

QUEBEC ELECTION - DULL AFFAIR

With less than two weeks remaining before Quebec voters go to the polls on Oct. 29, the election campaign in that province remains dull.

Possibly one of the reasons for the monotonous atmosphere lies in the fact that none of the great questions of the day shall be resolved.

The Parti Quebecois will not be able to turn this election into a referendum centering on the question of independence; the Liberals will not be able to destroy separatist sentiment; the Creditistes will not eradicate the "socialism" that they charge has infected Quebec society.

Most political observers believe that the Liberal party under Premier Robert Bourassa will emerge with the largest number of seats in the Quebec National Assembly.

Apparently, a large percentage of the Quebec voters are satisfied with the Liberal government's performance during the past three and one-half years. In addition, they are attracted to the Liberal's program of economic development and cultural independence.

Premier Bourassa claims that both of these goals can best be achieved if the province of Quebec remains within Confederation.

In the economic sphere, the Liberals believe in private investment with government acting in the managerial tradition, that is, investment with government overseeing the development of the economy but not tampering with the fundamental principles of the free enterprise system.

The James Bay hydroelectric project, publicized in Bourassa's book, *La baie James*, remains the darling of the Liberal party and the symbol of what can be accomplished by a

Liberal regime.

In the cultural sphere, the Liberals demand independence for Quebec. Since the majority of Francophones within Canada live in Quebec and because approximately 80 per cent of the province is French-speaking, the Liberals argue that the Quebec government is the only government in Canada that can protect and nurture the French culture in the country.

Consequently, they will continue to seek control of cable communications systems in the province. In addition, following the recommendation of the Gendron report on language, the Liberals have adopted a policy of persuasion to promote French as the working language of the province.

While the Liberal party continues to reiterate the main themes of its program, the three opposition parties are fighting for the right to become Her Majesty's Official Opposition in the National Assembly.

Commentators generally concede that this role will be filled by either the Parti Quebecois of the Creditiste party.

The separatist Parti Quebecois of 1973 is not the same organization Rene Levesque led in 1970.

The voice of radicalism has been muffled and replaced by the jargon of technocrats such as Claude Morin and Jacques Parizeau.

The much heralded social program of the party is not fundamentally different from the Liberal's policy. Even the cry of separatism has been transformed into a call for independence-- apparently *independence* is less jarring to the ear than *separation*--which will occur according to the party leadership, only after long, tough, protracted negotiations

with the Canadian government.

The image of respectability and responsibility that the Parti Quebecois has been attempting to foster has not been aided by the publication of its budget for the first year after independence.

This document has been ridiculed by all other political parties for its incredible optimism, such as forecasting an economic growth rate greater than at present and for inferring that the value of the Quebec dollar after independence will be on par with the Canadian dollar.

Premier Bourassa who claimed that this much heralded budget would be the "Waterloo" of the Parti Quebecois, has

termed it "Social Credit for intellectuals."

Such a charge has not pleased the Creditistes who seriously study social credit theory. To the chagrin of many party faithful, the party leader, former Liber Yvon Dupuis, has decided not to stress creditiste doctrine--an area in which he has little expertise.

Instead, Yvon Dupuis has denounced the ills of modern society which he asserts, are derived from "socialism" which the Liberals foster. He advocates a return to order in society and a restoration of the dignity of the

The Union Nationale is not only trying to retain that coveted position but also fighting for survival as a viable

political party in Quebec.

Under the leadership of Gabriel Loubier, this party has become but a reflexion of that great political machine that Maurice Duplessis once led. Although loaded with money for its campaign, the Union Nationale is expected to face starvation at the polls.

Because most observers do not expect great changes in the political sphere of Quebec after Oct. 19--except perhaps for the supplanting of the Union Nationale as the official opposition in the National Assembly--it is not surprising that the Quebec election campaign of 1973 is a rather routine, dull affair.

K.M.

Women face class struggle

by Sheila Thompson

Do these issues concern you? Equal pay for equal work? Legal Rights? Nonsexist children's literature?

If so, you may be interested in joining Options For Women (OFW). OFW held an organizational meeting and workshop Saturday at NAIT to discuss and plan a course of action on these and other concerns.

The day began with several short speeches.

"In the 1940's, career opportunities for women were teaching, nursing, home ec. and secretarial work. Thirty years later this hasn't changed much," said Doris Badir, Professor of Family Studies, U of A. For equality to be achieved, children must be raised to recognize their potential rather than try to fit a

preconceived sex role. Badir later participated in a workshop on education. Proposals for changes were discussed and the group will meet again to plan their course of action.

Representing Indian Women for Indian Rights was Philomena Ross. Ross spoke of two recent court decisions which she feels deeply affect Canadian women.

She talked of the Lavelle case where courts upheld the ruling that a treaty Indian loses her Indian status by marrying a non-Indian.

She said that until the 1940's any Canadian woman marrying a citizen of another country lost her Canadian citizenship. The similarities between these two cases are in the loss of the woman's rights.

These two cases, Ross said, undermine women's rights. The legal workshop which included Edmonton lawyers is looking into these cases and other cases of unfair treatment.

Cecilio Henschel-Rino spoke about the experiences she has had as a homemaker, seeking to establish her own credit rating.

She stated her occupation as self-employed in home management. With considerable effort she finally received her credit cards.

Options For Women is seen as an organization for ideas and actions. Workshops and committees are non-structural for this reason and all ideas are welcome.

For more information on the many aspects of OFW call Ann Lambert at either 433-3490 or 432-3832.

PAYMENT OF FEES

If fees are still unpaid after October 15th a student's registration is subject to cancellation for non-payment of fees and the student to exclusion from classes.

Students in the faculty of Graduate Studies and Research are reminded that their fees are to be paid by the date indicated on their fee assessment advice form.

Students who expect to pay their fees from federal and/or provincial government loans are referred to the PAYMENT OF FEES information sheet given to them during Registration Week.

Fees are payable at the Office of the Comptroller on the 3rd floor of the Administration Building.