

Toronto, but said the move was not based on political or linguistic considerations. *Feb. 18*, The US government suspended work on the Garrison diversion project in North Dakota, which Canada saw as endangering water quality in Manitoba, pending a report of the International Joint Commission. *Feb. 22*, In the first speech by a Canadian prime minister to the United States Congress, Mr. Trudeau said Canada would remain united. Reversing a decision by the Appeal Division of the Federal Court of Canada, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Alberta was not obliged to seek Canadian Transport Commission approval for its purchase in 1974 of Pacific Western Airlines. *Feb. 24*, A record travel deficit of \$1.18 billion was recorded in 1976 as Canadians travelling abroad spent \$3.12 billion, almost 23% more than in 1975, while visitors from the US and other countries spent \$1.94 billion in Canada. *Feb. 25*, Price increases for gasoline and home-heating fuel of between 3.1 and 4.6 cents a gallon effective March 2, were announced by the Anti-Inflation Board (AIB). *Feb. 26*, Death of Watson Kirkconnell, 81, author and former president of Acadia University. *Feb. 28*, Transport Minister Otto Lang announced creation of a new Crown corporation, VIA Rail Canada Inc., to operate the country's passenger rail service. The gross national product (GNP) for 1976 increased by 4.6% over its 1975 level to \$190 billion, although it was in a decline at the close of the year, Statistics Canada reported; most of the increase was due to inflation.

### March

*Mar. 2*, A treaty permitting the exchange of prisoners between Canada and the US was signed in Washington by Solicitor General Francis Fox. *Mar. 3*, Department of National Health and Welfare tests showed high blood levels of toxic mercury in two residents of Tuktoyaktuk, NWT, indicating mercury contamination. Keith Spicer submitted his resignation as Canada's Official Languages Commissioner. *Mar. 4*, In response to a federally-commissioned report critical of the legal abortion system, Health Minister Marc Lalonde announced plans to launch a publicity campaign for planned parenthood and to press the provinces to improve abortion services. Prime Minister Trudeau asked the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to investigate charges of pro-separatist bias in the CBC French-language service. *Mar. 7*, The Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan purchased its second potash mine, the Sylvite mine at Rocanville, bringing the province's ownership of the productive capacity of the Saskatchewan potash industry to 20%. *Mar. 8*, Premier Lévesque, opening the Parti Québécois government's first full legislature session, announced introduction of new language legislation to replace the Official Language Act passed by the Liberal government in 1974. *Mar. 9*, The federal health department announced saccharin would be

banned from use in foods, cosmetics and as a sweetening agent in drugs because of studies on rats indicating it may cause cancer. *Mar. 15*, Canada's balance of international payments showed a \$4.329 billion deficit in 1976, about \$600 million less than in 1975, Statistics Canada reported. *Mar. 16*, Finance Minister Jacques Parizeau of Quebec announced abolition of the province's Anti-Inflation Board. Top winners of the 1977 Juno awards for the Canadian recording industry were Gordon Lightfoot, folksinger and composer, and Burton Cummings, vocalist. *Mar. 17*, Prime Minister Trudeau said Quebec would be barred from delegations attending international conferences if provincial officials continued to renounce ties with the rest of Canada. *Mar. 21*, Greenpeace Foundation members were forced to abandon the protest against the annual seal hunt off Newfoundland because of bad weather, hazardous ice conditions and lack of funds. *Mar. 31*, In a budget he said was aimed at continuing the fight against inflation, Finance Minister Donald Macdonald announced tax incentives for business in an effort to create jobs and tax reductions for low-wage earners.

### April

*Apr. 4*, The federal government announced a new dairy policy under which consumers would pay 10 cents a pound (0.454 kg) more for butter and the government would provide \$266 million in subsidies to farmers. *Apr. 5*, Senate appointments were announced for Willy Adams (first Inuit senator), H.A. (Bud) Olsen, Royce Frith and Peter Bosa. *Apr. 7*, In the Toronto debut of American League baseball, Toronto Blue Jays defeated Chicago White Sox 9-5. *Apr. 13*, The estimated actual number of unemployed in March was 944,000, the highest figure recorded since Statistics Canada began collecting unemployment statistics in 1953; the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate rose to 8.1% from 7.9% in February when estimated actual unemployment was 932,000. *Apr. 18*, The US government said work on the Garrison diversion project in North Dakota would be abandoned. *Apr. 20*, Air Canada announced a deficit of \$10.4 million in 1976, down from about a \$13 million loss in 1975. A \$41 million program to upgrade Canada's East Coast fishery was announced by federal fisheries services. A ban by customs officials of the May issue of *Penthouse* magazine on grounds of indecency was upheld by the Federal Court. *Apr. 21*, Alberta MP Jack Horner was sworn in as minister without portfolio, severing a 19-year tie with the Progressive Conservative Party to join the Liberal government. *Apr. 27*, The Parti Québécois government introduced its Charter of the French Language as Bill One in the Quebec National Assembly; the bill was aimed at making French supreme in Quebec and limiting the use of English in education, business, the courts and public administration. Winners of the 1976 Governor General's literary awards: in fiction, Marian Engel