

Language Speech Reaction In Quebec Reported Mixed

MONTREAL (CP) — Reaction of prominent Quebecers to a weekend speech by Pierre Laporte, Quebec cultural and municipal affairs minister who said he personally would like to see a law passed giving the French language "priority" in Quebec, has been mixed.

A cabinet colleague, Justice Minister Wagner, said in Quebec City Tuesday: "In my opinion the two languages are official in Canada. And both have the same status."

Mr. Wagner, member of the legislative assembly for Verdun where about 40 per cent of the voters are English-speaking, said that if Quebec wants to be sure of the respect of the other provinces it must start by showing its respect for the other language.

"As long as the constitution remains unchanged, there can be no question of giving priority to a language."

Montreal lawyer Hezen Harsard, immediate past president of the Canadian Bar Association said: "I say equality—yes. But priority—no."

"SHOULD SPEAK OUT"

"Even if it happens to be a minister of the Crown suggesting priority be given French in Quebec, somebody on our side of the fence should speak out," he said in an address to the Montreal Rotary Club.

English Canada, he said, has largely fallen down and has allowed itself to be lulled into complacency to a point where it is no longer ready to compete with French Canada.

Pierre Sevigny, associate defence minister in the last Diefenbaker government, said he is "opposed to any priority status for either French or English."

Mr. Sevigny, who was speaking at a meeting of the Richekeu-Maisonnette Club of Montreal, called for "absolute equality for our two founding peoples."

Bernard Fortier, president of Quebec City branch of the

Canadian Manufacturers' Association in Quebec, said that in his opinion the priority of the French has already been established in the business world of the provincial capital.

He said more and more importance is being given to the language in Montreal and that this process will continue.

Msgr. Paul Ernie Gossetin, secretary of Le Conseil de vie Francaise en Amerique (Council for the French Way of Life in America), said that in his opinion it would be desirable to give French priority in Quebec, "but not to the exclusion of English."

He said he believes exclusion of English could have an injurious effect on French minorities in other provinces.

Mr. Laporte said Monday there is no cause for alarm as a result of his suggestion that French be given priority status.

He said the French used in Quebec is "so bad" that it is no longer part of the international French language and is threatened with disappearing altogether.



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SCOUT LEADER, SCOUTS DECORATED

Three scouts and a scout leader from New Brunswick were decorated for bravery and dedicated service to the scouting movement by Governor-General Vanier in his capacity as Chief Scout of Canada in Ottawa Wednesday.

They are (left to right) John McCulloch, Saint John, (Silver Acorn); Gordon D. Leary, Lancaster, (Meritorious Conduct); James H. Forgrave, Moncton, (Gilt Cross); Allan Bogle, Oak Point, (Bronze Cross). (CP Wirephoto)

Ervin F. Bickley Jr., who has resigned from the company. A native of Montreal, Porteous served with the Canadian army in Europe during the Second World War.

He joined Canadian International Paper Co. in 1947 as a salesman with International Panel Boards Ltd., a subsidiary. Four years later he was appointed Maritime manager of International Panel Boards with headquarters in Halifax.

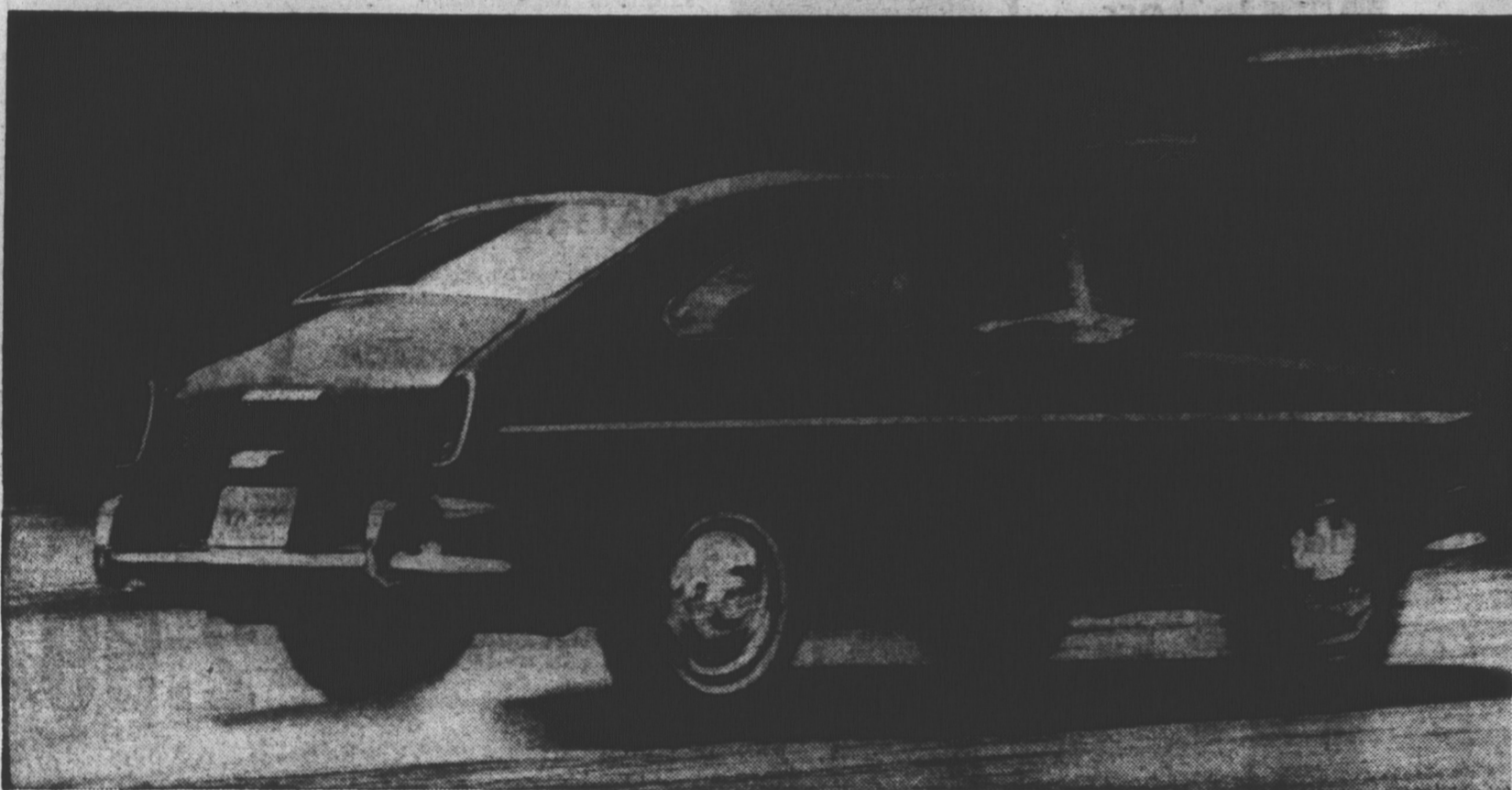
In 1955, when Canadian International Paper purchased Hygrade Containers Ltd., Porteous was made sales manager of the new plant built in Montreal. He became plant manager, and in 1962 was named general manager of Hygrade Containers, which today operates five corrugated shipping container plants in Eastern Canada.

The only venomous snakes native to Canada are easily identified rattlesnakes.

Manager Appointed

NEW YORK (CP)—Conrad de L. Porteous has been named general manager of the International Paper Co.'s container division, Vice-President William S. Snyder has announced.

Porteous, who had been assistant general manager, succeeds



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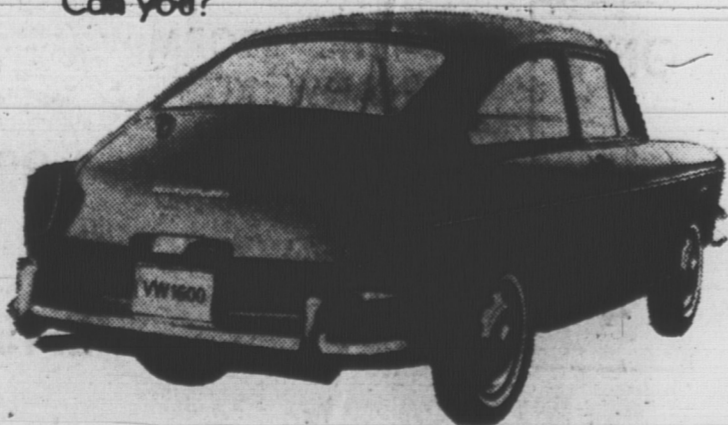
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