

Quindon on Quebec

by E. Ray Simpson

The federal government's policy on bilingualism and biculturalism is a political irritant in English Canada and politically irrelevant in Quebec according to Herbert Quindon, professor of Sociology at Concordia University in Montreal.

In a lecture at Dalhousie last Thursday, Quindon said that it was a "nobel illusion" to think that bilingualism had succeeded.

Quindon, former president of the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association and co-author of *Modernization and the Canadian State*, said the language issue in Canada should be dealt with on a "territorial basis". People who want to protect their French culture will have to live in Quebec, Quindon added.

The Dunton-Laurendeau Commission report on bilingualism was sentencing French-speaking Canadians outside of Quebec to a "slow death rather than a fast death"

by refusing to recognize territoriality in respect to language, he remarked.

The price that French-speaking Canadians will have to pay for staying outside of Quebec will be poverty and the inevitable loss of their language, Quindon stated.

He said that the "belt" of bilingual population in Moncton was getting smaller and doomed to extinction.

Quindon, a recognized authority on the history and evolution of Quebec society, told the small audience the bonds that tied French-speaking Quebecers to their language were collapsing as a result of the transformation of Quebec society from a conservative, rural-oriented Church-controlled society to a more liberal, urban-oriented, state dominated society.

On the topic of special status, Quindon felt that Quebec should be treated like any other province. In order to preserve the Canadian state, he said it would be necessary

to bring about a "reconfederation" of the country.

When asked if he would consider himself an "independantiste", Quindon replied that he would count himself among the 60% of Quebecers who were neither in support of nor opposed to the concept of independence.

Quindon predicted that a referendum would call for a "mandate" to negotiate sovereignty-association with the

federal government and added that he believed the vote would go either way.

Quindon, who has taught both Pierre Vallières and Charles Gagnon—two well-known left-wing Quebec separatists—at Concordia University, said he had welcomed the opportunity to have EXFLQ members such as Jacques Lanctot in his course.

Remarking on the presence of one-time dissenters in

advisory positions with the provincial government, Quindon remarked that "confrontation and dissention does not necessarily hurt a person's career, indeed it can be useful."

He added that the most vitriolic attack on Canadian nationalism ever written was a book by Pierre Trudeau entitled "Nouvelle Trahison des Clercs" (New Treason of the Intellectuals).



Construction worker on LeMarchant Street complains vehemently about picketers moving his barricade to University Avenue.

Dal Photo/DeLorey

for students

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with the means of living in a manner which anyone has a right to expect, Your University has said to them "now we don't want to talk to you". Now, what conclusion does that bring you to? It has brought me to the conclusion that Dalhousie University is being grossly unfair to their employees and sadly enough they seem to enjoy playing with the lives of the workers. Have you seriously questioned this situation?

If you have seriously examined the situation, then why have you chosen to remain 'neutral'? In the present dispute there is no such thing as remaining neutral. By your very silence you are condoning the disgusting treatment of workers at the hands of Dalhousie! Is that how you are gaining the tools necessary to determine your own future? Is that how you are going to take charge when your time comes around? Whether or not you like the idea there is going to be a large number of you that will become members of a union. At that time, when you are a member of a group that is being played with and being treated unjustly, you will discover first hand what it feels like to ask for help and see people standing silent.

I certainly hope that you respond in a more positive fashion when you are asked to respond to the government announcements about funding. Even as students you are being toyed with by an unfeeling power. It is only when you join together with other people and stand united that you can change or determine your own future.

I urge you to view this current struggle not as something to be looked at from

afar, but rather as something that you have a direct interest in. Do not remain neutral any longer. These people need your help. Go out and actively support your striking workers. Show them what you have learned!

Mike MacDonald
N.U.S. Central Committee for N.S.

No news is good news

To the Gazette

How long will you keep pretending that the *Gazette* is a daily newspaper and dressing everything you print as hot news? If you want to talk about, say, the drug plan, you get some official to make a long statement, which is, I suppose, news because statements do not take much time. Then you will probably quote another official who will say almost but not quite the same thing, thereby padding out the issue and very professionally confusing your readers. Why not write an article of the kind found in weekly journals, setting out a candid account of the matter in logical order?

Since in the nature of things there is hardly ever any news in the *Gazette*, you have no right or reason to insist on newsroom style. By insisting on it, you forbid your contributors ever to speak their minds, and force them to approach the editor as pupils. You even use it as an excuse to alter copy *ad libitum*. In short, newsroom style, the corner-of-the-mouth, don't-look-at-me style of those who deal with raw, almost meaningless facts, has been turned into a mystification.

If you dropped this hocus-

pocus, then *Gazette* could become a forum. And by that I do not mean an open line for expressions of all kinds of opinion; I mean a clearing house for informed articles by people of a certain range of opinion.

Yours Truly,
Ron Norman

Editor's note: The Gazette is always interested in publishing informed articles or news stories in readable style. We do not think of the paper as The Daily Planet.

offer, which was a good one. Good work, Mr. C.—just what do you get out of it? And who do you think you're fooling? Sooner or later Local 1392 will realize they've been taken for a ride.

And congratulations, *Gazette*—you've done it again!
E. Hominick

Editor's note: Please clarify "a potpourri of biased and misleading statements."

Money mistakes

To the Gazette:

One small correction must be made with respect to the projected losses of the Student Union due to the strike; the loss, as with any other loss, will be financed out of the accumulated net worth of the

Student Union (\$54,047), which was erroneously reported as a budget surplus of the previous year. In fact, a deficit of \$5,638 was incurred last year, and this was also financed through net worth.

Also, the projected loss is composed of a variety of factors, including room rentals, entertainment, etc., as well as bar services and food services. Actually, there are very few revenue producing areas of the Student Union which have not been seriously affected by the strike, whereas fixed costs have, of course, not been affected.

One of the hardest hit areas, however, has been in the Student Union's ability to provide some form of employment for its members. Bar Services, SUB Staff and Programming have had to cut employment simply because there is no work.

Sincerely,
John W. Murphy
Treasurer,
Dalhousie Student Union

Rag rages on

To the Gazette:

I find it somewhat amusing (but sad) the amount of coverage and support given the C.U.P.E. strike by the *Gazette*. As usual the weekly rag has found something for which to get on the bandwagon. A close examination of the situation reveals a potpourri of biased and misleading statements from all strike-supporting sources, all attempting to hide the royal "fleeing" the Local has received. Al Cunningham has played Local 1392 for patsies, feeding false information, preventing any real progress in contract negotiations, inflaming the situation further, and not giving the cleaners a chance to vote on the last

Frosh Week '79

Applications are now open for **Orientation Chairperson**. Please apply at the Council offices, 2nd floor SUB.

Anyone interested in the positions of **EDITOR** and **CO-EDITOR**, or keen to work on **advertising** for the '79 handbook, please leave your name and phone number in the Council offices.