

VILLES

Pointe-Claire

personnel

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Deadlock ended in police issue

Although total agreement is still a long way off, suburban mayors and the Montreal Urban Community executive committee seem to have broken the deadlock over the controversial integration of island police issue.

Montreal North's Mayor Yves Ryan, an MUC executive committee member, is reported to have offered a compromise plan, acceptable to both MUC executive committee chairman Lucien Saulnier and the 29 island mayors, at the latest Conference of Montreal Island Mayors.

Basically his plan is one of integration by stages.

At the conference he asked his fellow suburban administrators to "read the fine print" in the integration bylaw and added "at this time we are operating like a builder who, having decided to construct an edifice, has not prepared any plan but is resigned to coping with problems as they arise, hoping all the time to come out successfully."

Mayor Ryan suggested immediate creation of the post of director-general of island police who would assume responsibility for providing "equal and efficient" police service for island suburbs during integration.

This director-general, the mayor proposed, would have six months to make an initial report on unification.

By June of 1972 he should come up with a master plan of labor contracts for police personnel. By June of 1974 he should have formed a consultation committee with island police chiefs and begin drawing another master plan — this time reorganizing all island police forces.

Not until early 1975 should this director-general present a management plan dividing the community into police districts, indicating the location of police stations, the distribution of mobile equipment and "all other measures designed to assure adequate, fair and equal treatment for all citizens of the community."

Despite the lashing it received from Lucien Saulnier, Hampstead municipal council wants a "closer look" at the controversial Westmount film "Can Montreal Be Governed?"

The film proposes that Montreal island be divided into 13 zones or "bourgs."

Through the Hampstead

Municipal and Recreational Association, the council plans to invite all the citizens of that westend suburb to the screening of the documentary.

Also to be invited will be members of other suburban citizens' associations and speakers from various centres—including Montreal.

Civic employees in Pointe Claire are studying French and English in a special bilingual program organized by city manager Oliver Nicholson with the Baldwin-Cartier school commission.

Nearly 100 employees are enrolled in seven courses (five French, two English) offered after working hours and in two hour periods twice weekly for a period of 15 weeks. City council is paying 85 per cent of the cost, the "students" the balance in the form of a deposit which may be refunded if attendance and grades are good enough.

Nicholson says an attempt is being made to gear the sessions to the needs of individual students in relation to their work for the city.

The City of Verdun has concluded an agreement with the Quebec Housing Corporation under which the corporation will pay three quarters of an estimated \$25,000 for preparation of an urban renewal program for the city's oldest sector comprising some 1,750,000 square feet in the northeast end.

Verdun has appointed Councillors Edouard Bonin, Edouard Vigneau and Lucien Caron, plus city manager Guy Gagnon, to study the program.

Verdun's administration has also appointed Councillor Roger Séguin as "co-ordinator" for negotiations with the Quebec Housing Corporation.

Westmount's Mayor Peter McEntyre has found another friend from perhaps an unexpected quarter for his city's 13-zone "bourg" plan.

He's Verdun Alderman Roger Séguin, who last week in council said he couldn't agree with all the criticism levelled at the mayor. Ald. Séguin said he had the greatest respect for chief critic Lucien Saulnier and added he had thought of putting his feelings as a motion before council but was refraining to save a fruitless argument.

"Let us," said Ald. Séguin, "give Mayor McEntyre a chance."



by Walter Turner

Municipal Affairs

Snow men stay home in Pointe Claire

Blue-collar workers in Pointe Claire stayed off the job on the weekend leaving snow removal duties in the hands of 10 foremen from the city's roads department.

The workers, affiliated with the Confederation of National Trade Unions, are trying to pressure municipal authorities to set a date to resume contract negotiations.

Their last collective agreement expired Dec. 31, 1971, and the union says the city is dragging its feet in drawing up a new contract.

A roads department official reported yesterday that 10 supervisory personnel had worked throughout the weekend trying to keep streets open, but by last night many were too exhausted to continue.

Union president Robert Séguin said the move "was not a walkout, and we'll be back to work Monday."

"The men (about 100) just decided they wouldn't work any overtime on Saturday and Sunday," he said, "which they have a perfect right to do."

Increased salaries is the only item under negotiation.

The union is seeking a 15 per cent increase this year. The city has not made a counter offer.

Blue-collar salaries in Pointe Claire range from \$3.30 to \$3.58 an hour.

Pte. Claire council riled by exam.

Seguin vows to hold police tax

By RICHARD LEVESQUE

Pointe Claire city council last night decided to stop paying its share of police costs to the Montreal Urban Community until Montreal policemen are subject to the same examinations as suburban police.

Calling on all Montreal Island municipalities to adopt similar measures, the suburban administration further ordered its own policemen to refrain from taking the mandatory re-evaluation tests of the Quebec Police Commission which are scheduled to begin tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Constable Marc Lebrun, president of the Pointe Claire Policemen's Brotherhood, told THE MONTREAL STAR last night that his men would take the examinations despite the council's orders.

"You can be sure they will," he said. "This is the law and we must obey it."

Pointe Claire has 46 policemen, 39 of them members of the brotherhood.

At the root of the problem is a preliminary report by the MUC security director on the imminent integration of the island's 5,000 policemen and which would decrease existing police manpower in most suburbs.

However, before integration can take effect, all suburban policemen must be given re-evaluation exams by the Quebec Police Commission. Bill 281, the legislation creating the MUC police force, exempts Montreal policemen from the tests.

"Enough is enough," said an incensed Mayor Art Seguin at last night's special council meeting.

"The whole MUC has been a bulldozing job since the beginning. It's the biggest con game I have ever heard of," he said.

Council unanimously endorsed the action when it was told the city had received no reply to two requests made recently to Premier Bourassa and the justice department to intervene in the proposed screening of police personnel for the integrated force.

Noting that Pointe Claire's police costs have soared to \$1,400,000 from \$600,000 annually since the cre-

ation of the MUC two years ago, Mayor Seguin stated "we are not going to pay double for half a service, period."

He said that according to the security director's report, the number of policemen and patrols in Pointe Claire would remain about the same as today "with the difference that they will have to cover the whole west end of the island, up to Ste. Anne (de Bellevue). And we won't have any detectives or fingerprinting experts like we had before."

Faced with the "insult" of having suburban policemen re-examined but not Montreal's, he said, "it is the only stand this council and any other council in the MUC can take."

He charged that the exemption procedure was "discrimination" because Pointe Claire policemen were trained at the same school as Montreal's or at the Quebec Police Training School in Joliette.

He said the majority of policemen (about 400) required to take the tests are just as competent and qualified as those from the city of Montreal.

"We object to the principle of integration. We object to payment of taxes for police costs. We object to the tests," Mayor Seguin said.

Questioned about the legality of such a move considering that all Montreal Island policemen are now under the direct and sole jurisdiction of the MUC's security council, Mayor Seguin said "we are passed the stages of strict legalities.

"We had municipal rape two years ago. We do not under these (present) conditions recognize the law and we protest," he added.

"I have the jurisdiction of a re-2nd add pite claire

sponsible administrator in the MUC. The province can certainly place the city under tutelage for this (non-payment of its share of police costs). They can lock us up for it if they like."

Mayor Seguin said the decision taken last night was only the first step and promised "other action as well will also be taken on all other MUC surcharges and costs if the services it provides are not up to standards we now have here."

Under further questioning, Mr. Seguin who is also Liberal MNA for Robert-Baldwin, said he disagreed with the legislation adopted by his party's government.

"Choquette (Justice Minister Jerome) was wrong," he said, to have passed the MUC police act with its integration and re-examination clauses as they exist.



Mayor Seguin: "Enough is enough"

66-15-02

ici pour en parler...

avec andré beauvais

- Les cols bleus de Pointe-Claire demandent une augmentation de salaire de 50 cents l'heure à l'administration de cette ville de la banlieue ouest. Le conseil municipal ne serait pas prêt à rencontrer cette demande. Les cols bleus auront acquis le droit de grève à la fin du mois.

Pointe Claire workers strike

The City of Pointe Claire's 100 manual workers went on strike at one minute past midnight today, following an almost unanimous rejection of the city's latest wage offer.

The strikers include the city's snow-clearing team, a municipal spokesman said.

"Services will be kept up, we hope, and bulletins will be carried on local radio stations," he added.

The city's water filtration plant is being manned by management.

The last contract for the CNTU-affiliated workers expired in December last year.

The union has asked for a two-year agreement with an increase of 50 cents per hour the first year and 50 cents the second. The city has offered 42 and 43 cents.

Present salaries range from \$3.69 per hour to \$4.49.

Other issues to be settled include questions of seniority and a union demand that the cost of a grievance be borne by the city.

It is the first legal strike by Pointe Claire's blue-collar workers. Two years ago they staged an illegal, two-day walkout.

The city's white-collar workers are also negotiating a new contract.

The city spokesman said he was hopeful talks would begin again shortly in the blue-collar dispute.