

Ryan is Quebec's new Liberal leader

Claude Ryan, 53-year-old former publisher of *Le Devoir*, is the new leader of Quebec's Liberal party. Promising "tough opposition" to Premier René Lévesque, Mr. Ryan defeated Raymond Garneau, former Finance Minister in Robert Bourassa's government, by 1,748-807 votes at the leadership convention in Quebec City on April 15. The Bourassa Liberal government was defeated by Mr. Lévesque's Parti Québécois party in November 1976. Since then, Gerard D. Lévesque led the Liberals in the Quebec Assembly. He will continue as parliamentary leader.

In a speech immediately following his victory, Mr. Ryan stated: "I reiterate my dedication to the goal of a free and open and co-operative Quebec within the framework of a united federal Canada, and I hope we will immediately start to work around this extremely stimulating objective."

He extended an invitation to English-speaking Canada, to talk "as brothers" about the future of Canada. "We will explore with you the possibility of improving our present political structure so that they can better correspond to the new realities which have emerged, both in Quebec and other regions of Canada," he declared.

Under his leadership, he said, the Quebec Liberal party's main objectives would be to "win the referendum and then defeat the Party Québécois" in a



Quebec's new Liberal party leader Claude Ryan (above), is dedicated to "a free and open and co-operative Quebec within the framework of a united federal Canada".

provincial election.

In both his speeches to delegates before and after election, Mr. Ryan indicated he would be a tough contender in the upcoming debate on changes in the Canadian Constitution. Canada, he said, must have a new Constitution that would give Quebec power over its physical and human resources. However, there must be a strong central government that ensures proper distribution of wealth, runs foreign policy and has control over economic and monetary policy.

Mr. Ryan said he was ready to meet any time with his "old friend" Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who had sent a con-

gratulatory telegram expressing confidence in "your faith in federalism, your pride in Canada".

Claude Ryan, who was born and educated in Montreal, worked for 17 years for the Catholic Action movement. He studied the history of the church for two years in Rome, following which he joined *Le Devoir*, one of Quebec's leading newspapers, as an editorial writer. He became chief editorialist in 1963 and, up till last January, when he began campaigning to become leader of the Liberal party in Quebec, was the paper's publisher.

He is married to the former Madeleine Guay and has five children.

Canada/U.S. fisheries agreement

The Governments of Canada and the United States completed an exchange of notes in Washington on April 11 constituting an interim reciprocal fisheries agreement which will enter into force following completion of the necessary legislative action by the United States Congress.

The accord provides for the continuation of reciprocal fishing and for the establishment of new mechanisms for bilateral consultations and the resolution of disputes to help ensure that existing fishing patterns are maintained. The new agreement will remain in force through 1978 unless superseded by a comprehensive boundaries and resource treaty or terminated by either government after notice.

The major changes in this agreement in comparison with the 1977 agreement between the two countries are:

- The new pact can be terminated by either government on 45 days' notice.
- Bilateral consultative committees will be set up on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and differences not settled at that level will be referred to the special negotiators for maritime boundaries.
- If a dispute is not resolved through consultation, the party objecting to an action of the other party can take reciprocal action to restore the balance of fisheries interests between the two countries.
- Canadian Pacific Coast salmon trollers will be permitted to fish further south along the coast of Washington State between three and 12 miles.

The special negotiators for maritime

boundaries will be resuming their efforts towards a comprehensive boundaries and resource agreement early in the summer. Meanwhile Canadian and United States officials are continuing discussions on the legal and technical aspects of the long-term agreement.

Exports increased in 1977

The value of Canada's exports totalled \$44,131.6 million last year, reports Statistics Canada, an increase of 15.7 per cent over that of 1976. This total includes domestic exports amounting to \$43,268.8 million (up 15.9 per cent) and \$862.8-million worth of re-exports.

The United States continues to be Canada's best customer by far, account-