

... and the Status Quo ...

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year was 158,000. Of these 65,000, or 42 per cent, were under the age of 25!!!

\* The average income of English speaking workers in Quebec is 40 per cent higher than that of French speaking workers.

\* Francophones with the same degree of education, even if they are bilingual, earn less than do unilingual English speaking Canadians living in Quebec.

\* English speaking employees who are 30 per cent of the labor force hold 77 per cent of the jobs in the \$15,000 income bracket.

French speaking employees, 70 per cent of the Quebec labor force, hold 72 per cent of the jobs in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 income bracket, according to the Bilingual and Bicultural Commission released in 1964.

\* The BI&BI Commission also reports: "in the matter of occupations the French Canadians are found at the bottom of the list, immediately above Italians, both in Quebec and in the rest of the country."

\* Also form the BI&BI: "Canadians of British origin have incomes 10 per cent higher than the average in every province except Quebec, where they earn 40 per cent more than the average."

\* In short, it isn't the knowledge of two languages that is beneficial to the French Canadian in Quebec, but rather the knowledge of one language, English.

And they conclude the survey: English Canadians have very little reason to become bilingual, even in Quebec, while for French Canadians, bilingualism is a prerequisite to income. And even if bilingual, French Canadians cannot hope to equal the salaries of unilingual English."

This text is taken from the Royal Commission of Bilingualism and Biculturalism published in part in 1964. The Pearson

government initiated the Commission. The situation in Quebec has not changed except to get worse. How can we expect the Quebecois to respect the ballot box when the ballot box has never helped them before?

In the light of all these facts, which only partially depict the actual situation in Quebec, we must seriously consider the meaning of violence in this context. M. Trudeau talks about democracy being threatened by the kidnapping of the FLQ (and we must remember that Pierre Laporte was the Minister of Labor in Quebec). But if people do not even have the basic right to work to earn their living, then we must consider that kind of violence too.

For days we have been hearing how shocked the nation has been. On television M. Trudeau said (Fri. Oct. 16) "We are shocked...and this is understandable because democracy flourishes in Canada, individual freedom is cherished in Canada."

What does the word democracy mean to a worker who can't get a job and has no money for food, rent, clothing for his family? How can he use this electoral system to help him?

Clearly this system which everyone is talking about is one that harbors two laws: one for the rich, and one for the poor. In Vancouver Trudeau said last June there would always be rich and poor in this world. It is easy to say that when you have a million dollars behind you, but is that what democracy is all about?

It is not the poor people who are frightened by the FLQ in Quebec, nor is it the poor who are being protected by the army. The poor don't live in Westmount. It is the wealthy business men who are being protected and who are frightened. And as the figures above have pointed out: the wealthy in Quebec are

English.

Throughout Canada people are being oppressed by this democratic system.

The Saskatchewan wheat farmers cannot sell their grain and find themselves being forced off their land and unemployed. They even had to buy back their own wheat in one case, in order to give it away to starving Indians in the north of the province. Is this a democracy when we have to sell our products at the highest price or not sell them at all?

In the Atlantic provinces the fisherman are being robbed daily by the large canning companies, who refuse to allow them to watch as their catch is weighed in. Those men and their families are very poor. Is that democracy?

Women are discriminated against everywhere, because they are women. They are paid less for equal work and in many cases kept unemployed until they are needed to provide cheap labor. They have not the right to control their own bodies. It takes a federal government law to make abortions legal across Canada so that women can determine their own lives. Is that how democracy is supposed to operate?

And the Indians and the Eskimos from whom we took this land in the first place and whom we are forcibly trying to assimilate into white society, they are oppressed daily by the federal government. How is that democratic?

Democracy means one thing for the government, another for the majority of people in Canada who have long had their rights taken away from them by the brute force of an economic system which they are powerless to change.

These are the people who are beginning to rise up, like the FLQ, to demand their basic rights: the power to control their own lives, the right to food and lodging and unimpeded leisure time. These are rights that we should not be denied.

The FLQ is only one group among many who are seeking a change in the status quo which oppresses them. There are tenants groups, and workers groups, and student groups all over the country fighting for the same ends. And they see themselves as having a common enemy: the federal government supported by big business in Canada and the United States. (Imperialism is still the problem).

Now that the liberal facade has been discarded, we can see that the prime minister of Canada has the same things to say as the president and vice-president of the United States.

"We must have law and order to protect the people from "terrorist" activities."

But the essential fact that has been omitted, is the fact that the members of the FLQ are also workers, dedicated to freeing other workers in Quebec from slavery to the government.

# Business Briefs

By ADAM SMITH

"The more the worker exerts himself, the more powerful becomes the alien objective world which he fashions against himself, the poorer he and his inner world become, the less there is that belongs to him. It is the same in religion. The more man attributes to God, the less he retains in himself."

-K. Marx

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Canada's seven largest banks are doing quite well this year, according to profit statements for the first nine months of operations in 1970. Profits are up 17 per cent over last year's at the same time.

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West Germany has become Europe's largest investor in Canadian real estate. And the German buying spree continues at full tilt, according to the Financial Post.

In 10 years, \$500 million to \$1 billion worth of apartment blocks, office buildings, shopping centres and farms mainly in Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver, have come under German ownership as German businessmen have sought diversification in politically secure areas of the world, says the Post.

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British Petroleum Co. Ltd. of London (England) reports pre-tax profit rose to \$480.8 million in the first six months of 1970. That is up from \$460.25 million in the same period a year ago. Its taxes rose to \$385 million from \$293 million a year ago.

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The National Farmers Union opposes a proposal by U.S. businessmen to set up a \$6 million "beef factory" near Truro, N.S.

Plans for the factory include a provincial government loan to the businessmen of about \$3.6 million, well over half the cost of the proposal.

The price in terms of increased American corporate control of "our social and economic freedom has serious implications," says Alfred Nieforth, regional coordinator for the Farmers Union.

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According to a recent Royal Bank publication called "who says a girl can't handle money?", this is how the bank views women:

"We think girls are just great, whatever their age, because each one is so different. And so special!

"You are you with your own special needs...and your own wondrous ways of stretching a dollar above and beyond its natural limit. And that's just one reason we think you're the greatest...and why we like to look after you."

INVITATION

THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY WARMLY INVITES STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY FROM OVERSEAS COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES TO A WINE AND CHEESE PARTY ON SUNDAY, NOV. 1st. FROM 3 - 5 p.m. IN ROOMS 322-324 OF THE DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION BUILDING.

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