

Television on Wheels for Canada

"CANADA WANT ABC SCANNER STYLE AND LAYOUT PRODUCERS CONSOLE STORAGE THREE CAMERAS NO SOUND OR COMMUNICATION LINKS MONTHS EXTRA LETTER REQUEST DRAWINGS."

This was the cable received on 24 November last by Phil Berkeley from George Partington, Chief of Television Studio Development, who was in Canada on the Company's business. It gave enough information for Phil to get to work on the spot, and four days later Mr. Partington received a complete set of preliminary drawings for two television vans, containing three camera channels with their own production and transmission equipment. Within the week word came back from Canada to go ahead with the plans.

The two vehicles, a familiar sight in the Works during their fitting out, will soon be working in Canada as part of a complete television system, the contract for which was won by Marconi's. One



Interior view of one of the two television outside broadcasting vehicles for Canada, showing roof ladder, cameras and view finders in their store cupboards, lens boxes, and tool storage. Another view showing the main desk, broadcast distribution box, three camera control monitors, master control monitor. Above can be seen the sound receiver and "on the air" vision receiver, and on the right the producer's desk.





The designer and four of his team. Phil Berkeley (right) with Frank Leach (left), Reg Harris . . .

left for Canada a short while ago and the other is on the way.

In service, the vans only need connecting to mains supply and a telephone line. The vision micro-wave link transmitter is stowed permanently on the roof and can be reached by a small internal ladder. When driven to the site selected for an outside broadcast (anywhere within micro-wave range of the main station, or further if using intermediate retransmission points) a trained crew can be on the air within forty-five minutes.

Responsible for the coachwork to Phil Berkeley's design were Messrs. Marshall Motor Bodies Ltd. Jobs like this depend immeasurably on team work and the team was drawn from various sections of the Works. Frank Leach of Section 21 was in charge of installation and responsible for getting all the parts together, with Reg Fisher (who incidentally is a Marconi ambulance driver), Dave Driver and Peter Barker of Section 17 under him. Cliff Green from the Carpenters was on the job, and Jack Stock, foreman of Section 21, was responsible for the production of special parts. The Winding Shop also had a finger in the pie, terminating the cables at short notice. The final stage of any job



. . . Peter Barker and Dave Driver fixing cables to the "mousetrap" cable guides

is testing, and that is where "Perce" Pursey of Television Test came in.

Not a big team, but a hand-picked one. The result is a combination of excellent design and first-class craftsmanship, as anyone who has seen the vans will agree. Jim Carlisle, Chief Installation Engineer of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, says: "They're the best scanner vehicles we've seen this side of the Atlantic."

During their fitting at the Works, one of the streamlined vans outside Marconi House, Chelmsford

