

FLQ: when a nation panics

by the Front de Liberation Quebecois'

the search for alternatives must begin.

Let us acquire the essential political instruments, let us take over control of our economy, let us get a radically reformed social leadership! Wrench off the colonial yoke, get rid of the imperialists who live off the toil of our Quebec workers. Quebec's tremendous natural resources must belong to Quebecers!

There is only one way to bring this about: a national revolution in a framework of INDEPENDENCE. Otherwise, the Quebec population cannot hope to live in freedom.

But it is no longer enough to want independence, to work within the existing political separatist parties. The colonizers will not so easily yield up their tempting loot. The separatist political parties will never gain sufficient power to overcome the colonizers' political and economic hold. Moreover,

independence alone will not resolve anything. It must, at all costs, be accompanied by a social revolution.

Quebec's patriots are not fighting over a name, but over a situation. A revolution is not a parlor game, played for fun. Only a full-fledged revolution can build up the necessary power to achieve the vital changes that will be needed in an independent Quebec. A national revolution, cannot, of its very nature, tolerate any compromise. There is only one way of overcoming colonialism: to be stronger than it is! Only the most far-fetched idealism may mislead one into thinking otherwise. Our period of slavery has ended.

**QUEBEC PATRIOTS, TO ARMS! THE HOUR OF NATIONAL REVOLUTION HAS STRUCK!
INDEPENDENCE OR DEATH!**

frustration - putting it all in perspective

by Susan Reisler

Canadian University Press

crises the Canadian government been forced to face during the week, should not be so surprising the government would have us

1966, the United States army scored a series of studies on the areas of revolution in the northern hemisphere. These studies designed to formulate plans for bringing or reversing such revolutions. of the areas studied was Quebec. It is necessary that we try to put some sort of perspective for what is happening in Quebec today, so we can all relate to the events and see them as actions develop logically from the history of oppression in a nation defeated in colonial war over 180 years ago.

Some of the answers can be found in the press every day. It was no coincidence that most papers on Tuesday, October 14, ran front stories announcing the government plans "to consider" the Measures Act, together with all the denunciations of the FLQ, at the same time as Finance Minister announced that "Jobless Now is the Biggest Threat".

Many people in Canada are facing economic depression that is not related to the kidnappings in Quebec, nor to the fact that hundreds of youths at the Jericho Hostel in Montreal refused to cease their occupation of the building and were surrounded by 100 riot-equipped RCMP. Many people have no place to go, no work for them and they have no money.

This is a partial description of the situation in Quebec that is giving rise to socialist movements like the Front de Liberation du Quebec. In the past 15 years Quebec has come close to full employment. Unemployment has never been lower than four per cent, even in summer, and has frequently been as high as 15 per cent.

Quebec comprises little over a quarter of the Canadian labor force, but 41 per cent of unemployed

Canadians live in Quebec.

Historically, unemployment in Quebec has been 20 to 40 per cent higher than the average in Canada, and 50 to 100 per cent higher than the unemployment average in Ontario.

Nearly all people out of work in Quebec are French.

The average number of unemployed in Quebec last year was 158,000. Of these 65,000, or 42 per cent, were under the age of 25.

The average income of English-speaking workers in Quebec is 40 per cent higher than that of French-speaking workers.

Francophones with the same degree of education, even if they are bilingual, earn less than do unilingual English-speaking Canadians living in Quebec.

English-speaking employees who are 30 per cent of the labor force hold 77 per cent of the jobs in the \$15,000 income bracket.

French-speaking employees, 70 per cent of the Quebec labor force, hold 82 per cent of the jobs in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 income bracket, according to the Bilingual and Bicultural Commission released in 1964.

The BI&BI Commission also reports: "in the matter of occupations the French Canadians are found at the bottom of the list, immediately above Italians, both in Quebec and in the rest of the country."

Also from the BI&BI: "Canadians of British origin have incomes 10 per cent higher than the average in every province except Quebec, where they earn 40 per cent more than the average."

"In short, it isn't the knowledge of two languages that is beneficial to the French Canadian in Quebec, but rather the knowledge of one language, English.

And they conclude the survey: English Canadians have very little reason to become bilingual, even in Quebec, while for French Canadians bilingualism is a prerequisite to income. And even if bilingual, French Canadians cannot hope to equal the salaries of unilingual English."

This text is taken from the Royal

Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism published in part in 1964. The Pearson government initiated the Commission. The situation in Quebec has not changed except to get worse. How can we expect the Quebecois to respect the ballot box when the ballot box has never helped them before.

In the light of all these facts, which only partially depict the actual situation in Quebec, we must seriously consider the meaning of violence in this context. M. Trudeau talks about democracy being threatened by the kidnapping of the FLQ (and we must remember that Pierre Laporte was the Minister of Labor in Quebec). But if people do not even have the basic right to work to earn their living, then we must consider that kind of violence too.

For days we have been hearing how shocked the nation has been. On television M. Trudeau said: "We are shocked ... and this is understandable because democracy flourishes in Canada, individual freedom is cherished in Canada."

What does the word democracy mean to a worker who can't get a job and has no money for food, rent, clothing for his family? How can he use this electoral system to help him?

Clearly this system which everyone is talking about is one that harbors two laws: one for the rich, and one for the poor. In Vancouver, Trudeau said last June there would always be rich and poor in this world. It is easy to say that when you have a million dollars behind you, but is that what democracy is all about?

Throughout Canada people are being oppressed by this democratic system.

The Saskatchewan wheat farmers cannot sell their grain and find themselves being forced off their land and unemployed. They even had to

buy back their own wheat in one case, in order to give it away to starving Indians in the north of the province. Is this a democracy when we have to sell our products at the highest price or not sell them at all?

In the Atlantic provinces the fishermen are being robbed daily by the large canning companies, who refuse to allow them to watch as their catch is weighed in. Those men and their families are very poor. Is that democracy?

Women are discriminated against everywhere, because they are women. They are paid less for equal work and in many cases kept unemployed until they are needed to provide cheap labor. They do not have the right to control their own bodies. It takes a federal government law to make abortions legal across Canada so that women can determine their own lives. Is that how democracy is supposed to operate?

And the Indians and the Eskimos from whom we took this land in the first place and whom we are forcibly trying to assimilate into white society, they are oppressed daily by the federal government. How is that democratic?

Democracy means one thing for the government, another for the majority of people in Canada who have long had their rights taken away from them by the brute force of an economic system which they are powerless to change.

Not all Canadians are affected by economic oppression, only most of them. It seems obvious that those who benefit most from the laws eat the best, and stand to lose the most from all the activities taking place in Canada today. These are the people who are loudly calling for law and order.

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