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Ottawa, Canada

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Throne Speech proposes energy pricing policy and conservation measures

Reading the Speech from the Throne opening the first session of Canada's thirty-second Parliament, April 14, Governor-General Edward Schreyer pledged on behalf of the Government to provide "security, equity and opportunity for the Canada of the 1980s".

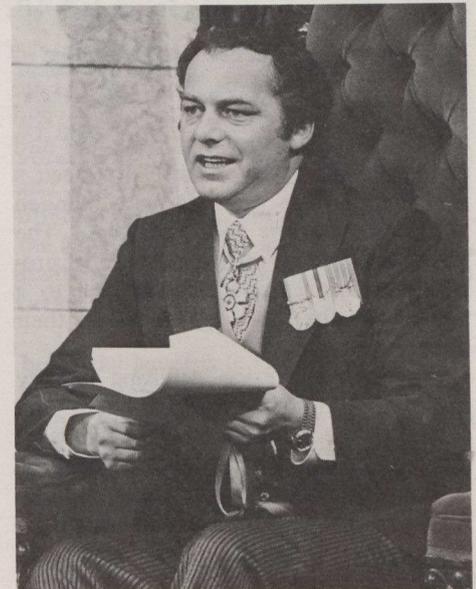
The Throne Speech of the Liberal Government elected February 18 also contained proposals for energy pricing and conservation, renewed federalism, increased employment and control of the economy. Excerpts from the speech follow:

...Canadians recognize the need to live within their national means and they understand that in doing so the state cannot meet every demand or satisfy every group. Therefore, in employing the limited resources available, my Ministers will help first those who need help most.

In particular, my Government recognizes the need to protect those Canadians most affected by unacceptably high interest rates. My Government will act to assist those unable to bear the burden of re-negotiating their home mortgages in the present abnormal situation so that the spectre of foreclosure will be avoided. My Ministers are convinced that this objective can be achieved without the Government embarking upon a major subsidy program. Farmers and small businessmen are also hit especially hard by rising costs, and my Government is sensitive to their plight. To assist the individual entrepreneur, the ceiling for loans under the Small Business Loans Act and the Farm Improvement Loans Act will be raised to \$100,000. Other measures of assistance will also be introduced.

Inflation strikes hardest at the old and those least able to take care of themselves. You will be asked to give urgent consideration to legislation raising the Guaranteed Income Supplement to the Old Age Security pension by \$35 a month *per* household by July 1 of this year. This measure will primarily benefit single pensioners, the vast majority of whom are women. By fulfilling this commitment, Parliament will be providing needed assistance to over 1.3 million elderly Canadians....

Young people, women, natives and the handicapped face special problems



Governor-General Edward Schreyer reads the Speech from the Throne.

in finding jobs. To meet the needs of these groups, my Government will expand its employment program while using its resources more efficiently. There will be an increased effort to develop critical trade skills so as to better prepare today's labour force for tomorrow's jobs.

Expanding native opportunities and training women for new occupations will receive strong emphasis....

Additional attention will be paid to the employment problems of the handicapped whose special difficulties cross all regional, sexual, and cultural boundaries. Amendments to protect the rights of the handicapped will be made to the Human Rights Act.

The role of women in Canadian society is undergoing marked improvement, and

Ninety-two years ago this week...

Lord Stanley began his duties as Governor General of Canada. It was he who donated the famous Stanley Cup, which is awarded annually to the National Hockey League's play-off winners.