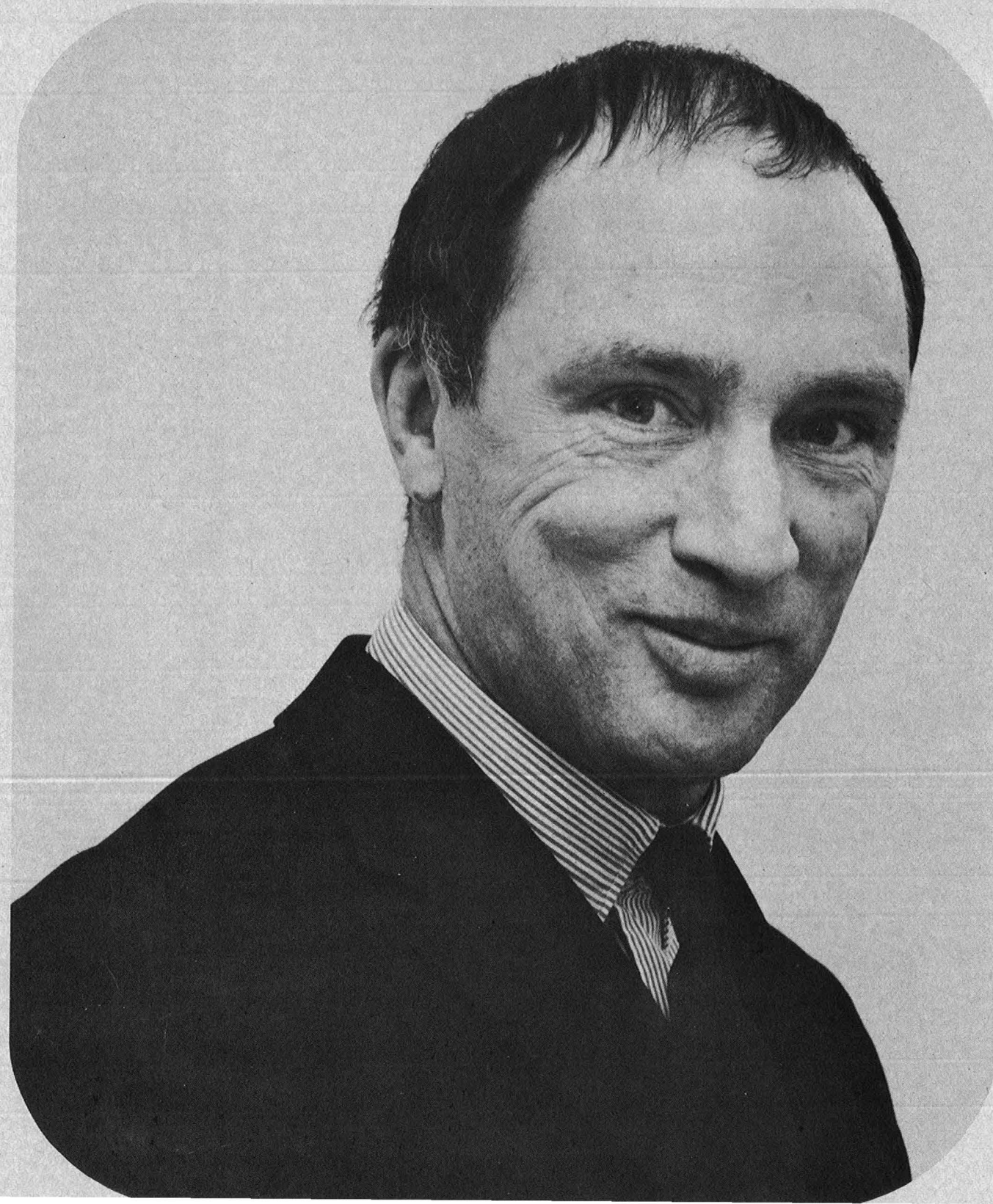


# Pierre Elliott Trudeau

THE LEADER TOMORROW by Arnold Edinborough



The great, the awesome task of the next Prime Minister of Canada will be to hold the country together. To do this he will have to have the support of the younger generation of voters in both English- and French-speaking areas. And he will have to speak to them directly so that he can get it. Nor will it be enough just to be bilingual — he will have to speak about modern issues in modern terms. A general election that trots out the same old tired platforms and speaks in the same tired clichés of issues which anyone under forty couldn't care less about will be disastrous. Such an election will happen if the three leaders are Robert Stanfield, Tommy Douglas and Paul Martin or Mitchell Sharp.

There is a feeling amongst the under-forties that we desperately need some flair and style in our politics. Mr. Stanfield cannot supply it. His stone-faced, enigmatic performance at the Tory convention was one thing: his present taciturnity (except for old-fashioned petulance in Parliament) is another. In order to expunge the demagogic image of Diefenbaker, it is not necessary to say absolutely nothing about anything. The strong, silent man has already become the tiresome stuffed shirt.

Tommy Douglas is even less likely to create a new style. His oratory is old-hat, his views far too doctrinaire for modern pragmatists. A look at the present financial status of the United Kingdom gives even the most ardent welfare-stater pause, and the national image of the NDP has been badly cracked by Robert Cliche who recently stated he would sooner be a Quebec nationalist than a national Socialist.

So we look to the Liberals who, at their convention, have the rare opportunity to pick a leader who can match the spirit of the times. He must be bilingual, acceptable to either major culture ideologically and liberal with a small "l." He must have a personal aura and a public image. He must be young enough to be flexible, old enough to be experienced.

Such a man is Pierre Elliott Trudeau. As Peter Desbarats describes him on pages 29 and 30, he seems just the man for the times.

As minister of justice he has revised the Criminal Code in a most liberal fashion, especially with regard to sexual and other personal matters. Constitutionally, he showed his mettle at the Dominion-Provincial Constitutional Conference three weeks ago. Organizationally, he could command a Quebec vote, which he has earned and which he would not be so silly as to use *en bloc*. Trained seals are not for him.

By electing him leader — and thus Prime Minister — the Liberals would serve their country well and their party superbly. Let us hope they have the foresight, courage and common-sense to do so. If they do, the optimism and swing of the Kennedy regime in Washington might come to Canada. With Quebec nationalism resurgent, inflation threatening, export trade hurting as a result of the recent GATT round, and urban problems menacing as they never have before, such a man would not be able to solve all the problems, but he would get a lot of presently apathetic people involved in trying to do so. And isn't that what democracy is all about? And shouldn't one party be ready to both admit it and do something about it?

THE MAN TODAY by Peter Desbarats

**P**IERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU is too good to be true, let alone prime minister. Unless he can develop, quickly, a minimum number of clearly defined deficiencies, his political future is depressingly certain. He will have nowhere to go but down.

No great punditry is required to produce this forecast. It is an established fact that people dislike perfect politicians, and Canadians are no exception to this rule. The men who led Canada through its first century represent a catalogue of human frailty.

John A. Macdonald's weaknesses have become proverbial, and lovable. Laurier's private life, emerging from his letters, finally has broken through the granite of official record. So many strange facts about Mackenzie King are coming to light that the little man

risers constantly in the memory and affection of his country, competing with such established folk heroes as Aberhart, Hepburn and Duplessis. Diefenbaker's unabashed pursuit of immortality was enough to endear him to fallible humans. Pearson has always exploited an illusion of political naïvety — an interesting attempt, which Mr. Trudeau might note, to manufacture a weakness for public consumption.

No matter how you crank Mr. Trudeau into the computer at the moment, all systems are GO. He glitters and sparkles and purrs like a new car in a dealer's showroom—or, more accurately, like an experimental Detroit model of an ideal "car of the future." He looks fantastic but will he work? Even a brand-new car usually complements the human fallibility of its owner by confessing to balky cigarette lighters, stiff door hinges, rattles, squeaks or various other imperfections. Pierre Elliott Trudeau seems practically bugless:

**EDUCATION** — University of Montreal, Harvard, University of Paris, London School of Economics. Rating: All bases covered.

**ETHNIC BACKGROUND** — French and Scottish, the two founding people of Canada. Rating: Impeccable.

**LINGUISTIC ABILITY** — Has to be heard to be believed. Compared with him, most Canadians sound like peasants, in either language. Rating: Formidable.

**AGE**—At 46, not too young, not too old but, as Goldilocks would say, just right. Rating: Bullseye.

**APPEARANCE** — Handsome but not in the conventional sense. Sufficiently distinctive for easy political caricature. Looks younger on television than in person. More intriguing in person, judging by common female reactions, than on television. Excellent tired-looking eyes and incipient baldness to combat young playboy image. Rating: Perfect.

**FINANCES** — Independently wealthy but with an almost Presbyterian ability to conceal it. As a young man, he travelled extensively but almost always at a third-class level. Although his resources are easily in the

Jaguar class, for years he drove a battered MG around Montreal. When he moved away from his mother's house a few years ago, he chose a small apartment in a good but not opulent block. His clothes are expensive but casual. Neither drinks nor smokes. He went to the South Pacific during the last parliamentary recess but spent at least part of his time reading a 500-page history of reform movements in the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. Rating: Dollars and sense.

**POLITICAL RECORD** — Short in office but long on behind-the-scenes experience. President in 1958 of "Rassemblement," an attempt to form a united political front to oppose the late Premier Duplessis. Prior to that was legal advisor to the Quebec Federation of Industrial Unions, which later became part of the Quebec Federation of Labor. One of the founders of *Cité Libre*, progressive intellectual-political review. Mainstay of the Civil Liberties Union in Quebec. Director in 1963 of Dr. Norman Alcock's Canadian Peace Research Institute. Rating: The right to-the-left causes at the right time.

**SEPARATISM** — Unlike most French-Canadian intellectuals, Pierre Elliott Trudeau is as clean as a whistle in this respect. He earned the undying enmity of separatists in 1964 by writing in *Cité Libre* that separatism was a counter-revolutionary movement based primarily on selfish middle-class interests. He made a few additional enemies outside separatist ranks

by referring to *Québécois* in the same article as "this backward little people." He wrote in 1964: "Freedom proved to be too heady a drink to pour for the French-Canadian youth of 1960. Almost at the first sip, it went at top speed in search of some more soothing milk, some new dogmatism . . . The truth is that the separatist counter-revolution is the work of a powerless little-bourgeois minority afraid of being left behind by the twentieth-century revolution." Rating: Astronomical in English Canada.

The only chink in the armoured reputation at the moment seems to be what Douglas Fisher described, a year ago, as "Pierre's invincible arrogance." For instance, writing in 1964 that "of all the institutional changes which I believe to be desirable in Canada, I would rank constitutional reform among the least pressing," Mr. Trudeau typically was unable to prevent himself from adding, "Of course, if I had the power to alter the constitution tomorrow, I dare say I could improve upon the document considerably."

But a trace of intellectual arrogance isn't enough at this stage to reduce Mr. Trudeau's reputation to somewhat human proportions. The only thing that conceivably could do this, that would show the man as a creature of fallible judgment after all, that would reveal a human weakness which all of us could share, would be the desire within this paragon to become prime minister of Canada.

