

The unanswered questions

Continued from page eight where Laporte was held was an FLQ residence. It had been previously rented by Paul Rose.

But when the fateful October 5 arrived, police, through the media, gave the impression the FLQ was a huge force, largely unknown and capable of overthrowing the government. Federal cabinet minister, Jean Marchand, said the FLQ numbered about 3,000 and had infiltrated every key area of the province.

In a recent interview on Radio Canada, Marchand admitted these figures were based more on guessing than on hard evidence.

"Each made his own assessment", conceded Marchand.

Under the War Measures Act 465 people were arrested, 403 of whom were released without charge. Only 18 people were convicted on charges relating to the kidnappings. Even the FLQ members themselves acknowledged they and their sympathizers numbered about 100. In a communique suppressed by the government, the kidnappers said the authorities had sensationalized the group's power in order to discredit them in the eyes of the public, particularly Quebec's young people who were sympathetic to at least the groups' separatist principles.

"This revolution will not be made by a hundred people as the authorities want everyone to believe, but by the **whole population**", the message stated.

So if it is assumed the government knew the FLQ did not pose a genuine revolutionary threat, why proclaim the War Measures Act?

TRUDEAU AND THE SEPARATISTS

Pierre Trudeau has never hidden his hatred for the separatist movement in Quebec. He has attempted to use his position to fight independence to its grave. By evoking the War Measures Act, argues Vallieres, the government attempted to administer Quebecers a deep shock treatment which would make them stand up and denounce separatism once and for all.

"The desire to smear the 'separatist' leadership lay at the root of the October Crisis of 1970," he says in the **Assassination of Pierre Laporte**. Trudeau tried to lump all separatists together, violent or not, as the true enemies of the people Vallieres says.

Interestingly enough, Vallieres points out the federal government established a committee on May 7, 1970, five months before the crisis, to "consider steps to be taken in the event the War Measures Act comes into force by reason of insurrection".

This evidence came from government documents leaked to the Toronto Globe and Mail in 1971.

Vallieres says the government knew about the FLQ's plan to kidnap Cross through police infiltrators, but allowed the kidnapping to proceed so they could administer the

"shock" of the War Measures Act.

A similar theory about the events of October, 1970 are constructed by journalist/novelist Ian Adams in his book, **End Game in Paris**.

Adams pieces together a tale of police infiltration of FLQ ranks with police actually establishing phony "parallel" cells of the group. Adams suggests that police plants manipulated naive members to commit acts of violence. The crisis itself was the creation of the "colonel", who he says heads a special counter-terrorist unit which is loosely attached to the RCMP.

Adams' theories about police infiltration of the FLQ have to some extent been borne out. At the Keable Commission into police wrongdoing in Quebec testimony was heard that Donald Cobb, superintendent of the RCMP, actually wrote provocative "FLQ" communiqués. When Vallieres denounced violence as a means of change in Quebec, Cobb issued a communique from a fake cell of the FLQ, denouncing Vallieres and asking the FLQ to retain its violent ways!

Also revealed at the commission was that Carole Devault, who helped write October Crisis communiqués, plant bombs, store dynamite and commit theft for the FLQ, was actually a police spy. The question is, if Devault informed police of Cross' whereabouts, why did the police not move in sooner than they did?

Even more mysterious is that she identified Nigel Barry Hamer, the so-called sixth person in the affair, as a kidnapper of Cross and the FLQ's contact with the outside world during the crisis.

Despite this knowledge, authorities did not charge Hamer with kidnapping until just this year, ten years after the fact.

Another interesting detail,

which emerged in 1973 in an article in Last Post magazine, was that Pierre Laporte had extensive ties with the Mafia in Montreal. The mob had supplied funds to Laporte's re-election campaign in 1970 apparently hoping he would be appointed justice minister and pay the mob favours. It turned out however that Premier Robert Bourassa named Laporte, Minister of Labour and Immigration.

Bourassa had no real love for Laporte as he had just beaten him in a bitter battle for leadership of the liberal party in Quebec.

LAPORTE BECOMES MARTYR

Because of his Mafia contact, Laporte was becoming a political liability. According to the Last Post, the police were on the verge of bringing court action against him for his dealings.

However, Laporte's assassination elevated him to the status of national martyr from that of corrupt politician.

And still, Laporte's murder remains a partial mystery. Paul Rose, convicted of the murder, said he was not present when the murder occurred and a recent Quebec government inquiry into the events of 1970 leaked to the press confirms this. If Rose was not the killer, who was?

The conclusions of the Quebec government report are being held back because the government claims any disclosure would prejudice the trial of Nigel Hamer.

But the inquiry may not reveal much, because, according to Quebec MNA Gerald Godin, the federal government refused to cooperate with it.

It is now clear that unless the federal government agrees to open its files the real story behind the Crisis of 1970 may never be known.

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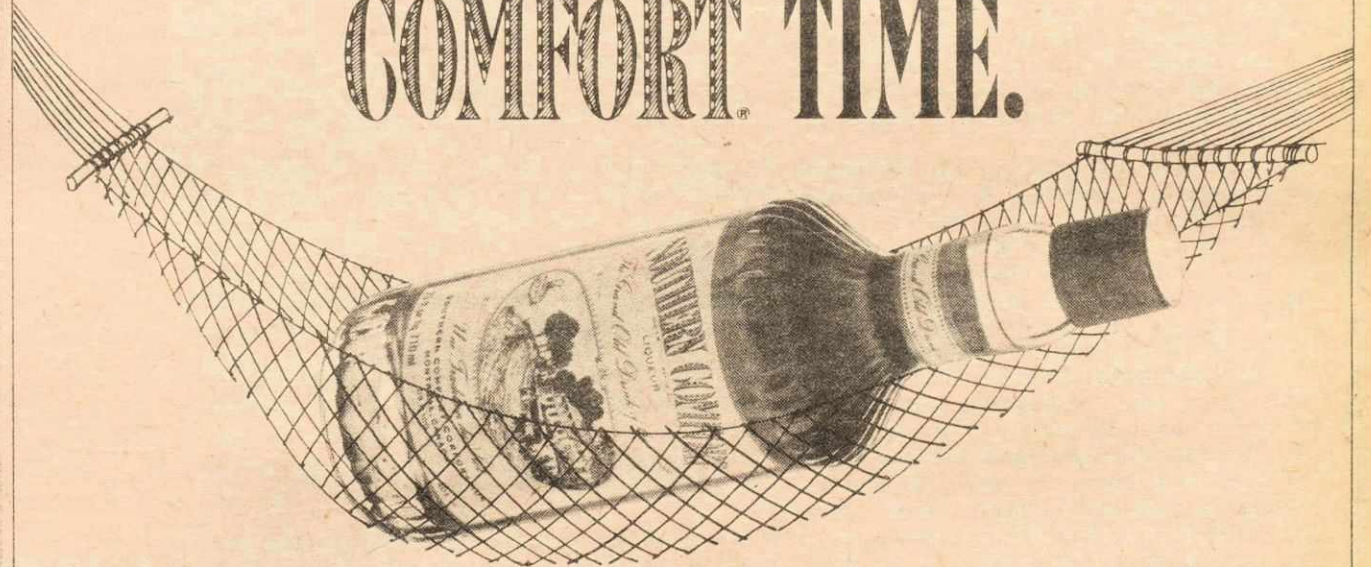
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