

Gretzky breaks scoring record

Wayne Gretzky of the Edmonton Oilers scored his seventy-seventh goal to break the National Hockey League's single-season scoring record.

The former single-season scoring record of 76 goals was set by Phil Esposito during the 1970-71 season with the Boston Bruins.

The unassisted goal scored by Gretzky at 13:24 of the third period was the winning goal in a game February 24 against the Buffalo Sabres in Buffalo, New York. Gretzky proceeded to score his seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth goals leading the Edmonton Oilers to a 6-3 victory over the Sabres.

A crowd of 16 433, including Gretzky's family from Brantford, Ontario witnessed the record breaking goal. The game was stopped and Phil Esposito took the opportunity to congratulate Gretzky who was presented with the puck.

Gretzky received numerous letters and telegrams of congratulations from fans including a telegram from Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and another from President Ronald Reagan.

The 21-year-old hockey player also holds the single-season assists record and has increased the points mark record he set last season.

Canada-India air agreement

Canada and India have initialled a bilateral air services agreement that will allow direct flights to be introduced between the two countries.

The agreement, which remains subject to final approval of both governments, is expected to be signed in the near future, probably in New Delhi.

The terms of the new agreement will permit Air India to introduce direct services from India *via* Europe to Montreal and Air Canada to introduce direct services from Canada *via* Europe to Bombay. Also covered by the accord is the possible introduction of all-cargo flights between Canada and India. Passenger flights and all-cargo operations by carriers of both countries will also be permitted to carry some traffic to and from third countries. Also envisaged in the agreement is the eventual introduction of trans-Pacific services between India and the Canadian west coast, although details of these operations are expected to be finalized at a later date.

East Block open to visitors

The East Block on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, where the prime ministers and most of the governors general of Canada for the past 110 years have had their offices, has been opened to the public.

Restoration to the offices of Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Georges Etienne Cartier, the governors general and the Privy Council chamber was completed in five years. The original colours and furnishings were used.

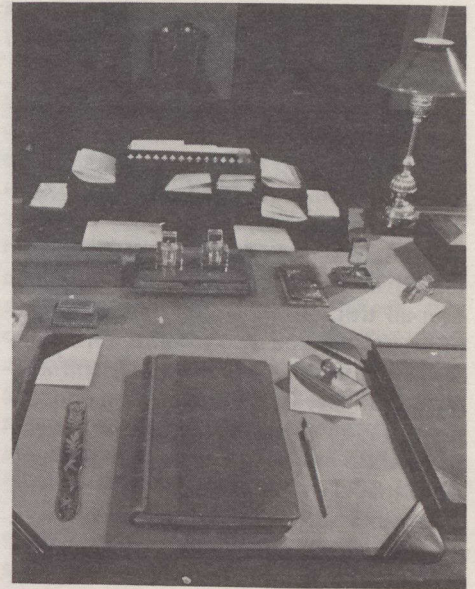
Dim and cold

The gas lamps overhead in the southwest corner office of Sir John A. Macdonald, provide little light and the fireplace just behind his oak desk is barren and cold. Thick, green drapes meant to keep out winter's icy draughts also cut down on natural light entering through the windows. A hand-written letter rests on top of the desk.

A marble spittoon stands out in Cartier's office. Like the other rooms, it is dimly lit and draughty. It was the office of all prime ministers after Macdonald, until Pierre Trudeau moved out in 1976.

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt spent a week in this office, while U.S. President Ronald Reagan worked out of the slightly more luxurious office once presided over by the governors general.

In the Privy Council, a high-backed, oak, hand-carved chair sits upright at the



Sir George Etienne Cartier's desk.

far end of the long oak rectangular table where the nation's leaders sat to discuss the country's destiny. There are five smaller chairs on each side of the table and a similar chair at the near end.

History brought to life

The first visitors to the building were impressed with the renovations. One commented that it brought "Canadian history to life" while another pointed out that it was an excellent attraction for foreigners and a valuable reminder for Canadians.

During the winter the building can be seen by guided tours on the weekends but it is expected that it will be open seven days a week in the summer.



A view of the refurbished Privy Council Chambers.