

There is no use in covering our eyes. The movement faces considerable tension, at least at the structural level. If it continued, there would be repercussions among our members sooner or later. We must try to avoid divisions which have a harmful influence on our direct union action.

I believe that through union action we will succeed in steadily increasing the power of the workers. In some milieu, outside the movement, it is said that two of the problems which confront us at present were created strictly for political reasons. At least that is what certain federal politicians are saying about the Lapalme affair. That's what certain provincial politicians are saying about the document "Ne Comptons que sur nos propres moyens."

The truth is that in both cases, union action was started for real motives, union motives. No one in our movement can contest the intrinsic value of our battle in the Lapalme affair. There may be divergencies at other levels, there may be differences of opinion, but not on the basis of the fight itself.

I would like to recall one thing: The

origin of the conflict was the decision of a minister to get rid of a union, particularly a union affiliated with us. It is obvious that a conflict involving unionists and politicians has political implications. No one ignores that.

As for the other problem, the study of the document. It wasn't dreamed up in order to start another political debate. It is based on real problems. These problems originally were raised by the federations of metal workers, mines and chemical products workers, faced with plant closings, layoffs, the economic slowdown and uncertainty about the future.

Thus, this document and its study stem directly from our concerns as unionists.

That's the reality, no matter what attempts are made by some to wrap it in political theatrics, even electoral politics. How has our movement acted in the two cases? The confederal council took a stand, it took decisions as a council. What should we do as leaders? Certainly, we have to follow and apply the decision. We can do no other. This is the reality which must be kept in mind.

Last summer, July 22, despite recommendations made by the executive and by the confederal bureau, the council itself said we must continue the Lapalme Boys fight, as long as the union, the members of the union, had not decided otherwise.

Other union meetings showed that many many of our militants were ready to fight to get this injustice corrected. So I tried by every imaginable means to get the action going again with a splash. Rumors began to sprout along the way. Inquiries were made about alleged irregularities. I use the word alleged because, for the moment, there has been no evidence, no

counter-evidence.

One of the direct results of this leakage of information, deliberate or not, was a series of public statements by politicians demanding a governmental, general public inquiry into the way funds are administered by parent labour unions. If the government decided to go ahead, I believe it would be serious and would have grave consequences.

Not because we have something to hide in our administration but for other reasons, and much more serious. Such an inquiry inevitably would lead to steps, perhaps the first steps, to take away the autonomy of union movements.

We could expect such an inquiry to lead to a series of measures to try to best the union movement, to take away its strength. Such a series of measures would affect us in the CNTU, would hit the CEQ but obviously would not touch unions whose headquarters are not here. Please, don't place us in a situation in which we ourselves would provoke the blows some want to deliver against us.

We must do everything to maintain the sovereignty of the confederal council. Decisions must be applied in the way they are taken. The council may question its own decisions but we must accept its authority. If not we are heading for power being held by a few. This would have harmful consequences on our movement and we would all be very weakened. I am sure that our members do not take lightly the internal difficulties or the corridor contestations of decisions taken by the movement. Therefore, I think that today it would be appropriate to reaffirm the authority of the council, while realizing that it is free to change its own decisions.

Marcel P. Join National President of the CNTU

## INTERNAL TENSIONS HAVEN'T STOPPED THE LAPALME GUYS' BATTLE

This edition contains the essential points of the debate on the Lapalme conflict, held at the last session of the CNTU's confederal council Feb. 23, 24 and 25. It was printed at the request of the confederal council itself, so that all members would be able to make their own judgment on the dispute.



### THE 23rd MORNING SESSION

#### 2-RAYMOND PARENT, CNTU secretary-general.

Everyone knows that I was chief negotiator for the Montreal postal transportation union (the Lapalme guys) in its last dispute—the one in 1969 which saw the employees transferred from Rod Service to G. Lapalme and which ended in a victory, as well as the dispute of 1970.

I was proud to fight for and with the Lapalme guys, perhaps because the adversary was a giant, but mostly because the principles involved were fundamental and touched the most essential things of unionism—the right of association, freely chosen and exercised.

The fight was always centred on one fundamental objective, the respect for the collective and individual rights of the Lapalme guys. This is what we have always wanted and led to, in terms of unionism. It was with this aim that during the October crisis we avoided the FLQ which wanted to get mixed into the matter and we diverted all other objectives which people wanted to add to the struggle.

With the national president I participated in the drafting of the CNTU's proposal of June, 1971. I communicated it to the meeting of the Lapalme guys and I defended it before the confederal council in July, 1971.

Following the meeting of the confederal council of July 22, I informed the executive (and the Lapalme guys had been told) that I was withdrawing as spokesman for the Lapalme guys. I felt then that I could not be of service to them after the positions I had taken before the bureau and the council.

It will be recalled that the confederal council rejected the recommendation of the executive and of the confederal bureau. The objectives, once more, were absolute.

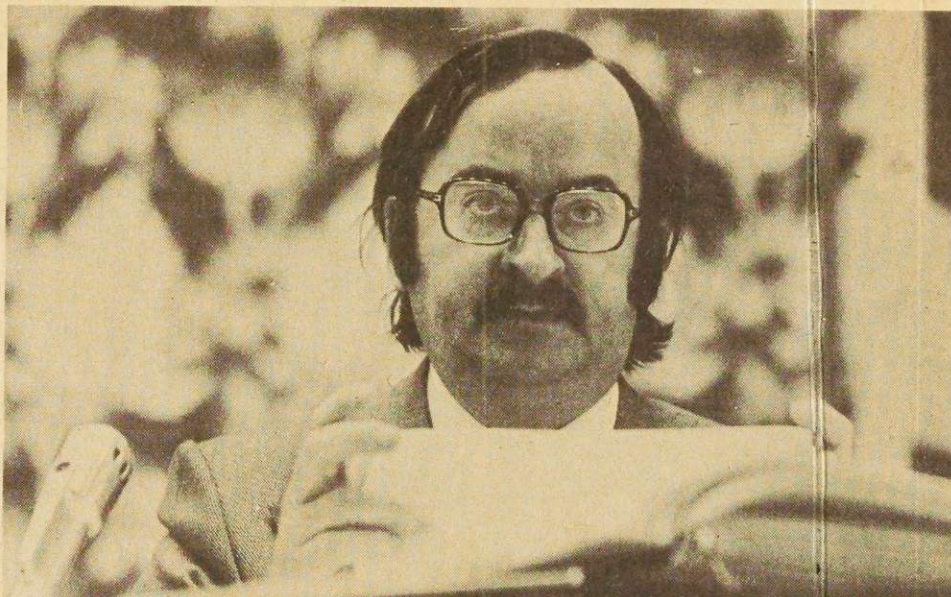
I should say this concerning the administration of the conflict, to explain the role I played in it and the injustice contained in the accusations against me, notably those dealing with the authorization of expenses and the purchasing system. The secretary-general is the officer mandated to authorize spending from the strike fund. He acts in accordance with an administrative usage.

When the Lapalme conflict started, the executive committee agreed that for purposes of the strike fund they would be treated as employees dismissed for union activities. Since the Lapalme guys were on rotating walkouts and because the union met their wages from its own funds, it was agreed that help would be calculated on man-days and repaid to the union. The periodic reports of the strike fund testify to that method.

When, on April 15, the Lapalme boys became "voluntary unemployed" this method was maintained.

In addition to the over-all help given, the federation of public services and the CNTU agreed to loans to maintain a higher level of payments. Finally, the Lapalme guys qualified for unemployment insurance and consolidated their payments with the dismissal aid.

Even though all this seems clear to me, I would like to emphasize that the fact that payments were made in a lump sum to the union was known and had been discussed several times. During the meeting of the confederal council of 1971, a working committee was set up to study the question. It was formed of Jean-Noël Godin, Jacques Olivier (now an advisor to Prime Minister Trudeau) and of the secretary-general. The council received the committee's report and adopted the following resolution:



Moved by Raymond Parent, seconded by André Barbeau:

"That the CNTU make any payment from the strike fund to eligible workers by way of individual payments, made through the mails or under the direction of a responsible member of the CNTU."

The union replied to this decision by giving us a list of persons asking that their payments be made to the union.

The secretary-general and the treasurer agreed to this request.

The question of the method of making payments was raised again and on July 23 the executive committee decided as follows:

BE IT REVOLVED:

1. to ask brother Raymond Couture, director of the strike service, to meet representatives of the former Lapalme employees in order to establish with them the controls sought by the confederal council in the payment of dismissal aid;
2. to ask brother Pierre Vadboncoeur to act as the negotiator in chief designated by the CNTU;
3. to charge brother André L'Heureux, director of political action, with drafting a program of action, to be submitted to the CNTU executive committee, designed to carry out the decisions of the confederal council.

This is the way things stood until the meeting of the confederal council in October, 1971, which adopted new regulations for the strike fund. The application of these new regulations was finally approved by the confederal bureau on Nov. 10, 1971. I would now like to give you some explanation of the financing of buses for the Lapalme guys.

When the private automobiles were replaced by buses, the system was maintained and I only had to intervene, alone, after Nov. 11, 1971, when the treasurer told the controller to ask me to authorize the payment of transportation for that week, which I refused to do because I had no control. The question was submitted to the executive and it was then that it was decided that in future the CNTU would hire the buses itself and put them at the disposition of the Lapalme guys. I immediately informed the representatives of the union and Raymond Couture, director of strike services was made responsible for the organization of the new system, which went through two phases. First, we used the same bus owner, a little later, another bus service.

If I have insisted on stating all these facts, it was because I considered it essential to re-establish the truth about my participation in the Lapalme conflict and to proclaim what I consider the most precious thing in my life—my reputation as an honest man, no doubt the only heritage I will be able to pass on to my children.

I was obliged to do this because of all the rumors and gossip concerning me in this matter, particularly by the publication Jan. 29 in Montréal-Matin of the story on the Lapalme affair, which was picked up and discussed almost everywhere.

I find it perfectly disgusting that a "member of the CNTU" connected with some one in the confederal bureau should write, and Montréal-Matin publish, a letter which to all practical purposes associates me with an alleged fraud of \$200,000, an association which is picked up by other media. But there is much more. When the executive had authorized a defence because of these accusations, two officers of the CNTU, the general treasurer and the director-general of services, in an interview published by Le Soleil, fed rather than reduced, the accusations suggested against me.

When we learned, when I learned, late, that there were presumed irregularities in the bus affair, I did not hesitate to subscribe to a correction.

When other presumptions were made, I did not hesitate to subscribe to a correction.

Without subscribing to all the procedures started, I consider that all doubts about the quality and integrity of the CNTU, its officers, its representatives or its members in this affair should be eliminated or confirmed.

We judge severely all the lies we hear in society; we cannot be complacent among ourselves. However, we do have an obligation to be fair.

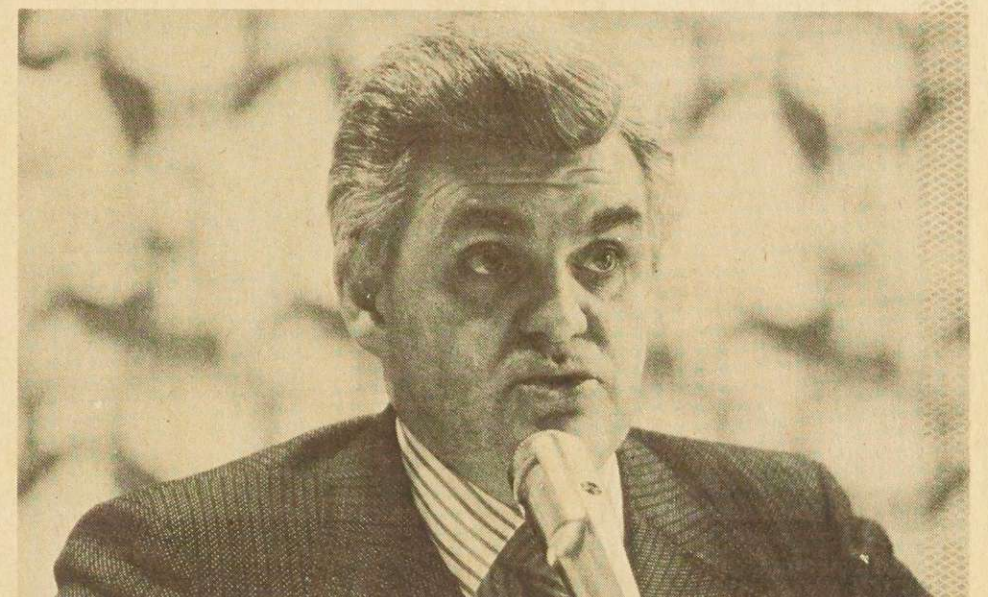
### THE 23rd NIGHT SESSION

#### 3-JACQUES DION, general treasurer of the CNTU

I find it extremely regrettable for the members of the Lapalme union, and no less regrettable for the CNTU, to have to publicly re-evaluate the whole Lapalme affair and the adjustments which were necessary and which are still necessary.

Never in the 13 years I have been treasurer of the CNTU have I needed anyone, not even another officer of the CNTU, to adjust situations, most of them very difficult, which fell under my responsibility.

Authorizations, reimbursements, resignations and dismissals have taken place in the past but reputations weren't dragged into the street, nor into the public view.



The difference with the present situation is something else, the dispute having taken another direction.

The dispute having become very political, it is more and more difficult to reach decisions, if we do not want to be accused of being for one and against another. Within our movement, there is pressure coming from all sides. We have to take so many precautions before

making a move, with all the time that takes, our structures being so heavy, and each one of us overwhelmed with work, that we feel we aren't moving. It goes quickly.

If each one of us had known last July that we would be placed in such a situation in February, 1972, the decision of the confederal council would have been quite different.

You have to be a bit thick not to admit that after all that has been done in the past two years there is still hope. This has been the opinion of each one of the members of the CNTU executive committee for a long time. The decisions I took as treasurer of the CNTU were never taken in order to hurt anyone. Everything has been tried up until today. Those who know me a little, know I have never been anyone's servant. That's not in my temperament. Some have realized this already. As for those inside our movement who seek other goals with the Lapalme affair, I can not stop them from launching all sorts of tales and rumors about me. However, you've seen that this hasn't stopped me, even though it bothers me and it's kind of tiresome.

Are there any stupid enough to believe that I wanted to make po-

litical capital from this sad affair? That would be dishonest on my part. I simply took my responsibilities. If because I want to administer the CNTU properly people call me a rightist, then they haven't finished calling me that. Many of our members, particularly in clothing, textiles, shoes, etc., deprive themselves of necessities to pay their union dues. As treasurer of the CNTU, I have taken the responsibility of administering a



large part of it and no matter what happens, I shall do my duty, in default of which I should quit.

The lack of control by the CNTU, goes back to the beginning of this conflict, that is April 1st, 1970, when the federal government took over the collection of mail in Montreal. For a period of 11 weeks, until June 16, 1970, no list of names was supplied. We were only told the number of members to pay.

Starting from that date, we were given a list of members of the Lapalme union, without any signature, and this for a period of sixty weeks, up to July 27, 1971.

During this period, I twice sent brother Guy Thibaudeau, responsible for the verification of the strike fund, in order to try to register the Lapalme guys. The first time was around the first of March, 1971, and the second about the middle of May of the same year, both unsuccessful.

As I have already stated, at the request of the CNTU executive committee, brother Raymond Couture went to the union to try to get the registration. That was in July, 1971. Once this was done, he met alone with the national president, the other members of the executive being on vacation. He recommended that members of the Lapalme employees union who received payments from the strike fund, confirm by signing their

names that they were receiving payments. The national president accepted this recommendation and, as I said earlier, it was the start of a control which, on examining the lists which we received each week, permitted us to see that there were many similarities in the signatures or in the way of forming letters, both capital and small letters.

I should remind you that I am not an expert on handwriting and that it was fairly easy to spot these anomalies. Therefore, I retained the services of a handwriting expert who analyzed each of the signatures of the members of the union. Many of you already know the contents of his report. There were many anomalies.

This situation lasted until Dec. 7, 1971, after which, as the CNTU's confederal bureau decided by majority vote, we proceeded with the registration.

The result was as follows, if we compare with the last week when we used an over-all cheque: 62 persons did not appear for registration. It should be noted that for each one of these persons, the CNTU was making payments at a rate of \$65 for married people and \$50 for bachelors and that we found on the last list a signature for each person. According to the graphologist, many of them were false.

In addition, thirteen new persons not appearing on the lists with signature, were added. Some of them worked full time. Among those persons who appeared on the list with signatures which was given to the CNTU for payment in the last period up to Dec. 7, 1971, 22 had been hired by the post office one to 12 months earlier and had not received any help from the union since being taken on by the post office. The CNTU paid for these people and some one signed for it.

Permit me to read three statements which are in the hands of our legal advisers. Brother Marcel Dumas, director of our legal service in the CNTU, has checked their authenticity.

The first, and I quote: "My social insurance number is... On March 1st, 1970, I went on strike with the other Lapalme guys. One, two or three weeks later, I started drawing unemployment insurance, that is \$52 a week. I always endorsed my unemployment insurance cheques over to Mr. D. Then, Mr. Diterlizzi paid me \$65 or \$70 per week, even up to \$100 per week and made me sign or initial a report until the time when I was hired at... as a part time worker in February, or March, 1971, where I worked until... June, 1971, the date I went into the post office department. Thus, from February on March, 1971, I did not receive any funds from the Lapalme strike

fund. I examined the signature which appears on the picketing report of the week of November 2 to 9 and I can swear that I did not sign it. Signature...

The second, and I quote: "I began drawing unemployment insurance on May 2, 1970, a sum of \$90 every fortnight, and this up to June 20, 1971. I always turned over my unemployment insurance cheques to the union in order to withdraw from the strike fund sums that varied between \$65 and \$75 a week. I paid my unemployment insurance cheques over to... or to somebody called... On the amount I was supposed to receive, it happened that they took \$10 off, while making me sign a receipt for the \$65. They paid me out of the strike fund until Dec. 21, 1970, and I stopped paying them my unemployment insurance cheques Dec. 5, 1970. I can therefore affirm that I have not received any money from the union since Dec. 21, 1970."

Signature...

The third, and I quote: "I worked for Rod Service and later for Lapalme starting in 1968. I went on strike in March, 1970. When I started to withdraw my unemployment insurance, I always paid our cheques over to the union in order to get money from the strike fund. I got money from it until October or November, 1970. I no longer had any confidence in the

union and didn't want to have anything to do with them. I never signed any picketing report because they didn't exist at the time." Signature...

For the three cases I have quoted, and I have others, the CNTU paid or remitted to the union, regular allocations, at the request of the union, when their names appeared on the lists until Dec. 7, 1971, date on which the over-all cheque was stopped following the decision of the confederal council to register the members.

During this time, I also had serious doubts about the trips being made to Ottawa. I decided to send an experienced permanent staffer who spent seven days in Ottawa and since on two days he was late, I considered only five days. And of these five days, this man attests that the Lapalme guys did not go to Ottawa Nov. 3, 1971, Nov. 4, Nov. 5 and Nov. 10. If there was a public inquiry, I do not believe I'd be mistaken in suggesting that there may have been others.

Can the CNTU tolerate such a situation? Has the CNTU done enough? Is there any hope left? As far as I'm concerned, everything has been done. It now is up to the confederal council to study the situation and take the necessary decisions.

I ask the members of the council

**4- FRANK DITERLIZZI,**  
president of the Lapalme guys union



Mr. President, on what brother Jacques Dion has just brought out here in front of the confederal council, the petty thieves, the Lapalme guys, they want a decision, that is, what will be done. An inquiry or just to go and see the statements by our dear friends the scabs who work in the post office?

We say, and we'll repeat it to the end of our days, that all this is false. All this machination against us, the evidence, the truth will one day come out. We've had the experience of these guys, who betrayed us in the 1966 strike against Rod Service, in 1967 when Rod Service used the Lapalme guys' union. It's always the same scabs, between 55 and 75.

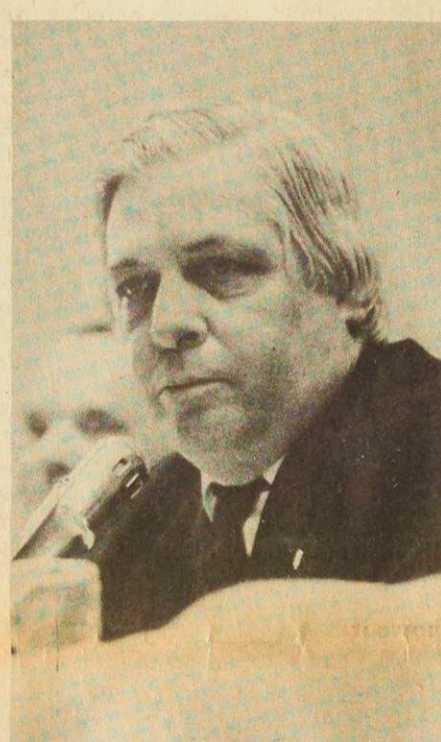
Don't forget one thing; that we asked for a public inquiry. The parent body told us: "It's a union inquiry." We tell you yes. What we ask you is to go the whole route.

Before I leave this microphone, with all the dignity of the Lapalme guys and all the dignity of those here, even a few old heads up front, permit me to ask two questions to two members of the executive.

Do you remember, brother Dalpé, you told the brothers in a hall, and you especially Mr. Dion, you said: "Listen boys, we won't lose this battle. To support the Lapalme guys it takes money and we aren't going to bend before any bigshot politician in power." Do you remember that Mr. Dalpé, brother Dion?

Mr. Dalpé, do you remember the following week, Aug. 13, in your office with four witnesses from the Lapalme guys union, we came to see you. You were told that the guys couldn't last with \$30 and \$40 a week.

**5- PAUL-E. DALPÉ,**  
CNTU vice-president



To the first question, it was in reference to a meeting of representatives of federations and central councils held at the Sambo in Montreal following the July 22 meeting at which the confederal council had decided to relaunch the Lapalme affair. Of a common accord, all those attending expressed the hope that aid would be increased. Personally, I presided over part of that meeting and I assured you that we would do all that was necessary to increase the aid, without specifying by how much. Does that answer your first question?

It answers? Fine.

The second question, which dealt with a visit to my office you made with colleagues on the executive of your union, for the purpose of finding out what we intended to do to increase help. I think you recall that at that time, on my own authority, I told you that for that week we would add \$5,000 to the money you had already received, while waiting for the coming meeting of the confederal bureau at which we would make a recommendation to increase the payments which had been set by the confederal bureau in June at \$30 to \$40.

**6- FRANK DITERLIZZI**

Do you recall Mr. Dalpé, you said: "What's your problem? What do the Lapalme guys need to hold out?" I told you, Mr. Dalpé, between fifteen and 900 dollars per week. Did I not tell you that?

**7- PAUL-E. DALPÉ**

I am going to answer you brother that at that time, if you told me that, I don't remember it.

**8- FRANK DITERLIZZI**

I ask you to remember that at that time there was a resignation with the executive of the CNTU. In your office, you said 'what's your problem?' I said fifteen to nine hundred dollars per week.

**9- JEAN-NOËL GODIN,**  
president of the clothing federation

I propose that the CNTU immediately end all payments in the Lapalme affair. If I have a seconder, I will explain the reasons for my motion. (Seconded by Michel Toussaint).

Mr. President, I made a general motion so as to permit discussion of all the points delegates wish to bring up. My proposition permits debate on the whole Lapalme question and includes the question of an inquiry.

I have never been against a strike, even less against the Lapalme strike. But from the start I have been against the way in which this strike has been financed. I calculate that the Lapalme strike has cost astronomical amounts compared with efforts which have been made in other sectors. We in the clothing sector have had strikes which we've been forced to end. Not because we wanted to end it, but because at a given moment the CNTU comes along and tells us: "That's enough, the effort was big enough, nothing more can be done, you must end the strike."

In the Lapalme case, every thinkable economic thing has been put at the disposition of the guys. In all the other sectors, particularly in the one I know best, clothing, the CNTU has never gone beyond known limits. If other unions had been coddled the way the Lapalme guys have been, I am certain that the La Grenade strike would still be on, that the Fashion Craft strike would still be on, that the Traders strike would still be on.

I agree that the Lapalme guys should fight for themselves, but they should fight with the same means as the rest of us in the CNTU. I cannot admit that we tolerate, that we continue to tolerate, what has happened. I don't think we need an inquiry to see that the lists have been falsified. We have experts to tell us that and that we're being held up, pure and simple.

Don't forget one thing. In the clothing industry there are girls who earn \$3,000 to \$3,500 a year. So don't wonder why some people don't want to go along in a thing like this.

Mr. President, there is sufficient evidence in this affair to show us that it is time to end it. I believe that in ending it, we clarify our position before public opinion. There is not a shadow of a doubt in my mind that sums of money were taken and diverted to other things. My problem is that the administration of this matter was not done as it should have been. There were abuses. I do not blame the guys. Right at the start they were practically given a blank cheque.

It's easy to fight a war from a Cadillac. I don't want to say that the guys received millions, but compared with others in the movement, I call it fighting a war in a Cadillac. There must be equity for everyone in the movement. Everyone must receive the same thing. So if the Lapalme guys are willing to continue the strike on normal standards, that's their concern, but let's not have them say that compared to others in the movement they've made immeasurable sacrifices, I don't believe that. In the clothing industry, we've had guys strike 14 months on their own and you can believe me that they didn't get the support they've had. I realize times have changed, but still the CNTU has never made such an effort for a particular group.

I have a suggestion to make, once the battle has ended.

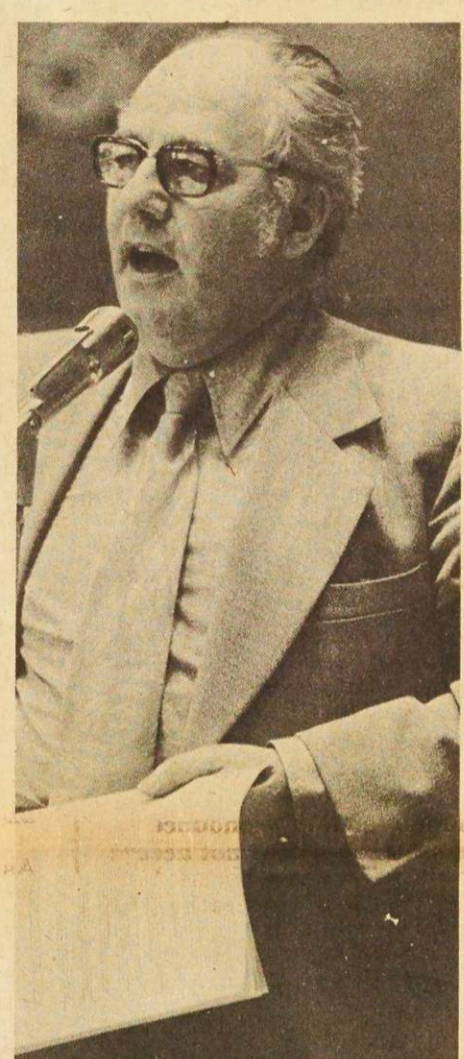
If we want, speaking symbolically, the government to remember for a long time that the Lapalme guys were somebody, we can set up pickets, year-round, and pay them. They'll do nothing but that, but we'll be sure they're there--we'll check them. We'll pay them. There are ways of keeping the Lapalme affair going. But to continue by saying there is perhaps a hope because in six months there'll be an election, perhaps there's a chance, I say that's a pipedream because psychologically that battle is lost. The leaders themselves have told us since October that it's pretty well a dead issue.

No, we simply have the government against us in this. There are the other parent unions against us because how many unions will they lose in Ottawa the day we win that victory?

In addition, there is a political party, a political formation, which is certainly against us because it is financed by the other parent unions. So do you think we're being realistic in believing that we are sufficiently strong at the moment to settle it? As for me, if nothing can be done, the strike is over and it is rare in my life that I have capitulated, but there comes a time, even though it hurts, that we must cut off a part in order to prevent gangrene from infecting the whole body.

It was remarked this morning that about 70% of the members of the CNTU will soon have to face serious problems, perhaps strikes. That, too, will require money from the funds. In any case in clothing in the fall, we may have to face in the shoe industry a battle to the death and I ask you to believe me that you need to be ready with your funds as you have been because it will go badly if you aren't there.

Mr. President, when I hear Frank and when I see him fighting the way he fights, it does something to



me, as it does to everyone else, even though he may think I'm not saying what I really think. I've always admired a guy who was able to fight for his ideas; Frank is one of those people. But I have the right to disagree with him. And me, I believe that I must fight with the same firmness, the same conviction, if I see one of my friends who is butting his head against a stone wall and who will sink all of us if we don't do something.

I ask the delegates to forget sentiment. Circumstances like this are difficult because we always wonder when it's my strike, perhaps I'll have the same problem. Yes, I've

not be shy in asking me questions, even the most embarrassing possible ones and I will try to answer your questions as clearly as possible.

had those problems. I hope I never go through them again but sometimes, we have to forget sentiment and be rational and take decisions that are going to get us public support because we have a few things which don't look too good and which don't smell too good.

As for me, once it has been settled, I'd forget inquiries. If it's found that they gave more to one guy, I don't know, it's not what bothers me and I don't want to know. What interests me is the proper administration of the CNTU and each dollar which is given by people who earn \$3,000, sometimes \$4,000 or \$5,000 per year. When it's spent in a strike, it must be spent so that it brings in something to the members and the group and in my opinion, the Lapalme strike is no longer doing this. More than anything, it is harming the group.

**10- JEAN-PAUL BREULEUX,**

president of the provincial civil servants union

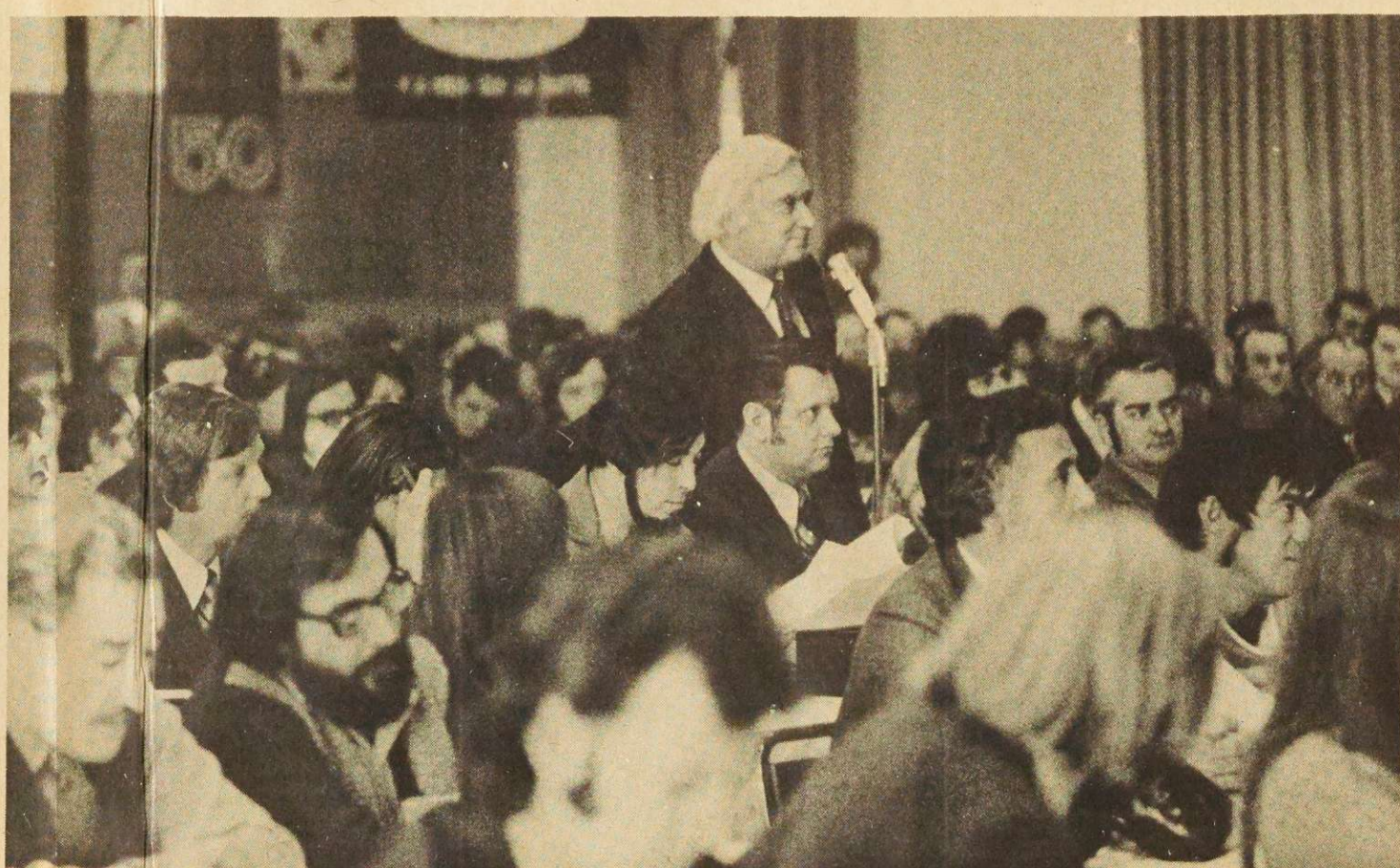
Question of privilege in order to form into committee of the whole. These accusations must be discussed. The problem before us is to find out yes or no whether the Lapalme guys are thieves.

This has been published everywhere. If ever we bury this inquiry, as brother Godin has just suggested, it would be an admission of weakness. It would show everyone that we were wrong right from the beginning, that the battle was a phony battle and that there were no rea-

sons for fighting it. Then we would lose face and for good. As far as I'm concerned the battle was right and is still right.

In any case, there are at least 200 workers who are still honest, I believe, whom we cannot leave on the pavement, no matter what sums are spent.

(NOTE: The proposal to move into committee of the whole is adopted and the session adjourned until next morning).







## THE 24th MORNING SESSION

### 11- GUY BEAUDOIN, director of the federation of public services

The Lapalme affair is all mixed up. One would almost say that in the Lapalme affair some people mixed up the problems on purpose. We learn in the newspapers that there have been frauds. We learn that an inquiry will be necessary but we no longer hear that the Lapalme guys haven't got jobs and that they've been fighting the federal government since February, 1970.

We also learned in the newspapers that there was no longer any hope. Brother Dion said so. Yet, it was the confederal council which decided to continue the fight. In the Lapalme affair there have been accusations, the merit of waging a battle and the statements of brother Dion.

There are some who wanted the present council to put the Lapalme guys on trial. Let's see if 180 of us are able to make a worthwhile judgment when we can't even find the facts. It'll take time and means to find out the facts.

Because everything is mixed up, because there are facts to be uncovered, because all the facts must be uncovered, because the council has decisions to make, I make the three following recommendations:

#### FIRST RECOMMENDATION

That the council agree to the decision of the confederal bureau to proceed with a strictly union inquiry, either before a commissioner from outside or from a commission of inquiry formed either of a commissioner from outside and two commissioners from within; or two commissioners from the outside and one commissioner from inside or three commissioners from inside the movement.

An inquiry -- a real one -- is needed to get at the facts, all the facts. An inquiry at which the Lapalme guys can also defend themselves. We can't carry out an inquiry at the council unless we want to be satisfied with half-truths, unanswered questions. That makes no sense.

It is possible and necessary that there be someone to inquire into the facts. Once we have the facts, we'll make our decisions. Not today, not on the spur of the moment. If the Lapalme guys are accused, they should know of what are accused and they should be



allowed to state their point of view and to defend themselves.

This is why an inquiry is needed, to get at the facts. We'll decide afterwards.

**SECOND RECOMMENDATION**  
That the present confederal council maintain the decision of the confederal council of last July to continue the Lapalme guys' fight. The problem of the Lapalme guys goes beyond the accusations we hear. It is a fight against the federal government. That's what it was and that's what it remains.

We'll never finish a fight if we haven't the courage to face problems.

If there is no longer any hope, we'll see that when we can see clearly. But we shouldn't look at the problem through the fog created by alleged frauds.

We'll have the inquiry, we'll get the facts and afterwards we'll discuss the real problem because the real problem is still there.

We'll find out whether there's no longer any hope. But we won't decide that today.

#### THIRD RECOMMENDATION

That the council pass a motion blaming brother Jacques Dion for having judged and publicly denounced the decision of the confederal council to continue the fight by saying there was no longer any hope.

Mr. President, there is a place to discuss things, here at the council -- not in the newspapers as Dion did with Daigle. Daigle's presence was an accident. He said so yesterday. He went along with Dion because Dion was afraid.

It is unacceptable to discuss such things except in the right place.

The council should pronounce itself and say that it does not accept that its decisions be discussed by its members outside meetings of the council.

### 13-ALMAS TREMBLAY,

president of the Saguenay-Lake St. John construction union

Mr. President, I'll tell you what the guys in the field think about the Lapalme boys.

Every day, those of us in construction get asked a lot of questions. What's all that noise in the newspapers about the Lapalme affair, and so on, frauds, it just goes on and on, that thing. We have to recruit members, we do. There are still a lot of guys in construction who aren't members.

When we come along to urge the guys to join the CNTU the first question asked is: 'Hey you guys,

why don't you try to clean up, try to administer the funds of the working people a little better?' So, you see we have an uphill fight.

I hope that the confederal council will take a healthy decision. I would make one recommendation: Instead of four weeks separation pay, I'd make it two weeks.

Sooner or later this thing will have to be ended. It's not that I have no sympathy for the Lapalme guys. The guys in construction in Lake St. John-Saguenay, we were the ones who started the construction strike and you know one thing, that the guys were ready to fight. Then, they passed a law against us, they told us to go back to work. The CNTU recommended, brother Pepin is there, he said: 'get the guys back to work.'

I was the one who had to talk to the construction guys and tell them: 'Tomorrow morning, you go back to work.' I almost got killed. The

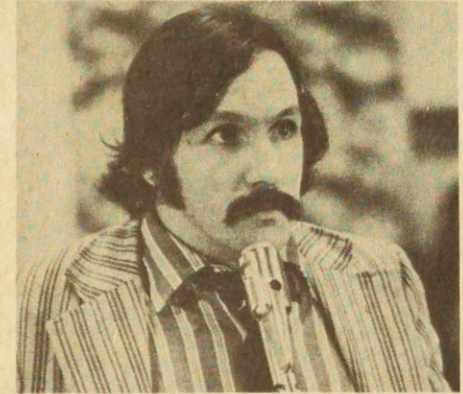
guys didn't want to hear about it. They said: 'Up the law, we won't go back to work tomorrow morning.' I said: 'Listen, you guys. We have no choice. We've got to go back to work.' They were ready to allow themselves to be clubbed, to be jeered, anything, because working conditions were blocked all along the line. They guys said 'no, it's enough to make you puke.' They said they wouldn't go back to work. We had to fight, we had to convince them to go back to work.

So, when the guys see what's happening in the movement with the Lapalme thing, they get pretty fed up. They ask: 'Why those guys? The fight's over. Why don't they go back to work? The CNTU forced us to go back, us in construction, but they do as they damn well please.' Well, my friends, if that's the CNTU, I'm sure us guys will clean it up in the very near future.

### 14- GILLES BEAULIEU, treasurer of the Montreal central council

Mr. President, two motives are being put forward for stopping payments to the Lapalme guys; that the conflict cannot be settled and it has been mentioned several times, especially, that there have been alleged irregularities.

These irregularities were mentioned before the confederal bureau and the confederal bureau decided to hold an inquiry, because it felt the union was entitled to a full defence. What I deplore is that before the council today and yesterday other accusations have been levelled and they are used as reasons for stopping the conflict. Brother Dion yesterday mentioned three affidavits which could be used by the inquiry and not to raise doubts among the members of the confederal council. Well, I think that should be mentioned when we discuss blaming the treasurer. Attempts



are being made to bring in irregularities in order to sow doubt among delegates to the confederal council.

Well, I will come back to Beaudoin's proposal. I think the only way out is to continue supporting the Lapalme guys because the principle behind the battle is a matter for the union, and not the CNTU. It is a principle endorsed by the confederal council and as for the irregularities, I think only an inquiry can clear that up.

### 15- MICHEL BOURDON, delegate of the Montreal central council

Mr. President, I believe that no matter what decision we reach, whether to continue supporting the Lapalme guys or to cut off the money, we must follow up the confederal bureau's decision to hold an inquiry. The reason has to do with the image the public may have of the Lapalme guys and of the CNTU. For two years, they've been called victims and heroes. Then there are some, including the treasurer, who by their statements may make people believe they're thieves. I think these suspicions must be cleaned up and only an inquiry will make that possible.

As for me, the testimony of scabs gathered by private detectives doesn't impress me, but I don't want to judge the basic issue. We need an inquiry, but with 200, we can't cross-examine, bring in detectives hired by a Quebec lawyer's office and then get to the bottom of this affair.

I also think that the Lapalme guys are a kind of special case and that the movement at this time should show a certain flexibility. We've done it before. We've said after a year, a year and a half, that we'd pay supplementary help, if needed, in Quebec, Lake St. John or Thetford, or elsewhere where the same problems exist. We'll give them the same privileges because we haven't changed the regulations just for the Lapalme guys. We

changed the regulations to cover people let go a year ago. I think it is misleading to try to make people think otherwise.

So if brother Tremblay wants to reply to the questions of the construction guys in Lake St. John, we can tell them the same thing.

Speaking of flexibility, it has existed in many places in the movement. And rightly so. An example is when we took half a million from the strike fund to help support the construction unions. There are some who disagreed with that. But I agreed. It's an example of cutting corners to settle situations and help men. So there have been some precedents in the construction sector and they should be the last to tell us that the Lapalme guys should get \$20, like everyone else.

The basic problem must not be forgotten. It is that the guys lost their union, then they lost their jobs. They want their union back and their jobs back. Trudeau tells them: 'That's final, they can't have them.' And then there are some here in the council who come along and defend the same theory as Trudeau. In this affair, Trudeau is management and the guys here who have negotiated know that management takes a final and irrevocable position until it changes its final and irrevocable position.

If we could get a minimum of consensus in the movement and we put aside certain problems, it might be possible to win this dispute. We were answered: In Quebec, such and such a group was

let go. But when there's a question of dropping any group, I believe that brother Godin should come before the confederal council and bring his guys, like the Lapalme guys, and explain why they mustn't be dropped. I'm quite ready to hear brother Godin, brother Tapin or someone else say: Be logical, you didn't want to drop the Lapalme guys, don't let such and such a group down. And I would agree with them.

I find it over-dramatized and that it shouldn't be that way. We should put on the whole bundle, to win. But if that happens, we won't give the image we have with union members, and those who could join us, that we drop people in the middle of a fight. In the public mind, what they may say is that the CNTU doesn't win all the time, but it tries all the time, and the Lapalme guys affair shows it.

One last point. I think we must blame the general treasurer for his statements in Le Soleil, saying there was no longer any hope in the Lapalme conflict, and implicating the national president and the secretary-general. It was later retracted in the case of the national president, it was maintained for the secretary-general. I don't see how we can swallow that an officer of the parent body, in the newspaper, makes allegations like that, particularly over the head of the confederal council. The decision to continue the battle of the Lapalme guys was not taken by a few people, it was decided by a regular meeting of the confederal council last July and in November recommendations were made to us and we didn't follow them.

I don't think we should allow ourselves, in the confederal council, to be tripped up by the general treasurer who says in the newspaper that there is no hope, that no one on the executive feels the fight can be carried on. If an executive is given a mandate by a council, it should have the loyalty to carry it out. The national president and the secretary-general had that kind of loyalty but it was lacking elsewhere. And it must be said that we don't accept this. And saying we don't accept this doesn't mean we feel the treasurer isn't doing his job. I feel he is doing his job as an honest man, as treasurer of the movement. But I will not admit that he can say publicly that we have lost a fight which the confederal council had decided we could still win.

### 12- ROLAND TAPIN, president of the Quebec Central council

I would like the conflict to be ended, but, as provided in the regulations covering the strike fund, there should be separation pay. I think I'd go as far as four weeks of separation pay. Let me explain that.



It's hard, Mr. President, to end a dispute. I've seen it here, I've lived through ends of disputes in Quebec, when there were orders to end a dispute. One, among others, was the John Ritcher, one of the oldest shoe manufacturers in Quebec. Last night, the president of the shoe workers' union was here with the guys and was asked some pretty tough questions. During the CNTU congress here in Quebec, there was the conflict at Guilbault Transport. The union no longer exists at Guilbault Transport, we ended the conflict.

We also ended the dispute with Les Cuisines Francis, which had received grants from the government. The department made a gift to the employers, who closed the plant. There again, the CNTU ended the dispute.

There is another one that everyone should remember, that at George T. Davis. They too could have made a fight that would have lasted until today and longer. There were five hundred people there and in summer it climbed to 800. They too could have continued their conflict. They too could have carried on a symbolic dispute.

If I could see one ray of hope, a possible settlement, I would be the first to say: We fight on. But you, yourself, Mr. National president of the CNTU, on at least two occasions at the confederal bureau I have heard you say that the hope of a settlement was rather thin, and that perhaps there never would be one. To my knowledge, no opposition party has promised in writing that if it obtains power it would give the Lapalme union back its rights. And even the government, the party in power, tells us before the confederal bureau: 'Fight me, do what you want, cross Canada from east to west, we won't change our attitude.'

As for me, I think the president of the Lapalme union should also answer a few questions, like that about scabs. I admit with him that some scabs got into the post office. But these people have signed affidavits saying they haven't taken money from the CNTU since they went to the post office, but we paid it. Me, I'd like to know what the union did with that money. It might have done some very good things with it.

We too want answers. I've got people in Quebec who work for very low wages. There are 10,000 people in the retail trade to organize here in Quebec, who work for starvation wages. There are people who work in the laundries at starvation wages.

We have a responsibility and we're going to accept it. Tomorrow or the day after, I'll be back in the factory again and I'll be asked a lot of questions and I want to have the answers.



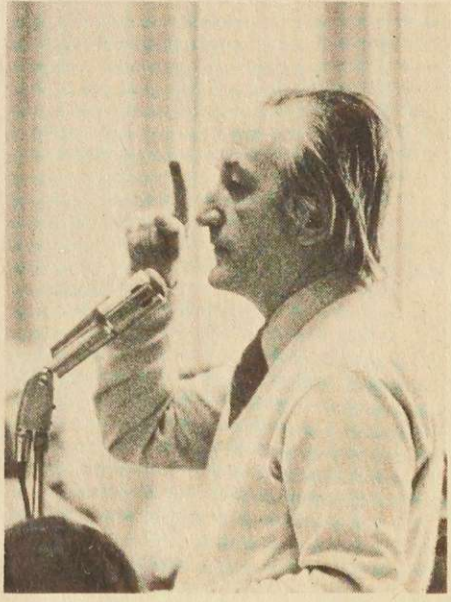
labour

Organe officiel de la CSN. - Directeur: GUY FERLAND. Bureaux: 1001, Saint-Denis, Montréal. Tél.: 842-3181. Composé et imprimé par Journal Offset Inc., 254, Benjamin-Hudon, Montréal 3799.

Conception graphique: Jean Gladu  
Photographie: François Demers



**16- PIERRE VADBONCOEUR**  
political action staffer,  
attached to the  
Lapalme campaign



Mr. President, I do not remember a single case in which problems of this kind have been treated in such a way that the dispute suffered from it and in such a way that the reputation of a union movement, and especially the CNTU, had to suffer from it.

The rumours began to circulate in the autumn. And it happened as the Lapalme campaign was going all-out. Everywhere on the territory teams, groups, organizations, representatives spread the message on television, on radio, in the streets, in the newspapers, that the Lapalme guys couldn't be beaten. The politicians trembled.

We were about to make a real breakthrough, in the sense of having some bargaining strength, so that for the first time since the start of the Lapalme campaign, we could foresee a change in the thinking of the Liberal party caucus because they, the MPs, want to hang on to their jobs. Threatened in the west of the country, threatened in Ontario, having Quebec as a stronghold, threatened in the Maritimes, the government no doubt would soon have started thinking that it would perhaps be better to settle this matter, a small one when you look at the size of government affairs, rather than to get unionists here mad at them who would finish by mobilising the living strength of the union movement against the Trudeau government as a reprisal for a characteristic anti-union act which this government committed against the Lapalme guys.

That was the situation in October. But I say the way we proceeded could not have had any other effects but to paralyze action, to kill if possible the Lapalme guys campaign which was growing, to harm the reputation of the CNTU, to harm the reputation of the union movement.

Since the aim of the operation was to regularize things in cases which were reportedly irregular, there could have been meetings with the union to get things working normally.

What was done? On Nov. 10 and before the confederal bureau, the union and the permanent staff assigned to it, heard about the bus affair for the first time. And it started moving like wildfire through the movement because, by coming up before the confederal bureau, it was by definition before the public. On Dec. 7, the four permanent staffers on the file finally met the CNTU executive.

The union itself, two months earlier, asked that its books be checked. No report, no report of any kind. It arrived suddenly Dec. 7, but during that time little rumours about finances had been circulating.

The general treasurer told us: It is obvious from the report of the accountant that \$40,000 is missing on the books; \$13,000 in stamps and \$27,000 in the forms of advances or loans, are not on the union's books. I do not blame the treasurer, the accountant told him that. Ah, but there we were surprised. I mean, we really got it between the eyes — \$40,000 is a lot of money.

The next day, the 8th, the union met the CNTU executive and it learned that \$40,000 was missing on the books. The union said it didn't make sense. The union said it was there, the \$13,000 in stamps and the \$27,000 in loans were there on the books. They went through the bank. So the union, by letter, asked the general treasurer and the executive for a new accounting. Do you know what the answer was? A new check? Do it at your own cost!

But that \$40,000 was moving around, it was. It was on the books, but as a rumour, you know, it gave birth to others. It had become \$400,000 in the Victoria region, says Mr. Edouard Blier, who was a member of the Lapalme guys campaign action committee.

A new accounting was done. Brother Beaulieu, C.A., did it. It took two hours. The \$40,000 was right there, it was right there on the books of the caisse populaire. No one denies that \$40,000 was found. But no one ever said it was found. No sir. There were people who said \$40,000 was missing. But no one who said the \$40,000 was there. Ah, no.

On Nov. 10 the union — that's before Dec. 7, right? — asked the executive by letter: Give us details of the things

you've got against us. Three requests were made, between November and January, roughly, in writing. None of these letters received an answer.

I had the graphologists test, but the pieces he used I still don't have. But the treasurer told me that it required the permission of the executive or of the confederal bureau to send it.



**COFFEE BREAK**

Dec. 8, during the meeting of the union, accompanied by permanent staff, with the executive, the question of registration was raised again. The executive told the Lapalme guys: "You should register. That's the rule, the rule must be applied. When you've registered the Lapalme guys' campaign will continue."

We made the following observation to the executive: "You may tell us the campaign will continue. What we can tell you is that the campaign cannot continue in the circumstances in which we find ourselves placed, with all the rumours circulating in the province and the reaction of the membership to these rumours. The campaign cannot continue effectively unless the executive and the persons making up the executive, resume the campaign with us. Without that, it's all just talk."

We didn't get an answer on it and, effectively, neither the executive nor any member of the executive continued the campaign nor gave it a new push. However, I must say that at no time did the executive, as regards financing the instruments of the campaign, from the autumn until January, at no time did the executive refuse the financial instruments necessary for the campaign. To the point that a second film was authorized and produced in January, a film on the Lapalme guys called "Special Delivery."

That's the strict truth. But as for accusations, the graphologist's report was tabled before the confederal bureau without the union or its permanent representatives being informed in any way. In a general way, apart from the bus case of Nov. 10, the trial — if we can call it a trial of the Lapalme guys has been going on before the confederal bureau and no doubt also before the executive, in the absence of representatives of the Lapalme guys, without any opportunity for the Lapalme guys to make the least comment, without having the least chance to offer counter-evidence, without having the least chance to explain the facts which could have been admitted in certain affairs. For example, the case of the signatures.

It is obvious that some guys signed for others, it is obvious that in the absence of recipients, before the registration period, when a guy wasn't there, when a guy didn't show up, when a guy was sick, when a guy was participating in a demonstration, when a guy was in jail. It is obvious and it is admitted that there were guys who signed, who took the money and brought it to a guy. On Jan. 26 we were finally received by the confederal bureau. We, the union, asked for an inquiry which the confederal bureau granted. On that occasion, I asked the general treasurer this: Do you make a connection of some kind between the fact that there were signatures which were not authentic and some kind of culpability attached to these facts? The general treasurer replied: No, not for the time being. This was deposited the 17 and 18 of January and Jan. 26. The general treasurer did not yet connect culpability between the facts mentioned in the graphologist's report, between the facts and the culpability which floated around, stemming from those facts. Once more, it had gotten around all through the movement.

In a word, were the consequences? Almost fatal consequences for the Lapalme campaign, which was really moving. The consequence of Loubier, who started his campaign for inquiries into the affairs of unions. And all these events, destructive of unionism, came during a period in which we have to negotiate with Quebec's biggest employer, the government. I say all this is badly advised, I say that involuntarily, it is anti-union. I say we have to change methods, and I support the request for an inquiry and I support the recommendation of brother Beaudoin.

**17- MAURICE SAUVÉ,**  
legal adviser to the  
federation  
of public services,  
attached to the Lapalme  
campaign

Mr. President, I would like to touch on two points. They are the kind of inquiry and the quality of the evidence presented by the council in support of the alleged irregularities.

On the kind of inquiry, what we say is that the allegations of irregularities must be spelled out in writing, so that we can have, as the confederal bureau recognized, a full and entire defence, which would not be jeopardized by a method of inquiry based on presumptions and limited to a review of facts. I think that any method of inquiry must start on the basis that a person is presumed innocent until proved otherwise. In that case, the mandate must mention allegations and not presumptions. Mentioning presumptions means that the burden of the evidence falls on the union.

The second point I'd like to bring up, is the question of the evidence which was brought before, which was alleged, before the confederal council.

Concerning the buses, its one man's word against another's. I do not think we can conclude, on the basis of one witness, that the guys were not in Ottawa those days when they tell us the opposite and when they also tell us, and you've got them in the treasury, that they produced the bills for those days.

As for the graphologist's investigation, that evidence is not beyond all doubt. It is prima facie evi-



dence, that is evidence that makes it appear there were irregularities. But that remains to be proven. And since this is a criminal matter, it must be beyond all reasonable doubt. I'm in the conflict, I see the guys almost every day, I never heard a guy say he received less than his neighbor.

The third point is the question of the statements, or affidavits. They are built in the same way, with the same logic, and they constitute statements which are not made on oath, as far as I know. I know the kind of guy who made those statements pretty well. There are two who came to my office to tell me they were paid by the post office department to squeal on the Lapalme guys and at that time they received payments from the CNTU. It's those kind of guys who made the statements.

How were these statements obtained? Perhaps the treasury could tell us. There are two possible sources. Either it was spontaneous, which I don't believe because the statements are made in the same way. Or else it was investigators named by Thibodeau's office who — went and got the statements. I swear this story of — investigators makes me sick and I'll tell you why, briefly. It's well known that their principal vocation, if they haven't enough evidence, is to manufacture evidence. Manufacturers of evidence, we see that regularly. So, if the statements come from them, we going to cross-examine — the people who made the statements and I believe an inquiry is necessary to do it. It's too easy to say these people are telling the truth. We must see whether they're telling the truth.

As a council, you do not have the right to presume, on the pretext of a moral conviction, that there has been a fraud. As a union, we wouldn't accept it if a boss acted like that. So I believe it is essential that the inquiry be held and that after the inquiry the council may see, according to the outcome, whether the worth of the battle should be questioned.

**18- MARCEL PELLETIER,**  
president of the  
metal industry union,  
Crucible Steel,  
Sorel

I notice that some delegates are changing their language because of the statements of brother Dion. The principle which existed at the confederal council of July, that we would not admit, once we've decided to fight that anyone can come and tell us to stop fighting, that principle still exists. I mean that the change we see now on the floor of the confederal council is due to the statements of brother Dion.

Brother Dion says he's been misquoted but it has played a role in the minds of the delegates and the workers. If he makes another statement, mentioning that the dirty, terrible fraud isn't



true, the guys in the factories will say that changes the picture.

I don't know if things are different in other regions. I listen to delegates who are very honest and I don't understand. Is it possible to have so much difference? In my region, the Lapalme guys are a principle. For us, it's a question of seniority.

Sure, it's expensive. But, to me, the CNTU, financially, is not a profit-making company. You want to hear what the membership says? "We're paying \$1.75 and never a cent of it comes back to us. It might as well go to the Lapalme guys as anywhere else."

It isn't a question of creating a split, but at least wait until the inquiry is over, after which, the same people who are here today, will take a final position either to stop or carry on the Lapalme affair. That is the recommendation of brother Beaudoin.

**19- JACQUES DION**

And that's the way I have to work. The confederal bureau is the administrator of the strike fund. And I have to report to it.

When André L'Heureux sent a letter to members of the confederal bureau, many immediately asked questions like: "Jacques, maybe you went too far, maybe you went too fast." That may be true. Even the national president said: "Jacques, perhaps you were a bit hasty." He said it to me. But at the meeting of the confederal bureau which followed, I

presented the evidence of what I had advanced.

It has been mentioned that after a report by the CNTU auditor, Choquette, who is a C.A., a report which in fact gave part of the spending in the Lapalme affair, the union asked the CNTU to redo the audit report and the executive decided against it. In any case, I wonder how books can be audited when there are no bills. We could get out a report of receipts and expenses, but nary a bill to prove anything.

**THE 25th, AFTERNOON SESSION**



**20- GILLES BEAULIEU**

Reference was made particularly to entries of funds into the accounts and it was on this that the rumours spread and it was on this that the union wanted a rectification. This wasn't necessari-

ly a new audit but a check of the facts. The union did receive \$13,000 from the sale of stamps and the \$27,000 from a loan at the credit union which the CNTU endorsed was deposited. It was that, especially, that we wanted checked.

There were no receipts for travelling costs totalling \$3,500. I did not think that receipts were needed for strike pay because it was agreed to distribute it in cash and that if met by an over-all cheque. When the accountant Choquette, the CNTU auditor, says there are no receipts for expenses of

one and a half million, he is referring particularly to strike pay and I ask the treasurer whether he has papers other than cheques for the strike pay. That is, do the strikers have to give a receipt in addition to the cheque for each amount of strike pay their receive?

The transactions for which I believed receipts were needed in the report I made, were for travelling expenses. I felt that the amounts related to these travelling expenses, for which there were no receipts, were minimal. I did not say that \$185,000 was minimal, because we know that was strike pay.

**21- JACQUES DION**

If we add up what appears in the two audit reports prepared by C. A.s, we get a total sum of \$843,874.91. During the same period, the CNTU paid \$870,519.91, of which \$843,000

appears. There is a difference of \$26,645. Was this amount deposited in another book? I take the figures and the money which left the CNTU from the strike fund during the same period.

**22- GILLES BEAULIEU**

What I did relative to these accounts is that I made sure, and Choquette should have done that and seen that there was strike pay for the weeks which were not deposited in that account. What I made sure of was that each week an amount was deposited in the bank account, and if there was a week during which it wasn't deposi-

ted, I checked. I discovered that for that week, it was deposited in the account Choquette had checked. Now, I haven't confirmed this with the CNTU but if the treasurer finds that there is a difference of \$26,000, he should ask the union rather than make insinuation before the council. That's how union problems are solved.

**23- JACQUES DION**

in another. There was \$13,000 shown to Choquette and \$27,000 shown to Beaulieu. When we have the two reports, we find \$40,000.

These are not insinuations. Far from it. I am giving figures which come from the CNTU and I've added up the two reports. In the two reports of two auditors, mention is made of money taken from the strike fund. The addition of the two, \$13,000 in one, \$27,000

On the subject of buses, brother Sauvé mentioned this morning that the union produced bills at the treasury for the trips to Ottawa. We never paid a bill before the time I called into my office, in the presence of Couture, that was in December, 1971, copies of the bills

of the manager of the company which transported the guys to Ottawa. But when we asked the CNTU treasury for the money, there were never any bills. Another thing. When a guy is sick, and is booked sick, that's ok, there are no questions, it's settled, he's sick. But the initials over a period of almost seventeen weeks, when the guys started signing, there were 36 initials out of about 5,000 signatures.

**24- JEAN-PAUL BREULEUX**

You, Mr. President, went as far as Vancouver to talk about the recognition of natural bargaining units. You were believed. We thought that giving workers the free choice of their bargaining union made good sense. You waged the battle, you asked us to wage it. But you also asked the Lapalme guys to wage the battle and they did. All the meetings of the confederal council, our federation conventions, supported the battle. They made me march around Parliament. In its great generosity, the Quebec central council also made me march through narrow, deserted streets for the Lapalme guys.

You know, everything we do in the union world is unreasonable. To fight the way we've fought, as you fought against the Duplessis regime, was that unreasonable, yes or no? It was unreasonable. To fight for the emancipation of the workers, is that unreasonable or reasonable? It's unreasonable.

The battles we wage, we wage because they are just, because we believe in

them. And when we decided to take the whole movement and unite behind an objective with the guys, I believe we did it knowing what we were getting into. Perhaps we have lost a battle here. But I am certain that our cause being just, we are certain to win the war.

There are men of the people who fight for liberty everywhere in the world and despite everything succeed in winning simply because they are right. As for me, the fundamental ideological position taken by the executive, the congress and the confederal council on the subject of the Lapalme guys is just. And if it is just, we must pursue it. If in all this there have been accommodations, irregularities, call them what you will, obviously there must be a special inquiry. It would be easy to find a chairman acceptable to both parties and two other members named by the confederal council. And these people may shed a little light and we could judge the irregularities or the accommodations with full knowledge of the facts.

**25- NORBERT RODRIGUE,**  
president of the  
national federation  
of services

I'd like to discuss the strike fund. During the Lapalme conflict, we wondered about a series of things concerning the application of the strike fund. I still wonder about one thing today.

What I know is that the first over-all cheque over which there is some question, was issued at some point, it was signed, it was authorized. They left with that, they went along with that for several months and later came back and said an attempt must be made to control things. I agree with controls and I don't think anyone on the executive, the confederal bureau, the council, is opposed to the application of the regulations covering the strike fund.

I remember a statement by the



treasurer—I can't recall when he said it—but he said things can't be done suddenly, it's a problem, there was a situation that lasted for months, we must see what can be done to change it. But there are things that must be said.

In the beginning, the Lapalme guys were not considered a strikers. And because of that, a system was adopted which required changing along the way.

It's regrettable to have to bring up our turpitude, especially in a thing like this. I'm all for having controls, but it must be considered that we tolerated situations for a year and a half.



I would add something else about the application of the strike fund regulations. In special or particular circumstances, the strike fund regulations have been interpreted at least to serve union causes. An example was the construction industry and I agreed with taking a certain sum of money from the fund to permit a team of guys not only to recruit but to do union maintenance as well. And it was said it was a matter of prevention, to avoid a possible strike. We've done that too. Perhaps we'll have to look at our consciences.

I'm sorry that the situation of the Lapalme guys came out in public, voluntarily or involuntarily,

through an inquiry started by bits. We should have gone and got the whole piece to come back with the whole piece: not with baking soda from one place, flour from somewhere else and then adding water.

There have been other union disputes in which things happened for the cause, which we tolerated in the movement, Mr. President. All this to say, Mr. President, that in the present situation, with the proposed inquiry, we'll never finish it.

I think that in the interest of the CNTU, and of the Lapalme guys, because I respect them and I also respect their fight, some light

must be shed on the matter. We won't stop questions from the members by abruptly ending the fight of the Lapalme guys. On the contrary, question will remain in their minds for the rest of their union lives.

In July, 1971, when the confederal council decided to continue the battle and to use whatever means were necessary, decided. This same council has a duty, if we see that there are irregularities or things that aren't normal, to shed some light my means of the suggested inquiry which would the permit us what to do, without leaving any doubts hanging over the movement as a whole and the Lapalme union in particular.

## 26- FRANK DITERLIZZI

president of the Lapalme guys union

Permit me, Mr. President and members of this assembly, I'd like to mention a sort of dream that the Lapalme guys had. We wondered, we wondered, we asked ourselves the question and we ask the question of all the members here: If all the energy you spent, rightly or wrongly, for an inquiry into the government, the betrayal, the killing of a union, what would it have gotten us?

Just a few facts. When there was the meeting with the right honorable Jean Marchand on Format 30, the morning before the meeting with the national president of the CNTU, the postmaster-general, Côté, announced in the commons that there were still 69 private companies to be integrated with the public service. Example: Bacon in Toronto, 650 members with the Teamsters.

We're still wondering, us little Lapalme guys, whether that's been done. No one here can answer you because you have spent the money of the workers. If that energy had been spent finding out whether the 69 companies had been integrated with the public service. No, there was no time, no one had time to look into that. Please note that all these remarks hinge on bill C-186.

If a little of that energy that wants an inquiry, or no inquiry, or royal inquiry, or union inquiry, or public or not public, if a little of that energy had gone to the bottom of the case to tell Mr. Marchand and the government: "You lied. You said 69 companies would be integrated in 1971-72, the first Bacon of Toronto on Jan. 11. What have you done?" No that wasn't done.

A brochure was prepared on Marchand, Ti-Jean. In that brochure we're not dirtying the man's reputation. We say Ti-Jean remember that on such-and-such a date you said: "Some one who tries to kill a union should go before the courts like a criminal." And when the confederal bureau met the government, with seven or eight MPs from Quebec, Marchand told us: "We lose

unions every day. When I was at the CNTU, we lost some every day." Us guys in the dispute wondered why this brochure wasn't printed. It wouldn't be an attack on his private life, but on his famous ideology. Defender of the workers, begging the pardon of the guys who've defended workers. Why don't we get that out? They said no. You mustn't attack a person like that, Frank.

Jean Marchand told me one day in his office: "Frank Diterlizzi, you'll never betray the CNTU, you'll never betray the Lapalme guys, but if you want to settle the Lapalme guys dispute, go see Charles Drury."

I never said that Jean Marchand wanted to buy me, but by pure coincidence, Charles Drury, after I'd met him three or four times, offered me a job in charge of postal transport in Montreal. I said, I beg your pardon Mr. Drury. My name is Frank Diterlizzi, it's not Olivier. He isn't here, I have no right to attack him. He's a technical adviser to Prime Minister Trudeau.

Prime Minister Trudeau, the belly button of Canada, he left his guards

and came running after the picket line. I was in front and he said: "What do they want to have without the CNTU?" I said: "You, at least you are descended of a family of millionaires, you've already touched the blood of the workers."

I'm no orator, I always think the head is the tail and the tail is the head. That's true. Twenty-five months. If you permit me, Mr. President, I have a question for comrade Jacques Dion. When there was a search at your place, who issued the complaint against you?

(Jacques Dion replied that there was a search by provincial police by virtue of a warrant issued by the courts).

So that means that we didn't get the same search warrant, the two of us.

Personally, I was away. But my wife, and the wife of Jean Gelineau and of another, do you know comrade what was marked on the warrant? That it was the CNTU which was having a search done at our house, the Confederation of National Trade Unions. I ask you members of the executive if you did this, yes or no?



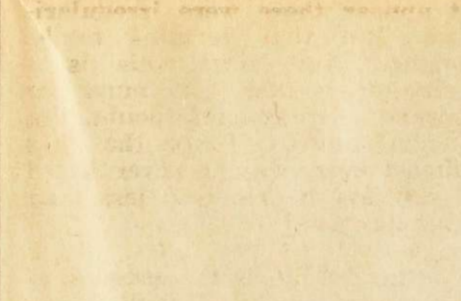
## 27- MARCEL PEPIN

national president of the CNTU

I would simply ask one thing, I would like to see a search warrant on which you say the CNTU has laid a complaint. I ask you to bring me one because I know exactly what was written on the search warrant when they searched Jacques Dion's place. The lawyer read it to me on the telephone.

I tried to find out where that denunciation came from. All I could find out from our lawyers, who went to see the deputy justice minister, the crown prosecutor mixed up in it, and to the best of my memory it was the police themselves, the department of justice, which, after what had been published in the newspapers, decided to carry out the searches in case of possible criminal action, if it decides to take any.

Since, brother, these warrants exist, if in the warrant that your wife got, or the wife of Jean Gelineau got, if there is a question of it being the CNTU which made the denunciation, the best evidence in that case would be to produce the document. I ask you that because I find it extremely important. I have asked each of my colleagues on the executive whether any of them laid a complaint. The four of them say no and I didn't either. If in the search warrant there's a question of the CNTU laying a complaint, I ask you to bring me the written evidence, because you received a written warrant.



## 28- MICHEL CHARTRAND,

president of the Montreal central council

This concerns the confusion over search warrants. I've probably received more of them than anyone else in the movement since 1950. As a union member, as a printer and as other things. Generally, the warrants say that the complaints have been laid by a police officer, the warrants can be carried out on the signature of a justice of the peace, who is often a police officer too. In the rest of the warrant other things may be mentioned. But it is very rare that in the warrant itself the name of the complainant or the person who has laid an accusation is mentioned.

I have never seen warrants among those I have received which carried anything but the name of an officer and then it said other things. So, all I want to say, Mr. President, without prejudicing anything that has been said to the effect that it was not the CNTU which laid a complaint but that Mrs. Hale, that Mrs. Diterlizzi said it was the CNTU who sent the police, it's certain that the mother of a family who receives a warrant at home for her husband, she reads with some confusion. I'm not excusing anyone, I'm just saying that. And when you get a search warrant at your place, your wife won't be able to tell you exactly what was in it. If the police say they were sent by the CNTU, she'll repeat that the CNTU sent them. That's all I want to say and I don't think more than that was said before, either.

I believe an accusation has been made to the effect that the CNTU had laid a complaint. I don't think that Michel Chartrand is authorized to make a plea before we have the texts of the warrants. I think that should be made clear. To come and tell us, after making an accusation, I'm sorry I made a mistake, that's a bit much.

## 29- DELEGATE'S POINT OF ORDER

I believe an accusation has been made to the effect that the CNTU had laid a complaint. I don't think that Michel Chartrand is authorized to make a plea before we have the texts of the warrants. I think that should be made clear. To come and tell us, after making an accusation, I'm sorry I made a mistake, that's a bit much.

## 30- TEXT OF THE WARRANT

Clerk of the peace office of the Crown NO: 26-000-321-72.

To the peace agents of the district of Montreal:

Where as it appears that in the sworn statement of J.G. Chartrand, corporal of the Quebec Police Force, that in the City of Montreal, district of Montreal, between the month of March, 1970, and the month of February, 1972, several frauds of an undetermined amount were allegedly committed to the prejudice of the Confederation of National Trade Unions and that the documents, bills, receipts, lists of employees and all other documents related to the Lapalme group union may be used to establish the commission of the above mentioned infraction and that the said things, or part of them, are located in the home or the office of Frank Diterlizzi, acting as president of the Lapalme group, at 4726 Beauvoir, St. Léonard, hereinafter called the locations;

For these reasons, these presents are to authorize you and oblige you to enter the said locations and to seek the said things and to bring them before me or before another justice of the peace.

Given under my seal Montreal in the district of Montreal, Feb. 11, 1972.

Judge René Drouin, Montreal.

## 31- MARCEL PEPIN

National president of the CNTU

At the confederal council meeting of July, I gave my personal opinion of the struggle of the Lapalme employees. I have already said, and I say it again, that the first injustice was the one caused by the federal cabinet and that the fight waged, was a just fight, clean, and I could add that if the Lapalme employees do not win their case in the months or years to come, the movement will once more be faced with similar problems.

The federal government is doing all it can, officially and unofficially, to make sure that the CNTU is not represented anywhere in the federal public service.

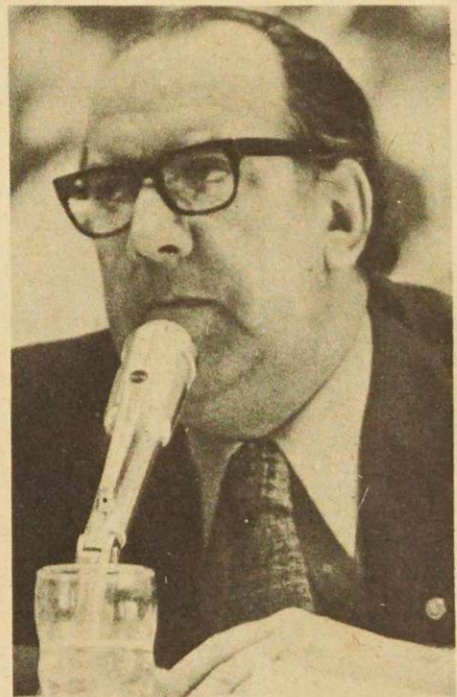
As in certain industries in Quebec, and even in construction, which I know a bit about for having worked in it, there have been at times a sacred alliance between the American unions, the employers and the provincial government to block the CNTU and they haven't succeeded. This was true in Quebec, and similarly, I can tell you that is the position of the federal government, even though they may make official statements which don't square with what I've just said. So that's the first injustice which everyone recognizes.

Last July, after meetings of the executive committee, the confederal bureau at which we took positions, I had personally recommended that in the circumstances the only thing remaining that we could do was to save the individual rights of the employees. Even though the principle of collective rights remained valid, it appeared to me that there was only a very faint ray of hope. The confederal council decided otherwise, in the circumstances you are aware of.

As for me, you will easily understand that I believe the confederal council has the right to make its own decisions. And with this in mind, the day after the council meeting, with my colleagues

on the executive, I believe we all went to work to respect the decision. And personally, I think I worked pretty hard to try to get respect for the collective rights of the Lapalme employees, and not only their individual rights, and this after July 22 too.

The biggest stumbling block before us was that the Lapalme employees never wanted to be integrated into the federal public service without having a status



permitting them to have a natural bargaining unit, which I believe no member of the CNTU who has followed the vicissitudes of Radio-Canada, the railways, Bill C-170 on the public service, Bill C-186 amending the Canadian Labour Code, no thinking member of the CNTU can oppose this objective.

Today, even though the opinion I have to give is the same I supported July 22 when you decided to continue union struggles as long as the union concerned had not decided otherwise, I would point out that this conflict now has two new dimensions.

The first dimension is that when we made our decision on July 22, we had the quasi assurance, I say quasi with all the reserves that implies, that there would really be protection for the individual rights of the employees. As we meet today, there has not been such assurance. And personally I don't see myself after this meeting of the confederal council getting down on my knees to Ottawa saying I implore you to respect individual rights. We would not be in the same situation and I hesitate to believe that we could obtain the same result.

The second dimension is strongly union, and strongly CNTU. As everyone knows there have been rumours of a fraud, alleged fraud, that there have been irregularities, alleged irregularities. If the council decides to accept the Godin proposal, as it is formulated, it appears clear to me that whether we want to or not, it makes a judgment before an inquiry. That's how I see things.

It appears to me, as I interpret the situation, and as I think it will be interpreted both among our members and among the Lapalme employees, as well as outside the movement, that such a decision taken by the confederal council would mean that we have decided, as a council, not to try the case, to hear the case ourselves but that we've decided, with bits of information, that the Lapalme guys are guilty even though definite evidence has not been presented and the inquiry has not yet been held. On its face, the Godin resolution leads us to conclude that we are passing final judgment that there has been a fraud, that there has been an irregularity.

This is why I strongly recommend that the Godin resolution not be passed, as it is. I think we would all commit an injustice in doing such a thing. Eventually, I think, we will see what an inquiry will lead to, if there is one as I strongly suggested.

If I insist that the council not adopt the Godin resolution, it is because I would like the council to arrive at an inquiry which will be carried out as quickly as possible, in accordance with a process I'm going to suggest to you and

which could be improved. I've been thinking about the matter for some time. I think it would be almost impossible to find some one outside the movement and it will be necessary to look inside.

There should be a way of appointing this afternoon what I will call for the moment a joint nominating committee. This committee would be formed of two or three members representing the union, two or three members representing the council or the executive committee. This committee would meet tonight after the session to appoint three persons in our movement, whether these persons are members of the confederal council or not.

If there is an agreement among the members of the joint committee, they could report tomorrow morning, a procedure which could go pretty quickly because I do not think that the council would refuse a joint agreement. In case of disagreement, it will require bowing to certain democratic rules which govern us, the council itself will name three persons who wish, who are ready, disposed, to act. I dare to hope that the council will not act in a discriminatory fashion and would try to find persons who are not known to be on one side or the other in this matter.

I feel that once these three persons have been named, even though it might be complicated, the inquiry should start Monday. The duration of the mandate would be two to four weeks. That's my recommendation. I give a chance to people to come back. If by chance there is no agreement in the joint committee and the council is called on to make its own nominations, its own inquiry, the union may say: It's a partial inquiry, we don't go along with it. In a case like that, my recommendation is that the union won't participate and that the CNTU, in trying I hope to be as objective as possible, will present the things it has in its hands. I dare hope that won't be the attitude of the union, nor of its representatives, because it has every interest that this inquiry be carried out.

When we have, I hope as quickly as

possible, the report of the inquiry, that report will be made public. And the bureau, as the first instance, will decide in the light of the findings and if it feels it is appropriate as a bureau, by majority vote or unanimously, it will call a new meeting of the confederal council to rule on what has been shown.

We could also find other mechanisms. I'll suggest one. This has been dragging on fairly long, it has been a fairly long time that all sorts of things have been said in the corridors, in the newspaper pages and it's in no one's interest that things continue to fester. It must really be brought into the open. This is why I thought it appropriate to make the suggestion. If we lose the Lapalme case, I know we'll pick up somewhere else because the principle is worth the effort.

So I recommend as strongly as possible that the Godin resolution not be adopted and that an inquiry be made along the lines I have suggested.

I think that in this way we will protect our movement and the individuals in our movement, the Lapalme union and the individuals in the Lapalme union, who must not be cast aside.

(Raymond Rousseau suggested that the inquiry be open to members of the CNTU who would like to attend as observers, but that it be closed to the media. He also suggested that the inquiry report be made public when the bureau and the confederal council have read it). Adjournment for supper.

## 32- THÉRÈSE MONTPAS,

secretary of the Quebec central council

The inquiry is one thing and the Lapalme dispute quite another. I think a distinction must be made between the two. I don't think that holding an inquiry into the supposed irregularities will provide any indications that the dispute can still be settled.

In the beginning we said that the attitude of the government in this conflict was disgusting and it remains so. When we decided to get into the fight, it was a good decision on our part because the fight was worth it and it had to be done.

But a lot of water has gone under the bridge and we've taken other kinds of decisions and when October came along and we were told, and even the national president of the CNTU told us, that the conflict was just about a dead letter and there was very little hope of a settlement. Everyone knows Trudeau's headheaded. I don't think we can make that man change his mind after what he said at the last meeting with the union and the confederal bureau.

If there was a hope of getting the other parties to make changes, I think it might be worth continuing the battle. But neither the Conservatives, nor the Créditistes and the NDP even less, can assure us that they would be ready to settle that dispute. All the MPs who have been met have said yes, we can do it, it's a sad thing, it doesn't make any sense. But everyone knows that no one will take a decision:

As for overturning the Trudeau government, I think the Liberal party is strong because of the other parties. So I don't think



we'd succeed there either. I really wonder whether this dispute can be settled at the present time, with the conditions attached to it, that is the entry of a CNTU union with all its acquired rights. That was dropped along the way and then taken up again. On this, I believe there is no hope except for the guys to join the post office individually.

I wish we'd stop playing the martyr for those guys, that they'd stop coming to the microphones to play the martyr. There are plenty of martyrs elsewhere; there are workers who are also martyrs. We've had disputes in the mo-



vement, plenty of disputes. If ever we had a strike in the public service, I'm beginning to doubt we could do it because perhaps the CNTU would say: Listen guys, we can't support 100,000 people outside, we'll have to settle the dispute somehow. We may want to fight but the CNTU should shoot the works on it.

I've got nothing against Mr. Pepin's proposal, but let's not mix up the cards. Yes or no, is there a chance of settling the dispute? We've been told since October that it isn't possible. What have we done since that time? We continue to pay, people ask themselves questions, is it going to last for years? It's certain that they're wondering. When they go out on strike, they don't expect to get \$15. They expect to get \$65 a week. Even if you explain the strike fund to them, they don't remember. Everyone knows that the regulations just go over the heads of the members.

And don't tell me that we take decisions here and that we represent the general membership. It isn't true. Visit the unions and talk to them about the Lapalme guys. If you had done it before the whole thing reached the newspapers, you would have seen that it wasn't as enthusiastic as that, and not just in the Quebec region. Don't say it was worse here than elsewhere because the members in other places resisted too.

We have a heck of a habit here of taking decisions, with the membership far behind. We're pretty much cut off because if we felt what was happening, we wouldn't do much of anything in the union movement.

Brother Pepin says there must be unity in the central council vis a vis the Lapalme affair. I'm all for unity. But on the Lapalme affair, that's a laugh, unless you want people to be hypocrites. Unity is impossible because there are people for and people against. There are some who are mixed up but they'll pick one side or the other.

For months, all sorts of things have been insinuated, as much from one side as the other and now we're going to put it off for another fortnight, then reconvene another confederal council. Personally, I think the abcess must be punctured here and now. We must stop mixing things up, saying that after the inquiry we'll know whether the conflict is good or not. I'm sorry, but they're two different things. The Lapalme guys don't have to take the rap. They don't have to defend the positions the movement takes at meetings. We officers do, not anyone sitting up front.



## THE 24th EVENING SESSION

### 33- CLAUDE GINGRAS, secretary, building federation

I think that for all the delegates it is rather painful to discuss the problem we have before us. The situation we have before us is not a situation that can be called normal. It is not a situation that we run into frequently or regularly in the conflicts that are experienced at the CNTU.

I do not think, however, that anyone is unaware of the struggle undertaken. Everyone subscribed to it wholeheartedly and became involved in it at the outset. And everyone who did get into it gave to the limit. For my part I can say that after 14 years in the movement called the CNTU, I never saw a conflict that drew more attention and more effort from the movement to try to find a solution, or to break the federal government down on what has been called shameful cheating at the expense of those employees.

But all this should not sidetrack us from the real purpose of our being here, which is to settle all union problems and to deal with this question as we would for all other unions. It is no secret that there is difficulty among our members to get an admission that this fight is being pursued. And as for those who are in a position to claim the contrary, it is perhaps for other motives than the real defence of the interests of the workers who are involved in this affair.

The Lapalme workers, me I believe in them. But certain persons have other objectives in mind than the defence of the workers concerned.

I am morally convinced that in certain cases there are people who take up positions, not to defend the interests of the workers involved, but to try and benefit certain grand principles, certain grand ideologies, and perhaps other aims that I would just as soon not mention.



When, in connection with Bill C-186, we went to work fighting for the recognition of natural bargaining units, I was for that, and I don't think there is a single delegate who can be against it. But we have no right to use the Lapalme men to promote that principle and bring it to the forefront. It isn't true that we have the right to do that, and no one is going to make me believe that we do. It isn't with the Lapalme men that we are going to get a breakthrough on the that principle. I don't believe that. I think this is a battle that deserves to be waged, that of battering away at the principle of natural bargaining units, but it isn't with the special problem of the Lapalme men that we are going to do it.

This brings me back to the meeting we had at the last federal council. What I heard from a number of workers is that many took a decision which might not have been the one they really felt in their stomachs.

For a great majority of the delegates, who came forward and said so afterwards when it was too late to do anything about it, the cordon that would surround the hall was much more impressive than the resolution on the table. I find it unfortunate to have to say this in a union movement where everybody is supposed to support everybody else and try to achieve unity.

I heard Brother Diterlizzi saying to the treasurer: "You started to paddle; we'll paddle together." We have to face threats, but most of the time they come from the management sector. When they come from the inside, though, it's sickening to a bunch of delegates who are here.

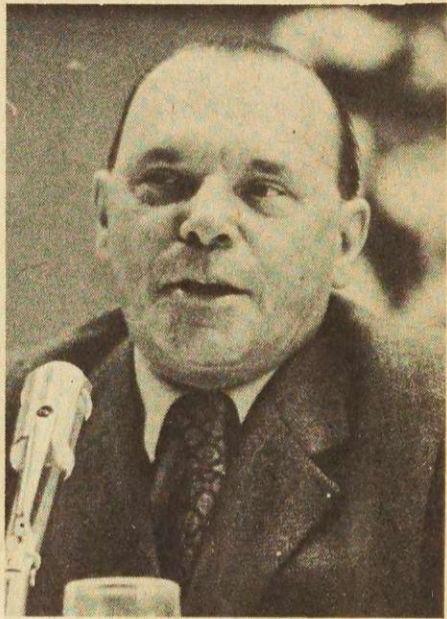
When things happen like the Lapalme men coming to occupy the CNTU buildings, that hurts a whole lot of union members too. It also hurts a movement like ours, which is fighting to get the workers out of the swamp and to win battles for them.

As for the matter of the inquiry which is suggested by Brother Pepin, I think

I can, as a result of having studied it with a number of people, introduce a bit of emotion. When an inquiry is proposed, a lot of people are afraid its purpose is to pigeon-hole, as the saying goes, our problems in File No. 13, meanwhile maybe trying to look good. Unless those who conduct the inquiry are the unanimous choices of the delegates as a whole here present, there will always be doubts in the minds of these same delegates and others as well.

### 34- AMÉDÉE DAIGLE, director general, CNTU services

With regard to the formula put forward by Brother Pepin, I personally have much friendship and admiration for Marcel, but I don't feel myself bound by that; it isn't a resolution of the executive. I don't personally believe in that particular formula.



Brother Pepin is a good negotiator. He negotiates with us to try and find a compromise and a road. I want to say that I am sincere. And I do not believe that it is a good road. Therefore I am, of course, opposed to the inquiry. I am in favour of light being shed. In considering the ways and means of doing this, though, I am inclined to be rather circumspect. I think it would be a faulty way to go after the root of the problem.

I do not see the problem as existing in the same way that it did. There is no longer a place for the Lapalme men in the postal service. The government won't make one, the political parties don't want one, and the unions established there don't want one either. Our defence fund is not a pension fund. It was not set up as such. I would be very happy if it was a pension fund, but that just isn't the case.

It does bother me, however, that these men have no jobs. The position today is the same as it was last July. Attempts were made to find something for these men so that they could earn their living.

Since we are aware that the solution to the fight they made no longer applies we must look elsewhere. There was the Tapin resolution, which amended the Godin resolution. What I would like to bring out is that the number of weeks to be put into settling the dispute is something I am not worried about. It could take four weeks, or six, or 10, the idea is to settle something and settle it conscientiously, by trying to give those implicated in the affair a chance to survive and to earn their living some other way.

When we went to see the people at Bellerive Veneer, there was no longer any strike. The mill operated as before. It was necessary, despite the fact that it isn't always a happy thing, to get together with those people, to reason with them, and find a way to end the conflict. I state that case as an example. Others could be cited too.

### 35- ANDRÉ L'HEUREUX, director, political action secretariat in the Lapalme campaign

I believe that the council decision of July 22nd applied especially to the principle of union autonomy. The first thing I asked the members of the executive committee the next day and the days that followed was to create a committee on which everyone would be represented.

Two members of the executive committee, P.-E. Dalpé and Raymond Parent, and members of the federation, the union and the technical services, that was the idea. That was the start, for me in my nine years with the CNTU, of the finest experience people can have when a movement like ours stands united despite all difficulties, all resistance stemming from that particular conflict and the problems represented by that particular union.

The council had decided on total effort. It had to be learned what the delegates to the council understood by total effort. Therefore, with the support of P.-E. Dalpé and Raymond Parent, we successfully brought together on August 13th a hundred militants, most of them presidents of federations or leaders of central councils. We divided up into workshops, and I believe there was enthusiasm. I had no feeling that anyone here was afraid to make commitment, or to speak out. The Lapalme men were there, approximately two to a workshop.

I really never sensed any contrariety. And in order to assure even greater cohesion, what did we do? We set up a national action committee, comprising one delegate per central council. That committee was to meet every 15 days. Not only that, but we undertook in the presence of this committee never to put out documents without first consulting it, not to print pamphlets unless the committee asked for them.

This was said The first thing to do is to sensitive the movement. Then came all those meetings that you organized in the regions, in the federations, with resolutions of support, for the formation of committees, and so on.

This took us to approximately the month of September, and along the way the campaign increased in scope. I believe that everyone was able to see that. Around the month of October, a series of demonstrations was started. On some days there were three or four of the. These were organized by you, by the militants in towns such as Shawinigan and Valleyfield, and in Montreal as well.

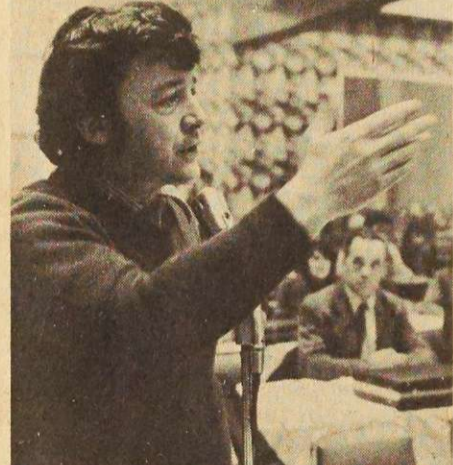
At the end of October especially, with the rally held at the Forum, there were demonstrations such as we had never seen before. It was at that point that we started to reach what Victor Dahlé referred to as the second stage. It was a stage at which during those demonstrations, attention was given to all the other problems of unemployment and factory closings.

Those who were at the Forum, for the demonstration organized by the idiot Chartrand, I had told them that it was foolish to try and stage such an event on three-day notice. With 12,000 persons in the Forum, even when Michel spoke there was applause. When others spoke there was applause. When the Lapalme men were mentioned, something like an electric current ran through the Forum. Those who were there can testify to it. For a period of five to 10 minutes there was an ovation which showed, among other things, that the message you had, the campaign that had been undertaken by the council, by the leaders of the regions and the federations, by the militants from everywhere, had begun to bear strange fruit.

This was so true that at the Liberal Party caucus there came a request from the floor for a meeting with the CNTU, because the members of the House were starting to tell us that they had heard certain versions within the confines of the Liberal caucus - versions no doubt coming from Jean Marchand - and that they wanted a confrontation with the two parties.

That was the beginning of the end. We met with the legislators, who normally are not aware of very much, and it was announced that as a result of certain resolutions of the confederal bureau, the Lapalme men would be registering on December 12th. What does this all mean to a person unless he knows the context and what is coming. There was a federal member who said no, there will not be a caucus on the 7th because something is going to happen with you.

Then there was the Crédiatiste member from another area who, among others, was ready to ask a series of questions in the House to harass the government.



He said he had been told that before Christmas something would be happening in the movement. All this occurred at the time a series of accusations were being leveled.

It was noticed that there was a system: on November 10th the buses, on December 7th and 8th the witnesses on the buses, the report on the audit, the \$40,000 supposedly missing from the union books. I tell you that when there was a meeting of regional delegates between Christmas and New Year's, the men were telling us: That's enough; we've had it.

The charges and rumours circulating within the movement led to the point where our militants, the chief generators of the campaign in the regions, could no longer act, no longer work. That was one of the first effects of the accusations that were uttered.

On the 8th of December I said to Jacques Dion, in the presence of the executive: You're doing your job, Jacques; you did it during other conflicts; there were men who were laid off on account of that; there were things that were stopped on account of that. But I was involved in campaigns of that kind, like the ones at Domtar, where there were

things like that, but it did not block the movement, it did not prevent the union from carrying on the struggle. In this case, we see that the accusations, and the way things were done, led to the results that we are aware of.

You know that we were laying the groundwork for meetings with all the caucuses. Why wasn't this done? When we are caught in the jaws of a vice between the union and the executive committee that didn't believe in the campaign, it is enough to make a person tear the hair out of his head.

We were tripped up, and that was the outcome. Whether it was done on purpose or not, we have to face the facts. It is not words that count, but action. Pamphile Piché often said: Words to the left, action to the right. In politics, that's often the way it is.

What is the net effect of the methods used? Are the confederal council, the members of the bureau or the members of the executive committee, after having waited nearly three months, having received heaven knows how many documents, are they any further ahead? Did we end up in possession of any more truths than before the three months began? We are stuck with the same problem. So badly are we stuck that the inquiry simply has to be launched.

It has been said that there are certain people who are involved because they have other objectives in mind. But do you know who it is that talks like that? And not just in the Lapalme case. It must have happened in the Asbestos case too, and in all the strikes that are difficult. Jacques spoke words to that effect yesterday. Claude Gingras said the same thing. Jean Marchand has also said that there are people who wait to use the Lapalme affair to achieve other aims.

Is it possible to think that the movement, instead of being stalled by divisions, can get a fresh grip on itself, decides that the inquiry is to be made and that the campaign is to continue? Is it possible that the movement can get together and do those things?

### 36- DENIS BELLEMARE, treasurer, Shawinigan aluminum employees' union

To reply to Brother L'Heureux, I say yes, it is possible. What we thought was impossible to do in the month of July, to structure a campaign such as had never been seen before, we were able to do. We can win a fight of that kind. I would like to know how the American unions in the southern United States, the people in the grape business, have done battle to win their cause. They put up a struggle that lasted five years, and they won.



As for those who say they were somewhat traumatized by the cordon around the hall in July, let me say that I've never known of workers who were afraid of other workers. It could be that some people are afraid of the Trudeau government, though.

There are some here tonight who have come to tell us that Trudeau is right, that it isn't any use to try, that we cannot do it. Is this what CNTU means? It isn't the CNTU that I thought I was in. I am convinced, because it was clear to me that Minister Jean Chrétien, morally, was in agreement with the Lapalme men. This we obtained over a two-hour period, and it was taped. He said it was true that there had been some dirty work, that things had been done which weren't right. And he said that the problem would be reconsidered. It made him ill at ease to meet us.

For a period of two hours the Shawinigan central council, unanimously, had him under bombardment. He was in a bad spot. Maybe he wasn't trembling, but he was certainly uncomfortable. There were two mounted policemen who waited at the door for him, and who kept the whole affair under surveillance. This is something I saw. We were on verge of getting somewhere.

Then there were the newspapers that started to pile it on, so say all kinds of things. The situation went from bad to worse. Today we have reached the stage where there is fear of Trudeau, fear of the federal government, fear that we are no longer able to fight.

At all events, I am in agreement concerning the inquiry. Those who got us into this jam are going to get their medicine as far as I am concerned. I do not agree that we should abandon honest men, the Lapalme men. I do not agree that we should concede that the Tru-

deau government is right, especially in a situation like this. He is getting ready for elections. He has no hesitation about smacking us on the head, all us workers, and making us sick with subsidies that create unemployment everywhere across the province.



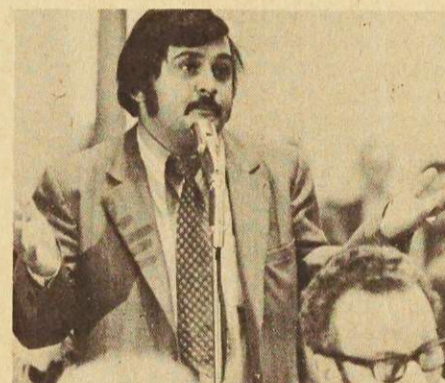
## THE 25th MORNING SESSION

### 37- ROBERT TREMBLAY, president, federation of commercial employees

I believe, along with many of the speakers, that the Lapalme affair should be divided in two.

I believe that the problem of the so-called frauds is one thing, and that the Lapalme problem with regard to union objectives is another.

I am shocked at some of the lame arguments that have been brought up; like one that there has been a meeting with Trudeau and he has said that the thing is final, that nothing more can be done. Are we to drop the Lapalme case just because he said that? If we were to do that every time an employer told us that this is the end, this is our final offer, it seems to me we would be stopped a good many times.



Six months ago, you convinced us that the union objectives of the Lapalme men were fair and just. If that was the conviction six months ago about the objectives, I fail to see how it can be said that today, because of a question of alleged fraud, the cause is no longer a worthy one.

When we enter a conflict, we don't say that unless it is settled in two years, or in three years, we are going to abandon it. In other cases, there have been fights that were waged for up to five years. In one case, after five years the problems had been settled. This isn't a matter of overturning governments. It's a matter of wearing them down, and in this instance I believe we were strating to get somewhere.

The new element I want to bring up here is the consequence of putting an end to such a conflict. The question of principles was brought up. The freedom of the workers to select the union of their choice was involved. Therefore I think it is a conflict that can have serious consequences.

I see other effects too. To abandon a fight of this kind can have repercussions on bargaining in the public sector at provincial level. It seems to me that the same situation applies to both the governments of Canada and Quebec. We must be careful about what we do. For my part, I am convinced today, just as I was six months ago, that the Lapalme affair, in its union purposes, remains valid. I also believe that we have no right to change our opinions about this aspect of the problem.

### 38- LAVAL LEBORGNE, president, communications general union

I am very much surprised that the attitude of certain officers should vary so much from one situation to another. I believe it was last autumn that the president of the building federation, as well as the treasurer and the director of services, informed the confederal bureau that temporary staff members, construction militants, were doing some work throughout the province. And the treasurer told us that those people were costing around \$45,000 per month, and that it required the authorization of the confederal bureau. For all kinds of reasons, the authorization had not been granted before and already two, three or four months had gone by; my memory is somewhat uncertain as to the figures.

The reaction of the bureau at that time was simply to ask the treasurer that he present us a document, with figures in support, to show us just what those expenses were in construction that were unauthorized. Nobody touched off a royal commission of inquiry. Three weeks or a month later, the treasurer presented figures with the names of persons working at the building sites, who were doing union maintenance. And the figures produced by the treasurer showed that the expenses were no



longer something like \$45,000, but more in the order of \$32,000, somewhere around there.

The confederal bureau approved retroactively, since the matter had been going on for some months. There was no question, by way of an administrative act, of preventing action already in progress in the construction sector; a sector which, according to veteran militants, was in peculiar need.



The astonishing thing about this, if one compares it with the Lapalme affair, is that neither the treasurer nor the director of services were not scandalized. They found that it was something understandable within the context of a union struggle. Brother Dion not go on the war path or trigger inquiries into how it was that the construction men and the FDP men were spending thirty some thousand dollars a month without authorization.

In that particular case, the attitude was one of comprehension, of listening to explanations. And the least that can be said, without exaggerating, in connection with the finances in the Lapalme affair, is that there can be no talk about comprehension and explanations. What can be talked about is hostility, at any event as regards the treasurer. I cannot understand this difference in attitude. The irregular situation in the construction matter did not produce any scandal, did not produce confrontation involving anyone. It was settled within the movement, it was settled without being brought out in public.

### 39- ANDRÉ BARIBEAU, president, national milkmen's union

I find this whole thing formidable. I registered to be a speaker on Wednesday morning. I had time to negotiate a collective agreement, to bring double the increase; I had time to go and have my general meeting last night, and here I am speaking this morning. I don't think there is a guy who has had an experience like this. I am starting to ask myself whose trial is being conducted. I wonder if it isn't the trial of the treasurer that is going on. The treasurer produces facts. No one asks to cooperate or to see if the facts are really correct.

Second point: a speaker gave us a very good talk Wednesday morning on union solidarity. The speech was most impressive, but I recalled that the same delegate had advised the members, at the 1970 congress, to express their dissidence on a point that he paid too much per capita to the CNTU.

Third point: the confederal council never asked the Lapalme men to abandon the struggle. It isn't the struggle whose abandonment is desired, but the business of the money going into the fund, because our guys are sick of paying.

I have just lived through an experience, in which I proposed that the guys making \$75 to \$85 a week take a strike vote. Up to that time, things went very well.

But when the strike director told the guys that in the third week the amount is \$20, there was a gang of guys who were jolted. They agreed to take the strike vote, not because the CNTU gave \$20, but because they felt that this was what the situation was coming to.

If the Lapalme men want to continue the fight, it will be necessary that they resign themselves to the inevitable and continue independently of the others. Are they to live at our expense for X number of years? Would this not lead us to the enforced abandonment of other struggles that could be as important as the one involving the Lapalme men?

As far as I am concerned in my union, when a strike vote is taken, I will have a resolution to the effect that if payment is continued to the Lapalme men, payments to the CNTU will stop. When the general meeting puts it to me that assessments to the CNTU are finished as long as you stay involved in that swamp, I shall have to go along with that idea. It would be regrettable, because since I have been on the confederal council I have ascertained the formidable work done by the leaders of the CNTU.

If we are going to stretch the rules for one, we shall have to stretch them for everyone. We are going to have to pay the same price to the one who is starting on strike as the one who has been on strike for 53 weeks.

### 40- ARTHUR DELAGE, delegate, St-Hyacinthe central council

Yesterday, to stretch a matter which in my view has already been stretched enough, our brother the national president proposed a union inquiry permitting us to put off again a decision that we should have taken some time ago. That conflict, in the minds of the 200,000 CNTU members, has gone on too long.

There are people who come and tell us here that within the CNTU the exclusive right to decide on the end of a conflict belongs to the men who are involved in that conflict. That, Mr. President, is strangely removed from real democracy as far as I am concerned. When 300 men decide on the continuation of a conflict, thereby requiring 200,000 others to follow them, it is no longer democracy.

The Lapalme conflict, I am sorry to say, is lost, in my opinion. It is over, and a stop will have to be made to requiring 200,000 members to fight for something in which they no longer believe; an objective that is no longer attainable. I swear to you that the Lapalme struggle not only is lost, but it has produced a situation of division that must be terminated.

If we want to be as union-minded as we claim to be when we demand inquiries, we should start to act the same way when it comes to disposing of a case that has divided us. We should try to restore our solidarity, to re-unionize and to march a little to the other front.



On Saturday of last week, I had 70 guys in our hall. I had questions fired at me about the Lapalme conflict. Some of them were green and some of them unripe, coming fellows who are disgusted with the Lapalme business. The people who come here and tell us to inform our members should be told that we cannot simply inform them on the basis of what could be political dreaming. When I inform them, it is in accordance with what I see as realistic. Again, I'm sorry, but the Lapalme battle is lost, people are tired of paying, and a stop has to be put to it. I've had it up to here, and I think that Brother Pepin should stop it. If he wishes to stretch things a little, let him find something newer, or let him have it done by someone else, because we have seen him extend us enough.

### 41- ROGER DESLOGES, treasurer, provincial civil service union

I am not in a position to make a decision today about ceasing support for the Lapalme men, because if you had run into such a pig-headed person as Trudeau when you organized the civil servants, you would have let us take a crap for ourselves also. Until such time as I know about all the elements involved, I am not prepared to abandon those guys.

What did our effort amount to, speaking of 200,000 guys being asked to fight? Sure, they were asked to joint the struggle, and the cost didn't even amount to the price of one coke per week. During the year 1970, it worked out to 8½ cents to conduct a battle of principle for men who want to win their struggle. In 1971, the amount worked out to nine and a quarter cents. In 1972, even if the expenses ran to \$25,000 a week, and according to the report it is not that much, it would cost us 11 cents.

As for the inquiry, I want it to be made. I am a member of the supervisory committee; I too have my doubts. The inquiry has to be made, but by people in the movement.

Let's put aside the administrative problems and the electoral problems of the CNTU and settle the matter at the level it should be settled, at the congress. And before all kinds of accusations are levelled, let us wait for the final report of a board of inquiry which I hope will include. Mr. President, examination not only of what might have been the responsibility of the Lapalme men, but also the responsibility of members of the executive with regard to the entire financial situation.

And the executive should, at the next confederal council, submit us a report on the entire Lapalme affair, as regards the prospects of getting out of it. Then we will be able, at the subsequent confederal council, to assume a position on whether we ought to continue the conflict or not.



### 42- JEAN-NOËL GODIN, president, clothing federation

Since I believe that the CNTU is at a turning point in its history, I cannot pass up this opportunity to speak on grounds that whatever

### 43- MICHEL CHARTRAND, president, Montreal central council

The Lapalme men borrowed to stage their rotating strikes. The central council approved them. They asked for charity from no one. They paid guys. I would say that they operated in a scientific way. They gained without actually going on strike. Then they reimbursed within a period of three months. Their meeting voted \$10 per week to be retained out of pay to reimburse the debt.

Then their affair became more complicated. Kierans had decided to make their heads roll. We knew all that. We went to Ottawa. I told Kierans: "You want to skin us, little man, but it's your skin that's going to be taken, because these guys are tough."

I told him he wasn't dealing with theorists, or intellectuals, but truck drivers with a purpose.

What is a strike? The employer says to the men: "You want something" or you're starting to hold your head a bit too high, or I find that you're costing me too much, and I'm going to estimate you against engineers, and personnel managers, anything that is going to pay, foremen and superintendents, and I'm going to put the finger on you because you're digging into my profits, and if you don't like it you can go out on strike and starve." Is that what a strike is, or isn't it? That's exactly what it is.

When we didn't have a strike fund, the women at Asbestos waited until Thursday and Friday to divide up the food. That went on for five months. There were other big strikes after that. There was no professional strike fund. The bosses told themselves: "Those guys are completely crazy. They're mad. They haven't got a cent. They spend their time begging, yet they go on strike just the same." Those bosses became prudent in dealing with CNTU unions. But they would say: "Damn them, they are going to go out on strike even if they have no money; this can't be; I cannot tame them, they can't be tamed."

When guys go on strike it is because they are disgusted. It was the same with the patriots of '37 when they took up their guns. They didn't figure to overturn the British Empire and the economy, but they told themselves: "We've had enough, we're disgusted, let's go." That, fundamentally, is the phenomenon of the strike.

### 44- JEAN VANDAL, president, metal industry union, Volvano section, Sorel

Usually, when a person steps up to the microphone, he says: "The rank and file want that; it isn't me, it's the rank and file." In this instance the opposite is true. I believe they will be against what I have to say. I'm ready to continue. I do not believe that the guys will continue, but that doesn't matter, I'm going to vote for continuing. Later one, they can judge me. I'll defend myself.

Where I wasn't in agreement, and I still am not, is your violation of the FDP bylaws right down to the core, the whole gang up front, Dierlizzi included. When you came to the Sambo to discuss matters, I told him: "If you want us to respect you, you respect the defence fund."

I would like to send all 225,000 members a copy of the debates on the Lapalme case, and that they be asked for their views. We keep saying that they are no crazier than we are. What do you think about it?

You talked me into continuing, the gang of you, and I continue as long as I don't have anything new. You can make the inquiry. The thieves, and I've said this everywhere, we'll throw them the hell out. But I would not impose a stoppage on the Lapalme guys.

I say will already have been said.

Care must be taken never to end a strike prematurely. But when there almost general consensus, and when there is a stone wall that cannot be breached, I think it is a lot more intelligent to tell ourselves that there is no sense in knocking our heads against that wall

One day or another, we have to have both our feet on the ground. If you think that I am condemning the principles and the reasons that led to the strike by the Lapalme men, my answer is not a bit of it. The reasons that existed two years ago are still there, that part has not changed. But we are told to wait a minute, that we are either going to kill ourselves together, or try to group our forces for a

The biggest one made into the CNTU were not in connection with money. There was the case of Shawinigan, when they went on strike to win the right of going all the way to the government with a grievance. The grievance clause prior to that time ended at the factory manager's level. That strike lasted for five weeks, as I recall. There is a one-time CNTU negotiator, Marius Bergeron, who today is a management negotiator. I remember him saying: "That affair didn't pay very much." But it wasn't a question of profit, it was a question of emancipation, a question of dignity, a question of freedom. The biggest strikes were staged for those things.

What I want to say is that if management's idea is to starve this workers out by making them go on strike, we have to decide whether, with 200,000 members, we are going to put up with that sort of thing in 1972. We have to find the techniques enabling the worker to wage his battle, to have equality with the employer in the test of economic strength. That is why at the next congress, God and the police willing, I shall speak up for the minimum benefit in the second and third week of a strike be the equivalent of unemployment insurance.



Everyone here who has spent any brief time in organized labour knows perfectly well that when there are workers on a picket line, they are working for all the others in the background. There are fewer and fewer strikes. The strike fund is not a pension fund, that is true, but it isn't a reserve fund either.

It is a battle fund. Do you imagine that management which sees a strike going

breakthrough that we were not able to manage the first time. I also have to consider the consequences of my acts. As far as the Lapalme affair is concerned, if you continue you are going to open the door to all sorts of things in the future. Bylaws, obligations, decisions, there will be nothing left that stands. At all events, for my part, I expect problems in the shoe industry. We do not get the wages that are being paid elsewhere, I tell you that we are going to take the Quebec building by storm, and the Montreal building too.

You will be free. We will not force you. But if you do not decide the way we want, it will be too bad. You are going to be free. If you hold meetings of the confederal bureau, we will picket them. You

on for three years doesn't ask itself a few little questions before deciding to make others go on strike. The fund is the anchor of free men.

And the real strength that no one can take away from us, and that we don't have to apply to anyone for, is our moral strength.

Do you think the Vietnamese have any chance, being against the United States?

The Americans have the weapons. They have helicopters and planes, and anything else you can think of. That's how the U.S. runs. We even had guys in Beauharnois who were supplied acid to throw in the faces of the Vietnamese. The parliamentarians from there thought it was good business.

The Vietnamese are proving to us that a naked man is stronger than a tank. They don't have very many airplanes. They have beat-up bicycles. If you want to wage a war in Viet Nam, send over plenty of bicycles. That's how they transport tons of food and tons of bombs and tons of business. Can we acknowledge, reasonably, that such a small country is able to stand up to the empire of the United States?

Who was it that massacred the Lapalme boys? Was it an ordinary employer? No, it's the representative of employers who is openly capitalistic, Trudeau; and Marchand; and Pelletier, and all the others. We were able to get Kierans' hide. Isn't it possible that we could skin the Liberals too? Not to put in the Conservatives; not to put in the New Democrat Party. When the time comes for me to make my mark on a federal voting slip, I'm going to send Trudeau's word right back to him. SHIT. There are going to be a million like that in Quebec. There'll be a referendum, paid for by Ottawa: "SHIT; Pet—the Lapalme guys."

What are the politics that we pursue in all this? Trade union politics. Economic power dominates political power. So what we say to political power is that it's going to move up, and in a while we are going to be face to face with economic power. So why should we fail to put up resistance when the federal wants to teach us a lesson for the pleasure of management? Look how it managed this during the producers' strike at Radio-Canada. The bosses said: "Don't let up. The foremen and the engineers want to organize; those fools are going to organize."

As far as the Lapalme boys are concerned, don't try to tell me that the CNTU didn't to its job, otherwise we won't be seeing eye to eye. I am in agreement with you about not stopping,

are aware of the fact that the Arvida men are starting to do the same? You are aware that the North Shore guys are doing the same thing?

A call upon the delegates' reason, I appeal to their common sense. We have to vote for the Godin proposition, as amended by Tapin. As responsible people, we must put an end to that story the best possible way. I shall also vote for the president's inquiry. When I start on a job, I finish it; otherwise I don't touch it at all.

and this for all sorts of reasons that may not be your reasons; we are all going to have our reasons. Just don't tell me that the CNTU didn't hold up its end in the affair.

It isn't a question that we didn't do our duty, it's a question of knowing whether our duty is complete in our interest and in the interests of the others who will be negotiating in the private sector and in the public sector. What is the source of the provincial government's resistance to the peace officers? Is it private enterprise that says hold off.

What is the role of a labour movement that is caught in a thing like that? It is to raise its head for the others who are unable to raise their heads. This morning there was a taxi driver, a Créditiste, not a Parti Québécois, not a Liberal, not a National Union, but a Créditiste. Do you know what a Créditiste is towards the labour movement? This fellow says: "What's going to happen about the Lapalme guys? Is the CNTU going to give up." I told him that we don't know, that we would discuss the matter seriously. And he said: "If you give up, and I don't know what you'll do with the thing."

At Shawinigan, there hadn't been a demonstration for 15 years. When the Lapalme guys went there, 15,000 people turned out. The Forum demonstration is symptomatic too. There were people from the Quebec Federation of Labour at the Forum. There were many non-unionized people at the Forum. I must say that when the president of the Lapalme boys stood up, he received more applause than I did.

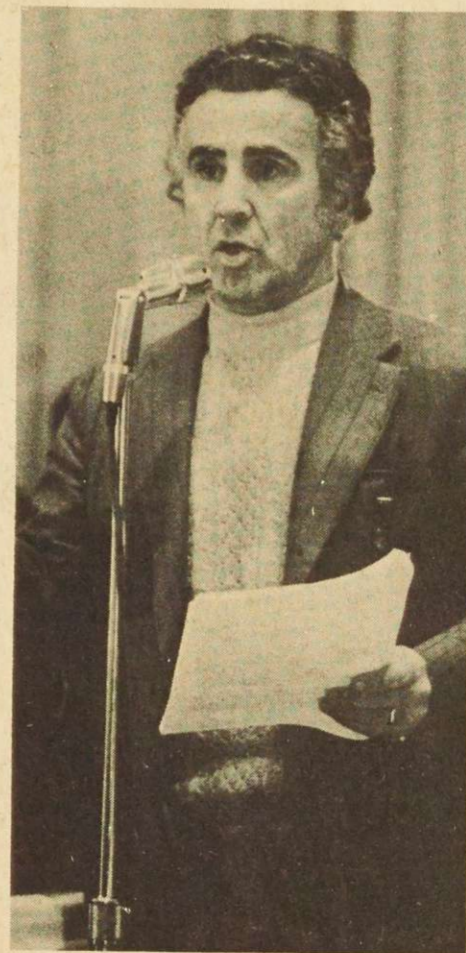
The question is whether we, 255,000 strong, can support 250 guys. Not to the detriment of other, in clothing, in civil service, in the hospitals. If we decide that we are not giving up when we have reasons to hang on, that's something that will apply to all. We will build up the movement, even if we cannot give the Lapalme boys the hope of getting their trucks back. But that isn't the question. It isn't just the fate of the Lapalme men that is at stake. It is the spirit of the labour movement, the morale of the CNTU that is at stake. The fundamental problem of unionism, of worker solidarity against capitalist government which directly represents the interests of management; these are the things at stake. This is what we must fight against, this is what we must continue to combat. We must be stubborn and fight for others and avert harder battles for others. Every time we stop a struggle, it means that the next one is going to be harder.

### 46- GUY THIBODEAU, president, Shawinigan chemical workers union; member, CNTU supervisory committee

We did not agree, and rightly so, on forcing a union into a settlement that was not acceptable to it. We were aware that there was just about no way out. That was my opinion at the time, and it remains so today.

The Lapalme conflict was pursued for reasons that are fundamental to organized labour. This is undeniable. And we cannot abandon that factor in the battle. It should be carried to the political level. We should, at the CNTU level, continue to spend, to defend ourselves. We should continue with public meetings, and even in electoral campaigning, to sustain the objectives that the Lapalme men were defending. This we should continue.

The second point is the campaign itself. In the Lapalme case, in my humble opinion, there is no longer, for all practical purposes, a battle left. The guys aren't going to get jobs. I think we should put an end to it as far as that aspect is concerned. As for modalities, we can adjust to a period of time in such a way as to perhaps be able to place certain persons. I believe that as far as that goes, we should end it, because in my view there is no possible outlet.



palme affair is public. When we emerge from this confederal council, public opinion throughout Quebec will know as much about the Lapalme case as those of us gathered here. For two years we have been asking for public opinion's support of the Lapalme men. I don't think there is a single Quebecer who has not heard about the Lapalme issue. Everyone has the right to know what went on.



### 24th AFTERNOON SESSION

### 45- MAURICE BOUCHER, president, steel workers' federation

What I note after all the interventions I have listened to is that a number of people want to put an end to the Lapalme conflict, and a number want it to continue. Everyone wants an inquiry, those in favour of stopping the conflict as well as those in favour of its continuation.

Those in favour of halting the conflict are inclined to have us support the Lapalme men for a certain length of time. There has been talk of a few weeks, and talk of a few months, and even talk of separation pay. I believe that the period during which we did support them would be sufficient time for conducting the inquiry that everyone wants.

Those who ask that an end be brought to the Lapalme struggle will surely agree that the inquiry be pursued during those few weeks, and that when the results of the inquiry are known, if the presumption made are well founded, an end will be brought to the conflict. But we will have executed no one without a trial.

And now, with regard to the steelworkers' federation: the executive has asked that this not be a union inquiry, but a public one because the whole La-



## 47. SÉVERIN PLANTE,

president,  
Victoriaville  
central council



As far as I am concerned, myself and the other delegates from our central council, I believe that when voting time comes we will be truly expressing the opinion of the workers back home. We passed resolutions on the matter at the last meeting of the central council. As long as there was hope of some settlement in the Lapalme conflict, I believe that we put in our share of the work. But it seems to me that there is no longer any hope, which means to say that my vote will be on the recommendation made by Brother Tapin. Our members said that the conflict had to be brought to an end. I think they could agree that there be separation pay of up to four weeks.

## 48. PIERRE VADBOŒEUR

permanent staff,  
political action,  
Lapalme campaign

Just a word of clarification concerning talk about hope. It is not correct to say that the struggle of the Lapalme men is equivalent to an attempt to break up the positions of the federal government on the CNTU participation, within the public service, in the fight for natural bargaining units. There have been other solutions, besides that one, proposed to the federal government. These were rejected at the time. There is a whole raft of solutions which do not suggest that the Lapalme men's struggle is an assault on the federal government.

The simplest answer would be a return of the job at Montreal to private industry, or the formation of the crown corporation. Another solution: take the post office department and place it under Section 2 of the Public Service Act, thereby making it a distinct employer as regards mail transportation in the region. There are various formulas for the protection of collective rights within the public service, within the framework of unions established there. There is a whole mass of possible solutions, and I believe it is a mistake to say that the Lapalme struggle suggests that the federal government must be broken down on an issue over which, as we know, it is damned headstrong.

## 49. MARIUS LAJOIE,

secretary,  
steelworkers' federation.

Someone said yesterday that the CNTU had never directed a union to stop a conflict. I don't know whether all of you here remember a conflict that occurred in Quebec in 1958. It involved the Garage Laporte, where after seven months of conflict the garage operated at full capacity. The CNTU sent, and I don't know on what representations, a permanent staff member, Philippe Girard, to convince the striking members that they should decline benefits and return to work; and to look for jobs because there were none at Laporte. And that wasn't decided by us. Personally, it didn't make me anti-union, because I have been a union militant since then.

As regards the resolution of the steelworkers' federation, I do not believe it is question of a union inquiry; and as far as I am concerned, at the time it was voted I was in favour of a strictly public inquiry. I don't believe in the effectiveness of house inquiries.

## 50. ANDRÉ BOUCHER

delegate,  
Montreal  
central council

The important thing in this matter is to make the government aware that a group subjected to its dirty treatment is able to look it in the eye and embarrass it. The government could end up by saying the union side was right. Where there is life, there is hope.

It is the whole philosophy of the movement that is at stake, Mr. President. If we let go now, it may satisfy a certain number of people, even within my own union, but on the other hand it will cast peculiar doubt on the entire labour movement. And when the next conflict comes, we may not last a year and a half without calling it quits. It is with all this in mind that I believe we must continue.

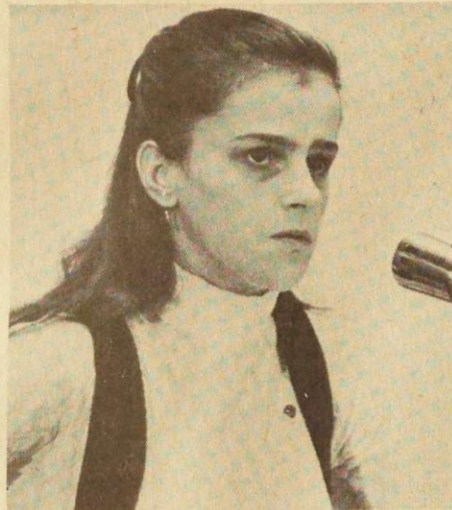
## 51. LOUIS-PHILIPPE JALBERT,

president,  
St-Hyacinthe  
central council

I won't be long, Mr. President, because I've got a bellyfull on top of the bellyfull I had when I left here last night. If we make a valid inquiry, if we did down to the bottom of things, I believe there will be sanctions to take as far as the Lapalme men are concerned, and as far as the management of the CNTU, the PDF, are concerned too. I think that too often we tolerate intrusions in the PDF for reasons other than those which are necessary. I think we will have to get into the habit, within our movement, of thinking about the bylaws which are put into force to safeguard the interests of the workers. The Lapalme men are being blamed for some messing up involving funds, when maybe we permitted everybody else to do this as they wished.

## 52. FRANCINE CLÉMENT,

secretary,  
Laurentian  
central council



I hope I will not be out of order, because it took me two days to decide on stepping up to the microphone and I have been waiting since this morning. I don't know what the delegates would say if overnight they were tossed out and replaced by others. You soon learn how to swear. At the Foyer des Hauteurs, we were thrown out by the police.

We were 14 women. Twenty-five provincial policemen came and put us out. The other women are all about as tall as I am.

We are 14 women and four men at our place, and we have known politicians and promises. We went to see Castonguay, and he told us: "You will have an investigator at Foyer des Hauteurs; he will go there to settle your problem. You'll have an investigator tomorrow." We didn't get one. You go to the general meeting, you're crazy, crazy, you're so proud. The lady president says that Castonguay said that the investigator would be there the following morning. The next morning is a Thursday. Nobody shows.

The investigator was supposed to come and see the two parties. There was a report that he went to Foyer des Hauteurs, but he didn't come to see us. If he'd come, we would have seen him.

For my part, I can speak in the name of my members, in the name of the members. Those who are in conflict have long since been sensitized to the Lapalme men and to their problems. There has to be an inquiry; this isn't the place for a trial. The basis of the problem is often overlooked; why they fought and why we are supposed to fight on.

Anyway, I'm happy enough that I left my members back home. I am very happy that this should be my second confederal council, because I swear to you that I could have walked out on the first day. I fully understand that the CNTU has to administer, and all that. Things have to move. We are not a financial institution. It is handy to have, but not handy to accumulate.

I think of my boss at home who takes advantage of the patients. He makes money on the backs of the patients. I don't consider that to be right. The professional strike fund is there to help strikers. Money exists, and solidarity exists too. There are problems all the time. One morning you wake up and you find yourself on the outside, and you don't know when you are going to get back in.

The FNS supported the members of the Foyer des Hauteurs; we are only 16 members. I swear to you that I found this hard to believe, because the little unions generally get crapped on. The same as the Lapalme guys. I have the impression that we are on the way to deciding whether the central is going to do the same as the government, crap on them.

I have nothing against the ideas of anyone and everyone here; I will respect the ideas of all. But I saw that as far as the conflict of the Lapalme guys is concerned, you have to live through something like that to appreciate what it is. You have to experience a problem to realize what it is. That's all I have to say, Mr. President. Thank you.

## 53. GUY THIBODEAU,

member, CNTU  
supervisory  
committee

During the course of the month of March I was asked to register the Lapalme men. I went to see them. I was given reasons in which it was made obvious, in my view, that this was impossible. I had asked that the men be called to a general meeting.

That day there was a delegation going to Ottawa and to Quebec. It was impossible to proceed with the registration.

I made a suggestion to them. I asked them to register by themselves. I told them I would leave them 400 cards and they could register. I said that after three weeks or a month I would return to assess to some extent the registration that would have been made. I was rather doubtful about them registering by themselves. I returned in May, and nothing had been done.



## 54. MICHEL BOURDON,

If ever the Lapalme men decided to end the conflict, their decision would be respected. The serious thing here is for us to put an end to it ourselves. I joined the CNTU six years ago at Radio-Canada, with an American union. At the time, I was told that there is a big difference between the CNTU and the American unions, and that union autonomy is a real thing. I once heard Lucien Groulx tell people that one of the reasons he left the American unions at Lachute, a number of years ago, was that there had been a strike and the unions had given up.

We know that this is done, discreetly, by American unions. That is because the decision-making occurs in another country.

We cannot as a movement, when there are funds, and there are some, cut off the supply to workers who are still determined to fight. There are some who say we have been paying them a pension. Proof that the amounts given them are hardly regarded as a senator's pension comes from the fact there were once 450 of them. There are only 200 or 250 feet. The clothing administrators, and others who think there is an ending are correct. The end will come when the Lapalme men give up, or depart individually, which is something I do not wish for.

They have to be supported as long as they retain the will to fight. If there have been cases in which an unjustified end was brought to conflicts, I would like to stress one thing: no such case was ever brought to our attention at the confederal council.

## 55. CLAUDE GAUTHIER,

president,  
Northwest Quebec  
central council

At our general meeting of the month of September, there was a proposal along similar lines to that of Brother Godin, calling for an end to all activity in the Lapalme men's campaign. There was a notice of motion to reconsider our decision. At the October meeting, we did reconsider it. By a strong majority, we endorsed the July decision of the confederal council.

This leads me to say that I might have been, in the movement, one of the most reticent in the Lapalme men's case. At the present time, I say that this would be the worst moment to cease all activity, if we consider all the members we have in the public service who facing the government; if we consider the campaign being carried on against the right to strike in that sector.



The affair of the Lapalme men is extremely important to the future of the central. The right of association is at stake. It will have to be spelled out whether people working for the federal government must always bow before the federal authorities; whether it is only the international unions that have right of access there.

## 56. PAUL-E. DALPÉ

vice-president,  
CNTU

A correction with regard to the intervention by Bourdon. He indicated that there were among the five CNTU officers two who took an active part in the Lapalme campaign. This might lead to the impression that the others did not participate. Personally, I can say that I participated and that I tried to be loyal to the confederal council decision of July 22nd.

To give you an example: the St-Hyacinthe central council had decided against approving the decision of the confederal council. Certain St-Hyacinthe groups informed me of this. I considered it my duty, because of the function attributed to the vice-president, to go to St-Hyacinthe and to ask the general meeting to reconsider its decision. This was done. The general council held a secret ballot, which was in favour of supporting the confederal council decision July 22nd. I intended to do the same thing with regard to the Northwest Quebec central council. Unfortunately, there was a storm, and I was forced to beg off from attending the council's general meeting. However, I despatched a long telex message in which I repeated, for all practical purposes, the same arguments that I had presented at St-Hyacinthe. And the Northwest Quebec central council reconsidered its verdict, as was reported to you by Brother Gauthier.

As for my other activities in the matter, as a member of the strategy committee — and I believe that yesterday Brother Vadeboncoeur aid it in all frankness and sincerity, for which I thank him on behalf of the two members of the executive committee, Brother Parent and myself — the committee was never subjected in any way to annoyances concerning the required credits to bring the actions it decided upon to a successful conclusion. That was what I wanted to make clear.

## 57. DELEGATE (UNIDENTIFIED)

I have just read in the newspaper Le Soleil a statement that may have an important bearing on my decision. What I would like to know is whether these things are false or not. There is a paragraph saying that Mr. Almas Tremblay, president of the Lac Saint-Jean construction union, who has been receiving benefits from the CNTU professional defence fund for 3½ years, as the victim of a layoff for union activity, has suggested that, instead, this separation pay be reduced to two weeks.

May I know if it is true that he has been receiving allowances from the defence fund for all that length of time?

(Brother Tremblay replies that this is correct).

## 58. CLAUDE GIRARD,

president,  
Saguenay-Lac St-Jean  
central council

It is not \$65 per week for a period of 3½ years. It is in accordance with the bylaws of the CNTU. At the outset, he drew \$25., and when the bylaws were amended along the way, he received the amounts to which he was entitled. And I must point out that when Brother Almas Tremblay received \$65 a week, it was I personally who had intervened by contacting Brother Parent, because it had been decided that this applied to everyone. Brother Almas Tremblay isn't even aware of what occurred. But since it was a regulation that had been decided, I thought that at that time it was my responsibility to tell Brother Parent to pay the same rate for Brother Almas Tremblay.

I made report in writing to the CNTU secretary. It seemed to me quite clear that the registration couldn't be done.

Second part: I was called during the second week of December to go and make the registration. The CNTU executive, according to information I had, was holding me responsible with Raymond Couture for the registration. I should say in passing that the registration of employees is not a responsibility of the supervisory committee.

I went there with Lapointe, Marcotte, Nap. Nadeau, Rousseau. I think there was one other person. The executive had selected five or six guys. I waited two, three days because there were objections on the union's part to the registration being handled by teams named by the executive. Finally, after two, three days of discussion, I was accepted as the person to handle the registration. I was accepted by the group. For all practical purposes, I am a guy elected by the congress to go and exercise a certain supervision. That fact must not be ignored.

On the eve, I had made a whole tour of the Montreal region, with a man named Hale accompanying me. We covered more than 150 miles to meet the guys who were sick to be registered. My sympathy for them increased when I found out the kind of ailments that most of them had: stomach ulcers, turmoil, worry. I was struck by it. I made a round of calls on all the sick. There were about 30 of them.

The next morning we proceeded with the registration. Those who made the registration included two women working at the CNTU, and there was Taylor, Daigneault, L'Heureux and Vadeboncoeur. My job was limited to checking whether the social security numbers were entered on the cards. I cannot say if the guy who had the card was the right guy, but I do say that the guy who had the card gave the name and number that were on the card.

I was well treated, and no one made any unkind remarks about me. There was one instance of a guy trying to be funny, but he yielded to reason, and I didn't have any problems.

## THE DECISIONS

1- The confederal council implements the decision of the confederal bureau to proceed with a strictly union inquiry, and designates the three members of the board of inquiry:

Jacques Desmarais, legal adviser to the CNTU.

Gilles Gagnon, auditor, treasurer of the federation of engineers and middle management (cadres).

Jean-Guy Morin, director of the federation of paper and forestry workers.

2- The inquiry shall begin on Monday (28th February). It will last for two weeks, but this may be extended to four weeks at most.

3- The union representing the Lapalme men may participate in the inquiry, but it is also its right to refrain from participation. In the latter event, the CNTU will nevertheless submit its allegations.

4- The report of the board of inquiry shall be made public, the confederal bureau will take cognizance of it and will convoke the confederal council within the shortest possible delay so that the latter may dispose of it.

5- The board of inquiry shall be mandated to pronounce itself on the allegations of the parties in the light of evidence presented by one party and another.

6- The inquiry shall be open to the members of the CNTU who wish to attend, as well as to the news media.

7- The inquiry will also deal with the responsibilities of the CNTU executive in the conflict.

8- The confederal council maintains its decision of July 22nd to continue the struggle in the affair of the Lapalme men. (Secret ballot: 90-73).

9- The CNTU executive and the representatives of the Lapalme union shall prepare a document on the possibilities of settling the conflict; said document to be submitted to a future confederal council.

10- An eight-page issue of Le Travail (Labour) carrying the account of the debates on the Lapalme affair shall be published and despatched to the members of the movement, so that the said members may present their opinions. (This is the present issue).

The next meeting of the confederal council is fixed for March 14th and 15th.

Adjournment.

## RATE SCHEDULE PROFESSIONAL DEFENCE FUND

Strike or lockout	Single	Married
Benefits begin in the third week		
3rd to 12th week	\$15	\$20
13th to 16th week	\$20	\$30
17th to 34th week	\$25	\$40
35th to 52nd week	\$35	\$50
53rd week and over	\$50	\$65

### Layoff or suspension for union activities

Benefits begin on the first day	Single	Married
1st to 12th week	\$15	\$25
13th to 16th week	\$20	\$30
17th to 34th week	\$25	\$40
35th to 52nd week	\$35	\$50
53rd week and over	\$50	\$65

Note: This schedule of the professional defence fund was adopted at the confederal council of October 1971. The Lapalme conflict has been going on for 109 weeks. The Lapalme men therefore come into the category of \$50 to \$65. They were considered from the beginning as employees laid off for union activities.

## TO ALL CNTU MEMBERS

- |   |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | YES                      | NO                       |
| 1- Have you read all the debates reported in this paper?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2- Do you agree with the union objectives pursued by the Lapalme men?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3- Do you agree on the CNTU continuing to support the Lapalme men in accordance with the bylaws of the professional defence fund? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

UNION.....

Return to the CNTU secretariat, 1001 St-Denis, Montreal 129.  
NOTE: Those who wish to make additional comments on a separate sheet of paper are invited to do so.