

# percussions

Camille Gervais, a company operator, of drug possession and sentencing for a 1973 for conspiracy in a Gervais also owns a and fishing club an Obront

said he knew Samson two years and he was house "all the time," use he was going out year-old daughter. On ck, Gervais noted that ent through customs y when he showed his on while he, Gervais, shed thoroughly "as

day of testimony, the dced Samson under "conduct unbecoming officer." Several days Commissioner Delage on he didn't believe a s testimony and, after a few days to think it enced him to 60 days t.

readers of the Last recall an article last in which evidence nted linking segments ntrealm police with the d. There were also raised regarding the e police, government, e world and the FLQ October Crisis in 1970. nson case and related o raise disturbing facts o coincidences that e generally murky merging so far. So rther exploring the einberg connections, it ulful to have a look at an MP problem.

ember 6, 1973, two a-commissioned officers MP's S&I branch in Staff Sergeant Donald .40, a 21-year force and Sergeant Gilles 9, a 17-year veteran, aded separately before ndent Roger Shorey

sources said that all the for the firings would e made public for easons." The two of whom used to be amson's superior, said e fired for failing to e a friendship with businessman Mitchell a, a nephew of Sam

Bronfman, the late president of Distillers Corp.-Seagrams who made his fortune dealing liquor with U.S. mobsters in Prohibition days.

Mitchell Bronfman owns Exe- caire, a private aircraft company that charters executive jets to businessmen and companies, and Securex Ltd., a private investi- gating and security company holding contracts at Montreal International Airport. He also owns a steak house. The meat is supplied by William Obront, with whom Bronfman grew up.

Both McCleery, the Mountie credited with having broken the James Cross kidnapping case in 1970, and Brunet, the Russian- speaking son of Josaphat Brunet, former head of the Quebec provincial police, now work for Securex.

Both men have launched court actions to clear their names with the RCMP, claiming the firings were unjustified and done in a secret, arbitrary manner. They have requested that the RCMP produce various documents dating back to 1970.

Oddly enough, the federal government is invoking a law, passed during the October Crisis, allowing it to declare a kind of executive privilege, saying the documents would disclose "a confidence of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada." Postmas- ter-General, said the documents, could not be produced because "they would be injurious to international relations and national security."

The courts were about to release the documents when the two officers mysteriously with- drew their request.

The content and nature of the documents is not known. However, one Last Post source claims that some of the documents contain, in part, the names of businessmen who have supplied the RCMP with useful information regarding cases being built against some other Montreal businessmen.

The RCMP would naturally like to keep the names of its informers and their information secret. The two former counter-espionage agents had said the documents would help clear them.

The MUC police investigation into the Dobrin bombing was concentrated on determining the motive and who was the "third



Robert Samson

man."

Samson testified he took taxis to and from the Dobrin home. Despite a widespread search, neither taxi driver has turned up. Other testimony stated that the evening before the bombing, Samson was driving a Thunder- bird belonging to Camille Gervais, the friend he met on a trip to Morocco. A neighbour of the Dobrins says he heard and saw a large, dark car screech away moments after the blast.

A woman living across from Samson's mother's home says she saw Fernand Barre helping his friend out of his mother's home and into Barre's car to go to hospital several hours later. She says there was a third man with them, but he drove away in another car.

Later, during the investigation, Barre says he was beaten by MUC detectives demanding to know who the "third man" was. Barre said he was alone with Samson.

"The detectives told me it was a very important case and they had permission to do whatever they wanted to crack it," Barre told a press conference. "They said it was such an important case it could deal with another RCMP officer and the security of the country."

During the Fire Commission inquiry, bomb victim Melvyn Dobrin claimed he had no enemies and could not under- stand the motive for the bombing. Under questioning, he admitted that a few months previously, someone had thrown a pot of paint through a window of his home. He admitted he had once received a bomb threat. He denied that he owed money to loan sharks or had ever been under pressure from the underworld.

He said that nobody had ever

pressured Steinberg's to hire a security firm, or to change security firms. He said he never heard of Securex. He said neither he nor his wife owned a house in Morocco.

The Last Post learned the police are actively pursuing a theory the bomb was connected to a Steinberg effort to break a strike last December.

On December 5, 1,800 warehouse and distribution workers walked out on strike, closing Steinberg's 10 Montreal warehouses and limited supplies to their 90 Montreal-area supermarkets.

The Union, Local 500 of the Retail Clerks International As- sociation, was demanding \$30- a-week increases in each of the next two years. The company was offering \$25 and \$20.

Throughout the strike, there was much violence. On Decem- ber 11, 15 goons were arrested in a fracas. The union charged they were in company employ. The papers reported at the time that a company spokesman said: "There was a brawl with some people who came to fight the picketers. We don't know them. We had nothing to do with it." No charges were laid.

There were other acts of violence that permitted the company to obtain injunctions, allowing it to continue supplying supermarkets, which remained open during the important pre-Christmas period.

At one point newspapers received press releases saying negotiations were going well and the strikers were convoked to a mass meeting. The union knew nothing of it and suspected sabotage.

On December 14, the strikers agreed to accept \$25 and \$20 raises, the company's pre-strike offer. A dental plan, scheduled to go into effect at year's end, was postponed a year and the money channeled into increasing night- shift premiums. The strike was lost and Steinberg's enjoyed record Christmas turkey sales.

Police are working on the theory that Dobrin, anxious to protect those turkey sales, approached fellow businessman Bronfman about breaking the strike. Bronfman, according to this theory, put him in touch with Caby Ferland, operator of a private hunting and fishing club called Gabou Lodge, and Ferland



arranged for help from Camille Gervais.

The theory goes that Stein- berg's was unwilling to meet the strike-breaking bill, which may or may not have included a prolonged security agreement.

The MUC police investigation is continuing. Presumably the RCMP is conducting an internal investigation, but investigations of the police by the police are often of dubious value. The RCMP has for a long time operated under a policy of secrecy and never demonstrated any belief that its activities warranted public scrutiny.

Now there is reason to believe that the various police forces suspect that underworld links to the elite espionage branch go beyond a few men. At least one ranking officer is now under suspicion.

One high-ranking MUC police officer was quoted as saying that they are desperate to find out what is going on with the Mounties. "All three (of the men if question) had access to our confidential files. They all came to us apparently with top security clearance," he said, adding that two of them regularly attended top-level intelligence meetings.

Both the Quebec and federal governments now maintain additional top-security intelli- gence-gathering committees, and it is presumed they are trying to keep abreast of developments. Whether the public gets let in on them is a moot point.