



CPA Activities: The Canadian Scene

Canadian Regional Council Meeting

The Canadian Regional Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held its annual meeting in Ottawa on May 8, 1982. The program for the Twenty-second Regional Conference was outlined by **Don Stewart**, Speaker of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, who will be host of the conference. The Council approved an agenda which will deal with such topics as "Constitutional and Political Development in the Territories", "The Importance of Mega-projects for Economic Development Across Canada", and "The Social and Local Impacts of Major Resource Development Projects".

In other matters the Council agreed to help to defray some of the expenses of **Gerald Ottenheimer** of Newfoundland during his term as chairman of CPA's international Executive Committee. The Council felt Mr. Ottenheimer will be representing not only CPA but Canada as a whole and

that he should be able to rely on the Canadian Region for any expenses not covered by CPA international.

On a motion by Quebec, the Council agreed to establish a task force to study the growing number of organizations devoted to promoting exchanges among legislators and which are asking for financial assistance to carry out their programs. The committee will report as to whether there is duplication of effort between these organizations and the Canadian Region of CPA and what, if any, should be the relationship between CPA and these extra-parliamentary organizations. The task force will consist of Speakers **Claude Vaillancourt** (Quebec), **John Turner** (Ontario), **Harvey Schroeder** (British Columbia), **Arthur Donahoe** (Nova Scotia) and Mr. **Keith Penner** (Ottawa), Chairman of the Canadian Branch of CPA. They are to report their findings at the next Regional Council meeting.

The Council confirmed that the eighth Canadian Regional Seminar would be held in Ottawa from October 31 to



The Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons, **Jean Marchand** (3rd left) and **Jeanne Sauvé** preside over the Canadian Regional Council meeting. Also shown are **Lloyd Francis**, MP (far left) and **Ian Imrie**, Secretary General of Parliamentary Relations Secretariat. (Martine Bresson)

November 4, 1982. The Twenty-third Regional Conference will be held in Manitoba from August 8 to 11, 1983.

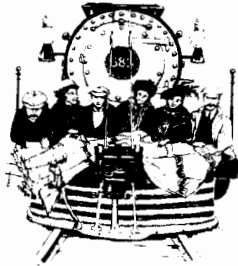
Zimbabwean at the Table In Saskatchewan

Under the auspices of the Saskatchewan Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Mr. **Austin Zvoma**, Assistant Secretary to the Parliament of Zimbabwe, is spending a three-month attachment with the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia, became an independent black-ruled country two years ago. The country's new parliament has been sending newly-hired staff outside of Zimbabwe on training programs. While in Saskatchewan Mr. Zvoma will observe the entire operation of the provincial legislature through the office of the Clerk of the House. He has also visited the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and plans to spend a week in Ottawa before returning home to Zimbabwe.



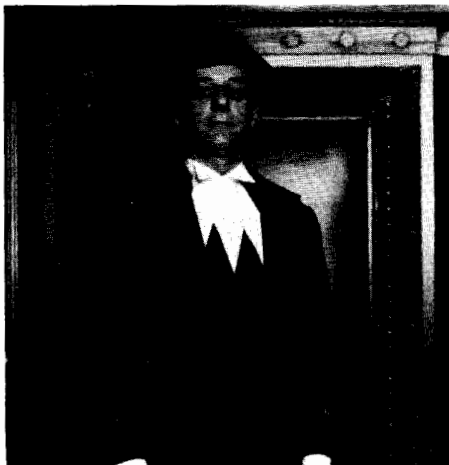
Delegates and observers, Canadian Regional Council meeting. (Martine Bresson)



People

New Speaker in Manitoba

The new Speaker of the Manitoba legislature is **James Walding**. An optician by profession, Mr. Walding came to Winnipeg from England in 1961. A former Commissioner of both the Manitoba Telephone System and the Manitoba Centennial Corporation, he first ran for office in the 1969 provincial election and was defeated by the narrow margin of 23 votes. In 1971 he won a by-election in St. Vital and has represented that riding ever since. Mr. Speaker Walding is a former Deputy Chairman of Committees. He was Chairman of the New Democratic Party Caucus from 1974-1982. During his tenure in the legislature he has also chaired the following committees: Municipal Affairs, Privileges and Elections, Public Utilities, Public Accounts, Private Bills, and Statutory Regulations and Orders. Mr. Walding was sworn in as Speaker on February 25, 1982.



James Walding

By-election Results

Since publication of the last issue there have been three by-elections; one in Alberta and two in Quebec. Olds-Disbury, is predominantly a farm and ranch constituency

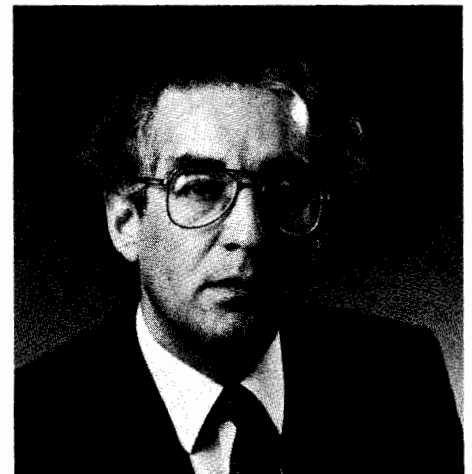
located in the centre of Alberta. The vacancy was due to the retirement of the Social Credit member. The by-election was held on February 17 and when the votes were counted the Western Canada Concept Party had won its first seat. The new member is **Gordon Kesler**, 37, a former oil scout who, during the off season, has appeared as a cowboy stunt man in several Canadian motion pictures.

Mr. Kesler ran on a platform of lower taxes, entrenchment of property rights in the constitution, an end to metrification, English unilingualism and independence for the four western provinces. Mr. Kesler obtained 4,015 votes (42%) compared to 2,669 for his Social Credit opponent, and 2,396 for the Conservative candidate. His victory marked the first time a "separatist" party had won a seat in a western Canadian legislature. Nevertheless the result was widely interpreted as a protest vote rather than outright support for western independence.



Gordon Kesler

In Quebec where the provincial government is already committed to a policy of independence for that province both by-elections were won by the Liberals, including one seat, Louis Hebert, formerly held by the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, **Claude Morin**. The winner, **Réjean Doyon**, 44, a lawyer managed to overcome



Réjean Doyon

a 9,000 vote deficit to win the seat by a comfortable margin. The other riding, Montreal St. Laurent, has been Liberal since its creation in 1966. This time was no exception as **Germain Leduc**, 49, a notary, retained the seat formerly occupied by **Claude Forget**. As a result the Liberals now have 43 seats in the National Assembly compared to 79 for the Parti Québécois.



Germain Leduc

Appointments

Marian J. Powell has been appointed as the new Legislative Librarian for the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. Mrs. Powell succeeds **Christine MacDonald** who retired April 30, 1982, after 36 years of



Marian J. Powell

service. Mrs. Powell was born in Saskatchewan and received her B.A. with Distinction from the University of Saskatchewan, Regina. She then graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Library Science degree. Since 1970, Mrs. Powell had been employed with the University of Regina's library. As Legislative Librarian her mandate will include implementation of the recommendations of the recent *Report of the Special Committee on the Review of the Legislative Library*.

Also in Saskatchewan **Elizabeth Bourns** has been appointed Clerk Assistant (Administrative). Ms. Bourns, who was born in Hamilton, Ontario, holds a B.A. (Honours) from McMaster University and an M.P.A. from Queen's. She had worked for the provincial government of Alberta before coming to Saskatchewan where she served with the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs. Her new responsibilities as Clerk Assistant (Administrative) include advising the Clerk of the Legislative



Elizabeth Bourns

Assembly on personnel, financial and administrative matters. She will administer Members' services for the Saskatchewan legislature and also serve as secretary to the Board of Internal Economy.

The new Serjeant-at-arms in Manitoba is Mr. **Ernest Diack**. A retired police-

man, Mr. Diack, was active in the Canadian Legion. He replaced **Edward Laing** at the beginning of the present session of the legislature.

On March 1, a new Assistant Clerk was appointed to the Ontario Legislative Assembly. Mr. **Smirle Forsyth**, a barrister and solicitor, was formerly a Clerk of Committees, a position he held since July, 1978. He served as Clerk of the Standing Committees on Administration of Justice, Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments and on Procedural Affairs and as Clerk of



A. Smirle Forsyth

the Select Committee on Constitutional Reform.

Vacancies in the House of Commons

Following his election as leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party **Bob Rae**, the NDP member for Broadview, announced his resignation from the House of Commons on March 2. Although he does not yet have a seat in the Ontario Legislature, Mr. Rae said that the electors of Broadview deserved a full time member in Ottawa while he turned his attention to the provincial scene.

Another vacancy occurred on March 15 when **Tom Cossitt**, Conservative member for Leeds-Grenville suffered a heart attack while attending a meeting of his party in Brockville. Originally elected as a Liberal, Mr. Cossitt left the party in 1972 over the question of bilingualism. He became one of the most persistent and controversial critics of the government and of Prime Minister Trudeau personally. However his devotion to his constituents and his skill in debate were recognized by members of all parties who expressed shock at his sudden passing.



On May 5, 1982 Speaker Arthur Donahoe unveiled a new portrait, personally signed by Her Majesty, which will hang in the Legislative Chamber of Province House, Nova Scotia. Shown in the photo are l-r: Henry Muggah, Clerk of the Legislature, A.M. (Sandy) Cameron, Leader of the Opposition, Premier John Buchanan, and Speaker Arthur Donahoe.