

**COMMENÇONS  
PAR LIBÉRER  
NOS ENFANTS**



Le pétrole  
Joliette en crise  
Yolande Tanguay,  
femme de mineur

**ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

**LABOUR. MARCH 1974, VOLUME 50 NO 2**

**COUVERTURE 2**

Thanks to the information structure now being set up by the CN TU, a number of people sent in comments on our first issue. This is both very interesting and very important to us, it is to be hoped that even more of you will pass on their impressions.

We found that we were directing ourselves to a highly diversified readership, since every article received some support as the most interesting.

The three items receiving the most frequent mention were: rising costs, the Portrait of a Worker, and the conflict at Marsoui. The three main criticisms centred on the use of joul, the article on the P.Q., and the heaviness of the magazine.

We have tried as much as possible to take these factors into account in the production of this current issue.

It should be noted that each of the comments published here represents dozens of similar views.

Generally speaking, people have given a very good reception to our magazine: its objectives, the public to whom it is directed, and its general concept, which is aimed

more at presenting problems than offering ready-made solutions.

It's high time that the rank-and-file guy was represented, that that he has to say got published so that the administration, whatever it be, can know that he knows he's being screwed more often than not; we're trapped in the goddam system. As long as we continue to be assholes, the only thing we get when we open our mouths will be more crap.

**A Montreal civil servant**

It's a paper that submits complicated problems, but in such a way as to draw the interest of the average person. The writing style is down-t-earth, and within anyone's

**A unionist at Fry-Cadbury**

Labour tends to take too negative a view of the government. Can you come up with something positive once in a while? What would you do if you were in the government's place?.

**Nicolet Social Service Union**

The magazine is interesting because its articles are short and lively. IT provides many examples in support of issues raised; figures and statistics clearly demonstrating the situation that

exists today in Quebec and elsewhere. All working people are interested.

**A group of union members**

It's a rather fanatical journal. Too much so, in my opinion. The government has its faults; so have the trade unions.

**Richelieu Social Service Union member**

It's the first union magazine I've been so hooked by. It seeks to disintellectualize so as to make way for precise and concrete facts. I find this a better way to sensitize than any grand theory. It's a publication suited to everyone. Also, we feel less alone.

**Union member of Centre  
d'Accueil N-D du Perpétuel  
Secours**

A certain number of readers have reproached the magazine for showing too much favour to the P.Q. Yet opinions are very much divided on this subject, and vary greatly according to region. For example, Montreal received the article very well. At all events, the report was not designed as support for the P.Q., but rather as an image of the people who want a change in Quebec.

It is urgent that the CNTU explain clearly and in detail, in Labour, why it indulges in political action. The vast majority of members don't understand anything about this, with the result that the efforts of militants are considerably obstructed.

#### **Two officers of the Drummondville Central Council**

As regards the members, there's too much stress being given to the political level. The P.Q. is being favoured too much. We have to go at it more slowly and explain things better.

#### **An officer of the Sorel Central Council**

The content has a strong political tendency that I don't accept. The role of the trade union is to protect us, to negotiate better collective agreements for everybody. If you want power, establish a party and get yourselves elected by the democratic process. Don't, for heaven's sake, use people who have fait in pure trade unionism.

#### **A Quebec unionist**

Our use of slang (French joul) has trigeered much emotion, to say the least. We've received just about every kind of comment: "Yvon Deschamps is enough to remind us of what we are..." "It's not only ridiculous, but offensive to the workers..." "working people aren't that foolish..." For purposes of the magazine, the remark that struck the most forcibly went like this: "We talk joul, but it's hard to read."

Following are the two extremes of reaction we received, and that are a fairly good summary of the range of opinions on joul. This union vigorously protests against the vulgar style, which is an insult to the intelligence of the readers. We cannot admit this below-the-belt solution chosen by the editors. We call upon them to find, somewhere between joul and the grandiloquent fashion of yesteryear, a style that is simple

but correct, and suited to the transmission of information.

#### **Syndicat des journalistes de La Presse**

I find that the form you use to address the readers is great. There is a warm familiarity about it. I appreciate the absence of intellectual barriers that so often, in certain dailies and magazines, separate the ordinary reader from the journalistic intellectual, whose message is captured only by the small bourgeois intellectuals. Cheers for the language.

#### **A St-Jean union member**

### **P. 2-3 WHILE WE WAIT**

for the return to normal of our current events column  
WHILE WE WAIT...  
In Quebec in 1974, Duplessis is missed

Let's take, for instance, Canadian Gypsum and United Aircraft, two fine American companies which are established in Quebec, using Quebec workers, and no doubt receiving either Quebec or Canadian subsidies. Two companies that are like hundreds of others. When they had a look at Quebec, they were amazed by the working people: their quality and quantity, their docility, and the cheap price tag on their labour. "Remarkable," they must have said. "Let's move in."

#### **Strikes and scabs**

But time has changed things, and the employees of Canadian Gypsum at Joliette and Montreal are on strike. So are the workers at United Aircraft. These are serious strikes. The companies no longer understand very well, or rather, they understand all too well. Being thoroughly American and capitalist, they know how to adapt. "Manners change with the times." This leads to the present well-known situation. At Canadian Gypsum in Montreal, there are scabs continuing production. At

Canadian Gypsum is Joliette, there are scabs continuing production.

At United Aircraft in Longueuil, there are scabs continuing production. The managements at all three of these plants have the same ideas. Smash the union. Deny the workers any and all rights to protect themselves.

#### **Canadian Gypsum modus operandi**

And who do you think gives the companies permission to behave that way? Judges and the police. Injunctions and the nightstick. It was in Joliette that the police refused at one point to protect scabs. But there were three judges observing from the wings, and they issued an injunction against the strikers. Judges of the Court of Appeal. Just a little injunction: forbidding the strikers to picket within 1,000 feet of the plant. In other words, the strikers cannot prevent the passage of the scabs.

The judges saw it this way: "Any man may earn his living by lawful means, even if he chooses to work for an employer who has a certain number of employees on strike."

Dazzled by the verdict of such understanding judges, Canadian Gypsum promptly filed suit for \$1,500,000 against the CNTU and the union, alleging damages and loss of profit. The action was presented to one judge, of course. If three judges could be made to see eye to eye, how might it go with only one?

#### **The fashion at United Aircraft**

At United Aircraft, the picture is pretty much the same. The injunction doesn't mention 1,000 feet because that would put the guys out in the river, but it limits the number of pickets to three. Three, out of 2,600 strikers. Same difference.

Then some people say: "There's violence, isn't it awful?" It's as if the normal course for the guys would be to lie down and let

themselves be quietly steamrollered. "Come on now, if some people want to go to work while others want to go on strike, that's their right." This is the new philosophy.

The companies learned all about this in countries where there are no trade unions; where they can anybody by anybody. One need only be reminded of the advertisement that United Aircraft published. It's heading said that JOBS ARE AT STAKE. The job threat is a brain-child of Desrochers, developed by Bourassa and enjoying great success. In its ads, the company mentions 5,300 jobs, its obligation to keep producing so that clients can be served, and the so-called civil disobedience being indulged in by the strikers.

### **The anti-scab bill**

There are, of course, those who figure that we're just going through a bad period, that Cournoyer's proposed anti-scab law will set matters right and bring the companies into line.

All you need to know, if you want to worry, is what we know at this point in time about the proposed legislation. Here are some of its provisions:

1- 66% of the total unionized personnel in a factory have to vote by secret ballot for a strike, the vote to be supervised by Labour ministry inspectors. As if the government would be sticking its nose into company administrative boards.

2 - The company may, prior to a strike, hire supernumeraries so that they can continue production when the strike is declared. In other words, the company can get regular employees to train scabs against the day a strike is called.

3 - The strikers are forbidden, during a work stoppage, to look elsewhere for a temporary job that will enable them to make ends meet. They are literally condemned to a hunger strike if they walk out. The company,

on the other hand, is not forbidden to continue production in other factories it owns, nor to work out agreements with rival firms.

So the companies are safe either way: if the anti-scab law isn't passed, that will suit them just fine; if it is, that will be okay with them too, because the risk of hiring scabs will be reduced by the fact that these can be hired ahead of time and given pre-strike training by regular staff.

## **P. 3 THAT METRO IS DYNAMITE**

In two years there have been two serious fires in the Montreal Metro, the second coming at a peak rush hour when the cars were heavily loaded. There were no fatalities, but that was only a stroke of luck. A mere touch of panic could have transformed the incident into a catastrophe.

According to a report prepared by the Union of Maintenance Service Employees (CNTU), the Montreal Metro is a bomb, and safety is nil. Union spokesmen say they have facts to support this assertion. At last reports, they planned to appear before the government-appointed commission of inquiry which was scheduled to convene February 25th for a probe of the fire of January 23rd. If they were permitted to appear, that is.

### **Let's boycott the postal code**

The Montreal Labour Council (QFL) has urged the public to ignore the new postal code system. Reason: use of the code mechanizes the work of 2,000 mail sorters, who will be laid off as a result.

Do you know your new postal code number?

No?

That's good.

### **Land, yes money, no**

The 12,000 Indians and Eskimos of northern Quebec, and notably those in the James Bay region, have rejected the offer of \$100,000,000 made by Bourassa.

Representatives of the Indian and Eskimo groups say that a hundred million dollars sounds like a lot of dollars. Divided by 12,000, however, it is quite a bit less. Moreover, these people aren't so pre-occupied with money as they are with the land that are not prepared to relinquish.

What they must get into their heads is that it's difficult to discuss anything but money with Bourassa, when he opens his mouth, it disgorges figures.

### **Tax bite is hot topic**

Bourassa has brought up his heavy artillery. The target? CNTU President Marcel Pepin, whom he accuses of aligning with the wealthy "of the right" in proposing that income tax be indexed to the rising cost of living. According to Bourassa, such a measure wouldn't benefit the little working man, so what's Pepin complaining about?

According to Raymond Garneau, the Quebec finance minister, inflation has fattened the Quebec government by \$52 to \$55 million, which it would lose if it indexed taxation at 6.6%, as has been done by the federal government and the nine other Canadian provinces.

And contrary to the Bourassa claim, indexed taxation would mean a saving of between 8% and 20% for workers in the \$6,000 to \$10,000 yearly income bracket, depending on whether they are single or not.

If you want to know how much you'd save with indexed taxation, all you have to do is increase your exemptions by 6.6%. (Example: the basic exemption would become \$1,599 instead of \$1,500.) Oh, that Bourassa!

## **What about Drapeau?**

Montreal civic elections are on the way, with the voting scheduled for next November 10th. The question is what to do about Drapeau, that man of many conflicting parts. There's Expo-Drapeau, Slum-Drapeau, Public Transit Drapeau, Tree Killer Drapeau, and the Drapeau of the city that is closed to those who happen to live in it. Nicely organized for tourists, it is, but not for Montrealers.

The Montreal-based leaders of the three trade union centrals have gotten together and put the question to themselves, bearing in mind this manifesto: "A city for us." And over the coming months, in fact on 10 consecutive Saturdays, militants from the three centrals will meet to draw up the guidelines of a program. Work will also be done at the neighbourhood level. The anticipated result is that by April the program will be drafted and a meeting convened to study it. Then a convention will be held to determine what our participation will be in the electoral campaign. A movement? A party? Or what? Meantime, the job is to mobilize Montreal workers to ponder the municipal picture. Since the Montreal elements of the Parti Québécois and other groups apparently want to join the struggle against Drapeau too, it seems the subject will be talked about a great deal.

There are no direct links between all these movements at the present time.

**The character Ti-Cul Lachance, whose views about current events were carried in the last issue of Labour, was borrowed from Gilles Vigneault's song entitled "Lettre de monsieur Identique Lachance à son premier sous-ministre." The lyrics published along with the comments of Ti-Cul Lachance were from a collection of poems entitled "Les**

**neuf couplets," also by Gilles Vigneault and published by Nouvelles éditions l'Arc. Labour inadvertently omitted these details from its last issue.**

**Due to prevailing norms of professional ethics, our feature on current events will no longer be attributed to Ti-Cul Lachance. The column, whose aim is to present ordinary people's viewpoints about day-to-day happenings, consequently is somewhat abbreviated in this issue. It will, however, take up its full proportion of space in the next number.**

## **P. 4-11 DOSSIER OF THE MONTH**

### **LET'S START BY LIBERATING OUR CHILDREN**

If the degree of development of a society is evaluated by the destiny it has in store for its children, some serious questions can be asked about the development of Quebec.

If the children were able to express everything that they have on their minds, they probably would tell us to go take a walk. And if the youngsters were organized, the adult sector would face a grave threat.

If we continue to think that children should be seen and not heard, if we continue to sidetrack or ignore them, we could be letting ourselves in for some curious surprises. It may be high time we paid them some attention.

### **P. 5**

In Quebec there are 2.5 million persons under the age of 20. In other words, they account for more than 40% of the population. Yet just about nothing in our society is considered in relation to their development, or their interests as

children and adolescents. Their lives are organized for them along the same lines as those of adults in a society becoming increasingly repressive.

From the age of as little as six months, there are infants in a depressed state. They refuse to communicate or to eat. Subconsciously, almost by instinct, they try to commit suicide due to social conditions or the affective climate that prevails within the family. It is reported that a number of children 8 and 9 years of age are psychiatric patients.

In the Montreal region there are more than 7,000 children living in foster homes. Of this number, half (3,500) are there under the provisions of Article 15 of the welfare code; in other words, due to being ill-treated by their parents.

The family everywhere is being shattered, and the children are the first to suffer. In 1973, the judicial district of Montreal recorded 11,043 divorces and 1,338 legal separations.

More and more children are born out of wedlock. In 1960, there were 4,902 "illegitimate children" registered. By 1971, this figure had risen to 7,087, representing 8% to total recorded births. In addition there are, each year, thousands of children born of free unions and never declared.

Children are also directly affected by the income of their parents. In our society, the development of children is closely related to money, as is juvenile delinquency. The average yearly salary of the Quebec family is \$9,260.

More than 25% of the families earn less than \$5,000. It is no surprise, therefore, that they have fewer children. In 1960 there were 20 births per 1,000 inhabitants. In 1971, this figure had dropped to eight. Nor is it surprising that in 1973 there were 4,823 new cases of juvenile delinquency recorded.

Children also present the problem of abortion. In 1973, there were 4,003 legal abortions performed in Quebec hospitals. However, 10 Montreal doctors have stated that they performed 15,000 abortions during that same year. At least one of every three pregnancies ends in abortion.

And when children are born, there arises the problem of their education. We find particularly alarming the goings on in secondary schools, those concrete jungles jammed with 2,000 to 4,000 students. Girls 13 and 14 years old indulge in prostitution. Vandalism has become a vehicle for self-expression, and drugs are an escape hatch.

**The rate of progress is zero. There isn't even the beginning of a solution to any of the problems mentioned. Yet each of these problems directly concerns the lives and futures of children, the futures of couples, and the role of women in society.**

For our part, we decided to take a look at what was happening in the day nurseries, how the children expressed themselves and how they got along together. At the other end of the spectrum, we visited a secondary school, where the students literally are suffocated. And finally, we called on people who work with children, to see if there was the beginning of a remedy.

## **P. 6 NURSERIES: NO BED OF ROSES**

The day nursery we visited looks after 21 children. It is open from Monday to Friday from 8 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock in the evening. It costs parents \$5 a week to place a

child there. Lunch is included and the children bring their own snacks.

Most of the popular nurseries (about 60 of them) are subsidized by local initiative projects. The subsidies are renewable every six months, a factor that creates a number of difficulties. Among them is the constant menace of closure. It costs about \$35,000 to operate a nursery for six months.

The nurseries are a far cry from luxury. The waiting lists are impressive, with at least 45 queued up for the one we visited. Most of the children belong to single women, working to organize among themselves, to become more autonomous, to develop friendships rather than remain isolated in restricted quarters.

These nurseries are essential both to the women concerned and to the children themselves. Yet they are excluded from government priorities.

**My name is Donovan.  
My father repairs motorbikes.  
My mother, she works at the school.  
And me, I work here. I teach English.**

## **P. 7 Daddy + Mom + dog + the other dog in the house**

**"Mathieu is my best friend.  
At home I don't have any  
body to play with."**

## **P. 8 THE POLYVALENTS: NO UTOPIA EITHER**

"This room may be bugged."

The remark enabled us to make a surprised start as we visited students at the Deux-Montagnes regional school. A rather significant indication of the atmosphere that prevails in the school.

What strikes the visitor most on arrival is the immensity and coldness of the premises. The floors, the stairways, the ceilings are concrete. The walls are brick. The corridors seem endless. The atmosphere is depressing, the students seem forlorn. The total image is chaotic and impersonal. Like riding the subway at 5 o'clock.

At Deux-Montagnes, there are 4,500 students crammed into classrooms, the cafeteria, the hallways, the smoking room. They wonder what they're doing there, and they wait for something to happen. The 280 teachers don't know which way to turn. The vast majority of the students couldn't care less. All of those we met pronounced themselves disgusted and bitterly disappointed. They had plenty to say, however, about the school management and the teachers.

"Here the threats fly from all directions. They told me to cut down on social activity if I didn't want to be thrown out. The minute there's a bit of contestation, they call the buses and close the school."

"the profs are just are disgusted as we are. A teacher is like a flower. Put him in the sun and he grows; but him in darkness and he dies."

"The student director once said: 'When we see two girls fighting, we let them fight, and afterwards we use a shovel to pick up the pieces.'"

"Parents don't know about the crap that goes on here. They don't know which way to turn. But once they know what we have to put up with, they don't bother us any more."

## P. 9

"The profs have to play cop by reporting attendance each day."

"Us, we don't count for anything. To them, a student is an incompetent and not to be trusted with anything. There's even one prof who called his students ass-holes. If we never make mistakes we'll never learn anything."

"When we leave here, we have nothing more to say to each other. We go get drunk, take aspirins, get ourselves defreaked. We aren't able to talk about anything but the school. It seems to be tied around our necks."

"The food isn't edible. You find flies and red spiders in the dishes. I'd say the soup comes directly from the sewer. **And as** for sanitation in the toilet rooms, we wcn't go into that."

"Out of 4,000 students, there have been 600 tossed out and another 200 have dropped out since September. Half of those remaining will fail."

"The management doesn't want to know a thing about the students or the profs. The profs couldn't care less about the management or the students. The students want no part of the management nor the profs. The whole thing is intolerable."

"What's a course? Are there courses here? The place is loaded with incompetents who are protected by the union."

"Last year they had the anti-hooky squad for students skipping classes. This year there's the anti-dope squad. There are squads for everything. The matrons and

the guards watch us all the time and make reports to the office. This is a jail."

"We even have a secret service here; SS students paid by the management to stool on others."

## P. 10 REAL REMEDIES CAN BE FOUND

Raising family allowances by \$10 or \$20 a month isn't going to solve the problem of the declining birth rate in Quebec, any more than it will solve the problem of poverty stricken families or the maltreatment of children.

Closing the door to abortions or jailing those who perform them illegally will not make women decide what children they want to bring into the world.

The construction of prison-like schools is no way to create a free society.

The only way out of the mess is recognition that children have rights at the moment of birth; recognition that they are a collective asset needed by society. And it is recognition that all children, regardless of the financial situation of their parents, have the right to self-development.

In concrete terms, this means access to contraception. It means the installation of collective facilities and the assuming by society of greater custody of children so that the woman and the couple can find freedom. For instance, it means the establishment of a complete system of nurseries, holiday camps, house-keeping services, and so on. It means building smaller, more human schools. It means total reorganization of life in our cities. In the final analysis, it means another type of society.

Why should parents have to take charge, alone, of their children and provide, alone, for their edu-

cation over a period of 20 years?

And why should children remain in a position of dependence on their parents throughout that whole period?

In that domain, as in others, a whole new situation remains to be invented.

## CELINE GAUTHIER GARDERIE DE L'EPEE

"The child problem is also a problem of space. At one time, people lived in the contry, and there was plenty of room. Families were much larger. Mother and children felt far more secure.

"The cities ot today are designed for the automobile, for companies. Housing units are small. There is practically no green space, and leisure activities lack organization. Inside the houses, there is seldom any space reserved for children to enjoy peaceful play. Women and children feel a growing sense of isolation."

## ANDRE FRAPPIER ECOLE LIBRE DE ST-MATHIAS

"Children are not considered for what they really are, but rather as chips of adults. They are reared as if they were already adults. No appeal is ever made to their inventive and imaginative capabilities. And the step upwards from kindergarten to first year level frequently is a traumatic experience. Children are shifted from the world of imagination into one of discipline and boredom.

"The family and the school are two institutions which bring children into line and set them on course. They are brought up to become viable in our society, and there is no hesitation about using physical force and the voice of authority to attain that end."

**Movement for school democratization - Conference on the school and popular centres.**

**"The school conveys foreign values into the child's environment. It is clearly repressive, based on a formidable system of punishment and of personal competition that denies all collective progress.**

**"Children's disinterest in the school is generalized. This is mainly because the school is a closed world that takes no account of children's social and economic problems."**

"I don't know my father, I think maybe he's dead. And my mother, well I'm not sure she's really my mother. I've got an idea that I'm adopted."

"School is awful dull. It's enough to bore you to death."

## **P. 11**

**Claire Brassard  
Centre de la femme**

"Women are tired of playing housemaid, being stuck indoors, doing dishes and the laundry and attending alone to the education of the children. Bringing children into the world is no reason for being cut off from life and development.

"For years in Quebec, births were a matter of chance. Today, contraceptive methods and abortion should permit women a free choice about maternity. This would also resolve greatly the problems at the level of the children themselves. We would have children that were wanted, desired by their parents."

**Michèle Simard  
5th year teacher at  
St-Henri (open area)**

"I can say that the revised program in the under-privileged neighbourhoods is a setback. My students are completely lost. They can neither hear nor concentrate.

The program and methods are in a state of unending change. These children are just school system guinea pigs.

"In St-Henri, the school merely perpetuates and compounds the problems of the neighbourhood, the family and the environment."

**Léo Desjardins  
Professor, Deux-Montagnes  
Polyvalent**

"The children are boxed in just the same as adults. We are all prisoners of life, and in anguish as we face the course of society's evolution. People no longer communicate. They tell themselves 'It's dull, I'm bored, what am I going to do?'"

**Elisabeth Martin  
Animator, Ste-Justine**

"Every week I receive children with broken arms and fractured skulls. They are children who have been maltreated by their parents.

"It is clear to me that the material conditions in which children live is the most important factor in their development."

**Helene Pepin**

"Adults think that children cannot organize among themselves. We think that we exert much influence over them, but in reality they do just what they want to do."

**"There's no place to play here?  
We play on the street all the."**

## **P. 12-16 THE PROBLEM OF THE MONTH**

Oil: Have faith and pay up!

When the Arab countries, caught in the squeeze of war, decided to put the brakes on the siphoning off of their oil at bargain prices, it made the black gold madness surface and spatter everything in its path.

The madness of having let oil, via the automobile, become the cornerstone of our way of life.

The madness of having let total freedom of use of this non-renewable resource go to companies which normally would be expected to seek the maximum in profit and supplies, without regard for waste and the exhaustion of reserves.

The madness of bloated prices, redoubled profits, engineered shortages, half-truths wilfully orchestrated to create a psychosis and confusion, opening the door to a price stampede in every sector.

-rationing in most western European countries and in the United States;

-in Quebec, the gallon price of regular gas soaring from 46 cents a gallon in December 1972 to 65 cents in December 1973 (Montreal area) an increase of 40%; and heating oil (large tank) from 23 cents to 33.6 cents, an increase of 47%;

-in 1973 the profits of the three biggest companies (Exxon, Mobil, Texaco) soared respectively by 60%; 47% (68% in the past three months); and 45% (70% in the past three months), principally outside the United States. Gulf: 150% in the last three months.

-oil price hikes and shortages create other hikes, other shortages, and start the vicious circle of spin-off effects. Like slashed business volume and lost jobs. In Europe the sale of automobile has declined by 30%. More than 50,000 layoffs have been reported in the automotive industry in the United States. In the U.S., too, 30,000 have been laid off by the air transport industry. Along with these events have come a 20% increase in the cost of housing. Food prices rise at an ever-increasing pace. Scarcities and confusion spread through several sectors, including textiles, plastics, construction;

-Canada, the bastard of the piece as usual and fearful of shortage, endures increases in the price of gas; produces, imports and exports oil (a million barrels daily to the U.S.). You try figuring it.

-oil reserves are rapidly diminishing, and will be increasingly expensive to exploit (50 billion for the Athabaska sands). Club de Rome specialists are predicting that at the present rate, supplies will be exhausted within 20 years. And it takes 50 million years for oil to be produced in the bowels of the earth;

-certain people are taking no chances. They are unloading the gas-guzzlers and turning to small cars, buying up wood stoves and electric heaters.

Who do you believe in all this? There are explanations and explanations. In the hope that some clarification will result, we publish four typical opinions, each of which has thousands of counterparts.

### **P. 13 DICKIE BIGDOME**

Personally, I think it's a matter of supply.

Our society cannot allow itself to be short of oil: our growth and our standard of living depend on it. No one would agree to a backward step, not even the dreamers who preach abandonment of the automobile in favour of public transportation, the recycling of industry and the dismemberment of cities.

What's essential for us is to safeguard ourselves against shortage, and to make sure that our country be as independent as possible in the matter of supplies. From that standpoint, Canada is rather well protected. The eastern part of the country still depends on foreign oil (50% Middle East and Africa). But we have enough in Alberta for the whole

country; it's just a matter of organizing for distribution. However, we'll have to reduce our export to the United States (a million barrels a day). This won't be easy, because the Americans are already taking a dim view of our having increased prices. They counted on Canada to assure the energy independence of the whole North American continent.

But as Prime Minister Trudeau said, it must be clearly understood that the age of cheap energy is over. We'll have to get used to that. Europe has been paying a dollar a gallon for some time. Reserves within easy reach are rapidly drying up.

It's normal for the producing countries to slow down their exploitation, or at least demand higher prices. The Athabaska reserves will cost much more to exploit.

To finance these investments requires capital. To that end, it is only fitting that the tax on gasoline continue to rise. It is normal for the companies to increase their rate of profit, since they are the ones that will have to invest in the search for oil deposits that are difficult to reach, and to perfect alternative forms of energy.

### **P. 14 PAUL LITTLE**

I don't believe there's any such thing as an oil crisis. It's a trick, and as usual the little people are paying for it.

There's no lack of oil in Canada. There's plenty of it. Just take a look at the tankers unloading in the Port of Montreal. In Alberta alone, there's enough to last hundreds of years. And if there should be a shortage, science will find plenty of other ways, like producing energy from the heat of the sun, for example.

Some blame it on the Arabs, but

this is really a racket by the companies. They take advantage of the Arab position to claim that there's shortage, to create fake lack of supplies and increase their profits so they can go looking for new fields. All you have to do is look at the profits announced by the companies these days.

The little guy pays for this, and he's kept in the dark. We don't even know that they really do with that money. The government not only leaves them alone, it supports them.

And in every sector, people take advantage of the so-called energy problem to raise prices 10 times the energy cost increase: food, rent, clothing, transportation and the rest.

The guy who has a family and earns \$10,000 a year can't make ends meet. He can no longer afford to have a car.

It's always the little people who take the rap. You can't believe any of the things you're told, and you can't do anything about it.

Our income goes up at a snail's pace. We'll have to start stealing if we don't want to starve.

Things can't go on this way very much longer.

### **P. 15 JOHN WAKELY**

I believe there is a crisis, but not where they would have us believe.

There is undoubtedly a more or less instigated imbalance in supplies, and an abusive exploitation of that situation to make prices and profits climb.

However, prices and profits are a consequence. The real crisis lies elsewhere, and is just beginning to surface. The matters subject to question here include, first of all, the total dependence of our way of life on oil, a resource



known to be non-renewable and which, at the present rate, will be exhausted within relatively few years. There is also, via oil, the matter of our relative dependence on oil companies. For it is companies that have made oil indispensable to its current degree, and blocked inventions, investments and developments that were going in other directions. It is to these companies that we owe the priority of oil and the automobile over public transportation and other forms of energy. The result is wasted energy, costly highway networks, congested and polluted cities, lifeless suburbs with their giant shopping centres, and so on. Then you have all the products that derive from oil, like textiles, plastics, etc.

Oil could be surmounted by other forms of energy, but this does not apply to all resources. Iron, for example, is falling into to short supply, and there are numerous items whose exhaustion is already predicted.

It is becoming obviously senseless to surrender to companies centred on their own interests, and with the power to keep government in hand, the management and use of the earth's resources.

The oil crisis makes us aware that we are no longer the masters of our resources or our way of life. People will have to recapture the handling of resources and development, or else everything is going to crack.

The real crisis, in a word, is a crisis of power.

## **P. 16 JOE BLACK**

I believe that the oil crisis is the first visible symptom of resource exhaustion and the disruption of the natural balance on our planet.

All this furore about oil stems basically from the fact that, at the rate we're using it, the oil supply cannot last much longer.

Twenty years, according to the leading experts. The companies and the producing countries are looking for a respite, so they can fill their pockets for the post-oil era.

But what will it be like in the post-oil age? According to the experts from the Club de Rome, the rate at which we are using up resources and ravaging the environment will lead us into a series of famines, epidemics, social crises and wars within the next 50 years. It is a matter of survival.

The planet is doomed to death by exhaustion or strangling in its own garbage. Limited resources cannot sustain unlimited growth. Our present growth is drying up resources and pillaging nature at a rate that is called exponential (a compounded pace: 1-2-4-8-16-32 etc.).

Our present kind of society and progress is suicide-bound. The terms shortage and pollution are relatively new, but we haven't heard the last of them. Already there is talk of shortage in steel, meat, lumber, and so on. The worst is yet to come unless we revert to a type of society founded on stability rather than growth and concentration; on conservation and the recycling of primary resources; with the least possible disruption of the natural process, and with new and more responsible kinds of community life.

Let's assume that the situation will be seen to in time. To understand the danger of exponential growth, consider this problem: A nenuphar (water lily) growing in a pool doubles its surface daily. If it be known that the lily will require 30 days to cover the entire pool, thereby choking off all other forms of aquatic life, when will it have covered half the pool, or reached the deadline for some action to be taken.

Answer: On the 29th day. When the danger is noticed, the brink of catastrophe has already been reached.

## **P. 17-23 CONFLICT OF THE MONTH JOLIETTE LA COQUETTE**

Since this article was written, the battle has soared again. Judges G. Montgomery, L. Belanger and A. Dubé of the Appeal Court have granted (in English, even) an extravagant injunction to Canadian Gypsum, which is tantamount to creating legislation permitting scabs and abolishing the right to strike or picket. Armed with this injunction, the company has taken legal action against the union to the tune of \$1.5 million. This is a far cry from an anti-scab law or the pronouncements about anti-scab laws by Cournoyer. Enough. All union members in the region as well as popular groups have regrouped anew, hell bent on making the company fold. It begins again.

Joliette is a tiny town of 20,000, 40 miles northwest of Montreal. With the suburbs of Notre-Dames-Prairies and St-Charles-Borromée, there are 30,000 people in the region. Joliette is in the heart of the Lanaudière region. In the old days it was Joliette la coquette.

For 25 years the town belonged to Antonio Barette, politician, deputy, minister and premier. It was also, for 50 years, the town of Monsignor Joseph-Arthur Paineau, priest and bishop.

Apart from tobacco and the seminar, one seldom heard about Joliette. A town of goodly people.

Suddenly worker conflicts surfaced. All at once we see conflicts at Canadian Gypsum, Firestone, Consolidated Textiles, and Jolicoeur. Hard battles, with injunctions, scabs, trials and the rest. One kind of thinks of St-Jerome of old, with demonstrations, meetings and common fronts. One wonders if Joliette is not in a period of transformation.

**P. 18**  
**WITH THE S.N.Q.**  
**JOLIETTE CHANGES**

The first people I run into are Evangéliste St-Georges (brother of the CNTU's permanent rep) and René Charette, respectively employee and director-general of La Société Nationale des Québécois (SNQ) in Joliette. The SNQ, formerly the St-Jean-Baptiste Society, has about 15,000 members in the region. It's a pretty big outfit.

The SNQ got its avant-garde name following a meeting of many popular groups just before Christmas. There were representatives from Cooprix, CNTU, QFL, QTC, the farmers' union, rural youth, young farmers, credit unions and others. The gathering decided to work together on such matters as food costs, credit, general information techniques, community television, battles against multi-national firms, prices and education.

"Joliette and the area are steeped in traditional and conservative ideas. Like Nicolet, Joliette has an important religious past: the clergy was very strong, and education directed the town. This left confrontation almost nil: unionism was weak, the St-Jean Baptiste society looked like the Optimist Club and there were priests everywhere.

"Today there are a lot more major industries, and therefore more organized workers. If the traditional elite class is still strong, it is faced with the equally strong movement of popular groups-making a radical cut.

Signs of the new evolution are things like the 3,000-strong demonstration last June and the gutsy mood of labor conflicts.

The strikes, especially those at Gypsum and Firestone, have widened the trench between the unions and the general population. Joliette is not a workingman's town.

There is usually little co-ordination of worker battles. The workers are scattered among some 50 plants.

However, conflicts like the latter two are necessary to begin the evolution of thought. It's not only us who suggest this, but Quenneville, the minister: "The only real error of the Firestone dispute was to have politicalized the people." That is an excellent proof of the work done.

**NOW WE UNDERSTAND  
SOLIDARITY**

After dinner, I go over to the central council office of the CNTU. The old building burned down last fall. The offices now are in the annex, at the rear. I meet Claude Mailhot, president of the Joliette council.

**P. 19**

"Joliette is a bit like St-Hyacinthe. It's a place where the nobles and the gentlemen are numerous and strong. It's where the government workers live in the residential district. It gives the town a bourgeois look.

"During the strikes, however, a great solidarity was apparent among the workers. The three major labor organizations got together and set up a help fund and other common needs. There were the demonstrations last June 11. And we had a good turnout of about 1,000 people in a spontaneous demonstration in front of Canadian Gypsum when the company sought to issue rewards for persons pin-pointing any striker who had scared the scabs or damaged company property."

**P. 19**  
**ONE LAWYER, 11 SCABS  
AND A POLICE CHIEF**

When I arrived in Joliette, the local weekly carried a story saying: Pressures on Jerome Choquette to force the QPP to escort the "eleven" at Canadian Gypsum.

When I got past the headline, I noticed that the "eleven of Canadian Gypsum" were scabs. It's their lawyer, Luc Ratelle, who wants to put the pressure on Choquette so they can enter the plant.

After a little chat with a secretary at the council office, I decide to meet with Ratelle.

As far as I was aware, Ratelle specializes in divorces. I get to his place and sit in a waiting room. There are two clients chatting about their big cars, huge motors, eight miles to the gallon, dreams of a Corvette, etc.

Then it was our turn to enter the office. He was thrown off guard for a minute because he thought we were clients, but he accepts to chat.

"I am lawyer for the eleven non-unionized employees at Canadian Gypsum. They want to work despite the strike, but since Sept. 12, 1973, the Joliette police refuse to protect them. They just can't cross the picket line.

The Rand formula is not in effect at Canadian Gypsum, therefore the eleven are not really scabs.

Scabs can work at the Montreal plant where they have police protection from the MUC, but in Joliette there is no protection.

Anyway, I know Choquette very well, and the Liberal party too so my problem will get right to the minister.

The police chief in Joliette hasn't dispatched his men because he is afraid of violence, whether it's legal or not.

People don't understand what I'm trying to do. I'm merely trying to see that the rights of the eleven people are respected, even if the police chief treats them like scabs."

I was kind of anxious to meet the chief. First, because of what Ratelle had said about him, and second it was rare that a police chief would refuse to help scabs and side with the strikers.

I wouldn't want the chief to think that these were the facts, but this is what it looked like when I went over to see him. Thanks, anyway, chief.

After the usual howdy-dos, we entered the big office of chief L'Ecuyer. I immediately ask him what he thinks about Ratelle's assessment of him. He doesn't agree:

"The municipal police force of Joliette has 30 men working in teams of eight, with three on days off. Therefore five police in the street at any one time. These numbers are the key to my refusal to get the non-union men through a picket line. Our job is to protect all citizens at the same time, not just eleven individuals."

We aren't afraid, just prudent.

The chief did admit that if the QPP were sent in, his men would be ordered to give a hand.

It's a simple question of numbers.

## **P. 20 FIRESTONE : ORGANIZATION**

A big change here, as Quenneville would say, we've gone from the orderly to the disorderly. I think I'll go see the Firestone lads.

They are 312 strong at Firestone. They had a 10-month strike. It was rough (injunctions, fights, trials), but exemplary.

They had to fight on three fronts: their bosses, the United States headquarters of Firestone and their own international union, the United Rubber Workers. The company had moved to Joliette to pick up cheap labor. They were hell bent on keeping this fountain of labor even if the Joliette boys had broken every productivity record in the company. As far as the international union offices were concerned, no local was going to break the established pattern by negotiating working conditions most appropriate for the workers concerned. These conditions included parity with Ontario, the right to refuse overtime, and French the language of work.

With their great degree of organization, the Firestone lads won their strike, despite the international opposition. They got about 95 per cent of what they had sought. And, the company lost between six and ten million dollars.

So I went to the Sainte-Julie district where the guys had bought a small school to set up headquarters. I was to meet Roger Pelletier.

At the local, Pelletier and another Firestone chap were waiting. They gave me the historic rundown of the plant. The negotiations in 1967, the busted strike in 1968, and the lessons learned from these setbacks. All this led to the major point this time - the formation of the special committee in 1972.

"The committee consisted of six workers initially. It was our answer for the lack of participation in the union. Instead of criticizing the guys in power, we took appropriate action and held a meeting every Sunday night. We kicked off the negotiations together, preparing them and establishing a definite strategy. In order for this to work, the lads had to be fully informed, something we passed on the guys every Monday morning. Once the strike began in March, 1973, we were ready for it - we knew what we wanted and we knew we'd get it. Boycotting, emergency

funds and solidarity. As a result, our union structures changed. It was no longer the business of the president, but all of us.

In our fight, the women gave full support, forming their own committee and supporting us in every way. When one considers the economic and psychological conditions of men on strike, the support of the women becomes essential."

## **P. 21 GYPSUM SOLIDARITY!**

The strikers at Canadian Gypsum said that the best time to see them was in the morning at about 8 a.m. That is when they are most numerous at the trailer - their strike headquarters, placed just outside the company gate.

Canadian Gypsum is a subsidiary of a giant Chicago firm which has about 120 plants across the world. It's a big outfit which doesn't like unions. All orders come from Chicago. The company was caught with two strikes in Quebec, the plant in Montreal and the one in Joliette. In Joliette, the strike has been on since May, 1973. The company feels that all the workers' proposals are part of the managements prerogative--the six day week, the 40-hours week, freedom of overtime, seniority rights for promotions or lay-offs, the Rand formula and Sunday work. All these things are not negotiable, according to the big boss, but are nevertheless negotiable elsewhere in Quebec.

"Since we turned down the last company offers by 100 per cent last September, there have been no negotiations (except for those started in early March). The company tried to get us for troubles last Sept. 12, but those accused were acquitted of criminal charges. The company also sought an injunction, but Judge Vallerand turned it down, 4&2/74.

Since our last strike in 1967, we have changed a great deal. We

got screwed that time by Papa Lacombe, the plant manager. We weren't organized like we are today. The last time we got \$13 a week as strike pay and we had to go deeply in debt to continue the fight.

Today, the CNTU funds give us \$50 a week, and we are helped also by the QTC, the QFL and the CNTU. We are also more politicized. Now it's harder to screw us. We are better informed, we study our problems and we awaken each day a bit more at peace.

Now we know what its like for the little guy to work off his butt to put money into the pockets of the big guys, but the price of bread is the same for all of us. We don't know how long this strike will last. We can't tell what they are thinking in Chicago. In any case, we aren't afraid of the plant closing down--its just a bunch of threats to scare us. If won't close because it makes money.

As far as the solidarity built up between our strike and the one at Firestone, it's here to stay."

After leaving the trailer, I went to visit a reporter from the *Nouvelliste* of Trois-Rivières, Claude Bergeron. He is also vice-president of the central council. He confirmed what the others had told me about conservatism, union evolution and the rest.

## **P. 23 "WE DON'T HAVE EVERYONE"**

When I left the reporter, it was dinner time. Since I wanted to meet some students, I went to lunch at the CEGEP, the old seminary.

Then I went to the salon. There were about 100 students. I made the rounds until I found a table willing to talk about Joliette. In

the group there happened to be the niece of a CNTU rep, a lot cuter than her uncle.

"The students have the normal pre-occupations of students, including looking for summer jobs. One must not judge Joliette by what happened at Firestone. A large number of people were supporting the scabs, while they considered the guys on strike like bandits. It was this way too at the CEGEP. They had put up a collection box for the strikers and after two weeks there was but a mere \$1.49."

One student gave me some stunning figures from Statistics Canada which showed that the average wage in Joliette was 18 per cent less than the Canadian average, but that loans from finance companies was 81 per cent higher than the Canadian average.

Another said: There are a lot of union leaders who are from Joliette, such as Marcel Pepin of the CNTU, Jacques Brulé of the QFL, Guy Chevette of the QTC. We supply the elite, but we don't have everyone, that is the masses."

My rounds were over. I had only to get some statistics and meet Guy Chevette of the STQ, the Quebec Teachers' Corporation. I went to the town hall, then to the social development offices, then to the offices of the teachers' association of De Lanaudière.

To Guy Chevette, a member of the QTC's administrative council, Joliette is a conservative town which is slowly awakening, becoming more politicized and taking conscience of life around it.

"These strikes have a great importance, especially for teachers who had never had much contact with strikers nor members from other labor bodies. It was the first time that teachers contributed (each \$5) to a strike fund. "For the rest of the population, indifference was fairly widespread, at least when it wasn't hostile. One must say that local information outlets did not help.

"Anyway, it was the first time that Joliette felt the tremors of such conflicts. They had never seen a demonstration like the one on June 11.

"This, of course, doesn't stop the finance companies of the region from making a fortune in Joliette since the workers' credit union was having some difficulties coping."

## **P. 24-25 THE WOLVERINE OF THE MONTH**

The CARCAJOU (glutton) is a terrible animal. He is very clever and cruel. No animal dares to attack him, while he fears none. He talks alone. He is a slippery thief. Like the hyena, he steals prey already downed by other animals or trappers. It is also an animal which destroys for no reason. When he enters a camp, he throws food all over the place and soils with his smelly liquid anything he cannot eat.

In Quebec literature, the wolverine often turns on his own kind. He is also compared to those exploiters who get away with everything and who always win their elections. For Menaud the "maître-draveur" he is the traitor who sells the homeland to strangers. For us the wolverine is the sworn enemy of labor. In each of our editions, we will do an outline of one of these enemies.

The language problem cannot be settled with laws. After all, we are not in a totalitarian state. We cannot begin to harass companies in a liberal economy. We must rather incite companies to make French the language of work.

– Quebec is not a ghetto. We must bear in mind certain realities within the North American context Investments and technology are anglosaxon, and our voters...

– We must assume the risks of development, even if it means an

end to us as a distinct people. What has saved us over the centuries has been to make babies, and plenty of them.

— A language policy cannot be applicable to a fraction of a population, albeit the majority. The Quebec population is a mosaic of ethnic groups which enrich our culture.

— Let's get one thing straight: francophones are a minority in Canada and in North America. If Quebecers want to survive, they'd better learn English.

— To survive, we must work within the power structures of the North American economy. Let's be disciplined. Let's be more adaptable.

## **P. 26-31 NOUS: THIS IS THE WAY TO DO IT! IN ABITIBI- TEMISCAMINGUE**

We have decided to give Abitibi a special spot in this issue. We give this special place to Abitibi because it is one of the regions with the least "voice" of anywhere in Quebec. To be heard, the population has always had to fight against the powerful lobbying of large mining and forest companies, such as Noranda and Domtar. The people have also had to fight against a controlled press, so far controlled by J.P. Bonneville, owner-editor of the *Frontiere of Rouyn*. He is an anti-unionist of notoriety, big supporter of Réal Caouette as well as backer of the interests of the companies in the region.

It may not be all that well known, but the Abitibi and Temiscamingue regions have had some great effects on regional development, having made great strides on both development and planning as well as pushing the system of co-ops to an enviable level. In the following pages, we will take a look at

some of the more pertinent aspects of this development. We do not have enough space, however, to tell about all we have discovered.

On the co-operative level, there is a co-op mill at Bearn, a mushroom plant at Malartic, the credit unions at Nord-Ouest and the credit union of the united workers at Lasarre.

There is also a permanent inter-union Front, created with the co-operation of co-ops and popular groups.

Beaten back at almost every attempt to progress through government ineptness and lack of co-operation, the population now knows it must rely on its own means. Popular groups are united. There is a definite mood among the people where they want to participate actively in local and regional decision-making. There are some real surprises in these regions.

## **P. 27 FOOD CLUBS**

For those not familiar with food clubs, let's just say that they are food co-ops operated on a non-profit basis, that is, selling at cost price. Members pay a dues which varies from club to club. In Abitibi, it is a \$100 fee everywhere. To pay operating costs, such as rent, heating, wages, there is a weekly fee which runs about \$2.

This allows for purchase of food stuffs which run at about four to seven per cent less than the large food chains. It also opens our eyes on the real costs of food and the actual distribution costs.

There now are eight food clubs in Abitibi, with a ninth scheduled to open at Senneterre, where there are already 250 members. Last year, sales reached close to \$3.5 million, about half of the total food sales at all other Quebec

food clubs. All clubs have a paid manager.

A general meeting is held every three months to discuss policies. There is usually a nine-member administrative council for each store or club.

In Malartic, the founding place of the first club, 13 teams have been selected from among the members to handle such store chores as marking prices and setting up displays--some of the things that the paid staff cannot always handle. Each team puts in one week every three months. The club now is considering buying its own building.

## **A.C.I.A.T. — A LAND PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

"Strangers have come and taken our forests and our resources," Menaud used to say.

"We'll have to add also that they took our hunting and fishing grounds," the local land protection association would say.

Now they are taking our lands.

What will be left for us?

Are we to be the Palestinians of North America?

The A.C.I.A.T. is a co-operative land association in the Abitibi-Temiscamingue region. It was founded two years ago, about the time when Americans began buying massive portions of land, especially in the Abitibi region. There was some concern about the buying. There was some talk in the national assembly. The government even set up an inter-ministerial committee to "study" the question. And then, nothing. The founders of the co-operative land association had hoped that even if the government refused direct intervention, it would at least help the co-operative buy up land before the Americans, some-

times at prices as low as 35 cents an acre.

Roger Guy, a founding member of the co-operative, says that at the running prices being paid by American speculators, they could have bought a large part of the Abitibi-Temiscamingue region for a few million. "That's very little for nearly a country."

The government refused to co-operate. Without funds, the association was idled for several months.

The situation became worse. Buyers are making less noise than in 1970, but they are still around. Denyse Plamondon, director of the regional development council said that in certain regions, "such as Rapide-Danseur, speculators have bought up the most beautiful sites, near lakes, rapids or rivers; in other places, like Temiscamingue, the richest farm lands went to buyers."

Apart from taking away land ownership, speculation has other serious collective consequences. "This kind of buying wrecks planning programs in these regions. The buyers do not live on their land--often the best in the region--and there is no continuity of population growth. Those who leave are not replaced by others. Villages are being emptied and it's becoming of little interest to live there anymore."

Even without government help, the land co-operative association decided to do something. Not being able to buy the lands themselves, nor sell them or develop them, the association has initiated an information campaign for those persons wanting to sell and the local people wanting to buy, either to enlarge existing property, or simply move onto the new land. The association is also trying to establish a network of local land agents tied to a regional committee. There is also a system of information being tried to help land owners develop their grounds.

For the time being, the work of the association is mainly of information and awareness. They are getting the local people in touch with one another and getting across the idea of regional land control

## **P. 28 AGRO-CENTRES**

An Agro-centre is a distribution and service centre for farmers. It has, for instance, a co-operative abattoir and a grain distribution co-operative. Initial plans call for creation of three Agro-centres, at Lasarre, Ville-Marie and Amos. Plans now are ready for beginning the projects, but there is mounting pressure against the plans.

Certain people within the Liberal party actually want the Agro-centres, but minus the co-op formula. The farmers' union, l'Union des Producteurs Agricoles, supported by the inter-union front and the regional economic council wants a co-op formula. However, private firms want to reap some of the rewards for their loyal party service and do now want the co-ops cutting into their businesses. At present, everything depends on how construction of the co-operative abattoir at Lasarre ends up. It's a debate to follow.

## **POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS**

There are about 20 popular groups in the Abitibi and Temiscamingue regions which have grouped together to create a popular movement conference, mainly a regional pressure organization. The conference was born out of a scission from the regional development council, where the popular groups were having problems. Conflicts of interests between the businessmen and the workers on the council were occurring too often. All action was paralyzed.

There was a need to regroup into an organization which really understood the needs of the people.

To handle the new movement, the popular groups in Rouyn-Noranda, with the help of the teachers' union, Le Syndicat des travailleurs de l'enseignement du Nord-Ouest québécois, want to purchase the closed retreat house now occupied by the Oblate Fathers and turn it into a real people's centre. A final decision should be known shortly.

## **P. 29 AMOS**

The hiring of the firm Naus and Newlyn has created a wave of protest among the employees at the Hotel-Dieu Hospital in Amos. This firm, with headquarters in Paoli, Pennsylvania, specializes in job evaluation and personnel. The firm was hired on a 41-week basis, at a cost of \$82,000. This is the same firm which was given a rough time when it was granted the same kind of contract for the Pointe-Claire General Hospital. Why has such a firm been hired? It was mainly to eliminate a \$162,000 deficit chalked up in the last fiscal exercise. The firm says it will eliminate the deficit without any firings.

The union doubts this very much. Not only is the firm on a useless mission, but its presence hides the real problems in Abitibi hospital services. There already is a shortage of doctors, beds, and much more. The union says it is surprised that the firm was hired, even after being advised by several groups, including the social affairs ministry, the QHA, the CNTY and the QFL, against hiring such firms. Besides, the government already has a team, at less than \$2,000 a week, whose function it is to handle such problems in the hospital sector. The current situation does, then, have political pressures involved.

In any event, the employees are

not going to be the scapegoats of the farce. They have managed to get the study suspended indefinitely and are determined that the firm will not set its feet in the hospital again. The employees unanimously voted on a proposition calling for dismissal of the firm, adding that if the hospital administrators could not do their work without outside help, then they too should consider moving out and giving their places to more able administrators.

## **THETFORD MINES**

### **The popular committee is born**

The organization of popular committees is moving in all regions. It's a tough job. The first to be created and fully defined within the required context was that of Thetford Mines. It's a first step.

The aim of the popular committees is to act "to promote the needs of the people and build popular power".

Its structures call for creation of a general assembly which would meet at least six times a year, a seven-member co-ordinating committee elected to one-year terms, with other subcommittees or sections, according to the needs of each region.

The make-up of a committee includes workers (unionized or not), the unemployed, social welfare people, students, farmers and many others. Businessmen having one or more employees are not permitted on the committees, nor are professionals and management groups which are not under union structures.

Projects ahead are numerous, covering, for instance, price increases, consumer needs, leisure, birth control, social affairs policies, municipal problems, the transformation of asbestos and asbestosis, and a vast campaign

against pollution in the Thetford Mines region.

## **P. 30**

### **SEPT-ILES**

#### **"It's a boy"**

The CNTU gave birth to its 22nd central council. The little tyke was born at Sept-Iles, Jan. 26. The birth was not an accident, but rather a need to facilitate participation of workers at Port-Cartier, Sept-Iles, Schefferville, Havre-St-Pierre. The territory of the Côte Nord was split. It's a tiny baby, 22 union with 2,000 members, with half in construction, about 40 per cent in social affairs and about 10 per cent in commercial and public services. The tyke will be taken care of by Ambroise Picard, president-construction, Donat Gingras, vice-president-CEGEP, Louise Bacon, secretary-social affaires, and Errol Smith, treasurer-construction. One of the first things the toddler will learn will be education and organization as well as re-establishing the CNTU common front. The famous explosions in May, 1972, in Sept-Iles have apparently left some debris scattered in the countryside. It isn't the lack of problems we face, with gas at 80 cents a gallon and garagemen charging \$13.50 an hour in a region where the automobile is not a luxury.

## **MONTREAL**

I vote for an increase in the minimum wage.

The GRIP (group for reflection and political information) in St-Henri has organized an imaginative and pertinent operation aimed at gaining an increase in the minimum wage and having it indexed to the cost of living.

The proposal is in the form of a Citizens Law, bill number 1, which was discussed by an extra-parliamentary commission on labor and manpower last January. The national assembly is asked to decide

by vote. It will be presented to the legal labor and manpower commission with the backing of the official opposition.

"Your deputies have voted \$5,000 raises for judges, on salaries of \$28,000; would you vote an \$800 increase to workers at \$4,000 annually. If you vote yes, send your name to GRIP of St. Henri. It will bring these votes to the Quebec Parliament.

"I vote yes for an increase in the minimum wage to \$2.20 an hour from \$1.85, effective March 1, 1974, and to \$2.50 an hour, next May 1, with cost of living indexation."

GRIP de St. HENRI, 1035 Lacasse, Montreal. Tel: 931-2745.

## **SOREL**

Half as expensive to dress.

The 3,000 Marine Industries workers have opened a workerman's clothing store. It's not to make money but to provide a service.

Ten per cent goes to the store to pay the manager and telephone costs. Now we get our work cloths for about 50 to 60 per cent cheaper. During the first three weeks (Nov. 26-Dec. 21), we sold for about \$12,000. The worker can pay his bill through a direct payroll deduction. It's open to everyone. Workers from Quebec Iron and Beloeil have also gotten the option of salary deduction. It's really great. The store is already too small.

## **P. 31**

### **SHERBROOKE**

Who hasn't played hockey in the streets with an SWP stick, the same kind as Bobby Orr.

For 25 years, Sherbrooke Wood Products, a family operation in Sherbrooke, under the Dugré brothers, made sticks. Over the last few years, there have been 1.2 million per year manufactured.

In 1971, the Dugré brothers sold the firm to an American company, Bookfield Sportman Goods. Things really began to go bad. When the 45-member union, affiliated to the CNTU's Building Trades Federation, wanted to negotiate, it was threatened with closure if they didn't accept a wage cut. With the help of administration experts from the University of Sherbrooke, the union undertook a marketing and management study of the firm. The conclusion was that if things were going poorly, it was because of poor management, namely the installation of automatic machines to dry glue, something which took away a lot of the stick's resistance. In December, 1972, the bosses decide to close the shop. The union had all the information in hand, indicating that the plant could operate successfully. The workers thought of buying the firm and operating it themselves.

A capital-share company was formed, thus avoiding all the stringent rules from the financial institutions department each time a co-operative charter is planned. An option to buy was made, covering the plant and machinery. The cost is \$210,000. We aren't buying the company, with its debts, and all. The name stays the same, SWP Inc.

The new company is formed thus: the plant's 45 employees furnish \$25,000 and have two representatives on the administrative council; the Sherbrooke central council invests \$50,000 which it gathers from all CNTU members on a no-interest loan basis, giving the council three representatives; André Beaudin, former plant manager and co-owner of Sherbrooke Sport Canada - hockey equipment, puts in \$25,000 and has a right of two council representatives. A grant from the department of regional economic expansion allows for coverage of the remaining \$110,000.

A clause specifies that the plant workers have at all times the preference of buying all shares.

In order to hasten the deal, it becomes likely that credit unions will loan the \$50,000 invested by the central council, with the loan reimbursed through subscriptions returns.

To assure success, orders for more than 800,000 sticks have already been made, and now there is talk of developing a summer production - making sled runners. In order to assure that the plant really becomes one of worker self-management, intense education programs have been given the 45 employees. With the help of André Laurin, some professors at the University of Sherbrooke and adult education programs from the local school board, the workers have more than 30 hours in management courses, and they will be given more on all pertinent subjects.

The union is stronger than ever and is preparing to negotiate. Production should begin soon. Everybody is a bit nervous, but the program is so solid that many local businessmen who wanted in were turned back. We want the plant to be owned and controlled by workers.

To participate in the subscription, send applications to Guy Levesque, Conseil central de Sherbrooke, 180 rue l'Acadie. Tel: (819) 563-6515.

### **P. 32-37 PORTRAIT OF A WORKER**

#### **YOLANDE TANGUAY**

Yolande Tanguay, daughter and wife of a miner, in Thetford, gets plenty of ideas while doing her housework and she sells them everywhere. Married for 22 years, she has four children. She described herself as an "ordinary person who minds my own business." She explains her actions as a "concerned nationalist who doesn't want to be assimilated."

### **P. 33 I LOVE PEOPLE**

I love people and I live with them. I am happy in a group, helping to work with people, and not against them. They say I have dynamism, and I guess that's true. Where do I get it? I think we're born with it, although we aren't all aware of it. When I was a girl I worked in a nylon manufacturing plant. We had a strike. I did some picketing and it was there I realized what solidarity could really mean.

#### **Know thyself**

I wasn't ashamed to be the wife of a miner. My father worked in mines for 40 years. He was unionized from the first hour. He still has his little dues book. It was rough in those days because they were not as well organized as today. He took sick and didn't work for six years, during the depression. It's probably from having experienced such a crisis that I am proud to be the wife of a worker. If I were the wife of a professional I could do little to help society. What I'd do would be for money and to maintain the system. You'd say: "She really thinks a lot of herself."

#### **Who wants to get aboard**

There are other things to see than Smith Street.

(NOTE: in Thetford it's the symbol of failure to cope with the power of mining companies). That's why I accepted to be interviewed, to show that there are others besides the nobles who have something to say. A worker doesn't talk worse than anyone else.

They say that the word is the vehicle of the mind, so let's hope it isn't a jalopy. I figure I have a modified Dunebuggy, because I wouldn't want it to be a Cadillac. Let's try to speak in our language, and we'll get somewhere. Who wants to board my modified Dunebuggy.

#### **I work**

Working at my housework doesn't mean I do no other work. Boy, if



you knew the mileage I've put on since this morning. I had two visitors, 10 telephone calls: we organized the demonstration against the meeting with Marc Cayer for tomorrow night. People are going to know that he was a spy: We're going to hand out copies from Québec-Pressé on what he did in Vietnam. My supper is ready. Now I'll put on a pair of speedy shoes. After supper, it's a school committee meeting, but I told them it had to be over by 9:30 p.m. because I want to go to the meeting of the central council.

### **P. 34 CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK**

Children today are very lucky. We listen to them and they know we love them. They always have the right to speak. Do you think I'm an old mother hen? That's naughty. In any event, I let them free. But if they are alright here... During last evening's conversation with Charlot (17 years old), did you notice that I provoked him? I believe it was a mark of confidence, since they can't be expected to take only our point of view. (NOTE: It was a deep conversation on marriage, free love, abortion and modern values).

#### **I believe in values**

I cannot allow myself to suffer because there are injustices. Often, our loads differ. It must all come from my commitment. But once you are committed, the more involved you become. My husband helped in this matter, saying: "Go on, tell your ideas." Today I have no qualms of saying what I think. I have as much confidence in my own ideas as in the ideas of others. I have values and I defend them. But you have to be visible to defend your ideas, or they mean little. So I give my opinion. It's not that it is better than anyone else's but it's through an exchange of opinions that ideas germinate. And I don't mind being told if one of my ideas is no good.

#### **Yolande is speaking**

We don't have the audio-visual needs for getting our opinions across. But if we ever get to tell our story, we won't hesitate. During the common front, we heard another story when we occupied the radio station for two days. There we finally got service. And we heard some nice music for a change. If I had a program entitled "Yolande is speaking," I'd make them taste what they force onto us every day. I think I have the ability for that.

#### **I write in the mornings**

If I have something to write, I do it in the morning. That's when I get my best inspirations. I wouldn't want to get too many because my house work would suffer. At noon, dinner is always ready. A good dinner. But I still get good ideas while doing my house work. I'm not the kind who listens to the radio all day long. But I do listen to "Le 60," and "Politique atout," and things like that. I read newspapers, but especially Québec-Pressé, and the magazines *Maintenant* and *Relations*.

### **P. 35 I LIKE POLITICS**

We were always interested in politics. As a lad, Maurice was blue. He carried match books of the Union Nationale. But during the strike in 1949, he saw that the UN was not for the workers. Then we were liberal, at a time when the blue could get tax receipts, but not liberals. Then we noticed that the liberals were also not for the workers. That's why we are PQ, because they want to abolish the election contributions so that we'll be rid of foreign control. But we are not forever tied to the PQ, because we want a party which answers the workers' needs, not just protect privileges.

### **I LIKE PLAYING JOKES**

I like laughing and making jokes.

We can't take everything serious. During the election campaign they asked me to make a little speech. Being a housewife, I wrote them a little recipe. I invented one with a Québec flavor. Everybody laughed. It's quite a thing to have the public laugh and then act.

### **THE 1949 STRIKE**

In '49 I was going with Maurice. Once he went to Asbestos with some strikers. It wasn't funny. They were holding a meeting in the church basement and it was the curé from Windsor who telephoned the curé at Asbestos to warn that the police were coming. They all left just in time. A few seconds more and everyone would have been arrested. That strike improved the entire society in Québec. Even if they didn't get all they wanted, the strike helped everyone in the province. Everyone should see the play on the strike: *Charbonneau et le chef*.

### **THERE ARE CHAIRMAIDS EVERYWHERE**

La Sagouine – a story about a chairmaid – is my favorite book. I did not like *Les Belles Soeurs* as much. Maybe it's because I'm not so interested in the artistic merits of a book rather in the people it presents. I wouldn't want all women to be like *Les Belles Soeurs*. La Sagouine isn't the same. There are Sagouines all over the province and they probably all have white hands like her. I'd like to know if any of their lives have changed since they were written about. I hope so, because if we talk about miners it is because we want to change their lifestyles, and that's why I accepted to be photographed.

### **P. 36 ONE MUST CHOOSE**

I am not a feminist but I work for the liberation of the woman. We must liberate the entire work-

er society. I chose to marry and have children. So, I wasn't forced into anything. If a woman wants to stay at home, she must have the freedom to choose. Now that the children are older, I choose to renew my contacts in society. We can't do everything, nor hope to have everything. One must choose. When you are a worker, you can't make a bad choice, not even for Saturday shopping.

## LISTENING TO TEACHERS

My biggest task now is my school committee. Some of my parents have had a belly-full. The school - polyvalente - is a village in itself, with 3,500 students. Visitors get lost and can hardly find their way out. The job of our committee is to get parents and teachers together. We want to listen to the teachers for the good of the students. We want to organize a visiting day soon but we hope it isn't all pomp and ceremony with things like cutting ribbons. I'd like to see the students in the limelight and that teachers are the first to be consulted. Somebody may have another idea on this and that's what we'll be debating tomorrow night.

## I USE ALL TEN FINGERS

I can be active outside because I am well organized at home. But I don't make my husband work overtime to get what I have. I use all ten fingers. My boys have never been to a barber. I have always cut their hair, and in keeping with the styles. I make my own curtains, do all my sewing and make preserves. When we built our house, I carried the bricks and Maurice lay them. When we built our chalet, the children were older and they helped a lot. I did the painting. I like to use my hands to make any things, such as dried flowers for the walls. One can't always be busy thinking about ways to change society.

## WE MUST GO DOWN INTO THE STREETS

A union must be concerned with politics because it is there to help the workers. Doing political action is more than forming a party. We must go down into the streets to get something done. If the working man doesn't go to his union meetings because they are too dull, he won't go just because his wife tells him to. Now, if women support their men and understand what they are doing, that's important. The petition circulated in the mine against the CSD was started by the women. After that we gave it to the men. There are men dumb enough to think their wives don't understand anything. Dialogue takes two people. I don't want to talk only about my house and my preserve jars.

## P. 38-43 QUEBECOIS - THE REAL THING The Carnival: from the party to the "big affair"

You gotta be some kind of a jack-ass to complain about one of the gayest events of winter.

They're out to rob us of our great winter custom - the Carnival. Within five years, there'll be few people willing to talk about them. Anyway, the erosion has already begun. It's too bad because we never had that many chances to celebrate in winter.

Winter carnivals date as far back as 1894. Each little town had its own carnival. It was king of way to enjoy winter, to tough out the roughest months, to warm up in a spirit of togetherness. It wouldn't take too much to make the Carnival the affair it used to be. A little less dreaming about grandeur and more confidence in people is about what it would take.

Even if parades are nice and the shows spectacular, it doesn't

replace people participation, nor individual creativity. The goal of a feast is not to attract as many people as possible or have great shows, but to have fun. It's like ice-fishing: we don't go just to catch fish, but to have fun.

We've got to re-invent the Carnival as it once was. When you've spent six months indoors in winter, a carnival is just the cure.

## P. 39

"It's always the same little gang you find at all the cocktails and the receptions. It's always the same gang. The year I was queen, I told them: Do you have among your directors anybody working at L'Anglo or Dominion Corset? Do you have any students? I knew they didn't."

I'm very interested. I already went to a Regency ball. Now I follow it less closely, but I'm interested. Mainly because it's a great thing. It brings in hard cash for business, restaurants and hotels. It's good for Quebec.

"The organization, when you look at it, is nothing but a gang of insurance salesmen, or some other kind of business, anyplace where you have to meet people. For them, the Carnival is free publicity."

"Me, I don't go at all. There is nothing for me at all. When I was younger, I went. Now I find nothing too interesting."

"You know, people are cooling off to that idea now. People are just about fed up. It's only to make money. Everything costs a buck. The only popular thing is the pee-wees. Even if it wasn't during the Carnival it would work okay."

"The Carnival sure is fun. We go to the parade. We walk in the streets. We find that interesting. We have parties and all that."

"Ever since it began, I always made an ice sculpture and I even won first price. C'mon in the cel-

lar, and I'll show you. See, a little piece of paper with your photograph on it, encased in plastic. I don't know if they thought I'd put that thing in my living room, but I won't.

"Even guys like us are losing interest. The young aren't too keen. We're the last of the line. Before people used to make their own sculpture. They were everywhere. If Sainte Thérèse Street disappears, the Carnival won't mean too much anyway."

#### **P. 40 THE BUSINESS IS GOING FINE, THANK YOU**

The Quebec Carnival this year was dubbed the "Big Affair." The slogan was well chosen because it has become a gold mine, being a great success with revenues topping \$32.7 million – enough to make any big promoter dream.

The business is going well. Even if the people don't participate, we'll take care of it. It's a mad rush for big shows, stars, big sales pitches and publicity. The Carnival is sold like any other commodity. Television and the big shows replace the people we see no more, and the pleasures we have forgotten.

Does it all mean that the people in Quebec are mopping about the Carnival? No, not yet. One must not forget that the Carnival is stepped in a long tradition. We all had a good time. People just have to participate.

People still watch the parade; kids are brought around to "see" ice sculptures; people go to any one of many sporting events. But all in all the old enthusiasm is gone. Many stay at home; others leave the city. People buy the candles for the prizes, like a Mini-Loto ticket.

Of all the people that we met, there is only a minority which hates the Carnival. People find it cuts the winter. People want a party, but

it's becoming less interesting. It's like Christmas, a big commercialized affair that we dread the coming: the gifts which must be bought the meals which must be served and the all-night parties.

One sees that it's all gone haywire when money and big business take over. It's like the old King Midas legend. This "good" king received a gift of changing things into gold, but everything went amuck. Money has this power to destroy everything. The risk of the Carnival is that it will die for having been too successful.

The Carnival has become something else. Not too long ago everyone built his monument. Streets were decorated and it was a real feast. A feast people participated in organizing.

The nicest monuments are still those where the streets are blocked off from Saint-Sacrement to the Latin Quarter, where we can sing and dance and act crazy without being afraid of abuse or of being arrested.

Now it's all organized and planned. It's all programmed like a television program: motorbike races, car rallies and ski-doo races, the crowning, competitions and popular evenings.

We have something for you. We ask you to come see the shows. C'mon see.

We see, we freeze and we return home.

#### **1896-1974**

To eclipse winter and make the season "less monotonous" the Carnival was created in 1896, say the files of the time. In 1955, when the Carnival was launched once more, it was to help out merchants and businessmen who felt the doldrums of mid-winter. Different motivations! Different methods are used now with different results, as the two photographs below indicate one ice castle from 1896 and the other from 1974.

#### **P. 41 THE LAST BASTION**

People on Ste-Thérèse still "make" their own Carnival. The whole street pitches in to decorate and illuminate. Even in below zero temperatures, the builders are there... and the caribou as well.

#### **P. 42 THE NEW MAQUIGNONS**

The Maquignon – the old time horse trader – was a legendary figure who knew a thousand tales, a sort of minstrel for the news of the region. In Abitibi, the local A.C.I.A.T., the association fighting to create a Quebec-controlled cooperative to buy lands which the Americans are trying to buy themselves, launched a new journal intitled *Le Trotteur du Maquignon* – The Horse Trader's Trotter. There are recipes, tips on gardening and news of the region.

"One of our aims," says Roger Guy, "is to re-evaluate what we have. We have been taught to be ashamed of what we were. One does not build a country only on development planning, but on the dreams of people. We want the people to be proud of what was often sneered at and that in the end people are still proud, of their lands, their homes, their music and their foods. They had invented all kinds of techniques and machines which were soon forgotten, quite sadly."

If you have any contributions to make to the new journal, write L'A.C.I.A.T., Boite Postale 401, Rouyn, Québec.

#### **A CARIBOU RECIPE**

Almost every Quebecer has a caribou recipe. Here is one we suggest as a variance.

8 oz. of alcohol  
32 oz. of red or white wine, as suits your taste.

- 1) Place the alcohol in a container with a tight cover.
- 2) Add 2 oz of very hot water and one teaspoon of granulated sugar.
- 3) Shake the bottle well and let set for 24 hours.
- 4) Take out 10 oz from the 40 oz of red wine.
- 5) Pour the 10 oz of alcohol in the 30 oz of red wine and let rest for 24 hours.
- 6) Shake well and let rest for as long as possible. This should help you spend the winter without being too cold.

## **DID YOU KNOW THAT MR. MINISTER?**

In August last year, workers involved in 17 disputes (with some of them having rotted for up to two years) invaded the offices of the labor minister. A video tape film of the event was made. Did You Know That Mr. Minister? It was an analysis of what the people felt about the heartache of waiting for decisions from "on high" to get action. The film should be presented in factories, plants and other work "boxes" so that its contents can be analyzed. It opens up that contentious can of worms concerning scab labor - a disgusting situation the workers must still contend with. If you want a print, write VIDEOGRAPHE, 1604 St. Denis, Montreal or telephone 842-9786.

## **ASBESTOS, 25 YEARS LATER...**

"There were no funds to help, but unions across the province sent truck loads of supplies, often topped with a live pig as the accepted symbol of the Establishment. Said Georges Dionne, former president of the Asbestos Corporation Miners' Union.

He was quoted in Au Coton, page 20. The enclosed photograph was found at the central council offices of Trois-Rivières. Le Travail suggests you search your own files to find documents depicting some of the documents describing the resistance of the Quebec worker.

## **P. 43 FESTIVAL OF TRADITIONAL QUEBEC MUSIC**

Mr. Bazinet was the dean of those who played that night - cultivator, lumberjack, choir member at Sainte Lucie Church. He is one of the last chroniclers of that wonderful music des pays d'"En Haut." - the music from the high country. He now lives in St. Jerome. He is 79 and still a beautiful singer.

It was the first time he had made a public appearance. He sang, danced and played the violin. The more he played, the younger he seemed. "I really enjoyed playing in Montreal. I thought it would really make me tired, but it didn't at all. I really liked doing it but all along I wondered what it would all mean for us." It was his first try at this sort of thing and in the audience were many young people who had battled the night's storm to come hear the real sound of Quebec. "I knew they had never heard that kind of music, it was something new for them."

People are starting to say that it must never die, this wonderful sound. Almost every one of the musicians expressed this feeling during the night. They know they are the only ones left who can play this music, this music they love so much. Listening to Antonio Bazinet tell of his love for his music, one would think he were listening to a great symphonic leader or a great composer whose lives had been dedicated to music.

## **P. 44-45 THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES UNION ACCREDITATION**

An accreditation request must be filed with the labor department as soon as a group of workers has decided to form a union and that a majority of the group has signed a card.

The minister will call for a hearing. A department investigator will enter the premises to verify that all has been done within the law - foundation of the union, membership cards, rights to belong, etc.

The investigator then seeks the company. He asks for the payroll at the time the request by the union was made. He then verifies that the list furnished by the union corresponds to those on the company's file.

If there are no objections from the boss and everything is accurate, the union receives its accreditation and negotiations can begin.

If there is a disagreement, the investigator hands the file over to the investigating commissioner and a hearing is dated.

That's where the problems come in. And that's the way it goes most of the time.

## **PAVILLON ST-DOMINIQUE**

"We established our union in 1966, but we don't have a contract yet. The Nuns did all they could to block us. We got the union, but no collective agreement.

"When we first got our accreditation, the Nuns began to pressure people in seeking their resignation from the union. They hired the best management lawyers in Quebec.

"After three years, in 1969, we lost our accreditation. We fought back and got another.

"Then we again began to negotiate. But the Nuns would have nothing to do with us. We finally went on strike March 19, 1972. Yes, it's been two years.

"Scabs stole our jobs. The Nuns got an injunction which forbid us to do almost everything. They don't have any problem getting an injunction.

"The boss is obliged by law to negotiate in good faith. It isn't funny pounding the pavement to get justice. When the strike began, almost all the women were earning \$55 a week. Some were earning \$60. I was making \$125, but I had to put in 75 hours. And, with no overtime. The women worked from 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., and from 4:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. No need to mention they were not paid for the three-hour split, forced to stay in the Pavillon. They also worked Saturday morning.

"We still can't understand how Nuns can do this sort of thing. We loved our patients. It's not because we became unionized that we'd mistreat them. But the Nuns turned the patients against us. They said their board would go up if we were unionized. "We occupied the Archbishop's Palace so he would listen to us. When he saw that the Nuns wouldn't accept his proposal, he went to Rome. We don't know yet what it will amount to. But we are hanging on knowing that one day our turn will come."

Labor legislation must be changed so that getting an accreditation is easier and that the bosses are not allowed to take advantage of inherent delays, allowing them to go through the courts to eventually crap over the workers.

Bosses who violate the labor code must also be made to pay dearly. It's not the current ridiculous fines which will force them to stop intimidating workers and firing the more active ones.

Finally, when a commissioner-investigator checks out the union list, he must not take into consideration some resignation which may occur in few days - since these resignations result from pressure exerted by the boss.

## **P. 45 SHELLCAST**

"We were about 30 at Shellcast, mainly immigrants from South

America and Haiti. Most were doing jobs unfit for a dog and that no Quebecer would have ever taken for the wage that owner Bodo Morgenstern paid, about \$2 an hour.

"No overtime at Shellcast. You worked 80 hours, you were paid for 80 hours. Morgenstern employed only immigrants because he knew they had a weak voice. He used blackmail. 'I'll report you to the immigration department if you continue.' When you are a stranger, you aren't familiar with the laws. The boss, though, knows the laws. He also knows how to twist them.

"In April we decided to form a union. The boss found out. He took some of the guys into his office. "Is it true that you signed a card? Give me the names of the others, and I'll keep you on and give you a raise." It didn't work. Morgenstern fired four lads.

"We filed a complaint based on dismissal for union organizing. The labor department ordered the return to work of the four. It was then Nov. 27, 1973.

"But no Nov. 18, the leader of the organizers was fired. The guys had stopped working for two hours. They wanted their colleague back, and that wages be moved to \$3.50 across the board.

"On Nov. 19 everyone was fired.

"We sought unemployment benefits, but the commission said we had "voluntarily" left our jobs. We appealed and won, effective since last January 1. We got nothing for the previous six weeks.

"In December we found out that the United Oil Workers had withdrawn our accreditation request. We had no idea.

"Now, scabs have taken our jobs. We're trying to prevent that. The only way to win is to continue the fight. We've got to win or we'll lose the spirit to fight."

## **P. 46-47 WE'RE NOT ALONE**

**BLOOD ON THE GRAPES.** That's the slogan of the strikers of Mexican descent (Chicanos) who are in Montreal to organize the grape boycott of California grapes and lettuce. What are they doing in Montreal? Why Mexicans in Québec?

Because there are three million farm workers in the United States who have a life expectancy of 49 years, 20 less than in Québec.

Because 800,000 of their children under 16 years of age must work the fields. Because the average family income--the father, mother and children--is \$2,700.

Because in California, where 95 per cent of our grapes and lettuce come from, 200,000 Mexicans are on strike because they exist in inhuman conditions. Because each year, official figures show, 800 of these workers die because of the use of pesticides. Because the infant mortality rate among the Chicanos is twice as high as the national average. Because these workers live in infested barracks, without toilets or good drinking water, leading to numerous cases of typhoid. Because many become invalids, working long hours at back-bending toil.

Because in the United States there is no legislation protecting farm workers. It is legal slavery. They have no job security, no unemployment insurance, no seniority, nothing. This permits labor contractors--contractors hired by the producers--to choose from an abundant labor force who works for the least wage possible and the greatest output demanded. The lack of laws also allows the contractors to give the workers

“pep pills” so they can work faster in temperatures between 110 and 120 degrees.

This necessarily provokes automatic discrimination towards men and women between 40-45 years of age.

In 1973 the grape and lettuce companies refused en bloc to renew labor contracts, despite three years of unprecedented benefits. In 1970, after five years of fighting, with strikes and boycotts, the United Farmworkers Union, headed by César Chavez forced the producers to negotiate. For the first time in United States history, some 300,000 farms workers gained a first contract granting them the following benefits: no more use of insecticides, no work for children under 16, elimination of sub-contractors, being replaced by union hiring halls, creation of a grievance committee, a seniority system and fixed hours, medical insurance, minimum sanitation conditions, and many more.

In 1973, the United Farmworkers Union had 85,000 members in California and was working to organize farm hands in Texas, Arizona and Florida. Panic stricken, the 200 largest companies, including Tenaco, a subsidiary of Safeway, Nestles, Dow Chemicals (lettuce), Purex, Butte Gas and Oil (Guild wines), decided to break the union.

The companies refused to negotiate. They decided to sign a sweetheart deal with the corrupt Western Conference of the Teamsters, without consultation with the workers.

In the vineyards, 400 goons hired by the Teamsters at \$67 a day, private security guards, and local police intimidated and attacked strikers with rocks, chains, metal pipes and anything else they could find. Hundreds of strikers were hospitalized and close to 5,000 put in jail.

In August, two strikers are killed. Nagi Daifullah, 24, is killed by a policeman from Kern county. Juan de la Cruz, 60, is struck through the heart with a bullet while picketing at the Giumarra vineyards. Faced with this unwanted violence, the pickets left the vineyards to set up the boycott in 200 cities across North America. It's the only weapon they have left, and perhaps the best.

Montreal ranks fifth among the largest California grape markets in North America. Moreover, Quebec is one of the largest buyers of “iceberg” lettuce.

The Mexican workers ask:

- \* A full grape boycott.
- \* A boycott of “head” lettuce, leaving other types of lettuce as alright to buy, such as boston, romaine, leaf, etc.

If your grocer says he is not selling scab lettuce or grapes, ask him to show you the union stickers--with the aztec eagle--on the box. It's the only way to verify.

Up to now, the strikers have received support from Quebec's three main labor bodies, the Agricultural Producers Union, the Montreal Archdiocese, the United Church of Canada, the Montreal Anglican Church, COOPRIX stores, and the Catholic and Protestant school commissions on Montreal Island.

Dominion Stores Ltd. has become the largest distributor of the scab grapes and lettuce, with an annual net profit of \$450,000. The strikers ask Quebec workers not to shop at stores not respecting the boycott.



