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HEARINGS INTO BLOOD SYSTEM

The Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada began public hearings on February 14 in Toronto. Mr. Justice **Horace Krever** leads the investigation into how more than 1,000 hemophiliacs and transfusion patients contracted the AIDS virus in the early 1980s.

McCARTHY LOSES B.C. BY-ELECTION

British Columbia Social Credit Leader **Grace McCarthy** was narrowly defeated by Liberal **Mike de Jong** in a February 17 provincial by-election in the riding of Matsqui. Meanwhile, B.C. Liberal Leader **Gordon Campbell** won a resounding by-election victory in Vancouver-Quilchena.

PQ, LIBERALS SWAP BY-ELECTION VICTORIES

Parti québécois candidate **Marcel Landry** won a February 21 Quebec by-election in Bonaventura, a riding the governing Liberals had held for 37 years. One week later, Liberal candidate **Bernard Brodeur** won an upset victory in the riding of Shefford, considered a PQ stronghold.

BOURGON TO HEAD PRIVY COUNCIL


Prime Minister **Jean Chrétien** announced on February 24 that **Jocelyne Bourgon**, a career civil servant, would replace **Glen Shortliffe** as Clerk of the Privy Council. Bourgon becomes the first woman appointed to the top bureaucratic job in Canada.

ROGERS SWALLOWS MACLEAN HUNTER

After a month of wrangling, **Rogers Communication Inc.** amended its \$3 billion takeover bid for **Maclean Hunter Ltd.** and won the support of Maclean Hunter's board of directors on March 8. Rogers, already Canada's largest cable operator, sweetened its three-week-old offer by 50 cents a share, to \$17.50.

PEACEKEEPERS TO STAY ON

Foreign Affairs Minister **André Ouellet** told the House of Commons on March 10 that Canadian peacekeepers will stay in the former Yugoslavia for six more months. Canada turned down a United Nations request for additional troops.

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PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

Bill C-10: West Coast Ports Operations Act

This Act required striking West Coast longshoremen to go back to work on February 9 following a 12-day strike. The contract dispute between the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and the B.C. Maritime Employers Association was referred to an arbitrator.

House of Commons: 1st reading: February 8/94
2nd reading: February 8/94
3rd reading: February 8/94

Senate: 1st reading: February 8/94
2nd reading: February 8/94
3rd reading: February 8/94

Royal assent: February 8/94

SUPREME COURT WATCH

A digest of recent significant decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada

Grand Council of the Crees v. A.-G. Canada **February 24, 1994**

The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously overturned a 1992 Federal Court of Appeal ruling allowing Hydro Quebec to proceed with its export projects without an environmental review. The Supreme Court upheld the review conditions that the National Energy Board placed on the utility when granting it licences to export power to the United States in 1990.

R.J.R. Macdonald Inc. v. A.-G. Canada **March 3, 1994**

The Supreme Court of Canada dismissed an application by tobacco companies, who have been granted leave to appeal a decision by the Quebec Court of Appeal upholding a ban on tobacco advertising, for a release from compliance with mandatory packaging requirements.