

Canada Weekly

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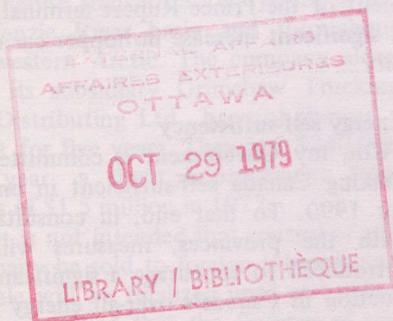
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Two-hundred-and-eighty-seven years ago this week...

Marie Madeleine Jarret de Verchères, at the age of 14, became a heroine of New France when she marshalled settlers at the seigniorial fort on the St. Lawrence River to resist an Indian attack, which lasted for eight days.

Throne Speech promises closer co-operation with the provinces

Reading the Speech from the Throne opening the first session of Canada's thirty-first Parliament, October 9, Governor-General Edward Schreyer pledged on behalf of the Government "a new era in federal-provincial relations".

The first Throne Speech of the new Progressive Conservative Government elected May 22 also contained proposals for freedom of information legislation, stronger parliamentary committees and a five-part economic strategy. Excerpts follow:

...To make federalism work, it is essential to change the attitudes of the past and the Federal Government must set the example. Accordingly, it is a primary goal of my Government to bring about a new era in federal-provincial relations. Consultation and co-operation will be the hallmarks of that new era....

Citizens and Parliament can control Government only if information is public. You will be asked to approve freedom of information legislation based on the principle that Government information should be available to the people, that necessary exceptions to that principle should be limited and specified, and that disputes over the application of those exceptions should be resolved independently of the Government.

To correct inequities currently borne by some Canadian individuals, you will be asked to amend sections of the Indian Act, to extend spouses' allowances in circumstances where they are now denied, to amend certain legislation respecting veterans, and to further protect the privacy of individual Canadians.

You will also be asked to consider reforms to extend the power of Parliament. Proposals will be submitted to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization to strengthen the powers and resources of parliamentary committees, to accord more prominence to private members' initiatives....

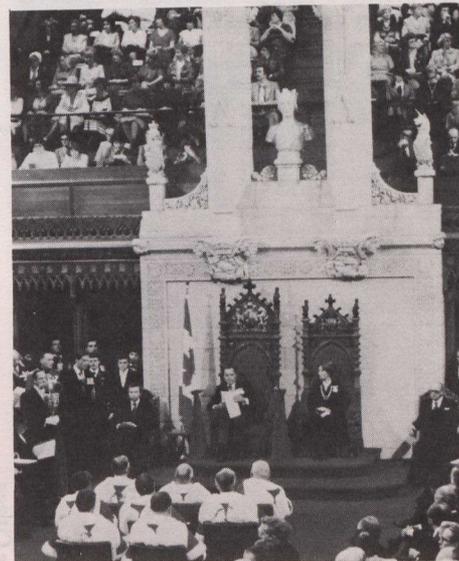
Special committees

...You will be asked to approve the immediate establishment of four small select committees, with the resources and powers necessary to enquire fully into the special needs of handicapped and disabled

Canadians; measures to strengthen the role of the voluntary sector in our society; policies with respect to foreign ownership, including the operations of the Foreign Investment Review Agency; and measures necessary to prevent recurring cost overruns on major Government projects. You will be invited to establish a joint committee to undertake a broad enquiry into the future development of nuclear energy in Canada. In addition, Standing Committees of Parliament will be invited to examine Canadian cultural policy, Canadian foreign policy, and the retirement income needs of Canadians in the 1980s....

Economic strategy

My Ministers believe the greatest imme-



Governor-General Schreyer reads the speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament, October 9.

The Citizen

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