



## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

LABOUR, JUNE 1974, VOLUME 50, NO 4

### FRONT COVER

June 1974

labour

The magazine of ordinary people published by the CNTU.

### INSIDE FRONT COVER (LEFT)

#### LE TRAVAIL: AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF THE CNTU.

With publication of this fourth edition, *Le Travail* shows some of the comment made about our information program throughout our affiliates. We are carrying a few comments which denote what kind of role this publication can play.

### INSIDE FRONT COVER (RIGHT)

(cut)

**Marc Ferland, Québec**

*Le Travail* disseminates information among CNTU unions where it had previously been almost impossible. The great range of subjects in the publication shows people that the CNTU has more things it is concerned about than only collective agreements. You read about the story on Pontiac and you realize how

lucky you are to be unionized. People notice a magazine which is about unions from one cover to the other. What is political action if this publication isn't? What makes it viable for us to reach fellow unionists is that the words of the magazine are our own.

#### In Joliette

Many unions have already asked for more copies. Members discuss the articles with the staff and many cases are cited where the magazine has influenced many to join the CNTU. The article on Joliette created great interest. The diversity of subjects is also very interesting for readers. "Sometimes we union leaders are too union-minded something which often creates consternation for members. The magazine has just the right tone and readers are able to identify with the people written about."

(cut)

**Fabienne Tremblay, Québec**

I am astonished at the interest shown by women about the articles, such as the one on petroleum. For the ordinary people, the magazine is a vital source of information. It is free without imposing on people to do any one thing or go here or there, making the CNTU a sympathetic and reliable organization. Peo-

ple who were normally indifferent to the usual propaganda type union publications now are interested.

**Germaine Poirier, Clinique Rousseau, Québec.**

The young are reading it and are discussing its contents. Among them we see an increase in those interested in unions and union publications. The magazine is becoming a very interesting education tool which allows unionists to have an interest in unions at times other than during negotiations or a crisis.

#### Crino, Joliette

The five copies received here are set on a table in the eating hall. The workers read it and even leave markers at the page they stopped. At night, the foreman, at the request of the union, locks the copies in a drawer so they won't disappear.

(cut)

**Regis Mathieu, CEGEP F.X. Garneau**

For our members the magazine is something vibrant and new. The militants will undoubtedly need something more. But our ordinary members waited a long time for the CNTU to publish something which wasn't outright propaganda nor a call for funds. The second publication was distributed to all our 115 teachers.

It was great since the CNTU for once spoke about schools--  
Commençons par libérer nos  
enfants. We published an appli-  
cation in our own journal--ON-  
FIXE--for those wishing to get  
Le Travail and we received 32  
names.

The article entitled Where Are  
Unions Headed hit the mark and  
we had great discussions on it.  
Teachers are reticent about prop-  
aganda and soliciting. They do  
appreciate that the CNTU can  
speak about itself and the times  
freely and openly.

#### **CIL-Valleyfield**

Of the 70 copies circulated, 35  
came back to the group leaders  
who were to see that at least  
seven people read the magazine.  
This meant that about 250 mem-  
bers read the magazine, in part  
or all. The idea of having a list  
of readers for each copy is being  
done in many other unions.

#### **P. 1 THIS IS ISSUE NUMBER 4 OF LABOUR**

This 4th edition is the last in our  
experimental stage. The CNTU  
convention, meeting June 23-29,  
will decide its future. Initial feed-  
back from sources established  
throughout the CNTU show a  
marked number in favor of con-  
tinuing the publication and that  
the new format of Le Travail  
can strengthen the ties between  
the CNTU and its ordinary  
members as well as workers in  
general.

labour

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In this edition we ask the ques-  
tion: **WHO CAN SAVE MONT-  
REAL?**

More than ever Montreal  
is at the very heart of Quebec  
problems and more than ever that  
city is seriously menaced. It isn't  
Drapeau who will save Montreal:  
it is indeed he who is destroying  
it. It is more difficult to find  
out what is going on in Montreal  
than in any other region in Quebec.  
We have nevertheless attempted  
to do it. The report on Montreal  
fills the space normally reserved  
for PROBLEMS, the FILE and  
The CONFLICT OF THE  
MONTH.

#### **THE VERMINE OF THE MONTH**

Drapeau fills out the picture and  
at the same time outlines the  
importance of the battle under-  
taken by the Rally of Montreal  
Citizens for the upcoming munici-  
pal elections in November.

#### **THE PORTRAIT OF A WORK- ER**

We introduce Guy Larivière, a  
worker at the St-Jean-de-Dieu  
hospital who is an active unionist  
and very much part of his Hoche-  
laga-Maisonneuve district. He  
perfectly embodies the daily battle  
which workers in Montreal must  
undertake.

The remainder of the publication  
presents the normal columns.  
STAN LARUE, taxi driver, and  
his column on current events.  
**THIS IS WHAT WE TALK  
ABOUT** speaks of the villages  
which have made summer plans  
for their centennial, bi-centen-  
nial or tri-centennial cel-  
ebrations. **QUEBECERS, THE  
REAL THING** discovers the  
Islands of the St. Lawrence, par-

ticularly those of Sorel and Ile-  
aux-Grues. It is also a holiday  
suggestion. **THAT'S THE WAY  
IT GOES** questionned people on  
the forthcoming CNTU conven-  
tion.

#### **P. 2 STAN LARUE 842-3181**

We have always felt that things  
would eventually be better in the  
taxi industry, even if politicians  
have made great profits from it.  
Bourassa is the assembly repre-  
sentative in an east-end riding  
where many taxi drivers live.

This is why, when he came to  
power, he created a commission  
of inquiry with Alfred Bossé, a  
unionist who divorced himself from  
the CNTU, as its head. It looked  
promising.

However, all Bossé could think  
of saying was that the taxi industry  
was not viable. We wonder just  
for whom! We know it isn't viable  
for us, but the bosses are another  
question.

And, we are still waiting, while  
we continue to work in an industry  
which is profitable only for the  
big fleet owners, associations and  
their insurance compagnies.

#### **IN THE BAY OF CHALEUR**

#### **AT LEAST ALLOW INTELLIGENCE THE FREEDOM TO DEVELOP**

I've never really understood poly-  
valents. People of my age, and the  
younger ones too, went through a  
school system where *there were*  
30 pupils from the first to seventh  
grade with only one teacher. This  
was pitiful. They changed all that,  
however. If we can, at least, call  
that change. We now have the big  
comprehensive schools and when  
my little boy talks about his school,  
it gives me the shivers.

In the Bay of Chaleur, in the Gas-

pé, the people took the bull by the horns. They got a commission of inquiry to investigate their schools. They went through the villages and heard testimony from more than 2,500 persons. After these meetings the commission, which had representatives from the education department, teachers, school board members, parents, unionists and students, presented a report entitled *The Book on Collectivity*.

The report recommends the closing of the comprehensive school system as long as people have not yet decided on what they want.

For them it isn't very complicated: schools are the biggest thing they have, taking the biggest investment and having the greatest influence on the population. Thus, the big school doesn't answer the needs of the Gaspesians. It must disappear because it shouldn't be the school which dictates to people, but rather it is the people which should determine its own needs.

**(cut)**

According to my youngster, it is the best thing which could ever happen.

### **P. 3 EVERYBODY MUST SPEAK ENGLISH**

Bourassa and Cloutier are right: they stand in the middle and declare that bill 22 is supposed to make French the official language in Quebec, while being a flexible law. It is so supple that Cloutier has stated that those who wish to make changes "will always be able to do so."

Sitting in the middle it's difficult to get any better since everyone has the same attitude on bill 22 it is not satisfactory.

There are French people who say that it changes nothing in the freedom of language choice and that we need French unilingualism to assure and protect the French language.

There are English who are frustrated that a language legislation speaks of them since we must not touch their conquering rights. They fear that school boards will determine whether or not there are to be English schools. They fear the minister will too often interfere in the legal aspect of any law.

There are non-Anglophone immigrants who say they will become third rate citizens because their future compatriots will be forced to enroll in French schools while anglophone immigrants will be able to attend English schools or that the rich will have access to private schools.

There are federal politicians who used bill 22 in the recent elections and were forced to state they were horrified that Québec would cease anglicizing its citizens at the normal rate. It's one way to buy Ontario votes.

In all this, only Bourassa and Cloutier are satisfied. They are happy and everyone else is an extremist. I wouldn't have thought there were so many.

All in all, everyone, except for a few francophone Quebecers, don't want any change. Maybe you heard the story that was told on television by Yves Michaud, former PQ candidat. During the election, he was speaking to students at the John F. Kennedy high school in Montreal, where Italians are a large majority. He said that if current trends were not changed, Montreal would soon become an English city. They applauded. He asked them if they wanted Montreal to become an English city. They stood to applaud.

If this is what we face, I'm for fighting. It is our disappearance which is at stake, especially when we see that there are only 11 per cent of francophone immigrants in Quebec. Many preferred the English schools because they felt we spoke French poorly.

## **DRAPEAU IS SAVING US MONEY**

Drapeau has decided that he can leave to his own discretion the \$250 million in Olympic construction without public tenders being called. This means that between now and 1976 it will really be profitable to be both a contractor and a friend of Drapeau.

Drapeau says it's all to save money. It's as though I went and bought a car to be a cabbie and was forced to use only a garage I was told to. Don't you think that the garage owner would use this to increase prices, or, even, lower them...

**(cut)**

### **P. 4 DRAPO, EXPO, METRO, COJO, LOTO, BOBO...**

Speaking of Drapeau, there is a new political party in Montreal. It was founded by the Parti Québécois, unionists from the three main labor bodies in Montreal - the CNTU, the QFL and the CEQ, the urban progress movement and the Quebec NDP.

The party, the Rally of Montreal Citizens, wants to beat Drapeau in the upcoming municipal elections in November.

The party wants to work at local levels so that citizens will have a real voice in determining their affairs, such as construction matters. The party wants to build or renovate more than 10,000 housing units per year. It wants to consolidate transportation in Montreal, freeze fares and give the elderly free passage, on public transit systems.

The candidates for various regions as well as the mayoralty will be selected next September.

It's very important.

## 37 YEARS IN PRISON FOR NOTHING

Gilbert French is an Indian from the Caughawaga reserve. He has just been released from prison. He had been there for 37 years. In fact it appears quite normal since Quebec Indians have always been second rate. However, it really isn't such an ordinary thing because Gilbert French has never been tried for anything. Let's start at the beginning: At 14 years old French was arrested and sent to reform school. He was, apparently, a juvenile delinquent. From reform school he was transferred to the youth wing of Bordeaux jail. On May 31, 1944, a prisoner, Gerard Lauzon, was murdered. French was accused of the murder along with two guards and another prisoner.

He claims he is innocent. The trial takes place. One guard is acquitted. The other is sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison. The other prisoner, defended by Drapeau, is sentenced to 10 years. As far as French goes, a prison psychiatrist says he is mentally unable to stand trial, in other words he is crazy. When this is happening. (June 27, 1974), neither French nor the psychiatrist are in court. This is illegal. It doesn't however, prevent French from spending 30 years in prison without a trial.

In January, 1974, Dr. Beliveau, director of professional services at the Pinel Institute, where French now is, declares him to be fit to stand trial. The legal aid bureau in Montreal takes the case and presses the matter until the justice department admits it has no proof to offer. The witnesses have all disappeared. What an affair!

Choquette decides to release French, not because he is declared innocent but because there is no proof. It's disgusting.

Gilbert French, the Indian, entered prison in 1937 at 14 years of

age because he had stepped on someone's property. Today, 37 years later, he is released at the age of 51. Without trial or anything else. We've got one hell of a justice system!

### P. 5 WE WANT POPULAR DAY CARE CENTRES THE DEATH OF POPULAR DAY CARE CENTRES

For whom are day care centres? I know, at least partially, because I often have fares who are women picking up their children after the day's work. It's when they are rushed that they take a cab.

These days they are very disconcerted because their centres are closing. The local initiative programs which had set up care centres, particularly in and around Montreal, no longer exist. It's all over for women who could work because of the popular centres. They aren't very happy. At popular day care centres, the women paid according to their family revenue. There were some who paid \$1 a week, those on social welfare assistance.

(cut)

But it no longer exists. The Bourassa government, through the Liberal minister Lise Bacon, decided that instead of paying subsidies to a host of centres, it would give social welfare payments to parents to send children to centres. The maximum is \$20 per week per child for those on welfare. However, any decent centre, which isn't merely a parking spot for children, charges at least \$35 a week per child.

It seems that popular centres couldn't make ends meet with such lucrative sums. According to one woman I had as a fare recently, Bourassa's program will really increase the lining of the private day care industry. There will be money to be made by many who

are in it not for the kids, but for the money.

And, the government, through its social welfare aid offices - which are charged with distributing the grants for centres - will control women on social assistance and force them to return to work, with their children in centres, effectively cutting back social welfare payments.

It's a great bargain for the government as it cuts down the number of women of social welfare, already at a cost of \$93 million per year. It isn't so bad. And furthermore it enhances the profits of a new industry. Its great for electoral campaign contribution and, of course, private enterprise.

However, no one can please everyone, not even the government. Now there are many, many working women who will not be able to send their children to day care centres. The women will suffer, but even more, so will the children.

The little girl of the woman who was telling me this said that she didn't always want to "return to the apartment." This was because the popular centres were for the children, not only for parents who wanted to get rid of their kids.

How does Bourassa say that again: social-demo... demo...

### P. 6 HOSPITALS CUT AND THE WORKERS PAY

There is a lot of talk about hospital which was almost completely closed down. It was serious enough.

Hospitals have become a major industry. In large hospitals there are as many employees as in major industries, with upwards of 3,000 in some cases. Like in big industries, it guarantees big con-

tracts for close friends and fat administrators. Since the fat administrators come from big companies, they want to make hospitals more "viable," and to their own tastes.

In certain hospitals, 90 per cent of the budget is for wages. On the average it is 75 per cent. To make it even more profitable, one must economize. Since wages take the biggest cut of the cake, it is on wages that one saves. Not, mind you, by paying less since this is all set out in contract agreements, but by paying fewer people, and not immediately replacing those who leave, by making employees pay their parking, by cutting back on service personnel, tripling meal prices, delaying grievance procedures, and a host of other aspects.

They aren't fools those administrators: their cutbacks are done on the backs of the workers, something which doesn't bother them at all.

That's the way it's happening at Notre-Dame in Montreal and elsewhere. It seems that any Quebec hospital which doesn't have this problem just isn't a Quebec hospital.

(cut)

## **P. 7 VALLEYFIELD WORKERS FIGHT TO SURVIVE**

The word May 1 on the rising cost of living and wage indexation is slowly penetrating throughout the labor force. In Valleyfield there were at least five major strikes in two CNTU plants and three QFL ones.

The two CNTU strikes were at Les Engrais du St-Laurent and CIL. It ended at CIL after the workers received an increase of 28 cents an hour with another 10 cents Aug. 1. This is plus their regular 25 cents an hour increase

Sept. 1. At Les Engrais du St-Laurent, 75 people were still out at this publication. The boss suspended a few guys who began the strike. They, too, want wage adjustments to the cost of living.

Of the three QFL plants, two were still on strike at this publication. Workers at Dominion Textile settled for five per cent. There was no immediate word on Good Year and Electrolitic Zinc where the employees were determined to hang on until they won.

## **QUEBEC KNOWS HOW TO FLOOD**

It's unreal what we read in the newspapers. Le Jour has recently got its hands on a secret government report where it is explained that the floods last year in Montreal - causing more than \$800,000 in damages - were done with the consent of the Quebec government so that there would be no flooding into American towns nor Ontario districts near Lake Ontario.

It's bad enough that the Bourassa government accepts to have its people flooded instead of the English in Ontario and the United States, but what is shocking is that this Bourassa government a) made no agreements with either government bodies to help defray the costs and b) made us believe that the floods were from natural causes so that Quebecers could not benefit from insurance coverage.

And, this year the floods were the worst in 50 years. We are again told they were due to natural causes. But now that we know our government has screwed us once already, what are we supposed to think? At least believe that the secret report stated that the level of Lake Ontario would be above normal for a few years to come.

(cut)

## **P. 9-23**

(cut)

## **WHO CAN SAVE MONTREAL?**

**The thing menacing Montreal is not the slowdown in development, but rather development itself. The more Montreal develops, the more it savagely turns against the people who live here, particularly the workers.**

Montreal is the heart of Quebec, and more particularly, the frontier of Quebec. It's in Montreal where our collective future is in play. Half the Quebec population as well as 60 per cent of workers and unionists are caught in the everyday claws of this urban monster which is ravaging the entire Montreal region. If we lose Montreal, there is no future for Quebec.

Montrealers are on the firing line every day. This city has suddenly turned against people, those who once felt at home here. Montreal is being turned over to a small group of elite developers and speculators with the blessing of the Drapeau administration, all without a word possible from its citizens. A long list of depressing events occur as popular housing is demolished, unique "quartiers" are disappearing, green spaces are cut back; people are forced to move to the suburbs where prefabrication is the order of the day amidst lifeless existence; all activity is centered in a mushroom of growth polluted by automobiles; English is imposed as the language of work, as well as in the streets and in the schools; people are stymied from improving their lot, to even speak, to meet or organize.

## **MONTREALERS ARE REGUGEES IN THEIR OWN CITY**

A few years of this massacre and Montreal will be another New York and the monster will have ransacked everything. Resistance

to this phenomena directed by men is already the most difficult task in any Quebec city. There is absolutely no hope unless the unions, popular groups and the PQ unite and organize new forms of solidarity to permit Montrealers to assemble and intervene.

This edition of LE TRAVAIL, which coincides with the CNTU's convention, attempts to paint a picture of Montreal to help people understand the importance and the difficulties that ordinary Montrealers encounter in their daily battle for survival.

## **FOLLOW THE GUIDE**

### **P. 10**

If things continue the way they are going, the western part of Centre-Ville will die of asphyxiation. For the year 1973-74 in Montreal alone, there are more than \$4 billion in construction projects planned. In the quadrilateral of Sherbrooke-Guy-Atwater-Dorchester, the population density is 144 persons per acre. In certain corners it's up to 400 persons per acre, while the Montreal average is 33. Over the next 25 years the population of Montreal could hit as high as 7-8 million. All this is being done with no planning. It's even accepted under zoning laws which are changed to every whim of financial speculators.

### **THE DAILY INVASION**

At the same time, thousands of suburbanites and others outside the city core invade Centre-Ville to go to work. Since public transport is developed at a minimum and as advertising encourages individual transport, hundreds of thousands of motorists are congested within a few square miles.

This is where all the problems begin: air pollution, gasoline, noise; frustrations and hostilities caused by heavy traffic as well as one's fear of arriving at work late; nervousness, stress, murder, rape cancer, heart attacks, acci-

dents, nervous depression and a host of other effects. At nights it's the same thing as the city is emptied of people heading back to their suburban dormitories.

### **SOME FIGURES**

#### **In 1972:**

The budget of the MUC police was more than \$95 million. That is \$49 per citizen.

There were 38,420 crimes, with 91 murders, 119 reported rapes and 2,251 thefts of every sort.

There were 485,000 licensed automobiles, with a total of 714,565 parking infractions, as well as 149 persons killed in road accidents. There were also 154 reported suicides, 3,946 reported disappearances and 5,830 juveniles brought before the courts.

(cut)

### **P. 12**

## **SHUT UP, WE'RE DEMOLISHING**

For the last few years, the eastern section of downtown Montreal-Bleury to Papineau - is being more and more massacred by speculators who are seeking only to make a fast buck. Nothing is sacred to the axe of demolishers. There are cranes everywhere and streets, parks, factories, homes, complete "quartiers" and even life are being replaced by what is termed progress.

For Drapeau, his speculator friends and newspapers, progress is calculate by cubic yards of cement. New York has become our model of development. Each year the skyscraper jungle extends itself. The most striking examples of anarchic development include Place Desjardins, Radio-Canada, Concordia, the Guy Favreau Complex and the East-West autoroute in what was once called "the most beautiful city in North America."

## **THE MONSTER IS HEADING EAST**

For workers, Drapeau's progress means the disappearance of thousands of dwellings, particularly low-cost housing. Between 1961 and 1971, 17,000 of these dwellings have been destroyed while 11,000 have been bought by businesses. The city has demolished a city equivalent to 100,000 people.

The Anglophone districts of the West have not been touched. The destruction extends in the popular quarters of the Centre-South and Hochelaga-Maisonneuve. Within the few years we expect to see Parc Lafontaine and St. Louis Square circled by 30-storey luxury apartments.

### **A POPULATION OF LESSEES**

Eighty per cent of Montrealers rent and they are becoming more and more insecure. Workers are greatly affected by the forced movements they must make to other downtown areas or in the suburbs. And, it's getting more expensive. Over the last 10 years the average rent has jumped to \$100 a month, up from \$66.

Drapeau should concentrate on renovating existing housing instead of demolishing. Twenty per cent of housing in Montreal is unliveable, with no running water, no toilets and no heating. More than 75,000 dwellings should be immediately renovated, but nothing is done. It seems odd that only \$2 million a year is spent on housing renovation in Montreal while Drapeau spends more than \$4 million annually on his white elephant, Man and His World.

### **THE AUTOROUTE OF THE RICH**

Since the North American economy is based on automobiles, we need autoroutes even if the people are against them. The East-West autoroute has cost \$450 million, the equivalent of 30,000 new dwellings. Instead of building, they destroyed 3,300 dwellings, forcing 15,000 people to move. At least three persons

have died because of this and many others had nervous breakdowns after being uprooted. And, long live automobile pollution!

### **OLD MONTREAL FOR THE AMERICANS**

For tourists, Montreal is the friendly, picturesque city. Each year more than six million of them hit the city. The only spots which do not fall to the demolishers axe are those which attract tourists. And even now Montrealers don't even feel at home in Old Montreal.

(cut)

### **P. 14**

(cut)

### **P. 15**

(cut)

### **THE WORKERS' CORE IN MONTREAL**

Montreal developed along the St. Lawrence river, moving from west to east. Workers followed industry as it developed.

Today the worst districts are those along the river, such as St. Henri, Centre-South, Mile End and Hochelaga - Maisonneuve. These are the Francophone ghettos which are getting worse every year.

In 1951, more than 310,000 people - about 30 per cent of Montreal's population - lived in these districts. In 1971 that had dropped to 200,000 or about 18 per cent, nevertheless remaining the core of Montreal workers.

### **DISTRICTS ARE DISAPPEARING**

Montreal used to be composed of series of parishes where people knew one another and there was a collective spirit. Neighbours weren't strangers.

Today, Montreal is set up in a series of administrative divisions. With only a few exceptions. The district feeling no longer exists in Montreal. People do their little things, going to the

grocery store and speaking to one or two acquaintances, and rarely leave the house, except to go to work.

### **ST. HENRI... A VILLAGE IN THE CITY**

St. Henri is an exception. People know one another in St. Henri and there is a family feeling there. When Montreal became an industrialized city, the workers settled in the south-west along with the industries. People from the country settled here. They built a village in the city, but it remains a workers' ghetto and nothing changes from generation to generation.

The other main workers' district is Hochelaga-Maisonneuve. It is much younger and more recent than St. Henri.

There are more tradesmen and the wages are higher, but it still has that intimate aspect. This is not the case in the Centre-South district where people are alone and without identity.

### **POPULAR RESISTANCE**

It's in these districts, and in particular in St. Henri, that popular groups have been organized over the last 15 years, often being the only ones to really rally people together and make their voices heard. The first citizens' groups were born here 15 years ago and now range from popular clinics to political groups of all sorts. These groups are among the major aspects of resistance for Montrealers. They are gaining more and more rapport with unions and the PQ. However, up to this point with the exception of the Democratic School Movement, they have not really been successful in uniting, not encouraging massive solidarity, nor instill in people an understanding of the powers in place, with Drapeau as chief. Movements in some districts - more and more part of unions and the New Rally of Montreal Citizens as an essential link - isn't even started yet and already threats of demolition are being made.

### **P. 16**

(cut)

### **P. 17**

Like all major cities, Montreal is a cosmopolitan. In the metropolitan region there are about 500,000 immigrants, living between 450,000 British and 1.7 million Francophones.

The great problem for Montreal is that 90 per cent of these immigrants are becoming integrated within the language and school system of the Anglophone minority. The government is doing nothing to stop this assimilation. At this time Francophones represent no more than 60 per cent of Montreal's population and bill 22 will lower this proportion even more. Montrealers are not racists but simply want to live as a people.

### **EUROPE IN MONTREAL**

In Montreal, one person in 10 is of Italian origin while one in 20 is Jewish. The 270,000 other immigrants come mainly from Europe, such as Greeks, Poles, Spaniards, Portuguese, etc.

In certain districts one feels that he is in Europe or somewhere else. On Jean Talon street and a part of the northern section, it's Italy. On Park Ave. it's Greece. In Cote St. Luc, Hampstead and part of Outremont it's Israel. But it's mainly in Mile End - north of Pine Ave. between Park and St. Denis - that the largest number of minority ethnic groups live: next to the Greek pastry shop is a Portuguese fish seller, Polish butchers, Dutch cheese vendors, a Hungarian or German butcher, the Chinese importer, etc.

Basically, the life in an immigrant district is better organized than most Francophone districts. However, it is the worker in the Mile End area where people are best adapted to urban life, and, in essence, the least insecure.

## **MOUNT ROYAL**

In the old days, Mount Royal was the Montrealers' countryside. Now it's mainly the immigrants who use it.

In the East end, green spaces are disappearing and cement and asphalt are taking its place. Over the last five years, 25 parks have disappeared in the eastern part of Montreal.

In North America, Montreal ranks 14th, after New York, as having green spaces proportionate to people - 2.5 acres per 100 people. Now Drapeau wants to eliminate another 50 acres at Viau park to build 1,800 luxury apartments for foreign athletes for only two weeks.

It's not surprising that Montrealers watch an average five hours of television a day. There are no organized sports and nowhere to stroll. For many the apartment has become a prison from where one hardly leaves.

(cut)

## **P. 18**

### **THE ENGLISH CORNER**

Westmount, Town of Mount Royal, Dorval, Beaconsfield and the entire West Island of Montreal are the ghettos of the English and anyone else who wants to look like one. One would think oneself to be in England or Ontario. It's the corner of the masters who are also the rich.

For them, living in Montreal poses few problems, since they are at home. Demolition doesn't affect them, since this is only for downtown and the French-canadian districts. Housing is not a problem since they have beautiful homes and aren't mainly among the 80 per cent of apartment dwellers who always move on May 1. They have plenty of green spaces and their children don't play in the traffic. They aren't tramping over one another. They make up only 15 per cent of the population with more than half the Island to live

in. As for health, it's all theirs as seen by an infant mortality rate of 9.9 in Notre-Dame-de-Grace compared to 24.9 in the DeLorimier in the east end. They don't need popular groups since they already have the power and aren't afraid to use it. They are hanging on to bill 63. Drapeau, Bourassa and Trudeau need them since they are all Liberal.

### **MAYOR DRAPEAU**

The Drapeau administration mirrors the aspirations of the English masters. Drapeau has sold out Montreal to exploitation. There is no other place in Quebec where citizens are so remote from civic power. Drapeau has turned Montreal into a state within a state, as Goldbloom has already said. There is no municipal opposition since all representatives belong to Drapeau's party. There is no participation, nor consultation, nor information.

Drapeau and his henchmen take care of Montreal's development, and it isn't polite to disturb them. They feel it's by giving a free rein to promoters and investors, rather than listening to the population, that Montreal will beat Toronto.

Montreal's budget shows that only \$38 million has been spent on things of a social nature while a whopping \$50 million has been spent on the most repressive police force in Quebec. More is spent on keeping Man and His World Alive than on new housing. Apart from Man and His World, only six per cent of the budget is for sports, placing Montreal 95th among other Quebec municipalities. Another \$500 million has been earmarked for the Olympics for 800 athletes over 11 days - all financed mainly by workers for the profit of merchants, contractors and businessmen. There is absolutely no urban renewal plans in operations, leaving the road wide open for promoters. Automobiles have the priority in transport. There is nowhere in Quebec where local power is determined by English capitalists,

nowhere in Quebec are people so powerless, and nowhere in Quebec is it more difficult to organize the ordinary people.

(cut)

## **P. 20**

### **THE MOVE TOWARD THE SUBURBS**

As popular lodgings are demolished to enlarge downtown with massive luxury apartments, those in the mid-income bracket who can afford a car, head for the suburbs, such as Anjou, St. Leonard, Montreal North, Laval and the South Shore. For the housewives who don't have a second car, these suburbs are like prisons since many things they need are not all within walking distance. Apart from a few massive shopping centres, there isn't very much life nor even contact among people. Cars are needed for everything, especially moving to and from the heart of the city where all the jobs, activities and services are located. In some suburbs, such as those in the northeast off the Island, housing is more or less like the popular type, giving people the impression they have moved up the social scale and have become more close with nature. The magnitude of this exodus is clear when one sees that the population of downtown Montreal has diminished by 100,000 over the last 10 years. In 1961, Montreal's population accounted for 57 per cent of all the surrounding regions, but by 1971 this had been reduced to 44 per cent.

### **A French Quebec?**

It's in these suburbs that the problem of English in schools made such a spectacular appearance - such as St. Leonard in 1969 and Laval in 1974. In general, it's in Montreal where the future of French is determined. There now are no more than 60 per cent Francophones in Montreal's population. The 10 per cent of English who hold the major powers in the work force are gaining more and more ground in imposing English.

The remaining 30 per cent - made up of immigrants whose birth rate is steady at about 19 while the Francophone has dropped to 13 - are filling into English schools at an 89 per cent rate. Consequently, French schools are becoming emptied while the English are getting jammed. We see this by a drop of 700 students in French schools in St. Leonard, while 33 per cent of students in Laval's English schools are French and 50 per cent of non-Francophone immigrant children are moving toward English schools, despite government programs for them, particularly Greeks and Italians. Since 1970, more than 13,000 students have moved from the French schools to the English. Bill 63 and its worthy successor, bill 22, are doing their job. Living in Montreal means being hustled daily by this English submersion.

### **I have the Quebec feeling**

It's no wonder that the national sentiment is a major key to the identity of Montrealers - they are perhaps the most conscious of all Quebecers that their identity is being threatened since they are in the line of fire daily. It's in Montreal where the Quebec flag is most displayed, on sweaters, cars, in windows and in demonstrations.

About half the PQ membership is in Montreal. The PQ vote among francophones was about 56 per cent in the last elections. The total vote shows the weight of non-francophone minorities with the PQ getting 43.3 per cent in Montreal East, 22.6 per cent in Montreal West and 34.3 per cent in the suburbs. Militant PQers are active in all popular movements in and outside the work force and must be considered a major force in any regrouping of any popular activity.

(cut)

### **P. 22**

#### **I'm from Montreal East**

Montreal east has become, in sections like Hochelaga-Maison-

neuve, the symbol of the French-Canadian working class district in Montreal. It has also become symbol of a Montreal-based Quebecois culture with names like Michel Tremblay and Diane Dufresne, with channel 10, citizens' groups, baseball and hockey in the streets, factories, taverns, mixed taverns, low wages, joul, and refineries, all part of an excitement which strongly contrasts with the dullness and snobishness of the West side English. These are the districts where the mainstream of French-Canadian factory workers is concentrated. There are about 90 per cent francophones among this population, and more than 60 per cent come from the country.

#### **I work in a factory**

Sixty-three per cent of Quebec workers and 60 per cent of unionized workers are in the Montreal region. In Montreal we see 70 per cent of Quebec's plant and factory workers, 60 per cent of employees in service industries and 64 per cent in construction work. The concentration of workers in service industries and factories - where working conditions are among the worst in Quebec - is marked by a weaker union participation than in other parts of the province, with 30 per cent as compared to an average 39.1. The average wage of the family head in the working class districts along the river is between \$5,000 and \$6,000 a year, with about \$1,900 per individual within families. About 30 per cent of revenues come from social assistance, with unemployment being as high as 17 per cent for most of the year. Housing and recreation problems are more acute here than anywhere else. Workers usually have about one hour's drive by bus or car to get to work.

An individual's health is constantly challenged with horrible health conditions at work, as well as financial problems, fatigue of travel, pollution, a lack of recreation, and noise. A person has

four chances in 10 that he will die of a heart condition, with three in 10 expected to die of cancer or bronchitis.

### **UNIONS**

The CNTU has 59,000 members in Montreal, with 70 per cent in public services. The QFL is more entrenched with 160,000 members, having 40 per cent in industry and 15 per cent in business enterprises. The QTC has about 28,000 members in teaching. There are also many independent unions. Even if the Montreal central council of the CNTU is the best equipped, union bodies haven't yet made a major collective force out of their members. There now are major efforts being made at changing this so that unionists will have a greater participation within popular groups and even the PQ. Even now there has been much activity with the CRIM - the inter-union regional committee for Montreal. It's successes have been prominent with participation in May 1 and June 24 activities, hospital and school elections, and now the Rassemblement des Citoyens de Montreal to oppose Drapeau in the upcoming elections.

Unions have a vital role in the future of Montreal. The workers are the only ones who can save Montreal, unless it is already too late to get people to act together. Between 1883 and 1923, one must remember, unionized workers in Montreal had their own Parti Ouvrier which elected six members and 12 councillors.

### **P. 24-25**

New York is threatened by rats, while in Montreal there is the constant threat from vermin who are ravaging the city and pillaging the citizens. To save Montreal we have no other choice but to exterminate the vermin. It's a matter of life and death. If Drapeau and the speculators continue their carnage, ordinary Montrealers will have but one choice: Flee the city.

## **P. 26-31**

### **GUY LARIVIERE: A PORTRAIT OF A WORKER**

He clenches his fists when he discusses the mental institution, St. Jean de Dieu Hospital. After spending more than 13 years of his life dedicated to enhancing the rehabilitation of patients, he says it wouldn't matter if he suddenly went on unemployment insurance. He has knocked his head against walls long enough.

Guy Lariviere is 42, married, and the father of two children. He has been in the CNTU as an active member for the last 15 years, as well as involved in popular movements for the last four. He was president of his union during the hospital strike in 1966, during which he took care of his ailing mother which Notre Dame Hospital had sent home. Beating his chest, he said: "It was hard. I heard her moans in the night and I was filled with contradictions. But I stuck to the strike anyway because when hospitals spoke about patient care I would just say 'you make me laugh.'"

Today he doesn't have to tolerate the hospital system, thanks to union activism.

(cut)

## **P. 27**

### **THE BEGINNING OF THE LIFE OF AN ORDINARY MAN**

When he came to Montreal at 17 years old, he stayed with his father in a horse trailer on the land where Place Radio-Canada now stands. There was no water and no toilets, with only an oil lamp and barely room for a bed. He handled the parking, seven days a week for \$5. The beginning of the life of an ordinary man, marked by an accident of birth and obesity.

Twenty-five years later he was

to reflect on the coincidence between the foul treatment he received at school because of his size and his decision to help mentally retarded people re-integrate into society. He earned his own place in society the hard way - a dishwasher in a restaurant, a laundry worker at St. Luc hospital, houseboy in private homes, transport employee, a worker for Bougie et LaGrenade shoe manufacturers, boss boy at the Copacabana club, employee at Standard Paper Box, and, for the last 13 years a readaption monitor at the St. Jean-de-Dieu Hospital.

At first, when he was turned down from jobs, he thought it was because of his size. For two years he took treatments which shed 176 pounds from his frame, about half his weight. He found his first steady job at Bougie. It was piece-work where he lifted leather slices from shoes with a hot iron at 70 cents for every 60 pair. "You got your pay with coupons after each pair of shoes. I went quite fast and had a lot of coupons. In a panic one day I burned \$60 worth and gave away \$25. This was so the bosses wouldn't lower the rates. They dropped it anyway. I learned a lesson about working fast."

(cut)

## **P. 28**

After making the round of boarding houses, he finally found himself a nice little place on Hutchison Street. There was a lilac tree. "The damn fool who bought the place had the lilac chopped. It takes some kind of a jerk to cut a lilac tree."

In the early years of his marriage he worked at LaGrenade for \$50 a week. He had no paid vacations, not even Christmas or June 24. There wasn't enough to buy a lilac tree for his place on Viau which was on the third floor. "The rent board lowered the rent to \$42 a month from \$50, so you get the idea of what kind of hole it was."

He has lived there for 16 years, with his family, his father and, during the week, a little neighbourhood girl. He wanted to move this year but with his \$110 clear a week he decided on renovations instead. "At 42 years old it's the first time I have carpets on the floor."

He is also very entrenched in the district. "There are many people who seek my advice on all kinds of things. Some come to ask how to organize a union. People always say: 'Go see Lariviere and he can perhaps help you on that matter.' My personal evolution was done within the union."

At LaGranada I learned it didn't make sense to go so fast. At the hospital, I refused to accept the way patients were being treated. And at Orsainville prison, I thought things out even more. I felt what it was to throw a patient into a cell.

"Some of my neighbours tell me they would never have done what I did. When I went to jail during the common front tribulations, my boy was proud. I am proud to have never accepted the hospital system after 13 years. The contention in hospitals has been created by the authorities. I have already been scolded for helping patients shine their shoes."

The employee who shows initiative sure is taking chances. It's hard to break down walls when you aren't a professional. When I come home from work, it takes me until supper time to unwind and relax."

(cut)

## **P. 29**

In 1961, when he first began to work at St. Jean-de-Dieu, it was during the period that such books as Jean-Charles Page's "Les fous crient au secours"- The Insane Are Crying For Help was causing much scandal and shock. Out of curiosity, Guy Lariviere asked to be transferred to the

worst wing of the hospital, the one which the book alluded to. When I entered my heart sank as I saw patients chained to walls. I was very afraid at first, but then you get to know the patients.

"I organized a community life in my wing with a bowling league and all kinds of things to keep them occupied, and I did what they did. However, I was bucking the established order and they even sent a boss to my place to tell my wife to stop me from doing these things. I did some botany work with the patients and I discovered things. There is a psychology major student who wrote his thesis on it. For several years I used to celebrate Christmas at the hospital with my wife and kids. But these days I don't feel so good. I can't do it over but there is some cheap labor in all this."

Using his experience, Guy Larivière initiated a plan to re-integrate mental patients into society. It consisted of eight people in a natural environment in a selected district so as to give the patients certain responsibilities which they could never experience in the confined walls of a hospital.

With the help of agencies within the district, such as the Pavillon d'éducation communautaire, the eight were given job standards and recreation which would allow them to gradually feel real life again. Many workers were enthralled by his project and some doctors gave their support. However, the mountain appeared huge, "especially when one isn't a professional."

(cut)

## P. 30

(cut)

## THE CURE DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING

"I became more active in the district during the campaign

against the east-west autoroute." In 1970, after the October Crisis, the government took out an old abandoned project for the construction of an autoroute in lower Montreal, supposedly to create jobs. In reality, they could have created four times as much work by placing that money into the building of decent housing. So why an autoroute? The people of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve are still asking that question.

At that time, the Montreal central council initiated a strong fight against the autoroute and had even slowed down the project to a point where it appeared it would be scrapped. Guy Larivière had done his work on the campaign. "I went door-to-door to get a petition signed, and I was shocked at the misery I saw. I saw old men hang on to me and cry because they didn't want to leave their places. I saw large families which could not move anywhere else because the housing was cheaper in the district. Then I went to see the parish priest so he could bring it up in the pulpit. He didn't want anything to do with it. He said to me: those who have to move only have to buy one case of beer less a week."

Today, the demolishers are in his district. The ravage has begun just a few paces from his place. He won't be directly hit, but he points to the For Sale sign on his building. "As the autoroute approaches, the remaining houses are bought by trust companies who are jacking up rents while waiting to destroy them to build something else. I'm almost sorry I renovated my apartment because once the building is sold you can be sure I'll regret it."

## P. 31

"It was during the first meeting against the autoroute that I met the people from the Food Counter. It's from that time that I stuck with the specialized counter. At first I used to go there because it was cheaper, because even at Cooprix one buys things you don't

always need. Then I noticed that the counter was more than what it appeared to be.

It was part of a social vision aspiring to people helping others. "It was here that I really gained an interest in the affairs of the district. I became part of the popular clinic and I joined the common front of popular clinics which did not want to be part of the local community services. We were integrated anyway, following numerous manipulations. They always seemed to do this kind of thing when I was busy on something else. Today the clinics aren't run by the people of the district, but by social workers."

Even if Guy Larivière is very active in the popular movements of the district, he keeps his distance from the younger people who run them.

"That's where I learned about the social pyramid, including the upper bourgeoisie, the little bourgeoisie and the workers. I caught on to that pretty quick. Those who give the courses, are the little bourgeois who lean toward the work force. For them, we are fundamental to reality. They aren't exactly the ordinary people. I call them intellectuals.

I tell them that if they want to change the district then they shouldn't come here with theories up in the clouds. It isn't that way that you are going to make the Quebec revolution. When you don't even have power at your work place, how are you going to get power anywhere else?" Popular groups for him are a sort of school. But his real battleground for fighting is the union.

"We're going to have to attack some real basic issues at our work places. We've got to find other means to grasp everything. I don't have a miracle cure, but together we can do it."

(cut)

**P. 32**  
**US... THIS IS**  
**WHAT WE DO**

**"FOR A PEOPLE**  
**WITHOUT HISTORY...**  
**WE'RE FULL OF FUN."**

In the summertime, people amuse themselves. In 1974, in Quebec, there are reminiscences of 1874, 1774 and even 1674. In Pointe-aux-Trembles they are celebrating their 300th year, while in Saint-Jacques de l'Achigan it's 200 years and at Saint-Eleuthere in Kamourask county, Notre-Dame de l'Ile Verte in Temiscouata and l'Anse aux Griffons in the Gaspé, it's 100 years.

For these people, it's party time. Each in its own style. The programs give us an idea of the varying styles: in Pointe-aux-Trembles there is an O'Keefe program; in Saint-Jacques the program is artistically and originally printed on a calendar; at Saint-Eleuthere it is photocopied, so that one can carry it almost anywhere and not miss a thing; and at Anse aux Griffons how about this? It's far and I was told of the activities by the local priest.

It's nice to see all this coming this summer. All these places are home for all of us. Their plans have a touch of all of us.

To conclude on a saying from Vigneault: "For a people without a history . . . we're full of fun."

**P. 33**  
**100 YEARS AT**  
**NOTRE-DAME DE**  
**L'ILE VERTE**  
**"A MASS OF**  
**LITTLE THINGS..."**

Facing Notre-Dame de l'Ile Verte, between Rivière-du-Loup and Trois-Pistoles, there is a tiny island nine miles long by 1½ miles wide with 137 residents.

**100 YEARS AT ST-DONAT**  
**THE FEAST OF THE**  
**PURE WATERS**

Water has always been an important part of the life at St-Donat in the Laurentians.

The Indians and the first White settlers way back in 1874 used the waterways to move from St-Donat to the main commercial centres to trade in furs and lumber. By water, one can move from St-Donat to the St. Lawrence and to the rest of the province.

This year, during the 100-year celebrations, the Feast of the Pure Waters, scheduled for Aug. 10, will recall the importance of water and nature in the socio-economic history of St-Donat. Hasn't it been nature which has allowed St-Donat to live on tourism for the last 50 years? So much so, that 90 per cent of the town's 2,800 residents live on tourism. By tourists we do not here mean those who simply pass by, but rather those people who set up permanent summer homes.

No specific holiday festivities have been planned for the summer, but rather there will be the annual Feast of the Pure Waters, as in the years past, where the town's mascot, Donatien the Swiss (a Canadian squirrel), will preside.

Even if there are no great festivities planned, the centennial year will serve to bring the people closer together, including the summer residents who form, during the season, the great majority of the town's population. There will be exchanges and meetings between both groups who will also be asked to work for the conservation and protection of a still non-polluted Saint-Donat.

(cut)

**P. 34**  
**300 YEARS AT**  
**POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES**  
**THE BIGGEST**  
**BONFIRE**

Pointe-aux-Trembles is the most "townish" with its 42,000 population of all the municipalities on the Island of Montreal. It is situated on the tip of the island. People here are hard to reach because the feeling of belonging is not like in a small village. Furthermore, the population has jumped from 27,000 to 42,000 over the last 15 years. It's full of new people.

This is why fraternity has been dubbed the sign of festivities with everyone welcome. There was a big feast for the St-Jean on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd, with a massive bonfire on the 22nd. During July and August, plans have been made for open air dances in parks and schools grounds. For a program, call 642-2300.

**100 YEARS AT**  
**ST-ELEUTHERE**  
**A PIG RODEO**

A St-Eleuthere, a tiny village near Cabano, along Route 51, there were parties during the weekends before and after the St-Jean. Near the church there were big tents where meals were served every day, along with bingo, artistic and antiques kiosques, as well as a music stand. Each night there were Canadian folklore sessions, with some costume balls denoting the old days. There was the pig rodeo on the 24th of June, followed by a beer drinking contest. Things will happen throughout the year and everyone is welcome.

(cut)

**100 YEARS AT**  
**ANSE-AUX-GRIFFONS**  
**FISHING CONTESTS**

At Anse-aux-Griffons it's like old home times with all people who have left there were invited to

come back to celebrate. There will be singing, dancing, old time nights, games and fishing contests. Later, officials will publish a souvenir album on the history of the parish, along with family histories including old photographs. The best time for a stop-over will be between July 13 and 21.

## P. 35

### 200 YEARS AT SAINT-JACQUES DE L'ACHIGAN A CERTAIN EASE

For the people of Saint-Jacques de l'Achigan, bicentennial festivities are the time to treat oneself to a "grosse foire."

"We might as well enjoy it the best way we can," says festivities president Jean Caris, "because we won't be around for the tricentennial. There are usually few chances to have real variety of extravaganza in this tiny village of 3,000 near Joliette, about 40 miles northeast of Montreal.

So... all efforts were made for 1974.

All year long there have been a series of cultural, religious, recreational and sporting activities planned. And, nothing has been done halfway: for costume balls of the times 100 years ago – and these are numerous – each tries to outdo his neighbour in getting the perfect get-up of the little aristocracy à la XVIII.

There are the white wigs, buckled shoes, evening gowns of velvet, while at community suppers there is nothing less than the best prepared decorated salmon and stuffed pig roast.

However, not everyone will be able to attend because the \$5 tickets to these big events determine a certain selective group. However, no one seems to be complaining. In fact, people would

probably not attend something which was for free.

There is a certain easy-going atmosphere in Saint-Jacques de l'Achigan, and people don't hide their easy manner. One of the reasons is the rich fertile fields and the healthy tobacco growth which gives people a certain affluence of living.

But there are poor in this village, as well as social assistance cases. They have their street, along the graveyard. For them the most active participation in the festivities was during the street activities on June 24. Some have cut out big pieces of cardboard and traced a large 200 on it to hang outside their homes, since they cannot afford to buy the bicentennial flag.

#### (cut)

The emblem of Saint-Jacques de l'Achigan is full of the successful socio-economic history of the town. Indeed, the three shells of Saint-Jacques are the accepted town symbol. They are on a gold background, denoting the "honest affluence and generosity" of the citizens. The chalice and host surely pay tribute to the 494 religious vocations of the parish. The Acadian origin of the town is symbolized by the ship and sail. Finally, THE TOBACCO STOCK represents what has been since 1875 the main industry of the region.

## P. 36

### SAINT-JACQUES DE L'ACHIGAN... IT'S NEW ACADIA

This is the name the first settlers who arrived there gave to the land. It was in 1771 and they were a small group of 50 deported Acadians coming from the Boston region, after a short stay at l'Assomption, the town's neighbouring village. The name of the village, officially founded in 1774, was given in honor of Father Jacques Degeay who had guided the found-

ing people there. The original name of New Acadia did not survive through the next 200 years. However, it is fondly remembered in a book by Father Francois Lanoue in the history of the village. A play, entitled *Avez-vous vu ma Julie – Have You Seen my Julie*, has been written on the basis of the book and is being presented by the citizens of Saint-Jacques.

The book outlines another aspect of the history of the village in the large number of religious vocations among the townspeople, with a total of 494, including 130 priests. The bicentennial festivities will be highlighted by a mass celebrated simultaneously by 60 priests from the village, including three bishops.

It must also be pointed out that the workers of Saint-Jacques have organized a union to fight for their interests. There are hardly any references of this in Rev. Lanoue's book who simply writes that "due to the imminently complicated character of this movement which has not yet overrun the country. . . I do not feel competent to herewith outline its history" (!!!?)

#### (cut)

## PROGRAM

For the remainder of the summer there are some interesting dates to jot down if you have time for a visit to Saint-Jacques, notably:

- Corn picking parties during August.
- A youth Olympic during August.
- On Sept. 21, a marriage ceremony with original 1774 costumes.
- On Sept. 28 and Oct. 5 there will be presentations of the play "Avez-vous vu ma Julie?"
- On Oct. 26 there will be a citizens' banquet.
- On Nov. 16 there will be an oyster eating night.
- On Nov. 30 there will be a fish and hunting night.

## P. 37-43

### QUEBECERS: THE REAL THING OUR HISTORY FLOWS WITH THE RIVER

No long ago Quebec was inhabited only along narrow strips of the St. Lawrence and a few tributaries. At the beginning of the century, life was centered around ports and rural villages. Villages that are today forgotten in the move on massive highways away from rivers, once knew glorious times. At Deschambault, in Portneuf county there was an "escale" for every ship heading to Montreal. A pilot boarded and steered through the rapids. All our history flows with the river. In this history, the islands of the St. Lawrence hold a particularly interesting and privileged place. Since we really don't know our islands that well, summertime is a good time to have a look. Here we want to give you a few names, legends, and men of our homeland.

## P. 38

Hundreds of islands are ours to discover and the names of many are listed in the French version of this edition, on pages 38 and 39).

**L'Ile-aux-Basques:** The Basques were extracting oil from whales captured in the upper Saguenay long before Jacques Cartier. We can still see the furnaces built by the Basques. The island is also a bird sanctuary.

**L'Ile-aux-Pommes:** This is where Quebec river pilots stop for a refreshing drink at Coucou Belisle's, the only inhabitant of the island.

**L'Ile-du-Bic:** Official station of St. Lawrence pilots since the conquest.

**L'Ile Saint-Barnabe:** In 1728, a youth of 25 years old arrived in Rimouski heading to Matapedia Lake. Why the journey? It was

never learned. All that was known is that his name was Toussaint Cartier. He spent 39 years as a hermit on the island.

**L'Ile Verte:** It was the little paradise of the Malechites, a peaceful Indian tribe. On May 11, 1870, the White man expelled them from their native island which was later sold to a private citizen for \$9,368. Today the Malechites are almost extinct...

**Les Ilets Jeremie:** Formally an Indian district of the Papinachois, which means: I like to Laugh a little.

**L'Ile-aux-Oeufs:** Sir Walker, who had come to conquer la Nouvelle-France, lost eight ships, 1,100 men... and all his illusions.

**Anticosti:** It was called the graveyard of the Gulf. Hundreds of sinkings occurred along its banks. The federal government set up a cache for sunken vessels which included a small cabin with a stove and 15 barrels of flour, seven of peas, sugar, coffee and seven barrels of lard.

## P. 39

### YOU CAN CROSS...

#### Les Eboulements

##### L'Ile-aux-Coudres:

From June 15 to Dec. 15 ferry service from 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Return trip by car and driver \$3.50, passengers \$1.20.

#### Montmagny

##### Ile-aux-Grues:

Year round service once a day at high tide. The ferry has a two or three car capacity, on reservation. The cost is \$6 return trip with a minimum of four passengers. Call Jos Lachance: 248-0948.

#### Pictou (Nova Scotia)

##### Les Iles-de-la-Madeleine:

Ferry leaves Pictou at 5 p.m. from June 22 to August 23. Return to Pictou is at 7 a.m. Return trip costs \$42 per car, and \$16.40 per adult. There is also a crossing at Souris, P.E.I.

## Sorel

### L'Ile Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola:

Year round service every hour. Cost is \$1.20 per car and 30 cents per passenger. There is also a bridge which joins L'Ile Saint-Ignace to Berthier.

One can also cross to other islands such as L'Ile-aux-Basques, L'Ile Saint-Barnabe and L'Ile Verte. The crossings are very irregular and one must get information from the local tourist office. On the lower North Shore, one can easily find a fisherman who will take you to islands or inlets. At l'Ile-aux-Coudres, l'Ile d'Orleans and aux Iles de-la-Madeleine there are several camping grounds. There also is place for unorganized camping. There is also a camping site at l'Ile aux-Grues, but there is no facilities with costs of \$2 per person per night.

### BILINGUALISM HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

You must not look for the French names of these islands on any federal map. It has all been translated... in English. We see nothing but Goose Island, Crane Island and Mill Island. They don't seem to know the French names, namely l'Ile-aux-Oies, l'Ile-aux-Grues and l'Ile-aux-Moulins. If often borders on the grotesque. On certain maps l'Ile-aux-Coudres has become Elbow Island...Wow! Ain't that just too much! Anyway, who knows that Brandy Pot near Riviere-du-Loup is nothing more than the translation of l'Ile-du-Pot-a-l'Eau-de-Vie. The Island of the Water of Life?

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### WE WENT TO L'ILE-AUX-GRUES...

We arrived at l'Ile-aux-Grues long after the dinner hour. We stopped at the Auberge de l'Oie Blanche. The White Goose Inn. We entered and there was no one about. We searched around until we found a

little old lady whom we asked if we could eat.

"I'll try to find you something."

Well, she found us something, including roast beef, potatoes, turnips, beets, chicken soup and for dessert two big slices of strawberry and raspberry pie topped with ice cream.

At 73 years old, Mrs. Vezina finds the winters long:

"Before electricity and television it wasn't funny. We used oil lamps all during those windy snow-filled winter days and nights. My daughter in Quebec City wants to return to the island, but I wouldn't advise her to. It's nice in the summertime with lots of sunshine and everything is so green. There are lots of people. But when winter sets in, it's just too long. She'd be forced back into the city."

L'Ile-aux-Grues is a tiny island six miles long and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile wide, just facing Montmagny. If the winters are long, the summers are beautiful.

The island has nice beaches and is surrounded by tinier islands. If you want a peaceful weekend with water all around and wonderful people, this is the place. You can always get a meal or a drink at any of the little inns.

(cut)

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In the summertime Le Bateau Ivre is turned into a dance hall and dining place.

"Colonization of the island goes a long way back," says Solime Lavoie. "It first began in the 1600s at l'Ile-aux-Oies, then it moved here. The houses here are all 200 years old and more."

The island was colonized very early. The wild hay was particularly sought. The island was a paradise for duck and goose hunting. Even today there are times when

the island is full of gamesmen. Twenty years ago there were about 500 inhabitants here. There now are no more than 200. However, all the houses seem inhabited.

"The reason for this is that the young are not making children," says Mrs. Vezina. "Once it was all large families of 14 or 15 children, but now it stops at two or three."

According to Lucien Vezina and his son, almost everyone on the island is a farmer, but it won't be for long. Everything costs too much. This year feed costs jumped by almost a third.

"It can't go on like this and I think there is a war or a revolution in the making. It just doesn't make sense anymore."

Planting this year has been pushed back because of poor weather. "Two or three weeks of good weather should straighten things out. If not our potatoes will probably cost more again next year."

The parish priest says that there are legends here "like every other island. The most celebrated here is the headless Petit Bonhomme. He had people chatting for a long time. He appeared first in 1810 and for 30 years people swore they saw him. He only appeared at night wearing grey pants and a black "redingote". He didn't speak, and no wonder, the poor lad had forgotten his head. He left no trail. He had, they say, the delicate and light manner of a cat. He was never seen again after 1841."

(cut)

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### SOREL ISLANDS

(cut)

When one arrives at l'Ile d'Embaras, among the Iles of Sorel, there is a distinct impression of being along the Mississippi in one of the last tiny villages of Louisiana. Everything is surrounded by islands. It is filled with trees which fall "like a great curtain

over the waters." L'Ile d'Embaras is the Iles des Beauchemin, the homeland of Father Didace. It's there where one can eat the famous "gibelotte à la barbotte."

The islands of Lac Saint-Pierre, better known as the islands of Sorel or Berthier (depending on which side of the river you are on) take up the entire entrance to the massive lake.

They are all flat, with none surpassing the water level by more than 23 feet. They seem to float on the river. There are hundreds of these islands. Many completely disappear in the spring floods. People in Sorel are very familiar with flood conditions. Before the days of the ice-breakers, there were massive floods. This goes back about 30 years. In 1865 there was a flood which completely covered all the islands and caused 34 deaths. However, it was usually the ice more than the water which damaged to homes. "I drowned three times," says a laughing Mr. Desmarais, a local fisherman. "Water doesn't scare me, but the ice is something else."

This explains why houses along the islands of Ile de Grace and Ile du Chenal don't get too much damage because there are trees lined along the shores.

They say the islands are a hunter's paradise. Here is what Thomas de Konnink says in a study of the Sorel islands: On Sept. 17, '66, on the day the hunting season opened, more than 4,000 hunters were waiting nearby.

On Sept. 13 the federal wildlife service had counted more than 3,300 ducks in the area. The hunters, who fire an average 25 shells each, blasted out about 500,000 shots. They dropped about five tons of lead on the islands.

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### MRS. BEAUCHEMIN'S "GIBELOTTE"

Mrs. Napoleon Beauchemin, who has operated a tiny inn at the mouth of l'Île d'Embarras for the last 24 years, has an authentic recipe for the gibelotte of Sorel islands. She gracefully offered part of her secret but readers will have to determine their own seasoning for the bouillon.

It consists of potatoes, shortening, onions, carrots, beans, green peas, a box of condensed tomatoes, a large chunk of butter and salt and pepper. Put all the ingredients in a casserole and boil. The water must be just at the level of the potatoes so as not to "drown" the fish. When the potatoes are tender, throw in the fish, either the famous "barbotte" or any other kind. Let the pot simmer for 15 minutes. For added seasoning throw in garlic, paprika, safran, basil or any other to suit your taste.

## P. 44-47 THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES

The CNTU's general convention takes place every two years. Administrative questions play a major role, but so do the orientations of the body. It is difficult to say which of these two aspects should bear the most importance.

On the eve of the convention many wonder if budgetary questions simply take up too much time. We have already seen, at the recent convention of the Social Affairs Federation, how consuming the dollar signs can be. This should not be the case for any CNTU convention, especially if it is at the expense of more fundamental debates essential for defining our future.

## AT THE CNTU'S CONVENTION LET'S NOT GET TANGLED UP OVER 75 CENTS...

We put these questions to six members, asking them to give their opinion on what a convention should be.

The main topics included the professional defence fund, political action, popular committees, the opposition between federations and central councils, and the needs for consolidation or organization.

Even if their answers may not be fully typical of the general feeling, they, at least, are the views of six members.

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"We need another swing" says Marcel Pepin, president of the CNTU. "Although all conventions are important, I expect a tremendous participation at this one since over the years there has been a greater consciousness among our militants and we must therefore give ourselves another swing to increase this attitude while being more rigorous in our self-analysis and internal affairs.

"All this is in the moral report which emphasizes two points, one on union action to follow and the other on popular committees which will lead to direct political action, even to electoral participation. The popular committees need permanent structures with short term, and indeed long range objectives. They must include many groups of citizens, not only CNTU militants. It's through these popular committees that we will be able to engage in electoral political action.

"The question of inter-union raiding will certainly create lively debate. But before taking a specific direction here, while expecting reciprocal action from other labor

bodies, we will have to understand the term raiding.

"Since all the topics of the convention are important, we should not spend the whole week on budgetary questions. So that the budget discussions do not go overboard, the executive will, at the convention's beginning, propose time elements on budget discussions. This procedure is not anti-democratic since the budget and the professional defence fund questions will already have long been discussed.

"In any event, the convention is to be the most democratically run ever since pre-convention information will be at its highest point, albeit that information is the basis of democracy."

"Let's not get tangled up over 75 cents," says Marc Ferland, vice-president of the Quebec central council.

"Even if I can't personally control the convention alone, I will try to see that we don't get tangled up over 75 cents! But I fear that the convention will again spend too much time on administrative aspects while we should be more concerned with fundamental discussions.

"It will also be very important for the convention to define the roles of the central councils within the CNTU structures, doing so in direct opposition with federative tendencies.

"The way things are going, one wonders if the federations won't one day create their own central councils!!

"In order to give the central councils their proper place and permit them to carry out their roles, we must give them more human and material resources through another form of per capita distribution. We'll have to discuss this matter seriously.

"And, based on this presumption,

the convention should discuss the subject of permanent CNTU workers. It's hard to generalize the criticism and the accusations on this point, because for each negative case we can site one where the permanent worker is doing a fine job. But we must admit that often the stumbling block on an issue can be directly attributed to a permanent worker, particularly when there is a need for concerted action by the CNTU. Since they are responsible for the execution of plans, it's always easy for them to block or slow down action, particularly in cases where they have a difficult time adhering to the thinking of the members concerned.

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"The executive should get closer to the ordinary people," says Pierre Marien, president of the Marine Industries (Sorel) workers' union.

"Those who do all the talking at a convention do not express the need of the grass roots members. In effect, those who are masters at handling the microphone are those who have great experience in the movement. The workers don't dare speak for fear of being ridiculed, even if they represent the grass roots.

"The executive must come closer to the ordinary people. Therefore, instead of a convention every two years, the executive should come into the various regions to meet the workers and let them talk without fear of discrimination between official delegates and those at the base. The trouble with convention delegates is that they don't consult their membership before.

"I'll go to the convention but I won't speak unless someone attacks the best interests of the guys in my union. I know the thoughts of my members because I am with them eight hours a day on the job. However, I think that attending the convention is a good form of union education.

Furthermore, my union has sponsored its 43 department delegates as observers to the convention, at the union's expense.

"For the future, I think the CNTU should concentrate its action toward consumerism. As far as contracts are concerned, things are satisfactory, but it's when we leave the plant that we are exploited. We must back the co-operative formula by dumping in considerable funds into it. If a Co-op store doesn't offer full services it will force us to go to Steinberg's to complete our shopping so that eventually we'll do all out shopping there because they have everything.

Political awareness in contract negotiations is vital, says Richard Daigneault, executive adviser.

"The 1972 convention was of utmost importance because for the first time the CNTU asked itself the question: 'Is the labor movement seeking a share of the capitalist system or should it contest and change this system?' "The 1974 convention is the child of the 1972 meeting which must be developed and its ideas pursued. Today we must give new dimensions to traditional negotiations and create a political awareness in these negotiations.

"The first front now will take on social dimensions. In the past, Quebec society was never aware of the benefits it gained through negotiations between groups of WORKERS AND A EMPLOYER. In future, negotiations will no longer have an esoteric fulfillment, that is, being only comprehensible to a small group of implicated parties, but society must know all the social overtones inherent in the demands of unionists.

"As the president outlines in his moral report, unions, where we now have soared to, can no longer negotiate as though they were in secret discussions with a company. More and more unions will be recognized as those negotiating

for large groups of people. Unions will undertake the battle but the people now will follow.

"That, as far as I am concerned, will be the important result of the convention. The first front will be a weapon of social strength for the workers. However, to widen the sphere of influence of the first front necessitates a certain kind of support. "The professional defence fund is one of these means. If, however, the fund is not increased, workers will be unable to continue the battle, because they simply will not have the means. We need certain minimums which are not the same as in years gone by.

"I am fully aware of the difficult position of delegates during debate on the fund. Many favor an increase, but they are often sent to the convention by groups which are often largely against this plan. It is then that we will witness the real representation of the delegates.

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"There are as many CNTUs as there are federations and central councils," says Jean-Marie Girard, president of the Chicoutimi Hospital Employees' Union. "We must, at the convention, insist on a return to the grass roots through a better education program. There now is a division between the leadership and the membership.

"Even if I am for social and political action, we must understand that while some members are very far ahead in the second front, there are many who have not yet understood the first front. It is only through our education services that we will be able to sensitize our members to a true union participation. Once they have understood what unionism really is, they will be able to engage more easily in political action.

"There is a great need for education, something not now being provided for. Some permanent officers give just enough education to justify their jobs, but they make sure they don't give too much for fear the locals will become independent and autonomous and no longer need their services.

"Increasing education services does not mean great monetary contributions.

There already is a great deal of service duplication. We must concentrate our efforts and confine the central councils with the 'a, b,cs' of specialized education based on membership needs. This form of education should create a greater internal unity. Actually, there are as many CNTUs as there are federations and councils.

"The call for increase to the professional defence fund just won't pass.

If the officers were closer to the grass roots, they would never have initiated this plan. If the plan does go through the convention, there will be much contestation and people will refuse to pay dues. They will simply disaffiliate."

"The convention is the platform of the absurd," says Christiane Jobin, secretary of the Lower St. Lawrence (Rimouski) central council.

"To begin with, I hate CNTU conventions. It's structurally too pedantic and it has no real consultative value. The real decisions aren't taken there. For me the convention is the platform of the absurd - like Ionesco.

"The thing we must avoid is giving too much time to budgetary questions. We shouldn't spend more than one day on the budget, since opinions are already set, anyway. However, I know that the discussions on the professional defence fund will be long since there are many divergent opinions on the maintaining of the status quo and

the proposed plan. I think we need a larger defence fund since it scares people to know they have no funds to defend themselves with. However, members are generally against any increase in contributions to the fund.

"On the other hand, it is vital that we seriously discuss the president's moral report. In studying the draft outline of the report it seems to need a real in-depth analysis.

"For us, in the Lower St. Lawrence central council, we agree with the main criticisms. The CNTU should pursue its social and political ideals, but should embark on a stronger theme of direct action. We cannot increase union education without reaching beyond the walls of the work place. And, the first and second fronts cannot be uncomplimentary."











