

Quebec syndicalists in squeeze

Libertarians and syndicalists in North America's most combative and anti-bureaucratic mass-based union federation are caught between a rock and a hard place as a result of an attempted Maoist takeover of the federation.

On the one hand, they don't want to give aid and

of militant direct action and syndicalist agitation in heavy industry and the white collar trades.

Maoist groups, especially the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist), targeted the decentralized CNTU in hopes of vaulting into the vanguard of the Quebec workers' movement.

charged with a firearms violation.)

In the process of infiltration, though, the Maoists gained quite a few enemies—and not all among the bad guys. As one CNTU militant with a syndicalist orientation notes, a number of local unions have become so fed-up with Maoist tactics

democratic.

"The reaction from the workers is more a critique of how they operate, rather than their political orientation. Although, you could say they operate that way because of their politics."

Maoists Recruit Cadre

While the Maoists dismiss

CNTU militant. "For them, if you join the party you shut your mouth. At least with the Trotskyists you can talk a little."

About 75 per cent of the Maoist membership is students, ex-students and ex-professionals, such as doctors and teachers, many of whom have gone to work in fac-

at \$400,000, and it owns three printing presses. Two other Maoist groups spend a total of about \$400,000, while the two main Trotskyist groups (now undergoing amalgamation) spend a total of \$100,000. (All figures are public, having been published in the straight press.) There is no organized libertarian presence in the Quebec industrial arena, but many anti-authoritarian militants are involved in the CNTU.

The conflict with the Maoists finally boiled over at the CNTU's summer congress where the federation leadership, which is mostly social-democratic, suggested that the constituent unions should be "autonomous from all political groups. . . that officers and militants shouldn't subordinate the unions to political groups."

The leadership's initiative coincided with publication of a 15-part series of articles in *La Presse*, the mouthpiece of Quebec privilege, which detailed Maoist activities within the CNTU. The result was a hunch-wat atmosphere in which the Maoists successfully appealed for solidarity among all Left forces, ensuring the defeat of the motion.

"Syndicalists and libertarians were caught in a bind," says the CNTU syndicalist. "They couldn't support an anti-Red measure. But that leaves the authoritarians just where they were."

Social Democratic Challenge

As if that wasn't enough of a problem, the CNTU is also facing a challenge from Quebec's ruling political party, the Parti Quebecois. The PQ, which is seeking an autonomous or even independent social democratic role for Quebec within the framework of North American capitalism, would like to tame the working class movement into accepting a British-style "social pact" aimed at dampening wage demands.

So far, the CNTU has taken the strongest stand of any Quebec labor federation against collaboration. But the PQ can be seductive: it is bringing in the strongest antic-scab legislation in North America and is working on other measures (patterned after British Columbia, which has copied Sweden) to strengthen the hands of unions in organizing drives.

"The PQ is not yet a party, it is still a movement," says a Quebec journalist. "It contains nationalists of many stripes, including those with strong allegiance to the workers' movement. That's why the broad base of the party is still able to impose such measures on the leadership. How long this situation will last is the question."

To keep up on Quebec affairs, check with **Our Generation**, English-language libertarian journal, 3934 rue St. Urbain, Montreal, Quebec, or **Zone Libre**, French-language monthly produced by a collective of Leftist journalists, 1715 rue Panet, Montreal, Quec.



Goon prepares to fire on CNTU workers during strike at Robin Hood flour mill in Montreal (right); wounded striker carried off by comrade (left). Goons wounded seven workers, but only got their wrists slapped by authorities.

comfort to the red-baiting witchunt being whipped up by the straight media. But on the other, they are repelled by the increasingly authoritarian and opportunistic initiatives of the Maoist factions.

The federation involved is Quebec's Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU), composed of 300,000 members with a rich history

By placing its militants into key locals the Maoists managed to play a role in a number of militant confrontations between the CNTU and the bosses and police, the most recent one being a strike at the Robin Hood flour mill in Montreal during which seven workers were shot and wounded by goons. (The goons have since been

that they have threatened to withdraw from the CNTU unless the Maoists are purged.

"What can you do with the League?" he says. "You can't talk to them rationally. As soon as they get into a position of strength they start to throw their weight around, they become very intimidating, very anti-

the current phase of the workers' struggle as merely economist and defensive, they are nevertheless cynically using the CNTU as one of their main recruiting grounds for cadre. Their consuming interest now is in building the new "proletarian party."

"They are very 1930's left-wing, very Stalinist," says the

Sweden rolls up 'red carpet'

Sweden's image as a haven for political outcasts is becoming a bit tarnished these days in light of the new Conservative government's illegal crackdown on politically-active aliens.

Seven foreigners were summarily kicked out of the country recently following a massive series of raids and arrests in all major centres in April, and none of them got a hearing, as required by law. As well, their dossiers were stamped secret, and can't be opened for 50 years.

The raids, which resulted in about 30 arrests, were allegedly aimed at stifling a plot to kidnap a former Swedish cabinet minister and barter her for the release of Red Army Faction (Baader-Meinhoff gang) members imprisoned in West Germany.

Two of those extradited, including alleged June 2 Movement member Norbert Erich Kroecher, were dispatched into the hands of West German authorities. Two others, a Chilean and a Mexican, were deported even though they face execution in their native countries. The others expelled were another

Mexican, a Greek woman and an Englishman.

At least seven Swedes have been held virtually incommunicado since the raids while awaiting trials which have been postponed several times for lack of evidence. They have not been told the exact nature of the charges against them, nor are their lawyers permitted to make public statements or even to examine all the documents in the case.

Kidnap Plot

As far as is known, the seven are not actually being charged with active involvement in the kidnap plot, but, according to their comrades, with "having sympathized or been in contact with somebody who eventually had those plans to make a kidnap."

The authorities say the plot involved the planned abduction of former Social Democratic Immigration Minister Anna-Greta Leijon, who in 1975 had ordered the extradition of seven foreigners arrested following an armed assault by RAF

guerrillas on the West German embassy in Stockholm. The assault, in which a guerrilla and two diplomats were killed during a counter-attack by Swedish police, was aimed at forcing the release of 26 RAF comrades imprisoned at home.

One of those extradited in 1975, Siegfried Hausner, died of his wounds while being transported back to West Germany. Four others were also sent back to West Germany to face trial, and two Japanese were deported on the grounds they had entered Sweden with false passports and were taking photographs outside a building housing the embassies of Austria, Uruguay, Somalia, Lebanon, Bangladesh and Iceland.

The Swedish government says the kidnap plot was concocted by a group called the Siegfried Haussner Kommando. Among the exhibits it displayed to the news media was a coffin drilled with air holes, ostensibly intended for the kidnap.

During the embassy siege, Swedish officials proved themselves to be completely under the sway of their Ger-

man counterparts, and they subordinated their own State interests to those of their powerful neighbor. German police were on the scene immediately to question the captured guerrillas, and even the straight news media were critical of the unseemly haste with which the Swedish authorities deported the guerrillas.

It shouldn't have surprised them, though, because, despite its liberal posturing on foreign issues and its claims to humanitarian scruples at home, the Swedish government has been cozying up to West Germany for some time now. (Reminds you of Canada vis-a-vis the U.S.) Bonn, after all, is the dominant outside force in the Swedish economy.

Repressive Laws Enacted

Even under the former social democratic regime, which had granted asylum to 700 U.S. army deserters in the late '60's, the screws were starting to turn. By 1970, the government was starting to squeeze out the resident Black Panthers, who were

alleged to have made contact with Swedish anarchists and in 1973 it enacted a law which gave it power to expel "potential foreign terrorists" and otherwise interfere with the rights of foreigners suspected of being members or sympathizers of groups engaged in armed struggle. The pretext for the law was a perceived threat by right-wing Croatian nationalists and Palestinians.

One of the seven Swedes being held is a 21-year-old libertarian, Ted Bergstrom, who is likely to be charged with placing a bomb outside the Spain Tour travel office in Stockholm in 1975 as a protest against the execution of five anarchists in Spain. His defense will rest in part on the international outrage provoked by the executions, so his comrades urgently need to know what other protests took place.

Send all materials to **BRAND**; Box 15030; 10465 Stockholm; Sweden. Bergstrom can be contacted directly (he reads and writes English) at Box 12106; 10223 Stockholm, Sweden.