

Quebec referendum May 20

Quebec's sovereignty-association referendum will be held on May 20, Premier René Lévesque announced in the province's National Assembly April 16. The announcement officially begins a 35-day referendum campaign.

Before the official referendum campaign got underway in Quebec, two umbrella committees were formed to bring together, on one hand, the defenders of the "no" position — The Committee for Quebecers Voting No — and on the other, those defending the "yes" position — the Regroupement national pour le Oui.

The Committee for Quebecers Voting No, chaired by Claude Ryan, leader of the Quebec Liberal Party, is made up of the Opposition members in Quebec's National Assembly (30 Liberals, five members of the Union Nationale and three independents, including Rodrigue Tremblay, former minister in Mr. Lévesque's cabinet).

The question itself

The actual wording of the referendum question is as follows:

"The Government of Quebec has made public its proposal to negotiate a new agreement with the rest of Canada based on the equality of nations; this agreement would enable Quebec to acquire the exclusive power to make its laws, levy its taxes and establish relations abroad — in other words, sovereignty — and at the same to maintain with Canada an economic association including a common currency; no change in political status resulting from these negotiations will be effected without approval by the people through another referendum; on these terms do you give the Government of Quebec the mandate to negotiate the proposed agreement between Quebec and Canada? Yes. No."

In addition to these members are 12 representatives of the federal political parties: nine Liberals, including Minister of Justice Jean Chrétien, the only member of Parliament on this committee, and three representatives of the Progressive Conservative Party. Members of the public are also free to join the Committee.

The total number of Committee mem-

bers could reach 300, said committee organizers.

The Committee is responsible for the entire referendum campaign on the "no" side. It has a 15-member executive which may form specialized committees (fund-raising, organization and information, for example) and set up local committees for Quebecers Voting No in each riding.

The "yes" group

The Regroupement national pour le Oui, chaired by Premier René Lévesque, is made up of 20 persons; it is assisted by a five-member executive committee, on which Mr. Lévesque also sits.

The task of the executive committee is to manage the referendum campaign including the group's platform, speaking engagements, control of expenditures and organization of the vote in preparation for voting day.

At the local level, there are similar structures, with each riding having "yes" committees. Most local committees are not led by National Assembly members, but by local or regional personalities.

Any Quebecer can become a member of the Regroupement by purchasing a membership card for \$2.

As permitted by Quebec's Bill 92, the rules of the Regroupement national pour le Oui allow for the membership of affiliated groups, that is, groups which wish to nominally support the "yes" group but still remain free to initiate or follow their own referendum projects.

Mine heats greenhouse

The natural heat contained in mine shafts thousands of feet below the earth is nurturing vegetables in an experimental program at Inco Mines, and researchers say year-round production of high quality, fresh vegetables for northern communities should be economically feasible in the near future, reports Douglas Whiteway in *Canadian Renewable Energy News*, March 1980.

The agricultural department of Inco Metal Company is scheduled this spring to begin assessment of a prototype greenhouse at their Copper Cliff south mine, three miles west of Sudbury, which has been turning out tomatoes, English cucumbers, leaf lettuce, spinach and bedding plants for the past year with the help of exhaust heat from the mine's ventilation system.



Growing mine-shaft vegetables.

According to horticulturist Ellen Heale, a member of the research team, the mine air has kept the temperature in the greenhouse between 7 and 12 degrees Celsius in the winter and between 10 and 13 degrees Celsius in the summer. These somewhat less-than-summery temperatures, she says, are fine for most vegetables with supplementary heat in the form of electric baseboard units required only intermittently for such things as tomatoes.

Air provides blanket

The 46-square-foot prototype greenhouse is sloped to intercept maximum sunlight and the north wall has been outfitted with an aluminum foil to reflect light for even distribution. A high pressure sodium lamp is the supplementary light source. The greenhouse is located about 75 feet from the exhaust air with ventilation secured through a 20 inch insulated steel pipe attached to a fan. Air is filtered through a rock filter bed under the floor of the greenhouse to remove particles.

Another geothermal experiment, going since 1978, has been growing vegetables 500 feet below ground level where the temperature remains fairly constant at around 25 degrees Celsius and the humidity a steady 80 per cent.

The cost of growing vegetables under these conditions has not been analyzed. However, the projects have been successful enough to date to warrant the building of a second 1,250-square-foot greenhouse for which cost assessments, including marketing, will be made.