

*Aug. 19.* The oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, Mana Saed Oteida, stated that OPEC would be maintaining the current production level of 17.5 million barrels a day unless market prices rose; this statement contrasted with the assertion made on Aug. 11 by the Saudi Arabian oil minister, Sheikh Yamani, that the OPEC production ceiling would most probably be raised during the last quarter of 1983.

*Aug. 25.* The Quebec government announced that it would terminate a one-year freeze on the wages of government managers.

### September 1983

*Sept. 6.* The 9,500 unionized workers of Chrysler Canada voted to accept a new collective agreement which narrowed the wage gap considerably between Chrysler and other major auto workers; the company planned to recall 3,200 laid-off workers and hire new employees to manufacture vans.

*Sept. 9.* After a two-day strike, the United Auto Workers and Massey Ferguson reached a settlement; workers accepted a three-year contract under which wages would be frozen, but a COLA clause would raise hourly rates by \$1.20 by the end of the period.

*Sept. 23.* The Ontario government announced that it would extend wage controls on the provincial public service to mid-1985 because of uncertainty about the economic future; however, collective bargaining rights were reinstated.

*Sept. 26.* The federal and Newfoundland governments signed an agreement to restructure the Nfld. fishing industry.

*Sept. 28.* China announced that it would purchase 82,000 tonnes of malted barley from Canada next summer.

### October 1983

*Oct. 2.* Six major Canadian airlines raised fares by 5% effective immediately.

*Oct. 4.* British Columbia forest workers initiated rotating regional strikes.

*Oct. 5.* The Bank of Montreal purchased Harris Bank of Chicago for \$675 million, raising its total assets to \$75 billion.

*Oct. 14.* Quebec signed an agreement with France to import 450,000 cases of new wines between now and Christmas; the deal was worth about \$20 million.

*Oct. 19.* The governments of Canada and the United States reached agreement on the export of specialty steels in the form of rods and bars to the United States; under the agreement, the value of shipments will remain the same as last year, US\$3.3 million.

*Oct. 20.* In Quebec 2,200 employees of 45 Provigo food stores went on strike.

*Oct. 24.* As a result of pressure on the federal government by Canadian farmers, prices were raised by \$15 a tonne to \$110 for barley and \$140 for oats.

### November 1983

*Nov. 3.* The 7,500 workers of the Steinberg food chain went on strike; on Nov. 14, a settlement was reached between the

two parties calling for a wage freeze for regular employees in the first year of the agreement, a 4% raise in the second year and an extension of the workweek to 38 from 37 hours.

*Nov. 14.* A settlement was reached between the BC government and 35,000 striking civil servants to end a two-week labour dispute; the strike protested the planned layoff of 1,600 employees without consideration of seniority rights; the agreement reinstated seniority rights in determining layoffs and granted wage increases equal to inflation in the next year.

*Nov. 18.* The minimum wage in Ontario, the lowest in Canada would increase from \$3.50 an hour to \$3.85 next March and \$4 in October. The increase was the first since 1981 and would affect about 200,000 workers.

### December 1983

*Dec. 6.* The Quebec government awarded a contract for the manufacture of 9,000 microcomputers to Matra-Comterm; the deal was part of the Quebec government's five-year plan to install 45,000 microcomputers in educational institutions by June 1989.

*Dec. 12.* Signalling some relief from rotating strikes in the BC forestry sector, the 45,000 members of the International Woodworkers of America reached an agreement in principle on a three-year contract settlement calling for no pay increase in the first year, followed by raises of 4% and 4.5% in the second and third years.

*Dec. 13.* The West German firm Messerschmitt-Bolkow Blohm and the federal and Ontario governments signed an agreement for the construction of a helicopter plant adjoining the Fleet Industries factory in Fort Erie, Ont.; the federal and Ontario governments were expected to contribute about \$37.7 million, and Canadian and West German firms \$34.9 million, with the creation of 600 permanent jobs.

*Dec. 22.* Federal Energy Minister Jean Cr tien introduced a number of measures to stimulate the oil industry; more oil would qualify for the world price on Jan. 1, 1984 to stimulate production and development of new wells; a change in the method of setting prices for various categories of oil discovered before 1973 would result in higher prices for medium-grade oil and probably lower prices for other categories; companies would be allowed to write off 100% of operating expenses in tax returns instead of 30%; the government would pay the full cost (about \$225 million) of building a pipeline between Shawinigan and Lac St-Jean, Que.

### January 1984

*Jan. 3.* The 2,800 doctors in Alberta were recently forced to accept a 1984 freeze in their fees, as ordered by the provincial minister of health; the 5% raise in 1983 covered only the increase in costs, but previously raises up to 17% had been approved to minimize extra billing; Alberta doctors received the highest fees in Canada, averaging about \$113,000 a year.

*Jan. 14.* Ed Lumley, federal minister of regional industrial expansion, signed an agreement with the Japanese government for the construction of a \$4 million automobile plant in Canada.