

## Quebec Federation of Labor to enter Political Arena

MONTREAL (MDOS-CUPI) The Quebec Federation of Labour has left the negotiating table and entered the larger arena of political and social struggle.

Although the role the QFL defined for itself in that struggle is an ambiguous one, several resolutions passed by the 235,000-member labor central at its convention last week reflect the new political direction of the Quebec labour movement. The overwhelming majority of delegates to the convention expressed their "support in principle" for Quebec having the total sovereignty, with the reservation that this process must be accomplished "in accordance with the needs and aspirations of the working classes."

Another resolution declared support for "the creation of a permanent inter-union common front on the political and social levels."

Still another resolution dedicated the QFL to "the establishment of a socialist and democratic society," to be brought about by "struggle" waged "simultaneously on the political and syndical levels."

"The QFL must broaden the front of progressive forces, channelling all the legitimate movements opposing the system which oppresses us." This "movement of solidarity" would operate on a regional basis: the various regional labor councils would work "conjointly with all syndical, popular and political organisms" sharing the QFL's goals.

Finally, Delegates felt the QFL "must consider massive participation in a political party and, if need be, set up a new party."

This last resolution was a bone of contention between delegates sympathetic to the Parti Quebecois and those who insisted it was not a genuine

working-class party.

The top leadership of the federation took some of the strongest pro-PQ stands. Secretary-general Fernand Daoust interpreted the resolution to mean that "those militants who want to work for the P.Q. will do so with the blessing of the Q.F.L. leadership." Referring to "disquieting" statements made recently by the P.Q. about organized labour (the P.Q. refused to support the massive La Presse demonstration, October 29), Daoust said that the Q.F.L. militants could now work to change these "petit-bourgeois positions" from within the party itself.

Federation President Louis Laberge took a similar stand. He asked delegates to "pardon" P.Q. leader Rene Levesque for his criticism of the La Presse demonstration: "We mustn't forget what Levesque has done for the workers," Laberge declared.

But the most enthusiastic pro-P.Q. man was Jean Gerin-Lajoie, vice president of the Q.F.L. and the Quebec director of the United Steelworkers of America. Citing the "massive grass roots support" given to the P.Q. by workers in the last election, Gerin-Lajoie said that since "we" had patiently built the P.Q., "we" should not be too quick to discard it. To form a

workers' party at the present time would "alienate us from the population."

As is well known, the Parti Quebecois has pledged not to harm American corporate interests in Quebec.

Structurally, the Q.F.L. is the Quebec wing of the Canadian Labour Congress and groups, mostly locals, affiliated to AFL-CIO Unions in the United States. The motives behind its leaders' support for the P.Q. are therefore open to question.

Similarly, the reason for the Q.F.L.'s new political involvement are not so much revolutionary as practical. According to Laberge, it was "collusion between government, high finance and the judicial system" that forces his union to fight on the social and political fronts as well as by industrial bargaining.

"The best collective agreement is powerless to prevent the government legislating away, with a stroke of the pen, the rights acquired in struggles going back as much as 100 years," he said. This meant that "we have to change the system as a whole."

Laberge added, however: "Our enemies and all the people on the right say that we are preaching revolution. It's exactly the opposite. By becoming involved in political action, we will prevent the anarchists from getting power."

**Ernie's STEAK PIT LTD**  
Licensed Dining Lounge  
Licensed Lounge  
Banquets to 200  
Noon Luncheon Served Daily  
reservations: 469-7149  
40 Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre

MAKE WINE & BEER  
AT HOME!

EVERYTHING FOR THE  
HOME WINE & BEER  
MAKER.

WINE INFORMATION  
CENTRE - 422 1397 OR 422 1469

**MARKET DRUGS LTD.**  
10203 97 St. EDMONTON, ALTA. Ph. 422 1397



The most important Rock group in Canada • CHILLIWACK  
Bends your senses leaving you breathless, waiting  
for hopefully more to come...

**THURSDAY NIGHT**

special guest  
**TOM NORTHCOTT**  
IN CONCERT 8:00 PM  
**CHILLIWACK**  
JUBILEE  
AUDITORIUM  
THURSDAY DECEMBER 9  
reserved seating \$3.00, 4.00, 5.00

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

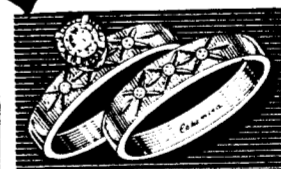


Application forms for teacher employment commencing August 1972 will be available in January 1972 from the Canada Manpower Centre, 4th floor, Students' Union Building.

Preference for employment offers for August 1972 will go to applicants possessing minimum qualifications of a B.Ed. or Professional Diploma after Degree.

Prospective applicants are accordingly advised to defer application to the new year and contact Manpower office no sooner than January.

Have  
You Got  
Yours Yet?



Contemporary Styling  
with Inset Shoulder  
Diamonds on Modern  
Textured Bands  
Selection now at  
its best for  
Christmas.

**Ben Moss**  
Jewellers

JASPER at 104 ST.  
ph. 423-2236  
student charge  
accounts invited