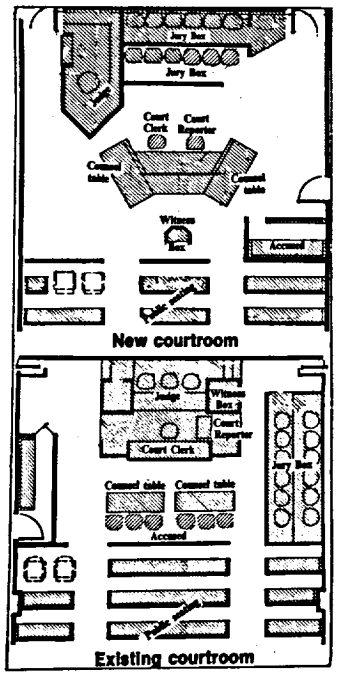
Mosaic

LAW

Babies' Eyes. In Ontario the law requiring silver nitrate to be dropped into the eyes of all newborns has now been changed. An Ottawa mother, Suzanne Petersen, took her case to the Supreme Court of Ontario and won an injunction for her baby. Due to her efforts plus resulting pressure, parents now have the choice of three antibiotics that may be used.

Courtrooms. Two courtrooms in Ottawa are being remodeled to test two innovative designs. The changes are intended to allow judges and juries to hear and to see witnesses better plus to take away some of the focus from the accused (presumed innocent by law). The accused, rather than being seated in the centre of the court, will be off to the right; the witnesses, rather than being to the right of the judge (and thus unable to be seen by the judge plus facing the public seating so as to possibly be influenced by someone there), will now be seated in the middle of the court facing the judge.

The reason for the remodeling is to give judges and lawyers



an opportunity to work in the new environment prior to the opening of the new courthouse and registry office now being built at Elgin Street and Laurier. This is scheduled to be completed by early 1986.

Children's Last Names. The Uniform Law Conference of Canada (a body of legal experts) has recommended that parents be allowed to register their children under the mother's, father's or a hyphenated surname, provided both parties agree. While the provinces are not required to follow the recommendations, its suggestions are usually adopted. Ontario has drafted a policy paper to that effect.

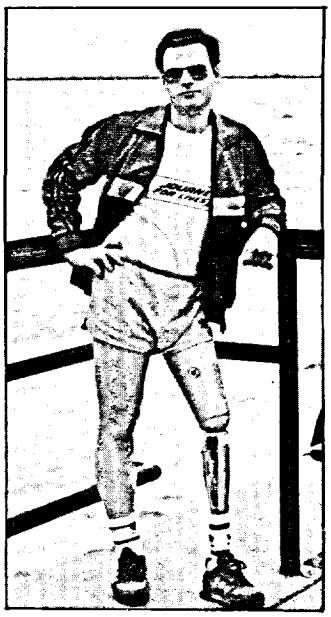
The conference stated that the existing law which requires children of married couples to take the husband's name may not conform with equality rights which will come into effect next spring under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; plus it is not consistent with changing times and customs.

The Young Offenders Act was implemented on April 2, 1984. This Act guarantees offenders under 18 legal representation, separate detention from adult criminals and encourages a range of alternatives to trial and detention. It also states that children under 12 cannot be prosecuted. Although the legislation is being praised, it is also being criticized. Small shop owners are concerned that shoplifting will be on the increase once children realize they can't be charged plus, the provinces are concerned about the cost sharing they will have to do with the federal government in order to provide the necessary facilities and services. It will mean hundreds of millions of dollars in expenses for each province. The federal government never did reach a cost-sharing agreement with the provinces but the Act was implemented anyway.

PEOPLE

Gordon Sinclair — in his own words the country's oldest, crankiest newsman — died in hospital May 17 after suffering a heart attack. He was 83. Up until Tuesday, May 15 he still worked on his radio show at CFRB in Toronto (his 41st year) plus appeared on CBC's panel show *Front Page Challenge* as he had since it began in 1957. Known for his outspoken personality, his jazzy ties, loud sports jackets, jaunty hats and off-beat views, Sinclair was probably one of Canada's best known newsmen. He is survived by his wife and three sons.

Steven Fonyo. It probably isn't a name you know now, but



Steven Fonyo

you soon may. Steven is trying to accomplish what Terry Fox was unable to do — complete the 7 190 kilometers across Canada. On March 30 he dipped his artificial leg into the Atlantic Ocean and started his journey. It angers him when people suggest that he is trying to be a hero. "I had cancer and I've been cured. It cost this country $1.3 million. I have a debt to pay," Fonyo says. "This run is the best I can give." He plans to run 30 kilometers per day in order to reach Vancouver by mid-October. So far, he has received a fair amount of financial and moral support.

Stanley Knowles was honored on March 14 with what amounts to a life membership in the House of Commons. "You've given me a chance to live", the 75 year old New Democratic M.P. from Winnipeg-North commented when Trudeau presented a motion that would make Knowles a procedural advisor to the Speaker of the Commons. In October 1981, Knowles suffered a stroke that affected his speech and memory but after a few months of therapy, he returned to his front-row seat where he has served for 38 years.

Naomi Bronstein, the founder of Heal the Children, Canada, an organization that has so far brought 14 children from around the world to Ottawa for life-saving surgery, was made a member of the Order of Canada. For 15 years Bronstein has devoted her life to needy children, starting back in Guatemala where she ran a 60 bed children's hospital for seven years. In 1969 she and her husband, Herb, were among the first Canadian families to adopt Vietnamese children. She presently lives in a well organized but crowded farmhouse in Gloucester, with her husband and 12 children (5 natural and 7 from Third World countries). At present, there are four South Korean children brought here in March, who are still awaiting surgery.

Naomi Bronstein