

An Alarm is Sounded

Of the hundreds of articles considering the possible results of the referendum, none sounded a louder alarm than that of Don Nuechterlein in **The Washington Post**.

In the piece, which appeared the Sunday before the Tuesday vote, Mr. Nuechterlein, author of **National Interest and Presidential Leadership** and a professor at the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia, began with the observation that the decision in Quebec might be as ominous as was South Carolina's decision in 1960 to withdraw from the United States.

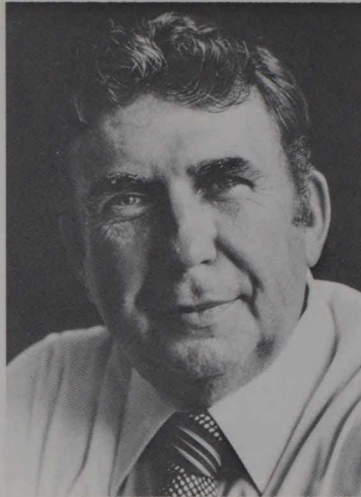
He also concluded that Quebec militants are not likely to accept an unfavorable outcome, regardless of how close the vote. They would no longer be satisfied with Parti Quebecois leader Rene Levesque's moderate, constitutional approach, demanding instead that he declare Quebec independent or give way for a new leader. . . .

If the referendum does fail, then, there is a serious possibility that violence will break out in Montreal and perhaps other cities, and that Trudeau would again send in troops. In that case, the specter of civil war would hang over Canada.

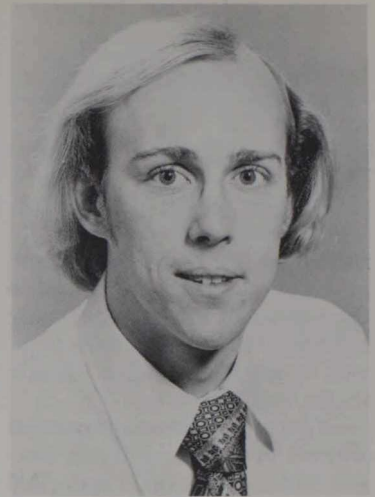
Return of the Native

Joseph E. Bouchard of **The Washington Post**, who was born in Quebec and is now a naturalized American citizen, wrote on June 22 about his pre-referendum tour of the province. He found feelings intense on both sides, with people complaining about threats and intimidation.

He recounted one personal experience: My closest brush with violence came at a restaurant in St. Simeon, another ferry port. As I talked with the waitress a group of



Joseph E. Bouchard
The Washington Post

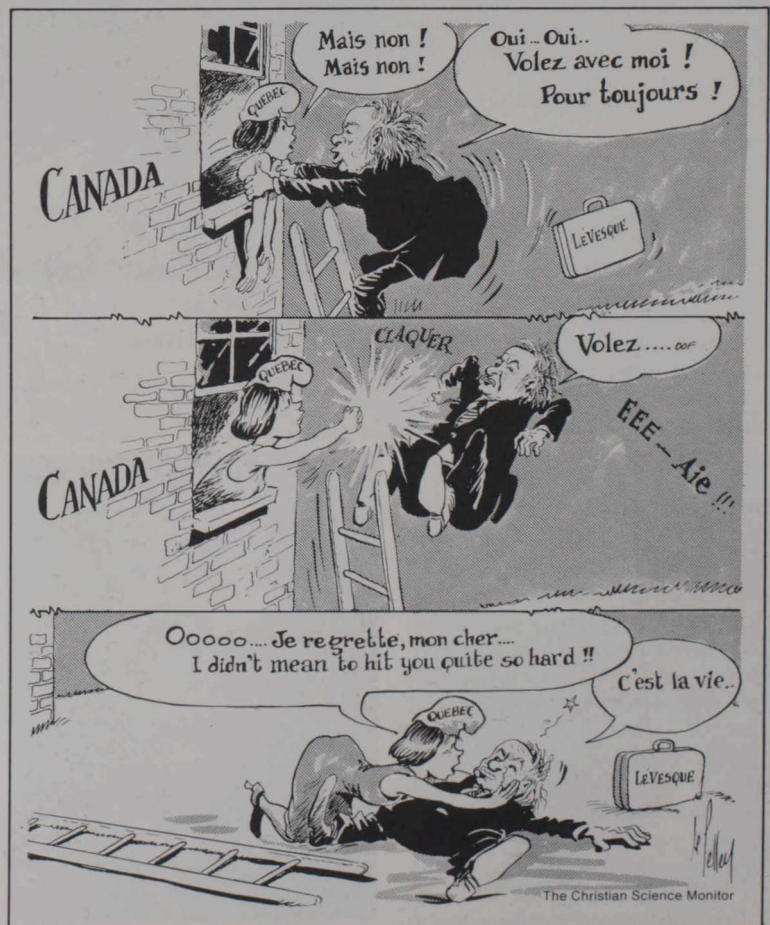


Jim Neubacher
Detroit Free Press

youths formed a circle around my counter stool to listen. Finally the oldest, about 18, challenged me: Who was I? What was I doing in St. Simeon? Why was I asking so many questions? Did I plan to vote

oui or non?

I explained that I worked for a newspaper . . . the tension eased and the group began to tell me how strongly they believed in Levesque's position.



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