

3000 Montrealers rally in support of Parti Quebecois

MONTREAL (CUPI) — Over three thousand people rallied at the Paul Sauve Arena November 25 to demonstrate their solidarity with the Parti Quebecois and the Quebec Committee for the Defense of Civil Liberties.

It was the largest rally to be held in Quebec since the declaration of the War Measures Act on October 16.

The spirit of the crowd was one of solidarity, as everyone loudly applauded speakers who shouted "We are not alone, we have come here to be together."

Rene Levesque, Parti Quebecois leader, was the hero of the evening. His entrance into the arena in the middle of the program drew a long and loud standing ovation. It brought back memories of the days

just prior to last April's provincial election.

Levesque made a lengthy attack on the federal government, and prime minister Trudeau in particular. He called Trudeau a cynical, unscrupulous conservative who used the FLQ crisis "to bring Quebec back in step and scare people back into docility."

Levesque made an appeal for unity and concerted action on the part of Quebecois citizens to fight against a regime "which has chosen to harden itself and become brutal."

"Just a few short years from now, the economic, social and political system is going to inevitably sink into a permanent type of opposition between a certain form of anarchy and a certain form of repression — if we do not succeed before in replacing

this system democratically," he predicted.

The Parti Quebecois leader called his party the only answer to a regime "which demands, in order to continue, permanent humiliation" of the Quebecois.

The other speakers, members of the different unions and a professor criticized the way the Quebec government is slipping into fascism. Michel Bourdon, vice-president of the Montreal Council of Trade Unions who was fired by the CBC for criticizing the Crown Corporation, said that those in power would like to see the people of Quebec keep their mouths shut.

"The totalitarian enterprise that the Trudeau government is following, is to keep quiet all those who want to see change and our

task is to face up to this government with all our strength."

Jean-Marc Pottle, a political economy professor at the Universite de Quebec said that "all the contradictions of society can be found in Montreal: ethnic oppression, minority domination of majority, unequal school systems, language discrimination..."

Pottle contended that the only alternative to this fascism was socialism; socialism supported by the power of the workers.

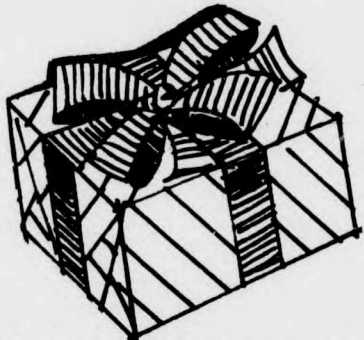
During the rally, special one dollar bills were sold at twenty-five cents a piece. The bills are issued from the Bank of the Republic of Quebec. They are "guaranteed by the natural riches of the future republic of Quebec" and "are only negotiable between independentists."

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Quebec groups coming to U of T

By JOHN LANG

Torontonians will be presented this weekend with one more opportunity to extend their knowledge and understanding of the Quebecois.

A teach-in is being held on Friday evening and Saturday, December 4 and 5 at St. Luke's United Church, Sherbourne and Carleton Sts.

The teach-in has been organized by a broad range of groups extending from the Social Action Committee of the Unitarian

Church to the United Electrical Workers. The purpose of the teach-in is to bring together English Canadians and Quebecois who are involved in parallel organizing efforts, as well as to break through much of the hysteria generated in English Canada.

The latest crisis in Quebec emphasizes the fact that English Canada understands very little about the people of Quebec.

Despite all the fanfare of a Bi and Bi Commission, English Canadians are still too willing to

demand: "What do the Quebecois want?" rather than "What do I want?" or more to the point, "What am I willing to give up?"

York students have no reason to believe that they have surmounted these stereotypes, for even the patience of a liberal like Claude Ryan was exhausted after his recent encounter with York students.

Teach-in organizers expect twenty representatives from a wide selection of groups in Quebec including FRAP, Quebec Federation of Labour, Confederation of National Trade Unions, Parti-Quebecois, and Quebec-Presse. Leading the speakers from Quebec will be Pierre Cloutier, defense lawyer for the best known prisoners charged with sedition and conspiracy.

Michael Bourdon, a vice-president of the Montreal council of the CNTU and the CBC announcer who was fired for protesting the censorship which accompanied the War Measures Act, will also be in attendance.

Speakers from English Canada will include David McDonald, the Conservative M.P. from PEI who stood alone in his opposition in principle to the new Public Order Temporary Measures Act, and John Sewell, Toronto Ward 7 Alderman active in community organizations.

The main emphasis of the teach-in, which begins at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, will be on the workshops, the structure of which will be left flexible to meet the needs of those in attendance.

The teach-in is open to the public and admission is one dollar — or what you can afford.

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