

others, such as giving the provinces control over offshore mineral resources.

Jeanne Sauv , recently named Speaker of the House of Commons, praised the document for the concern it shows for the other provinces and said she believed its emphasis on decentralization was compatible with the constitutional thinking of Trudeau.

Viewpoint

Ren  L vesque was a Liberal through the 1960s and Minister of Natural Resources and later Minister of Family and Social Welfare in the Liberal government headed by Jean Lesage. Claude Ryan, now his principal political rival, was until recently the publisher and editorial writer of *Le Devoir*, a small (40,000 circulation) but most influential newspaper. In the late sixties, as M. L vesque moved away from his old party colleagues, M. Ryan editorialized:

Whenever Mr. Ren  L vesque makes public his private anguish over the political future of Quebec, there



Jeanne Sauv 



Jean Lesage

is something in his manner of doing so that is both unusual and captivating. Mr. L vesque remains a very special kind of man. He risked everything for the Liberal Party in 1960. He was one of the chief architects of the renaissance for which his party was responsible between 1960 and 1966. Even while in office, he has always managed to preserve his independent attitude, a certain quality at once very personal and very detached which has made him, and continues to make him, a very special sort of person.

Ren  L vesque

Ren  L vesque, the son of a successful lawyer, grew up in New Carlisle, a remote town on the Gasp  coast. He went to the Jesuit college in Quebec City and then to law school at Laval.

He had little taste for the study of law, and he became a journalist, covering World War II as an overseas correspondent for the U.S. Office of War Information. After the war he became an international news specialist for the CBC where he became star of "Point de Mire" and lectured on international events with a pointer and a blackboard.

After Premier Maurice Duplessis died, L vesque ran as a Liberal candidate for the Quebec Assembly in June 1960. He was elected and became a minister in the government of Jean Lesage. The champion of utilities nationalization in the Lesage administration, L vesque pushed through the development of Hydro-Qu bec, a public corporation.

By 1964 L vesque was increasingly independent personally but not yet an advocate of independence for Quebec. That year he told a reporter that he was not yet sure about the proper position of Quebec in regard to the rest of Canada.

"I think it's not a bad comparison to say it is like a couple—if they can stand each other in a double bed, it's wonderful . . . and if they can't stand that they should go to separate rooms, and then, well, we know that legally if even that isn't good, it is much better to separate than to try to



Ren  L vesque, Radio-Canada reporter, interviews Lester B. Pearson outside the Canadian Embassy in Moscow — 1955.