

québec



Lemieux



Chartrand

Excerpts from Québec Libre

FREE VIDEO TAPE

1. **Jean Roy:** 33-year-old master printer, candidate for FRAP, municipal political party developed from citizen's committees.
2. **Robert Lemieux:** 29-year-old FLQ defense lawyer.
3. **Gerald Godin:** 35-year-old editor, Québec's only weekly socialist newspaper.
4. **Michel Chartrand:** 57-year-old labor union leader.

I think that in '63-64, it was a constitutional matter, something from the gut, from a colonized people wanting to be free, but since '66, the revolutionary groups in Québec have added a social, economic content that means that they want not only to resolve the constitutional problem, to have an independent Québec with all the legislative powers, but they also want a free Québec in terms of having the instruments of production and in terms of having life in Québec organized by Québécois for Québécois.

I think that in Québec revolutionaries we are fortunate not to have old communist parties; doctrinarism is not very prevalent. The line is right to a free Québec with justice for everybody, and developing the human and natural resources for the benefit of everybody, but it doesn't stick to any given doctrinaire line.

It's an original marxisme, a "socialisme québécois"; perhaps they have read a contemporary history of socialist countries and how the changes came about, but they don't refer to any single model. It's a socialism that will be adapted to the Québec people, history, geography and level of industrialization.

Some of the young people used to say to me "You are an old fool if you think that you can have democratic changes—social, economic, political or constitutional changes in a democratic way. They won't stand for it, they'll send the army or the marines—they won't stand for an independent socialist Québec." And I'd say, "We'll see . . ." That was before the 16th of October. Then we had the army, and the 497 people arrested. During the first days, those arrested were all people who were working openly for change. Roy, for example, was a candidate for municipal election. Others were people involved in anti-Vietnam, or disarmament demonstrations, or people involved in picket lines with strikers, or those demonstrating for French language rights in Québec. All on political lists of the police.

But we still have to work to convince the people that they want a real, rapid, radical change which is a real revolution, that they want to get rid of capitalism and go for socialism. Then if the army of Elizabeth II comes back, sent by the Anglo-Saxons in Ottawa against the French Canadians—these are the facts: they sent the army against the White Niggers of Québec. They wanted to blame them and make as if they were all guilty by association with the kidnapping of two people. If the army comes back, once the people is convinced they want to get rid of capitalism, and that they want socialism, because it's the only way to have a decent life . . . then the Québécois will have to do like any other people that want their freedom, like the Vietnamese, the Algerians, the Cubans . . .

The only hope is in the Youth of this province. The youth has lost all their complex of inferiority. They are going to school. They are not afraid

of poverty because they did not suffer like all the former generations from poverty. And, most of all, they are not hypnotized by the gadget civilization of the United States. They can go without toilet paper with flowers and perfume and they'll use the daily paper—the English one preferably. They want to run their own show. They want an independent, socialist government which will make them master of their own destiny, their own country. Then we will be able to deal with everyone in the world. We will have Communist fruits from Cuba, rather than having Capitalist fruits that United Fruits stole in Latin America.

Québec is almost the only place in the world where all the youth from the working class and the farming districts went to school suddenly. Even in the socialist countries, it did not happen as fast as it did here. Ten years ago here, the majority did not go above the seventh grade. Now the majority in the universities are from the working class. Now 85% of the working class have access to the university. It's not the same in France, in England, not even in the U.S. It was so sudden. Here it's a new class, a new generation, a new humanity . . .

The youth of Québec—they say to the adults: your realism and efficiency are just bullshit extensions of the IBM machine, and they throw away all these values and start from a tabula rasa.

It's a new humanity.



Illustration: Pierre Gaboriau