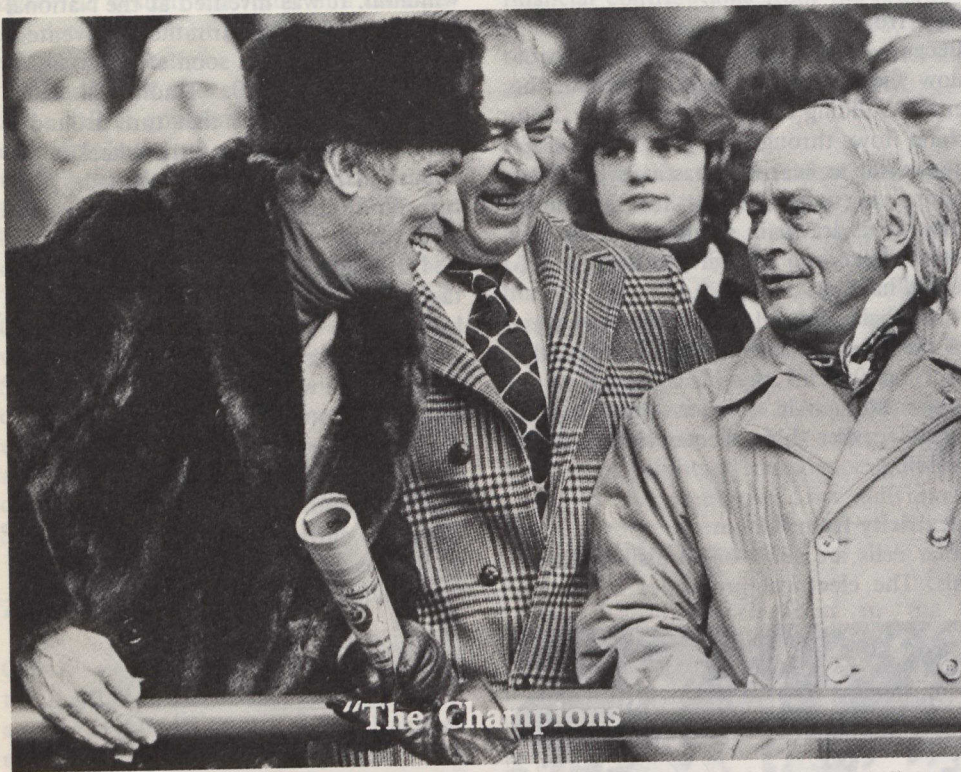


Messrs Trudeau and Lévesque featured in CBC documentary

The script of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's documentary film *The Champions* was paraphrased in the following article which appeared in a recent issue of *Canada Today/d'Aujourd'hui*, a publication issued by the Canadian Embassy in Washington.

"The CBC documentary film *The Champions*," says the introduction, "focuses on René Lévesque, who would take Quebec out of the Confederation, and Pierre Trudeau, who intends to keep it in. They appear first as rivals in the same camp, then as champions of opposing ones." The film is highly recommended.



Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Lévesque at the 1977 Grey Cup football game.

Some citizens in Quebec believe the province should be a separate nation-state. They are led by Premier René Lévesque. Other citizens, in Quebec and throughout the nation, believe Quebec can achieve more within the federation. The most forceful proponent of this view is Pierre Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister.

Lévesque, the son of a successful lawyer, grew up in New Carlisle, a remote town on the Gaspé coast. He learned to read in both French and English before he was five. Pierre Elliott Trudeau's father was a self-made Montreal millionaire, and he too was bilingual from childhood.

Lévesque went to the Jesuit college in Quebec City, Trudeau to the Jesuit Collège Bréboeuf in Outremont, the schools of the French-Canadian elite.

In 1933, Pierre Trudeau, 14 years old, toured Europe and saw marching Nazis in

Berlin. He returned to Montreal, finished Bréboeuf, entered the University of Montreal law school and became a notable man around town. "He was always dressed contrary to what people are — if it was time to wear jeans, Pierre was wearing almost black tie. If it was supposed to be black tie, Pierre was wearing jeans."

Lévesque enrolled in the law school at Laval. The law enchanted Trudeau; it bored Lévesque. "He was the champion of absence to lectures."

The universities were small — Laval had only 800 students — and the students were Quebec's future leaders. Trudeau, Lévesque and their classmates, Gérard Pelletier and Jean Marchand, were youths to be reckoned with, but not just yet.

Trudeau went on to Harvard, to the London School of Economics and the Sorbonne, to Asia and to Jerusalem,

wearing sandals and carrying a pack. In 1949, back in Quebec, he joined the strikers on a picket line in the town of Asbestos. The strikers "called him St. Joseph, because of his beard".

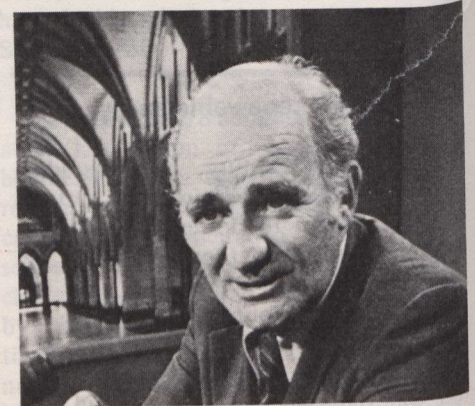
René Lévesque covered the Second World War as a correspondent for the U.S. Office of War Information, then married and became an international news specialist for the CBC. Quebec was having its Quiet Revolution. Marchand, a union leader, and Trudeau and Pelletier — publishers of *Cité Libre*, an intellectual newspaper — were among the conspicuous critics of the old and autocratic regime of Premier Maurice Duplessis.

Lévesque became the TV star of *Point de Mire*, lecturing on international events with a pointer, a blackboard and a husky, rasping voice. Trudeau was also on CBC, less conspicuously. They met in the CBC cafeteria. Trudeau: "You talk very well, I watch you on the television but can you write?" Lévesque: "If you're a God-damned intellectual, I don't want to talk to you." The tone of their relationship had been set.

The French-language producers in the Montreal studios of CBC went on strike, and Lévesque looked closer to home. When Duplessis died, Lévesque became a Liberal candidate for the Quebec Assembly. His party, under Jean Lesage, won easily. He was soon a minister, planning government ownership of the province's power companies.

Pierre Trudeau missed the triumph; he was in China. He came home to new opportunities and became a law professor at the University of Montreal.

Lévesque, Trudeau, Pelletier, Marchand and André Laurendeau, the editor of *Le Devoir*, met weekly at Pelletier's house. "Trudeau was opposed to the nationaliza-



Gérald Pelletier (above) was among the young Quebec leaders of the Fifties.