

**THE FRONT DE LIBERATION DU QUEBEC** has an action filled ten year history.

The group of revolutionary youth was started in 1960 by George Sheesters, a Université de Montreal student who felt that the "time had come to sow in the province a spirit of independence."

The small group emerged from under the dictatorship of former Premier Maurice Duplessis, and there was a strong taste among university radicals for a state of liberation.

Too often they had seen French Canadian workers engaged in bitter, bloodshed, battles with the police force of the province over the rights to strike for better wages and living conditions.

Because of the colonial situation, Quebecois were worse off than workers in Canada. As a conquered nation, Quebecois were oppressed as workers, and as Franco-phones.

**A NUMBER OF SPORADIC BOMBINGS** in the posh English suburb of Westmount sparked fear among the Montreal ruling classes but the revolutionary group then lacked training, discipline, and money, and as a result, many of their attempts proved to be abortive.

Soon, however, the FLQ invoked strict disciplinary measures on those members of the group and the group became much more selective in its recruiting campaign.

What followed in the next four years were holdups of large banks, financial houses owned by English Canadians or Americans and large department stores, all of which have helped finance the organization against the English ruling class.

With the inflow of discipline, a firm revolutionary ideology and more financial backing, the FLQ has been able to extend its operations into cells technically free from each other with members not knowing the members of others. This cell network has made the work of the federal authorities an "almost unsurmountable task."

**EARLY MONDAY MORNING**, Oct. 5, James Richard Cross, senior British Trade Commissioner in Montreal was kidnapped from his plush home on the foothills of Westmount.

The FLQ demands were:

- 1) The publication of a manifesto they had prepared.
- 2) The liberation of 23 political prisoners in Quebec.
- 3) The freed political prisoners to be placed aboard an aircraft bound for Cuba or Algeria.
- 4) The Post Office must reinstate all 400 Lapalme employees who suffered when the government refused to re-employ them.
- 5) Payment of \$500,000 in gold to be placed aboard the aircraft carrying the released political prisoners to either Cuba or Algeria.
- 6) Identification of the most recent man to inform of the activities of the FLQ and publication of his name and photograph in all Quebec newspapers.
- 7) Immediate calling off of any police activity in the hunt for the kidnapped diplomat.

The first waves of concern immediately rippled through government chambers at both the provincial and federal level and what was to follow was a chess game between flabbergasted government officials and the organized FLQ members.

On Tuesday Oct. 6, word was passed on by federal authorities to federal provincial and local police in Montreal and Quebec City to impose tight security measures but "to play it cool and don't panic the abductors."

That same day the Quebec government held an emergency three hour session in an attempt to come to grips with a situation they claimed "threatened" the freedom of Canadians.

Since Oct. 5, the provincial and federal authorities have been holding hands. The attempt to root out the FLQ abductors and halt "subversion" in Quebec has been carried on mainly by undercover police who are in touch with the FBI, Scotland Yard and Interpol.

External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp immediately called for police protection of all foreign diplomats in Canada and guards to watch the premises of every embassy and consular office.

**THE MILITANT REVOLUTIONARY TACTICS** by the FLQ shocked top government officials around the "Free World".

Canadian officials had considered the thought of any threat to their embassy or personnel had little part in the discussions that led to the establishment of a special 700 man executive protection service.

"But I guess this brings us very much into play," one official commented. "We're no longer simply observers."

Not before too long the newspapers across the country printed the manifest of the FLQ.

"THE FLQ is neither the Messiah nor a modern day Robin Hood," says the manifesto.

"It is a group of Quebec workers who have decided to get everything in motion so that the people of Quebec may definitely take their destiny into their own hands."

The FLQ describes itself not as a movement of aggression but "the answer to aggression, the one organized by high finance through the intervention of federal and provincial governmental puppets."

Reference was made in the manifesto to Premier Bourassa's promise to provide 100,000 new jobs in Quebec by 1971. The document states

"**BOURASSA WILL MATURE** in the year ahead when he sees 100,000 revolutionary workers organized and armed.

"We are fed up and so are more and more Quebecois with a spineless government which makes 1,000-and-1 somersaults to charm American millionaires while begging them to come and invest in Quebec."

Tuesday Oct. 6, Sharp informed the abductors that the federal government would in no way comply with the ransom demands. But he added he was ready to make some kind of a deal with the FLQ.

And Tuesday night the government announced its agreement with Ottawa that the ransom price would be impossible to meet.

**AT THE SAME TIME** lawyer Robert Lemieux, legal counsel for many "felquistes" held his first press conference. The conference turned into daily and international events within three days.

Lemieux said and reiterated that the government was playing games. It professed to wanting negotiations but kept up its intense police hunt.

He also continually emphasized that the FLQ had resorted to the guerilla tactics of kidnapping because of the way their colleagues had been treated in Quebec courts.

Pierre-Paul Geoffrey, for example, was sentenced to an unprecedented (anywhere in North America) 124 life sentences — 5,850 years in jail. In addition, he noted testimony from delegates to the FLQ trials from the International League of the Rights of Man which indicated that the men had been convicted — not for specific crimes, but for their political views.

**TUESDAY NIGHT** a second communique was received by radio station CKAC

By CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

# Revolution in Quebec: a chronology

in Montreal from the FLQ stating if the demands were not met by 8.30 a.m. Wednesday, "we will do away with him."

The same evening Prime Minister Trudeau stated "the will of the minority cannot be imposed on the majority by force."

Wednesday, tensions were mounting among baffled government officials taken aback by the sudden rise of militancy and in appeal to gain sympathy for the Quebec government. Justice Minister Jerome Choquette appealed to the kidnappers of Cross to call him to negotiate.

The same day another communique was found that extended the ransom until Thursday midnight. The FLQ stated it would not open negotiations with the government but asked the federal government which of its seven demands they found unreasonable.

**BUT IN AN ATTEMPT** to spare Cross's life, a further deadline was set. And on the same day Montreal police revealed they were searching for five prime suspects and Saturday they announced no steps had been taken by the federal government's penitentiary officials to prepare the exchange of prisoners for Mr. Cross.

Saturday, October 10, Premier Bourassa issued an initial ultimatum saying that none of the demands of the FLQ would be met by the government and he announced a final proposition to the kidnappers saying that if they would give themselves up and return the two officials unharmed they would be given safe passage out of the country to Cuba or Algeria.

The FLQ's reply to this proposition was not long in coming. Thirty-five minutes later, Quebec Labour Minister Pierre Laporte joined the ranks of the kidnapped in the hands of the FLQ. The minister was taken by two men armed with machine guns as he was playing football on his front lawn.

Laporte's capture was followed by another communique Sunday morning from the FLQ. The handwritten note revealed the second kidnap had not been carried out by the original "liberation" cell of the FLQ but by a group identifying itself as the Chenier cell.

**ALTHOUGH AT THIS POINT** the price of Cross's life had been reduced to the release of 23 political prisoners and the cessation of police activities with respect to the kidnappings, the price set for Laporte was somewhat stiffer: it composed all the seven initial demands of the Liberation cell with the exception of the publication of the FLQ manifest which had already been carried out.

A further communique Monday confirmed if these demands were not met both hostages would be executed.

In the meantime radical lawyer Robert Lemieux, named by the FLQ as their "negotiator", was arrested in his \$16 per week room at the Nelson Hotel in Montreal on charges he was obstructing justice in the hunt for the kidnappers.

He was finally released Tuesday morning after the government realized he could be valuable to them in their negotiations with the FLQ.

**A GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATOR** was named. Thirty-three year old Robert Demers, a member of the Bourassa clan was to negotiate with Lemieux. The two lawyers first met in Lemieux's jail cell Monday evening. Their meeting highlighted two days of exchanges between the two cells of the FLQ and Bourassa, who broke what was a hardline government position when he announced Sunday evening that talks about the 23 FLQ prisoners could not be held until after the safe return of the two hostages.

That same day hundreds of heavily armed Canadian troops were brought into the capital city, Ottawa, to protect cabinet

ministers, diplomats, prominent people and the federal buildings from possible FLQ attacks.

As many as 1,000 troops were sent into the capital from Camp Pelee, 100 miles north east of Ottawa.

Thousands of troops were sent to the Montreal area from Gagetown, Brunswick and others were flown to a base in Saskatchewan.

**TROOPS HAVE BEEN GUARDED**

prominent building for the last 24 hours. Montreal and police began raiding sympathizers of the FLQ and FLQ members at the same time. The passage of the War Measures Act rose to over 250 by Friday night. The House of Commons at 4 am Friday.

Police immediately took advantage of the situation to clean out all the groups they had wanted to get rid of. Drapeau warned last year of a conspiracy. They went after press shops, draft dodgers, deserter Vietnamese students, military committees. And for safekeeping rounded up a selection of lawyers, artists, singers and doctors.

All negotiations broke down between the FLQ and the government when Laporte resigned as the FLQ negotiator. He came apparent the government would negotiate. He called the government negotiations hysterical.

The action taken by the federal government shouldn't affect any peace-loving Canadian, Justice Minister Turner said in a press interview. He who want to change the government through the ballot box have no fear the measures taken by us."

**WHAT ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN RESTS** in Montreal and Quebec City. "The Attorney General must have some reason to suspect them," he said with a grin.

Since the War Measures Bill was in effect, the Federal government given verbal support from Premier Robarts of Ontario, Premier Ross of Saskatchewan, Premier Strom of Manitoba and Joey Smallwood, premier of Newfoundland.

But the measures taken by the government have met strong opposition from labour, student and welfare groups across the country. Demonstration of the government's actions began in Quebec City, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver.

In defence of their actions the government officials said they put the act in effect following the receipt of a Montreal report on subversion in the city.

**THE REPORT WAS APPARENTLY UNFOLDED** by Montreal police.

But little else is known. Both newspapers have had sketchy reports following a censor imposed on the press by the government.

Saturday night at 11 p.m., Premier Bourassa told the FLQ cells they would be given safe conduct to Cuba if they would surrender Cross and Laporte. He said they would be taken to Man And His World in Montreal.

An hour later, the body of Laporte was found in the trunk of the car used in the abduction at a military airport near Montreal. There were reports that the body had also been found but this untrue. On Sunday afternoon, a radio station received another FLQ communique and letters written by Cross that he was still alive.

**WHAT IS TO FOLLOW IS AN OPEN GUESS.**

## QUEBECIEN trudeau

Pierre Elliott Trudeau Canadians to unite on his side the anger death of Pierre Laporte upon it to "cut out"

The arrests, they expected to continue of the civil liberties act — kind appear

Is the Trudeau action against the FLQ action to defend the or is it more than

The identity of one to believe the tacking all left wing supporters of the pententiste movement effort by legal saboteurs and terrorism the political and incarceration a political genre — the Quebec national

To understand Pelletier, et al, ment, we must see kidnapping of J even than the bir

In the 50's, Trudeau among the Quebec the conservative centered around CNTU (then CT Libre.

While Trudeau some reputation assessment of his was radical only and that his more or less than

With Duplessis unity ended, and ic, such as Renand, as well as Pierre Vallières turned toward

With the failure to bring about change in Quebec

avowedly separatist Trudeau and his classic hatred of Duplessis made them Quebec nation

**SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FINAL YEAR STUDENTS**  
Students interested in the prospects of a career as a **CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT** are invited to meet with a representative of Richter, Usher & Vineberg. On-campus interviews will be held on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1970** APPOINTMENTS may be arranged with the **STUDENT PLACEMENT SERVICE** **RICHTER, USHER & VINEBERG CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS MONTREAL, TORONTO**

