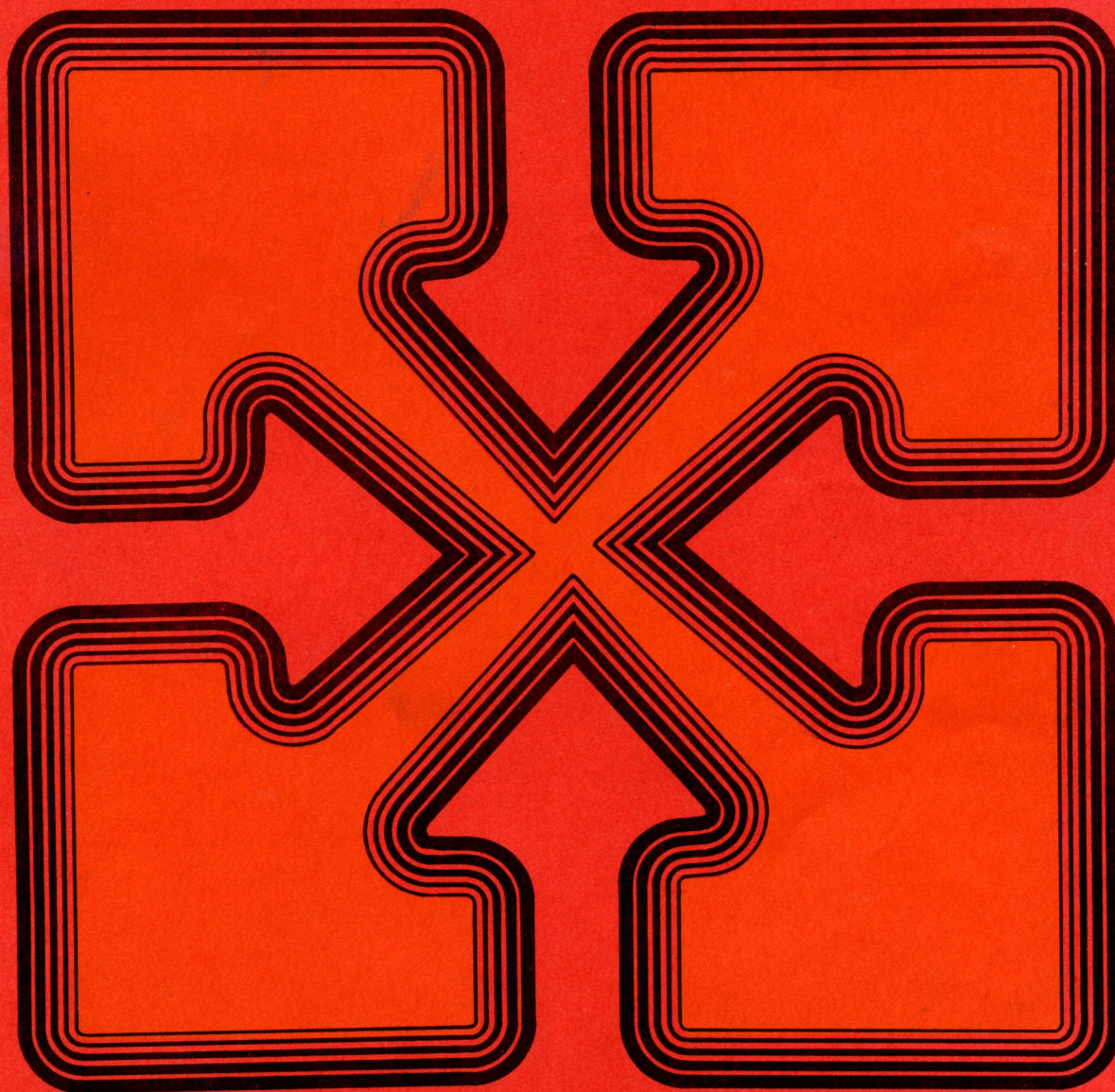


Synthesis

A Review of Events Reported in the Canadian Press



FINAL EDITION

1980 – A Review of the Past Decade



CANADIAN NEWS SYNTHESIS FINAL EDITION

This is the final issue of Synthesis. It is also a special issue in that we've departed slightly from our usual format. Instead of clippings and comment we've put together brief snapshot summaries of the major areas of CNSP interest over the past seven years: the Canadian economy, the labour movement and the Canadian state in its various manifestations.

Our summaries are purposely brief. But we hope they are indicative of the trends, patterns and contours of the Canadian political economy. Rather than a compendium we offer a blueprint, and some tools for interpreting it.

Although details and data are available elsewhere we have included graphs and charts to complement the text. We've also provided a year-at-a-glance section highlighting key events and issues over the seven years of our publication. And in an unusual departure from accustomed anonymity, we've folded in some personal reflection in a short history of the group by long-time CNSP member Mary Bird.

We feel the following quick sketches speak for themselves. They are, however imperfect, a distillation of several thousand hours of collective energy and endeavour. We hope others have enjoyed and profited from the effort as much as we have. And if we are no closer to a society based on justice and equality we are at least closer to a more complete understanding of the forces of power and control that block the path forward.

INDEX

THE ECONOMY	2-4	POLITICAL	12-14
Trade	2	Aid to Business	12
Foreign Investment	2	Workers	12
Manufacturing	3	Native People	12
Energy	3	Social Service Cuts	13
Corporate Concentration	4	Police and Military	13
		Quebec	14
LABOUR	5-11	OVERVIEW 1972-1979	15-24
Labour Highlights	5	THE WAY WE WERE	25-27
Labour and the Press	6	CNSP SONG	28
Statistics on Unions	7		
The Labour Scene	7		

THE ECONOMY

The Economy

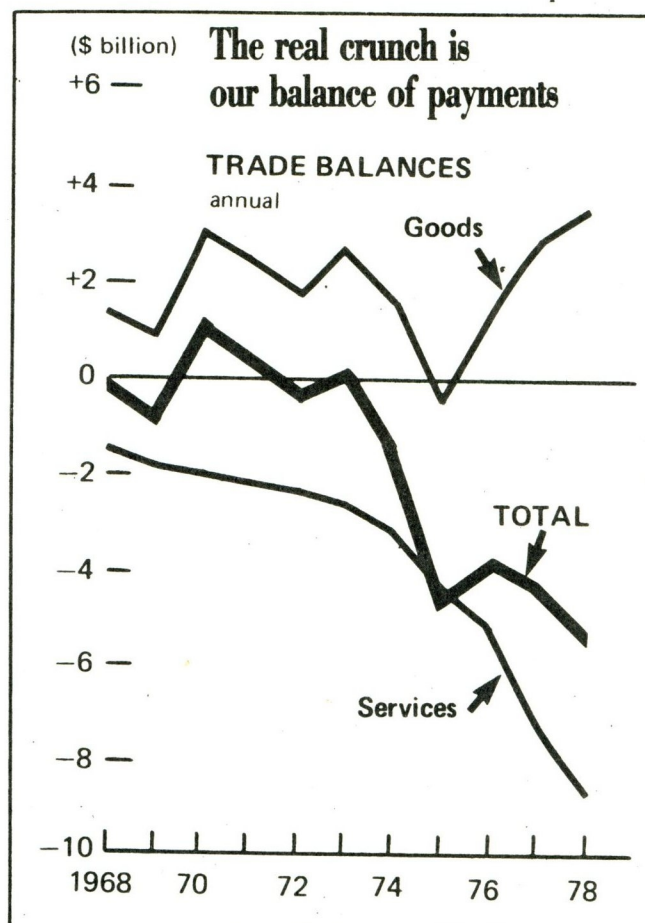
By the late 1960's, Canada like other western nations, was experiencing declining rates of growth in profit, productivity and capital investment. Still, during 1972-73, the economy was growing at an annual rate over five per cent even though inflation was starting to accelerate. During the international recession of 1974-75, the Canadian economy slumped; inflation jumped as the rate of economic growth stagnated. 'Stagflation' beset the nation. Since 1975, unemployment has increased from its previous five to six per cent range to the current seven to nine per cent. Slow growth characterized the post 1974-75 recession years, while inflation approached double-digit figures.

The past decade has been depressing in economic terms. The threat of unemployment and the government's wage controls program acted together to undermine real incomes of Canadians. In 1977-78 the real purchasing power of Canadian families dropped two and three percent respectively. For many workers, especially the unorganized, the cost was even greater.

The current crisis is not merely cyclical: it is deeply rooted in the structure of our political economy. A quick glance at some of the major issues illustrates the extent of the problem.

Trade - Canada's dependence on exports of goods and services is abnormally high for a developed country, accounting for fully 27 per cent of our Gross National Product. During the 1970's, this trade dependency failed to decline. In addition, Canadian trade with the United States increased from 70 to 72 percent of our total - despite active government promotion of trade diversification known as the 'third option'.

The 1970's marked the beginning of serious balance of payments problems. Throughout the decade merchandise trade surpluses failed to grow with the economy and in fact registered a deficit during the recession year of 1975. Meanwhile,



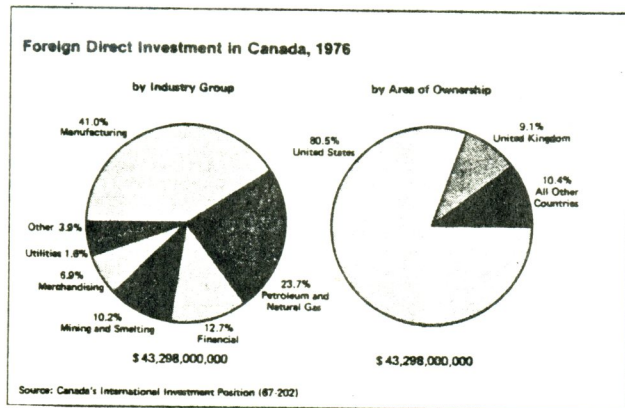
payment of interest on our foreign debt and of dividends to foreign investors resulted in an ever-growing services deficit. The resulting current account deficit had to be financed by huge inflows of foreign capital.

Foreign Investment - Direct foreign investment inflows started to dry up in the early 1970's. By 1975 Canadians were investing more outside the country than foreigners were in Canada. Even the dismantling of the Foreign Investment Review Agency could not retard the process. This reversal of post-war trends resulted in heavy borrowing abroad. The upshot was increased foreign debt and greater outflows due to interest payments. By the end of

THE ECONOMY

the decade Canada was moving from a walk to a trot on a dangerous debt treadmill. The nation's gross foreign debt stood at \$118 billion by the end of 1978.

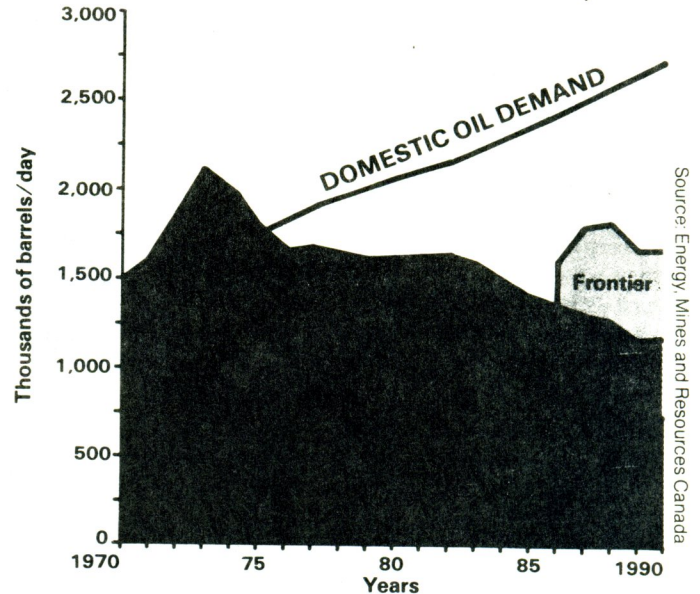
Even though less foreign capital was being invested in Canada, the economy came under greater foreign control. By the end of 1976, foreign direct investment in Canada amounted to approximately \$44 billion. It was growing at a rate of \$3-4 billion per year solely by means of reinvested earnings and domestically-generated capital.



Informat, June 1979

Manufacturing - Less than 20 per cent of the total Canadian workforce is currently employed in manufacturing, a share that has been declining steadily since 1946. During the 1970's the economy's inability to produce manufactured goods meant a growing trade deficit. By 1978, our trade in manufactured goods showed a deficit of \$12 billion. Raw materials and semi-processed goods (mostly forest products, minerals, energy and wheat) make up almost two-thirds of Canadian exports. The lack of an industrial strategy to change the 'hewer-of-wood, drawer-of-water' syndrome means a loss of a potential 175,000 jobs in manufacturing to foreign corporations.

Energy - Energy was the most volatile sector of all in the 1970's, a decade which saw the 1973 OPEC price hikes push oil to the centre of the international stage. The multinational oil companies continued to dominate petroleum exploration and exploitation in Canada. Dwindling domestic supplies plus increased exports provided the climate for corporate manipulation of state policy in the energy field. The prospect of higher prices and profits drove the companies into frantic frontier exploration - in the high Arctic, the Beaufort Sea and off the East Coast. Petro-Canada, formed as the government 'window on the oil industry', entered into joint exploration agreements with the multinationals underwriting risks in the frontier areas and clearing the way for oil company investments. Despite this state assistance to the petroleum industry Canada had less reserves at the end of the decade than at the beginning.



Massive pipeline projects were the focus of much of the energy debate. The Alcan Gas Pipeline consortium led by Alberta Gas Trunk Lines won approval in 1978 to pump Alaskan gas through Canada south to United States consumers. Still waiting for secure financing, the price of the Alcan line has since escalated to over \$15 billion. Following that decision

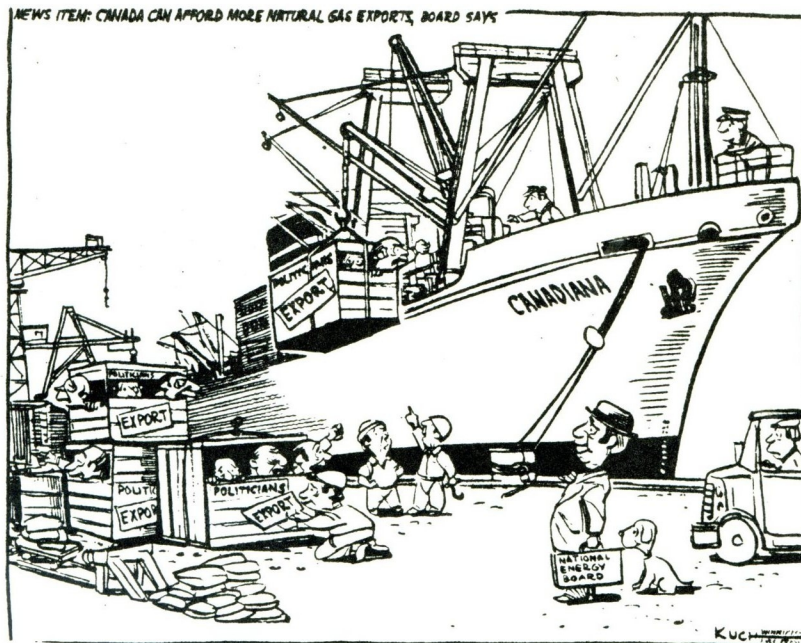
THE ECONOMY

the petroleum companies lobbied vigorously to expand Canadian natural gas exports to the United States to help finance southern portions of the line. Increased exports were approved by the National Energy Board but the industry is demanding further increases, on the grounds that profits are needed to finance more exploration. It is estimated that \$30 billion may be diverted to the energy sector over the next decade for pipelines, synthetic oil plants, Liquid Natural Gas tankers and nuclear reactors. The cost to the Canadian public will be increased debt, reduced social programs and fewer jobs. Solar and other renewable energy sources continue to receive insignificant funds.

Corporate Concentration - In 1976, 500 corporations accounted for 53 per cent of

all corporate sales, 64 per cent of profits and 65 per cent of assets. These 500 corporations represent less than one quarter of one per cent of all private companies in Canada. Fully 55 per cent of the top 500 were foreign-owned. Less than 1,000 companies account for 80-90 per cent of Canada's export trade.

Although these giant corporations dominate the trade, investment, capital flows, employment and tax patterns of the country, the government has failed to challenge their power. Instead, bowing to the ideology of free enterprise, the Royal Commission on Corporate Concentration accepted increased corporate wealth and power. Since the Commission's report a spate of corporate takeovers have occurred, the Bay, Simpsons, Sears, Brascan and FP Publications being a few of the notable examples.



CARRY IT ON

Labour Highlights Reported in the Canadian Press

1972

Common Front strike leaders jailed

1973

Canadian Labour Congress launches ACTE drive

Parliament legislates railway workers back to work

Firestone strike, Joliette Quebec

Artistic Woodwork strike, Toronto

CLC-CUPE debate over affiliation

1974

Ontario hospital workers gain catch-up contracts

LG-2 destruction, James Bay

Postal strike over automation, job reclassifications

CLC debate on autonomy

Sydney Steel strike

1975

Nurses and teachers strikes, New Brunswick

Newfoundland fishermen strike

Public Service Alliance of Canada strike

Asbestos, Quebec strike

CEQ published May Day manual

Ontario teachers gain right to strike

Cliche hearings on Quebec construction

United Aircraft strike settlement

Postal strike

Wage Controls introduced

1976

Common Front strike, Quebec

Quebec Hydro strike

CLC debate on tripartism

Labour's Day of Protest, Oct. 14

1977

Robin Hood strike, Montreal

Labour Board ruling on the banks

1978

B.C. Telephone strike

SORWUC campaign to organize bankworkers

Fleck strike, Ontario

La Presse, Montreal Matin, Le Soleil strikes

CLC debates relations with the NDP

Commonwealth Plywood strike, Quebec

Toronto Transit strike

Inco strike

Postal workers legislated back to work

1979

Jean-Claude Parrot jailed

Puretex strike, Toronto

Common Front negotiations, Quebec



LABOUR

Labour and the Press

The Canadian press was not generous with organized labour in the 1970's. It's been virtually silent on unorganized workers. After seven years of analysis of 10 major dailies we conclude that press coverage of labour is generally incomplete, often hostile and frequently biased.

Union corruption, picket line violence, tirades against public sector strikes, unemployment abuse and illegal immigrants: these are the stories about labour that consistently made the news. When positive achievements were mentioned (and the press found surprisingly few for a workforce over ten million) they were usually buried. Many achievements were ignored or minimized. Two cases stand out: Labour's Day of Protest in 1976 and the CLC's \$500,000.00 donation to reconstruction in Nicaragua in 1979.

Press coverage has been largely descriptive rather than analytic. Much ink was spilt noting changes in unemployment, inflation and the cost of living. But the concern seemed to be with documenting the changing statistics rather than exploring the underlying causes for the changes. Where poverty and unemployment were treated, individual victims were often sympathetically described but the social causes were rarely addressed.

English-language press coverage of labour news in Quebec was spotty as was French-language coverage of labour news in English Canada. Two solitudes reign in this sphere, making it difficult for Quebec and Canadian workers to learn of one another's experience.

A few exceptions to the general picture deserve to be noted: Rosemary Spiers series on the 1975 postal strike in the Toronto Star; Sheila Arnopoulos' series on immigrant workers in the Montreal Star in 1974; occasional articles by Wayne Chevaldayoff in the Globe and Mail; opinion pieces by trade unionist Ed Finn in the Toronto Star and labour reports in Le Devoir and Le Jour.

The 1970's saw the death of Le Jour and the Quebec labour weekly, Quebec Presse, and the rise of several successful right-wing dailies like the Toronto Sun and the Edmonton Sun.

These trends as well as the limitations of the daily press in general lead us at Synthesis to believe more strongly than ever that a popular pro-labour newspaper is long overdue. Such a paper is needed to record news about labour across the country, gather the opinions of rank and file as well as labour leaders and to provide a forum for the discussion of issues affecting Canadian workers.

Statistics on Unions

Two-thirds of the 179 unions in Canada - including most of the largest ones - were affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress. In 1977 the congress represented 2.1 million unionized workers. The second largest labour organization in the country was the Quebec-based Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU) which had eight member unions and represented 152,000 workers.

Ottawa had the largest union membership of any of the 23 cities in the report - 533,000. This compared with 213,000 for Montreal, 134,000 for Toronto, 105,000 for Vancouver and 23,000 for Winnipeg.

Manufacturing was the most unionized sector of the economy with 30 per cent of employees organized. This was followed by the service industries with 19 per cent and government with 17 per cent. Only 10 per cent of construction workers were unionized and a mere 2 per cent of miners and oil-well workers. (data from the Calura II report) GM 17,9,79 p B15

Organized workers paid more than twice as much in dues to international unions in 1977 as they got back in strike funds and other benefits, a government report shows.



Statistics indicate workers paid \$198.4 million in union dues in 1977. Of this, \$75.3 million was sent to international headquarters and \$29.9 million flowed back into this country in strike benefits, pensions, welfare benefits and salaries and wages for Canadian staff.

The proportion of workers represented by unions remained stable at about one third. In 1977, 32.6 per cent of the labour force was unionized, compared with 32.2 per cent the previous year.

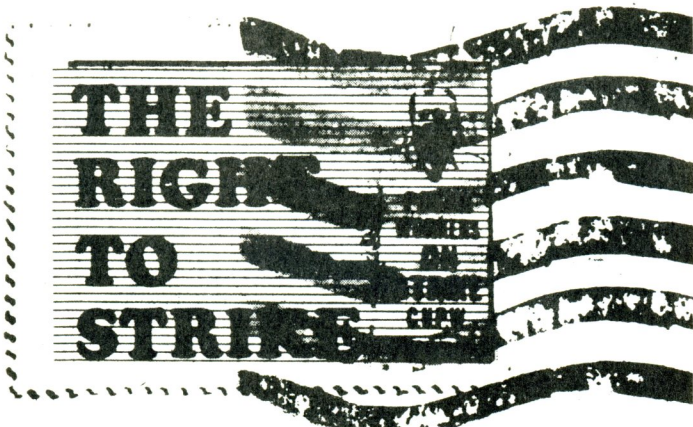
Although slightly more than half of all union members belonged to internationally affiliated organizations, this proportion was dropping. It fell to 53.6 per cent from a 1976 level of 54.4 per cent.

Women made up only 27.7 per cent of the unionized labour in 1977. Although this was a considerable increase from the 16.4 per cent rate the government discovered when it began collecting figures 17 years ago, it fell considerably short of the 38 per cent female portion of the work force.



The Labour Scene

The seventies was a decade of ferment in Canada. Workers defended their right to a decent standard of living in the face of concerted attempts by business and government to force them to tighten their belts and become the scapegoats for a faltering economy.



CANCELLED ... WHO'S NEXT?

strike in 1976 helped defeat Robert Bourassa's Liberal government, which had threatened to take away the right of public sector workers to strike. In 1979 the Common Front was once again in negotiations with the Quebec government, this time with the Parti Quebecois. The postal workers too have fought repeated battles to defend their right to strike. Transit and railway workers, longshoremen, grain handlers and policemen are others whose right to strike has been questioned. Parliament has frequently forced those groups back to work when they exercised that right.

Unemployment

Canada's unemployment rate was consistently one of the highest in the industrialized world. Almost half the jobless were women and workers under 24.

Throughout the decade unemployment insurance regulations were tightened as unemployment rose. Unemployment insurance premiums and waiting periods were increased. From a basic unemployment benefit rate of 75 per cent of earnings and an eight-week work requirement, we have regressed to a rate of 60 per cent of earnings to a maximum of \$159.00, with a minimum work requirement of 10 weeks. People over 65 were dropped from the unemployment insurance plan completely. Two major media campaigns, in 1973 and 1978, focussed attention on those abusing unemployment insurance.

Cutbacks

Government at all levels cut back social services. Daycare facilities became scarcer and more costly. New educational programs were not provided. Existing special education programs were endangered and pupil-teacher ratios worsened. Hospital closings, reduction of family allowance payments and the weakening of universal medicare protection further slashed the 'social wage' which we receive through these social welfare benefits. Gains that took decades of determined pressure by Canadian workers to achieve were whittled away.

Restrictions on the civil liberties of workers, whether immigrants or Canadian citizens, increased as the economic crisis deepened. In 1972 Quebec union leaders of the Common Front general strike were jailed and heavily fined. Postal workers President, Jean-Claude Parrot received the same harsh treatment in 1979. Evidence was uncovered of widespread electronic surveillance of union premises and union militants.



"Listen Clark, you've got to stop flying around screaming 'this is a job for Superman.' There AREN'T any jobs."

LABOUR

Labour Gains

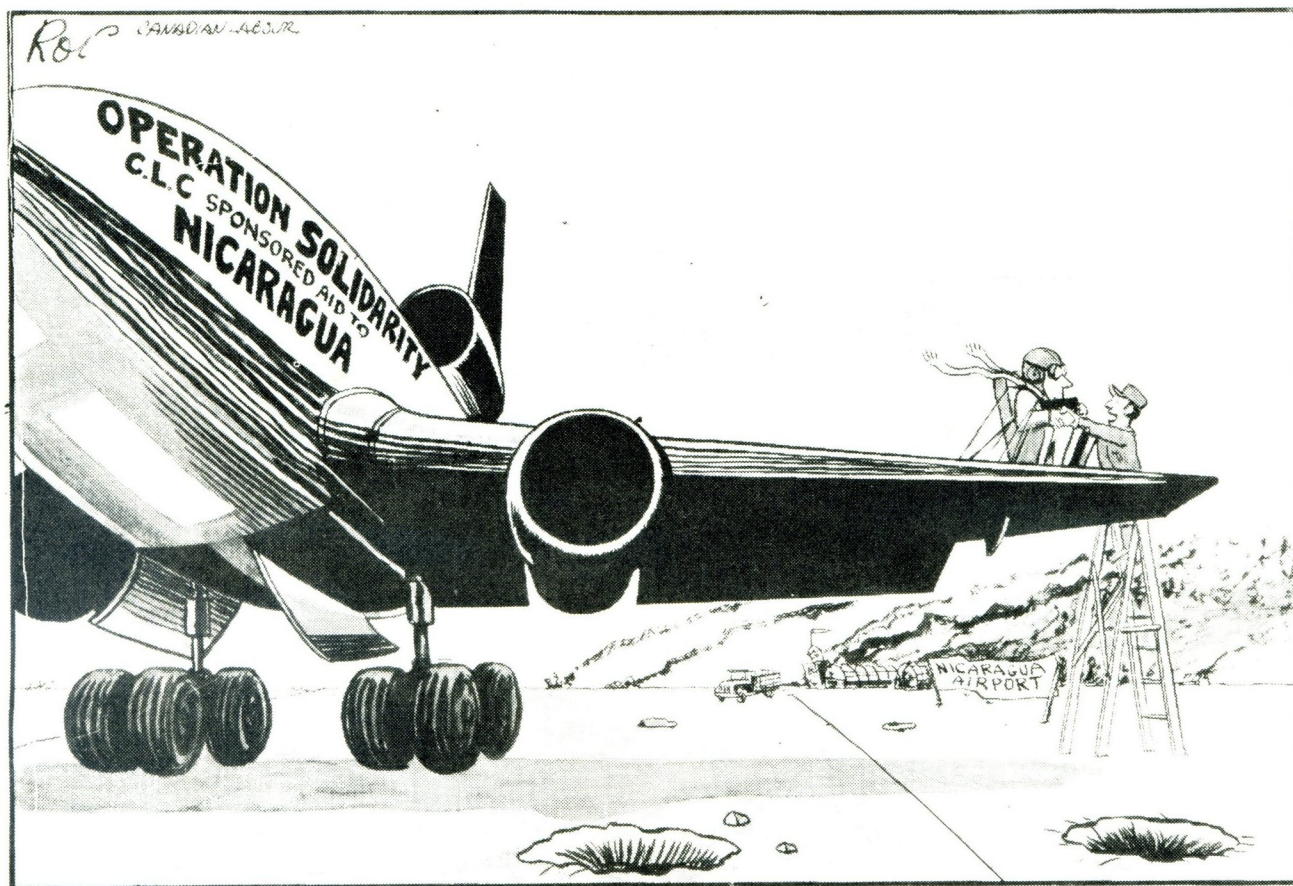
Nonetheless, there were some positive legislative gains during the 1970's. The Labour Relations Board ruled that banks could be organized on a branch-by-branch basis. Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba have new occupational health and safety legislation.

Within the labour movement important questions were debated, including the need for greater autonomy within Canadian sections of international unions. During the decade the percentage of unionists in Canadian, as opposed to United-States based unions, increased steadily from 39.4 per cent in 1972 to 46.4 per cent in 1977. This was accomplished by the growth of existing unions such as the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the formation of new Canadian unions and, sometimes, splits from American-based unions by Canadian locals.

Two major events, the imposition of wage controls and the election of the Parti Quebecois, prompted the labour movement to try to define its understanding of political action and within that, its relation to the New Democratic Party and to the question of sovereignty in Quebec.

Gestures of international solidarity included the one-week boycott by New Brunswick dock workers to protest Candu reactor sales to Argentina and the CLC's \$500,000.00 grant for reconstruction in Nicaragua. There has also been continuous interest in the plight of Chilean workers since the 1973 military coup.

In meeting the challenge of the 1980's working people can draw some inspiration from their experiences in the 1970's. Labour's Day of Protest was an historic event which showed broad solidarity among organized workers. Support by major unions



CANADIAN LABOUR, SEPTEMBER 7, 1979

LABOUR

for the principle of self-determination for Quebec is another advance. The breakthrough by women workers in unionizing and their militancy during strikes are further sources of encouragement. More and more women workers are determined to organize to defend their interests. The repeated struggles of the postal workers and the prolonged Inco and United Aircraft strikes are testimony to the tenacity of Canadian workers that will inspire future struggles.

New Solidarity

There will be many serious challenges to Canadian workers in the 1980's. The motto inherited from the Knights of Labour a century ago, "An injury to one is the concern of all", will be as relevant as ever. But it will have to be freshly renewed to include:

- a new campaign to organize the unorganized
- concern for workers beyond Canada's borders
- solidarity with other oppressed groups, including native people, the elderly, welfare recipients, small farmers and fishermen.

Among political issues still to be resolved are the labour movement's relations with the New Democratic Party and a mutual strategy on the part of workers in both Canada and Quebec regarding the future of Canadian-Quebec relations.



POLITICAL

THE CANADIAN STATE

Aid to Business

Over the past seven years, the federal government repeatedly intervened in the Canadian economy to support big business. The Bryce Commission on Corporate Concentration served to re-affirm and legitimize the Liberal government's big business ideology, as corporate takeovers and concentration increased. The Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA) became an instrument to refine foreign takeovers rather than stop them - despite public pressure to the contrary. One American business magazine described it as an advertisement for foreign investment in Canada. It has consistently approved the overwhelming majority of takeover applications.

Every year the federal government alone provides over \$6 billion in grants, contributions, loans, and insurance to support business; but since corporate income tax revenues in 1976 amounted to \$6.7 billion, the private sector in effect was paying practically nothing to support the costs of the federal government and its many social services.



NEVER MIND THE DOOMSAYERS - STEADY AS SHE GOES ...

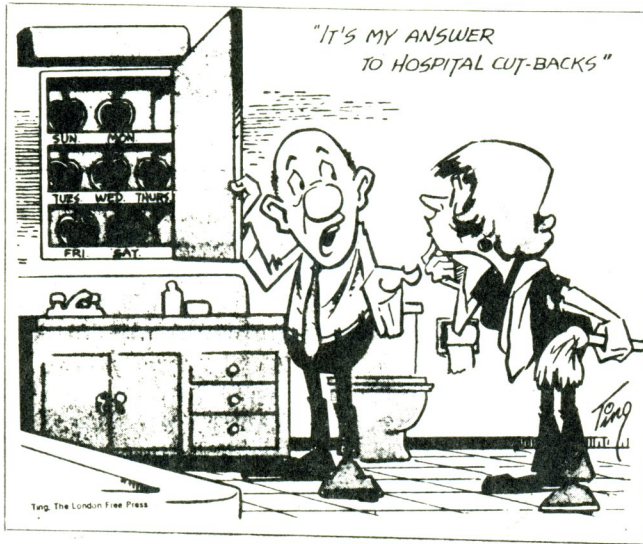
Workers

While aiding business, government interfered with workers' attempts to make gains. The first non-wartime application of wage controls combined with ineffective price controls hit organized and unorganized labour. New guidelines on immigration became law, controlling immigration flows and directing newcomers to specific labour-short industries and regions.

Native People

Native people were in the forefront of struggles to protect their land and control their lives in the face of resource and energy projects like the James Bay Project, Churchill River Project, the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and Reed Paper development. They fought to bring public attention to mercury pollution that has killed and maimed them in Ontario and Quebec. They organized to battle for land settlements and appeared before government inquiries to state their case. The Berger Inquiry was a partial victory as it recognized the legitimacy of native land claims and the need to settle them before development takes place.





Social Service Cuts

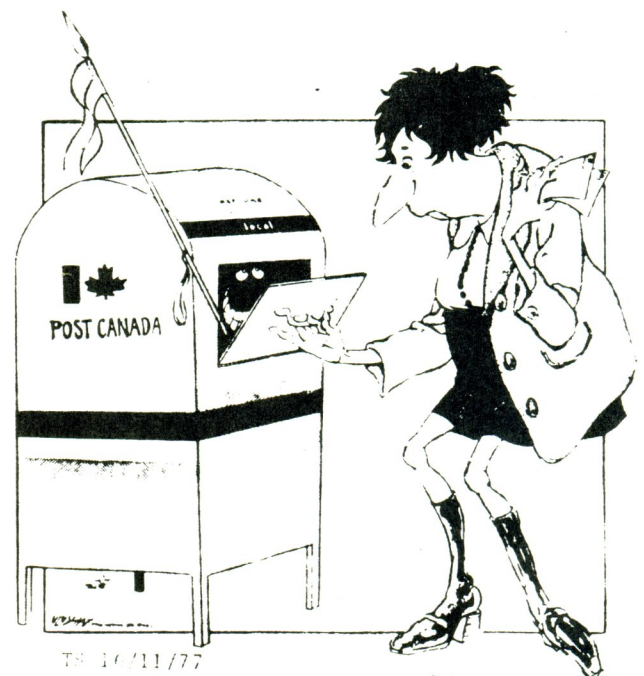
Federal government cut-backs in social services undercut gains by working people and demonstrated government's commitment to the corporate sector. In Ontario, this shift was clearly spelled out in the Henderson Report, compiled by a Programme Review Committee of the Ontario Cabinet in June, 1975. Looking at all government services, this committee recommended shifting responsibility for programmes to other levels of government (primarily municipal), reduction or elimination of services, and an increase of direct charges for medical and welfare services. This has resulted in higher tuition and reduced student assistance; hospital and school closings; doctors opting out of medicare and charging directly for services; reduced daycare, pensions, and accessibility to unemployment insurance.

Governments cite increased costs as the reason for these cuts, despite the fact that those who use the services are the ones who pay (through sales tax, property tax, and regressive income taxes). In fact, government spending on social services has not significantly risen as a percentage of the Gross National Product. For example, health expenditures as a percentage of the GNP have been 5.6%, 7.1%, 7.4% and 7.1% for 1960, 1970, 1972 and 1976 respectively.

Police and Military

During the past seven years, the government has more tightly integrated its police, military and intelligence forces. Canadian newspapers pumped out thousands of allegations against the RCMP in the late seventies. The stories appeared as revelations, but history indicates RCMP illegal activity is a common and accepted tradition within the force.

Today, the question of government knowledge of and complicity in RCMP illegalities remains unanswered. However, certain clues appeared, when officials like Prime Minister Trudeau considered changing the mail opening bill to give police more power to combat "terrorism and subversion". The Liberal government again used the law to keep important documents from the scrutiny of the Quebec Keable and McDonald Royal Commission inquiries into RCMP wrongdoing. The Federal Court Act allows any Minister to prohibit tribunals from communicating documents the Minister considers to be a threat to "national security". Vague, all-encompassing definitions of subversion and national security enable police officials to use their own discretion in seeking out offenders.



POLITICAL

Quebec

After the Quiet Revolution of the sixties, Quebecers in the seventies experienced the FLQ crisis, the imposition of the War Measures Act, the early growth of the Parti Quebecois (PQ), the Common Front of Quebec public service workers, the election of the PQ, the declaration of French as the official language of Quebec and the preparations for a referendum on Quebec's status vis-a-vis Canadian confederation.

Synthesis followed these events as they were reported, analyzed and editorialized in the major French and English newspapers. We found there still are two solitudes separated by a barrier across which only headlines reach. Sensational reporting of events and rumours (the exodus of companies from Quebec) dominated English Canadian press coverage. In the wake of the PQ election victory, however, these papers began to station correspondents in Quebec. On the whole, though, the English press has not promoted respect for and understanding of Quebecers' aspirations. The Quebec French dailies reported Canadian events only occasionally and generally when Quebec's federal politicians were involved. This Canadian coverage rarely equalled space devoted to international coverage.

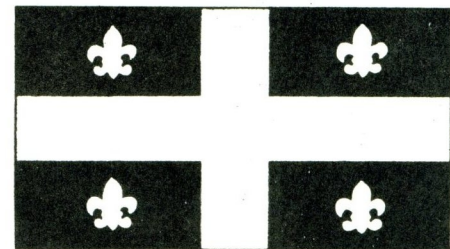
Synthesis also analyzed the behaviour of the PQ in power, especially as it attempted to retain popular support but come to terms with major economic forces represented in the James Bay Project, the Asbestos industry and the New York bankers. We found that the PQ has had an uneven record, sometimes giving in to corporate pressures (i.e. conservative budgets), sometimes introducing progressive legislation (i.e. higher minimum wage levels) and sometimes compromising (i.e. the asbestos takeover).

The PQ's call for a referendum on sovereignty-association brings into focus important aspects of the "national question". For example, within two Quebec-based union centrals there is widespread support for Quebec's right to self-determination. At conventions,

however, held to debate the positions of the CSN and the CEQ on the upcoming referendum, no general agreement was reached. This indicates to us that workers are taking into account the record of the PQ in areas other than Quebec's relations with Canada and hesitate to throw full support behind the PQ on the referendum if they don't gain important economic concessions in return.

The move for increased police powers is consistent with increased military and defence spending. In 1978, police and military spending grew by three per cent compared to a .5 per cent increase in social service spending. In addition, there is a move to increase military manpower, primarily for internal use to see to "unexpected duties at home - guarding the Olympics or moving into strike-bound prisons". Riot squads have been trained for civilian control with at least one unit positioned near the Ontario-Quebec border.

As conservatism grows, the eighties may herald a growing dependence on police and military for social repression and control. The police are not without support from the Canadian public. Traditionally they have been used to quash opposition and dissent to the status quo. As we swing into the new decade, we will see times have not changed - only become harder and perhaps more formidable.



OVERVIEW 1972-1979

	CANADA/INT'L	ECONOMY	LABOUR	POLITICAL
1972	-Food shortages in Chile.			-Canadian general election: Liberal minority government with the NDP holding the balance of power.
OCT.	-Canadian and Latin American businessmen meet to discuss trade.			
NOV.	-Peron returns to Argentina. -American press distorts picture of Allende government.	-Goals for 1973: 6% GNP growth, inflation rate 3%, unemployment rate 4.5%	-Military report on Quebec labour leaked. -Quebec judges uphold severe sentences to Common Front leaders, and penalties for rank-and-file unionists.	
DEC.	-Allende's U.N. speech and press coverage.		-524,000 unemployed. -Changes in UIC proposed.	-LIP and Winter Works programs described. -LEAP program. -Gray report and Burke Hartke summarized and debated. -criticisms of DREE. -Michael Dare, who directed the Armed Forces in Quebec in 1970, appointed to the Privy Council. -Military budget unfrozen.
1973	-US threatens to impose tariff on Michelin. -Several kidnappings in Argentina. -Panama Canal talks resume. -Canada plans to sell nuclear reactor to Argentina. -Canadian government mounts its first economic aid to North Vietnam.		-ACTE drive to unionize white-collar workers. -James Bay natives want injunction to halt construction of hydro-electric project at James Bay.	
JAN.				

CANADA/INT'L

ECONOMY

LABOUR

POLITICAL

FEB.

-Canada recognizes the government of North Vietnam.
 -US Tariff Commission reports that US transnational corporations employ more than 33% of Canada's industrial workforce.

-The federal government imposes export controls on crude oil to the US.

-CWU challenges Steelworkers in Trail B.C. Cominco plant over the issue of Canadian vs. international unionism.

-The Turner budget reduces income taxes and raises pensions.

MARCH

-ITT's anti-Allende actions revealed in Senate Foreign Relations sub-committee.

-UIC disqualifications witchhunt.
 -Mercury poisoning at Whitedog and Grassy Narrows reserves.

-Manitoba tries first Guaranteed Annual Income program.

APRIL

-NORAD extended.
 -CNSP special on Chile.
 -Election press coverage.

-Police Security Planning and Analysis Group's frame of reference reported.

MAY

-Quebec labour leaders released from jail on conditional basis.

SUMMER

-FIRA (Bill C132) debated.
 -PRI wins Mexico elections.
 -Growing tensions in Chile.

-Justice Morrow hears native land claims in NWT.
 -Supreme Court rules on Indian Act.

SEPT.

-Military coup in Chile.

-CDC bids for Texas-gulf.

-Firestone strike at Joliette, Quebec.

OCT.

-Continued events in Chile.

-Liberals win Quebec election.
 -Saskatchewan Waffle splits from the NDP.

	CANADA/INT'L	ECONOMY	LABOUR	POLITICAL
NOV.	-FIRA Approved.		-CUPE-CLC dispute over affiliation. -Malouf decision and its revocation (James Bay).	-Wiretap Bill debated in Commons.
DEC.	-Hortense Allende visits Canada.		-ACTE's first year disappointing. -Ontario teachers protest Bills 274 and 275.	-Wiretap devices bill.
1974				
JAN.		-Canadian oil price kept below world price. -James Bay Development Corp., Hydro Quebec and James Bay Energy Corp. win suspension of injunction to stop work.	-United Aircraft strike begins in Quebec.	-Regional DREE offices established.
FEB.		-Food prices rose 15.5% over past year; Canadian food industry profits up 21%.		
MARCH		-Canada has 1973 auto pact deficit of \$356-million. -Foreign bank issue surfaces.		-Nova Scotia Liberals returned to power.
APRIL			-James Bay L-G 2 site damaged by FTQ affiliate.	
MAY	-FIRA becomes law; foreign takeovers of Canadian firms with assets over \$250,000 or annual revenue of over \$3 million must submit to government review.	-Foreign control: 58% manufacturing 74% oil and gas 65% of all mining 99% petroleum refining. -Ottawa buys deHavilland and Canadair.	-Unemployment at 5.4%.	-PEI Liberals re-elected.

MAY

-NDP governments in BC and Saskatchewan restrict foreign ownership of land.
 -Election campaign: Stanfield calls for wage/price controls.
 -Quebec Bill 22 makes French the language of education.

JULY

-Occupation of Anicinabe Park by Ojibway Warrior Society.

-Guaranteed Annual Income Supplement approved in Ontario.

-Labour Minister Munro proposes tripartite body of labour, management and government.

-Federal Liberals re-elected with majority.

SEPT.

-Deportation of 1500 Haitians "illegally" in Canada.

-First reports of no growth in the economy.
 -Newfoundland commercial fishing hits an all-time low.

-Cliche Commission hearings.

OCT.

-World Food Conference held in Rome.
 -Canada joins petroleum consumers' association.

-Unemployment at 5.8%

-Cliche Commission reveals the Quebec government gave FTQ a monopoly at James Bay because Bechtel Corp. didn't want the CSN.
 -Native People's Caravan confronted by RCMP riot squad at opening of Parliament.

-New Brunswick Conservatives re-elected.

DEC. NOV.

-Substantial cutbacks in oil companies' exploration and development activities.

-Defense Minister Richardson announces his "elite force."

-MPs get 33.3% salary hike retroactive to July 1974.

CANADA/INT'L

ECONOMY

LABOUR

POLITICAL

1975

JAN.

-International Women's Year: \$500, 000 allocated to women's programs.
-To date, 41 takeovers approved by FIRA, nine rejected.

-Ottawa, Alberta and Ontario provide 60% of Syncrude capital, get 30% control.

-Iron workers strike at Olympic site.
-Unemployment at 6.1% (layoffs in forestry, textiles, auto).
-NIB spearheads united front against Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.

FEB.

-Bill 15 denies Indians any form of direct management of oil and gas on reserve land.
-Unemployment at 6.8%.
-Asbestos workers in Quebec strike over wages and health conditions.

-Green Paper on immigration published.

MARCH

-Record deficit in merchandise trade (\$617 million).
-NORAD renewed for five years.

-Testing for mercury poisoning begins in Kenora.

-Alberta Tories re-elected.

APRIL

-Power Corp. unsuccessfully attempts takeover of Argus.
-25% drop in auto production.

-Bryce Commission into corporate growth, mergers and acquisitions.
-Turner pushes for voluntary wage/price controls (but receives no commitment from business leaders).

MAY

-International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City.

-Bill 100 gives Ontario teachers the right to strike.

-PEI restricts land ownership by foreigners.

JUNE

-Monopoly conviction against Irving overturned.

-Unemployment at 7.2%.

-Saskatchewan NDP re-elected.
-NDP elects Ed Broadbent national leader.

CANADA/INT'L

ECONOMY

LABOUR

POLITICAL

	CANADA/INT'L	ECONOMY	LABOUR	POLITICAL
JULY				-Justice Minister Lang pushes to abolish capital punishment. - OPF creates anti-terrorist unit.
OCT.		-WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS INSTITUTED. -Saskatchewan plans to nationalize potash.	-UIC bill cuts off people over 65 and reduces special benefit rate for unemployed with dependents from 75% to 66.7%.	
NOV.		-All assets of Bricklin sold by Canada Permanent Trust of Continental Automotive Inc. of Columbus, Ohio.	-Organized labour fights wage and price controls. -Postal strike. -James Bay settlement. -Unemployment at 7.3%.	
DEC.			-Postal strike ends.	-NDP government of BC defeated by Social Credit.
1976	-Trudeau visits Cuba and Mexico, MacEachen the Middle East in search of the third option and trade diversity.			-End of the Company of Young Canadians.
JAN.				
FEB.		-Come-by-Chance refinery (Shaheen's scheme in Newfoundland) in receivership. -Canada's 1975 balance of payments deficit \$5.5 billion. -Noranda and CP Investments lobby against Saskatchewan potash nationalization.		

MARCH

-Coup ousts Isabel Peron in Argentina.

-March on Parliament Hill to protest wage controls.

APRIL

-Gillespie calls for rise in price of Canadian oil from \$8.00 per barrel.

-Common Front strike in Quebec.
-UIC payments up 48% in 1975. (\$3.15 billion in '75, \$2.18 billion in '74).

MAY

-Proposals to tighten regulations for receiving UIC.
-GLC convention in Quebec City.
-Common Front walkouts in Quebec.

-Berger hearings in major cities in the south.

JUNE

-Productivity debate as explanation for Canada's poor trade performance.

-Nelson Small Legs kills himself to protest treatment of Canadian Native People.

JULY

-Common Front settlement: hospital workers.

AUG.

-Trend towards greater Canadian investment in the United States.

-Common Front settlement: teachers.

OCT.

-Labour's Day of Protest.

NOV.

-OECD reports slower growth, rising debts, in the Third World.

PQ wins Quebec election.

ECONOMY

LABOUR

POLITICAL

Month	ECONOMY	LABOUR	POLITICAL
DEC.	-Economic forecasts gloomy for 1977.		-Speculation about companies leaving Quebec.
1977			
JAN.		-889,000 unemployed (highest since statistics first collected in 1953). -New Immigration Bill at second reading.	-PQ decides to go ahead with James Bay project at same rate as previous Liberal government said.
FEB.			
APRIL	-Record profits for largest companies in Canada. -Growing weakness of Canadian balance of payments.	-Robin Hood strike begins.	
MAY		-Berger recommends ten-year moratorium of Mackenzie Valley pipeline.	-PQ introduces White Paper on Language Policy
JUNE		-Canadian Labour Relations Board rules banks can be organized branch by branch.	
JULY		-Amendments to the Immigration Act after pressure from civil liberties groups, immigrant coalitions and churches. -Guards at Robin Hood shoot strikers.	-First reports of RCMP illegal activity over the years.
AUG.		-New rules for UIC: qualifying period to vary by region.	

	CANADA/INT'L	ECONOMY	LABOUR	POLITICAL
SEPT.		-Science Council reports serious decline in manufacturing and industrialization of Canada due to foreign ownership.	-Robin Hood strike settled: no serious prosecution of guards.	
OCT.			-Inco layoffs announced. -CLC launches nationwide drive to organize banks. -Strike at <u>Le Soleil</u> , <u>La Presse</u> , and <u>Montreal Matin</u> .	
NOV.	-Canadian deficit in trade of manufactured goods rises 15% over 1976 to \$11.5 billion.			-Parliamentary conflict over RCMP activities.
DEC.	-Poor economic performance internationally predicted for 1978.			
1978				
JAN.	-GATT conference. -Canada attempts to raise tariff to protect foreign investment.	-Increased inflation and government spending: rising debts and falling dollar.	-Unemployment at 8.5% -Alberta Labour Fed. breaks with CLC over tripartitism.	McDonald Commission criticisms. -Mail opening legislated. -Government approves \$63 million for warships.
FEB.		-Kitimat pipeline delayed. -Saskatchewan nationalizes 40% of province's potash.		-Federal-Provincial first ministers' conference.
MARCH	-Economic Development Corporation aids Canadian investment in Argentina and Brazil.	-Falling dollar boosts exports in fourth quarter.		

CANADA/INT'l

ECONOMY

LABOUR

POLITICAL

	CANADA/INT'l	ECONOMY	LABOUR	POLITICAL
APRIL	-Interamerican Development Bank continues loans to military governments in Latin America.		-CLC convention: labour supports NDP. -UIC cuts.	-Federal budget reduces sales tax. -More revelations of illegal acts by police. -Competition begun for new fighter aircraft.
MAY	-Bilderberg Conference of 104 North American and European leaders discusses sluggish western economies and Soviet military buildup. -Canada phases out aid to Cuba.	-Royal Commission on Corporate Concentration. -Inco opens mine in Indonesia, cuts back in Canada. -Mining Association of Canada wants changes in federal mining taxes.		-Revenue Canada proposes charitable organizations will lose that status if involved in political activities.
OCT./NOV.	-Foreign takeover rate increases.	-154 largest corporations increase profits by 31% over previous year. -PetroCan buys Pacific Petroleum.		Court limits Keable inquiry.
DEC.		-Hudson Bay Co. buys Simpson's. -Noranda to buy Orchan Mines.		
1979				
JAN.		-PetroCan seeks approval to ship liquified natural gas from the Arctic to the U.S. east coast.	-CLC backs NDP, supports tripartism.	-Task Force on Canadian unity.
FEB.			-Unionizing steps up for the first time since removal of wage controls.	
MARCH	-International Monetary Fund creates new lending facility for countries with balance of payments problems.	-Thomson and Weston empires compete to buy the Bay. Thomson wins. -PetroCan to buy 100,000 barrels of crude oil from Venezuela. -National Energy Board favours increased gas exports to the U.S.	-Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and several Ontario companies found guilty of union-busting.	
MAY				-Federal Election. Tory minority government.

***** THE WAY WE WERE *****

Reflections of the CNSP Collective

The Canadian News Synthesis began as an idea that appealed to a handful of people. Over the years more than 50 people joined. In its seven year lifespan the group produced a monthly magazine that reached readers across the country and overseas. Among its other accomplishments were a score of pamphlets and special issues, a book that sold 5,000 copies and dozens of seminars, workshops and talks.

The Canadian News Synthesis started after an encounter between Canadians who were interested in Latin America and visitors from Mexico, Argentina, Chile and Nicaragua with a similar interest in learning about Canada. The Latin American participants in Solidarity '72 impressed the Canadians with their ability to analyse their societies economically, politically and culturally in a detailed, organized way. In contrast, the Canadians felt they had only impressionistic, general descriptions to offer. For example, Canada is a trading nation, but what percentage of its economy is accounted for by trade as compared with other countries? The Latin Americans suggested that a country's newspapers were useful resources in developing a good working knowledge of contemporary society. A procedure developed by a group in Mexico became the model the Canadians used in the early days of Synthesis.

On a cold, clear, sunny June morning in 1979 the current members of the group, at their annual weekend meeting, agreed they did not have the resources they needed for another year of publication. Since then I have talked to some of the founding members of Synthesis, some who joined the group for a time, and some who were never members of the group but supported it. Their memories and comments bring into focus the human face of Synthesis.

"I was working on my M.A. in history but here I was learning about contemporary Canadian society in a dynamic way", Pat Bird remembers.

"It has given me a better education than post-secondary schooling", is Bob Carty's conclusion. Even those who, like Rod Layman, found research 'a grind', the Wednesday discussion evenings were a highpoint.

"I had been working with unemployed young people. I knew that unemployment wasn't caused by people not wanting to find work, but I didn't understand what was causing it. In those Wednesday night sessions we helped each other put the pieces together". Suzanne Dudziak shared Rod's experience of working with unemployed youth. She describes her learning in the group this way.

"I began seeing how statistics could be used to hide more than they revealed and that women's issues shouldn't be treated only on the back page of the newspaper. It's been a training that's been valuable to me ever since".

A concern for people who were victims of injustice was common to early group members who were of strong Christian roots. John Foster, himself an active United Church member, recalls that Synthesis was a stage in the secularization of a generation of Catholics. By the time Wayne Ellwood joined the group, religious influences were barely perceptible. He felt at home in the group and thought the shared assumptions were not religious ones but common views on how people should live and relate to each other.

Two other factors seem to have played an important part in knitting the group together. One was the collective aspect of the work, the other a visible result: a monthly magazine to show for all the considerable effort demanded of each group member. All tasks were shared from clipping newspapers, to typing articles onto Gestetner masters, to collating and mailing of the magazine.

"It helped break down divisions between those who think and analyse and those who work at the manual tasks of producing copy", says Frances Arbour. "Once you've had a positive experience of working collectively with others it marks everything else you do". This is something all those connected with Synthesis agreed was a major achievement. Wayne described another set of feelings that were widely shared by group members.

"As every deadline approached I would look at my pile of clippings with dread. But when I had made the effort I felt tremendous satisfaction in pulling the pieces of the puzzle together. Oil and gas developments were my area and it was rewarding to make connections between this month's 'news' and events three or four months back; or to predict that two months from now we could expect this change of policy and find it confirmed. Then there was the chance to share these insights with other members of the group and our readers and, finally, to see your work in print".

Growing out of this experience was an increasing confidence among group members. They reworked the original classification system to make it more sensitive to Canadian patterns. An office was rented and staff hired to meet the growing demand for information and assistance from outsiders. Synthesis gained a reputation for solid, disciplined analysis and increasingly sophisticated media critique.

The group's work on contemporary issues raised questions about historical trends in Canadian society. A series of study sessions on Canadian history led to the book, Of Dust and Time and Dreams and Agonies, published in 1975.

"Rereading it now", says its author Pat Bird, "gives me a very strong sense of the way we were. It's very much a part of the Synthesis experience".

Deepening friendships paralleled this growth in confidence. At Fran and Bob's wedding, other Synthesis members composed and sang a song called, "Clip, Clip, Clip Me a Paper", celebrating the joys and sorrows of producing the magazine. Members also recalled the summer weekends fondly.

"We were at ease with each other as friends: Humour, conviviality and a hospitable atmosphere. A very positive type of humanism marked the group".

John Arthur Murphy, in Nova Scotia, was a loyal supporter of the group and a Synthesis reader. He said the group's work helped him look at newspapers more critically.

"The media is an important source of information and an indicator of what people think about an issue". The publication filled an important need for John as an educator. He was disappointed to hear of its end and wondered why the group reached the decision to cease publishing the magazine. Here are some of the reasons members gave.

"The formation of people with an analysis and experience of collective work was achieved but in a very labour-intensive way. It absorbed energies that might have been directed at achieving a broader impact. We were probably unrealistic in our early belief that 10 or 15 people could change the consciousness of large numbers of people in Canada. Many other factors have to be present. That's something we learned from our experience. We also took longer than we should have to judge what newspapers could give us as analysis and what they couldn't".

"The group's successes were its limitations. We aimed to reach an audience that was already familiar with the issues and concerns and our format and style were consistent with this. This limited its appeal to a mass audience and had an impact on our circulation. Ensuring its survival was not a serious enough question for the group. Thus, a basic threshold of subscribers to ensure commercial viability was not reached. We didn't adopt the perspective that we were competing for attention and had to aim at readability and attractive layout and active promotion. The need for this kind of publication is still there. Maybe we didn't have a strong enough belief that our work was worthwhile".

"In spite of the collective experience, personal needs resurfaced and seemed to have taken priority. Members developed new interests and responsibilities that competed for time and energy with the publication. The very fact that people learned to analyse and work together meant that original needs were met and new ones developed that had to be met somewhere else".

Attracting fresh blood and new energies became crucial but somehow eluded the efforts of an increasingly overburdened group. So did raising enough money for the magazine.

"Nothing has come along yet that replaces what it gave me and I really miss it", says Bob. His words pay tribute to the Synthesis experience, an experience the people who belonged to it created, shaped and tried to share with others.

Mary Bird

***** CNSP Song *****

Clip me a Paper

Clip, clip, clip me a paper
Full of distorted news.
Clip it apart, then pull it together--
Change your point of view.

(altogether now)
Clip, clip, clip me a paper, etc.

If only you could see our process,
Clip and paste again.
You would see that we are obsessed,
Clip and paste again.

Refrain...

It's hard to print up our critique,
Ink that damn machine!
Our Gestetner's quite unique--
Crank it out again!

Refrain...

I've found a way to heal your sorrow,
Should your spirits droop,
We'll leave collating 'til tomorrow,
Just don't tell the group.

Refrain...

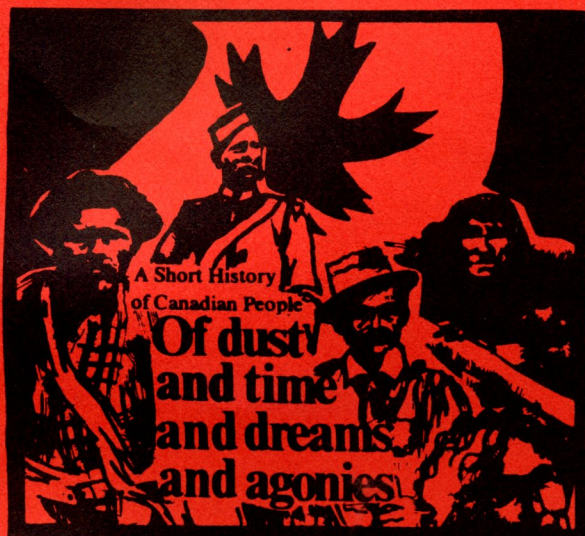
CNSP 'mid tears and laughter
Wish to Bob and Fran:
May you live radically ever after,
And work to free this land!

Refrain...

(altogether now)
refrain again...

Analyze, criticize, synthesize!





THIS BOOK IS NOT:

- a scholarly treatise
- a lament for a nation
- a satire
- a textbook

THIS BOOK IS:

- a short economic and social history of Canada
- an attempt to describe the experience of the ordinary and not-so-famous people who have made Canadian history: the native peoples, French, Acadian, British, Irish, Scots, Chinese, Metis, Americans, Ukrainians, Polish, Finns, Italians, Portuguese and many others who worked and struggled in this country.

By Pat Bird

Illustrated by Yvonne Slipka

\$4.50

CNSP Special Publications

- Some Notes on the Canadian press and the Chilean Election 1973
 The Resource Question: whose priority?
 Guaranteed Income: 'only solution' or welfare jungle 1974
 The CIA in Chile 1974
 Chile and the Canadian Press 1974
 Canadian Press Coverage of the Food Debate: an analysis 1975
 There was a time when strangers were welcome here... an analysis of Canadian press coverage of the Green Paper on immigration 1975
 Review 1974-75: Canada in an International Context 1975
 Labour's Day of Protest: the issues and the press 1976
 Making History: Labour and the press after the day of Protest 1976
 Dignity Denied: unemployment in Canada 1977
 Cutbacks: Wiping out our gains 1977
 There must be some way out of here... an analysis of the post war economic system in Canada 1979

In addition, CNSP collaborated with the Latin American Working Group to produce monthly bulletins, Latin American and Caribbean Inside Report, in 1976 and 1977

CNSP also published one book:

Pat Bird, Of Dust and Time and Dreams and Agonies, a short history of Canadian people.

Tom & Sue Corbett
777 Eglinton Ave W #310
Toronto, Ont., M5N 1E1



CNSP
Box 6300 - Station A
Toronto, Canada
M5W 1P7