

The disadvantages which spring from the situation were conceded by an English-speaking Canadian in Moncton: "The French Canadian is French in his social environment, but not in business. And when he goes to work, he has to work in English accidentally, and he does not know his English well enough to advance equally in the English community and is at present in many cases forced to compete in English terms, which puts him at quite a distinct disadvantage." Most of the other English-speaking participants were quite silent on this question.

After having described the position to which they feel they are relegated in the business world, several French-speaking Canadians went on to denounce it as unjust and intolerable. What struck us on those occasions was that they seemed to have the support of the entire audience. Thus in Chicoutimi, "...there is great injustice towards French Canadians where earning a living is concerned. This injustice must be corrected, and in factories the working language should be the language of the majority of the workers which, in the case of Quebec workers, probably means that the working language should be French." "In every country of the world," said another participant, "where a nation has taken over control of its future and its national, political and economic life, then all the industrial and business activities within the country are carried on in the language of that nation\*.....I do not believe that the French Canadian is an inferior being....."

On several occasions Quebecers denounced the status of an

"economically colonized people" of which French Canadians, they said, bear the stigma. They stressed that French Canadians must become the masters of their own economy. And it is not small compromises that they want, but a radical reform of the whole system. "I don't blame the English," one participant said in Chicoutimi, "I blame the system that turns us into slaves.".....

All this has deep meaning, and brings us straight to the nub of the problem. Why, suddenly, when apparently nothing has occurred to upset the traditional order of things, have more and more people decided that they can now 'no longer tolerate' the same 'shackles' which are nonetheless a century old? Could it be, as was suggested at a private meeting in Montreal, that 'among a people who had been walking somewhat bent over, two hundred thousand, five hundred thousand individuals had suddenly decided to pull themselves erect?' Or perhaps that 'Some good sturdy people trained to be docile, have stopped looking on obedience and poverty as a national vocation?' Through these quotations one catches a glimpse of the conflict between generations which is breaking out today in Quebec. For it appeared to us that dissatisfaction was being most often expressed among representatives of the young, well-educated elite groups of technicians, engineers and executives. But they are not merely young; they belong more or less fully to the "new world" of technology and management and are ready to take a leading part in it; they have the fullest confidence in themselves and plainly show their impatience in the face of the obstacles they meet.

**F**RENCH Quebec, in fact, has more than four million inhabitants. It has its legal institutions—including its own Civil Code—and its political institutions, which a number of people sum up in the expression: "the State of Quebec". The powers of Quebec are considerable; they enable the French population to exercise an important influence over its own economic and social life, and to manage education. Through this latter power Quebec has been able to provide itself with an educational system—which it can radically alter today—different from that of the other provinces. It has thousands of French schools, both elementary and secondary, normal schools, classical colleges and three French universities, not to mention a system of technical education. It has tens of thousands of teachers. Nevertheless, their control of political institutions and the powers they exercise seemed insufficient to a large majority of Quebecers we met.

This is not all: Quebec has an autonomous network of social institutions: a system of hospitalization, trade unions, voluntary associations of many kinds, and so on. It owns or influences a complex mass media of communication by which it expresses itself in its own language: 11 daily newspapers, about 175 weekly newspapers and 120 periodicals, 46 radio stations, 13 television stations, the French networks of CBC and of the private stations, whose principal production centre is Montreal, and so forth.

Lastly, it has a considerable number of economic institutions; on the whole, however, with certain notable exceptions such as Hydro-Quebec or the Caisses

\*Evidently India was not being referred to—Editor.