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Hopes ride high as Canada's new satellite soars successfully into space

was launched from the Eastern Test Range at Cape Canaveral, Florida on December 15 on schedule at 7.21 p.m.

The half-ton satellite, the first in the world to offer commercial services in both the 6/4 GHz and 14/12 GHz frequency bands, joins the three Anik A series satellites already in space.

Telesat Canada is the operator of the Canadian domestic satellite communications system which, in 1972, with the launch of the first Anik A satellite, became the first commercial domestic communications satellite operator using satellites in geosynchronous orbit. The Telesat system provides all-Canada satellite transmission of a full range of telecommunications services for common carriers and broadcasters. One hundred earth stations are in the system.

Next month, following an intensive series of in-orbit systems tests, Anik B will enter commercial service.

Its 12 6/4 GHz channels will replace those of the first two Anik A series satellites which were launched in 1972 and 1973 and are at or near the end of their six-year service lives. At that time, the two older Anik A satellites will be placed in inactive reserve, while Anik B and the three-year-old Anik A-3 satellite will become the primary and active reserve satellites of the Telesat system.

With the new Anik ride the hopes of many Canadian medical personnel, educators, broadcasters, native peoples' organizations and others working with the federal Department of Communications (DOC). They will be participating in a \$36-million program to use a unique feature of the new spacecraft to bring a variety of promising new social uses of satellite communications out of their current experimental stage and closer to reality. Projects are to begin in March.

Satellite-to-home TV

One of the most promising new satellite applications likely to be furthered by

Canada's most advanced satellite, Anik B. DOC's Anik B communications program is direct, satellite-to-home broadcasting. The department plans to conduct trials and demonstrations of a variety of small satellite ground stations, known as "TVRO" (television receive-only) terminals, produced in Canadian industry.

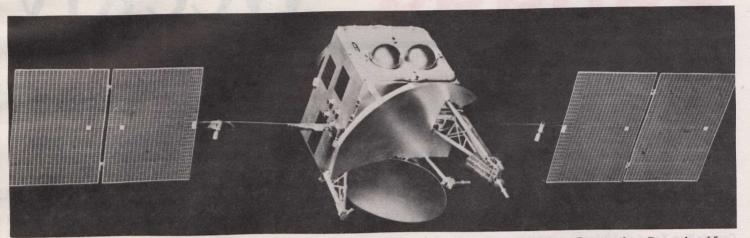
> This can be done because Anik B is a dual-band satellite - with 12 channels in the conventional 4 and 6 Gigahertz microwave bands, for service in Telesat's existing commercial satellite communications system - and six in the new 14 and 12 GHz frequency bands, first used by Canada's advanced technology Hermes satellite.

> The department is leasing this highfrequency capacity of Anik B for a two year series of pilot projects in the fields of health care, education, community communications, television program distribution, provision of government services, remote sensing, data communications, propagation measurements, and geophysical science. The economic and social benefits to Canada of new communications services provided by commercial satellites operating at 14/12 GHz,



Blast off!

Twenty-seven years ago last Monday... Canada's Old Age Security Act and Old Age Assistance Act became operative.



Artist's sketch of Anik B, Canada's most advanced communications satellite. It was launched from Cape Canaveral on December 15.

beginning with Anik C in 1981, will be worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

These projects are sponsored by a variety of both federal and provincial government departments and agencies from British Columbia to Newfoundland, with telecommunications common carriers, (such as the Trans-Canada Telephone System and Telesat itself) universities and native groups also participating.

At least 17 groups or agencies will be involved in these advanced communications pilot projects, aimed at refining new services, further examining the viability of others and making both new and potential users of satellite services more experienced in or aware of their most effective use.

Two-year leasing of the 14/12 GHz channels, with an option for three more, is costing DOC \$32 million, including launch and extra operating costs attributable to the government program. Conversion of earth stations, administration and other departmental costs will run to another \$4 million.

Through the \$60 million Canadian-de-

signed and built Hermes communications technology satellite — the world's most powerful — launched by NASA from the same Kennedy Space Centre pad on January 17, 1976 (see Canada Weekly dated January 28, 1976), Canada is a world pioneer in such uses of advanced technology satellites as testing methods of improving health care and medical education in remote areas, tele-teaching by satellite, putting native people in better touch with each other and proving that direct-to-home satellite broadcasting to tiny terminals is a technological reality.

The Hermes program is now entering a new six-month phase of intensive TV experiments, after which it will wind down as the satellite ages. The United States, which has shared use of Hermes, is also drawing its program with the spacecraft to a close. With Hermes a large number of users in both countries have conducted short experiments in many areas. The more promising applications will be included in the all-Canadian Anik B program, which will provide users with much longer periods of satellite time than was

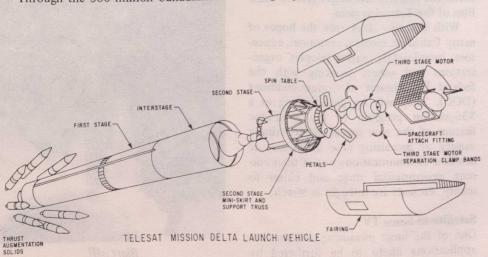
possible with Hermes.

Recent advances in technology and possible mass production techniques for DBS (Direct Broadcasting Satellite) hardware are bringing Canadians close to the day when they will be able to receive high-quality TV service directly from a satellite — regardless of where they may live, or how far they are from a conventional broadcast transmitter or cable TV system. The department is negotiating possible arrangements with Canadian companies for field-testing such terminals with Anik B.

Among the advantages of satellites operating in the higher 14/12 GHz frequency band are greater satellite power, the ability, for certain applications, to use smaller earth stations and the fact that earth stations operating with satellites in this frequency band may be located in the centres of urban areas without interfering with conventional terrestrial communications.

Customers

Telesat Canada's major customers include the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the TransCanada Telephone System, Bell Canada, the Canadian Department of Communications and Teleglobe Canada. Telecommunications services via the Telesat system are also employed by the Global Television Network. Telesat facilities are frequently used to provide short term emergency communications and temporary restoral of terrestrial communications links. A recent example of the former was the use of the system to provide communications for the Government and military teams searching for the debris from the Soviet Cosmos satellite which crashed in the Northwest Territories last year.



Contribution to NATO early warning system

Canada, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany will finance the acquisition, operation and maintenance of a fleet of Boeing 707 aircraft to be used as a continuous airborne warning system across Western Europe.

Barney Danson, the Minister of National Defence, announced at a meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels last month that Canada would participate in the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW) program to the extent of some \$180 million (1977 U.S. dollars). Mr. Danson stated:

Canada, like other members of the alliance, fully recognizes the military requirement for the establishment of an integrated allied air defence and command and control system in Europe. The commitment to this NATO-wide AEW program made by Canada and other members during recent defence planning talks in Brussels is a further indication of our continued efforts to introduce improved collective security measures within the alliance. It also shows our determination to give substance to the expressions of intent made by heads of state and government at the Washington Summit in May of this year.

Canada is one of three countries along with the Federal Republic of Germany and the U.S.A. - that were asked, in return for industrial collaboration within the program, to accept a major share of the acquisition, and operation and maintenance costs of the AEW system. Canada's share of the estimated acquisition cost of \$1.8 billion (1977 U.S. dollars) will be approximately \$180 million (1977 U.S. dollars), slightly less than 10 per cent of the total cost, phased over the next eight years. Canada will also contribute to the annual personnel, operating and maintenance costs of the system, estimated at \$104 million (1977 U.S. dollars). The annual Canadian share of these support costs will be in the order of \$9.5 million (1977 U.S. dollars), although a portion of this will be in our contribution of Canadian Forces personnel to the headquarters and airborne component of the NATO AEW force.

In this age of sophisticated weapons technology the alliance cannot afford to be without an advanced early-warning protection system which the modified Boeing 707 E3A aircraft, working in conjunction with British Nimrod AEW aircraft, will provide. The existing NATO ground radar systems have reached the limits of their growth potential to meet increasing Soviet capabilities. Introduc-

tion of the AEW system will be another measure designed to deter the Warsaw Pact launching surprise attacks and will constitute one of the most significant steps forward in NATO deterrence and defence.

Collective security measures in North America and Europe are important elements of Canadian defence policy. The extent of Canadian and U.S. participation in the AEW program underscores the importance that we in North America attach to our membership in the alliance and our stake in helping to ensure it maintains a credible deterrent posture.

NORAD system

In North America, of course, we share air defence responsibilities with our U.S. partner. Together we are now in the process of updating the U.S./Canadian joint surveillance system in North America. In addition to the gradual improvement in our joint ground radar systems and the reorganization of our command and control facilities, U.S. forces will be bringing into operational service early next year an E3A airborne warning and control system, similar to that scheduled for NATO Europe. Canada will play its role in the operation and maintenance of the NORAD AEW system which will not only do much to revitalize our ability to defend the North American continent and its people but also, at the same time, contribute to the security of all our NATO

Canada will receive benefits from industrial collaboration of at least \$60 million (1977 U.S. dollars) from production associated with the NATO AEW program. The U.S.A. has also agreed to credit Canada, under the Canada/U.S. defence production sharing program, the remainder of the Canadian capital costs in the NATO AEW program, amounting to an additional \$120 million (1977 U.S. dollars).

Canada/Sao Tomé and Principe establish diplomatic relations

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson recently announced the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tomé and Principe.

Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations William H. Barton, and Chargé d'Affaires of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tomé and Principe Helder Barros, signed a joint communiqué on December 13. The Canadian ambassador to be accredited to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tomé and Principe will be resident in Yaoundé, Cameroun, where he is also Canada's ambassador.

A look at national security

"All Canadians should be aware of how Government views national security, what Government is doing in this area, why such activity needs to take place at all and, given that, whether the job is being carried out efficiently, effectively, and under proper control," stated Solicitor General Jean-Jacques Blais recently.

In a speech to the Richelieu Club of Ottawa Mr. Blais declared that "national security means no more, but no less, than that: sovereignty is the key element in our nationhood without which Canada — as we know it and want it to be — could not and would not exist".

He argued that the strength of journalism depended upon the confidentiality of the sources of information and suggested, "no less a principle holds true for national security information, be it related to Canadian international relations or to national internal security operations".

Mr. Blais also stated that "while there is an obligation on the state to protect it-self and its institutions from forces that would seek to weaken or destroy it, and in so doing, threaten the rights and freedoms of its citizens, it would be illogical and indeed dangerous to put in place organizations and procedures which would impair those same rights and freedoms we wish to protect. In essence, what is uppermost is the principle of civil liberties".

He added that legal and administrative measures needed to protect national security information were under review and would be brought up to date soon.

Agroforestry may halt the march of the deserts

Less than 25 per cent of the earth's land surface is "potentially arable", and only 44 per cent of that is now under cultivation. The developing countries, for their part, must feed 71 per cent of the world's population on 64 per cent of that land. By the year 2000, the United Nations estimates that their population will have increased from 2.5 billion to more than 5 billion. "At the end of this century, the developing nations, even if they are able to afford to utilize all the best land in their countries, will have to support a larger proportion of the world's population than they now fail to do." We These were the words of Dr. Kenneth King, Director-General of the Internava tional Council for Research in Agroer forestry (ICRAF), at a seminar on "Chal-Br lenge for Change in Third World Agricultel ture", co-sponsored by the Ottawa-based (st International Development Research Center tre (IDRC) and the Alberta Institute of na Agrologists, in Edmonton, in late September.

There is much land that cannot be tic farmed in the conventional sense without drastic and often irreversible degradation, but which must support significant numof po bers of people, now and in the foreseeex able future. If too dry, rocky or steep to be called arable, this land, can, however, support trees, alone, or in combination with agricultural crops and animals - a method that is called agroforestry.

Agroforestry has been defined as "a sustainable land-management system that increases the yield of the land, combines the production of crops (including tree crops), forest plants and animals, simultaneously or sequentially, on the same unit of land, and applies management practices that are compatible with the cultural practices of the local population". And, stresses Dr. King, agroforestry can be practised on soils that are inherently infertile, or prone to accelerated erosion or compaction, or where climatic conditions are too extreme for "normal" plant growth, or where a combination of these factors makes the areas unsuitable for conventional agriculture.

The tree is the key

The key to agroforestry is the tree. Many species can in fact be grown on poor soils because while they absorb the nutrients from the soil, they convert them into plant materials, then release them back into the soil through the decomposition of their leaves, branches, etc. In addition, the foliage protects the land around the tree from the impact of rain, thus minimizing soil compaction. The humus layer



IDRC scientists and farmers are experimenting with traditional crops that can be grown with trees in the shifting cultivation practised in the humid tropics. In Nigeria, yams can be planted with Gmelina arborea trees and other species. The farmers not only benefit from the food produced, but every nine to ten years they have a tree crop to harvest as well, giving them wood for fuel and building material.

they provide helps prevent run-off and thus ensures that the water percolates to the ground. They also serve as shelterbelts against dessicating winds and blowing sand, preventing soil erosion and protecting nearby plants.

IDRC role

In the Kerma Basin in Northern Sudan, for example, attempts are being made to reclaim land from the Nubian Desert by planting prosopis chilensis and eucalyptus as windbreaks. It is hoped that this once fertile area can again be planted to grain and vegetable crops. Similarly in Egypt, IDRC is funding research to breed an improved type of casuarina for shelterbelts. And in Kenya, where many plantations were established in areas of high rainfall and are now being felled for farmland, foresters are trying to discover which species will grow best on marginal lands.

By using fast-growing trees, such as the leucaena that reaches maturity in only six years, an important wood crop could be



Mustapha, a farmer in the Nile delta, ploughs his fields protected by rows of casuarina trees. Behind, to the West, the Sahara desert encroaches. Shelterbelts and irrigation can restore much of the land bordering the deserts.

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Shelterbelts (Sudan), planting of prosopis trees in Sudan's Kerma Basin.

produced while restoring soil fertility. The leucaena, a leguminous tree, fixes atmospheric nitrogen in the soil for other plants. Like other species, such as the prosopis, it also provides food and fodder. Other species produce fruit and nuts or

various useful products — gum arabic from the acacia, for example.

Agroforestry is not new. What is new, says Dr. King, is the attempt to devise a coherent land-management system from the welter of information on several agro-

forestry practices, and the effort being made to draw attention to the necessity of farming, raising domestic animals and growing trees simultaneously on the same land.

"What is also new," he says, "is the realization that there is a need to create a new discipline of agroforestry to utilize lands which cover more than half of the land surface of the developing world in a manner that effectively conserves the physical environment yet develops the human being."

It was to meet these needs that, on the initiative of the IDRC, ICRAF was established in 1977. Located in Nairobi, the autonomous, international institute aims to promote agroforestry systems to achieve better land use in developing countries, encourage and support research and training, facilitate the collection and dissemination of information, and assist in the international co-ordination of agroforestry development. Dr. King, former Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization and head of FAO's Department of Forestry, is ICRAF's first Director-General.

(The foregoing article was prepared by Michelle Hibler, editor of Development Directions, photographs courtesy International Development Research Centre.)

Sexual offences of special interest to Law Reform Commission

Two proposed new criminal offences of "sexual aggression" and "sexual interference" would, if enacted, make the sexual offences sections of the Criminal Code conform more closely to present day reality, according to Francis Muldoon, chairman of the Law Reform Commission of Canada.

Muldoon, referring to a Commission report tabled in Parliament November 29 by Justice Minister Marc Lalonde, said, "The Commission's recommendations express modern progressive attitudes which assert that, in so far as realistically possible, men and women should bear equal responsibilities and should expect equal protection under the law..." The report recommends that reform of sexual offences be based on three fundamental principles, namely, protecting the integrity of the person, protecting children and special groups, and safeguarding public decency.

The report's recommendations, which are drawn largely from a working paper

published in June, advocate a sweeping reform of the Code provisions for sexual offences. The proposed offence of "sexual interference" would be applied in sexual offence cases where no violence or threat of violence was used. "Sexual aggression" would be charged in cases where violence had been used or threatened. Both men and women would be liable to either charge and the legal term "rape", with its "essentially irrational folklore" could be rendered obsolete, the report suggests.

The mentally ill and handicapped would have the full protection of the proposed law plus additional qualified protection under the terms proposed by the Commission. The current Code "applied exclusively to those of the female sex and only to cases of actual sexual intercourse", the report states and explains "the mentally handicapped, like other persons, have a right to sexuality. The law ought not therefore to protect them except in so far as their handicap prevents them from

giving a valid consent and from realizing the consequences of their own acts".

Child protection broadened

The report supports a continuing absolute prohibition against sexual exploitation of children under 14 with a recommendation that the Criminal Code should be revised to "apply equally to both sexes and not be limited to sexual intercourse alone". The Commission recommends that persons between 14 and 18 years, although they might have consented, be protected from sexual interference by adults if their consent was obtained through the exploitation of a dependency relationship. However, offences against juveniles by other juveniles, the report states, should be dealt with by family or child welfare law, in family or juvenile courts. For each of the above situations, the Commission recommends that the defence of reasonable diligence be allowed in cases where the precise age of the person was in question at the time of the offence, which is not permissible under the Criminal Code's current strict liability provisions.

The Commission report recommends that children and young persons of either sex be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation by adults with whom they are in a dependency relationship. "The new formulation would thereby retain the protection now accorded to the young by Section 150 [of the Criminal Code - incest]. Indeed it would widen the family circle beyond the present provision so as to bring the brothers and sisters of a parent under its ban, since these persons are frequently in a position · to exploit young people", the report states. In all such cases the Commission recommends that the relationship of authority and dependency be presumed in fact and in law.

Controversial recommendation held

"The judicial record is mostly silent on prosecutions for incest between persons over the age of majority", the report notes and holds to an earlier recommendation that incest between consenting adults should no longer qualify as an offence. That recommendation, issued in a working paper last June, brought forth widespread expressions of concern including a petition containing 300 signatures.

"The Commission continues to believe that incest between consenting adults ought no longer to fall within the purview of criminal justice," the report states and adds, "Incest should above all be a matter of social and psychological treatment; secondly, a matter of regulation by family and child welfare law, and only thirdly, a matter for the criminal law."

After providing specific protection for children and special groups, the Commission recommends that between adults and "in the absence of any exploitation of authority or dependency, incestuous behaviour ought not to be treated and punished as a criminal act".

Regarding the present Criminal Code provisions about buggery and acts of gross indecency, including the provision which excuses consenting adults in private, the Commission recommends their repeal because they fall within the scope of two other sets of recommendations. Those provisions are taken into account in the two newly proposed sections about sexual interference and sexual aggression; and they must keep the element of privacy because of the Commission's recommendation to retain the prohibition against indecent acts in a public place, or

anywhere with an intent to insult anyone.

This report, the tenth issued by the Commission since its first in 1975, specifies how the Criminal Code can be amended to provide maximum protection to all individuals, and to safeguard public decency, with special additional protection for the young and mentally handicapped. If implemented, the recommendations would update a Criminal Code which, in the words of the report, "is a compilation of disparate sections which do not reflect consistent views of the problem of sexual offences" and uses "outmoded and archaic" language.

"There can be no doubt that social attitudes in matters of sexual behaviour have obviously drastically changed since the promulgation of the Criminal Code," states the Commission.

Canadian honoured by UNESCO

The Kalinga Prize, the highest international honour awarded for the popularization of science, has been given for the first time to a Canadian.

Fernand Seguin, biochemist and journalist, of Montreal, joins such other international celebrities as Jean Rostand, Bertrand Russell, Margaret Mead, Konrad



Fernand Seguin

Lorenz and Louis de Broglie, also recipients of the prize created in 1952 and given by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It was presented to him during UNESCO's general assembly in November.

Dr. Seguin is well known as a science news reporter in Quebec. He inspired many young people to enter science careers in the early days of television. Since 1947, he has created and hosted about 400 radio programs and almost as many television programs, most of which have been broadcast on Radio-Canada.

Dr. Seguin, extremely moved by the honour, said that his own career would never have been possible if the French network of the CBC had not agreed to give importance to science news and information.

He also hoped that the awarding of this prize would revive interest among television broadcasters in science and technology, two areas of a profound influence on everyday life but which, he said, were treated by newsmen as "poor relations".

From teaching to television

Fernand Seguin, once a university professor, became involved in popularizing science on radio and television in 1954.

In 1964-65 he acted as scientific consultant to the agency responsible for setting up Expo '67. His job was to design the science pavilions. In 1974 he was appointed a member of the Science Council of Canada, on which he served until 1976. He was appointed to the board of directors of the Montreal Cancer Institute in 1976 and he still serves on the board.

In 1977 he was appointed a member of the Council of Universities (Quebec). He won the Olivar-Asselin prize awarded by the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Society for his work as a scientific journalist.

Dr. Seguin is currently the host of a science information program entitled *La Science et Vous*, which is heard weekly on CBC radio. He also works with the scientific magazine *Science-Réalité*, for which he is preparing ten portraits of Quebec scientists on CBC television, and he is producing a film on the brain for the National Film Board.

Governor-General Jules Léger gave a dinner for Dr. Seguin at Rideau Hall on December 8, at which Chairman Napoléon Leblanc of UNESCO's general assembly attended as representative of the Organization's Director-General. During the evening, Mr. Léger presented to Dr. Seguin his insignia of Officer of the Order of Canada, to which he was appointed last July.

Canadians rank third in the world in the consumption of mushrooms. The Scandanavian countries are first, followed by France.

News of the arts

NFB still attracting awards

The Chicago International Film Festival has honoured four National Film Board productions with top awards in various documentary categories.

A Silver Hugo award went to Rose's House, a feature documentary by Clay Boris about a rooming house in Toronto. Another Hugo was given to Ishu Patel's, Afterlife for best animation.

Silver Plaques in the short films category were awarded to L'Affaire Bronswik by Robert Awad and André Leduc, and I Wasn't Scared by Giles Walker. The latter film, which deals with the dangers of explosives to children, won in the educational category.

At other recent festivals, the Oscarwinner Sand Castle won first prizes at Linz, Austria and at Adelaide, Australia. L'Affaire Bronswik was given a special prize at Linz for the most humorous film.

The Mannheim Festival in Germany gave top place to Mike Rubbo's Where Have All the Maoists Gone in the international evangelical film awards.

Opera proves popular

The Canadian Opera Company's 1978 autumn season at Toronto's O'Keefe Centre drew record-breaking audiences to the 26 opera performances, September 13 to November 4, and netted the company more than \$1 million in sales revenues, a net increase of 12 per cent over the previous year's \$898,810.

General director Lotfi Mansouri recently presented a complete breakdown of attendance figures for the season as well. The six performances of Tchaikovsky's Joan of Arc (Maid of Orleans) drew 79 per cent total capacity houses, and Rigoletto was presented seven times with an average attendance of 90 per cent, including two sellout performances. The six performances of Der Rosenkavalier averaged 96 per cent with four performances exceeding the 100 percent figure with standing room only. Don Giovanni, presented seven times, averaged 87 per cent attendance, including two sellouts. The average attendance for the 26 fall season performances was 88 per cent, an increase of 5 per cent from last year's average of 82.3 per cent for 25 performances.

Sales of subscriptions increased 19 per cent last year -12,150 subscriptions worth \$607,450 were sold, compared to 10,253 in 1977.

The company is now preparing for its spring season at the Royal Alexandra Theatre. Mail order requests are expected after January 15, and box office sales can be made after March 15.

"With the success of our 1978 fall season behind us, we anticipate an exciting and equally popular 1979 spring season at the Royal Alexandra," said Mr. Mansouri.

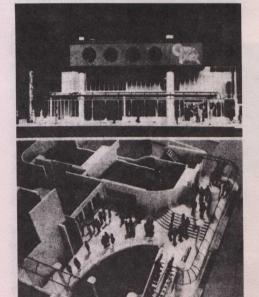
Feast for film fans

This spring, Toronto's Eaton Centre will open an extravagant complex of 18 movie houses, each seating from 50 to 120 persons, a 300-seat restaurant theatre called Le Cabaret, and a "common room" whose walls will be used as gallery space.

Cineplex, as it will be called, will offer many programs not available elsewhere in Toronto, including foreign films, "ethnic" pictures (chosen for their appeal to the many cultures represented in the city), U.S. films with limited distribution, and retrospectives.

A slide show on an outdoor marquee will advertise the features inside, and a computerized machine will issue tickets for the films ahead of time, eliminating long lineups.

President of the complex, N.A. Taylor, and his associates H.S. Mandell and Garth



H. Drabinsky (producer of *The Silent Partner)*, say the enterprise is unique; in fact, Taylor makes another claim: "Moviegoers in recent years have become accustomed to multiple cinemas," he says. "My associates and I opened the first dual theatre in the world, the Elgin in Ottawa, in 1948; it took almost 20 years for the motion picture world to get wise to this."

Arts briefs

The Manitoba Theatre Centre recently commissioned and produced a new Canadian translation (by John Lingard) of Henrik Ibsen's A Doll House, in preparation of the hundredth anniversary of the first production of the play (at the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen in 1879). This year is also the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the playwright's birth. Mr. Lingard translated the Stratford production of Ghosts two years ago, which was directed by Arif Hasnain, artistic director of the Manitoba Theatre Centre.

Lois Etherington Betteridge, an Ottawa silversmith, has been awarded the 1978 Saidye Bronfman Award for excellence in the crafts. The \$15,000-prize, set up in 1977 in honour of Mrs. Bronfman's eightieth birthday, will be given for ten years.

A Canadian Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, fashioned after the American body which oversees the Oscars, has been organized in Toronto. The board of directors includes director Alan King, actor Al Waxman, producer Henk Van der Kolk, John Hunter, Karen Bromley, Richard Leiterman, George Appleby, Paul Hoffert and Paul Coombe. A working committee is studying the possibility of a permanent academy. There had been disappointment with the present system of organizing the awards (called Etrogs), leading to the withdrawal from the Canadian Film Awards by the Canadian Association of Motion Picture Producers (CAMPP). The new system, if accepted, will allow technical personnel to nominate films for awards in specific areas directors would name directors, for example. The awards would be based on votes from the general academy member-

An exhibition of 94 black and white photographs by photographers living in Canada was shown recently at Canada House in London, England. Canadians, a photography show about people will soon tour Canada for two years.

News of the arts

News briefs

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The federal and Alberta governments have agreed not to implement a January 1 oil price increase that would have added about three cents to the price of a gallon of gasoline or fuel oil. Alberta probably will receive a larger increase on July 1.

Marriages in Canada during 1977 totalled 186,787, reflecting a continuing decline for the fifth consecutive year from a record of more than 200,000 reached in 1972. The rate *per* 1,000 population decreased to 8 in 1977 from the 8.4 registered in 1976.

Production and shipments of newsprint increased in October as mills worked at 100 percent capacity, according to the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association. Total newsprint output stood at 855,000 tons in October, up 12.7 per cent from the September figure.

The Alberta Government has agreed to lend \$100 million, at normal commercial terms, to the Nova Scotia Government, believed to be the largest interprovincial loan in history.

New guidelines covering the staging of major national and international amateur sport events in Canada, approved recently by the federal Cabinet, call for the organizing body requesting governmental assistance to give notice of its intentions to the Fitness and Amateur Sport Branch of Health and Welfare Canada up to five years prior to the event.

Loans, surety and export credits insurance as well as foreign investment guarantees totalling \$51.55 million have been approved by the Export Development Corporation to support prospective export sales of \$130.86 million to Algeria, Barbados, Czechoslovakia, Israel, Malta, Saudi Arabia, the U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia. Foreign investment guarantees of \$1.23 million are expected to bring bene-

fits of \$15.75 million to Canada over the next 15 years. The transactions involve such goods and services as mining equipment, forest products, telephone equipment and installation, petrochemical valves, locomotives, pulp mill equipment, trailers, mobile homes and portable buildings.

The Parti Québécois and the Quebec Liberals are running neck-and-neck in popularity, according to the results of a poll published mid-December. Each party would obtain 35 per cent of the vote if an election were held now, says the poll, conducted by the Centre de Recherches sur l'Opinion publique for the daily *La Presse*. The poll says 53 per cent of Quebecers would vote against sovereignty-association for the province in a referendum, while 31 per cent would vote in favour.

Massey-Ferguson Limited of Toronto has received an order from Saudi Arabia valued at about \$9 million (U.S.) for 800 farm tractors and 2,500 implements, bringing sales of the company's farm machinery to Saudi Arabia in 1978 to more than \$20 million (U.S.).

A bill to convert the Post Office to a Crown corporation was introduced by the Government recently. Under the legislation the position of Postmaster General would be maintained to develop national postal policy, but the Canadian Transport Commission would set postal rates after the Canada Post Corporation comes into being. Interested parties will be able to make submissions on new postal rates to the commission.

Libya has agreed to buy between 5.5 million bushels and 9.2 million bushels of Canadian western red spring wheat over three years beginning July 1. The agreement could have a value of between \$25 million and \$44 million.

A fire said to have been set deliberately caused at least \$2-million damage to the chapel and other sections of Montreal's 149-year-old Notre-Dame Church recently. Five fires have been set in the past year in the church, a landmark on the edge of the city's old financial section.

Bennett Campbell, interim leader of Prince Edward Island's ruling Liberal party since Premier Alex Campbell's recent retirement, won the leadership convention in Charlottetown December 9. The new premier, whose party won a narrow victory in an April vote, is expected to call a general election within two years.

Twenty-three-year-old Ken Read of Calgary led a Canadian conquest of the opening World Cup downhill skiing event in Schladming, Austria, recently, just ahead of Dave Murray of Abbotsford, British Columbia. Dave Irwin of Thunder Bay was seventh, Steve Podborski of Toronto ninth. Read won the opening race at Val d'Isère, France, in 1975. His time for this year's 2,800-metre course was one minute 32.11 seconds.

Both employment and unemployment rose in November, but Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate edged up to 8.3 per cent from 8.2 per cent in October. The rate in November 1977 was 8.4 per cent. The seasonally-adjusted participation rate increased to 62.8 per cent in November from 62.7 per cent in the preceding month. The employment/population ratio remained at 57.6 per cent, unchanged from the October level.

Canada and the European Space Agency signed an agreement December 9 which the Canadian Government says will lead to closer co-operation on specific projects, particularly communications satellites and earth observation satellites. The agreement may allow better opportunities for Canadian companies to provide components for European space projects, which up to now have been restricted to European suppliers. Canada will also participate in the agency's long-term study program. Until now, Canada has been only an observer in the agency, whose 11 member countries are all in Western Europe.

A gun-trafficking ring was exposed recently by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police when they seized about 2,000 weapons in simultaneous raids in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. Eleven people have been charged with conspiracy to sell, possess, buy, trade, transfer or deliver prohibited weapons. Much of the group's business involved buying weapons — usually legal semi-automatic rifles — from British and Belgian army surplus dealers, shipping weapons to Canada, converting them to illegal automatic rifles, then selling them to gun collectors, mainly in the United States but also in Canada.

The Newfoundland-owned Labrador Linerboard mill has been sold to Abitibi Paper Co. Ltd. which will pay the government \$43.5 million and spend an additional \$60 million to convert the plant into a newsprint mill with a capacity of 150,000 tons a year. Newsprint production is scheduled to begin early in 1981.

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