

would concentrate on low- or no-cost changes in existing social legislation. *Feb. 20*, Premier William Bennett asked the people of British Columbia for sacrifice and service in the face of an estimated \$541-million budget deficit for the fiscal year. *Feb. 22*, Among 11 candidates at the Progressive Conservative leadership convention, Joe Clark, 36, won the national leadership in a close fourth-ballot victory. *Feb. 24*, The federal government introduced legislative measures dealing with alternatives to capital punishment, and the "peace and security" package aimed at curbing a sharp rise in violent and drug-related crimes in the past 10 years. *Feb. 25*, Manitoba's NDP government unveiled spending estimates for 1976-77 of \$1.158 billion, an increase of 12.7% over the current year. *Feb. 27*, The Canadian Wheat Board announced an agreement with China for purchase of 35.4 million bushels (963 449 t) of Canadian wheat, reducing stocks on hand to the lowest level in 10 years.

March

Mar. 1, The Canadian Wheat Board announced higher initial grain payments for the new crop year and urged farmers to raise production. *Mar. 4*, The economy turned in its worst performance in 21 years during 1975, according to Statistics Canada. *Mar. 5*, The Bank of Canada announced an increase in its lending rate to 9.5% from 9%. Prime Minister Trudeau warned that the federal government might take unilateral action to patriate the British North America Act if the provinces could not agree. *Mar. 7*, Justice Minister Ron Basford told the Canadian Institute of Public Affairs that he would introduce legislation to give police, prosecutors and courts more discretion in handling cases that must go to trial, in a move aimed at unclogging the courts. *Mar. 8*, Finance Minister Donald Macdonald announced that 41,000 more companies, up from the original 10,000, had been placed under the federal wage and price controls program. *Mar. 9*, The throne speech opening the Ontario legislature promised efforts to provide able-bodied welfare recipients with jobs, aid to farmers, and an attack on the backlog of court cases. *Mar. 11*, The federal government asked the Supreme Court of Canada to rule on the constitutional validity of the anti-inflation legislation. *Mar. 12*, The oil refinery at Come-By-Chance, Nfld., built in 1973 was declared bankrupt in Newfoundland Supreme Court. *Mar. 16*, The speech from the throne in the Quebec legislature voiced Quebec's opposition to unilateral action by the federal government in bringing Canada's constitution from Great Britain; the government reiterated that it would press for federal help in covering the Olympic deficit. The New Brunswick budget limited the growth of spending, halted expansion of the civil service and offered no new programs. *Mar. 18*, Dr. John J. Deutsch, internationally-known economist, educationist and government advisor, died in Kingston. *Mar. 19*, The Alberta government called for spending restraints while stressing social improvements in a \$2.961-billion budget. *Mar. 24*,

Saskatchewan's budget of "responsible restraint", totalling \$1.328 billion, increased taxes on high incomes, gasoline and cigarettes. Slowing the annual increase in government spending was the main theme of the \$9.745-billion budget tabled in the Quebec National Assembly. The Conference Board in Canada predicted that the increase in production would be slow and the jobless rate would continue to rise. *Mar. 25*, The Law Reform Commission of Canada recommended that Parliament carefully reconsider whether abortion, indecency, bigamy, incest, obscenity and gambling should remain under the Criminal Code. The commission noted that besides the 700 Criminal Code sections there were 20,000 federal offences and 20,000 under provincial law, making it impossible at times for a citizen to know he was breaking the law. *Mar. 26*, British Columbia's Social Credit government brought down a \$3.6 billion budget with increased sales, income, corporation and cigarette taxes. Newfoundland's austere \$1.25-billion budget called for increased taxes on gasoline, diesel fuel and corporations. *Mar. 29*, Crawley Films Ltd., Ottawa, won an Academy Award for *The man who skied down Everest*, a first for Canada for a feature-length film. *Mar. 30*, The federal government announced that selective immunization against swine influenza would be made available to about 12 million Canadians in the fall. *Mar. 31*, Keith Spicer, the Commissioner of Official Languages, recommended that the federal government phase out basic language teaching for public servants and concentrate instead on encouraging bilingualism in schools.

April

Apr. 1-2, With an expanded budget and a permanent board increased to nine members from five, the new Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission would have regulatory authority over all forms of broadcasting and telecommunications. At a federal-provincial conference in Ottawa, Finance Minister Donald Macdonald served notice that the federal government wanted to end its revenue guarantee program with the provinces and establish limits on equalization payments to seven have-not provinces. *Apr. 5*, Death of Dr. Wilder Penfield, internationally recognized neurosurgeon who pioneered explorations of the human brain. *Apr. 6*, In a \$12.576 billion budget, the Ontario government reaffirmed its spending-restraint policy and raised taxes by \$330 million. Chief Justice Jules Deschenes of the Quebec Superior Court ruled against a contention by 10 Protestant school boards that Quebec's Official Language Act was unconstitutional. *Apr. 8*, Nova Scotia became the eighth province to sign an anti-inflation agreement with Ottawa. *Apr. 9*, Prime Minister Trudeau tabled copies of a letter to provincial premiers setting out three possible ways of patriating the British North America Act. Senator Gratton O'Leary, former editor of *The Ottawa Journal*, died in Ottawa. Pauline Jewett, president of Simon Fraser University, was elected