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alliance québec

le Monthly Report

December '83/January '84

Vol. 1, No. 13

BILL 101 AMENDMENTS ANNOUNCED

Thursday, November 17 was not a day like any other at 1411 Crescent St. It began with a three-hour power failure which closed the Alliance Quebec office until noon and it ended with the tabling of the amendments to Bill 101. In fact, the day did not end for several volunteers and staff who worked through the night to unravel the complexities of Bill 57.

Originally, the amendments were to be tabled two days earlier in the National Assembly. Then the government announced that they would not be ready until the following week. The surprise move on Thursday jammed the AQ phone lines with calls from the media as far away as Detroit, Toronto and Ottawa. Initial reaction was given by the Alliance's leaders, followed by a press conference the next day when Bill 57 was analyzed in detail.

The reaction was of disappointment and anger because only tinkering had been done to the language law rather than meaningful change. Although some of the amendments made Bill 101 more just, the government did not go far enough towards recognizing the consensus which has evolved among English and French-speaking Quebecers on the language issue.

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The most fundamental question was ignored: there can be no real solution if a major law dealing with language in Quebec fails to recognize formally the English language and the English-speaking community. However, since the tabling of Bill 57, Gérald Godin, the minister responsible, has indicated to the French press that such a recognition is under consideration.

Alliance Quebec has made a sustained effort to be in contact with French-speaking Quebecers. Those contacts have convinced us that the people of Quebec want to feel confident in the security and vitality of the French language. However, they do not want a unilingual province. Both the Parliamentary Commission and opinion polls showed that a consensus has emerged on the nature of our society. This social contract is based on the protection and vitality of the French language and on the contribution to Quebec society of a recognized, respected and vibrant English-speaking community.

Nevertheless, Alliance Quebec is encouraged to see some movement in the right direction. Positive steps have been taken on English institutions, tests for professionals, municipalities with an English-speaking majority, and access to English schools.

English in our institutions

Alliance Quebec is pleased that two English-speaking individuals working in English institutions will be permitted to communicate with each other only in English. Unfortunately, this provision has not been extended to communications between two English institutions. These communications must be in both languages.

It is also important to note that the proposed amendments do not embody the principle of "institutional" rather than "individual" responsibility to provide services in French, even though the minister responsible for Bill 101, Gérald Godin, had previously expressed his support of the principle. Acceptance of institutional responsibility would mean that an institution must provide service in French, but not every one of its employees need be bilingual.

Articles 20 and 30 of Bill 101 which call for individual responsibility, have not been repealed. The rule remains: individual, as well as institutional responsibility.

However, following a meeting convened by Mr. Godin with the key leadership of Alliance Quebec, the minister has indicated that amendments on English institutions may be beefed up to recognize the principle of institutional responsibility.

Tests for professionals

Alliance Quebec is pleased to note that the government, in resolving the issue of testing of professionals, has decided to acknowledge clearly the principle that people who have received their schooling in Quebec should have unrestricted access to the Quebec workplace. It is unfortunate that the full application of this provision will not take place for more than a decade and the principle is not accepted for Quebecers in non-professional occupations.

Language tests are only withdrawn for those who graduate from English schools after June, 1986. This means that only nursing assistants are exempt from the tests since they can enter a professional order immediately upon graduation from high school. For most professionals, such as doctors and social workers, because of the length of post-secondary studies, 1991 would be the earliest date from which they would be exempt.

Municipalities with English majorities

There is cause for satisfaction in that those municipal bodies with a majority of English-speaking citizens will be allowed to include English translations alongside the French official texts in their internal communications and in communications between each other. They will also be allowed to use bilingual names. Thus, the Town of Mount Royal can keep the English, along with the French, version of its name - a right for which it has been lobbying.

Access to English schools

There has been a slight broadening of access to English schools, representing at least a step in the right direction. Access is available to children whose father or mother received primary education in English in Canada in a region where the Quebec government determines that the educational services in French are comparable to those offered to English-speaking Quebecers.

Little change on signs

Although polls show that both French and English-speaking Quebecers are in favor of bilingual signs, little change has been made to the signs provision of Bill 101. An amendment states that bilingual signs are permitted outside establishments specializing in the sale of specialty products from foreign countries or particular ethnic groups.

Increased power to language agencies

Increased power has been given to the agencies which administer Bill 101, such as the Appeals Commission for access to English schools which is given the powers of a commission under the Public Enquiry Commission Act. And while legal counsel to the Commission de surveillance was of the opinion that bilingual signs were legal outside commercial establishments of less than five employees, the amendments override this opinion and make it clear that even in the case of small businesses, bilingual signs are prohibited. Amendments relating to catalogues and brochures appear to attempt to validate regulations restricting the right to publish such documents in a bilingual form. It should be noted that these regulations were previously found to be illegal by the Department of Justice. Furthermore, a court judgment ruling that a doctor may produce a medical report in English has been overridden in part by a new amendment to Bill 101.

Government out-of-touch with the people

During the past few weeks, we have seen a profound, perhaps historic, change in Quebec society. Many have taken note of the striking change in the tone of the language debate during the recent hearings on Bill 101. However, it is not simply the tone of the debate which has changed. It is now clear that the very nature of the language debate has been altered because of a profound evolution in the opinions, attitudes and concerns of Quebecers. Division between the French and English-speaking communities on the language issue has been replaced by a consensus which spans a wide range of issues. Yet, it has gone unheeded by the government of Quebec. The proposed amendments to Bill 101 simply fail to meet the beliefs and expectations of Quebecers.

Reaction in the English and French press

The English and French generally agreed that the Bill 101 amendments do not go far enough. The Gazette wrote that the government ignores the real stakes, which have to do with Quebec's future and with the effort a sensible government should be making to create an environment more hospitable and more favorable to a healthy economy.

Michel Roy, writing in the La Presse editorial of Nov. 19, termed Bill 57 modest progress towards meeting the voice of realism and democracy. In the future, the question of language should be resolved by keeping three goals in mind: to protect the official language of the majority, eliminate antagonism between groups, and grant anglophones and allophones linguistic and cultural guarantees.

Jean-Louis Roy, Le Devoir, wrote that Bill 57 does not go far enough to meet the consensus which has arisen in Quebec on the language question. Though insufficient, at least the amendments point the way to a realistic solution to the language situation and an abandonment of dogmatism.

On Nov. 21, The Globe and Mail summarized its response: "What the government offers is important, what it hasn't offered is more important". The government has a lot further to go before Bill 101 can be considered fair.

Le Soleil on Nov. 18 said that important changes to improve Bill 101 have been proposed. But it regretted that the non-francophone minorities have been refused formal recognition. To do so would be the supreme test of maturity.

Graham Fraser in The Gazette on Nov. 22 charged that the amendments are even more confusing than the original law despite the government's goal of clarifying Bill 101. He terms the amendment on signs "gobbledy-gook".

Then on, on Nov. 23, Michel Roy, in La Presse, commented favorably on Gérald Godin's remark to a La Presse reporter that a preamble to Bill 57 may recognize the English-speaking community and the right of anglophones to their institutions. "If the government has the courage to carry this out, it would have enormous moral, social and psychological impact. As a symbol of justice, it would recognize an unquestionable fact and reconcile the government with a community which it ignored with the passage of Bill 101 in 1977."

"PROTECT YOURSELF" NEEDS SUPPORT

The excellent consumer magazine, Protect Yourself, is under the gun: it must double its circulation to 25,000 or it will fold next Spring. The magazine, published by the Quebec government under the Consumer Protection Office, is the English version of Protégez-vous. Consumer Protection Minister Guy Tardif has given the magazine until March to boost its circulation saying that the English magazine's 1982-83 fiscal year had a \$363,000 deficit.

The Alliance Quebec Board of Directors, meeting in November, passed a resolution encouraging members to support the magazine. Anyone interested in a subscription should write to Protect Yourself, Francine Boisvert, 385 Lebeau Blvd., St-Laurent, H4N 1S2. Annual subscription to this monthly magazine is only \$9.

Protect Yourself began as a newsletter in April 1973 as a project of the Quebec Consumer Protection Office. It was offered free-of-charge on request. By 1975, the circulation had grown to 3,000 English and 43,000 French. By September, 1980, the magazines (14,000 English and 325,000 French) were being printed at a cost of \$1.28 million. In early 1981, Protégez-vous and Protect Yourself began to be sold by subscription and also became available on the newsstand. The English version is no longer simply a translation of the French, but rather contains

articles written originally in English. In 1981, the paid circulation grew to 10,750 in English and to 142,000 in French. As of September, 1983, while the French version has grown to a circulation of 190,000, the English version, with almost 13,000 copies distributed, does not reach the break even point of 25,000.

35th anniversary of declaration of human rights

Saturday, Dec. 10 marks the 35th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man by the United Nations, which will be celebrated throughout the world. Here in Montreal a full slate of activities is planned between 1 and 6 p.m. at the Judith Jasmin Pavilion of the Université du Québec, 1455 St-Denis. Over 20 booths will be staffed by human rights groups while entertainment for both adults and children by Quebec and ethnic artists will be presented. The locale is accessible through the church tower entrance across the street from the St-Denis exit of the Berri-de-Montigny Metro stop.

English copies of Charter now available

When the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms was first distributed in French to Quebec homes, it was pointed out that an English version was available on request. However, when calls were made for an English copy, people were told none were yet available in English. Over a month later, they did become available and can now be obtained by calling the following numbers or writing to these addresses: Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Directeur des communications, Ministère de Justice, 1200 Route de l'Eglise, 2e étage, Ste-Foy, Québec, G1Z 4M1, (418) 643-5140; or Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Directeur des communications, Palais de Justice, 1 rue Notre-Dame est, Bureau 3.133, Montréal, Québec, H2Y 1B6, (514) 873-6743.

New magazine about Montreal

A new English Quebec magazine, "Open City", included in its first edition a commentary by Harold Koblin, Cityside Editor of the magazine, on the language situation. With the demise of the anglo-péquistes has come the emergence of a new group representing English-speaking Quebecers - Alliance Quebec, he wrote. "The Alliance realizes that anglophones are going to have to learn to survive in a society that is overwhelmingly French, and is attempting to strike some sort of deal between Quebec's two main linguistic groups, one that will permit anglophones and francophones to live together in relative harmony. It is a message of hope and tolerance," Koblin comments.

"Open City" takes a lively look at Montreal's news and cultural events. It is published bimonthly at 1440 Amherst St., Montreal, H2L 3L3 and is sold on newsstands. Annual subscriptions are \$18.

ACTIVITIES IN CHAPTERS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Duncan MacDonald, a member of AQ-West Island, has won his battle with the Commission de la Sécurité et de la Santé au travail. For two years, Mr. MacDonald persistently requested that correspondence and forms concerning his employees be sent to him in English. During this period, Mr. MacDonald did not pay the contributions due from his business to the C.S.S.T. (formerly the Workmen's Compensation Board). This Fall, the Commission finally agreed to his request. His correspondence and forms will be sent to him in English and he will not be penalized for having withheld his contributions. The case formed part of the recent Alliance Quebec brief before the parliamentary hearings on language.

The Commission de surveillance de la langue française continued to harass many West Island small businesses throughout October. The Chapter's signs committee surveyed the area's banks on behalf of the Commissioner of Official Languages to see if information on Canada Savings Bonds was available in English. In most cases, it was not.

The West Island Health and Social Services Committee is consolidating the results of a questionnaire answered by Board members and other small groups while also preparing a questionnaire for wider use in the community. It is apparent that there is a vast need for public education on Health and Social Services in the West Island.

In almost all 13 city councils on the West Island, city councillors were approached by Alliance Québec members to propose a motion supporting the Alliance's request for changes to Bill 101.

The committee studying the possibility of division into three chapters is doing a thorough job of analysing the demographics of the West Island. Findings and recommendations will be reported to the Board in the new year.

The "West Island Travelling Road Show" starts Jan. 10. Board meetings will be held in a different community each month. Extensive advertising will be done in the area to demonstrate the Alliance presence in the many communities of the West Island.

The Lower Laurentians Chapter recently held a Heritage Awareness Day with the Carillon Museum and Contrefort as the centre of activities. Contrefort is the former home of Commissary General Forbes, who commanded the Carillon Barracks, which were built in 1826. Visitors were surprised and delighted to welcome John Evans of New Brunswick who is the great, great-grandson of Gen. Forbes.

Visitors attended from Nova Scotia, Ontario and Montreal. At the display of traditional crafts, the woodcarvings of Richard (Dick) Young of Grenville were by far the most popular. Heritage Awareness Day encouraged pride by the residents of Argenteuil County in their ancestors. The chapter was happy with the response to this special day which was held for the first time.

Jim Warbanks, the Chapter's co-ordinator for education, has been appointed co-ordinator of Bill 40 by the Laurentian School Board. Carol-Ann Paterson, another member, is chairman of the School Committee. In the past year, three of the chapter's members have been awarded the Meritas Molson Award for community work - Stewart Jones, Pat Garraway and Ross Oswald. Congratulations to all three!

Townshippers' Association is pleased to announce that Cynthia Dow has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Association, replacing Royal Orr who has held the position since May, 1981.

Cynthia is well acquainted with the issues facing the English-speaking population of Quebec, having worked as a Programme Director with the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) in the Gaspé region. Most recently, Cynthia has been Programme Director with the Official Language Communities Programme of the Secretary of State.

"We are sure the entire community joins us in welcoming Cynthia in her new position, and in extending best wishes to Royal Orr and Susan Reed who are leaving the Association," the Townshippers' Association comments.

The South Shore Chapter's Education Committee submitted its brief on Bill 40 to the Parliamentary Committee recently. On Nov. 1, a seminar on Health and Social Services was held in Greenfield Park. It was well attended by volunteers from many South Shore communities. Health and Social Services Programme Director Rita Karakas led the seminar, with help from her Assistant, Richard Silver, and from Jim Carter, a member of the AQ Health and Social Services Committee. Another seminar is planned for January, with representatives from South Shore health and social service institutions invited to speak.

The Laval/North Shore Chapter received support from the Town of Rosemere to pass a resolution promoting bilingual language rights.

The City of Laval has also been approached by the Chapter. A meeting with Mayor Lefebvre and Town Councillor Bigman resulted in a request by the Mayor for more detailed background information on the necessity of passing a similar resolution. Representatives from the Laval/North Shore chapter are providing the Mayor with copies of Alliance Quebec's language brief from the Bill 101 hearings. The Chapter is planning a second meeting with the Mayor and Councillor to discuss the possible resolution.

In education, the AQ-Laval/North Shore Board recently endorsed the Laurenval Coordinating Committee's brief on Bill 40. The brief concentrates on the negative impact which various provisions of the bill are likely to have on the learning environment in the schools.

Elaine Freeland, Coordinating Committee Chairperson, has received acknowledgement from the Parliamentary Commission on Education that time has been allocated to hear the Laurenval Commission's brief.

The South-West Chapter has reached an agreement with the Verdun Messenger, the local newspaper, to publish a monthly article. They will be under the AQ banner and written by the editor or assistant editor of the chapter's newsletter, "The Sou'wester". This newsletter has been well received by the membership and, along with the Telephone Committee, keeps open the line of communication between members and executive.

Because of recent activities of the Employment, Business and Signs Committee under the chairmanship of Susan Becker and Alex de Greef, Susan was asked to present to the AQ training session held in November an overview of a sign issue undertaken in Verdun. Patricia Willoughby, the Chapter's animator until recently, and Susan Becker went through the various steps taken from the raising of the issue with the civil authorities to its successful culmination. The roles of the AQ provincial office and the Chapter were highlighted. Three members of the Chapter also attended the training session.

As part of on-going recruitment plans, volunteers participated in a membership application random mail drop in a designated area. Although the results were not exciting, a few new members were recruited and more people were made aware of AQ. The Chapter plans to do this periodically as long as there are willing volunteers. The Chapter will also have an information booth at a flea market in December.

Sheri MacLeod, head of the Youth Committee, attended the on-campus information sessions along with Dennis Ryan, assistant editor of "The Sou'wester".

With recent elections in the City of LaSalle, contacts have to be re-established with the new slate of officers. The Chapter was pleased to learn that one of the newly elected city councillors, Gary Franklyne, is also a member of AQ.

John Parisella, Quebec representative of the Commissioner of Official Languages, will be meeting with the chapter in November to review what services the Commissioner has to offer and how they can help AQ.

The chapter is having a wine and cheese party for members on Dec. 7 which will include entertainment.

The Board of Directors of Outaouais Alliance is pleased to announce the appointment of James Loken as Executive Director. Mr. Loken is a lawyer from Campbell's Bay, from a fourth generation Outaouais family. He is a graduate of Carleton University in History and Political Science and of the University of Ottawa in Common and Civil Law. He also took post-graduate studies at the Université of Paris, specializing in Philosophy of Law.

The new members of the Outaouais Alliance Board and their responsibilities are: John Trent - President, Robert May - Vice-President, Responsible for Programme Committees, Chairman of Festival of Spring, and Member of Off-Island Committee of Outaouais Alliance; Richard Henderson - Treasurer, English Business Community Liaison; Lloyd Richards - Secretary, Francophone Liaison; Peter Urwin Sr. - Membership; Heidi Roulin - Fund Raising; Edward Trembath - Signs, Employ-

ment, Youth & Education; Susan Taylor - ~~Co~~ Chairman, Youth, Employment & Education; Chris Culbert - ~~Co~~ Chairman, Youth, Employment & Education; Gail Hawley MacDonald - Chairman of Health & Social Services, Member of Provincial Committee on Health, Social Services of Alliance Quebec; Dr. Tom O'Neill - Zone Chairman for Pontiac Zone Committee; John MacKillop - Zone Chairman for Hull Zone; Hubert McClelland - Zone Chairman for Gatineau; Patrica Gratton - Zone Chairman for Papineau (Buckingham); Leona Grimes - Zone Chairman for Upper Gatineau Zone (Maniwaki); Gilbert McElroy - Zone Chairman for Aylmer Zone; Wade Parker - Member of Youth, Employment & Education Committee; Wendy Younge - Member of Youth, Employment & Education Committee; Kevin Drysdale - Member of Youth, Employment & Education Committee, Director of Alliance Quebec, Member of Education Committee of Alliance Quebec; Cal Cummings - Founding member of Pontiac Zone Committee, Chairman of "Cabaret" Committee; Mary Baird - Founding member of Upper Gatineau Zone Committee; Robert Younge - Founding Member of Pontiac Zone Committee, Agriculture Committee of Outaouais Alliance; Juliette Lawson - Communications Chairman, Member of the provincial Communications Committee of Alliance Quebec.

Staff members along with Executive Director James Loken are: Pauline Smith, Community Development Officer, and Margaret Buchinski, Administrative Secretary.

The annual meeting of the Châteauguay Valley English-speaking Peoples Association was held Sat., Nov. 26 when bylaws were accepted and a new board of directors elected. Wendell Sparkes, Alliance Quebec Off-Island Vice-President, addressed the meeting, discussing the role of Alliance Quebec and the Off-Island associations and chapters.

On the new board, representing various zones are Hugh Maynard and Sharon Fletcher, both of Howick; Donald Ednie, of Franklin Centre; Leon Douglas and B.K. Haines, of Valleyfield; Maurice King and Elizabeth Kater, of Rockburn; Mark Bye, of Hinchbrook; Douglas Burns, of Huntingdon; Dr. Paul Tabakman, of Hemmingford. The interim board members will remain as chairpeople of the standing committees. A meeting has been set for Dec. 12 to elect a new executive.

The TMR/Outremont/Côte-des-Neiges/Snowdon East Chapter is pleased to announce its new home is at Suite 229, 5891 Victoria Ave., Montreal, H3W 2R6. Located at the corner of Bourret, the office is accessible by the Côte Ste-Catherine Metro stop.

AQ-St-Laurent invites members of its chapter to attend a holiday soirée and buffet supper on Sat., Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. in St. Andrew's Norwood United Church, 1600 de l'Eglise in St-Laurent.

AQ-Upper Laurentians is carrying out a survey of the media which report on its region. The extent of English coverage in local TV, radio and newspapers is being studied. The chapter also aims to establish contacts in the media.

The NDG/Montreal West Chapter, now 475 strong, has begun a newsletter to keep in touch with its burgeoning membership. Designed by Sharlene Harrison, the short and snappy newsletter was a useful way to notify members of the recent public meeting sponsored by the chapter. The theme of the meeting held Nov. 20 at Centennial Academy in NDG was "Beyond Bill 101" with guest speakers Tom Mulcair, John Parisella and John Ciaccia, MNA Mount Royal.

The Chairperson, Ann Soden, has recently given birth to a beautiful daughter who just might become Alliance Quebec's youngest member.

The Employment/Business Committee, headed by Ron Silverson, met with positive results with the Signs Campaign in the NDG area, with 79 out of 84 merchants signing the petition in favor of bilingual signs. These merchants were all notified of the public meeting. The committee plans to present the EODP package to local schools in the Spring. On the weekend of Nov. 27, Carol Foster and Wayne Robbins, of the Health and Social Services Committee, along with other helpers began distributing the questionnaire on health and social services in the region.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Bill 40 hearings delayed

An evaluation of the government decision to delay the Bill 40 parliamentary commission was done at a recent meeting of the "Group of 14" held Nov. 16. The group pooled information concerning events of the last month leading up to the delay of hearings until Jan. 10th. The government appears to be considering modifications to the proposed law which might be made public before Christmas.

English-speaking parents network

Preparations are underway for a conference involving all English-speaking parents from across the province to be held in early March. Alliance Quebec Board members Gaby Ostro and Marguerite Laflamme are helping a small group of representative parents organize the conference which will examine parental involvement in schools. The conference will be a logical follow-up to the work done by English-speaking parents throughout the province within the Fédération des comités des parents de la province du Québec.

Education Programme Committee

Chaired by Sheila Goldbloom, the Education Programme Committee is coordinating the many different aspects of the education programme, including the beginning of the work group on French Second Language, a review of policy in preparation for the 1984 Alliance Quebec Convention, and a seminar on the Régime Pédagogique to be organized with educational institutions and organizations.

Regional Education Committees

The local Education Committee of Alliance Quebec regional groups have begun implementing programme plans. Alliance staff and volunteers will be working with the local committees to prepare an education workshop on Jan. 13 and 14.

Local committees have been active on issues such as Bill 40, circulating the EODP kit in educational institutions and organizing local meetings on educational issues. The South Shore Education Committee has been helping the Good Shepherd School Committee to fight to keep the only English Catholic school in Brossard open. The Education Committee of Montreal Centre has been distributing the EODP kit. The AQ-Côte Nord Education Committee is planning a workshop in late January on the Régime Pédagogique and small rural schools. The AQ-St-Maurice Committee held a public meeting to inform parents about progress on Bill 40.

Ministry reviews services to English-speaking community

Senior Education Ministry officials have been considering how to improve services to the English-speaking community. Two member groups of Alliance Quebec, the Association of Directors General of the Protestant School Boards of Quebec and the Association of Directors of English Schools, will be meeting ministry officials in early December to discuss the reorganization of services within the Ministry.

Programme notes

Programme Director Doug McCall has heard from a friend travelling in Greece that Alliance Quebec news is reaching as far as Europe. A lengthy article appeared in the Herald-Tribune on the question of the "illegals" in English schools, quoting Alliance Quebec on the issue.

Fran Riley has joined the Alliance Quebec Education Programme staff as Education Programme Assistant. Fran brings a background of involvement in adult education and community organizing.

EMPLOYMENT/BUSINESS PROGRAMME

The Youth Employment Work Group is getting set to implement its programme in the TMR/CSte Des Neiges/Snowdon Chapter. The focus this year will be on the Employment Opportunities Development Programme (EODP) kit and working with the chapters to train people to present it. Barry Gaipman, a professional guidance counsellor, will be working with Programme Director Tom Mulcair in this training process. A new element in the approach to the youth employment dossier will be a concerted effort to develop networks at the school, chapter and provincial levels to create job opportunities in work co-operation and work study programs aimed at providing young people with exposure to the job related French language skills they need in Quebec.

Signs campaign winding down

The signs campaign is winding down in most chapters. An expanded signs work group will meet before Christmas to discuss various options for action in response to Bill 57.

Public sector work group

Activities in the public sector work group area, specifically the monitoring of English language services in federal institutions and the participation of the English-speaking population in the municipal, provincial and federal civil services, will be accelerated at the beginning of the new year. Close co-operation on the federal side is anticipated from the Official Language Commissioner's representative in Quebec.

Seminar planned on francization

Once any changes to Bill 57 on francization are settled, a seminar will be held under the small business work group to bring together experts on francization and provide smaller businesses with the expertise and counsel which is often too costly for such enterprises.

Programme notes

Programme Co-Chairman David Powell travelled to Trois-Rivières recently to present a well-received and well-covered speech on AQ's goals and activities.

Alan Hilton, the lawyer representing Kenneth McKenna in the court challenge of the regulation on catalogues and brochures, reports that the case is set for Dec. 21.

Pat Morey, Employment/Business Chairman in CVESPA, organized a meeting in November on Bill 101 as it affects business, with Programme Director Tom Mulcair discussing the topic.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMME

A province-wide Health and Social Services Seminar is slated for Fri., Jan. 20 to Sat., Jan. 21. All chapters and associations are invited to send representatives. They will have an opportunity to look at province-wide issues in health and social services as well as their particular concerns.

Task Force on Social Services

The Task Force on Social Services has been meeting regularly and the document which it prepared has been approved by the Boards of Directors of English institutions. Gaby Ostro, Chairperson of the Task Force and of the AQ Provincial Health and Social Services Committee, recently had an Op Ed article on the question of English health and social service institutions published in The Gazette. The article traced the changes in the health and social service system over the last year and called for recognition of the need and legitimacy of an English subnetwork of institutions and services.

The next step will be to hold a meeting with volunteer and community groups in the private sector to discuss the question of the reorganization of social services that would have an effect on their institutions.

St. Mary's Hospital case

The Health and Social Services Programme is closely watching developments resulting from the decision of the Commission de surveillance de la langue française to hand over the St. Mary's Hospital case to the Quebec Justice Department. It is felt that there is little justification for such an action.

Activities in the Chapters

AQ-NDG/Montreal West has received an excellent initial response to its questionnaire on health and social services and will make a report on the study when all responses are received. The questionnaire has generated a lot of interest by other chapters, including AQ-Côte Nord which is preparing one of its own to distribute to residents. AQ-South Shore is planning another information seminar at the end of January with representatives of institutions so that residents can familiarize themselves with the range of services available. AQ-Montreal East has started its inventory of health and social services.

Surfacing the Poor Resource Collective

The Health and Social Services Programme has been participating as a member of the Surfacing the Poor Resource Collective which has been conducting research on poverty levels in Montreal. The presentation of initial data has just been made public by this Secretary of State funded organization. It shows that poverty levels in Montreal are higher than previously thought with nearly 20% of Greater Montreal falling below the poverty line.

Programme Note

Alliance Quebec welcomes Catherine Nolet as the new Secretary for the Health and Social Services Programme. She has replaced Ileana Cusiak who has taken a leave of absence for health reasons. We wish her a speedy recovery.

COMMENT IN THE FRENCH PRESS

The general consensus in the French Press over the amendments to Bill 101 was that Bill 57 did not go far enough in reconciling Quebec's two linguistic communities.

Jean-Louis Roy in Le Devoir, Nov. 19, calls the signs amendment "Byzantine and ridiculous...The Bill restrains perspectives where it should enlarge them. These articles should be removed." Another comment from Raymond Giroux in Le Soleil, Nov. 18, says that "retailers of Chinese noodles or Greek ceramics will have more chance to take advantage of the exceptions in the French language charter than would anglophone merchants (who would have to be specialists in tea and marmelade)."

The addition to the Quebec education clause of "unilateral reciprocity" is "full of traps in its details, and undefendable in its substance", says Le Devoir's Jean Louis-Roy. He adds that it is "far, very far from satisfying the consensus of Quebec society." Michel Roy in La Presse, Nov. 19, writes, "What a shame for children from Alberta, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia who would have benefitted from the same rights had they been born a little further away." Giroux in Le Soleil believes that the new clause will "satisfy no one, unless it is future immigrants from New Brunswick who confuse Montreal with Toronto. By unilaterally legalizing its celebrated reciprocity clause, the province is continuing unjustifiable discrimination, since 60 per cent of its population voted to maintain the federal connection in the referendum of May, 1980." Worse yet, the Education Minister Laurin has given the kiss of death to Franco-Ontarians who are calling for control over their own school system.

"The status of English institutions", Jean-Louis Roy writes, "is not altered by the bill, nor substantially improved. The changes only dress up what one would normally assume to be common sense. Other modifications in the law also respond to the requirements of common sense, notably the law concerning the conditions of access for professionals. We will henceforth have confidence in the English School system, although it will not be until 1987-88 that the abolition of tests will be written down as fact."

The editorialists generally agree that Bill 57's modifications in anglophone municipalities are in accord with common sense. Michel Roy in La Presse, sarcastically calls it "a concession which would allow two consenting adults henceforth to communicate in writing in English." Roy suggests that "the time has come to grant a status and a recognition of explicit rights to the group of English-speaking Quebecers who proclaim that they are part of our society, to stop thinking of them as the bridgehead of 'the other majority' in Canada."

AQ IN BRIEF

The Communications Programme is holding a public speaking seminar from 1 to 6 p.m., Sat., Jan. 14 at Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Invited to attend are members of AQ Chapters and Associations interested in doing public speaking in their area. The goal of the seminar is to increase the network of people able to speak effectively on behalf of the Alliance. Contact Communications Secretary Frank Vetere for further information.

Brecht Cabaret being presented

"The Manual of Piety", a cabaret performance constructed from the work of Bertolt Brecht and the music of Kurt Weill will be presented by Concordia University on Dec. 8-11 at the F.C. Smith Auditorium lobby, Loyola Campus. Cost is \$2 for students and \$4 for others, with a cash bar.

Holiday wishes to everyone

The Monthly Report is taking a holiday break with this combined Dec.-Jan. publication. The next issue appears Feb. 1, making Jan. 15th the deadline for submissions. Holiday wishes go out to all readers!

