

## Quebec and Alberta premiers resign from politics

Two of Canada's provincial premiers, René Lévesque of Quebec and Peter Lougheed of Alberta, have announced their resignations after lengthy political careers and long-term service as leaders. René Lévesque resigned as leader of the Parti Québécois on June 20, exactly 25 years after starting his political career in the province of Quebec and Peter Lougheed announced his resignation on June 26 after leading the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party for two decades.

### Lévesque

Mr. Lévesque submitted his resignation in a letter to Parti Québécois Vice President Nadia Assimopoulos, some 12 hours after



René Lévesque

he had thanked the Quebec National Assembly for its congratulations on his twenty-fifth anniversary in politics. He was first elected to the Assembly as a candidate for the Liberal Party in 1960.

After the defeat of the Liberals in 1966,

Mr. Lévesque began to develop the idea that he later called "sovereignty-association". It was rejected by the Liberals in 1967 and Mr. Lévesque left the party to form the Mouvement Souveraineté-Association which became the basis of the Parti Québécois. As leader of the Parti Québécois, Mr. Lévesque became premier of Quebec when they won the majority of seats in the November 15, 1976 election.

During Mr. Lévesque's years as premier, the Parti Québécois introduced some of the province's most progressive legislation. Included were state-run no-fault car insurance for personal injuries, school reforms, far-reaching new labour laws, broad-based social changes, and limits on election spending, making Quebec political parties seek funds from voters, rather than companies, corporations or unions.

Mr. Lévesque's government will also be remembered for Bill 101, the Charter of the French language; the referendum in May 1980, when some 60 per cent of Quebecers rejected sovereignty-association; and the refusal to patriate the Constitution.

The successor to Mr. Lévesque will be elected in a system unique in modern politics, involving all party members, estimated at 110 000, in a province-wide vote. They will vote on September 29 and if there is no clear majority of 51 per cent for any one candidate at that time, all members will again vote on October 6, for one of the three who received the most votes. The party has also established a spending limit of \$400 000 for each candidate.

### Lougheed

After 14 years as premier of Alberta, Peter Lougheed resigned from what he called "the best political job in Canada". He said that "from the party's point of view this is the right time". It will give the new leader sufficient time to prepare for an election in 1986, he added.

Mr. Lougheed, whose party holds 75 of 79 legislative seats, will remain a member of the Legislature until the end of the year. His immediate plans are to return to the private sector.

A Calgary native, Mr. Lougheed studied law at the University of Alberta and Harvard and worked as a corporate lawyer before entering politics.

He became Conservative leader in 1965 and inherited a party that had no seats in the Legislature. He and five other Conservatives won seats two years later and, on August 30, 1971, the Conservatives ended 36 years of Social Credit rule and took power. He has since led the Conservative Party to four successive election victories, increasing his majority each time.

In his 14 years in office, Mr. Lougheed moved boldly, pressing for higher prices for oil and gas and raising provincial royalty rates. He established the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, which currently has \$14 billion.

When Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and the federal Liberals introduced the national energy program in 1980, Mr. Lougheed announced that Alberta would retaliate by cutting oil production. Less than a year later, however, he signed an historic energy accord with the federal government.

Over the past year, the Conservatives have introduced sweeping legislation for the province including: a white paper on industrial and science strategy; a revamped education policy; reduced royalty rates; and a new tourism policy.

The Alberta Conservative Party will select its new leader at a convention on October 13, 1985.



Peter Lougheed

## Trade minister in Stockholm and Moscow

Following his trip to the International Air Show in Paris, International Trade Minister James Kelleher attended a meeting of trade ministers in Stockholm, Sweden, June 8 to 10 at which some 20 countries, the Commission of European Communities, the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the International Monetary Fund were represented.

The Stockholm meeting was the third in a series designed to bring together trade ministers from a representative group of developed and developing countries. Previous meetings were held last year in Washington and Rio de Janeiro.

In Stockholm, discussions centred on the future orientation of the international trading system. A principal focus was the need to follow up the call from the OECD Ministerial Council and the Bonn Summit in favour of a meeting of senior officials in the GATT this summer to initiate the preparatory process for a new round of trade negotiations.

In Moscow, June 11 to 13, Mr. Kelleher led a Canadian delegation at the meeting of the Canada-USSR Mixed Economic Commission (MEC). Representatives from Ontario, Quebec and Alberta were part of the delegation.

The Agreement on Economic Co-operation between Canada and the USSR, July 14, 1976, provides for a Canadian-Soviet Mixed Commission on Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical Co-operation. The Commission meets in principle once a year alternately in Ottawa and Moscow.

The main tasks of MEC are to elaborate a long-term program of economic, industrial, scientific and technical co-operation as well as to develop bilateral trade relations.

"From the Canadian perspective, the MEC gives us access to very senior levels in the Soviet foreign trade establishment and enables us to bring Canadian export interests to the fore," said Mr. Kelleher.

Mr. Kelleher met with Vitaly Vorotnikov the Soviet premier and chairman of the Council of Ministers, who made an official visit to Canada in May. He also met Nikolai Baibakov, head of the Kremlin's state planning committee, to discuss the development of trade and economic ties between the two countries.

The meetings followed a protocol signed by Mr. Kelleher and Vladimir Sushkov, the USSR deputy foreign trade minister, extending economic, scientific, industrial and technical co-operation agreements.