

Canada's top judge dies

Bora Laskin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada died March 27 at the age of 71.

In his ten years as the country's highest judge, Justice Laskin helped change the tone of Canada's court of last resort from one of conservatism to a direction with more liberal, civil rights-oriented decisions.

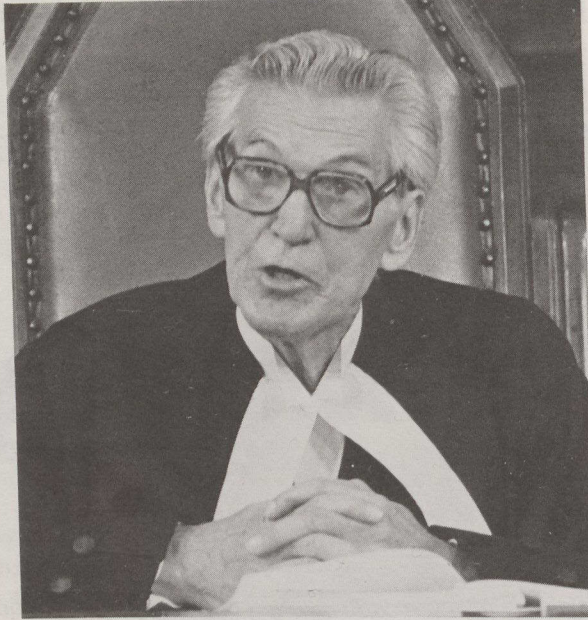
Though he suffered from ill health for a number of years and underwent several operations and stays in hospital, Judge Laskin participated in a number of landmark decisions. He missed participating in the judgment earlier this month that the federal government, not Newfoundland, owned and controlled the oil-rich ocean floor off Newfoundland.

One of his last major cases to draw public attention was a judgment late in December granting Operation Dismantle, the anti-missile coalition of labour and peace groups, the right to appeal legal issues involving the testing of the cruise missile, to the Supreme Court.

Judge Laskin was one of nine judges who call themselves brethren and form what is the country's final court of appeal.

The fourteenth head of the Supreme Court of Canada, he was the son of Russian Jewish immigrants who came to Canada and settled on the Fort William side of Thunder Bay soon after the turn of the century.

He graduated with an M.A. from the University of Toronto in 1935 and the following year, received his law degree from Osgoode Hall in Toronto. He then



Chief Justice Bora Laskin of the Supreme Court of Canada in 1981.

Canapress

became a lecturer at the University of Toronto during which time he began to act as a labour arbitrator.

Bora Laskin was a purely academic lawyer who never had a law practice. He did have a reputation for brilliance and in 1965 accepted an appointment to the Ontario Court of Appeal, where he spent five years. In 1970, at 57, he became the youngest member of the Supreme Court of Canada. In December 1973 he was appointed Chief Justice, the first Jew to hold the post.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau who appointed Judge Laskin chief justice said he was "such a great Canadian, a brilliant legal mind who presided over the Supreme Court during such an important period in the search for the Canadian identity".

Study leads to the establishment of ethnic data bank

An ethnic data bank that will contain information on the listening, viewing, reading and buying habits of ethnic communities in Canada's major cities has been established by Multifax Corp., a Montreal-based market research firm, reports *Canadian Scene*.

The Montreal phase of a six-part national study by Multifax was completed recently. The study, covering Chinese, Portuguese, Greeks, Italians and West Indians, began in Toronto last year and similar surveys are scheduled for Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and

Winnipeg this year.

Multifax said the objective of the survey is to garner information needed by advertisers and agencies.

"But more importantly," the company added, "its aim is to present ethnic groups in a brand new light, as a highly lucrative and viable market with tremendous purchasing and political power."

Multifax noted that ethnic minorities are now the majority in several Canadian cities: 58 per cent of the population in Toronto, Winnipeg and Edmonton; 54 per cent in Vancouver and 50 per cent in

Calgary. In Montreal, ethnic groups outnumber the city's Anglo-Celtics by two to one.

Don Miller, president of Multifax, said the ethnic population already had surpassed the French in Canada by some two million. By 1990, persons of non-Anglo-Celtic or French origin will be the largest group in Canada.

Second Canadian Everest climb

Another Canadian climbing team will tackle Mount Everest, but this time the ascent will begin from China instead of Nepal.

The 12-member team will include two climbers from the first Canadian attempt on the Himalayan mountain — Laurie Skreslet of Montreal who, on October 4, 1982, became the first Canadian to reach the top of Mount Everest and Dwayne Congdon of Canmore, Alberta.

The leader of the expedition, expected to be on the mountain by March 1986, will be Jim Elzinga of Toronto. Mr. Elzinga was a member of the original 1982 Everest team who, with five others, left the expedition following the deaths of three Sherpas and Vancouver cameraman Blair Griffiths.



Laurie Skreslet

The team has received final permission for the climb from the Chinese government and they will be attempting the west ridge route. That route has been climbed twice before, but from the Nepalese side and by expeditions considerably larger than the planned Canadian team.

The 1982 climb, originally intended to be a first ascent of the South Pillar route, was completed on a southeast route which had been successfully climbed many times before.

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