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OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

investment policies and they are continuing their efforts to bring about the progressive reduction of trade restrictions."

Dealing with domestic affairs, the Speech said in part.

"At home we continue to enjoy general prosperity although there are some sectors of our economy which have been faced with difficulties. Our farmers have harvested the second largest wheat crop in Canadian history. Private capital investment has reached levels never before attained. Employment is at high levels.

"While more houses are being built this year than ever before, the growing population of Canada requires a continued expansion of housing. You will be asked to consider measures to increase and broaden the supply of mortgage money so that more people with moderate incomes will be able to find facilities to assist them to build their own homes....

NORTHERN CANADA

"The strategic importance of the northern part of Canada has increased greatly in recent years. Its place in the economy of Canada is steadily growing and will continue to expand in future. You will be asked to consider a Bill to change the designation and orientation of the Department of Resources and Development and to define the responsibilities of the Government with respect to the affairs of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, including the Arctic Archipelago, and the welfare of the Eskimos....

"The New York State Power Authority has accepted a licence granted by the Federal Power Commission in the United States for the development of the United States' share of power in the international rapids section of the St. Lawrence River. It is hoped that litigation in the United States will not have the effect of delaying the construction of the Project.

"As further steps in helping to improve social welfare, co-ordinated plans for rehabilitation of disabled persons are being worked out with the provinces and a measure to facilitate the establishment nationwide of a Federal-Provincial assistance programme for totally disabled persons will be submitted for your consideration...."

The Speech concluded with references to the intended revision of the Bank Act and Criminal Code and other items of legislation to be brought before Parliament.

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POLIO INCREASE: More than double the median or expected number of cases of poliomyelitis were reported in Canada last year, the 4,755 ten-province total exceeding the 1947-51 median of 2,291 cases by 2,461, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has announced.

U.S. - CANADIAN TRADE COMMITTEE: The Department of External Affairs announced on November 12 that the Governments of the United States and Canada have concluded an agreement establishing a Joint United States-Canadian Committee on trade and economic affairs. The agreement was effected by an Exchange of Notes between the Canadian Ambassador in Washington and the United States Secretary of State on November 12. The Canadian members of the Committee will consist of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Ministers of Finance, Trade and Commerce and Agriculture or Fisheries. The United States members will be the Secretaries of State, the Treasury, Agriculture and Commerce.

The suggestion that a Joint Committee of this type might be established was originally made during the visit of the Prime Minister to Washington last May. Both Governments have recognized that the free world is vitally interested in promoting a healthy flow of international trade. The activities of the Joint Committee will constitute one aspect of the efforts of both countries in promoting satisfactory trade relations on a multilateral basis throughout the free world.

The Joint Committee which will meet at least once a year alternately in Washington and Ottawa will consider broad questions affecting the harmonious economic relations of the two countries. After receiving reports of the Joint Committee's work each Government will have an opportunity to consider measures to improve economic relations and to encourage the flow of trade.

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TO PATROL QUEEN'S FLIGHT ROUTE: Three ships of the Royal Canadian Navy will carry out ocean patrol duties on portions of the route over which Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will fly to Bermuda and Jamaica late this month, the Department of National Defence has announced. They are HMC Ships Micmac (destroyer), Algonquin (destroyer escort) and Prestonian (frigate).

The three Canadian units will form part of a chain of ships stationed at intervals in the Atlantic along the route of the Royal flight, which is scheduled for November 23-25. The bulk of this commitment will be undertaken by ships of the Royal Navy. HMCS Micmac will patrol an area off Newfoundland, HMCS Algonquin off Sable Island, and HMCS Prestonian north of Bermuda.

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NATO TROOPS HOME: More than 800 soldiers of the Canadian Army, all members of the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade, returned to Canada on November 9. The vanguard of 4,000 yet to come, will go directly to their homes on leave after having spent the past two years on duty in Germany with other forces of the North Atlantic Alliance.