

"Jungle" Jim Hunter, Dave Irwin, Dave Murray and Ken Read.

- The Nfld. Court of Appeal ruled that Nfld. had the legislative authority to take back all water rights along the Northern Churchill, which would allow the province to cut off power supply to Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corp., jointly owned by Que. and Nfld. At stake was a 1969, 65-year contract involving the sale of Labrador hydro to Que. at pre-energy crisis prices.

Mar. 8 The Canada Bill, which allowed Canada to patriate its Constitution, was passed by the British House of Commons. Final approval was given in the House of Lords on Mar. 25, thereby ending Canada's last colonial and legal tie with Britain. PM Trudeau and Queen Elizabeth II signed the Canadian Constitution in Ottawa Apr. 17.

- West-Fed, a political organization promoting western secession, disbanded and joined the Western Canada Concept movement to concentrate western separatist forces.

Mar. 19 Que. signed a 13-year, \$6 billion agreement to export hydro-electric power to New York State.

Mar. 26 The Sask. legislature passed a bill ordering 5,000 non-medical hospital employees back to work, ending a 16-day strike that affected 67 of the province's 78 hospitals.

Mar. 31 The House of Commons passed a bill, 174–26, offering limited mortgage renewal aid to hard-pressed homeowners.

Also in Mar.

- Following widespread protest, the European Parliament voted to ban the importation of Canadian harp and hooded seal-pup skins. The temporary ban was effective to Oct. 1, 1983, at which time it was extended another 2 years. The ban destroyed the commercial-sealing industry, which was virtually shut down in 1985 and 1986. On Dec. 17, 1986, the Royal Commission on Seals and Sealing tabled its report recommending elimination of the hunt. A temporary federal ban was instituted on whitecoat and blueback seals Jan. 1, 1988.

Apr. 5 The federal govt placed an embargo on arms sales to Argentina because of its Apr. 2 occupation of the British-governed Falkland Islands. On Apr. 12, the federal govt placed a ban on Argentinean imports.

Apr. 6 The Progressive Conservatives, under Premier Brian Peckford, were re-elected in Nfld., winning 44 of 52 seats.

Apr. 13 The Alb. govt overhauled its oil and gas royalty structure to increase oil industry revenues an estimated \$54 billion over a period ending in 1986.

- A commemorative stamp honouring the late Terry Fox and his "Marathon of Hope" run for cancer research was unveiled in his hometown of Port Coquitlam, BC.

Apr. 17 PM Trudeau and Queen Elizabeth II signed the Canadian Constitution, which incorporated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and ended the last traces of British authority in the country. Que. Premier René Lévesque, who had rejected the Constitution, boycotted the ceremony, and instead led an estimated 20,000 marchers in Montreal to protest the signing ceremonies.

Apr. 26 The Progressive Conservatives, under Grant Devine (b 1934), defeated the NDP govt under Premier Allan Blakeney in the Sask. general election. The PCs won 57 of 64 seats.

- About 80% of Ont.'s 14,000 doctors staged a 2-day walkout in a dispute over fee schedules. A new fee plan was agreed to on May 7.

May 5 The Canadian Wheat Board signed a deal with China to provide that country with a record \$2.25 billion worth of wheat over 3 years.

May 10 The Departments of Energy and Northern Affairs initiated a \$600 million oil and gas exploration program in the Beaufort Sea.

May 12 The House of Commons responded with laughter when NDP MP Margaret Mitchell (b 1925) raised the issue of violence against women. The parliamentary response disgusted much of the nation and helped galvanize attention toward the problem.