

editorial

Ministers woo Quebec

Quebec remains aloof in the latest attempts by nationalists to woo her back into confederation - or at least the idea of confederation.

At the 28th Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, (CMEC), held in Edmonton yesterday and today, Quebec has chosen to take a wait and see attitude regarding the other provinces' discussion of minority language education programs.

In August, the nine premiers of the predominantly anglophone provinces vowed to make "their best efforts to provide instruction in English and French wherever numbers warrant." This statement was part of the text of Premier Richard Hatfield's press conference kit distributed to the press on Sunday. Hatfield, chairman of the premiers council, was in Edmonton to elaborate on the directive issued from St. Andrew's last August.

Obviously nervous and perhaps flustered by what was said or not said at the closed meeting early in the afternoon, Premier Hatfield began his address to the press with an apology the text of his release was available in English only. The remark was the most notable statement the Premier made at the conference and was immediately transcribed onto the notebooks of the francophone journalists.

In August, Premier Levesque was the only premier not to give his approval to the resolution. Obviously his government already has an extensive minority language education program. He sits ready to pass judgement on the rest of the provinces, now pressured into *doing* something for the good of Canada.

The PQ government awaits the implementation of extensive french language programs in the other provinces. Not extensive rhetoric, promises, or task force recommendations, but real action.

He may be a long time waiting.

When asked by a reporter why the west has changed its position of 1969, when it denounced the federal Official Languages Act, Premier Hatfield replied he sensed a change of attitude in the west and went on to deny that Premier Lougheed opposed the spirit of the official languages act, saying he'd read something recently which confirmed this "fact."

After his brief two minute presentation to the press, which did no more than reiterate what was said in the unilingual press release, the thirty or so journalists present in the post modern conference room of the historic Romanesque Government House waited in unbelieving anticipation.

"That's it?" they asked themselves.

Finally one replied, "Can we ask questions now?"

"Certainly," said Premier Hatfield.

But as the conference continued it became obvious very little of import was going to happen. As one francophone journalist said sardonically, "Then it's safe to say nothing happened today?"

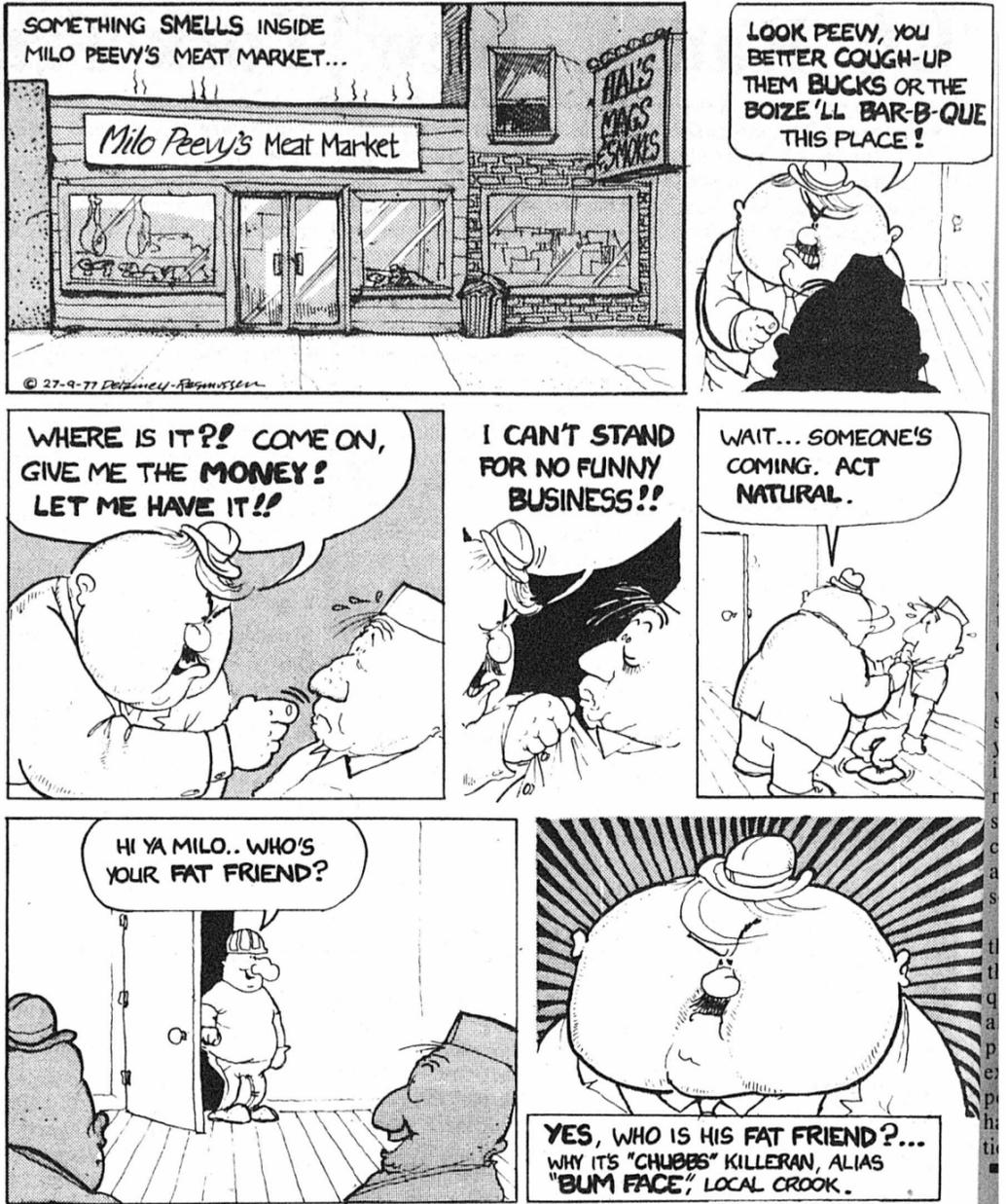
When questioned on the meaning of "wherever numbers warrant", Hatfield said the issue was complex and could only be answered by the individual provincial officials.

Fair enough: Hatfield was being pressured into making an answer he obviously had no knowledge of or jurisdiction over.

And after all, "wherever numbers warrant" was part of the text of a resolution. Nothing else, right Rene?

by Don McIntosh

BUB SLUG by Delainey & Rasmussen



TO BE CONTINUED

Creep ruins Dinwoodie show

On Saturday night I attended the Dinwoodie social featuring Hai. It was a real pleasure to see a hard working band such as these guys, add a little class to the usual onslaught of Dinwoodie bands. Their talent is only surpassed by their excellent showmanship, which easily outdoes anything else I have seen about town lately. The cabaret was going great until close to the end, when an incident occurred which I feel I must comment on.

You see the band was doing their finale number, Hall of the Mountain King when a certain individual (whose name I unfortunately don't know, having never had the displeasure of meeting him before), took it upon himself to try to ruin the show, and maybe gain a little attention for himself. Well he succeeded very well and I hope he feels satisfied in doing so. You see this man (and I wonder if he has enough mental capacity left in him to be called one), found that by lifting a section of the stage up, he could cause a few problems. Like cause the guitarist to trip when he was about to do his Russian dancing portion of the song. As if that wasn't sufficient harm, this individual went one step further and pulled the section far enough as to cause the complete drum set to collapse, leaving the stage in a shambles. The band made a quick, yet graceful and professional exit, while the rest of the audience stood in amazement at what had just taken

place, before their eyes. Well folks, for those of you who wondered what exactly happened up front when you saw those drums collapse, you now have an eyewitness report. As for our friend, well he made a quick exit as well.

What bothered me most was not the fact that this incident actually happened, and not that we didn't get to see the ending of a great show. More than anything, I simply cannot understand what it was that gave that person pleasure in doing such an utterly stupid act. Was it jealousy? Does this person have some hidden desire to be up on the stage himself, receiving the attention? Or does he just like to ruin things. Does he really get off on destruction? Or was he just drunk and unable to comprehend what he was doing? I'm sure that will be the reason he will use, but I won't accept it. I wonder if this person should have his head examined.

I suppose, however, that to put all the blame on this person, would be just a little unfair. If the opportunity to lift the stage had not existed, the incident would not have happened. Of course we can argue that the stage should have been secured in such a way that pieces could not be pulled from it. Here the responsibility lies with the Students' Union, and I would hope precautions are taken in this direction, so that another fun-seeking person won't get his kicks this way.

I hope that I have set the record straight for those people who didn't know what happened, and by doing so, taken some of the embarrassment off the band. I also hope this letter read by our friend the stage lifter who showed his macho strength and spoiled a great show, and who will probably continue to do these wonderful acts in the future. Buddy, I hope your conscience bothers you knowing you spoiled a good many persons' evening. And lastly, I hope that Hai will return so we may see the end of their show, but in this case, I wouldn't blame them a bit if they refused to play here again. A group like them deserves a little more respect than what appears some people of the university have to offer.

Dave Darby

Gateway

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