed to protect the public interest are embodied in legislation and hence are known as mandatory standards which are enforced by law.

There are, however, other aspects of public interest which modern governments are called upon to protect. Most important of these is the matter of con-

sumer interest which is relatively inarticulate and which is not always adequately served by market forces alone. Commensurate with the increasing responsibility of governments for the economic well-being of the modern industrial state, they have accepted the task of providing for the institutions or services needed to ensure the efficiency of domestic industry and to promote external trade.

...It seems to me that we should try to ensure that in Canada we have a comprehensive and effective system of industrial standards and one which is truly representative of the interests of all sectors of our economic community.

Although much useful standards work has been accomplished over the years in both the private sector (notably by the Canadian Standards Association), and in the public sector (by the Canadian Government Specifications Board), I think it must be admitted that we do not at present have an adequate national system of standards. In particular, we suffer from fragmentation of effort coupled with a general lack of co-ordination, an inadequate level of overall effort leading to excessive delays in the promulgation of needed standards, and the neglect of important areas where standardization would be highly desirable, if not essential.

PROPOSED STANDARDS COUNCIL

The proposal for the establishment of a Standards Council of Canada, which is being presented to this conference, represents an attempt to overcome these shortcomings, and to provide a sound foundation upon which a viable national system of standardization can be built to meet the needs of the future industrial development of our country.

It is envisaged that the proposed Standards Council would be concerned primarily with standards for the private sector and hence will operate outside of government, and participation will be on a voluntary basis.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES

Among its major objectives would be the following:

(1) To foster the formulation of truly national standards and to promote their general adoption in both the public and private sectors;

(2) to provide for the effective co-ordination of the activities of all existing Canadian standards-setting bodies;

(3) to provide for the establishment of standards, where a need arises, which is not met by the existing standards institutions;

(4) to harmonize standards practices in different industrial sectors and to ensure adherence to the consensus principle in standards formulation with particular respect to the interests of the consumer and the public at large;

(5) to provide for effective representation of all Canadian interests in international standardization activities, which have a direct bearing on the access of Canadian products to export markets.

In connection with the latter point, there is a growing recognition in Canada of the advantages in terms of trade in manufactured goods which would accrue from wider use of the International System of Units. While the use of the metric system of measurement is already legal in Canada, its adoption is inhibited by widespread usage of the foot-pound system in the North American market, and the formidable costs of conversion in terms of machinery and measuring equipment. Nevertheless, if one accepts the desirability of S.I. units as a long-term objective, then an institution like the proposed Standards Council would certainly be required to successfully effect their introduction in an orderly and efficient manner. Indeed, it would be no exaggeration to suggest that the formation of an integrated national standards organization is an essential prerequisite to "metrification", and that its establishment would be justified on this ground alone.

In taking the initiative in proposing the formation of a Standards Council of Canada, the Federal Government has acted in response to the broad national interest and intends to consult fully with all interested governments, industrial and trade associations, and consumer representatives before its implementation.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The contribution of the Federal Government in this

regard will be to provide financial support for Standards Council activities at the national and international level, as well as for the operation of its secretariat. Because of the direct impact of standardization on many aspects of our national affairs, I would also expect that representatives of the Federal Government will play an active role in the work of the Council. In addition, the substantial technical expertise, laboratory resources and other services of the various Federal Government agencies will of course be available to assist the Standards Council....

TWO-LANGUAGE SURVEY

A survey of proficiency in a second language (English or French) has been announced for employees of the Public Service during April, May and June.

G.A. Blackburn, Director-General of the Language Bureau of the Public Service Commission of Canada, said that it was impossible to plan any expansion of the Commission's present language-training programmes without reliable data on the needs of departments and agencies throughout the Public Service.

Employees in the executive, administrative and scientific and the technical categories whose duties require proficiency in both English and French will be included in the survey. They will be given written and oral tests to see how proficient they are in a second language and, with this information, the Commission will be able to determine the level at which they should begin in the language-training programmes.

Mr. Blackburn, pointing out that in 1967 more than 3,600 public servants in Canada received language training, said it was believed that with the completion of the survey, departments and agencies would be better able to plan for the participation of employees in language-training programmes.

HOUSING IN ALBERTA

Alberta's Municipal Acts have recently been amended to establish the Alberta Housing and Urban Renewal Corporation to improve housing and working conditions throughout the province.

The new body will administer and carry out all programmes established by the Housing Act, including programmes produced in partnership with municipal governments and the Federal Government for low-income public and co-operative housing, land assembly and urban renewal projects. It may also be directed to carry out other duties related to housing or housing accommodation in the province. These include the provision of housing for provincial employees, students at provincial educational institutions (other than universities), and some migratory workers.

In the fiscal year 1967-68 Alberta plans to spend \$1.5 million for subsidized housing and \$3.5 million towards the acquisition and clearing of land for urban renewal programmes.

CANADA'S RELATIONS WITH GABON

The following statement by the Prime Minister was issued on March 4:

The Ambassador of Canada in Washington has delivered to the Ambassador of Gabon a note protesting the fact that the Gabonese Government acted in a manner incompatible with international law and the maintenance of close and friendly relations between our two countries in connection with the Libreville meeting of February 5 to 10. In the... note, the Canadian Government expresses its hope that the Gabonese Government will reconsider its attitude, but states that in the present circumstances the Canadian Ambassador designated to Gabon will not proceed with the presentation of his credentials.

The Canadian Government also regrets that, on the occasion of the Libreville meeting, it was not possible to reach agreement between the federal and Quebec governments on sending a Canadian delegation to that meeting.

Quebec, as a "Francophone" province having exclusive domestic jurisdiction over education, was clearly and particularly interested in the matters to be discussed at this conference. The Federal Government was prepared to make appropriate arrangements to ensure the fullest representation of provincial and

"Francophone" interests on a Canadian delegation, and our willingness to do so was made clear on more than one occasion to the Quebec authorities and to the countries involved in organizing the conference. Indeed it was suggested that the Quebec Minister of Education could head a Canadian delegation. It was also made clear to all concerned, however, that the Canadian Government was the only authorized spokesman of all Canadians at the international level, and the only one entitled to receive such an invitation.

The policy of the Canadian Government to develop agreed procedures for provincial participation as a part of Canadian delegations to international meetings of interest to the provinces, is explained in detail in a document submitted to the recent Constitutional Conference entitled *Federalism and International Relations*. The document also contains proposals for strengthening existing mechanisms for facilitating provincial participation in such meetings. In view of these proposals and the statements of the government of Quebec at the Constitutional Conference and elsewhere that it is their desire to discuss these and related matters with the Federal Government, it is my hope that Quebec will agree that there should be such discussions before decisions are taken in this field.

CANADIANS PLAN BRAZIL AIRPORT

A team of Canadian consultants has been chosen by the Brazilian Government to plan South America's first international airport for "jumbo" and supersonic jets. The group, headed by Acres International Limited and John B. Parkin Associates, both of Toronto, was chosen over strong international competition, including seven firms from the United States, Europe and Canada. Hidroservice, a large Brazilian consulting firm, will work closely with Acres-Parkin.

Brazil's five-man co-ordinating committee for the airport project will now negotiate a contract with Acres-Parkin for the first phase of a \$1.2-million technical and economic study. The design stage, phase two, is estimated at \$8 to \$10 million, and construction, phase three, is estimated at \$100 million.

R. Dixon Spears of Canada Limited, aviation consultants, of Montreal, will assist in the project. The technical resources of the Department of Transport and Air Canada will also be available.

EFFORTS REWARDED

The choice of Acres-Parkin is the result of sustained effort over a period of many months, Trade and Commerce Minister Robert Winters stated. Last summer, the Department of Trade and Commerce sponsored an Airport Export Committee Mission to Brazil to present Canadian capabilities in airport

development. Subsequently, two Brazilian delegations visited Canada to inspect Canadian facilities. [See *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, Vol. 22, No. 45, Nov. 8, 1967, P. 6].

Mr. Winters said that the Acres-Parkin success demonstrated the scope of results possible through the combination of private enterprise initiative and Government support. "This co-operative spirit is the key to exporting Canadian professional services and know-how," he declared. Mr. Winters commended the assistance received from the Department of Transport and Air Canada.

MONETARY FUND WITHDRAWAL

Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Minister of Finance, has announced that Canada has taken steps to draw the equivalent of \$426 million (U.S.) from the International Monetary Fund.

This amount includes \$241 million (U.S.) which represents Canada's creditor position in the International Monetary Fund. These funds have been regarded as equivalent to exchange reserves. The drawing also includes \$185 million (U.S.), equivalent in value to Canada's contribution of gold to the International Monetary Fund.

The drawing leaves unimpaired Canada's normal rights to secure credit from the Fund equivalent to Canada's quota of \$740 million (U.S.).

FARM REPORT FROM INDIA

A team of Canadian agricultural experts recently agreed that India might attain its goal of self-sufficiency in food-grain production by 1971, if current trends in Indian farming continue and prices to farmers continued to be favourable.

The experts, led by Dean C.F. Bentley of the University of Alberta, were members of an External Aid Office task force sent to India last autumn to study ways of using Canadian resources most effectively, through Canada's aid programme, to promote India's food and agricultural development.

Mr. Paul Martin, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, said that the report was a valuable contribution to the implementation of Canada's expanding programmes of development assistance. The study will take effect over a period of time as new projects and policies are developed in consultation with the Government of India.

BENEFITS TO OTHER NATIONS

Mr. Martin added that the views of the Canadian team may also apply to food and agricultural problems in other developing countries, thus facilitating the Canadian Government's intention to devote a larger share of its current and future aid programme to this vital field.

The experts, who were drawn from the industrial, agricultural and academic spheres, reported that India's ambitious plan to provide a more adequate diet for an increased population by 1971 showed encouraging prospects of success provided the Indian production of such agricultural inputs as fertilizer met the goals on which the Draft Fourth Five-Year Plan was based and provided priorities for agriculture were maintained within the Indian economy. A renewed effort would be required to maintain these advances beyond the early 1970s.

The report points out that Canada can make significant contributions in particular areas of Indian needs - in higher agricultural education and technician- and trades-training, including food technology, in irrigation and land-development schemes; in the provision of fertilizer and fertilizer components; in support of food technology and research, and through participation in plans to improve standards of nutrition.

The report's recommendations are being reviewed by the Canadian Government.

CAR SAFETY CHECKS

The Canadian Highway Safety Council reported recently that four Canadian provinces now possessed legislation providing for compulsory inspection of motor-vehicles. In Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia, inspections are designed to have every registered vehicle checked and, while the system is hampered by a shortage of facilities and funds, enforcement is increasing. In Ontario, compulsory inspection is on a selective basis, performed at portable stations to which vehicles are directed by

police. The stations operate throughout the province between May and October.

An effort is being made, says the CHSC, to reduce the number of automobile collisions due to mechanical failure, which is usually attributable to lack of maintenance by the owner. Such mishaps, it is estimated, account for nine per cent of all highway accidents in Canada each year.

In the view of the CHSC, compulsory vehicle checks are a long step toward solving this problem; but the difficulties of adequate facilities are many in a country of Canada's size, which contains 7.5 million registered vehicles.

CAR-CHECK CAMPAIGN

The Canadian Highway Safety Council is again this year conducting a car-check campaign, which will begin on April 1. With the co-operation of many agencies throughout Canada, motorists will be urged to have their cars checked by competent mechanics before the heavy volume of summer traffic begins.

SOS SATELLITE

Canada's satellite communications ground-station at Mill Village, Nova Scotia, carried almost half the total circuit-load across the Atlantic when the trans-atlantic cables were damaged recently.

Transport Minister Hellyer said that the Mill Village station performed its added functions in a highly satisfactory manner and that, in its past and continuing role, it was regarded as one of the important and reliable links in the global system of telecommunications.

The station is also equipped to relay television, as it did during the recent Olympic hockey game between Canada and Russia at Grenoble, France.

MANITOBA TOURISTS

By the end of 1967, almost twice as many tourists had spent nearly three times as much money in Manitoba as they did in 1960. For many years, travel has ranked as a major industry in Manitoba and last year another record was set.

Tourist promotion in Manitoba costs about 29 cents for each visitor. In return, every tourist spends an average of \$41.66. Of that amount, \$1.81 goes to the provincial treasury in the form of taxes. The rest goes to the private sector.

The total amount spent last year by 2.4 million visitors amounted to \$103 million.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MISSION

A Canadian trade mission representing the industries producing medical, dental and hospital equipment left Canada recently for a three-week tour of Europe. The eight-man group, sponsored by the Department of Trade and Commerce, will visit medical educators and hospital administrators in

Britain, France, Italy and West Germany to publicize Canada's manufacturing capacity in this field.

Members of the mission also hope to establish agents in the countries they visit and to look into the possibilities of joint ventures, licensing and cross-licensing arrangements. They will explain the advantages of Canadian medical equipment and demonstrate Canadian products and methods.

The group will meet with government officials, importers, wholesalers and distributors to discuss export marketing of Canadian medical and hospital equipment. They hope to gain firsthand knowledge of the preferences and business methods of European importers.

One member of the mission, Dr. W.B. Shute of Ottawa, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, has been invited to speak to the medical faculties and students of Oxford and several other prominent universities during the tour. He is the inventor of the Shute Parallel Forceps.

ELECTRONIC MUSIC

A new electronic music-machine developed by the National Research Council of Canada represents another Canadian advance in the field of electronic music.

Known as the "Serial Sound-Structure Generator", the machine is one of a "family" of devices to aid composers in the composition of music by electronic methods. It was developed by Dr. Hugh LeCaine of the Radio Astronomy Section of NRC's Radio and Electrical Engineering Division and the Electronic Music Studio of the University of Toronto.

The Generator is not a composing machine for programming extended musical compositions in real time. Rather, it is a device for examining and applying serial logic to various qualities of the electronic music texture. The output of the Generator is electronic sound, which must be subjected to artistic choice and then cast in extended musical time using the techniques of what has been called the "classic studio". The primary function of the Generator is to control the succession of sound events.

The inside of the Serial Sound-Structure Generator is a mass of transistors; outside there are many coloured buttons which change octaves and pitch, and a tiny light flashes for every "note" that sounds. By switching dials, the composer can produce all possible combinations of the chosen qualities. He can listen to the still unwritten music score and test the electronic notes for duration, intensity, tone-colour, attack, and decay.

A simplified version of the machine went on display to the public for the first time in the Man and Music pavilion at Expo 67.

Dr. LeCaine, one of North America's leading authorities on electronic music, says electronic music permits composers to experiment with any rhythm, pitch or tone-colour they like, and to break out of the conventional system. It is not, however, an actual kind of music, but simply a technique for making music.

OTHER INVENTIONS

Another of Dr. LeCaine's contributions to electronic music is a composition called "Dripsody". A reviewer in *High Fidelity Magazine* describes the composition as follows:

"The whole composition is based upon the single sound produced by the fall of a drop of water. This is developed in all manner of ways - plain and fancy scales, played with a neat, pearly perfection any piano virtuoso might envy; bell tones of several kinds; long sustained pure tones; and mixtures of these several elements. The work is particularly useful as an introduction for the lay listener, who is always interested in the sources of the sounds employed by electronic composers and in their manipulation."

A second machine developed by Dr. LeCaine controls a number of sounds from a chart prepared by the composer. The sounds may be individual sine waves, groups of sine waves, or recorded complexes.

The apparatus was used at the electronic music studio of McGill University in the preparation of two electronic music compositions by Canadian composer Istvan Anhalt. The compositions were commissioned for Expo 67.

WEST INDIAN SEASONAL WORKERS

Manpower and Immigration Minister Jean Marchand has announced that Canada will again this summer admit agricultural labourers from Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago to help Ontario farmers grow, harvest and can their fruit and vegetables. The announcement came after a meeting of the Canada Agricultural Manpower Committee, at which it was indicated that about the same number of seasonal workers would be needed this year as last year. The number of Caribbean workers last summer was 1,077.

Most of the conditions for the admission of seasonal workers will be the same as last year. The minimum wage-rate however, will be \$1.45 an hour, and the minimum weekly average pay, \$58. Two years ago, when the seasonal movement began, the minimum hourly wage was \$1.25. Since that time, Ontario farmers have raised considerably the wages paid to Canadian workers, and the increase in the minimum for West Indian workers is in proportion to this change.

The programme will operate from May 1 to October 31, as it did last year. The maximum period a worker may remain in Canada is four months; the minimum, six weeks. Employers must pay the return fare from Jamaica to Toronto, provide adequate accommodation, and pay the prevailing hourly or piece-work rate if higher than the minimum of \$1.45 an hour.

Mr. Marchand said that his Department would co-operate with employers who hire independently seasonal workers in other Commonwealth or French Caribbean territories, if the same terms were met as those stipulated for the Government organized scheme.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Canada's consumer price index (1949=100) increased by 0.5 per cent, to 152.6, at the beginning of January, from 151.8 at the beginning of December. The January 1968 index was 4.5 percent above the January 1967 level of 146.0. Major contributions to the advance since the preceding month were an increase of 1.2 per cent in the food index and 0.6 per cent in the housing index. The tobacco-and-alcohol component advanced a further 2.5 per cent, partially reflecting increased excise taxes on these products. The transportation and the recreation-and-reading indexes each rose by 0.3 per cent, while the health-and-personal-care component decreased marginally by 0.1 per cent. A more marked decline of 1.0 per cent occurred in the clothing component, reflecting the large number of sales that occur at the beginning of the year.

FOOD

The food index rose 1.2 per cent, to 150.4 from 148.6 in December, as a result of marked advances in some seasonal items. Among the staple items, bread, flour and margarine underwent price increases, while prices for sugar and eggs declined and quotations for fresh milk and butter remained unchanged. A significant increase was recorded in the price of chocolate bars on a one-ounce basis. Among the produce items, substantial advances in the prices of cabbage, carrots, celery, lettuce and oranges counterweighed price declines for grapefruit and bananas. Prices for canned fruits, vegetables and juices were generally higher. The movements of meat prices were varied: higher quotations were recorded for fresh pork, chicken, and some packaged meats, while lower prices prevailed for turkey and smoked ham. The food index in January 1968 was 3.8 percent above the level shown 12 months earlier.

HOUSING

The housing index rose 0.6 per cent to 154.7 in January from 153.8 a month earlier, owing to generally higher shelter costs. Home-ownership costs rose by 1.7 per cent in response to higher levels of mortgage interest and real property taxes. Rents edged up in most cities and domestic electricity and gas costs also increased. Most home-furnishings

declined fractionally in price, reflecting the many January sales for these items. The January 1968 housing index was 4.8 percent above that of January 1967.

CLOTHING

The clothing index declined by 1.0 per cent to 133.4 in January from 134.7 in December, as a result of sales in a wide range of items. The men's, women's and children's clothing sub-groups all registered declines, with the most marked price decreases occurring in winter outerwear. In the clothing group; only footwear showed a slight upward movement. The January 1968 clothing index was 3.7 percent above the level recorded in January 1967.

OTHER INDEXES

The transportation index rose by 0.3 per cent to 160.0 in January from 159.6 in December. There was a slight decrease in the price of new automobiles, but this decrease was outweighed by a rise in train fares and higher gasoline prices in some cities. The transportation index in January was 4.6 percent above its level 12 months ago.

The health-and-personal-care index declined by 0.1 per cent to 193.6 in January from 193.8 in December. Slight decreases in the prices of razor blades and some toiletries more than offset a price rise in cleansing tissues. The January 1968 level of this main component index was 4.7 percent above the figure shown in January last year.

The recreation-and-reading index rose by 0.3 per cent to 170.2 in January from 169.7 a month earlier. Decreases in the price of radio and television sets were outweighed by increases in the price of phonograph records in some cities, coupled with higher subscription rates for some Toronto and Montreal daily newspapers. The recreation-and-reading component in January 1968 was 5.1 percent over its 1967 level.

The tobacco-and-alcohol component advanced by 2.5 per cent to 136.3 in January from 133.0 in December. The imposition of higher excise taxes on alcoholic beverages was chiefly responsible for the general price rise. This latest movement brought the January 1968 tobacco-and-alcohol index to a level 7.7 percent higher than that of January 1967.