

Federal candidates on campaign trail as election looms closer, 1**Seasonal farm worker recruitment rules change, 2****Aid program for Honduras, 3****International co-operation for assistance to Africa, 3****Federal conservation program cuts energy costs, 3****Canada-Senegal bilateral relations commission set up, 3****Azores earthquake relief, 4****Contribution for construction of Sri Lanka irrigation complex, 4****Nova Scotia-Belize fishermen training project, 4****Canada/U.S. vessel traffic management agreement, 4****Power by the ton, 4****Ethnology preservation, 5****Participation in Niger project, 5****New process provides energy, 6****Aid for Cambodian refugees, 6****Youth exchange program, 6****News of the arts — funding, film festival, arts policy review, 7****Mineral values reach new record, 8****News briefs, 8****Fourteen years ago today...**

One-hundred thousand Canadians aged 69 became the first persons of that age eligible for the \$75-a-month old age security pension; previous to that only persons 70 or over were eligible for the pension. Today those 65 years or older may receive the pension of \$182.42.

Federal candidates on campaign trail as election looms closer

Candidates from Canada's political parties are in the midst of campaigning following the dissolution of Parliament on December 14, and the announcement of a federal election for February 18.

The leaders of the three major parties, Joe Clark (Progressive Conservative), Pierre Trudeau (Liberal) and Ed Broadbent (New Democratic Party), who are speaking and meeting with voters across Canada, will seek re-election in their respective ridings of Yellowhead (Alberta), Mount Royal (Quebec) and Oshawa (Ontario).

Mr. Clark's Progressive Conservative Government was defeated by a vote of 139-133 during the debate on the budget, which constituted an important matter of confidence. Without the support of a majority in the House of Commons, it could not continue in power. However, until a new government is formed after the election, the present administration (and more precisely, the Cabinet) continues to exercise execu-

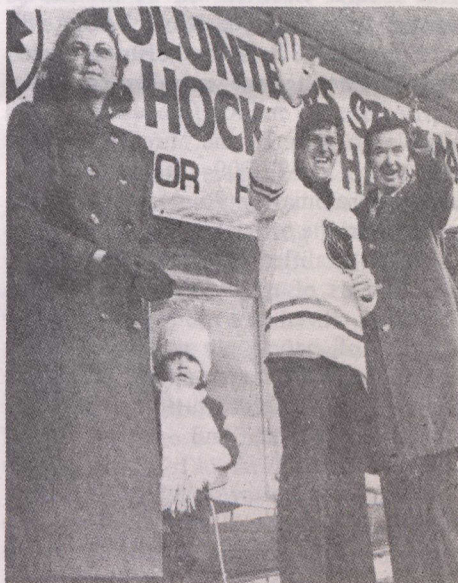
tive responsibility.

Shortly after the defeat of his Government, Prime Minister Clark formally asked the Governor General (the representative of the Crown in Canada) to dissolve Parliament and give orders that writs of election be issued. At dissolution, over 100 Government and private members' bills died on the order paper (the daily outline of Commons business). These included the measures contained in the defeated budget, such as an increase in the excise tax on gasoline. Though it continues to govern, the Government would not in principle embark upon a major policy that would bind its successor. If there were a need to make an important appointment in the interim, it would be expected that the opposition parties would be consulted. When dissolution takes place following a vote of non-confidence there is a greater responsibility not to take measures that have serious implications for government.

Fighter plane in wings

Among decisions that must await the outcome of the election is the purchase of a new fighter aircraft for Canada at an estimated cost of \$2.5 billion. The report of the Auditor-General, the watchdog over government expenses, cannot now be tabled in the House of Commons. And the Government's promised foreign policy review, to have begun in earnest before Christmas with the tabling of discussion papers in the House, is also put in limbo.

In the interval between Parliaments, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet retain the responsibility of government. Emergency and unforeseen expenditures which have not been provided for by Parliament may be made by Governor General's warrant, a special authority issued under an order-in-council (directive of the Cabinet). Warrants cannot be issued if Parliament is in session, and their use is restricted by other statutory provisions. The expenditures are reviewed at the next session of



Mr. Clark (right), his wife Maureen and their daughter Catherine join hockey superstar Bobby Orr for the opening of Canadian minor hockey week in Ottawa.

Gilles Benoit, Le Droit