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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Addressing the members of the House of Commons and the Senate on the occasion of the opening of the second session of the Twenty-Sixth Parliament on February 18, the Governor General said, in part:

...My Government will attempt to make its full contribution to the maintenance of peace and the improvement of international relations; to the strengthening of our national unity through a co-operative federalism....

We are looking forward to the visit this autumn of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The presence of the Queen of Canada will mark for our country the historic occasion of the interprovincial conferences on confederation; it will also re-emphasize the importance we attach to the Commonwealth, through which so much can be done to advance understanding and co-operation in this increasingly interdependent world.

We recently had great pleasure in welcoming to Ottawa the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, with whom many matters of mutual concern were fruitfully discussed.

Since the close of the last session of Parliament, my Prime Minister has visited France and the United States. His friendly discussions with the President of the Republic of France will help to encourage an increasingly intimate relationship between France and Canada.

The unique partnership of Canada and the United States was symbolized in the signing by the President and the Prime Minister of an agreement by which the two countries become, for the first time joint owners of property in what is to be the Roosevelt-Campobello International Park....

A protocol signed during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington will make the Columbia River

Treaty a basis for developments of great advantage to both countries....

...At home there has been a heartening expansion of the economy. Employment has increased at an accelerated rate and the number of Canadians seeking work has fallen....

A measure will be placed before you to establish a comprehensive system of contributory pensions.

You will be asked to authorize, after consultation with the provinces, arrangements whereby university students requiring such assistance will be able to secure loans without payment of interest during the years of study.

...A measure will be placed before you to provide for a minister responsible for rural development, in order that my Government may carry further its policy of giving increased attention to the needs of agriculture in both Eastern and Western Canada....

A measure will be placed before you to establish a 12-mile limit for the use of Canadian fisheries....

You will be asked to consider measures to strengthen the position of periodicals published in Canada.

A measure to provide for the redistribution of electoral districts will be placed before you.

My Government intends to institute an inquiry to advise on the best practicable way to set enforceable limits to expenditures in election campaigns.

A measure to establish an age of retirement from the Senate will be placed before you.

You will be asked to consider amendments to the Citizenship Act which will ensure full equality of rights for all Canadian citizens wherever they were born....