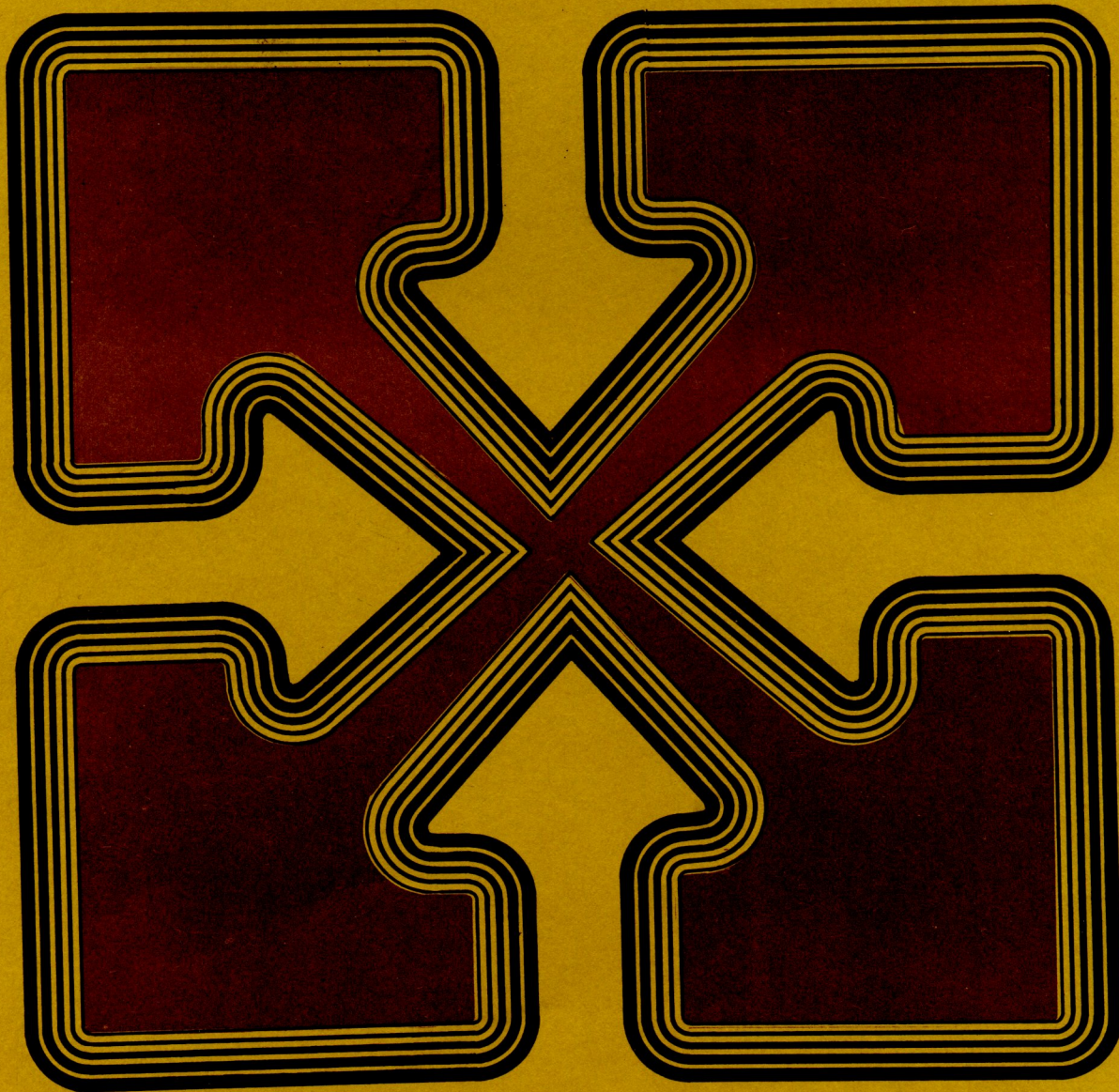


Synthesis

A Review of Events Reported in the Canadian Press



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Auto Pact A Loser**
- **CLC, CUPW Battle**
- **PQ Bows to Hydro**
- **Workplace Health:
Slow Progress**

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<i>Financial Times of Canada</i>	FTC
<i>Financial Post</i>	FP
<i>Globe and Mail</i>	GM
<i>Toronto Star</i>	TS
<i>Winnipeg Free Press</i>	WFP
<i>Edmonton Journal</i>	EJ
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Synthesis

HIGHLIGHTS

Canada has lost \$7.4 billion to the U.S. since the Auto Pact was signed in 1965, and stands to lose another \$10 billion by 1985. A Science Council of Canada report points to the trade deficit as an example of what will happen if unrestricted free trade is allowed between countries of such unequal economic power. The Canadian government is considering reopening negotiations on the terms of the Pact, but one of its authors, Simon Reisman, is opposed to this. See page 9.

The October strike of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers continues to cause dissention within the ranks of organized labour. The Canadian Labour Congress executive has condemned CUPW for defying the federal government's back-to-work legislation. CLC president McDermott justified his stand by accusing CUPW of demanding organized labour's unconditional support for a "suicidal" struggle against the government. CUPW claimed the CLC had sold out the postal workers in their struggle to preserve some of labour's basic rights. The controversy spread across Canada, and it divided the conventions of the provincial labour federations. See page 11.

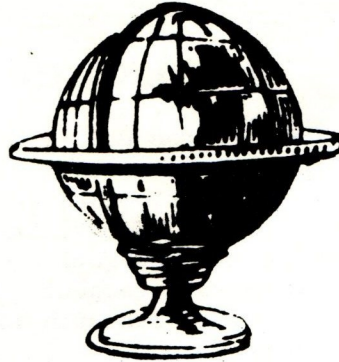
After two years in power, the Parti Quebecois government is trying to steer a course between the expectations of its supporters for progressive change and the power of the corporate sector to maintain the status quo. Bowing to corporate pressure, the PQ went along with wage controls, and has now approved of large hydro rate hikes. See page 18.

Both Ontario and Quebec are introducing legislation on health and safety in the workplace. The growing recognition of the importance of this area is encouraging, as is an increased emphasis on prevention, and a wider definition of work-related disease. However, there is still a long way to go. A basic contradiction that remains is the question of who has the power on the shop floor to decide what is dangerous. The workers say they face the dangers, so should have the right to refuse dangerous work. The bosses say the rate of production is under management control, so widening the workers' power to walk off would threaten this control. Pages 14 and 22.

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CANADA AND THE WORLD



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SOCIALISTS IN VANCOUVER

Sixty-five organizations, representing 80 million democratic socialist votes, came together through the 400 delegates of the Socialist International, which met in Vancouver in early November. For the first time since 1876 the S.I. met outside Western Europe. Present were Mario Soares, Francois Mitterand, Olaf Palme, Willy Brandt and Ed. Broadbent. S.I. President Brandt drew attention to the need for disarmament and to the predicament of the world's poor. Broadbent, the host of the conference, held private meetings with several leaders, and emphasized the need for

equitable economic development as a foundation for peace. He attacked the effect of multinational corporations on development in Canada and in the third world. But European members of the S.I. study group on transnationals were not so critical. One delegate, Luigi Coccioli stated that the problem for the socialists was to turn the corporations into "efficient tools for economic progress and welfare development in the world."

GM 4/11/78 p. 12; EJ 4/11/78 p. A17;
GM 4/11/78 p. 12; EJ 6/11/78 p. A6;
WFP 8/11/78 p. 15 (L.A. Times);
FP 11/11/78 p. 10



OLOF PALME



FRANCOIS MITTERAND



MARIO SOARES



WILLY BRANDT

CANADA AND THE WORLD

GATT TALKS UNSATISFACTORY

Allan MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister, told the House of Commons the Geneva-based GATT talks are far from satisfactory for Canadians trying to gain access to Japanese and European markets. Opposition MPs criticized the government for the lack of progress and the vagueness of the reports on the negotiations. The talks are working to a mid-December deadline.

WFP 31/10/78 p. 14

WHEAT NEGOTIATIONS OFF

The world wheat talks have collapsed, as have parallel negotiations regarding other secondary grains and food aid. Spokespersons from the European Economic Community blamed the intransigent attitude of the United States, which is seeking a package agreement for freeing and regulating both agricultural and industrial trade, and is seeking wider access to world markets for its wheat and other agricultural products. No new date for convening the conference has been set.

GM 25/11/78 p. B4



FOREIGN INVESTMENT

FIRA NO OBSTACLE

A report prepared for the U.S. embassy in Ottawa says that the Foreign Investment Review Agency is no obstacle to U.S. investors in Canada. FIRA routinely approves more than 90 per cent of new investment and takeover proposals. The account notes that Canadian wage rates and average weekly earnings have been declining in real terms for nearly a year, and that unions are striking more often and seeking shorter contract terms in response.

GM 21/11/78 p. B6; WFP 22/11/78

CANADA BANKS ANNOY U.S. BANKERS

The offer of the Bank of Montreal for 89 of the New York Branches of the Banker's Trust company symbolizes the accelerating invasion of the U.S. bankers market by foreign agencies. Bankers Trust wants to drop out of the competitive retail banking business and concentrate on commercial accounts. Foreign banks are virtually immune from U.S. banking rules. This enables them to operate on a slim profit margin not possible for domestic U.S. competitors. British and Hong Kong banks have also been active in the U.S. market.

WFP 13/11/78

THE BAY VIES WITH SEARS FOR SIMPSON'S

The offer by the Hudson's Bay Company of \$388 million (or \$8.27 per share) for Simpson's shares has set back the move to merge Simpson's and Simpson's Sears Ltd. Sears had earlier offered \$6.75 per share for Simpson's stock. The Bay's offer took effect on November 27, with a three-week limit. Meanwhile, Simpson's has proceeded with the merger plans with Sears. A Bay-Simpson's merger

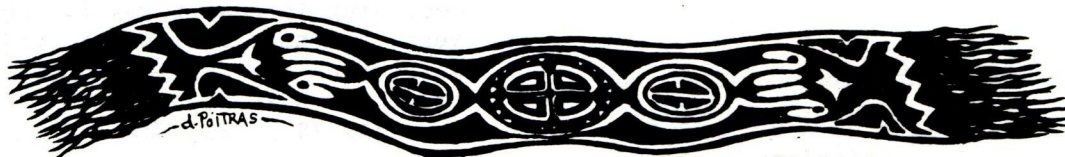
CANADA AND THE WORLD

would give the combined company between 26 and 30 per cent of the Canadian department store market. Simpson's management wants the Sears merger, and is backed by both its banker, the Royal Bank of Canada, and its underwriter, Wood-Gundy. The Bay is allied with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and underwriters Dominion Securities and Richardson Securities of Canada. Rumours

of a tie-in with the Bronfman family in Montreal were denied by Bay officials.

Simpson's hoped the FIRA would rule on the Sears merger before December 15 when the shareholders are to vote on the proposal. Recent statements from Industry Minister Horner make that possibility look unlikely.

FP 25/11/78 p. 1; GM 24/11/78 p. B1



GENERAL

PROFITS OF 154 PUBLICLY OWNED CANADIAN CORPORATIONS

GROUPS SAMPLED	Number of companies sampled	THIRD QUARTER (\$ millions)			Number of companies sampled	NINE MONTHS (\$ millions)		
		1978	1977	% change		1978	1977	% change
Banks	9	235.9	177.7	+32.8	9	664.2	512.5	+29.6
Base Metals	8	26.7	10.8	+147.2	8	53.3	48.1	+10.8
Beverages	2	20.1	14.3	+40.6	2	50.9	39.6	+28.5
Chemicals	5	8.7	4.7	+85.1	5	25.9	22.4	+15.6
Communications	7	11.8	9.5	+24.2	7	40.4	32.5	+24.3
Construction and Materials	4	15.5	12.6	+23.0	4	32.6	32.9	-0.9
Food Processing	7	5.4	5.5	-1.8	7	24.9	19.2	+29.7
General Manufacturing	17	5.4	11.6	—	18	85.5	110.6	-22.7
Gold	1	2.2	1.1	+100.0	1	4.7	5.5	-14.6
Industrial Mines	6	51.4	54.4	-5.5	6	201.8	225.2	-10.4
Merchandising	7	5.4	3.5	+54.3	7	10.3	7.1	+45.1
Miscellaneous Financial	10	8.8	8.2	+7.3	11	27.0	27.6	-2.2
Miscellaneous Industrial	15	104.9	78.5	+33.6	14	305.3	209.6	+45.7
Oil Refining	4	176.0	147.4	+19.4	4	556.2	470.3	+18.3
Paper and Forest	15	150.0	69.0	+117.4	15	352.7	181.5	+94.3
Pipeline	3	30.3	23.6	+28.4	3	104.7	93.8	+11.6
Real Estate	3	7.2	8.5	-15.3	3	17.7	13.4	+32.1
Steel	4	72.5	41.4	+75.1	4	214.4	146.0	+46.8
Transportation	4	5.3	4.3	+23.3	4	10.8	7.2	+50.0
Trust and Loan	10	28.6	25.9	+10.4	10	79.7	65.0	+22.7
Utility	3	108.6	81.7	+32.9	3	289.7	233.1	+24.3
Western Oils	10	106.2	97.2	+9.3	10	325.0	285.0	+14.0
Total	154	1,176.1	891.4	+31.9	155	3,477.7	2,788.1	+25.1

THIRD-QUARTER PROFITS UP 31.9%

A Globe and Mail survey of after-tax profits of 154 major Canadian corporations shows third-quarter profits 31.9 per cent higher than a year ago. Profits for the first nine months of 1978 are 25.1 per cent higher than the first nine months of 1977. A major factor in the profit jump was the fall of the Canadian dollar. Since many export prices are set in American dollars, the companies made windfall exchange profits.

GM 4/11/78 p. B14 Angela Barnes

the contracts had a cost-of-living allowance in this period. In 1976, 45 per cent of contracts contained COLA clauses. In the third quarter of 1978, the 66 one-year contracts show an average wage increase of 6.9 per cent. The 92 two-year agreements had increases averaging 7.8 per cent in the first year and 7 per cent in the second. The 31 three-year agreements had increases averaging 4.5 per cent in the first year, 5 per cent in the second and four per cent in the third.

FP 25/11/78 p. 36; GM 16/11/78
W. Chevedayoff

WAGE CONTRACTS AVERAGE 6.8%

Major labour contracts signed in the third quarter of 1978 provided for average wage increases of 6.8 per cent. The contracts surveyed were for bargaining units of 500 or more employees. Only about one fifth of

CNSP NOTE: *These contracts were signed by large bargaining units. If "big labour" cannot protect its members from inflation, then the plight of unorganized workers, who could not even negotiate for increases of 6.8 per cent, must be a lot worse.*

THE ECONOMY



Income distribution for families and unattached individuals

	Lowest Quintile	Second Quintile	Middle Quintile	Fourth Quintile	Highest Quintile
	percentage share of total income				
1965	4.4	11.8	18.0	24.5	41.4
1971	3.6	10.6	17.6	24.9	43.3
1976	4.1	10.4	17.3	24.8	43.4
1977	3.9	10.8	18.0	25.7	41.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Income Distributions by Size in Canada, Preliminary Estimates, 1977, and calculations supplied by Statistics Canada officials. A quintile is a fifth of the population. The lowest quintile includes all families and unattached individuals who earned less than \$6,000 in 1977. The second quintile includes those who earned between \$6,000 and \$11,924, the third between \$11,924 and \$17,884, the fourth between \$17,884 and \$25,376, and the highest quintile those who earned more than \$25,376.

INCOME GAP WIDENING

The above chart shows a gradual shift in income distribution between 1965 and 1977 from the poor to the rich. The poorest fifth of the population now earns 3.9 per cent of total pre-tax income, while the top fifth takes 41.6 per cent. In 1977 there were 712,000 families and an additional 779,000 unattached individuals living below the poverty line.

GM 22/11/78 p. B6 Wayne Cheveldayoff

AIB WANTS LOWER INCOME

The AIB's third annual report says high interest rates and a sluggish economy have helped to fight inflation, and will continue to do so after the end of wage controls. Of course, the board admits, they also cause higher unemployment. At the same time that labour costs are lower, prices--especially food prices--are higher because of the fall of the dollar.

GM 7/11/78 p. B2

CNSP NOTE: James Nininger of the Conference Board in Canada says, "We've had a steady reduction in real income over the past five quarters and inflation has pretty well stayed where it was." FTC 13/11/78 p. 30 This means that the working class of Canada has been subsidizing corporate profit increases like those of the past year. Not only is there a long-term trend away from income redistribution, but the past couple of years have seen a worsening of this trend. In the name of the fight against inflation workers have seen steady decline in wage settlements, increased unemployment, higher food prices and welfare and UIC cutbacks. Meanwhile, because profits are still high, inflation continues.

OIL AND GAS

INTRODUCTION: AGTL President Robert Blair told the National Energy Board that he too favours short-term exports of gas to the U.S. PetroCan has completed what may become the largest corporate takeover in Canadian history--gaining controlling interest in Pacific Petroleum. The deal puts the Crown-owned company into the top five in the country. Meanwhile, the bankrupt Shaheen oil refinery, a continuing embarrassment to the Newfoundland government, has been sold to Middle East interests. Tax concessions in the new federal budget are likely to keep investors in oil and gas happy and exploration booming.

THE ECONOMY



day of gas to the U.S. by next spring. The reasons; our sagging dollar and balance of payments deficit. The irony, the Post notes, is that Canadian exports will come on stream when the U.S. gas market is glutted and prices are low. However, California and the Pacific Northwest are still short of gas and are looking to Alberta for assured future supplies. Harry Lepape, President of Pacific Lighting, a major Californian utility, says, "Unless there is a tremendous amount of gas found in the U.S. there will be room for gas from all other sources, including Canada and Mexico." GM 7/11/78 p. B8; WFP 2/11/78 p. 21 OC 3/11/78 p. 3

AGTL ENDORSES GAS EXPORTS

Alberta Gas Trunk Line President Robert Blair told the National Energy Board's natural gas supply hearings that exports of gas to the U.S. should go ahead. Blair proposed a maximum initial term of six years, with a possible extra six year extension. AGTL currently is involved in two projects which include gas export provisions--the Q and M extension to the east coast and the pre-building of the southern portions of the Alcan gas pipeline. Blair also told the NEB that Foothills--backer of the Alcan line--is preparing an application for the Dempster lateral line to bring Mackenzie Delta gas into the Alcan network. The plan is that 800 million cubic feet of gas will eventually flow each day from the Delta.

GM 16/11/78 p. B5

THE U.S. GAS DEMAND

Projected natural gas supplies in the U.S. will exceed expected demands this winter according to energy officials in that country. George Lawrence, President of the American Gas Association, says gas producers now have "plenty of gas to sell nation-wide." However, according to an article in the Washington Post, Canada may export up to one billion cubic feet a

PETROCAN TAKES OVER PACIFIC PETROLEUM

PetroCanada, the state-owned oil company, has bought controlling interest in Pacific Petroleum from the latter's U.S.-based parent company Phillips Petroleum. PetroCan paid \$671 million for a 48.3 per cent interest and offered a similar price per share to minority stockholders. That could bring the total deal to \$1.4 billion--the largest acquisition in Canadian corporate history. According to Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie the purchase will give PetroCan "financial muscle" to compete and influence other industry decisions. In 1976, Pacific Pete was fourth in production of natural gas, ninth in production of oil and fifth overall. The deal also gives PetroCan refining capacity, gasoline retail outlets, heavy oil pro-



THE ECONOMY

duction and a 33 per cent stake in Westcoast Transmission. Westcoast and AGTL are members of the Alcan group. The takeover is intended to provide PetroCan with cash flow to pursue the expensive exploration in frontier areas which private oil companies refuse to touch. Cash could also be directed towards the company's scheme to ship liquified natural gas by tanker from the Arctic or to help finance the proposed Q and M pipeline extension to the east coast.

GM 22/11/78 p. 2; FP 18/11/78 pp 1, 4; FP 25/11/78 p. 7.

CNSP NOTE: The acquisition of 33 per cent of Westcoast Transmission puts PetroCan into partnership with Robert Blair's AGTL in three gas transportation schemes: the Q and M pipeline, the Arctic LNG project and now the Alcan pipeline.

COME-BY-CHANCE REFINERY SOLD

The 100,000 barrel/day refinery at Come-by-Chance, Newfoundland has been purchased by First Arabian Corporation, a consortium of Saudi Arabian and other Middle East investors. The refinery, originally owned by New York

financier John Shaheen went bankrupt two years ago with debts of \$600 million to outstanding creditors. First Arabian's offer of \$219 million was contested by Shaheen, but his bid was apparently rejected by the Toronto-based receiver Peat Marwick and Co. The Newfoundland government has a loan of over \$65 million outstanding with the refinery.

GM 1/11/78 p. B1; 21/11/78 p. B13.

BUDGET BOOSTS DRILLING INVESTORS

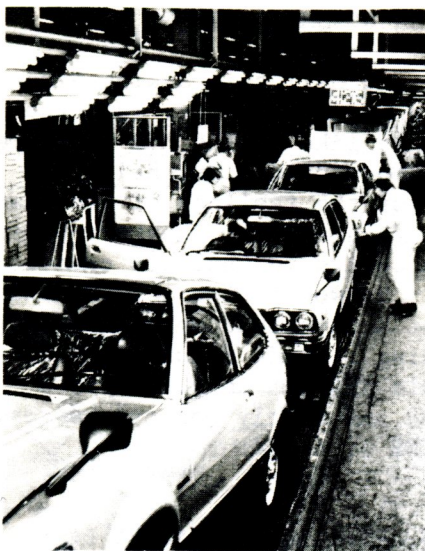
The new federal budget is expected to boost new petroleum exploration and increase rates of recovery in existing wells. Operators will be able to charge as capital expenditures the costs of treating oil and gas wells to increase productivity. Risk capital for drilling ventures currently has a 100 per cent write off in the form of tax credits for investors. Oil sands and heavy oil development will also qualify for full write-off of investment in hardware. The special treatment of frontier ventures in the Beaufort Sea will continue to earn the so-called "super" depletion allowance of 200 per cent until March, 1980.

GM 18/11/78 p. B14

MANUFACTURING

INTRODUCTION: Controversy over the Auto Pact has prompted a number of studies and recommendations. Three appeared in the press. The chairperson of the Science Council Of Canada, J.J. Shepherd, summarized the weak state of Canada's auto industry under the Pact. A U.S. report prepared by Data Resources Ltd. of Toronto and Lexington, Mass. also criticized the Auto Pact as detrimental to Canada. Thirdly, Simon Reisman, former deputy finance minister and one of the chief architects of the Auto Pact was asked to report on it by the federal government. His suggestions and commentary are also summarized in this issue of Synthesis.

THE ECONOMY



SLAM THE BRAKES ON AUTO PACT?

The auto industry is the largest single component in Canadian manufacturing. It accounts for about 10 per cent of Canada's manufacturing output, 78.5 per cent of end-products exports, and 52.7 per cent of end-products imports.

Since 1965 the industry has operated under the Auto Pact. The overriding aims of the Pact were the resolution of Canada's auto trade deficit problem and the gaining of a fair share of work for Canadians in the growing auto industry. The Auto Pact is a vivid example of what one might expect from a major bilateral agreement, a kind of proving-ground for what happens in a free-trade environment shared by partners of vastly unequal size and strength.

Trade has grown and Canada has enjoyed some of that growth. However, the early optimism about Canada getting its fair share of that growth has not materialized. At the end of 1977 the accumulated deficit in auto trade stood at \$7.4 billion, and this deficit will probably grow.

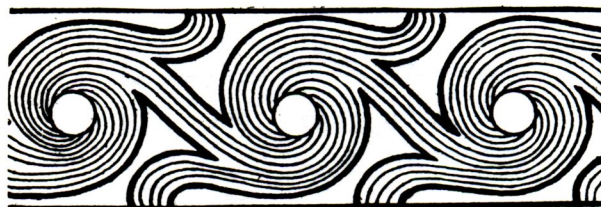
Employment has grown, but not on a fair-share basis. Although the Canadian retail market was 11 per cent of the North American auto business, employment in Canada totalled only 9.1 per cent of the North American work force. In the U.S., skilled labour accounts for eight per cent of the workforce in

assembly plants. In Canada, the figure is two per cent. For semi-skilled categories the level is 43 per cent in the U.S. and 23 per cent in Canadian branch plants. It is in the parts sector where the percentage of skilled workers is as high in Canada as in the U.S., and it is in this area where the Canadian deficit is greatest.

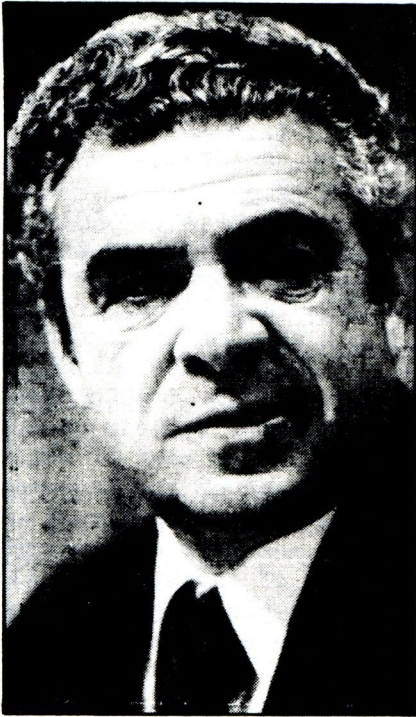
General Motors of Canada has 8.3 per cent of GM's global vehicle production, 4.2 per cent of employment and only three per cent of overall GM investment in new plant. Ford of Canada, with 13.1 per cent of vehicle production, has only 3.5 per cent of employees and 6.6 per cent of the investment. Chrysler Canada rates 10 per cent of production, 6.5 per cent of employment and six per cent of investment. All these Canadian companies generate a much higher return on investment than the global average of their parent corporations. All these features are classic symptoms of free trade in action as opposed to theory. It is precisely these circumstances which force Canada into financing more branch plants in a desperate attempt to slow its rate of relative decline.
GM 21/11/78 p. 7, J.J. Shepherd.

DEFICIT TO RISE BY \$10 BILLION BY 1985

The U.S. study showed that Canada's auto trade deficit with the U.S. has surpassed \$1 billion in each of the past five years. It also indicates that the two-way trade in autos will rocket to \$57 billion in 1985 from an estimated \$21 billion this year. But at the same time, Canada's auto trade deficit will rise by a further \$10 billion. FP 18/11/78 p. 10, R. Worth.



THE ECONOMY



Simon Reisman:

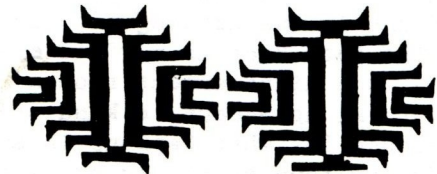
REISMAN'S REPORT

Former deputy finance minister and now private economics consultant Simon Reisman was appointed in June by the federal government to inquire into the state of the auto industry. In his report, Reisman said he is not in favour of re-opening the Auto Pact (which he helped design) because the U.S. is too preoccupied with higher priority international and internal matters to consider renegotiating the agreement. GM 24/11/78 p. B1, K. Romain.

COMMENTS ON REISMAN'S STUDY

The Globe and Mail said asking Simon Reisman to head an inquiry into the Auto Pact is like asking him to write his own report card. Mr. Reisman's concerns for the feelings of Americans cause him to note that they are worried by sudden shifts in Canada's commercial policies. He would have the Canadian government remove this uncertainty by providing a trade insurance program which would protect investors from unexpected and costly policy changes. GM 24/11/78 p. 6, ed.

Patrick J. Lavelle, president of the Auto Parts Manufacturers' Association of Canada, said Reisman's perception of Canada is apparently much the same as it was 13 years ago. He still has a "mid-50s perception that market forces will lead the way to equality regardless of other uncontrollable distortions in the market place." WFP 15/11/78 p. 15, (CP).



GENERAL



EJ 9/11/78 p. A2 "I noticed the line move up a little."

OFL CONVENTION BACKS CLC

Dennis McDermott, president of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), was met with a mix of boos and applause when he spoke to the 1500 delegates of the Ontario Federation of Labour at their annual convention. Members of the postal workers' union, CUPW, and others who were angered by the lack of CLC support for the posties' defiance of the back-to-work legislation tried to prevent McDermott from speaking. McDermott called for a "new phase of political maturity" from the labour movement. He said the CLC had urged the postal workers' union not to defy the legislation which they saw as a suicidal confrontation with the government. Paul Heffernan, chairperson of the postal workers Toronto strike committee, tried to ask McDermott a question but was not allowed to do so.

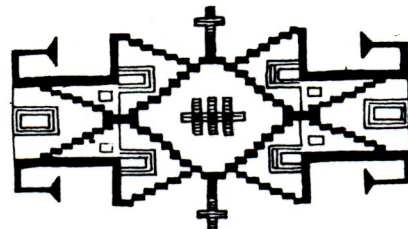
The seventy member council of the Ontario Federation of Labour which represents 800,000 workers in Ontario, had earlier endorsed (with one dissenting vote) the position of the CLC during the postal strike. The motion it presented to the delegates also condemned the federal government for

passing the back-to-work legislation, supported the postal workers' fight for a just settlement and demanded the dropping of all charges against leaders of the postal workers union. The convention also sent telegrams of protest to the Prime Minister, Solicitor-General and the commissioner of the RCMP. Twelve workers from the CUPW national office were visited in their homes and questioned by the RCMP.

The convention also resolved to press for revisions of the Ontario Labour Relations Act to include three vital areas: the difficulties for a new union in achieving its first collective bargaining agreement; the use of strike breakers and police to end a strike; and the "punitive, costly and highly ineffective grievance arbitration" now used. Desired revisions would increase the power and responsibility of the Ontario Labour Relations Board to enforce remedies against breaches of the act and lack of bargaining in good faith. They would also ensure mandatory dues check-offs for all unions.

Delegates at the convention also passed a resolution urging Attorney-General Roy McMurtry to act on a request by Metro Council in Toronto making it difficult for licenced lounges to use topless waitresses. They also endorsed the petition of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association calling on the federal government to prosecute Mounties for illegal mail opening and to provide information to provincial attorney generals with evidence of violations of the Criminal Code.

GM 13/11/78 p. 5; WFP 15/11/78 p. 53;
GM 15/11/78 p. 1; 15/11/78 p. 4;
GM 16/11/78 p. 22



LABOUR

B.C. FED. BACKS CUPW

The B.C. Federation of Labour backed CUPW last month in its defiance of the back-to-work legislation. At the annual convention the executive report commended the postal workers for showing "courage and determination" in the face of a "powerful, arrogant and dangerous government." Consequently many of the eight hundred delegates of the 250,000 membership federation greeted Dennis McDermott with boos when he spoke to them and justified the CLC lack of support for the postal workers' defiance of the law.

GM 22/11/78 p. 8; GM 21/11/78 p. 9.

INTERNATIONAL UNIONS BLOCK INDEPENDENTS

The Ontario Labour Relations Board has ruled that international building trades unions may arrange with general contractors to block out independent unions from construction projects. An agreement between the Metropolitan Toronto Apartment Builders Assoc. (MTABA) and the Toronto Building and Construction Trades Council requires that all sub-contracted masonry work be given to firms which have collective agreements with countil-affiliated unions. This is a blow to the Masonary Contractors Assoc. which holds contracts with the Bricklayers, Masons Independent Union of Canada, an independent union. The board ruled that the arrangement did not violate any provisions in Labour Relations Act, so was beyond its jurisdiction.

GM 21/11/78 p. 4.

MARITIME FISHERMEN UNIONIZING

The Maritime Fishermen's Union, with e funds from the CLC, is making a new effort to organize 10,000 Nova Scotia fishermen. In Newfoundland and British-Columbia fishermen have the right to collectively bargain, but those in the Maritimes do not. Requests to gain provincial recognition of fishermen's legislation to recognize fishermen's unions will be made soon. The MFU is directing its efforts towards inshore fishermen who stand to lose from the possible new developments in offshore fishing growth. Two years ago the



Nova Scotia government made a gift of \$50,000 for the starting of the Nova Scotia Fishermen's Assoc. However the fishermen were suspicious of an association which had a 'government-sponsored' label.

GM 18/11/78 p. 16.

HOSTILE EMPLOYERS TO BLAME FOR LABOUR CONFLICTS

The hostility of Canadian employers to trade unionism explains the high rate of labour/management conflicts, according to a paper prepared for the employment branch of Labour Canada. The paper, prepared by George Sayers Bain, director of the Industrial Relations Research Unit at the University of Warwick in Coventry, England, said that the interests of unorganized workers are best promoted by promotion of union organizing. It also states that unions would be more responsive to improving industrial relations if they were granted greater legitimacy and institutional security.

GM 22/11/78 p. 2.

LABOUR

CANADIAN WAGES FALL

Economists expect wage and salary increases to continue to be smaller than price increases at least until mid-1979. For the first time in three years Canadian manufacturing labour costs have fallen below those of the United States. In June of this year Canadian producers were paying 8.7 per cent less than their competitors to the south for labour costs.

As Canadian workers continue to lose ground in wages the government continues to enforce wage rollbacks recommended by the Anti-Inflation Board. In the Board's 1977 annual report, just released, employees are condemned for trying to resist rollbacks. The board has ordered the recovery of \$6.7 million paid to employees before its rulings made pay increases illegal.

OC 10/11/78 p. 9; FP 11/11/78 p. 1; EJ 9/11/78 p. A6.

WORKERS' STRUGGLES

AUTOWORKERS ORDERED BACK TO WORK BY UNION

The international executive board of the United Auto Workers (UAW) terminated the 15-week strike against de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. On strike were 2,700 production and skilled trades workers, who are members of the same bargaining unit even though they have different locals. The order overturned a veto

exercised by members of the trades group who had rejected the settlement terms accepted by the production workers. The three-year contract included an increase of four per cent in the first year and three per cent in each of the two succeeding years, as well as continuation of a cost-of-living escalator.

GM 2/11/78 p. 1 W. List.

VANCOUVER DAILIES ON STRIKE

Workers at the two Vancouver daily papers walked out November 1 over the same dispute that shut down New York City papers for three months. The major dispute is over attempts by the management of The Province and The Vancouver Sun to buy back control of the staffing in the press and mailing rooms. Management says it needs this control to be more flexible and competitive against suburban newspapers. It says it can eliminate 100 shifts per month, reducing staff by attrition. Union spokespersons say staffing control is their bargaining muscle, and accuse the papers of union-busting.

Three of the six unions at the papers are on strike, and the others are locked out. Those on strike are the Newspaper Guild, the Printing Pressmen's Union and the Vancouver Mailers' Union. There are 1,400 workers off the job.

Shortly after the strike began, the unions had the first edition of The Express on the streets. It is printed three times a week, and was started quickly as a morale-booster, and to help sustain the strikers, particularly the pressmen and mailers. Their funds were depleted by long strikes at other papers in Canada and by the



LABOUR

recent three-month shutdown in New York.

The Sun and The Province share a building and equipment owned by Pacific Press Ltd., which is jointly owned by rival chains FP Publications Ltd. (which owns The Sun) and Southam Press Ltd. (which owns The Province).

GM 18/11/78 p. 11; R. Williamson.

QUEBEC LABOUR

COMMONWEALTH PLYWOOD STRIKE ENDS

After 423 days of strike, marked by violence, unfavourable injunctions and fruitless talk at all levels, the workers of Commonwealth Plywood at Ste-Therese obtained official recognition of their union. A letter of understanding signed by the CNTU affiliate, the company, and Local 388 of the International Woodworkers of America was inspired by the mediation report of June 6. It gives accreditation to the CNTU affiliate, the Union of Commonwealth Plywood Workers and ends most of the suits begun by the Company against the union.

Most significantly, it provides for the appointment by the Minister of Labour, Pierre-Marc Johnson, of an arbitrator who will be responsible for drawing up an employees' seniority list and a collective agreement for a one year period. The question of seniority is important since the company now is offering only 90 jobs instead of the previous 156.

In addition, the company is going ahead with its suit against the CNTU and some of its leaders for \$3 million in damages, as well as some criminal charges against the strikers.

LD 18/11/78 p. 3, A. Tardif.

CNSP NOTE: See also *Synthesis*, Vol. 6 No. 7, p. 17

QFL WINS CONSTRUCTION ELECTIONS

The Quebec Federation of Labour retains the affiliation of an absolute majority of construction workers following a vote held in November. Out of a total of 99,856 eligible workers, 14,404 voted. The QFL will represent 68,227 workers - 68 per cent of the industry. The Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU) will represent 24,108 workers, 24 per cent of the total. The Democratic Trade Union Central, despite a costly recruiting drive, will represent seven per cent of construction workers.

LD 15/11/78 p. 3; Andre Tardif.

WAR BETWEEN JOHNSON AND ELGIE

Robert Elgie, Ontario's Minister of Labour, has introduced a bill which will prevent Quebec construction workers from circulating freely in Ontario. The bill is a response to Quebec's own zoning regulations, which were set up as a result of the Cliche Commission's recommendations aimed at regulating Quebec's construction industry. There is one Ontario worker in Quebec for every five Quebec workers in Ontario. Discussions between Elgie and Quebec's Pierre-Marc Johnson continue.

LD 13/11/78 p. 7, Patricia Dumas.

WHITE PAPER ON JOB HEALTH AND SAFETY

Two major Quebec trade union centrals have reacted strongly to the recently presented White Paper on Job Health and Safety. The two centrals took opposite stands: the CNTU "declaring open war" and the QFL overwhelmingly endorsing the major themes of the document.



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Syndicats Nationaux**

Nonetheless, both centrals had a number of critical demands not addressed by the White Paper:

- elimination of dangers at the source,
- the right of trade unions to investigate,
- the collective right of workers to stop or refuse a job believed to be dangerous,
- full remuneration for victims of job accidents or illnesses,
- workers' choice of company doctor,
- elimination of all sanctions against those who respect the mechanisms provided in the bill.

Both centrals attacked the White Paper's definition of "imminent danger", which is the criterion for justifying a work stoppage. QFL workers decided the definition should be changed to "sufficient danger to justify work stoppage".

In the hope of dispelling growing criticisms of the bill, Quebec's Minister for Social Development, Pierre Marois, announced several amendments or "clarifications".

- the right of a worker who downs tools to be represented by a trade union member,
- the employer will not be able to make other workers do the same job while there is still a question over its safety.
- if there is opposition to the company doctor by either side of the joint committee (employer and employee representatives), it would be "unwise to keep him/her".
- the right of workers to information includes their right to investigate on the spot, do the research, or take any necessary sample,
- only trade unions would have the right to name representatives to

sectoral committees, no matter how few workers in a given sector are unionized.

- assistance under present legislation given to unions for membership health and safety education would continue, as would all other legislation currently in force until the new re-organization is completed.

Some unclear areas remain. These include the method of nominating trade union representatives to the provincial Workplace Health and Safety Commission; whether the right to investigate or do research would be in the hands of the union or the joint committee; and, finally, safety concerns particular to the construction industry.

The parliamentary committee on the bill will start at the end of January. LD 17/11/78 p. 9; 20/11/78 p. 7; 22/11/78 p. 7, Gilles Provost.

AGREEMENT AT MODERN PLYWOOD

Modern Plywood has just signed its first collective agreement after nine months of conflict. The company rehired 18 previously dismissed unionists after having offered them \$10,000. to leave freely. The Democratic Trade Union Central considered it a great victory. The factory had shut down for a month and all the workers threatened with losing their jobs. LD 10/11/78 p. 9.



since there are really no changes in the top Cabinet jobs dealing with the economy. In particular, Trudeau failed to replace Industry Minister Jack Horner with someone much more concerned about developing strong Canadian-controlled industries. The new board of economic development ministers is supposed to boost industrial growth. In his new Cabinet it is true Trudeau has strengthened those who want to promote Canadian-owned industry. Martin O'Connell is known as one of the Liberal Party's strongest advocates of an industrial strategy based on Canadian ownership and control. But it's hard to see how the new board, like the new Cabinet, will be effective unless there is a change in Ottawa's thinking as well. But since such a change would mean a betrayal of the Liberals' constituency, the corporations, this won't happen.



government waste and bungling, this year's focus on "value for money" was a landmark in the department's centennial year. In addition to determining whether Government spending is carried out as authorized by Parliament, the new Auditor-General Act implemented last year requires Mr. Macdonell to report whether the money was spent with due regard for economy and efficiency, and whether departments were trying to measure the effectiveness of their programs.

Macdonell estimates civil service efficiency at 65 per cent. He calculates that bringing the efficiency level up even to 80 per cent for 10,000 government workers would save \$30 million a year. Yet the government keeps an efficiency check on less than 40 per cent of its 425,000 employees -- and most of the methods it uses for measuring efficiency are unsatisfactory.

Macdonell said that some of the top civil servants are underpaid; that the government should pay them better if they do a good job and "fire them if they don't."

But Macdonell doesn't blame individual government workers or managers. The entire system has gone awry, he says. Managers have been overwhelmed by the 487 per cent increase in government spending over the past 15 years. They've had no time to make sure that the taxpayer was getting value for money, according to the Auditor-General. He concludes that the fat years of expansion also created an attitude that the public purse was bottomless.

Macdonell offers encouragement in that he finds the situation changing for the better. New discipline is being applied under Comptroller-General Harry Rogers and government departments are being made more accountable.

GM 24/11/78 p. 1; GM 25/11/78 p. 6.

VALUE FOR MONEY?

Auditor-General J.J. Macdonell delivered in November his annual report on government spending. In the 1977-78 fiscal year Ottawa spent \$43 billion. Departing from previous reports, which have chronicled "horror stories" of



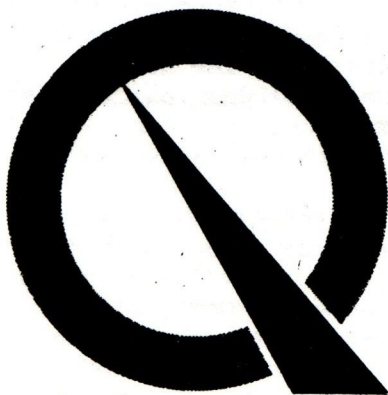
POLITICAL

QUEBEC

INTRODUCTION: *In a series of articles appearing in Le Devoir Political Science Professor Jean-Marc Piotte of the University of Quebec at Montreal analysed the political pressures and economic restraints which have determined Parti Quebecois policy in the last two years.*

THE PQ AND PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS

On the one hand there is a militant labour movement, especially in the public sector, whose support the PQ is anxious to maintain. On the other hand, the owners of private business wish to see governments "restrain" the demands of the workers. While they can count on the economy itself (high unemployment, layoffs and closures) to weaken the bargaining position of private sector workers, business wants the state to undermine the demands of public sector workers. In the early seventies, public sector workers' gains set the pace for private sector bargaining. Now that wage controls have been removed, governments are continuing the attack against workers by reintroducing discussions aimed at removing the right to strike from the public sector or severely restricting its use through back-to-work legislation, injunctions, etc.



PARTI QUEBECOIS EMBLEM

Early in its career the PQ showed itself sensitive to the power of workers organized in the Common Front by honouring negotiated settlements that exceeded guidelines established by Premier Bourassa's Bill 64. At the same time, however, it went along with the federal government's wage control plan. Instead of "civilizing capital," as Premier Levesque promised while in opposition, the PQ has sought to "discipline" the Quebec work force. At the same time, it tries to maintain its progressive image. LD 13/11/78 p. 5, 14/11/78 p. 5, 15/11/78 p. 1.

QUEBEC HYDRO SEEKS RATE INCREASE

Hydro President Robert Boyd appeared before the parliamentary committee examining rate increases to argue for hikes totalling 42 per cent over the next three years. He argued that in order to limit Hydro's borrowing requirements to \$2 billion a year, a figure its financial advisors set as the realistic upper limit, rate increases of this magnitude would have to be granted.

Quebec's Energy Minister, Guy Joron, stated the government would not automatically ratify Hydro's demand, but would seek at least to reduce it a little.

LD 28/9/78 p. 1, 29/9/78 p. 1.

A Le Devoir editorial said Hydro had tried to sweeten the pill by assuring Quebecers the worst is over. However, judging by the latest request, the

worst is yet to come, the paper added. It continued by pointing to the reaction of Nova Scotia voters to rising energy costs, and said the PQ could suffer the same fate as the recently-defeated Nova Scotia Liberals. LD 29/9/78 p. 4, ed.

INCREASE SET AT 38%

Hydro finally settled for increases of at least 38 per cent in the next three years. Homeowners and small consumers (who represent about 50 per cent of Hydro's sales) will see their rates increase by 10 per cent per year. The industrial users' rate is higher. Mr. Joron explained the government could not reduce the rate increases any further without jeopardizing the present construction schedule at James Bay, which calls for an investment of \$8.7 billion over the next three years. Rate increases will finance 32 per cent of this investment, while the rest will be borrowed. LD 8/11/78 p. 1.

CNSP NOTE: The PQ's handling of both its labour relations and the Hydro rate hikes reveals similar contradictions. On the labour front, the PQ is anxious to maintain its progressive image, but must bend to the demands of the corporate sector. Similarly, rate increases are politically unpopular, but the government doesn't have the will to challenge the giant Quebec Hydro and its New York financial backers.

THE LANGUAGE OF BUSINESS

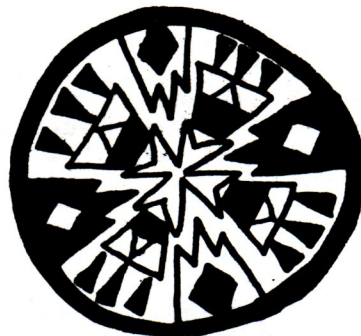
Two hundred and eighty-eight businesses in Quebec fall into the category of "largest corporations; those employing 500 workers or more." These must implement a Francization program by 1981. Two hundred and sixty-three businesses have received temporary francization certificates. In order to apply for the permanent certificate a company must complete a 22-page Linguistic

Analysis of the Enterprise. This document calls for 1000 pieces of information on the status and use of French throughout the corporation.

There are 2,500 businesses in the middle category of 100-499 employees. Their deadlines for obtaining permanent certificates range from October 1981 to December 1983. They must also complete the Linguistic Analysis.

The 6,000 to 8,000 companies with between 50 and 99 employees will likely complete a simpler version of the analysis. Their deadline is also December 1983. Companies with fewer than 50 workers are not covered by the language of business sections of the French Language Charter (formerly Bill 101).

Manon Vennat, executive director of the Business Linguistic Centre, expects the change to French to be "very, very slow." About 80 per cent of executives are unilingual English, and a basic tenet of the program is that no jobs will be lost because of inability to speak French. The Centre was formed in 1972 to help private concerns in Quebec "deal effectively with linguistic issues." It began with 40 companies, but has grown to include 110 businesses under the impact of Bills 22 and 101. Such huge corporations as GM, IBM, Texaco, Dominion and the Bank of Montreal are members. Each member pays annual dues of between \$1,200 and \$2,500. FTC 13/11/78 p. 25.



POLITICAL

POLICE

CABINET KNEW, SAY HIGGITT AND STARNES

Former RCMP Commissioner William Higgitt and former Director-General of the RCMP Security Service, John Starnes, testified in November at the McDonald inquiry into RCMP law-breaking. Higgitt produced appointment books showing his meeting with Cabinet ministers, many dealing with national security matters. The notes do not refer to the 1972 break-in at the Montreal offices of the Agence de Presse Libre. However, Higgitt says he discussed the matter with the then Solicitor-General, Jean-Pierre Goyer. Starnes also testified Goyer was told of the break-in. Higgitt says he tried to arrange weekly meetings with the various Solicitors-General between 1969 and 1973 to keep his "political masters" informed. Higgitt has identified five secret documents which would support his claim that Solicitors-General knew of RCMP lawbreaking.

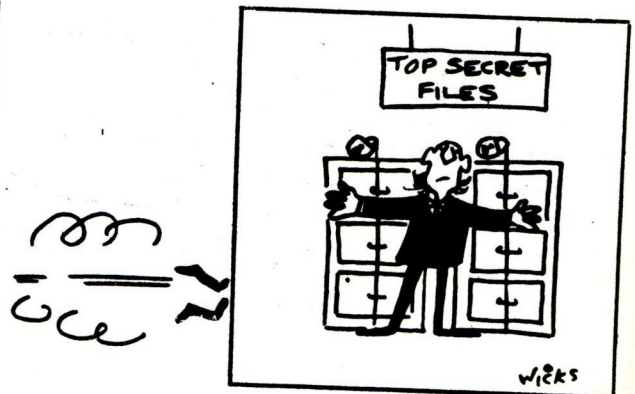
Higgitt revealed that former Solicitor-General Warren Allmand knew the mounties were opening mail, even though he signed a letter saying this was not an RCMP "practice". Letters were "often" drafted by the RCMP and signed by the minister stating something other than the truth. Higgitt says the "transgressions of the law (were) acceptable...during times of urgency." The government leaned

hard on the RCMP to produce results during the October crisis of 1970. Higgitt says Cabinet ministers received reports discussing RCMP illegal operations.

Starnes also indicated lawbreaking was an "inevitable" part of RCMP duties. He said any minister who had read the 1969 report of the Royal Commission on the RCMP "would have to be an idiot" not to realize the problem existed. He said the government made very specific requests to the Security Service for documentary evidence "which involved and could only involve surreptitious entry." Starnes said he was concerned that RCMP officers were forced to face charges for illegal acts, and he raised the issue with Cabinet ministers in 1970.

Starnes issued orders in 1972 to Branch Directors of the RCMP to become "far more rigorous in their approach to disruptive activity". He said he discussed the disruptive tactics approach with the Cabinet Committee on Security and Intelligence. Discussions with that committee never resolved the issue, says Starnes.

OC 31/10/78 p. 40; GM 1/11/78 p. 1; EJ 3/11/78 p. 12; OC 2/11/78 p. 9; EJ 2/11/78 p. A6; WFP 1/11/78 p. 21; GM 2/11/78 p. 1; OC 3/11/78 p. 9; OC 7/11/78 p. 9; WFP 8/11/78 p. 35; GM 9/11/78 p. 11.



COURT LIMITS KEABLE: NO LIMITS FOR FEDS.

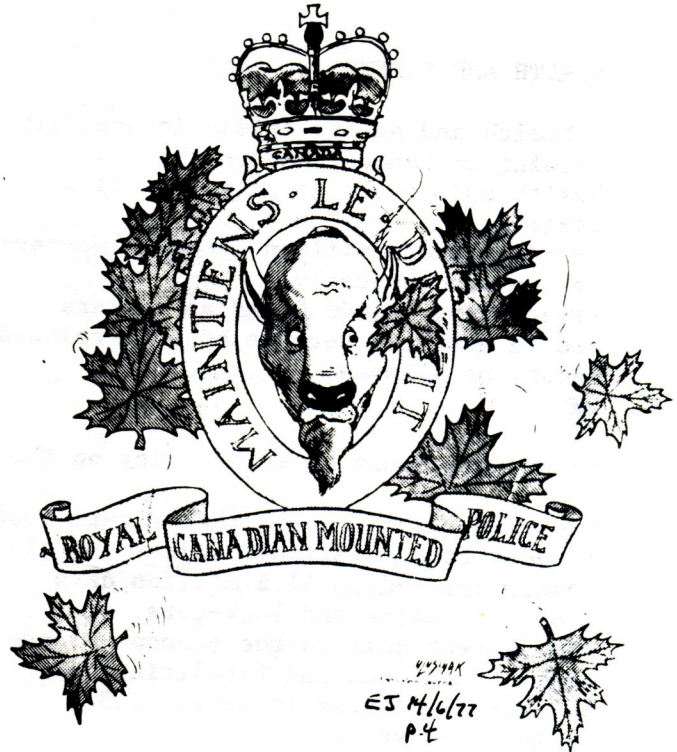
The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Quebec's Keable Inquiry cannot investigate the RCMP. The court ruled the inquiry may open in eight months to pursue a limited investigation into alleged mountie wrongdoing. It said provincial commissions can look into individual mounties' involvement in allegedly criminal acts, but have no constitutional power to investigate the RCMP as a whole.

A Globe and Mail editorial criticized the restrictions, considering the federal government's broad and vaguely worded legislation used to discourage those seeking to break through the barriers of secrecy. This legislation includes:

- The Official Secrets Act, which allows government officials to make confidential any document they wish and then prosecute anyone for having or releasing it without permission,
- the Federal Court Act, which allows the government to obtain a court order prohibiting disclosure of documents by certifying they would reveal confidential Cabinet information or would be harmful to international or federal-provincial relations or national defence,
- the constitutional principle that provinces cannot subpoena Cabinet ministers to testify or to produce documents because the ministers represent the Crown and no one can force the Crown to do anything.

Considering the endless list of RCMP illegalities, evidence of Cabinet knowledge of wrongdoing, the government's resistance to providing the McDonald Commission with needed information and the existence and use of legislation giving unwarranted power to the government, there can be no sense of security even in the rule of law. There is only crime and cover-up.

OC 31/10/78 p. 1; GM 1/11/78 p. 6.



RCMP USED OHIP TO NAIL "EXTREMISTS"

Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) employees testified to the McDonald Commission that OHIP records were used to assist the RCMP in locating foreign agents and political extremists. The RCMP used OHIP records to get addresses when only names were available. OHIP's claims manager in Thunder Bay testified that an RCMP officer tried to locate people for reasons of "national security" because they had "political beliefs that could be detrimental to the country."

GM 2/11/78 p. 7; OC 2/11/78 p. 11.



POLITICAL

HEALTH

HEALTH AND SAFETY IN CANADA

A health and safety crisis is steadily growing in Canada, and on-the-job health and safety is in an appalling state:

-More than one million Canadian workers are injured annually.

-Every day, 14,000 Canadian workers are in hospital because of work-related injury or illness.

-8

-Every six hours, a worker dies on the job.

-In 1976, 13 million workdays were lost because of occupational injury and disease, compared to 11.6 million days lost to strikes and lock-outs.

-The direct cost to the economy of on-the-job injuries and fatalities and industrial illness is about \$1.5 billion per year.

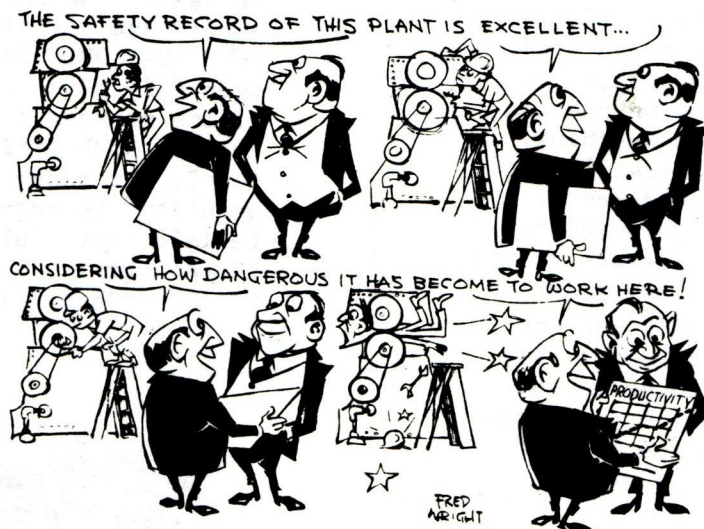
The crisis is larger than official government statistics indicate--employment-related illness and disease statistics are either non-existent or so lacking in detail that various diseases and illnesses go virtually unrecognized.

ONTARIO PUBLIC SECTOR NOT COVERED

Ontario's current legislation, the Employees' Health and Safety Act of 1976 does not offer protection to one million workers; municipal employees, firefighters, agricultural workers, teachers, police officers and health-care workers. Labour groups are calling for an Omnibus Bill that would

- cover all workers, both organized and unorganized,
- emphasize prevention,
- give workers and unions access to all information,
- recognize health and safety as a collective bargaining issue,
- ban toxic substances,
- give workers the right to refuse hazardous work without being penalized.

Ontario's Bill 70 has been amended by the Standing Committee on Resource Development, and will soon receive final reading. The amendments would bring all workers under the legislation by December 31, 1978. The Conservative government is trying to scuttle the Bill.



Also, the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) persist in arguing that public employees should be excluded from coverage. However, on the very day the AMO presented its brief to the government, 10 of Ottawa's 50 garbage collectors were off work because of on-the-job injuries.

COMPENSATION RULES INADEQUATE

Hospital workers are exposed to hundreds of possible viral and bacterial infections. A Nova Scotia health and safety study shows that illness is the most frequent cause of absenteeism. T.G. Ison, professor of Law at Queen's and past chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia conducted a study on compensation of job-related diseases in Canada. The majority of premature deaths and permanent disabilities result from disease not injuries. And yet the bulk of Workers' Compensation claims for death and permanent disability result from injuries. This denies thousands of workers compensation for occupational diseases. For example, in May, an Inco employee was granted the first compensation award for cancer of the larynx re-

sulting for 18 years of exposure to nickel aerosols and asbestos-fibre dust.

Ontario's Public Hospitals Act says each hospital must establish an Accident Prevention Committee. Union members have only a minority voice. Thus, protection for hospital workers is left to the discretion of the hospital administration.

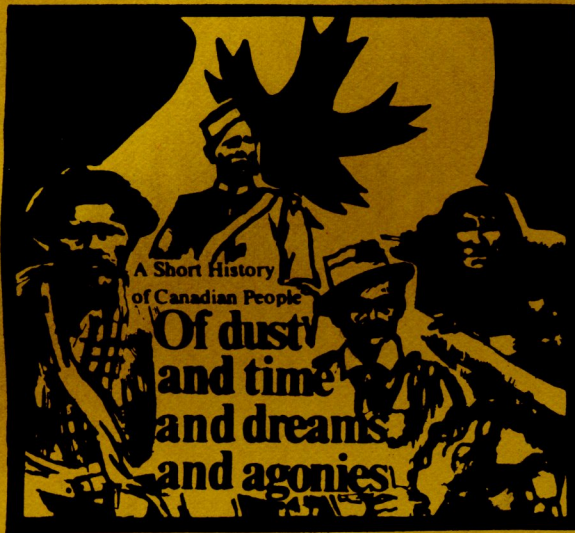
The OHA is perpetuating the "blame the workers' accident-proneness" theory and is using the Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act to back up its stand. This Act denies hospital workers the right to withdraw their services in a dispute.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Humber College Labour Centre have completed an occupational health and safety inventory for public employees. This report includes information on the causes and effects of hazards facing public employees.

Bill 70 does not permit collective work stoppages. It merely affords an employee the right to refuse work which contravenes the Act while the process or machine is being inspected or investigated.

TS 4/5/78 p. A21; 13/6/78 p. A4;
TS 30/3/78 p. A8; EJ 26/4/78 p. A11;
Larry Katz, CUPE, 22/11/78





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