

Justice Ouimet, of the Court of Queen's Bench, last month quashed charges of seditious conspiracy against five well-known

Quebecers detained under the War Measures Act. They were accused of seditious conspiracy advocating the overthrow of the Canadian and Quebec governments between January 1, 1968, and October 16, 1970. Mr. Justice Ouimet found the period of time too long and found fault with the wording of the charge. The accused were labor leader Michel Chartrand, lawyer Robert Lemieux, author Pierre

The Quebec Five

[Some Charges Quashed]

Vallieres, former teacher Charles Gagnon, and broadcasting producer Jacques Larue-Langlois. They are still charged with advocating the policies of the outlawed Front de Libération du Québec.

Of the 497 people arrested under the War Measures Act or Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act, none are still being held without charges. Of the 62 charged, 27 are still in jail, as of March 8. Three have been convicted and 32 released on bail.

Of the 30 or so large and middle-sized universities in Canada, three (Université de Montréal, Quebec, and Laval) teach principally in French. Three (Laurentian, Sherbrooke, and the University of Ottawa) are bilingual. The rest are English.

For the past decade there has been considerable pressure on some of these schools, for academic and cultural reasons, to re-examine their policies. A bilingual university is even more complicated and expensive to run than a regular university. A unilingual university serving a bilingual community is obviously on tender ground.

Last month, special committees at two schools in these positions came up with proposals.

At McGill, for 150 years an English language university in Montreal, the committee suggested the school stay basically English, despite strong pressure from the French community.

The University of Ottawa recommended changes which could make its bilingualism more efficient. Instead of students taking required second language courses in their first two years, all graduates and tenured professors would have to show "minimal bilingualism"—the ability to understand both languages.

Students would have to pass a test before receiving their first degree; faculty members before receiving tenure. (Or new faculty members before they're hired.)

Classes in the upper years could be in French or English, because students presumably could

University Bilingualism

[Two Reactions]

The committee's plan, which is being debated at the university this month, is expected to be implemented next fall. It differs from the proposal of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, which recommended that Ottawa become a unilingual French language university.

The McGill report said that bilingual universities where courses are duplicated in each language, such as Louvain in Belgium, have proven "extremely expensive." At bilingual Canadian universities, it said, one of the languages tends to predominate in time.

Only 14.8 per cent of McGill's faculty and 29.8 per cent of the students understand French well, the report said, and "French speaking scholars with appropriate qualifications" might not be found to fill positions now held by English speaking professors. But the report recommended that each faculty be given a measure of independence to determine which of its courses, if any, should be offered in French. There is an existing rule allowing examinations to be written in either language, and the committee recommended that it apply to term papers, too.

Administrators and some other university employees should be tolerable to fluent in French, the committee said.

✓ Last year, professor Benjamin D. Singer and a group of graduate students at the University of Western Ontario made a study of violence, protest, and war in television news—comparing the United States and Canada. A limited number of copies of their analysis is available from this office.

Several years ago ten Canadian scholars were asked to write on different aspects of the Cana-

Write Fors

dian Confederation, and the articles were made into an informative ten-pamphlet series: *Great Britain and the Confederation*; *The Maritimes and Confederation*; *The First Years of Confederation*; *The U.S. and Confederation*; *Ontario and Confederation*; *The West and Confederation*; *The Great Coalition*; *The Quebec Conference*; *French Canada and Confederation*. They're available from Public Archives, Historical Branch, Ottawa. Specify English or French.