

PROPOSED EASTERN CANADIAN POTATO
MARKETING AGENCY ON THE WAY

The National Farm Products Marketing Council, in a report transmitted to the Minister of Agriculture on December 19, 1980, has recommenced the formation of a potato marketing agency under the Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act to cover Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The Council recommended that the agency have all the powers permitted under the Act except supply management, subject to review within two years. The Council stated:

"While the Council found that a majority of producers would accept and agree to the formation of an Eastern Canada Potato Marketing Agency, it did not find sufficient evidence to support the granting of supply management powers at this time. The Council feels strongly that a further period of time is required to permit the industry to become familiar with the functions of an agency, to allow provinces to gain experience in working together and to build up a better understanding of where changes and innovations are required within the present marketing structure."

The agency could be in operation in time for the 1981 crop. The Director of Investigation of Research, Combines Investigation Act had proposed to the Council an agency with more limited functions than those which are now envisaged (see December issue of the Record).

Potatoes account for about forty per cent of total Canadian farm gate vegetable cash receipts and the five Eastern Provinces account for about 78 per cent of total potato production.

SENIOR STAFF CHANGES IN
COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCED

Mr. R.J. Bertrand, Director of Investigation and Research under the Combines Investigation Act has announced that in January, 1981 Mr. R.M. Davidson, Senior Deputy Director of Investigation and Research, undertook an assignment of one year at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris under the Canada Interchange Program.

Dr. D. DeMelto has rejoined the Bureau as a Deputy Director of Investigation and Research. He comes from the Economic Council of Canada where he was Director of the Technological Change, Productivity and Growth Program. Prior to that he was Director of the Competition Bureau's Manufacturing Branch.