

## ROYAL COMMISSION ON WOMEN

Prime Minister Pearson announced recently that the Government would establish a Royal Commission on the status of women.

The Royal Commission will be asked to inquire into and report on the condition of women in Canada and to recommend steps that might be taken by the Federal Government to ensure their equality with men in Canadian society. Mr. Pearson said that the findings of the Commission would have to take into account the division of legislative powers between the federal and provincial governments under the constitution.

### AREAS OF STUDY

The Commissioners will be free to look into all matters they feel are relevant and the following in particular:

- (1) Laws and practices under federal jurisdiction concerning the political rights of women;
- (2) the present and potential role of women in the Canadian labour force, including the special problems of married women in employment and measures that might be taken under federal jurisdiction to help in meeting them;
- (3) measures that might be taken under federal jurisdiction to permit the better use of the skills and education of women, including the special retraining requirements of married women who wish to re-enter professional or skilled employment;
- (4) federal labour laws and regulations in their application to women;
- (5) laws, practices and policies concerning the employment and promotion of women in the federal Civil Service, by federal Crown corporations and by federal agencies;
- (6) federal taxation pertaining to women;
- (7) marriage and divorce;
- (8) the position of women under the criminal law;
- (9) immigration and citizenship laws, policies and practices with respect to women.

The Royal Commission will be under the chairmanship of Mr. John S. Bird of Ottawa, who is well-known as an author and broadcaster under the pen-name of Anne Francis.

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## QUEEN'S VISIT CONFIRMED

Last September, Government House announced that Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh had accepted Canada's invitation to attend ceremonies in Ottawa celebrating the hundredth anniversary of Confederation.

Prime Minister L.B. Pearson, in a statement to the House of Commons on February 1, said that the dates of the visit had now been confirmed. The royal couple would arrive at Uplands Airport in the late afternoon of June 29, Mr. Pearson said, and would remain in Canada until late in the evening of July 5. They would visit the national capital and spend one day, July 3, at Expo '67.

## CENTENNIAL ADDRESSES

Her Majesty will address Members of both Houses of Parliament assembled on the anniversary of Confederation on July 1. At that time, the Speakers of the Senate and of the House of Commons will present addresses to Her Majesty, who will respond with a special centennial speech.

Later on July 1, a reception attended by the Queen will be held for Members of both Houses of Parliament and their wives.

Other details of the programme for the royal visit, Mr. Pearson added, were being worked out and would be announced from the Office of the Commissioner General for Visits of State.

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## EXPORT ADVISORY BODY MEETS

Canada's newly-formed Export Advisory Council held its inaugural meeting recently under the chairmanship of Mr. R.H. Winters, the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

The Council adopted terms of reference under which it will:

Advise and may make recommendations to the Minister on matters within its competence; examine and keep under review Canada's export performance and export capability in relation to world-wide export opportunity; examine and keep under review the export development programmes and export services of the Department of Trade and Commerce, advise on their adequacy and make recommendations as to adjustments, improvements and new initiatives which may be desirable in relation to the changing needs and conditions of world trade; examine the extent to which the export services of the Government are known to and used by Canadian producers and businessmen; and examine the adequacy of the various ancillary business services and facilities available in Canada in support of export activity.

### ROLE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

It was recognized that members of the Council would be in a position to give leadership within their respective sectors of industry and business associations to the national export effort and stimulate fresh export initiatives by industry, and to assist in gaining and sustaining attention at senior management and board level within their industries for the importance of exports and for improving export performance.

The Council agreed that, as a first task, it would conduct a general review of the trade promotional programmes of the Department of Trade and Commerce. This study will be undertaken by a committee drawn from the membership and headed by V.O. Marquez, Executive Vice-President, Northern Electric Company Limited. The studies undertaken by the committee will be co-ordinated by Mr. J.P.C. Gauthier, Executive Secretary of the Council.

Mr. Winters announced that, on the basis of preliminary figures provided by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Canada's exports in 1966 had, for the first time, exceeded \$10 billion and, at \$10.27