

NEWS SERVICE

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EVANS NAMES ADDITIONAL
ASST. DEPUTY MINISTER

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Armstrong Responsible for
Trade and Industry Group

As part of a continuing departmental re-organization, Industry and Commerce Minister Len Evans has announced that an additional assistant deputy minister has been appointed effective April 1, 1972.

He is R. Murray Armstrong, currently general director of the department's trade and industry group, responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the food products, chemicals, machinery and equipment industrial materials and consumer products branches as well as the Manitoba Export Corporation.

In addition to maintaining his present responsibilities, Mr. Armstrong's duties as program director for trade and industrial expansion in Manitoba will be enlarged in scope.

"Through improved organization," explained Mr. Evans, "I hope to establish a more efficient flow of information and direction within the department with a minimum of overlap between various sections."

The present assistant deputies in the Department are George S. Bowman, who is in charge of policy research and planning and Ian H. Blicq, head of the programs and productivity group. Mr. Bowman's duties include reviewing the efficiency of policies, programs and management of the department while Mr. Blicq is responsible for the research and technology, management and productivity development, economic and transportation research and regional development branches.

Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Armstrong's abilities had been recognized by the department and business community for many years. Prior to joining the Department of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Armstrong was sales promotion manager for Moore Business Forms Limited in Winnipeg.

His first public service duty was as agent general for Manitoba in Britain and Europe. In 1963 he returned to Winnipeg with special responsibilities for organizing the Manitoba Export Corporation in which he now serves as general manager.

Mr. Evans said the purpose of the departmental re-structuring was to improve Manitoba's competitive position in both the export and domestic markets. Increased assistance will be given Manitoba firms by the department, he said, to carry out research, introduce new technology, improve productivity, take advantage of new manufacturing opportunities and expand sales.