

Interim Supply

Things got so bad that the national trade union federation had to appeal to the Quebec courts to put an end to the threats and the intimidation against the longshoremen by the international longshoremen's association.

More than that, the international longshoremen's association, not content with making threats, started to act.

They ordered the dissenting longshoremen to appear before the executive of the international union on August 17, 1964 for the following reasons:

He incited members of local 375 to leave our ranks and to join another longshoremen's association.

Everything subject to fine, suspension for a definite period or expulsion by the executive committee.

Then, on August 27 last, the national trade union federation secured from Mr. Justice Lamarre, of the superior court in Montreal, an interim injunction specifying this:

Consequently, by Thursday September 10, 1964, at noon, we enjoin the defendants to cease:

(a) molesting or trying to molest, intimidating, threatening or trying to threaten by intimidation or otherwise present or future members of the applicant the syndicat national des débardeurs du port de Montréal (C.S.N.);

(b) interfering in any way with the formation and legal activities of the applicant, the syndicat national des débardeurs du port de Montréal;

(c) suspending, dismissing, threatening to dismiss or to cause the dismissal, in any way, present or future members of the applicant, the syndicat national des débardeurs du port de Montréal (C.S.N.) or depriving them directly or indirectly of their right to work; because they signed, are signing or will sign a membership card to join the applicant union;

(d) seeking to convince, either by threats, intimidations or imposition of a penalty or by any other means, longshoremen not to join the applicant (C.S.N.) or not to take part in its activities;

(e) ordering and/or trying to order, instructing and/or trying to instruct, advising and/or trying to advise any person whatever to take part in the commission of any or all of the above mentioned acts.

(Signed) Philippe Lamarre
Justice of superior court.

However, on September 21, Mr. Justice Tellier of the same court, without pronouncing judgment on the facts quashed the temporary injunction of Mr. Justice Lamarre, because the affidavits signed by the longshoremen in this case, had been signed before the application was filed. Therefore, the injunction was quashed for legal and technical reasons. Three days after the injunction was quashed, the international longshoremen's association renewed its reprisals and the dissenters received the following letter:

Dear Sir and Brother:

This is to advise you that the executive committee of local 375 of the international longshoremen's association rendered a unanimous decision on the complaint laid against you and heard at the special meeting held on August 28, 1964, at 8 o'clock p.m., in our offices located at 250 St. Paul east, in the city of Montreal.

The executive committee finds Mr., registration No., guilty of the charge heard on August 28, 1964, at 8 o'clock p.m., and decides to suspend the said Mr. for a definite period, that is until December 31, 1965, this suspension taking effect immediately. Unanimously passed on September 24, 1964.

Under the circumstances, all your rights as a member of local 375 are suspended until December 31, 1965.

Please comply therewith.

Yours truly,
Adrien Lemoine,
Secretary-Treasurer.

But what is the meaning of this expulsion by local 375 of the international longshoremen's association?

1. It means that the longshoremen will lose the right to work on the Montreal docks, because the shipping federation of Canada is bound to hire only members who have paid their fees to the international longshoremen's association; therefore, the first result is the loss of their livelihood.

2. Because, in several cases the expulsion of the dissenting longshoremen is decreed up to December 31, 1965, the longshoremen involved will inevitably lose their right to the pension fund, since they will have failed to work the number of hours required to be entitled to their pension.

3. The health insurance, paid by the longshoremen to protect themselves and their families, lapses and the suspended workers, as well as their families, are deprived of coverage against the cost of illness.

4. These workers experience difficulty with unemployment insurance, and they have not received one cent in benefits from the beginning of their expulsion, as confirmed by a letter from the unemployment insurance office, dated September 23, 1964.

An appeal from this decision was lodged and will be heard by the arbitration board on October 30. In their claims for benefits the expelled longshoremen, who are earning \$2.53 per hour on the docks, stated they were available for work and able to work as longshoremen, and in fact they reported for work. But work was refused to them by the shipping federation of Canada, on account of the suspension decreed by the international longshoremen's association.