

Canada Post / Canada Postage
Third class / Troisième classe
 F-38
 Montréal

labour

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CNTU
 VOLUME 49 NUMBER 2

MARCH 1973

What is it like to be inside at Orsainville?

We asked Mrs. Hélène Pepin, wife of CNTU President Marcel Pepin, to pass on some of his remarks when she and some of the children visit him at the prison on Saturdays.

"All three of them live in a fairly large cell. Marcel and Yvon insist on working from 8.45 in the morning until 5 in the afternoon. They put two or three small tables together to make working tables. They have television but are only allowed to watch the late movie on Friday night.

"Marcel frequently runs short of paper. He writes a lot. He asked for paper clips to hold the sheets together, but was refused. There was a period when they held back the books brought for him, on the pretext that he already had enough.

"They are entitled to one egg a week at breakfast. Since they know the menus in advance, the meals are of considerable importance in prison. They talk about them. When there is onion in the food, Marcel eats toast. Every time we see him on Saturday

We Quebecers put up with many things. We put up with Duplessis for twenty years.

But the time comes when a situation can no longer be tolerated. The public rumble is getting louder in Quebec.

In other lands, there is astonishment over the government of the very liberal Robert Bourassa behaving like a group of Greek colonels, or Brazilian militarists, or Soviet bureaucrats or Spanish Francoites.

By throwing the opposition in prison, that is. Yes, the time comes when it can no longer be a matter of astonishment and denunciation, but a matter of action. There is no more time to be lost. The bid to demolish the trade union movement must be halted.

We know what laws are made and who they are made for. But the day comes when there was to be a distinction made between what the law directs and what justice demands.

The time has come when each of our unions must take the initiative of doing something to bring about the liberation of the three union leaders. Within the CNTU, the inventiveness of the regions is unlimited. Militants must see to it that those three men are released.

Words alone cannot change much of anything. This government scoffs at talk. Only action has the power to make it budge.

The CNTU executive Norbert Rodrigue Victor Dahl Claude Girard
 Jean Thibeault Guy Thibodeau

afternoon, he tells us that he had hot dogs for lunch.

"Marcel says that he performs almost a social service function with the other prisoners. They can speak through a hole alongside the cell lock.

"Tobacco serves as money in prison. There is one fellow who rolls cigarettes. Marcel smokes 600 to 700 a week. The man demands 6 Pepsis for 200 cigarettes, and Marcel gives him 8. "They wear grey trousers, without belts, and a khaki shirt and white sweater. They have slippers without laces. It's horrible.

"A guard makes a tour among the prisoners to change razor blades. Another guard fills the lighters.

"The weekends seem to be the worst to endure. The prison is on short staff. The guards are bored, and so are the inmates. There is no canteen.

"The three of them play cards quite often. But Yvon quits when his loss for the day gets beyond two dollars."

There is nothing symbolic about this imprisonment. Marcel Pepin has not been out of Orsainville since February 2nd.



LIBERATION FOR THE PRESIDENTS

It took time to get started but now the campaign for the liberation of the three union-presidents in Orsainville is beginning to roll.

In Quebec

There was the Sherbrooke celebration where 2,000 CNTU militants and numerous artists (Gilles Vigneault, the Seguins, Claude Gauthier and Georges Dor) gathered to show their affection for Marcel Pepin.

There have been many messages of solidarity arriving from every where, from the Gaspé to James Bay and from all kinds of people - farmers,

the Parti Québécois, citizens' groups, but above all from workers.

Many telegrams and letters have been sent to the government to demand the liberation of the presidents.

There is a petition being circulated everywhere in the factories by the CNTU's central councils.

Thousands of stickers, which can be placed on cars or clothing, have been distributed.

There is CALIPSO: comité d'action pour la libération inconditionnelle des prison-

niers syndicaux d'Orsainville, which has undertaken a series of actions, conferences, newspapers, shows, discussions, a film week, a trip through Quebec.

Around the world

There have been demonstrations in Chili and in Mexico in front of the embassies. In Mexico, 1,000 workers participated.

Messages of solidarity and demands for the release of the three have come from workers in France Belgium, Germany, Morocco, Africa and Latin America.

Solidarity weeks have been organized on all the continents by the World Confederation of Labour, which groups 20 million workers.

We can't give up

Marcel Pepin and his companions have gone to jail for us. They must be freed. In each city, in each village, in each region of Quebec the voices of free men, of the workers, must be heard, so that this injustice will be ended. Marcel Pepin and his two companions are in prison but WE are free and WE can act.

Marcel Pepin has been sent to jail for a year.

Yet, he's a very ordinary guy, like all the ordinary guys. He is there because he did his job as president. He is there because the government and the big shots will not forgive him for choosing to stay with the ordinary people and not making any compromises.

SPECIAL COURSES FOR A MASSIVE ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

The powers that be are increasing their attacks against unionism. To face these unprecedented attacks, a series of special courses is being presented in each region. The courses will serve as the springboard for a new style of organizing drive.

OBJECTIVE OF SPECIAL COURSES

1. To train militants who are equipped to fight today's battles.
2. To increase the number of militants on whom the CNTU's action rests.

TODAY'S BATTLES

1. To get rid of Bill 89.
2. To get the presidents freed.
3. To organize more workers in order to have the strength to protect our way of life which involves negotiating collectively those things which concern us, rather than accepting the decrees of the

political party that happens to be in Power.

HOW TO EQUIP OURSELVES FOR TODAY'S BATTLES

1. By understanding what is happening.
2. So that the obstacles in the way of organized workers can be seen better.
3. So that these obstacles can be eliminated or detoured more easily.

COURSES FOR UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S HAPPENING

1. To understand that we have a government (party in Power) which is anti-worker (Bill 89 and all that came before it). A government which seeks to replace collective bargaining with decrees issued by the party in power.

Course given by Jacques Desmarais, of the CNTU's legal service.

2. To understand that we have a government (party in

power) of patronage seekers, that is a government which favors the interests of its friends rather than the interests of everyone.

Course given by Gérald Godin of Quebec-Press.

3. To understand that we have a government (party in Power) ruled by St. James Street, which defends the interests of the economic powers, rather than the interests of everyone.

Course given by Mario Dumais, economist, member of the professors' union at the Université du Québec (CNTU).

4. To understand that we have a government (party in Power) which defends democracy as practiced by the big shots, rather than accepting democracy for all.

Course given by Louis O'Neil, professor at Laval University.

5. To understand that the government (the party in Power) as well as the economic power which it represents, uses the information media as a loudspeaker to

make people believe that their point of view is that of everyone.

Course given by Guy Ferland or Michel Rioux of the CNTU Information Service.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S HAPPENING AND ORGANIZING TO MEET IT

We are faced with this choice:

Either to accept the way of living imposed on us by the party in power. Or to organize to protect our way of living, based on collective bargaining.

By organizing better, with well-equipped militants, and more of them, we increase the strength of the organized workers and we reduce the strength of the party in power.

The result is that the party in power cannot impose its way of living on us and we will have completed another step towards democracy for all.

The CNTU Executive Committee.

A common front of the CNTU, QFL and CEQ for the liberation of the presidents was formed on March 21. The time had come to provide a common framework for the actions undertaken in various regions by various unions. The time has come to put a halter on a spiteful government whose attacks on the union movement as a whole grow daily.



"By sowing so strong a wind, You're building a helluva storm for yourself. But maybe you don't realize it."

Gilles Vigneault's character Ti-Cul Lachance in a letter to his prime deputy minister (Bourassa).

HOW THE GOVERNMENT FIGHTS US

People are just beginning to realize the aim and gravity of the three union leaders being imprisoned.

It is increasingly evident that a plot against Quebec has been in the making for some years. Now comes the imprisonment of the three union leaders, obviously another step towards crushing the ordinary people and installing permanent mechanisms for repression.

Since 1960, Quebecers have wanted more and more to be heard. The idea is to prevent them by any means whatever from achieving liberation and thereby dislodging those who profit from exploiting them.

But how did this situation come about, and how far can it go?

A scheme that gets results

The strategy employed has come into focus. First, an assault is mounted against so-called marginal groups. They are attacked one by one. Gradually, more and more groups become targets, and the mechanisms of repression instituted become increasingly numerous and permanent. Impressed by the propaganda of the big wheels and their information media, the public

at large continues to believe that the difficulty involves only a handful of Montreal radicals. But one by one, and ever so slowly, we are all being eased into the pit, and we could wake up one morning to find ourselves in a society that operates like one vast prison.

It has happened in Spain, in Greece, in Brazil, and several other countries. There have been other examples in Quebec's history of the notables trying, but never with complete success, to trample on the rank-and-file 1837, the two conscription crises, and so on.

To be more specific, the strategy is worked in four stages:

1. First, provoke a group. For

example, the common front of 200,000 last spring: refusal to negotiate essential services in specific hospitals; the blockage of negotiations in such a way as to allow things like Bill 19 and the issue of injunctions by the courts.

2. The group being provoked is then forced to adopt radical measures. For instance, after the injunctions were handed down, the common front was left with no choice: it had to capitulate and absorb total defeat, or ignore the injunction and have its actions branded illegal.

3. The authority then can intervene with force in the name of the law, and justify that intervention by contending, for the public's benefit, that the

group is really just a handful of bandits and fanatics. Example: in the case of the common front, contempt of court citations, imprisonment, fines, the police, etc., all were used to shore up the pretext that the common front was defying authority and letting the sick die in the hospitals.

4. The powers that be then move to the establishment of a permanent mechanism of repression, to assure against any recurrence of trouble. Bill 89, for instance, is pictured as an assurance of essential services but in fact it provides for absolute control by the cabinet of the right to strike and to negotiate, and reduces trade unionism to a disguised form of civil service.

Act while there is still time

The imprisonment of the three union presidents is part and parcel of this escalade. Unionized workers now are the only people with the means to act, since the élite and their lackeys continue to sell us out. Action does not mean mere sterile protest, but banding together even more solidly than before, and developing more militants who understand what is going on (see Page 3, for the new program of training and organization that is under way). We must build a genuine popular force. The struggle for the release of the three leaders, and against Bill 89, is intensifying day by day. We must at the same time, however, see to the readjustment of all our forces in order to face the rulers.

A decade of escalating repression

1964: a handful of separatists
the riot squads

On October 10th 1964, some hundreds of demonstrators against the Queen's visit to Quebec were bludgeoned by the police on Wagner's orders. That was the famous "samedi de la matraque". Shortly before, the first separatist FLQ (liberation front) had surfaced. All this emerged as a side effect of Quebec's quiet revolution. Shortly after the Saturday of the police nightstick, Wagner announced the construction of an armoured anti-riot tank; and in the years that followed there were riot squads formed within the Montreal and provincial police forces - riot squads that subsequently would serve for any and all purposes: against labour disputes and the public at large. Imprisonment and political trials also were injected into our morals during this period.

1967: unionized teachers
laws of exception

On February 20th 1967, a law of exception called Bill 25 put an end to the teachers' strike and set their working conditions by decree. In a bid to counteract this new unionism in the public services, there will be more laws of exception: Bill 1 for transportation, Bill 290 in construction, Bill 15, Bill 19, and so on. The police now intervene in labour conflicts, such as the one at Seven-Up. Ottawa boycotts DeGaulle for his "Vive le Québec libre." Already the attack is hitting ordinary people.

1968: June 24, students, Windsor
arrests, injunctions

On June 24th 1968, the day of the St-Jean-Baptiste celebration in Montreal, the riot squad inflicted a toll of 250 injured and 292 arrested among the rank-and-file. Trudeau rejoiced because this boosted his rating with the anglophones. In July, the Windsor and East Angus strikers were hit by a planned series of injunctions and arrests. The injunction process will be used more and more to antagonize unionized workers. In October came the CEGEP and university crises. The authority broke up student ranks and the police put an end to occupations. The police also are let loose against the taxi drivers combatting Murray Hill.

1969: thousands demand a French Quebec
anti-demonstration law

In 1969, the authority went after the thousands of ordinary people who demonstrated and protested in favour of French and French schools in Quebec. First there was Operation McGill français in the spring, then the St-Léonard school crisis in September and the Bill 63 crisis in October. On every occasion the police did their stickwork and sundry bits of strategy were dredged up: reading the Riot Act, charges of conspiracy and sedition, citations for contempt of court (which henceforth would come into almost delirious use); and Drapeau came up with an unconstitutional anti-demonstration bylaw. In October, the army made an initial and official appearance during the police strike and the demonstration against Murray Hill. In November, 189 women were jailed for having defied the anti-demonstration bylaw. During the summer, the repression of youngsters wearing long hair began in Percé and was destined to spread from place to place, including public parks: climaxed by such incidents as the fatal shooting of young Vassart by Policeman Goulet in Ste-Thérèse. The escalade was on, full speed ahead.

1970: the patented October crisis
the army, War measures

On April 29th, the so-called "handful of separatists" gave 24 per cent of the vote to the Parti Québécois. The authority decided to hit hard. A Toronto newspaper and Dr. Ferron recently established that on May 7th 1970, six months before the October crisis, the federal cabinet set up an inter-departmental committee. Its job was to find an excuse for invoking the War Measures Act in Quebec so that the brakes could be applied to the awakening of the Quebec population. Slowly but surely it was discovered that the October crisis had been worked up in good measure by the police, and there were plenty of policemen in the FLQ. The imposition of the War Measures Act and the arrival of the army enabled the imprisonment of militants from all movements in all regions; the destruction of the FRAP movement in Montreal; the terrorizing of the citizenry at large; the installation of controlled news; the broadening of the network of police informers; the preparation of dossiers on thousands of people - and finally the justifying of the even more rigid control that would follow.

1971-73: the Labour movement
Police Act (51), Bill 89, Gendron Report

Since 1970, the authority has indulged in direct attacks on the people at large and instituted permanent mechanisms of repression affecting increasing numbers of those people. On October 29th, during the demonstration of support for the common front workers at La Presse, the police slugged 15,000 workers right on the street. The War Measures Act was replaced by Bill 51, justly regarded as a permanent war measures act because it authorizes the police to seize people without warrant on the pretext that this is part of an investigation into terrorism and organized crime. In April-May 1972, the authority directed its wrath against the 200,000 workers of the common front. On May 16th 1972, on a directive of its president, Lise Bacon, the Liberal Party instituted emergency policies and anti-union committees. Radio broadcasters signed an agreement with the police to supply them with information during times of crisis. The army began to train and indoctrinate soldiers for an eventual intervention in Quebec, as shown in the confidential document on the CNTU which was made public by the PQ. The government is hitting at trade unionism itself: after having contributed a hand to the defection of the 3D's after its injunctions, after Bill 19, after imprisonment of the three leaders, it presented Bill 89, the equivalent of a death warrant for organized labour. Thousands of other people are the targets of the authority: those who demonstrated against private clubs, the James Bay Indians, the taxi drivers (Regulation No. 6), the victims of factory closings, the beneficiaries of social assistance and unemployment insurance against whom war is being waged, the popular organizations over which control is being assured through Bill 65, the Legal Aid Act, multimedia, local initiatives and youth initiatives. And lastly, the Gendron Report is an affront to a very great number of Quebecers.



ACTION CONTINUES

OPERATION TO SAVE OUR SHIPYARDS

For many years now, unions in the shipyards, notably a policy that would create a Canadian merchant marine. This time they have decided to go to the root of the problem. A tough economic dossier prepared by the CNTU's research service will be used as the basis for energetic action.

If nothing changes, our shipyards will disappear. The downhill slide has already started. Everyone remembers the closings of GEO. T. DAVIE SHIPBUILDING and CANADIAN VICKERS. Between 1965 and 1970, the number of shipyards in Canada dropped from 71 to 62 and from 11 to 8 in Quebec, leading to the loss of 4,163 jobs in Canada and 2,484 in Quebec. Present shipyards survive on a week-to-week basis through con-

tracts and poulitice-like grants from the government. They are totally dependent on surplus orders from other shipyards around the world. Up until now, nothing has been done to remedy the situation. A shipyards policy necessarily involves construction of a Canadian merchant marine, which is largely justified by the shipping needs of Canada. Thirty-five per cent of Canada's exports — and she is one of the world's major traders — travel in ships, most of them foreign ships. Canada only has four ocean-going freighters. The creation of a Canadian merchant marine requires a lot of work and considerable in-put from the government. There are many problems in the way but none is insurmountable. The government only has to decide to go ahead resolutely.

REGIONAL CONVENTIONS ON BILL 65

From January through to April there have been a series of regional conventions organized by the Fédération nationale des services on Bill 65 and the social and health problems of each region.

These regional meetings are part of the FNS campaign to explain what Bill 65 is all about, its implications and what sort of action union members should be developing.

Under Bill 65, which restructures all of Quebec's social and health services, institutions from next June will be administered by boards of governors on which workers will be represented.

In order to obtain maximum profit from our participation

in various boards, the FNS set up local committees for health action or social action. These committees, set up in each union, are aimed at presenting candidates for the June elections and through that ensuring the participation of union members in the administration of the institution in which they work. By extension, the purpose of these local committees is to ensure that workers obtain the social and health services to which they are entitled.

These committees will be coordinated at the regional level, by a regional health-action committee. Delegates from local committees, militant unionists and, if they wish, citizens' groups, will be represented on it.



40-HOURS GARAGES



More than 700 garage employees in the Eastern Townships region have been on strike since Feb. 22, fighting to improve the quality of their lives. They want to work 40 hours a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They want to breathe a little too. Does anyone realize that for each \$10 an hour taken in by the garage, the worker gets between \$1.95 and \$3.62 while between \$6.38 and \$8.05 goes to the boss, without counting profits made on parts?

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE CAMPAIGN

For many years, unions affiliated with the CNTU have been denouncing the exploitation of Quebec drivers. In 1970, the CNTU launched an offensive for the creation of a government corporation providing automobile insurance and a system similar to that from which residents of Saskatchewan have benefited since 1946. At the last meeting of the CNTU's Confederal Council, it was decided to step up the campaign.

The objective of the campaign is to start a debate and to get people to take stands on car insurance and the need to eliminate the monopoly held by insurance companies. The debate should start in the unions first, then in the general public.

In March and April

It will be organized systematically in all regions with the help of the co-ordinating committees, political action committees, permanent staff and militants in the federations and central councils, through general meetings of all unions at which workers will be invited to express their views on the creation of a government insurance company.

Such a company would be responsible:

1. for an obligatory automobile

insurance policy which would be set up in such a way as to return about 85% of the premiums in the form of compensation to insured persons:

2. for selling optional supplementary coverage in accordance with the needs and choices of drivers;

3. for selling, in competition with other insurance companies, other forms of insurance (life, fire, theft, etc).

In May

If the results of the March and April meetings are conclusive, the debate will be brought to public attention at the level of the National Assembly. To succeed, because of the size and influence of the power insurance monopoly, considerable support will be required from union members and the population.

The instruments

For this campaign the political action secretariate is preparing various instruments: a brochure of 32 pages, a basic dossier for the militants, different pamphlets and stickers, recorded messages and slides.

Victor Dahl is chairing the campaign and André L'Heureux is co-ordinator. It was kicked off by a press conference March 26.

THERE ARE MORE PREVILLES IN QUEBEC

All the newspapers played up the scandal of Préville Hospital in Brossard, quoting large extracts from the dossier presented by the Montreal Central Council — lack of staff, absence of competent doctors, overcrowding, patients tied with chains, lack of food and equipment, grave danger in case of fire, etc...

What they don't say is that the case of Préville is not unique in Québec. For some owners of private hospitals, the health of patients is a money-making proposition. What is important to them is not hospital care but profits. And to make a maximum profit, the owner cuts corners on everything — staff, equipment, care, etc...

The serious thing about all this is that the government pays the cost for nearly all patients referred to the hospital by welfare. The government is permitting businessmen, using the population's money, to make a profit by treating patients like cattle. And the government is closing its eyes to it all. Informed about the Préville dossier, Mr. Castonguay said it wasn't all that serious and that he didn't intend to intervene.

If it's not that serious, hopefully he'll fall ill and be sent to Préville. Perhaps after that he'll decide to abolish private hospitals and concern himself a little more with the people and less with little friends of the Liberals.

NEWS BRIEFS

8 STRIKES IN PROGRESS:

At present, 588 CNTU workers are on strike or locked out. Eighteen are at Foyer des Hauteurs, at St. Jérôme for 15 months; 30 at Pavillon Saint-Dominique in Quebec for 12 months; 45 at CKRS radio-TV in Jonquière for two months and 700 in Eastern Townships garages since Feb. 22.

BILL 89:

The Sherbrooke Central Council, at its convention March 1-3 condemned Bill 89 and has decided to invite all MNAs from the region to its next general meeting to explain their positions on the legislation. The Sherbrooke Central Council has invited all other councils to take similar action.

TORONTO:

Some 2,100 Toronto hospital workers have become affiliated with the FNS and the CNTU. These workers are members of the Canadian Union of General Employees and have been fighting a tough battle since 1965. Toronto region hospital workers are subject to the same conditions that prevailed in Quebec 10 years ago.

FEDERAL BUDGET:

According to the government, one of the important points of the federal budget was a reduction in taxes on food from which consumers should benefit. However, finance minister Turner admitted that the government had no means of controlling the effects of the reduction. It is quite obvious that producers will not reduce the price of their food but rather will increase their profits. So, as usual, this tax reduction won't help the consumer.

PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES:

The Federation of Public Service Employees, which has 278 unions and 27,000 members, held its regular convention at Trois-Rivières Feb. 23-25. The Federation attacked its principal problem, which is to provide professional services to its members. 85% of its unions have fewer than 50 members and the unions are scattered across Quebec. The 300 delegates reacted violently when they heard about Bill 89, which is the very negation of negotiation and collective agreements.

CONSTRUCTION:

The decree ends May 1. The negotiation period has begun. The CNTU's unions have submitted the proposals to the companies. They centre around job security, safety on construction sites and union security. It also insists on equality of wages. At present, nothing is moving because Dédé Desjardins refuses to sit at the same table and is more anxious to eliminate the CNTU than to negotiate on behalf of construction workers. The building federation finally obtained the trusteeship of the CIC and the reopening of the Mount Wright inquiry.

VICTORY AT CEGELEC:

After a very hard 9½ month strike, the 160 CNTU workers at CEGELEC have won a fine victory. It includes worker control of production speeds, abolition of the system of disciplinary measures; appreciable improvements in seniority, job security, vacations and a wage increase of 33%. The conflict especially changed the attitude of the company towards its employees, who from now on will be respected at their work.

CSN POUR VAINCRE

POUR LE GÉNÉRALISER À VOTRE SECTEUR AU QUÉBEC

DEMANDEZ-LE À VOTRE CONSEIL CENTRAL OU À VOTRE FÉDÉRATION

RAPPORT MORAL DU PRÉSIDENT AU CONGRÈS 1972

Dans la grande assemblée québécoise, ce sont les notables qui ont le micro en mains.

Rien de plus facile alors de faire croire que leur point de vue est celui de tout le monde.

TWO CNTU PUBLICATIONS FOR WORKERS WHO WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING

labour

Organe officiel de la Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN)

Directeur: **Guy Ferland**
 Rédaction: **Roméo Bouchard, Pierre Graveline, Michel Rioux**
 Conception graphique: **Jean Gladu**
 Photographie: **François Demers, René Derome**

Produit par le Service d'information de la CSN
 Bureaux: 1001, Saint-Denis, Montréal, tél. 842-3181

Le ministère des postes, à Ottawa, a autorisé l'affranchissement en numéraire et l'envoi comme objet de troisième classe de la présente publication (Permis no 80)

Lithographié par Journal Offset Inc.
 254 Benjamin-Hudon, Ville Saint-Laurent