

Quebec doctor "harrassed" by tax inspectors

MONTREAL (CUPI) — Dr. Henry Morgentaler describes as "another form of harassment" the Quebec government's recent action in ordering him to pay \$354,799 in back taxes he allegedly owes for the 1969-1972 period.

Morgentaler said tax inspectors entered and searched his office for five hours February 13 and then served him with a judgement demanding immediate payment of the taxes. When he could not, they seized all his properties.

Morgentaler described the actions as resembling those in a

totalitarian state. "I was served with the note... I was never able to face my accusers... I have been judged and condemned without being able to face those who accuse me."

Morgentaler, who was acquitted of performing illegal abortions, said there is an old Quebec government tax law that lets the government harass anybody it wants to.

Morgentaler, who had admitted to performing some 6,000 abortions in the last five years, said he had

not been stupid enough to open himself to the charge of non-payment of taxes because of his public position on abortion.

He said he has always declared himself in a high income bracket and paid the required amount. "I've always paid my taxes, they've got nothing on me."

He intends to fight the charge although it will be very difficult for him to do so since the Quebec government seized all his records. "They're not going to break my spirit... I'm not in it for the money; I've never refused a

patient for inability to pay."

The raid on the doctor's office kept patients waiting for five hours. Patients included a mother of two from Pointe St. Charles (a Montreal ghetto) who had threatened to commit suicide if she didn't get an abortion and women from New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

The doctor said it was "outrageous" that women had to travel 1500 miles to Montreal or New York for medical treatment they should have where they live.

When questioned, Morgentaler said he didn't know exactly how much he had earned in the last five years but said he paid the federal government \$26,000 in taxes last year and he owed the Quebec government \$20,000 for the same period. He said he had worked out an agreement with Quebec to pay \$2,000 a month since he didn't have the cash available after his high legal fees from last year.

Among items seized by the inspectors were his personal diary

and notes for a book he was working on.

The doctor denied charges he had previously received assessment notices, branding Quebec finance department spokesperson's charges as "lies". The Montreal commercial press said the judgement was based on a certificate issued by the deputy finance minister February 7 listing allegedly unpaid taxes and interest up to February 4.

He said the papers were supplied with the information two weeks ago but he had seen nothing until after the seizures.

The amounts assessed in the certificate included \$62,630 plus \$17,178 interest for 1969; \$86,085 plus \$20,857 interest for 1970; \$56,256 plus \$10,452 interest for 1971, and \$92,118 plus \$9,028 interest for 1972.

Morgentaler repeated his comparison of the actions taken to those of a totalitarian state and said, "They've been listening to my telephone for three years."

Nato tanks, police crush revolt

TORONTO (CUP) — The military government in Greece used NATO tanks and U.S. trained police to crush the revolt sparked by Greek students last fall, said Andreas Papandreu in Toronto last week.

The former Greek cabinet minister, now an economics professor at York University, described the unarmed revolt of students and workers as "unique in Europe".

The students occupied most of Athens, controlled radio stations and public buildings, set up a method of government and came "very close" to bringing down the regime before at least 400 people were killed in the bloody military suppression of the revolt.

Papandreu said there are now at least 30,000 American and NATO officers and men "circulating" in Greece. Napalm bombs were tested there, he told his overflow audience, and the CIA was "built in Greece".

Papandreu blamed American presence in Greece for the oppression of the Greek people and called the civil war fought in Greece after the Second World War "the first Vietnam".

He said the civil war was fought for national independence by a majority of Greeks and ended in defeat because of American intervention in 1947 and 1948.

During this period the American influence was able to penetrate the state machinery. After the war, the

Americans poured an estimated \$1 million per day into the country to make Greece safe for investment. The gross national product increased 56 per cent but wages did not improve.

In 1967 the colonels came to power in what Papandreu described as an American imperial military dictatorship based on a NATO plan. Wages have been kept low by allowing the countryside to wither. Most of the food has to be imported now.

Only the very old or very young are to be found in the countryside. The able-bodied surplus labor is "working in the factories of Germany" or on Athens streets looking for jobs. One third of Greeks alive live outside of Greece.

The official inflation rate for last year was about 30 per cent but Papandreu says the actual figure is about 40 per cent.

The junta which came to power last November is "merely a change of guard" according to Papandreu. The prime minister was appointed by America, he said.

He predicted there will be other confrontations between the military regime and students and workers and the struggle will be long and "costly". November proved that only an armed struggle with a "distinct socialist form" will succeed in ending military dictatorship in Greece.

"There are limits", he said "to now long the Greek army can be used to oppress the Greek people".

Whalen tells farmers

Consumers don't pay enough

OTTAWA (CUP) — While food corporations continue to announce record profits, Canada's minister of Agriculture, Eugene Whalen is telling farmers that consumers are not paying enough for their food.

Whalen told an audience in Woodstock Ontario Feb. 19 "Consumers haven't been paying enough for butter, skim milk powder, cheese and other dairy products to keep farmers in business." He also charged that consumers cannot be forced to pay too much either.

Its hardly a comforting thought when the company that controls eighty per cent of the dairy business, Kraft, made a profit of \$103,000,000 last year.

Whalen praised the Canadian Dairy Commission and its quota system with preventing wide-scale bankruptcy in dairy farming.

Canada loses a thousand farmers a month, according to the National Farmers Union which is trying to win collective bargaining rights for farmers.

The government minister credits the quota system for saving dairy farms: "tens of thousands of dairy farms were saved from sudden and sure bankruptcy and the entire industry was given a chance to get itself into balance with demand."

At the same time it was necessary for farmers to borrow \$65,567,000 between April and November of 1973 from the government.

With farmers not earning enough to stay in business and the consumer paying record prices, it is no wonder the food corporations, the middlemen are raking record profits in.



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