

the gateway

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crisis in Quebec

by Gary Bigg and Kimball Cariou

The golden sunset spotlighted the audience. As it sank wearily, the lights went up on one of the most controversial issues facing Canada as a Dominion.

The topic is the crisis in Quebec. The speakers: four angry young men. The mood is tense. The drama begins.

"Anyone who says Canada is bilingual is lying." The speaker is Reggie Chartrand, president of the United Front for the Defense of the French Language. "Canada is one of the only countries left in the world where a minority imposes its language and culture upon an opposed majority. The spine of a nation is to have its pride and dignity; make French the working language."

"It began in 1759-60 when our ancestors were defeated in a racist battle. Today we are colonized by the English of England with the help of the English of Canada."

According to Chartrand, today Canada is a "banana dominion." Confederation is doomed to failure when "75 members of Parliament are French speaking and 195 are English. It is a dead end battle."

"Quebec was mostly quiet but now we are getting noisy. We're asking

ID or not ID

Student ID cards are the latest issue in the fee dispute between the Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association.

Graduate students had their brown Students' Union ID cards exchanged for beige GSA ID cards by grad student representatives at Part II of Registration.

Mahomed Ali Adam, GSA President, arranged with Photo directorate to process the Grad ID cards.

Gerry Riskin, Students' Union President, sent notice Tuesday prohibiting the Photodirectorate staff to attach pictures or to laminate GSA cards.

"Those cards are not acceptable to the Students' Union. They're probably not going to be acceptable to the University," Riskin commented Wednesday. He said that he will urge that downtown business not give reduced rates to students presenting the beige grad cards.

By press time Wednesday, Photodirectorate staffers had received and implemented new instructions from the SU executive to accept and laminate GSA cards.

The Library and Registrar's Office are accepting the GSA cards as proof of student registration. There are no intentions at present of changing this policy according to University officials involved. Library cards will be revalidated and Canada Student Loan forms for banks confirming registration will continue to be stamped upon presentation of either ID card. im

for a divorce 'for the good of the children.' The audience relaxes when confronted with this refreshing good humour. "All Canadians are prisoners. If you stand at the door and make a prisoner of me, you can't leave either. Quebec is now renting, but the wind of independence is irreversible. Don't force Quebec to plant bombs to free themselves."

The momentum is building. Down the hall the line-up for Zachariah peters out as attention is focused on Dinwoodie. Next to bat is Alain Briener, also from the United Front for the Defense of the French Language. The pitch: "As a Socialist and an independent, in my opinion the major problem in Quebec is the national oppression of the Quebecois. This implies the denial of the right of self-determination at the political level. Trudeau has said that it will not be the Quebecois. This implies the denial of the right of self-determination at the political level. All the powers are determined in Ottawa. Quebec has no control over foreign policy or matters of taxation.

"Wages are lower in Quebec because Quebecois are dumb! Alain exhorts. "The truth is that there is a 30% wage difference between French and English with the same qualifications. Seventy-six per cent of all industry is owned outside the province. This is not a mistake. It is the design of dominant capitalism.

"The most glaring problem is language. In high schools with 81% french enrolment, English texts are obligatory."

From here he attacks the "foreign bosses throwing us out in the street." It will require strategy, leadership and mass action that "makes the rulers shake in their pants."

"The biggest task is to make the trade unions political. It is the task of western Canadians to denounce federalism and phony national unity. It is the duty of every democrat, every radical, and every socialist to halt the oppressive rulers."

Whew! The question period. Confirmation of Canada by Briener: a state of Confederation, but two nations. Denouncement of Parti Quebecois (again by Breiner) for insufficient programmes. Discussion concerning parallels with western Canadian oppression. Rampant applause. Back to the battle.

Pierre Bourgault begins, saying "what we have now is a classic liberation struggle like those we have seen all over the world in the last 25 years." In the most ordered and thoughtful speech of the evening, he explains that it is normal for people to live in majority situations, and therefore he considers the struggle of the Quebecois to be viable and normal only in Quebec.

Robert Lemieux comes on next, strongly, denouncing Confederation as a "colonial situation." His speech is short as he senses that the audience is tiring, and he concludes by saying that he believes the Quebec movement will succeed because this is the trend in the second half of the 20th century.

During the final question period, the major point made by all the speakers is their opposition to bilingualism, although Beiner says that such an area as St. Boniface, where the population is French, the language should be French despite the relatively small size of the population. As the meeting ends, there is generous applause from the crowd, which has been very enthusiastic towards the speakers and it is certain that the people have been swayed by their speeches. And wasn't that the idea?



Lewis slams the 'bums'

"The present Canadian tax system is geared to give large corporations all they want," said David Lewis while speaking to a full house at SUB Theatre on Tuesday. Lewis cited the example of Shell Oil, which on over one half billion dollars in net earnings, paid no income tax.

Lewis also stated that 86% of the large mining corporations pay no income tax at all while the remaining 13% are taxed approximately 9% on their earnings which, when provincial taxes are added, amounts to the same tax rate paid by a middle to low income family of four.

When asked how the NDP would prevent heavily taxed oil companies from leaving Alberta and thus providing fewer jobs, Lewis' reply was that they would not leave since Canada is more politically stable than other major oil sources.

At the same time, Lewis expressed concern over the fact that Canada's natural resources were being so rapidly depleted.

In regard to the present housing situation, Lewis stated that it was totally wrong to treat housing as if it were a privilege, instead of being a "social right" of all Canadians to have decent and sanitary homes. Lewis suggested that municipalities should implement land banks and thus stop land from going into the hands of construction companies and local businesses.

Lewis denounced the present mortgage rate of 7.75 - 7.78 as "scandalous" and the proposed 9% as "criminally" scandalous. Lewis stated that the NDP would lower it to no more than 6%.

Speaking in regard to the poverty situation, Lewis claimed that the Liberal Government's philosophy led them to make small handouts to the poor while at the same time allowing them to avoid tackling the real problem. Lewis said that the reason poverty exists in Canada is that too much power lies concentrated in the hands of a few and thus "immense inequalities in income and status is permitted".

A question regarding pollution was raised and the NDP leader stated that corporations should be forced to use anti-pollution equipment. He stated that it is less costly in the long run to purchase anti-pollution equipment than it is to clean up a badly polluted area.

When questioned in regard to the Worth Report and the issue of higher tuition fees for students, Lewis stated that post-secondary education should be free; that fees ought not to be a barrier to receiving an education. Lewis stated that if he himself had not received a scholarship in his years at McGill he would have been "a corporate welfare bum" today.

Mr. Lewis denounced the Vietnamese war as being "morally indefensible" and "strategically stupid" and felt that military expenditures could be substantially lowered in Canada.

When questioned if he would make any changes in Canadian Immigration policies if elected, Lewis' reply was affirmative. He stated that the point system was "far too subjective, arbitrary and unreliable" and that Canada was in need of an "imaginative" immigration policy, not a "closed" one. jc

profs balk at new rules

by Alan Waugh

Faculty protest has forced postponement of new loan regulations in Cameron Library. Originally planned for implementation this September, the new rules would have shortened to four weeks the loan period for academic staff members and provided for suspension of borrowing privileges for those who fail to return books by the date due.

According to Turner, most objections centered on the elimination of the extended sessional loan, which many profs deem necessary to facilitate their research. As well, some faculty members borrow books on sessional loan in order to make them more directly accessible to their students. Turner feels that more protests may be forthcoming now, since the proposed new rules were released early this

summer when many staff members were away from the university.

Other important rule changes would include a reduction in the loan periods for grad students from six to four weeks, and a restriction on the circulation of bound periodicals to overnight use only, instead of the present one week loan. Undergraduate loans would remain the present two-week period.

The library committee of the GFC will be meeting this week for preliminary reconsideration of the new regulations. Although a decision by this committee is sufficient to impose the new rules, faculty pressure could bring the matter back before the GFC as a whole. Whatever the outcome, any changes in present regulations will not be implemented until January at the earliest.