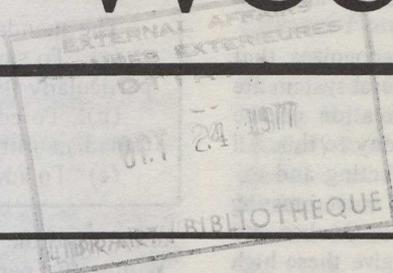


Canada Weekly

Volume 5, No. 41

October 12, 1977



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Members of the task force

Besides co-chairmen Pepin and Robarts the following are members of the Task Force on Canadian Unity: Richard Cashin, Atlantic provinces; Mrs. Solange Chaput-Rolland and Gerald A. Beaudoin, Quebec; Dr. John Evans, Ontario; Muriel Kovitz, Prairies and N.W.T.; and Ross Marks, Western Region and Yukon.

Task Force on Canadian Unity gets under way

Jean-Luc Pepin, former Cabinet minister, and John Robarts, former Ontario premier, co-chairmen of the Task Force on Canadian Unity, announced that its members would visit 14 centres across Canada in each of the ten provinces and two territories from now until January 1978, to obtain the views of all Canadians and stimulate a national debate on the future of this country.

The centres are: Halifax, Nova Scotia; Moncton, New Brunswick; Winnipeg, Manitoba; St. John's, Newfoundland; Montreal, Quebec; Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta; Yellowknife, North West Territories; Whitehorse, Yukon; other cities in Quebec; Vancouver, British Columbia; Regina, Saskatchewan; Toronto, Ontario; and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Mrs. Solange Chaput-Rolland, one of the two task force members from Quebec, began a tour of the Sherbrooke area from September 26 to 28. It was the first of a series of visits by Mrs. Chaput-

Rolland throughout the province to hear residents' views on Canadian unity.

Theme questions

In meeting with the public, members of the task force ask:

(1) "The Government of Quebec is now proposing a fundamental change in the status of Quebec in relation to the rest of Canada. Do you believe that Canada needs to make substantial modifications to its social, political and constitutional arrangements? If so, what changes are needed? Are you personally willing to accept such changes?"

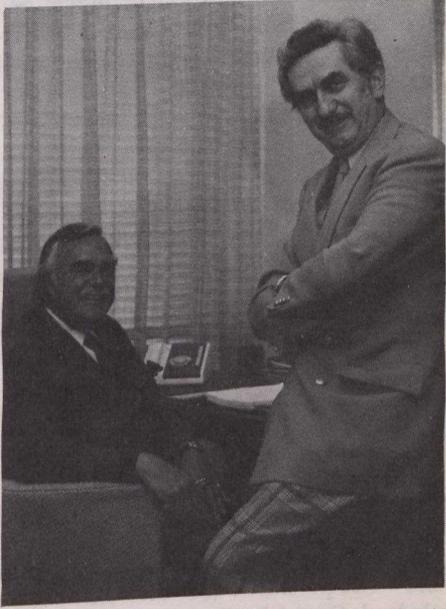
(2) "In your opinion, which, if any, of the major economic, social and political problems facing Canada today result primarily from an inappropriate distribution of powers and an unsuitable sharing of resources between the Federal Government and provincial governments or among the various regions and provinces? Which of these problems are the result of policies which are insufficiently sensitive to regional needs. What solutions would you propose to rectify these problems? Do you feel that such solutions would be acceptable to other entities which would be affected by them?"

(3) "What positive features do you see in our current political, economic and social arrangements and what methods would you propose for strengthening and improving them?"

The task force's role

The following statement was issued by the co-chairmen of the task force on September 1:

"The task force is committed to a Canadian federation, a system with the authority of the state shared by two orders of government, each sovereign and at the same time committed to co-operative association with the other, under a constitution. We believe that such a system is the one best suited to the diversity of our founding peoples and to the



John Robarts (left) and Jean-Luc Pepin, co-chairmen of the Task Force on Canadian Unity.

John Evans

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