

each case the selectors have been careful to pick politically nonpartisan persons, and there have been some notable successes.

On the recommendation of the New Brunswick Ombudsman, a psychologically exhausted teacher who wished to retire six months early but who would have lost her retirement rights if she did, was retired early with a full pension.

In Alberta a man who had been beaten and robbed of \$50 found that the recovered money, which had been used as evidence in the trial, had afterwards been transferred to a provincial revenue fund. The Ombudsman saw that the victim got it back. The Alberta Ombudsman discovered that some persons who had pleaded not guilty to crimes by reason of insanity had been held in asylums for over twenty years. He arranged reviews, and a number of inmates were found to have recovered their senses. In Quebec the Ombudsman found that a mentally ill youth who had committed no crime had been kept in prison for two years. He arranged his transfer to a psychiatric hospital.



Left, Donald R. Morand, Q.C., a former Judge of the Supreme Court of Ontario, was named Ombudsman for the province in 1979. Not all Ombudsmen are lawyers. The Reverend Randall E. Ivany, right, Ombudsman for Alberta, was a Canon in the Anglican Church in Edmonton.

A Case in Point—The Demeter Trial

To the lay person sitting in the courtroom, a Canadian criminal trial would seem indistinguishable from an American one. Most often the results are approximately the same, but sometimes they are not. The two systems have different rules, and evidence that is admitted in one court might not be admitted in the other. The 1974 trial of Peter Demeter for arranging the murder of his wife Christine, the longest in Canadian criminal court history, is a case in point.

On July 18, 1973, the body of Christine Demeter was found by her husband in the garage of her home in Mississauga, Ontario. She was crumpled on the floor, face down, her skull crushed. The weapon had disappeared.

The husband, Peter, an upper-class Hungarian émigré, was a tall man of imposing appearance, wearing horn-rimmed glasses, always neat, conservatively but well-dressed. His father and his brother had been killed by the Russians in the fall of Budapest, and after escaping to Austria in 1956 he emigrated to Canada at the age of twenty-three.

He held a number of small jobs, learned English and in time accumulated \$20,000 with which he started a construction company. The company prospered, and in 1967 he married Christine Ferrari, twenty-six, a sometime fashion model he'd met on a trip to Vienna.

Fourteen months later the Demeters were joined in America by another Vienna acquaintance, young Csaba Szilagyi. Before the day of Christine's death a great many bizarre things would occur involving the three of them.



Peter Demeter outside the London, Ontario, courthouse.