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Government proposes to patriate British North America Act, 1

Air service agreement, 2

Peat an energy alternative, 2

Visit of President of Rwanda, 3

Aid to the Sahel, 3

Agriculture research contracts, 4

First roof-top TV service, 4

European job for judge, 4

Fish quality program begins, 4

Super-insulated houses for North, 5

Grain and oilseeds outlook for 1980-81, 5

Victoria Cross winner dies, 6

Indian agricultural program gains momentum, 6

Endangered species list grows, 6

News of the arts — festival, films, arts briefs, 7

News briefs, 8

Government proposes to patriate British North America Act

Canadians must now find "a way of breaking out of 53 years of constitutional paralysis", said Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in a television address October 2. In his speech to the nation, Prime Minister Trudeau briefly outlined a proposed resolution that will be debated in the House of Commons. The resolution contains provisions for patriating the British North America Act and for constitutional change.

Excerpts from the Prime Minister's address follow:

...The resolution proposes, first, that the Constitution be brought home in a way that will lead, by the end of four years, to a new amending process, free from the straitjacket of unanimity.

Patriation will in no way take power from the provinces, it will take power only from the British Parliament. At long last we will have a Constitution truly our own.

Second, the resolution asks that the Constitution contain a charter of rights and freedoms. The charter — like patriation — will not transfer power from the provincial governments to the Canadian government. To the contrary, it will confer power on the people of Canada, power to protect themselves from abuses by public authorities.

Rights are the common heritage of every Canadian. There is no place in

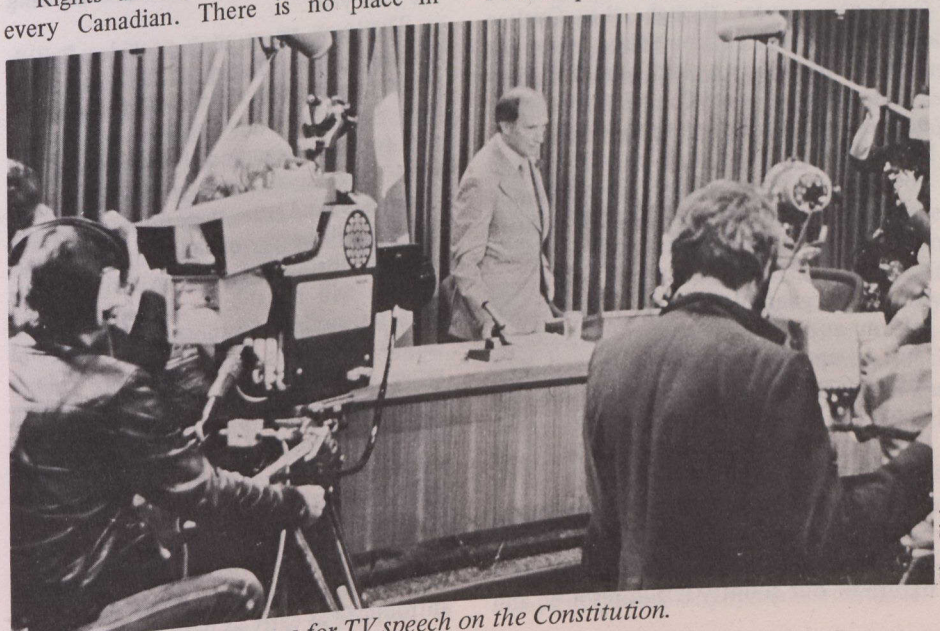
Canada for second class citizenship. Therefore the resolution will ask that the Constitution make our rights and freedoms binding on all governments.

Every Canadian will be guaranteed the fundamental freedoms of conscience, of opinion, of assembly and the democratic right to vote.

Every Canadian will enjoy the full protection of the law. Equal treatment for all, without discrimination due to sex, colour, or origin, will be enshrined.

Free movement

Every Canadian will be guaranteed the right to move freely to any part of Canada to seek a job, to buy a home, to raise a family in his or her traditions. And, inseparable from that, the right of parents, be they English-speaking or French-speaking, to have their children



The Prime Minister prepares for TV speech on the Constitution.

Sixty-six years ago this week...
The first contingent of Canadian troops to join British troops in the First World War landed at Plymouth, England.