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Reduced inflation and more jobs highest priorities in Throne Speech

The Speech from the Throne opening the second session of the thirtieth Parliament on October 12 placed importance on the promotion of better understanding of bilingualism, the achievement of "formal constitutional independence" and it offered financial incentives to small business. The Government's highest priorities, however, will continue to be the reduction of inflation and the creation of more employment opportunities.

Setting a Canadian precedent, the wife of the Governor General, Mrs. Gabrielle Léger, read the speech as Mr. Léger, who has been in failing health, looked on.

Passages are reprinted below:

The Government has established programs intended to give real meaning to the official languages policy. Some of these measures have proven successful, and will be continued. Others have not, and will be modified.

Canadians appear particularly anxious that their children have the best possible chance of understanding their compatriots of the other language. Consequently, the Government intends to discuss with the provinces arrangements to increase the effectiveness of training in both official languages in the school systems across Canada.

Fiscal restraint

The continued reduction of inflation, and the creation of many more employment opportunities for Canadians, are and will continue to be the Government's highest priorities.

To create the climate necessary for the achievement of these two vital objectives, the Government will continue to practise fiscal restraint. The control of inflation will remain the single most important condition for economic stability in Canada, even after price and income controls are removed. Determined restraint in fiscal and monetary policy is essential to the longterm control of inflation.

The Government remains committed to a reduction in the growth of the Public Service. In the ten years prior to 1975-76 authorized man-years in the Public Service grew at an average annual rate of 4 per cent. This year the growth rate was reduced to 1.5 per cent, requiring actual reductions in

27 departments and agencies. The Government will reduce the rate of growth to below 1 per cent in the coming fiscal

The international trading environment will profoundly influence our economic performance, and significant progress will be sought by Canada in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations and through other trade development initiatives. To support private industry in meeting greater international competition, the Govern-



The Governor General sits beside Mrs. Léger as she reads the Speech from the Throne on October 12.