

Jamaican Prime Minister visits

Prime Minister Michael Manley of Jamaica and Mrs. Manley, visited Ottawa, October 27-29, at the invitation of Prime Minister Trudeau.

A number of international questions were reviewed including the work and role of the Commonwealth, developments in Southern Africa, the work of the United Nations and the Conference on International Economic Co-operation in Paris. Bilateral matters were also discussed including questions of trade, investment, economic co-operation and immigration.

Economic co-operation between Canada and Jamaica was a major topic in the discussions. To strengthen the continuing program of economic co-operation between the two countries in trade, investment and development assistance, the two Prime Ministers agreed to some additional measures of co-operation and signed a memorandum of understanding under which Canada will establish a line of credit of \$65 million (U.S.), to develop trade between the two countries.

To assist the economic development of Jamaica, the Canadian International Agency has agreed to enter into a new loan agreement of \$10 million (Canadian), which will augment their present program of development co-operation with Jamaica. It is expected that the CIDA loan will be disbursed during the next four years.

Canada has also agreed to provide a short-term loan of \$25 million (Canadian) to Jamaica as a support for its economic development program. In extending this loan of Canada is mindful of the importance to both Jamaica and Canada of maintaining stable commercial, financial and investment relations.

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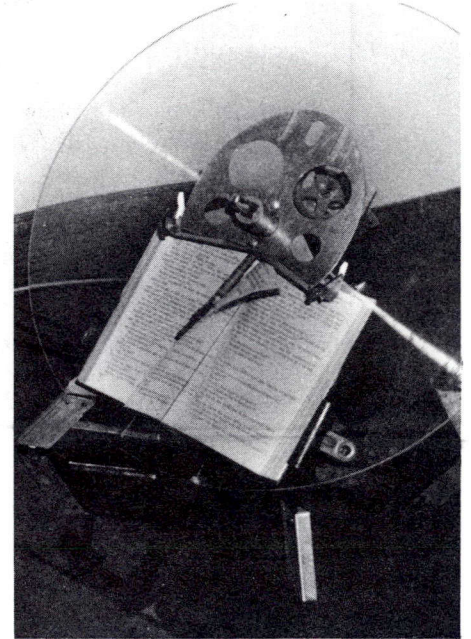
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Page-turner helps handicapped

A mechanical page-turner, designed by the National Research Council's Instrument Laboratory, provides an improved reading capability for the physically handicapped.

The device is bi-directional and a light touch on a capacitance switch turns a page in a three-second time interval. The turning of pages is accomplished by a cylindrical rubber pad pressing on the upper free corner of the page easing it towards the lower "crease" corner of the page and releasing it just in time for it to slip into the slot of a rotating cover plate. This cover plate holds the book open and steady. Any thickness of book can be accommodated with the two pages in view maintained in the same place by a simple equal arm balance-like mechanism.

Because of the simplifications possible when dealing with a standard page, the page-turner has been designed to handle pocketbook-size texts. It has a single reversible motor and if commercial production were undertaken, it



could be marketed for under \$200 initially.

The project was undertaken following inquiries from a London, Ontario librarian seeking ways to provide a handicapped person with improved reading capabilities.

News briefs

- Barney Danson, formerly Minister of State for Urban Affairs, has been appointed Minister of National Defence, succeeding James Richardson, who resigned recently. Replacing Mr. Danson is André Ouellet, formerly Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who had resigned from the Cabinet in March. An addition to the Cabinet, which now comprises 32 members, is Joseph-Philippe Guay, who becomes Minister without Portfolio.
- Pierre Juneau is the new Chairman of the National Capital Commission. Mr. Juneau was formerly Chairman of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission and a special policy adviser to the Prime Minister.
- The new leader of the Social Credit party is André Fortin, succeeding Réal Caouette, who resigned owing to ill health. Mr. Fortin, a 32-year-old Member of Parliament from the Quebec riding of Lotbinière, defeated Quebec M.P. René Matte on the second ballot at the leadership convention in Ottawa,

November 7. The winning candidate received 610 votes, compared to 317 for Mr. Matte and 165 for the party's national president, Martin Hattersley, an Edmonton lawyer.

- Personal income tax exemptions for the 1977 tax year will rise by 8.6 per cent as a result of the indexing to match increases in the cost of living, the Finance Department has announced.

- Transport Minister Otto Lang announced October 29 that new designs had been chosen for rail passenger-car interiors as part of the Government's plans to improve passenger train service throughout Canada. The new designs include facilities for the handicapped, enclosed overhead baggage racks, reading lights and new food services.

- Canada had a seasonally-adjusted trade surplus of \$271 million in September, compared to a revised surplus of \$349 million in August. The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product rose to 124.1 in August from 123.5 in July, the highest it has been this year.