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LaPresse strike continues

MONTREAL (CUPI) The month old strike at the Montreal French language daily LaPresse continues this week with little hope of settlement.

In what effectively amounts to the dismissal of union workers, La Presse is hiring underpaid and non-professional personnel to fill most of the technical jobs.

The dispute centres on the company's attempt to automate the paper's production. Most of the technical workers especially the typesetters, face unemployment if automation is carried through.

In what La Presse calls a policy of mobility and non-departmentalization, some workers are asked to learn several trades, ostensibly to stave off unemployment. But for workers, mobility amounts to loss of job security since union jurisdiction becomes less clear with vague job classifications.

So far, workers have purposely subdued their militancy. Pierre Perron, vice-president of the typographical union explained, that if editorial employees would have faced picket lines, they would have refused to cross. This he said, would give Desmarais an excuse to get a court injunction against them and effectively fire them too.

Support for the locked-out workers has come from The Teachers' Corporation of Quebec, The Fraternity of Montreal Policemen,

The Parti Quebecois and five other organizations.

Despite the efforts of the affiliated workers of La Federation des Travailleurs du Quebec and the support of La Confederation des Syndicats Nationaux, La Presse continues to produce one edition daily. (It usually puts out three.)

If present LaPresse tactics prove successful, they could be used in the upcoming negotiations with the workers at the Desmarais-owned Quebec Soleil.

Abortion conference seeks repeal of laws

By TRISH HARDMAN

The Ontario Women for an Abortion Law Repeal Coalition will hold an abortion action conference

this weekend at Jarvis Collegiate Institute.

Organizers say the conference aims to gather women together who want to decide on a course of action that can best win the repeal of all laws restricting medical abortions.

The coalition wants to gather support for a Nov. 20 pro-abortion march on Ottawa.

An organizer, York psychology professor Esther Greenglass, said the conference hopes women — despite varied interests and beliefs — can organize to act on one cause — "the right of every woman to decide for herself whether or not she wishes to bear children."

Greenglass encouraged all women at York to attend and discuss with other women a whole range of women's interests, and to stimulate awareness of women's responsibilities for their own futures.

Greenglass, who teaches York's course on women, said she would like to see the revival of York's Women's Liberation Group as an active force on campus.

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