

management, the business environment, adequacy of over-all financing and technical and ecological considerations; proof that the financial assistance requested is not obtainable from other conventional sources on reasonable terms and conditions; and the availability of security to provide reasonable protection. Assistance may be provided for establishing new businesses, acquiring fixed assets — land, buildings and equipment, expanding existing facilities, strengthening working capital, financing raw material or finished inventories for manufacturers, and research and development projects.

Financial assistance is made available directly or by guarantee in various forms: capital loans; working capital loans; inventory financing for manufacturers for the stockpiling of either the raw materials used in the manufacturing process or finished products resulting from that process (in actual operation AOC will purchase the inventory from the manufacturer under a buy/sell agreement at established prices to a level of 80% of "laid-in" cost or wholesale price, as the case may be); research and development loans up to 50% (maximum \$50,000) of the total cost of an approved project undertaken by a commercial enterprise. Such projects are restricted to applied research and development programs which contribute to improvements in one or more of the following areas: technological advances to products or development of new products; technological advances to production facilities; adoption of improved management techniques; and development of new markets.

Business management counselling services may be provided without charge by AOC professional consultants and include management advice and guidance on financial, technical and marketing matters for small- and intermediate-size Alberta businesses which are not in a financial position to obtain this type of assistance elsewhere. Services under the program are provided through the Company's head office in Ponoka and its branch offices in Calgary and Edmonton. Financing programs are individually dealt with by an experienced staff of professional personnel. Applications for assistance call for suitable back-up material, such as financial statements, etc., which is studied and broadly assessed. Applications are considered for approval by the board of directors and, normally, funds are available in four to six weeks.

**British Columbia.** The Department of Economic Development provides services designed to encourage and assist in the orderly growth of secondary manufacturing in British Columbia. The Department organizes and sponsors visits by groups of BC manufacturers to prime export markets in the United States, overseas and elsewhere in Canada. The Department also assists individual companies and groups to participate in international trade shows and fairs.

Through its Technical Assistance Program, the Department will share costs of marketing and feasibility studies for companies considering expansion or diversification. The Department acts as liaison with the British Columbia Development Corporation which was set up to provide loans and loan guarantees to BC industry and business. Department counsellors use statistical information collected and published to encourage regional industrial development and growth of the secondary manufacturing base. The Department also maintains a trade and industry office at British Columbia House in London, England.

## 17.4 Government aid and controls

### 17.4.1 The Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs

The functions of the Department relate to consumer affairs; corporations and corporate securities; combines, mergers, monopolies and restraint of trade; bankruptcy and insolvency; patents, trade marks, copyright and industrial design.

The Department has five main divisions — the Bureau of Consumer Affairs, the Bureau of Corporate Affairs, the Bureau of Intellectual Property, the Field Operations Service and the Bureau of Competition Policy. The Bureau of Consumer Affairs co-ordinates government activities in the field of consumer affairs. Branches within the Bureau include Consumer Services, Consumer Research and the Consumer Standards Directorate. The Bureau of Corporate Affairs administers legislation and regulations pertaining to corporations. Its branches include Corporations, Bankruptcy, Securities and Research. The Bureau of Intellectual Property administers laws pertaining to patents, copyright and industrial design, and trade marks, with a branch responsible for each of these three fields. Canada's participation in international intellectual property organizations is the responsibility of the Research and International Affairs Branch, and the role of informing Canadians of the