

5 July 1991
Aboriginal Peoples
— *Constitutional*
Changes

Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark agrees to a process that gives Canada's Aboriginal Peoples an unprecedented role in constitutional reform and opens up the way for aboriginal participation in the process.

20 July 1991

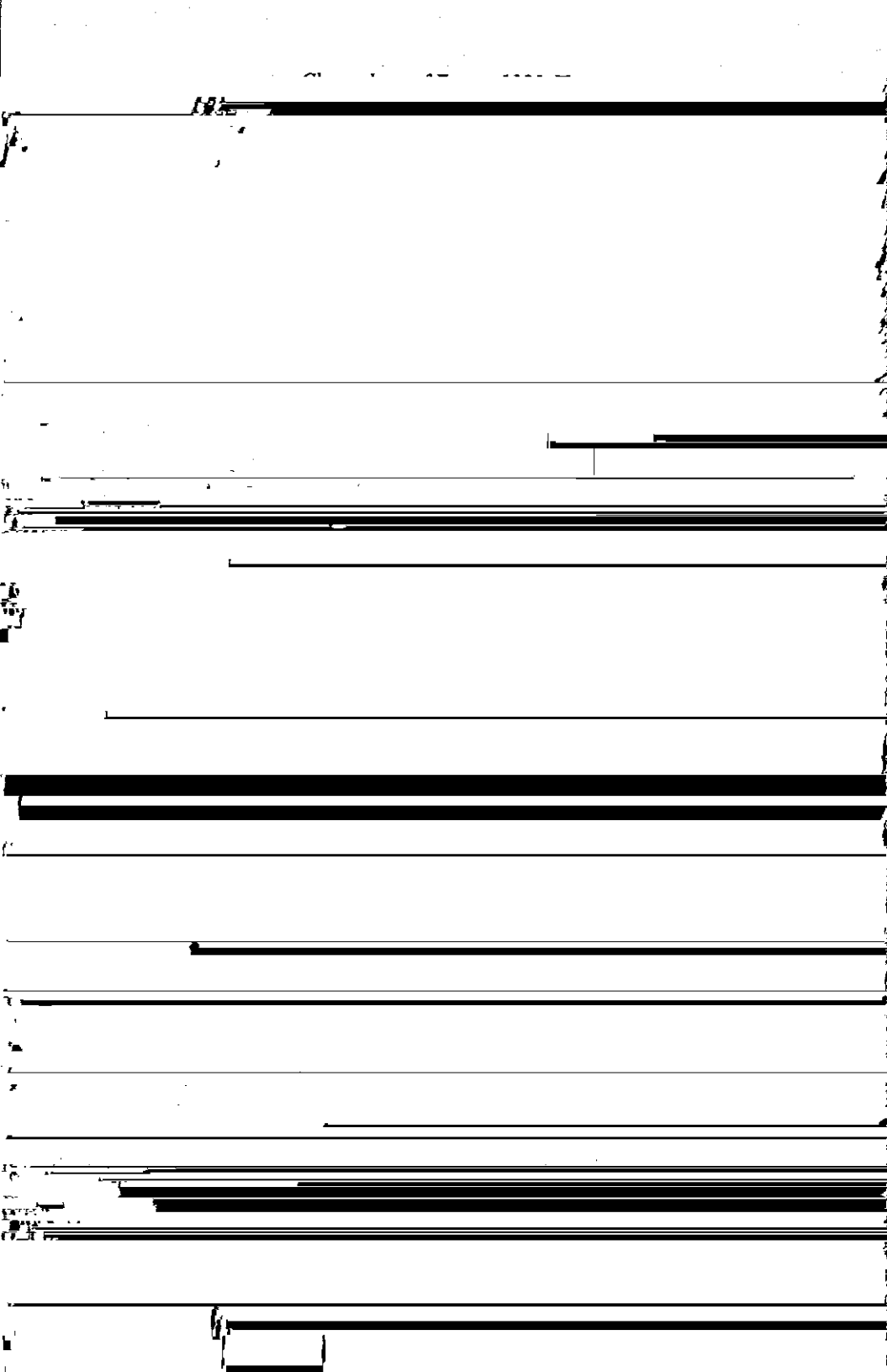
Discussion

Rita Johnston becomes leader of the Social Credit party,

and ...

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the same time. Journalist Gretta Chambers will chair the task force.

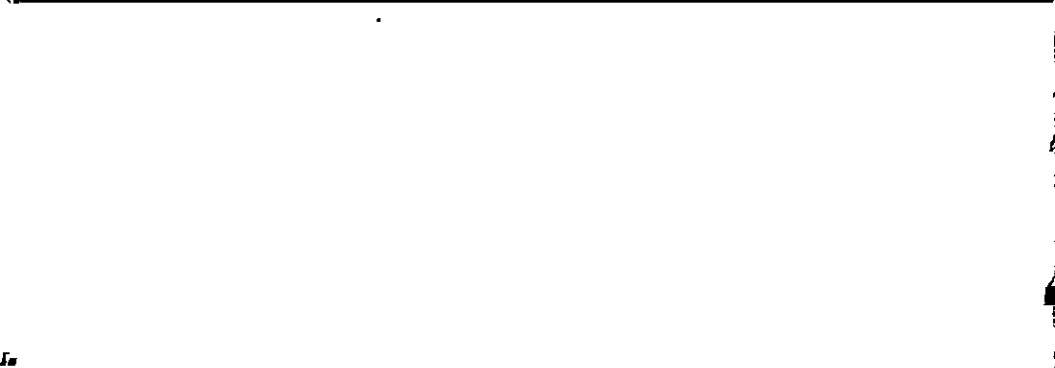
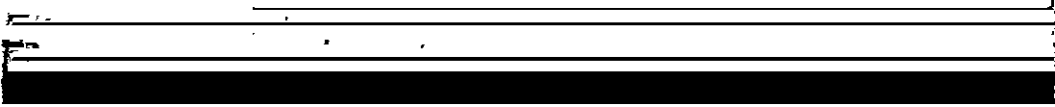


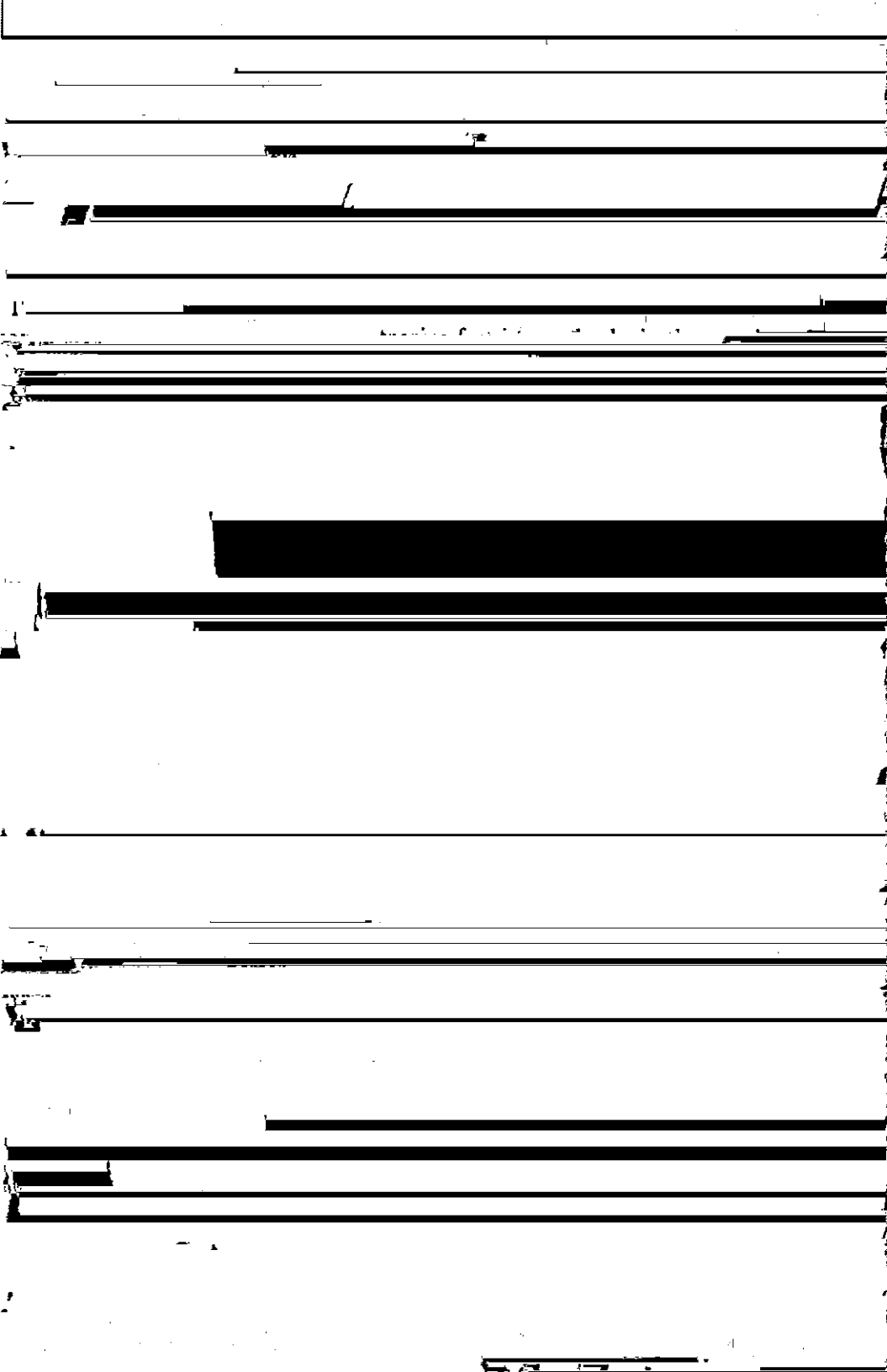
- a new federal head of power to manage the economic union;
- some transfer of powers to the provinces, and streamlining of other powers;
- a new Council of the Federation composed of federal, provincial and territorial representatives to decide on

- mic union power;
- inclusion of property rights in the Charter;
- making it harder for legislatures to use the Charter Notwithstanding clause (section 37); and
- more free votes in the House of Commons.

Across Canada, reaction to the government's proposals is generally favourable, although Quebec and Aboriginal

October 1991





labour agreement by which Quebec's professional training commission will coordinate all labour force development in the province. Ottawa will spend \$685 million over two years, with Quebec contributing \$365 million

model that gives Indians the ability to govern them-

self-administer their own communities

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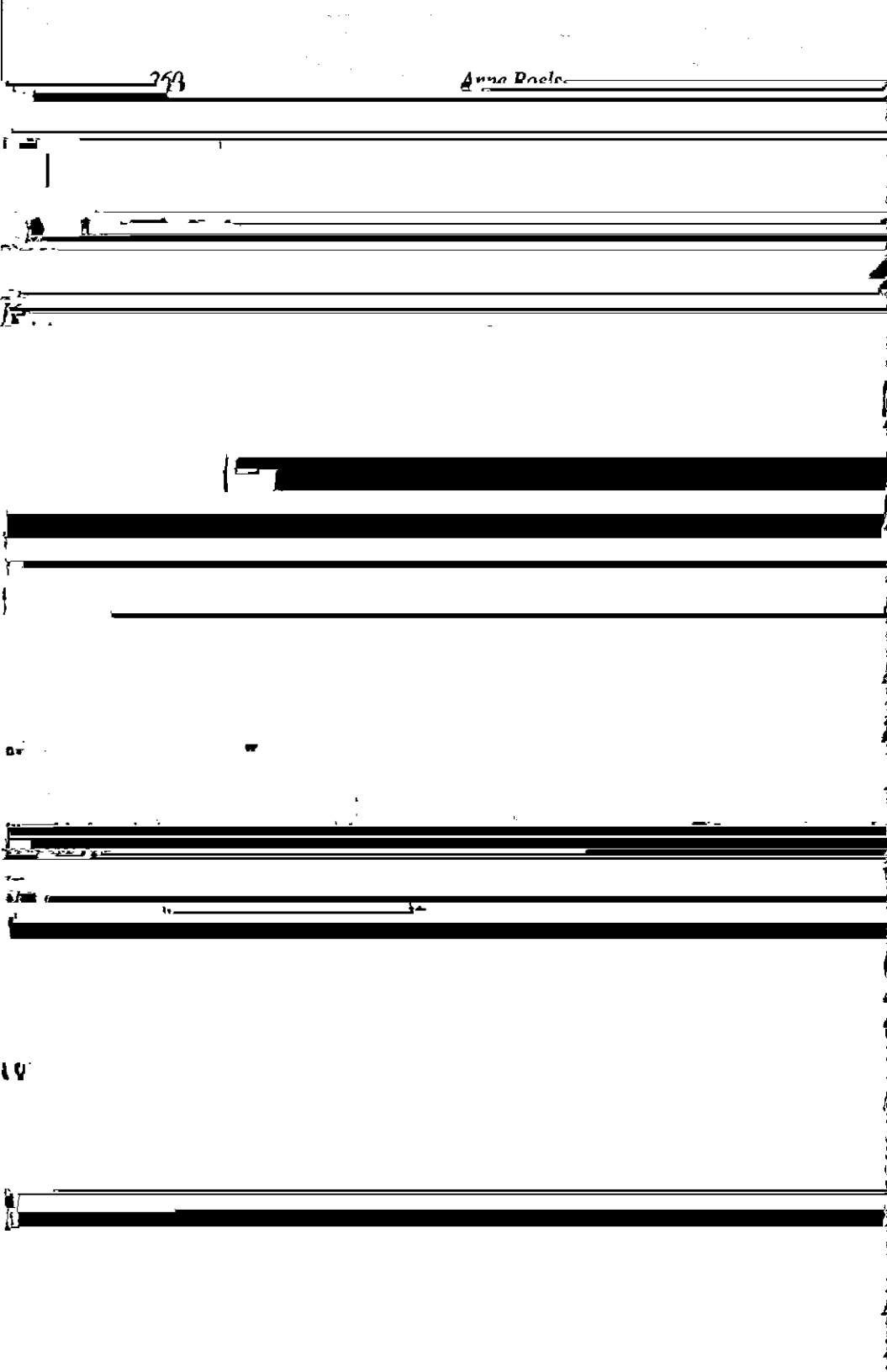
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- a strong federal government is needed in order to ensure that basic benefits are equally accessible to people across Canada, regardless of shifts in federal-provincial transfer shares.

Delegates do not come to a consensus between the two.

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10 FEB 1992

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allowing workers to take a leave of absence to run as

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- The provinces should be able to opt out of federal shared-cost programs, with compensation.
- The Senate should be elected, effective and equitable.

governments to protect and promote their original jurisdiction over lands, languages, cultures and institutions.

31 March 1992
*Free Trade –
Canada-U.S. –
Disputes*

Federal Trade Minister Michael Wilson announces the end to barriers imposed on imported beer within three years. On 25 October 1991, a panel of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ruled that Canadian provinces unfairly priced and distributed imported beer.

2 April 1992

British Columbia Legislature's Special Committee on

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- the social charter.

Clark again urges Quebec to end its boycott of federal-

25 April 1992
*Free Trade –
Canada-U.S. –
Disputes*

Ottawa and Washington sign an agreement in principle to speed up the removal of provincial barriers to U.S. beer by September 1993. Ottawa originally planned to phase out tariffs by 1995. to give the Canadian beer

\$1.5 billion over 14 years and ownership of 350,000 square kilometres of land.

4 May 1992

Social Assistance

As part of budgetary measures announced in February, the federal government announces a \$500 million program to help needy children in Canada. Welfare Minister Benoit Bouchard says the program is designed to help

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constitutional amending formula, division of powers and a proposed economic union. However, a degree of consensus was achieved on:

- distinct society status for Quebec;
- Aboriginal Peoples' inherent right of self-government;
- more provincial control in the areas of immigration, job training, culture, housing, tourism, forestry, mining and municipal and urban affairs;
- the right of provinces to opt out of new federal cost-shared programs with compensation;
- three Supreme Court seats for Quebec; and
- some form of social charter.

The ministers will meet again in Ottawa on 9 June, to try to secure a final agreement.

4 June 1992

The House of Commons approves the federal budget

17-18 June 1992
Health Policy

Federal and provincial health and finance ministers meet in Ottawa to discuss the state of the \$60 billion national health-care system. To save money the provinces agree to review the work of doctors and hospitals in order to eliminate unnecessary waste and inefficiency. The ministers reaffirm their commitment to universal medicare.

25 June 1992
*Free Trade –
Canada-U.S. –
Disputes*

The U.S. International Trade Commission votes 4 – 2 to uphold a 6.5 percent duty on softwood lumber imported into the United States from Canada. Canada plans to appeal the ruling, which applies to British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. British Columbia is responsible for 80 percent of the lumber shipped to the United States and its subsidies have been calculated at 7.95 percent compared to .01 percent for Quebec. Federal and provincial officials have agreed to let the provinces appear separately before the appeal panel.

25 June 1992
*Supreme Court –
Taxation*

In a unanimous decision the Supreme Court of Canada rules that the 7 percent Goods and Services Tax, introduced in January 1990 by the federal government, is legal. Alberta, supported by British Columbia and Ontario, had challenged the validity of the tax on constitutional grounds arguing that it infringed on provincial jurisdiction. Following the Court's decision, Revenue Minister Otto Jelinek said he hoped that the provinces would now begin to harmonize their sales tax with the GST.

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Free Trade – Canada-U.S. – Disputes 3 September 1991, 25 October 1991, 6 December 1991, 10 February 1992, 11 February 1992, 12 February 1992, 6 March 1992, 31 March 1992, 25 April 1992, 15 May 1992, 25 June 1992

Free Trade – North America 18-20 August 1991

Health Policy 28 August 1991, 19 September 1991, 19 December 1991, 20 J.

Labour 21 November 1991, 23 April 1992