

I'm from Abitibi. I work at James Bay. I'm an officer in my union. I don't have to tell you it isn't easy being a CNTU man in the construction industry. You hear so many stories about the unions in the end you don't know what to think. On my vacation, I went all over Quebec with a tent-trailer and I took the chance to find out a bit about the unions. I chatted everywhere with guys who were on strike or locked out. I learned a lot...

IN MONT-LAURIER

I talked to the guys at Sogefor. Those guys decided to go further than ordinary unions. They want to keep the plant open in spite of the GIC. All the GIC plants are supposed to belong to us. They want to take part in the management or even buy the plant so it won't be either closed or sold to the English. The leaders and minister Saint-Pierre are doing all they can to stop them. Any time guys try to show they can run a plant themselves, they do all they can to stop them - Mont Laurier, Cabano, Temiscaming. The guys run the plants and the bosses get rich.

Saint-Pierre explique pourquoi la Dupan a aboli la cogestion

par G rald LeBlanc

QU BEC - Le ministre de l'Industrie et du Commerce, M. Guy Saint-Pierre, a d menti les rumeurs voulant que le moulin Dupan du Lac-des-Iles pr s de Mont-Laurier soit vendu "sous le manteau"   une entreprise priv e malgr  l'offre d'achat d'une coop rative form e de travailleurs de l'usine et de producteurs de bois de la r gion.

Apr s avoir soulev  la question g n rale de la r gion.

des travailleurs, mais du conflit r  ts qui les emp che de respecter le s seau de la confidentialit .

Par ailleurs, M. Saint-Pierre consid re qu'il est malhonn te d'attribuer   la pr sence des travailleurs   la direction la remont e de l'usine depuis un certain temps.

"Il serait plus objectif et plus honn te de dire que depuis

QUEBEC ON HOLIDAY

Over the years, it's the unions that have won annual vacations for the workers.

Sure, workers' vacations are still nothing like the holidays the bosses take. But they do let a growing number of workers realize they are something more than slaves to production, profit and

power, that they aren't just made to work but also to enjoy life, nature, their relations, their family, the country and their freedom.

For some, maybe, vacation time is another reminder of how little freedom is left to the worker in today's society

of frantic production and consumption.

And then there are all those who don't take a vacation... because they aren't given one or because they're paid so low they can't afford one or because they're beaten by the cost of living or because they're currently on strike or victims of a lock-out.

IN ST-JEROME

the construction workers are having trouble with "Desjardins' bandits" who are trying to drive the CNTU guys away from the area of the Ste. Scholastique airport. It's a real battlefield. But the guys aren't scared. They got an injunction so that the workers' freedom would have to be respected. It's the same thing up at James Bay. When it isn't the employers or the government, it's smart-alecs trying to stop the guys from getting together.



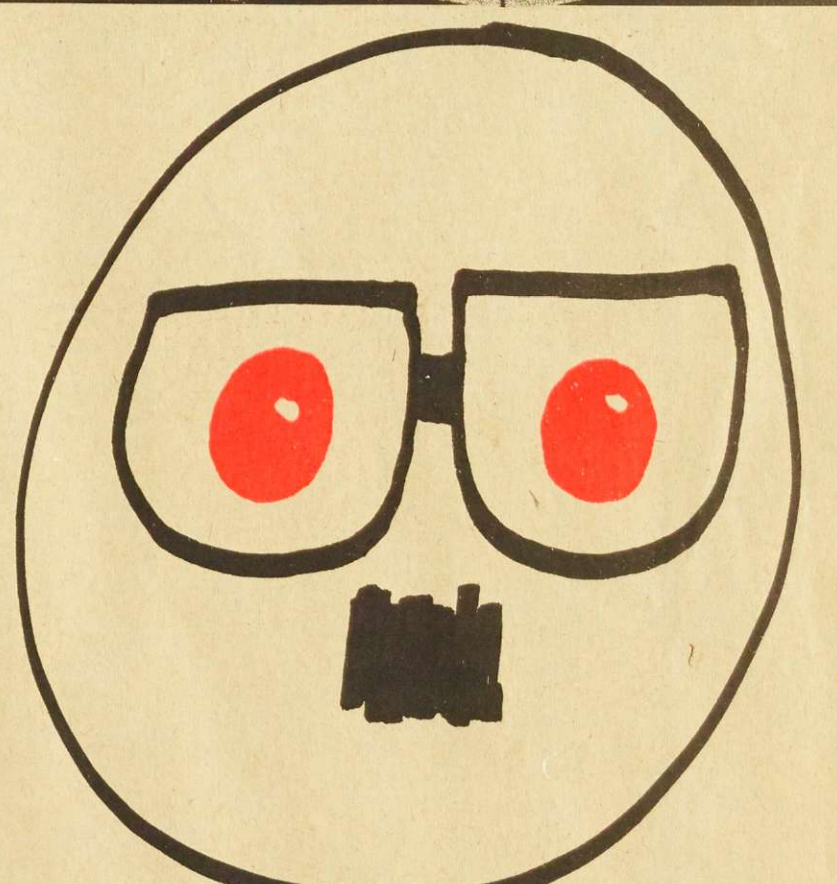
Quelques fiers- -bras de la FTQ r cemment condamn s pour violence   Sainte-Scholastique.

IN MONTREAL

I saw people are right to moan about Drapeau. The city is being pillaged. He's demolishing left and right to build highways and skyscrapers. Pretty soon, there'll be no room left for the people. Any the Olympic Games, besides. We're going to have to pay for them and I bet we won't even be able to see them.

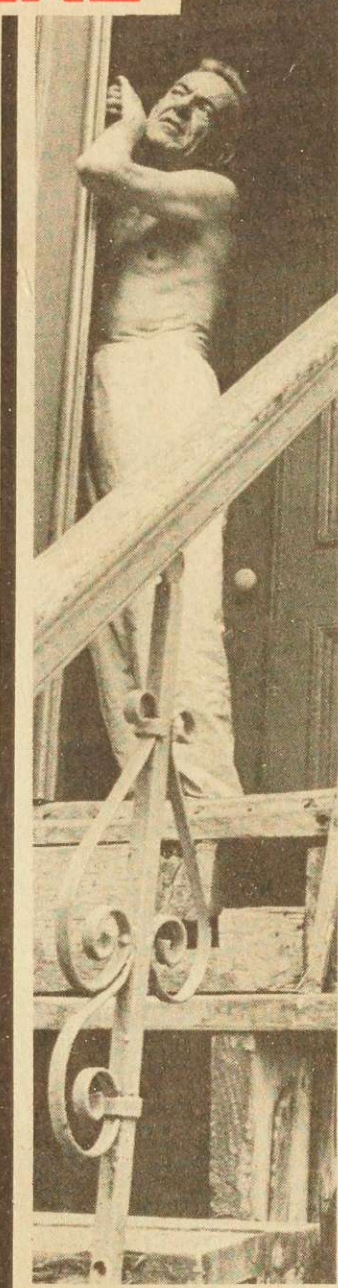
IN JOLIETTE

I saw the tobacco fields but I also met the 90 guys on strike at Canadian Gypsum, 300 others at Firestone and the newsmen on a newspaper belonging to Marcel Masse. Some of them were fired because they refused to work Sunday. So they all got together and formed a common front. The three federations organized a demonstration with 2,000 people. There'd never been anything like it around there.



IN MONTREAL

I could never live there. I couldn't get over seeing everybody out on their little balconies sweltering through the heat wave. And it didn't seem to be any better at work. I met the Canadian Gypsum strikers. You wouldn't believe the stories they told me. And the Cadbury chocolate guys who just finished a four-month strike. Fiercely anti-union companies — run from abroad — scabs, mistreatment, lay-offs. As if we were living a hundred years ago. People think that doesn't happen any more, but it still does in Montreal.



Cadbury: l'affaire n'est pas 'chocolat'

par Louis Fournier

Si vous avez du mal à dénicher une "palette" de chocolat Cadbury par les temps qui courent, voici un conseil.

Si vous voulez absolument vous sucrer le bec, communiquez donc avec la direction de la compagnie, à Montréal.

Dites-lui d'arrêter de "jouer au fou" et de négocier enfin — et de bonne foi — avec le syndicat qui représente les 700 travailleurs de la vieille chocolaterie de la rue Masson, dans l'est de la ville, en grève depuis le 24 avril. Dernier jour de deux semaines de grève.

C'est le résultat de vos adversaires.

des femmes. Ils sont membres de la CSN et affrontent un grand monopole britannique, Cadbury - Schweppes-Powell, dont c'est la seule chocolaterie au Canada.

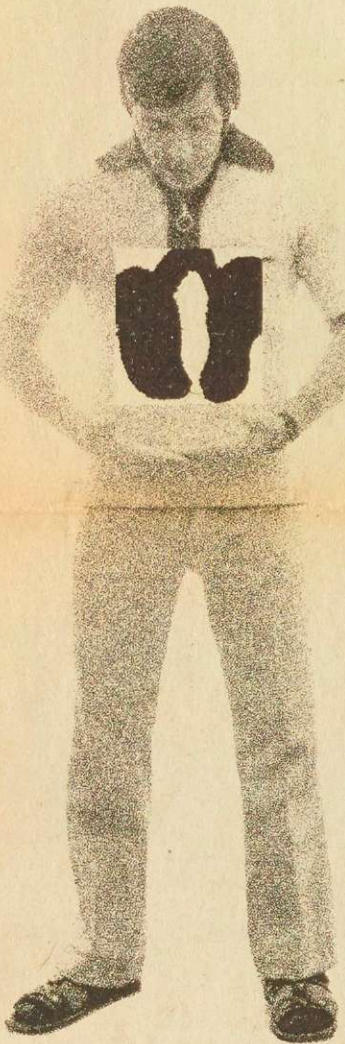
Le conflit tient surtout à une question de gros sous. Les travailleurs gagnent en moyenne \$2.85 de l'heure — les femmes un peu moins, comme d'habitude... — et ils exigent une hausse minimum de 65 cents dans un contrat de 2 ans. La compagnie s'est assise sur une offre de 75 cents en 3 ans.

Les employés de la CSN ont déjà mené cinq semaines de grève. Cette détermination a déterminé le



IN THETFORD MINES

I saw the asbestos mines. The companies are ripping up the whole countryside. I talked to the miners. They make their living at it, but it still destroys the health of plenty of them. The asbestos they mine goes straight to the United States. There's supposed to be enough of it for another hundred years, but sooner or later there won't be any more. It's like the oil. Resources get used up. It doesn't seem right to me.



IN QUEBEC

I saw a guy walking all by himself with a placard in front of the National Assembly. I went and spoke to him. He's a Steelworker who was cheated by the Workmen's Compensation Commission. He's been demonstrating every day for the last two years in front of the National Assembly. That's a long time! At one corner of the National Assembly grounds I saw they're clearing the way to build roads. They shouldn't be allowed to touch Quebec City for any reason. If there's anything that belongs to us Quebecers, it's got to be Quebec. It doesn't belong to the tourists or the government.

Ever since June 23, Gabriel Cristini has been marching in front of the Quebec National Assembly to protest against his unjust treatment at the hands of the Workmen's Compensation Commission. Gabriel Cristini is a former miner from Val D'Or who lost his job several years ago because — according to the Workmen's Compensation Commission — he is suffering from silicosis. The WCC found he was 10 per cent incapacitated by the silicosis which, it appears, is slightly wasting him. Gabriel Cristini has had no work since December 1965 and the Commission gives him an allowance of \$24.33 per month, which works out at 80 cents a day (no kidding!).

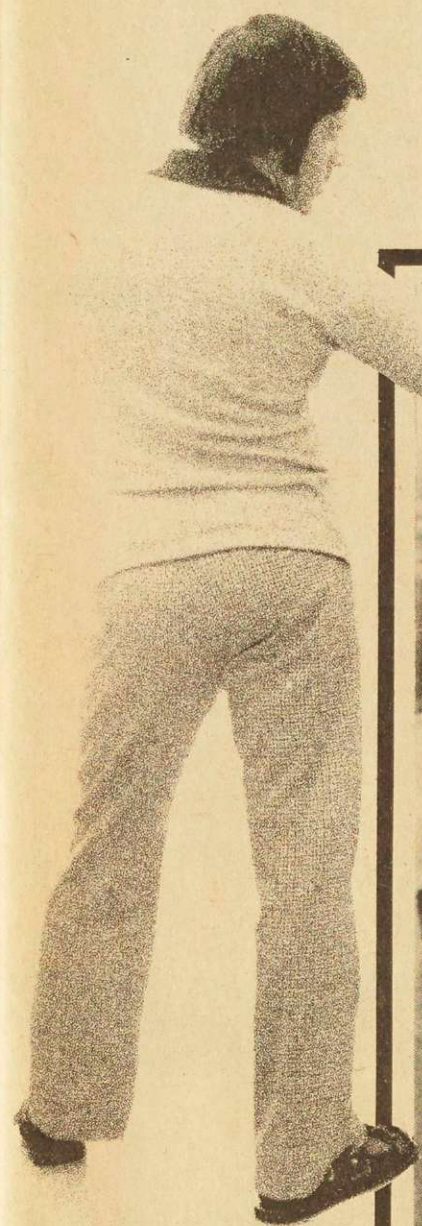
"I arrived in Quebec in perfect health. I came here to work and make a living. I want to work and practice my trade as a miner. But the Commission — on the pretext that I've got silicosis — forbids me to practice my profession," he says. He adds: "Not only does the WCC refuse to let me practice my trade: it gives me a pittance of 80 cents a day..." Gabriel Cristini's demands are completely logical.



Gabriel Cristini
silicose
80c Par jour

IN SOREL

the islands and the port are worth seeing. I talked to the guys at Marine Industries. They showed me the shipyard. They just finished a two-month lock-out. I found lock-outs everywhere; they seem to be coming back into fashion. In March the guys decided to start their negotiations all over again because they weren't happy with what had been done. In the end they settled for \$1.35 over three years, but their contract will expire six months after the one at Lauzon. They told me about the Simard family who run everything in Sorel besides getting mixed up in the government: Bourassa's wife is a Simard, you remember! So they're on their right side. There ought to be an inquiry on politics and rigged jobs...



IN ST-EPHREM



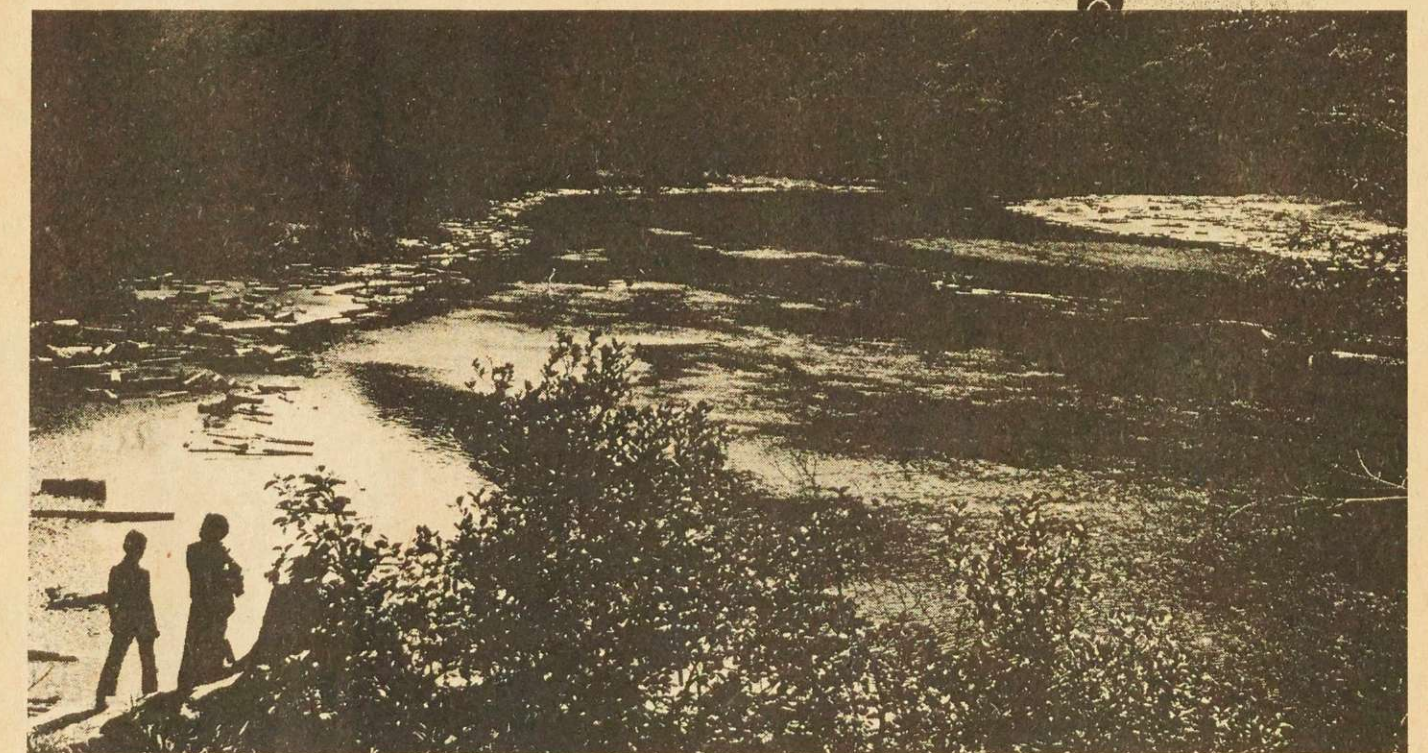
Trois ouvriers tués
16 blessés

On my way through the Beauce, I went to see the sports centre where the men were killed. People talked to me about Chartrand. They weren't happy to see him at the inquest, but by the end they liked him better. One of them told me: "It isn't just the Social Crediters who are sincere and take an interest in people's problems." You really feel at home in the Beauce. Everywhere you go there are people you can talk to.



IN THE JACQUES-CARTIER VALLEY

I took the chance to go and see the Jacques Cartier River. Everybody's talking about it since Hydro wants to build a dam. It's near Quebec — the most beautiful spot I've ever seen. Scientists say it's a real natural museum, as well. If Hydro gets in there, everything else will follow. You have to see how they work at James Bay. It's all well and good to generate electricity for the Americans, but if we destroy everything this place won't be liveable in 15 years.





IN WATERLOO

I saw things that weren't even human. I'd heard about the Waterloo mushrooms. The guys who pick them explained to me that they had been on strike for two months - 275 of them. They get \$77.00 take-home for a six-day week. They catch all sorts of diseases.

I promised to write you when you dropped by our strike headquarters at Waterloo. After what we showed you, I think you will be able to explain to your fellow workers how the mushrooms grow. As we told you, we've been on strike since May 27. It's not our first, but this time we've decided to settle our problems. Take me, for instance, I've worked 33 years for Slack Brothers and I'm getting \$2.15 an hour on maintenance work. I can't work in the sheds any more because my lungs are full of holes. You remember the drum I had you smell? They call that formaldehyde. They put it in with the steam to make the mushrooms grow faster. When you breathe that for 20 years it's not surprising if your lung are full of holes. You have to pick fast because we aren't paid by the hour. We're paid 4 1/2 cents for each pound of mushrooms we pics in the darkness with miners' lamps on our heads. To get a living wage you have to do a lot of overtime, but it's tiring working in the darkness. At the end of the day you can't see anything at all. But the humidity is the worst part. You noticed how hot and smelly it was when I took you into the sheds. But that's nothing compared to how it is when they're growing. We're always soaking wet, winter and summer. We go outside in our trousers after dinner and they stand up by themselves frozen. It looks like a long strike, but we're going to tough it out. At the meeting last Friday one of the guys said we're fighting not for ourselves but for those who come after us. He was right. Good bye, nice seeing you.

Maurice Poirier, union secretary



These are the tasks which the last confederal council set for the political action secretariat:

**To priority:
create people's
committees**

According to the governing decisions of the 1972 conference, we consider that the clear priority of the political action secretariat should be to assist the formation of people's committees.

The secretariat will divide the 21 central council territories among the three staff members assigned to it and undertakes to meet the members in each region once a month starting next September.

In the first meetings with members the objectives, forms, means and formulas for creating, through people's committees a permanent association of freely-participating wage-earners will be specified as decided by the preceding confederal conferences.

Incidentally, if you think unions should go beyond bargaining you will be encouraged by the CNTU's political action program for next year and by the work of the central councils.

**Political action
in industry**

In coming years it will be necessary to organize a political action committee in each company to analyze the history, operation and internal administration of each company and of the whole sector in question.

This work is already generally started in the pulp and paper industry and in the hospitals.

The basic elements are available to undertake this work in the asbestos industry, - where it should be spread to the whole mining and extraction sector - in the transport industry (especially shipyards and automobile manufacturing) - and in aluminum, while the trade federation asked us several months ago for a program for the fisheries. Construction industry members have suggested a formula similar to that in pulp and paper. It could be extended to other sectors such as municipalities, school boards, government agencies, private colleges, CEGEPs and universities.

This program should be implemented with the federations and with collaboration of the general, research, information, education and industrial engineering departments.

Special campaigns

As ordered by the association, the secretariat will pursue certain campaigns:

- government automobile insurance;
- workers' control of workers' pension funds;
- democratization of hospital administration and of access to all medical services, salaries for doctors, etc.;
- pursuit of the campaign to liberate Quebec lands controlled by private clubs.

Since an election campaign is imminent, we suggest, among other things, analysis of the programs of the different political parties.

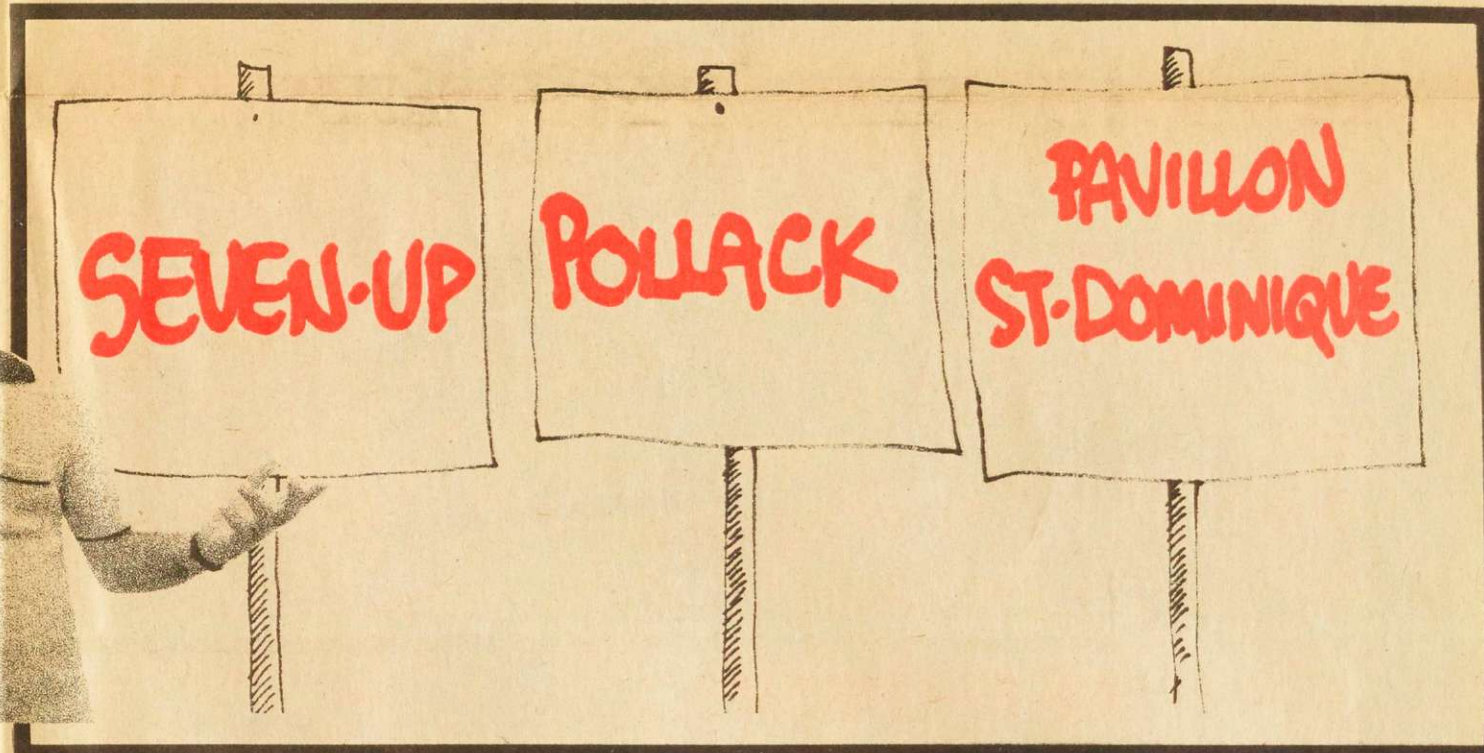
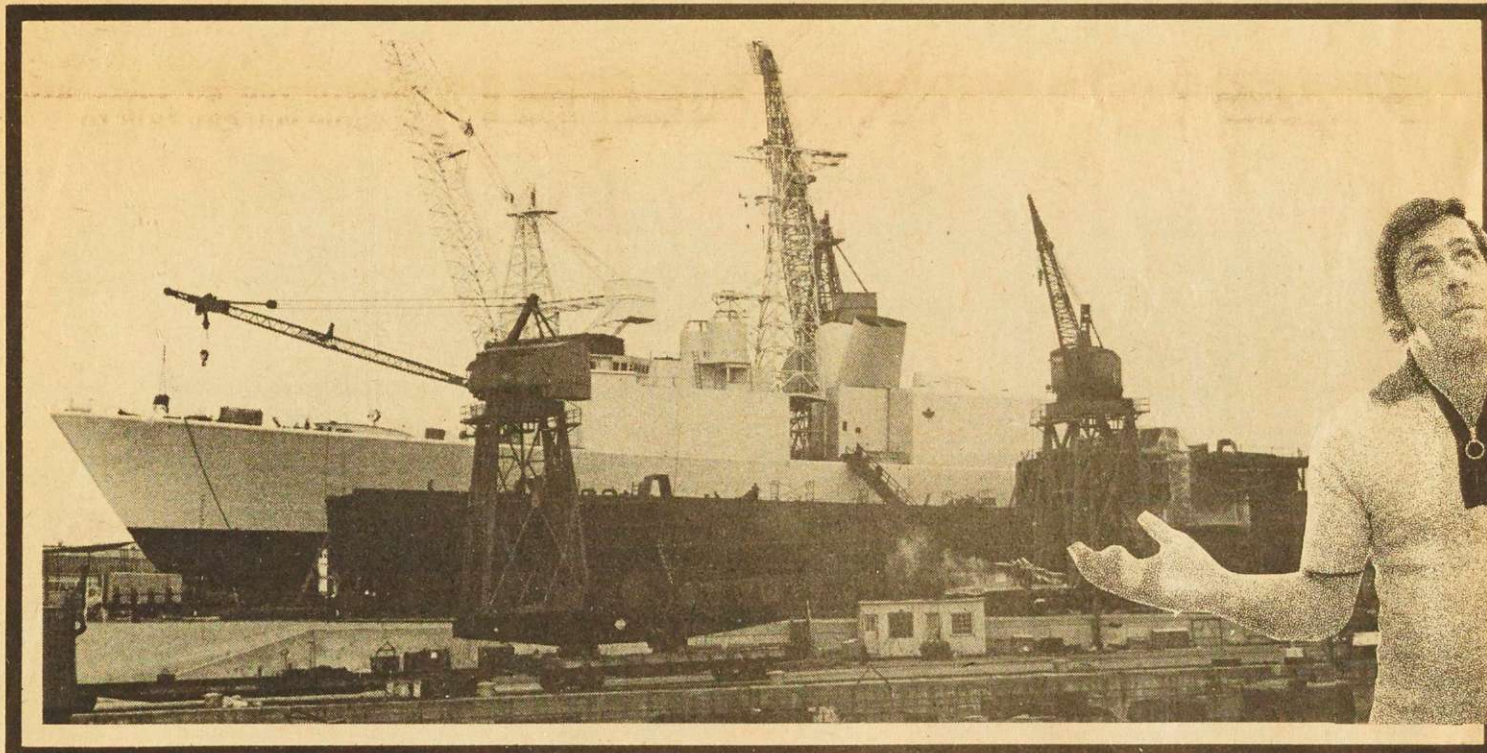
**Supporting action
for certain conflicts**

We believe that we will in fact have to maintain this policy of support, relating, however, to the political dimension of the conflict.

IN LAUZON IN QUEBEC

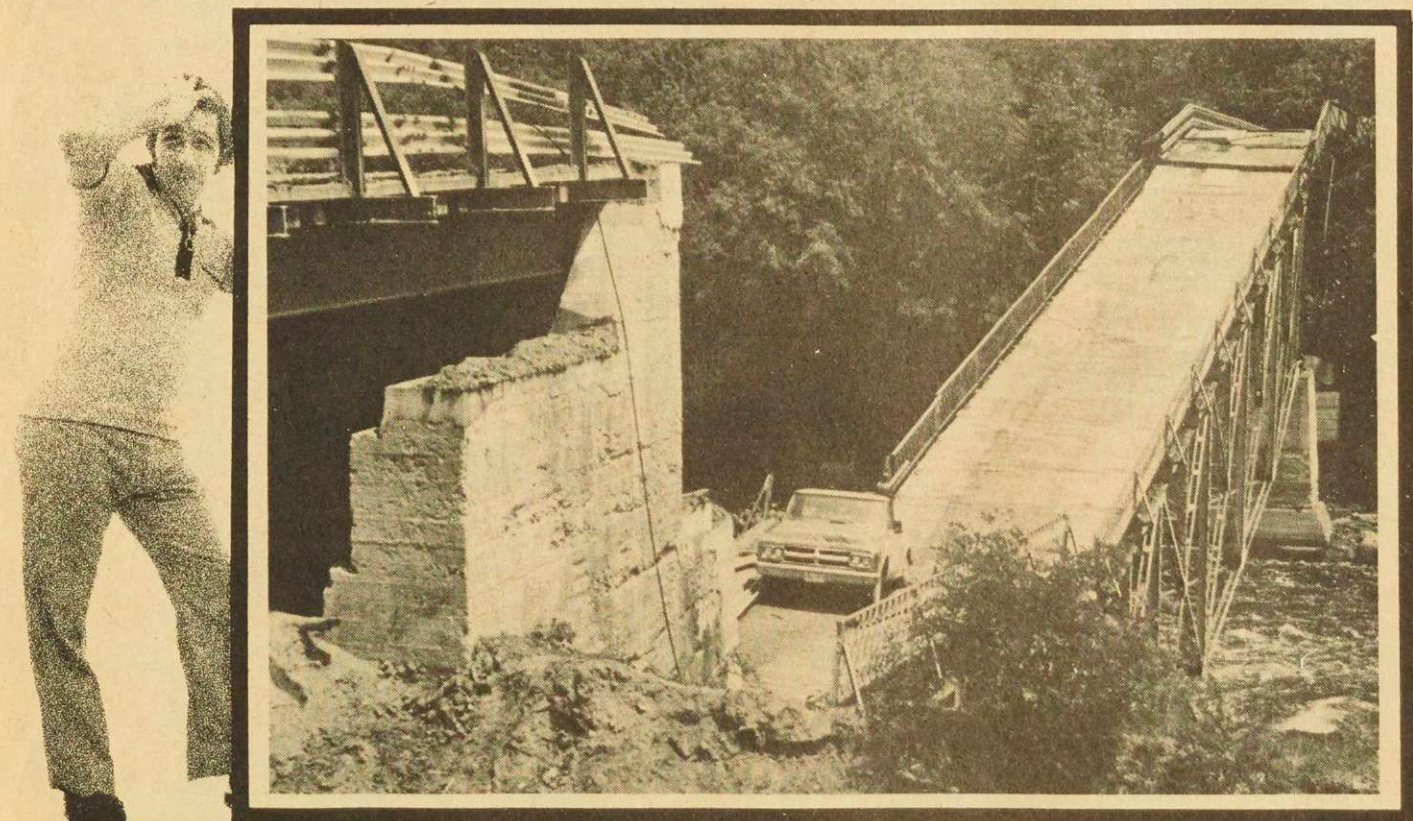
I went to see the shipyards. The guys just won an increase of \$1.15 after a two-month lock-out. Some of them wanted to keep fighting. If the guys at Marine Industries in Sorel hadn't held out, they wouldn't have won at Lauzon. The union is conducting a big campaign in the town to stop the government from deciding not to compete with the Japanese and to let the shipyard close.

I got fed up with the American tourists in the Upper Town so I went down to the Lower Town. That's where you find the real Quebec people. I noticed that the picket lines I had seen earlier in the year at Pavillon St. Dominique, at Pollack and at Seven-Up were still there. At St. Dominique, the Sisters are blocking everything. Another of these homes where they exploit the old folks and the employees. I can't understand how employers keep a strike or a lock-out going for a whole year.



IN DONACONNA

I saw the bridge that feel down and killed two men. With those two, 32 have died on construction sites this year. You'd think we were still in the time of slaves and concentration camps: men are dying like flies but don't worry, they're well paid, there's more labor than they need, send more. The construction industry must profit and fast. It's good that the unions are keeping at it: safety, job security: that's the only way to start controlling it.



IN GROS CACOUNA

the people want to have their port. But if it's for super-tankers they may regret it. There has to be some reason why the Americans don't want them. I say it's a beggar's mentality: whatever is good we give to the Americans for peanuts; we keep the scrap, the leftovers, the unemployment, the pollution and we remain poor. That's not development, it pillage.



IN CABANO

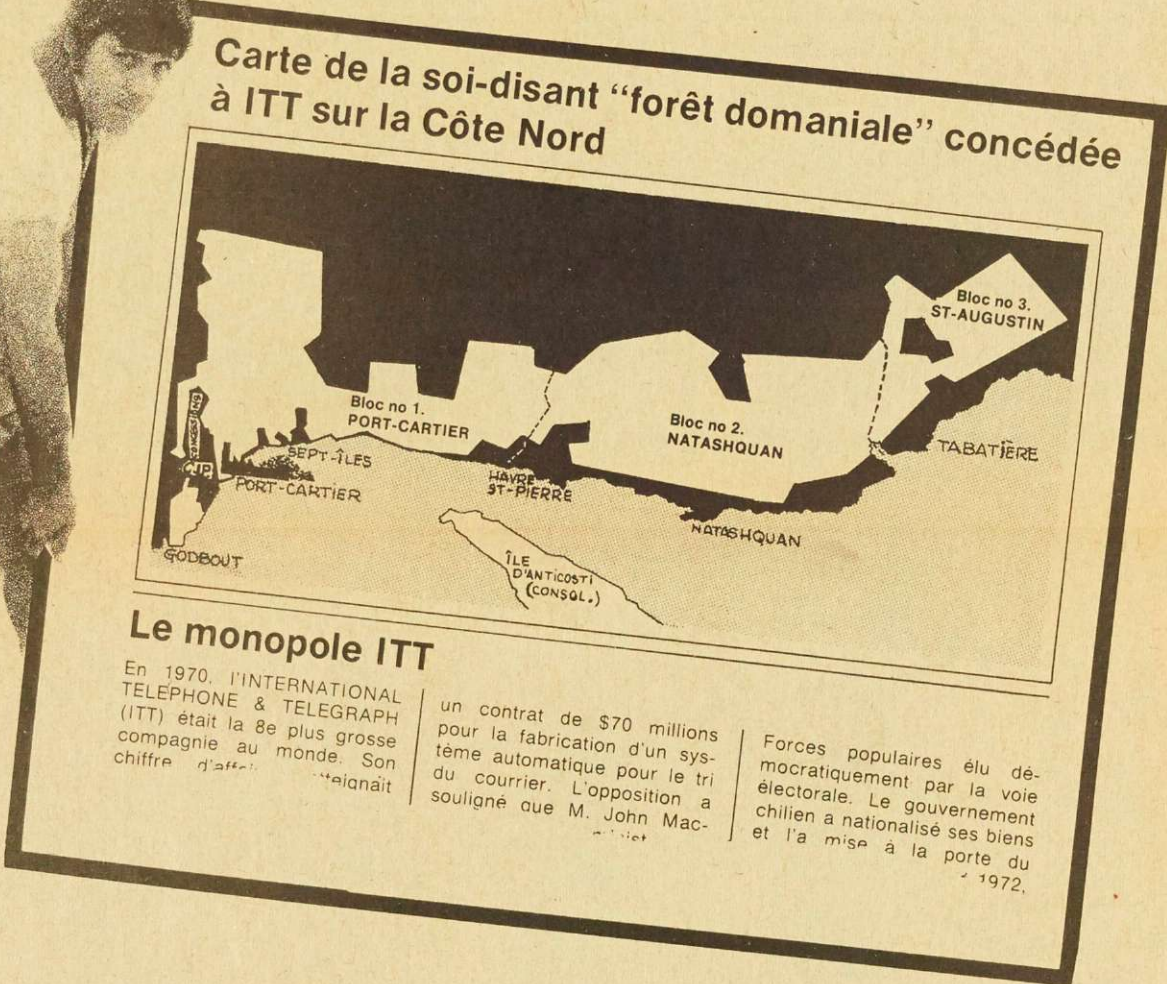


I saw disgusted people who finally revolted. Their planned paper-board mill is vanishing. Everybody sabotaged their efforts: the companies, the government, the members of parliament. You can't say they didn't try peacefully. They gave me a copy of the Matane manifesto. The folks in that region are sick and tired of having all their efforts boycotted by old politicians and big companies. They've come along way. Quebecers are a damned patient people.



IN SEPT-ILES

they play big. They play hard. Ships full of iron. ITT moving in. Bechtel. Iron Ore. Quebec North Shore. Our wealth shipped out by tons. Our taxes subsidizing those who rob us. The pay is good, but rent is \$300. Strong unions. Always a strike somewhere. When I was there it was Provigo. But the unions alone can't stop the companies from gutting the country on the pretext of providing a few jobs.



Le monopole ITT

En 1970, l'INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH (ITT) était la 8e plus grosse compagnie au monde. Son chiffre d'affaires atteignait

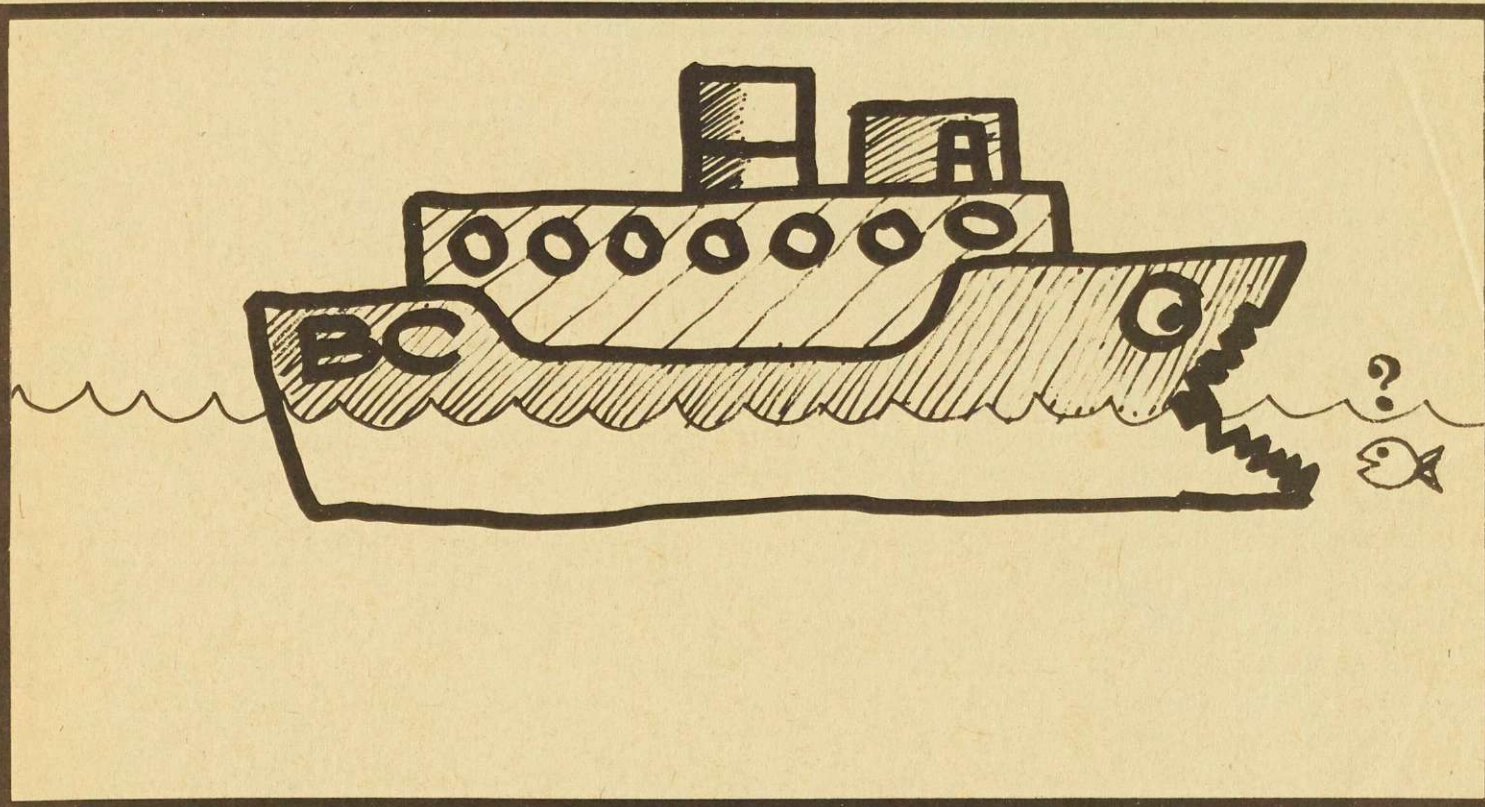
un contrat de \$70 millions pour la fabrication d'un système automatique pour le tri du courrier. L'opposition a souligné que M. John Mac-

Forces populaires élu démocratiquement par la voie électorale. Le gouvernement chilien a nationalisé ses biens et la mise à la porte du

1970

IN NEWPORT

The fishermen working for the United Fishermen were locked out. Same at Rivière aux Renards. They don't have enough work to make a sufficient income. The unemployment insurance gives them a hard time. The big trawlers from British Columbia steal their fish, and next the oil tankers will come and poison the waters. It's no joke.



Folks at Sept Iles told me about the inquest on the death of seven construction workers at Mount Wright. That was a big deal. It opened lots of people's eyes. What people don't know is that happens all over, even in factories. We have to fight even harder over safety, working conditions and company organization. People will put up with anything to have a job and a salary.

Enquête du mont Wright ajournée

Un expert affirme que les cordons de soudure au silo numéro 3 n'étaient pas satisfaisants.

Un ingénieur de Mannix, Gérard Scraba, corrobore le premier témoignage: il y a eu manquement.

Enquête à Mont Wright

L'effondrement des plates-formes est dû à une erreur de conception

SEPT-ÎLES (PC) — Alexandre Kreiger, c'est un spécialiste en structure qui viendra compléter le témoignage de M. Potvin.

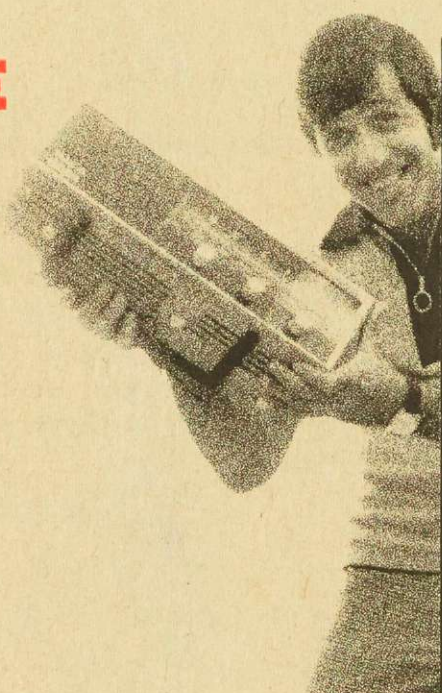
début septembre 1972 au 27 septembre, a souligné qu'il avait vu lui aussi les plans, introuvables aujourd'hui, sur lesquels

vers procureurs, la se rendre à Calgary pour interroger le témoin Lorn Berg, le contremaître général des menuisiers Launo Roch Lefra-

Plate-forme non inscrite

IN JONQUIERE

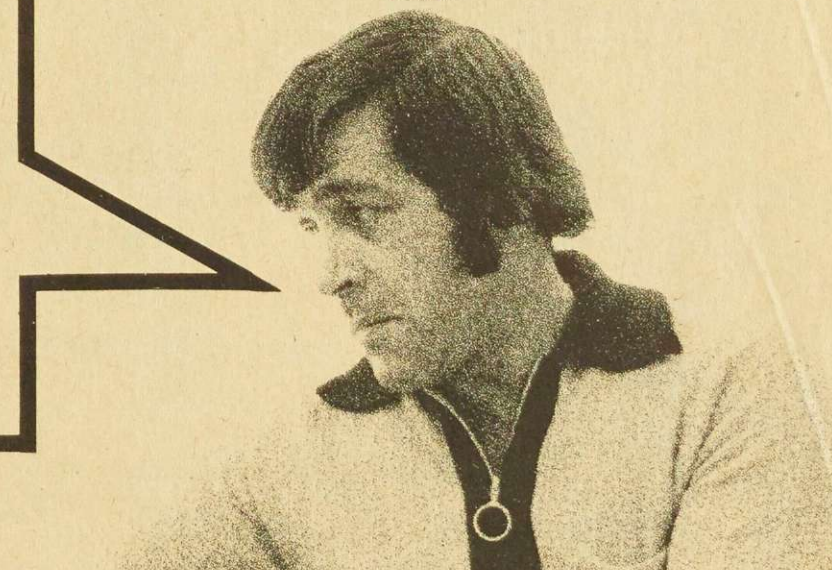
A small union of 45 employees is teaching a lesson to the whole region, the employees of station CKRS. They've been locked out for the last six months. All the radio station owners in the province want to break them. Lieutenant-Governor Hughes Lapointe is one of the owners. It's the whole bit, the court, the injunctions, even a few bombs. The guys are holding on. They have a lot of support from the population. It's a good lesson for the big unions in the area.



Our thanks to colleague Michel Marion of the Montreal Central Council who was good enough to play the role of a worker on vacation for this newspaper. He was photographed by Michel Giroux.

When you see all that, you tell yourself the workers just have to get together and defend themselves. And unions are still one of the only weapons they have. Everyone complains about unions and everyone tries to crush them. From what you see on TV you'd think they're public enemy number one. But I've seen real people fighting just to get a bare mini-

mum. I won't be afraid of them any more. We know whose side the bandits and wreckers are on. All across Quebec, I've seen people who want to live normal lives and who don't agree with what they see happening around them. Unions are all we've got. We have to use them as a last resort and ignore the howls of the profiteers fearful for their pocketbooks.



labour

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