

But violence came. Trudeau planned to end his first campaign in Montreal at the parade honouring Jean Baptiste, Quebec's patron saint. Pierre Bourgeault led the radical separatists in planned turmoil. Rocks flew and blood flowed, but Trudeau remained on the reviewing stand although others fled. Three days later he won a clear election majority, the first in ten years. Lévesque denounced Bourgeault and formed the Parti Québécois.

The great Quebec crisis came in October 1970. The Front de Libération du Québec kidnapped James Cross and killed Pierre Laporte. It could have been the end of the separatists. It was not, though it was the end of the FLQ and kidnapping. Lévesque ran in the 1973 Quebec election on an outright platform of separation. His party got 30 per cent of the vote but only 6 of 110 seats.

A year earlier Trudeau had won an election, but not a majority. With the support of the New Democrats, the Liberals survived. He ran again in 1974 and got a safe margin.

Lévesque ran again in 1976 and profited from experience. He promised government reform at once, and a referendum on separation within five years. He got 41 per cent of the vote and 71 of the 110 seats.

Referendum

Premier Lévesque has promised to call a referendum on the separation of Quebec, perhaps next year. The wording of the question has not been set. It will probably proffer a sovereign Quebec maintaining mutually beneficial ties with Canada. The alternative would be a continuation of confederation, though not probably of the status quo. Within the broad alternatives there is room for many variations of autonomy and interdependence.

A Federalist View



Jean-Luc Pepin is co-chairman of Canada's Task Force on National Unity. He and the eight other members spent five months holding hearings in towns and cities across Canada. Participants were often emotional. Some booed, some cheered and many debated. One suggested

that no citizen should think of himself (or herself) as hyphenated, not for example as a French-Canadian, adding casually that he was "very proud of my Scottish origin." Below are comments made by Mr. Pepin during an interview last February.

Q: What is the current state of the country?

A: Very diverse. Very mixed up. There is a great disparity of views in Quebec as well as elsewhere and not enough strength in the centre. People are waiting—*en attendant Godot*—sitting on their hands in many cases. You only react when you have to. It took the election of the Parti Québécois to wake up a number of people. Some are being wakened up and have become positive, others are angry because they have been awakened. . . .

I had a gentleman in Vancouver, who stayed

with me the whole day pulling my coat to try to convince me that the root of Canadian problems was the fact that we didn't have sufficient respect for the Queen. . . . There were a number of people in Vancouver who behaved as if the English language was about to disappear from the West Coast. . . .

Some believe economics is everything. Solve the inflation, solve unemployment and everything will follow. . . . You hear that language is terribly important, that attitude is everything. Then you hear someone say that the question is a legal one, that the constitution should be amended. If you are at all intelligent you go out of there and say, maybe I haven't got a monopoly of truth. . . .

You meet a lot of obstinate people, people who are not willing to compromise, but then you also hear cries from the heart.

Q: Will the task force offer specific suggestions for resolving conflicts of opinion?

A: It will be only an intellectual contribution. I don't know how specific it can be. Without being starry-eyed I believe there are a number of things that we might say that might be useful. We are mild and pleasant and humble, we specialize in humility, that is our forte. We are just a group of eight people listening, and there are all kinds of scenarios. There is a dark one, which says we