

SHERBROOKE, Rue

5560 ouest



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## AVIS REGIE DES ALCOOLS DU QUEBEC

Avis est par la présente donné que les personnes ci-après mentionnées ont fait une demande de permis à la Régie des alcools du Québec :

NOM	ADRESSE	CATEGORIE
GUERARD, Réal	10724 Millen Montréal	Salle à manger
HAMEL, Auguste	2212 e., Henri-Bourassa Montréal	Salle à manger. bar-salon
ADDESSO, Salvino	96 est, St-Zotique Montréal	Epicerie
LERICHE, Adrien "Chevaliers & Chevalières de Croteau Inc."	4376 Delaroche Montréal	Club
RICHARD, Gabriel	5560 ouest, Sherbrooke Montréal	Cabaret Folies Royal (Théâtre Empress)
PANTAZIS, Apostolos Paul	1403 St-Alexandre Montréal	Salle à manger
LAVOIE, René	1395 ouest, Notre-Dame Lachine	Taverne

Quiconque désire formuler des objections à l'émission de ces permis doit le faire par écrit, dans les quinze jours de la publication du présent avis.

L'écrit contenant les raisons de l'objection à l'octroi d'un permis doit être signé et envoyé dans le délai ci-dessus, par poste recommandée à :

**REGIE DES ALCOOLS DU QUEBEC**  
BUREAU DU GREFFIER  
CASE POSTALE 1058, PLACE D'ARMES  
MONTREAL, P.Q.

Le Devoir, mardi, le 14 août 1962.

Hotellere  
Cahiers clubs & nuit  
A-Z

## WE SAY

### A new night club brings late reaction

IT may be mostly a matter of principle that many objections are being raised to a liquor licence being granted for what will soon become Montreal's largest nightclub on the site of what is now The Empress Theatre, Old Orchard and Sherbrooke in N.D.G.

There is much to be said pro and con N.D.G. being a dry district in a "wet" city but, unfortunately, it almost seems as though the protests come too late.

Since there are already many drinking establishments in the area, any others opening would serve to give competition, and protests would serve a dual role: forbidding competition — which is bad — and protecting the quiet residential atmosphere — which is good.

In the case of the Empress, or Les Folies Royales, if you prefer, the principle seems to be that the Quebec Liquor Board did not even give those protesting the licence, namely the N.D.G. Community Council, a hearing to establish if these objections were valid.

It has not exactly been spoken aloud that there is some "knavery" involved in granting this liquor permit, but the attitude of the QLB can only lead to such charges being made.

Maybe the charges are true; it is practically impossible to judge.

But it is only natural that many will assume that high-handed actions by government bodies have not been left in the past after all.

The Council claims that not only was their protest ignored, but so also was a city by-law which forbids any more drinking establishments in this area.

If additional drinking establishments constitute progress, and are necessary to our way of life, even in N.D.G., then the right to open such a place should be there for everyone.

The city moved to stop any future establishments being opened so residents could relax and not be forced to sit in judgement in each and every case.

But the QLB's attitude that if nothing written is in their hands within 15 days that everything is agreeable leaves a tremendous onus on such a "watchdog" committee as the Community Council.

It would seem that the best act of public relations the government (and the QLB) could produce right now would be to establish once and for all if such drinking places are wanted here, maybe even by a referendum.

So, it's not necessarily the fact that a nightclub is opening in N.D.G. that causes the biggest complaint, but the principle involved of rules, regulations and procedures being flouted.



This Sunday evening's performance at The Empress Theatre will mark the end of an era — but the start of another in N.D.G., according to reports received this week.

Instead of movies, The Empress — soon to be called Les Folies Royales — will feature extravaganzas, and will be the largest nightclub in Montreal.

The new club which recently obtained a liquor licence, is expected to open February 12. Workmen will enter the old theatre this Monday morning and remove the seats, making way for modernization and renovation.

### Completely re-done

The Old Orchard and Sherbrooke building will be completely redecorated; the ground floor will be terraced so all patrons will have a good look at the show. The first

For  
further  
details,  
see  
Roving  
Reporter,  
Page 5

will be "Don Arden Presentation."

The stage will be 42-feet wide to "provide ample space for big name entertainment."

"It is understood that only top-line revues will be brought in," a spokesman said.

Negotiations for the super-club were completed by Harold Giles, vice-president of United Amusements Limited, with Georges Richard and Associates.

## Objections raised

Ken Mackay, president of the N.D.G. Community Council, which objected to the application for the establishment's liquor licence, said last night he deplored the Quebec Liquor Board's action in granting it.

"It was high-handed, immoral and illegal," he said.

Mr. Mackay said the Council had filed an objection, but was never called forward for a hearing. When later he checked on this, he said he was told that the objection had been sent in too late.

"Why, even in Ma Heller's case the QLB heard objections, whether they were made within the 15 days or not," he said.

The QLB publishes applications for liquor permits, and stipulates that any objections must be submitted in writing within 15 days of publication.

It is expected that other objections will be sent to the QLB and to the provincial government protesting this licence in the next few days.

"In any case," Mr. Mackay said, "the City of Montreal has a zoning by-law which would automatically forbid such an establishment at that location."

Hotel-Cabaret -

ON AND OFF

## THE RECORD

● THEATRE-CABARET FOR WEST END: The first step toward opening a theatre-cabaret in Notre Dame de Grace has been taken by a Montreal group with purchase of the approximately 1,200-seat Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke street west from the United Amusement Corp. Plans reportedly call for removal of the conventional seats and installation of tables and chairs for the service of beverages. On stage, a revue composed of acts largely imported from France will be staged. Tentative name for the enterprise is the Cafe Royal. Its presentations will be patterned on those of the variety theatres in France.

◆ ◆ ◆

H/Hotel  
Cabaret  
Hollis Royal

## QLB Under Fire

# N.D.G. Organization Denounces Granting Of Cabaret Licence

By WALTER TURNER

The Quebec Liquor Board should immediately rescind its decision to grant a cabaret licence in Notre Dame de Grace or the members of the Board responsible for issuing the permit should resign, the N.D.G. Community Council said yesterday.

In a prepared statement issued by its president, Kenneth Mackay, the Council charged the Board had issued the permit without a public hearing and in contravention of a city zoning bylaw.

Mackay further charged the Board had promised the Council, in writing — as a result of the Council's objection to the permit — that the Council "would be summoned to a public hearing and would be notified of the date of the enquiry and the place where it would be held."

The letter, notes the Council statement, was signed by the Clerk of the Quebec Liquor Board.

The Council called for the resignation of those responsible "in order to preserve the integrity of the Board in the eyes of the general public and to prevent it from enjoying in the future the disreputable reputation of its predecessor, the Quebec Liquor Commission."

### Theatre Will Be Site

Site of the cabaret, if and when it becomes operative, will be the present Empress Theatre building at 5560 Sherbrooke street west. It would be the only cabaret in N.D.G. entitled to remain open until 3.00 a.m. weekdays and until midnight Sundays, and to provide music, liquor and entertainment.

Application for the licence was made late last summer by Gabriel Richard.

According to rumors, N.D.G. may see more licences issued and the Council declaration said it was "equally disturbed by the rumor that the persons interested in the new cabaret have prevailed upon the city to amend bylaw 1264 to permit cabarets, taverns and other outlets on Sherbrooke street."

In this connection the statement noted that "at its annual meeting held in May, 1962, the members of the Community Council were informed by Mr. Saulnier (Lucien Saulnier, Exe-

cutive Committee Chairman) that the City would do everything in its power to see that the zoning regulations prohibiting liquor outlets on Sherbrooke street would be maintained."

### See Disservice

"In issuing the permit illegally," claims the N.D.G. Council, "the Board has done a great disservice not only to the community, whose interests it should serve, but to the principle of the granting of liquor permits according to the rule of law which was, presumably, the reason why the Government established the Board to replace the discredited Quebec Liquor Commission."

The Council claims that when it learned of the application for the cabaret licence its legal committee filed a notice of objection. On Nov. 6, 1962, it claims, an acknowledgment of the objection was received, in which acknowledgment promises were made of a public hearing and that the Council would be notified when and where the hearing would be held.

The Council, however, claims that "notwithstanding this specific undertaking by the Board to hold a public hearing at which the Community Council and other interested residents of Notre Dame de Grace could appear, no such hearing was held."

Only within the last few days, it adds, did the Council, which was still expecting and preparing for a public hearing, learn that a cabaret permit had been granted to Mr. Richard on Nov. 27 last.

Since no court appeal exists "from the arbitrary decision of the Board," Mr. Mackay said the Council had written the Attorney General in protest, and had also protested to the Montreal Executive Committee Chairman, "whose bylaw has been so flagrantly ignored."

## Décision arbitraire de la Régie des alcools -- Le Community Council de NDG

Le Community Council de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce vient de s'adresser au procureur général de la province pour protester contre la décision "arbitraire" de la Régie des alcools d'accorder, sans auditions publiques, un permis de cabaret pour un établissement situé dans l'édifice du Théâtre Empress, rue Sherbrooke ouest.

Le président de l'organisme, Me Kenneth MacKay, a déclaré hier au cours d'une conférence de presse, que si la Régie ne revient pas sur sa décision, qui viole un règlement municipal, ceux qui sont responsables de l'octroi de ce permis n'auront qu'à démissionner pour que la Régie ne soit pas victime de la même triste réputation que la défunte Commission des liqueurs.

En 1960, a rappelé Me MacKay, le Community Council a été mandaté par ses membres pour s'opposer à l'octroi de permis de vente d'alcool sur les rues Sherbrooke et Monkland dans Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Le 15 décembre 1961 l'administration municipale adoptait un règlement de zonage interdisant l'établissement de cabarets, clubs de nuit, tavernes ou autres établissements du genre dans ces rues.

A l'été 1962, M. Gabriel Richard a demandé un permis pour un cabaret situé au 5560 ouest, Sherbrooke. Le community Council s'est opposé et la Régie des alcools lui a laissé savoir qu'un permis ne serait pas accordé sans auditions publiques. Aussi l'organisme s'est-il préparé à faire objection,

mais voilà qu'aujourd'hui, il apprend que le permis est accordé et que les auditions publiques n'ont jamais eu lieu.

Le Community Council a aussi appris que les intéressés dans l'octroi du permis ont déjà fait des pressions auprès de l'administration municipale pour faire amender le règlement interdisant l'ouverture de cabarets sur Sherbrooke-ouest et Monkland. Mais, le président du conseil, M. Lucien Saulnier, a laissé savoir au CC qu'il fera tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour éviter que le règlement soit amendé.

Me MacKay a noté qu'en accordant ce permis "illégalement" la Régie nuit non seulement à la communauté dont elle doit sauvegarder les intérêts, mais viole les principes mêmes selon lesquels ces permis doivent être octroyés.

## Des citoyens protestent contre l'établissement d'un cabaret dans NDG

Indigné qu'un permis de cabaret ait été accordé par la Régie des alcools du Québec à Gabriel Richard, qui veut exploiter un club de nuit là où se trouve actuellement le théâtre Empress, rue Sherbrooke, le "Community Council" de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, a demandé que la Régie change sa décision ou que les responsables de cette décision offrent leur démission.

Dans une déclaration écrite, le président du Community Council, M. Kenneth Mackay, a déclaré que la Régie avait accordé le permis sans avoir tenu d'audience publique et en contravention avec les règlements municipaux.

Si le permis est accordé, le nouveau cabaret de Montréal sera le seul situé dans Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

M. Richard avait demandé son permis au cours de l'été dernier. Les citoyens de N.D.G. selon M. Mackay, se déclarent

inquiets de rumeurs à l'effet que des personnes intéressées à l'exploitation du cabaret aient demandé à la cité de Montréal d'amender le règlement municipal 1264 afin que la Régie des alcools puisse accorder des permis pour l'exploitation de cabarets, tavernes et autres établissements de consommation de bière, vin et boisson dans l'ouest de la rue Sherbrooke.

Dans sa déclaration, M. Mackay dit que le "Community Council" a été avisé par M. Saulnier, président du comité exécutif, que la cité ferait tout en son pouvoir pour assurer le respect du règlement. M. Saulnier avait fait cette promesse en mai dernier.

Comme il n'y a pas d'appel aux décisions de la Régie, M. Mackay dit que le Council a envoyé une lettre de protestation au procureur général, M. Lapalme.



Hotel cabaret  
Les Folies Royales

# Earl Joins Cabaret Permit Fight

Provincial Revenue Minister Paul Earl and the Notre Dame de Grace Liberal Association last night added their protests to the granting of a cabaret permit to the new owners of the Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke Street west.

Mr. Earl, here to attend the annual meeting of the association, said he has always been personally opposed to the issuing of liquor permits in N.D.G. which he has represented in the Quebec Legislature for five consecutive terms.

"I fought against the granting of the first tavern permit there and I haven't changed my views since then," he declared.

The association was even more outspoken in its criticism of the licensing act by the Quebec Liquor Board.

In a resolution passed unanimously by the attending delegates, it "condemned" the Board's action and demanded

that the Attorney-General "institute an immediate inquiry into all circumstances surrounding the issue of said cabaret permit."

The association's stand added further fuel to the growing controversy surrounding the cabaret permit.

Only last Friday, the NDG Community Council called upon the board to rescind its decision immediately or else resign.

The Council claimed the permit was illegal since it was issued without any public hearing and in direct contravention of a City of Montreal by-law which prohibits such establishments on Sherbrooke St. West and Monkland Avenue.

The NDG Liberals in their resolution last night noted that the order has not been rescinded and therefore condemned the board "for issuing the permit for

By HANS GROTKE

use at 3560 Sherbrooke Street west without the promised public hearing and in contravention of zoning by-laws 1246 and 2247 of the City of Montreal."

The association's resolution is expected to be raised again at the forthcoming annual convention of the Quebec Liberal Federation here later this month.

Meanwhile, it was learned by The Gazette last night that the controversial permit had been granted last Nov. 27 by the action of three of the six mem-

bers constituting the Liquor Board.

Although no official comment was forthcoming, decision to issue the permit was believed to have been based on the fact that no opposition was voiced during the 15-day legal permit allowed in such cases.

It was also learned that the new owners of the much-publicized enterprise are planning a mid-February opening for their cabaret which is to be called Les Folies Royales.

The cabaret, which will feature French variety shows, is

expected to have a seating capacity of about 500 persons.

Other business at last night's meeting of the NDG Liberals saw W. Gordon Macdonald succeed Paul Caron as president of the group. Warren Allmand, Irving Shapera, Sandy Campanelli, Mrs. Anne McConomy and B. B. Tremblay were named vice-president. L. Philippe Moquin was elected treasurer and Mrs. Jeanette McLennan secretary. H. Laddie Schnaiberg and Mrs. Anne Donohue were named councillors.



# Les libéraux de NDG protestent auprès de la RAQ

Après le Community Council de N.D.G., c'est au tour de l'Association libérale de ce comté à faire connaître son mécontentement concernant le permis de vente d'alcool accordé à un cabaretier de la rue Sherbrooke, dans N.D.G.

Au cours de son assemblée annuelle, tenue hier soir, l'association libérale a protesté auprès de la Régie des alcools du Québec et demandé en même temps, aux termes de la même résolution, que le procureur général institue une enquête afin de déterminer les circonstances qui ont entouré l'émission de ce permis pour un cabaret sur la rue Sherbrooke, ce qui enfreindrait les

règlements de zonage de la Cité de Montréal.

L'Association libérale de N.D.G. soutient que le permis a été accordé sans audience publique alors que la Régie aurait avisé le Community Council de N.D.G. qu'il serait convoqué à une séance publique sur cette question.

Le ministre Paul Earl, qui représente N.D.G. au Parlement, a fait une brève apparition à cette assemblée annuelle, pour dire qu'il s'était toujours opposé à l'émission de tels permis.

## Elections

A cette même occasion, l'association libérale de N.D.G. a procédé à l'élection de son nouvel exécutif pour l'année 1963. C'est M. W. Gordon Mac-

donald qui a été élu président, remplaçant ainsi M. Paul Carol. Les vice-présidents sont : MM. Warren Allmand, Irving Sha-

pera, Sandy Campanelli, B. B. Tremblay et Mme Anne McConomy. M. L.-Philippe Moquin a été élu trésorier, et Mme

Jeannette McLennan, secrétaire. Les conseillers sont : M. H. Laddie Schnaiberg et Mlle Anne Donohue.

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Hotels - Spas de nuit  
Folies Royal

## N.D.G. Up in Arms

# Storm Brews Over Cabaret

By WALTER TURNER

Notre Dame de Grace's controversial cabaret, the future existence of which became public knowledge for the first time over the weekend when the N.D.G. Community Council charged the Quebec Liquor Board had granted it a licence without a public hearing, saw three new developments

yesterday.

Within the space of a few hours the N.D.G. Liberal Association further condemned the Liquor Board and called for an immediate inquiry;

The Quebec Liquor Board explained its side of the controversy;

Promoters of the project confirmed that opening of the cabaret was imminent and that an investment of nearly a million dollars — plus an entertainment expenditure of \$20,000 weekly — would make it the showplace of Canada.

They announced that they had purchased (not rented) the Empress Theatre at 5560 Sherbrooke street west and that it would open for business Feb. 12 as the Folies Royal.

Adopted unanimously by the N.D.G. Lib. Assn. at its annual meeting last night was a motion censuring the QLB "for issuing the permit . . . without the promised hearing and in contravention of zoning bylaws" and demanding that the attorney-general "institute an immediate inquiry into all circumstances surrounding the issue of the cabaret permit."

Present at the meeting, Hon. Paul Earl, provincial revenue minister who has represented the riding for several terms, reiterated his own personal objection to the sale of alcoholic beverages "anywhere in N.D.G." He made, however, no criticism of the QLB.

### Surprise to Earl

"I thought," he told THE MONTREAL STAR, "that the project had been forgotten and was surprised to learn otherwise from the newspapers. I've been opposed to licensed restaurants since 1955 and I haven't changed my mind. I haven't been in a cabaret in so long I forget what they look like but I would oppose them too in N.D.G."

The application for a cabaret licence, THE STAR was informed by a senior official of the Quebec Liquor Board, was granted because no objection to it had been made to the board within the legal delay of 15 days from public notification.

"We received the application," he revealed, "on July 31 of last year and published the official notice of receipt in newspapers of both languages on Aug. 14. The first letter from the city did not arrive until Sept. 14 and the objection from the N.D.G. Community Council did not arrive until Nov. 1.

"It is not up to us to enforce the bylaws of Montreal or any other city. If Montreal opposes the operation of this cabaret then it will refuse to issue a permit. We frequently co-operate with municipalities in denying licences where the bylaws are ironclad but in this case a licensed restaurant is already operating across the street from the Empress Theatre, site of the proposed cabaret."

What of the letter advising the N.D.G. Community Council a public hearing would be held on the cabaret application?

### Written in Ignorance

It was, said the QLB executive, pretty much a form letter written by the board's clerk outlining the customary procedure but written in ignorance that in this case the legal delay for objections had expired.

The licensed restaurant referred to by the QLB spokesman is "Ma" Heller's, diagonally across Sherbrooke street (number 5617) from the Empress Theatre. It obtained its licence in October of 1961, two months before an amended zoning bylaw included Sherbrooke street and Monkland boulevard as areas prohibited to receive liquor licences.

Outlining aims and details of the cabaret project at a press conference yesterday afternoon, its 41-year-old manager, Gabriel Richard, said a survey of Sherbrooke street establishments had indicated a hundred per cent approval — "provided we were not a honky-tonk."

Aim of the Folies Royal, he stated, is to provide Montreal with "the one prestige cabaret it has long lacked," to become a drawing card for the World's Fair and a showplace similar to the Lido in Paris, the Tropicana in Las Vegas, the Latin Quarter in New York and the Town & Country in London.

With a million dollar investment and a \$20,000 weekly expenditure, it will feature:

A raised stage extending into the audience, with five tiers of raised tables and a customer capacity of 1,000; a 16-piece orchestra raised above the stage; two dozen chorus and show girls; a policy of no tipping with bonded waiters provided by the Detective Investigation Bureau; champagne only will be served and no meals;

A change of production acts every eight weeks, variety acts every two weeks and stars every week; public operation from Wednesdays to Saturdays and "private" or convention operation Mondays and Tuesdays. Stars booked include Edith Piaf, Paul Anka, Lilo, Patashou and Marjane.

## A Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

# Montréal empêchera un cinéma d'être transformé en cabaret

par Albert TREMBLAY

La Régie des alcools du Québec n'accordera dorénavant plus de permis de vente de liqueurs alcooliques aux propriétaires d'établissements commerciaux situés dans Montréal, à moins que le requérant ne produise d'abord aux régisseurs un permis municipal.

C'est par un memo adressé au secrétaire de la Régie des alcools, M. Alphonse Lagacé, que le président Lucien Dugas vient de mettre fin à une situation ambiguë qui causait depuis quelques mois un malaise certain entre les dirigeants de cet organisme provincial et les autorités municipales.

Il arrivait en effet assez fréquemment que la Régie des Alcools accorde un permis au propriétaire d'un établissement commercial qui ne cadrait aucunement avec les exigences des règlements régissant le commerce des liqueurs alcooliques dans la métropole.

La ville de Montréal devait alors poursuivre les tenanciers de tels établissements devant les tribunaux pour faire valoir

ses droits, se retrouvant à tout coup avec le fardeau de la preuve.

En annonçant cette nouvelle hier après-midi, avec un air de

visible satisfaction, M. Lucien Saulnier a, par ailleurs, confirmé l'intention de la ville de Montréal de poursuivre ses démarches auprès des tribunaux afin d'empêcher les propriétaires d'un cinéma de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce de transformer leur établissement en un chic cabaret. La Régie des alcools a déjà accordé un permis à cet établissement de la rue Sherbrooke, même si les règlements de la ville de Montréal interdisent un tel genre d'établissement dans ce secteur de la ville.

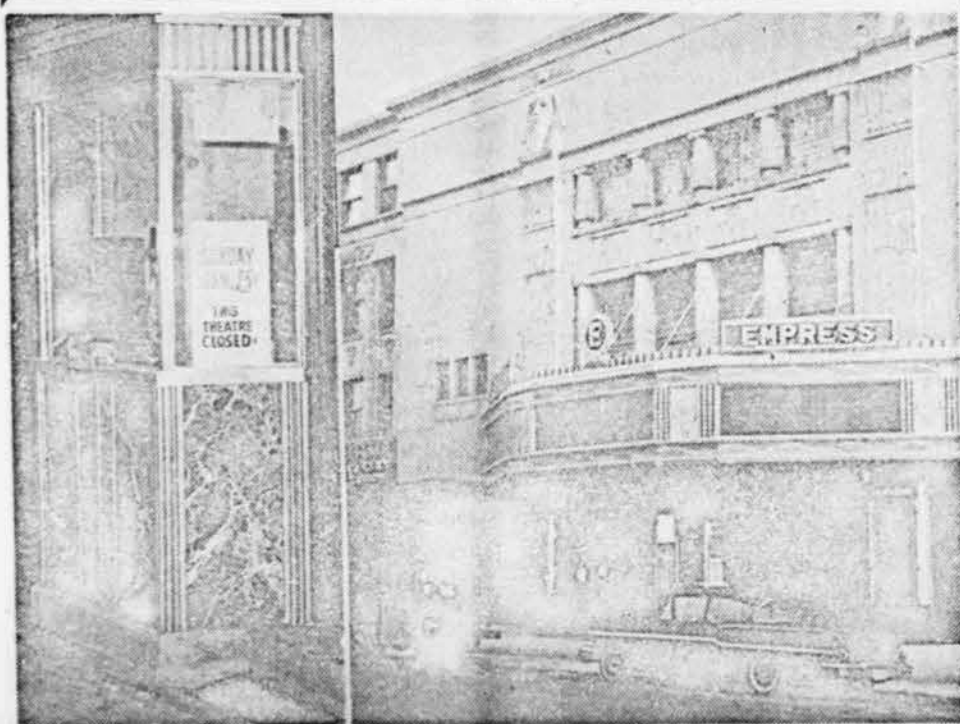
M. Dugas a corrigé cette drôle de situation en faisant parvenir à M. Alphonse Lagacé le message suivant :

"Dans le but de collaborer avec la bonne administration de la Cité de Montréal et d'éviter que des poursuites inutiles soient intentées par la ville, lorsque des personnes munies de permis de la Régie ne se conforment pas aux règlements municipaux, il a été décidé par les trois régisseurs qu'à l'avenir aucun certificat de permis ne devra être remis, à moins que le détenteur désigné ne produise au préalable entre vos mains le permis de la Cité de Montréal lorsqu'il s'agit d'un établissement situé dans ladite Cité.

"Vous voudrez bien, s'il vous plaît, donner des instructions en conséquence à ceux de vos employés qui peuvent, à l'occasion, émettre des permis."

Cette importante modification dans la façon de procéder à la direction de la Régie des alcools a été réalisée à la suite de démarches faites récemment par le président du comité exécutif.

Hotel-club de Montréal  
A-Z- Folliott-Roy



(Gazette Photo Service)

**CAUSE OF THE FUSS:** A sign advising of the last performance at the Empress Theatre, left, stands as a lonely symbol of the old movie house's past history. The theatre is being con-

verted into a cabaret, which has led to considerable controversy. At the right, a truck is being loaded with the old theatre seats in preparation for the new venture.



*Editorial*

## N.D.G. Cabaret Controversy

"IF IT OPENS WE'IL SUE"—SAULNIER

Executive Committee Chairman Lucien Saulnier said yesterday that the City of Montreal will take legal action against the new owners of the Empress Theatre if and when it opens as a converted cabaret.

Mr. Saulnier told The Gazette that the city will not tolerate any violation of its zoning by-laws, "whoever the customer may be."

The granting of a cabaret licence to the controversial establishment by the Quebec Liquor Board has raised a storm of protest from civic associations in the Notre Dame de Grace area since

By HANS GROTKE

it became public knowledge last Friday.

The N.D.G. Community Council and the N.D.G. Liberal Association have already condemned the actions of the Board and requested it to rescind its decision.

Provincial Revenue Minister Paul Earl has stated that, personally, he has always been against the issuing of liquor permits in the area.

Yesterday, Mr. Saulnier confirmed the fact that the cabaret licence was in direct contravention of city bylaws 1264 and 2703, which specifically prohibit such establishments on Sherbrooke St. and Monkland Ave., in N.D.G.

He said the city could not act in the situation until the cabaret opened.

"But once it starts to operate, we are suing," he declared.

Mr. Saulnier also quashed rumors that the city is easing off on its bylaw regulations concerning licenced establishments.

"We have not widened the liberties of our bylaws. In fact, we have restricted them as much as we could."

Mr. Saulnier said it was unfortunate that the city would have to take action against the owners, but it was the only way to safeguard its bylaws.

Since the actions of the Liquor Board are beyond city jurisdiction, the municipality has no other recourse than to sue the owners, he declared.

Mr. Saulnier revealed that the Empress Theatre situation is similar to one the city is facing on Fleury St. in the north end, where another permit has been granted against existing bylaws.

In that case, he said, the city has already authorized legal proceedings against the owner in question.

### Saulnier Met Chairman of Board

Mr. Saulnier also indicated that these controversial cases may not occur again because of a new agreement between the city and the liquor board.

He said he had conferred only two weeks ago with the chairman of the board in an effort to work out more suitable arrangements than existed in the past.

Subsequently, he stated, he was informed by the chairman that a new order had been issued to the clerk of the board that in future, no liquor permits are to be issued unless the designated holder first could produce a city permit showing that all municipal regulations had been complied with.

He said he had been assured that this directive has been passed on to all liquor board employees who might have occasion to issue permits.

This, Mr. Saulnier, termed a "big improvement."

It will eliminate the necessity of the city taking legal action against citizens after the liquor licences have been issued, he stated.

Meanwhile, yet another group arose yesterday to protest the proposed cabaret.

This time it was the three city councillors for N.D.G. — James Bellin, Jacques Brisebois and John Parker.

The men sent a letter to Mr. Saulnier in which they declared the cabaret would be against the best interests of the community.

They urged the city to "do everything in its power to prevent the opening of the night club on this site or anywhere else in N.D.G."

Hotel - Club de nuit  
Folies Royales

### City Bylaw Contravened

## Saulnier Declares N.D.G. Cabaret Plan Faces Legal Action

Owners of the Empress Theatre in Notre Dame, de Grace will face legal action if they go ahead with present plans and operate a cabaret on the premises, Executive Committee Chairman Lucien Saulnier promised yesterday.

He revealed that city and Quebec Liquor Board officials have taken action to prevent future conflicts between Board rulings and municipal regulations. No liquor permits will be granted in future "until the prospective operators present proof that the proposed establishments comply with all municipal regulations."

The new formula was worked out at a meeting two weeks ago between Mr. Saulnier and Liquor Board Chairman Lucien Dugas. The clerk of the Board already has received the necessary orders to enforce it.

The executive committee chairman said yesterday that the Empress Theatre cabaret would operate "in direct contravention of city bylaws 1264 and 2703 which specifically prohibit this type of establishment on Sherbrooke street and Monkland avenue in Notre Dame de Grace." But the city is unable to take action until the cabaret, which has a Liquor Board permit, actually opens for business.

Mr. Saulnier said that the city would act in the Empress Theatre case for the same reasons it had taken action against another establishment on Fleury street, where a liquor permit had been granted despite a conflict with existing municipal bylaws.

The granting of a licence to new owners of the Empress Theatre has sparked a storm of protest in the west end of the city. Since news of the permit was released last week, the N.D.G. Community Council and the N.D.G. Liberal Association have condemned the action of the Liquor Board and asked that the permit be cancelled. The Liberal Association's resolution was supported fully by Quebec Revenue Minister Paul Earl who stated that he has always been opposed to the granting of any

liquor permits in the area.

Three city councillors from the district, James Bellin, Jacques Brisebois and John Parker, sent a letter to Mr. Saulnier yesterday urging the city to "do everything in its power to prevent the opening of the night club on this site or anywhere else in N.D.G."



Hotel  
cabaret  
Folies Royales

## 'YOU SAY' Council member lauds stand on cabaret

Sir: Please permit me this opportunity to extend my congratulations to Ken Mackay, dynamic young president of the NDG Community Council, on the strong stand taken by the Council regarding the issuing of a cabaret permit for the old Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke street west, corner of Old Orchard.

Being a member of the Council, I would also like to personally make strong objections to the issuance of the permit and I am sure that I express the sentiments of many in so doing.

I fail to understand why the NDG Community Council should be required to act as watchdog in protecting the desires of our citizens; after all, do we not have elected representatives whose specific purpose is to protect the wishes of our people?

According to Mr. Mackay's statement, the permit was issued in contravention of city by-laws; then where, may I ask, are our elected representatives? What have they done about it? Are they not the ones to be protesting this flagrant disregard of the people's wishes? Do we not have here a classic example where too much power in the hands of a few gives way to ignoring the rights and the wishes of our people?

Within the last few years, liquor licences have been granted all over the N.D.G. riding, including Decarie boulevard, Monkland avenue, Sherbrooke street, Upper Lachine road, etc. . . .

It seems that protests by religious groups, service organizations, the general public etc. are of no avail as these permits were still issued after strong protests have been made.

I call upon the people to unite and make a strong petition so that our elected representatives will hear and respect the wishes of the people.

I think it is high time that something should be done and the time to act is now; let us unite behind Mr. Mackay and the Community Council and have our voices with our objections heard.

B. V. Fedorka

Hotel Cabaret -  
Folies Royales

### The Public Drinking Establishment

Sir, — The traditionally "dry" Notre Dame de Grace area of our city will soon dampen itself further with the opening of another public drinking establishment; and there are now loud protests about it echoing in the community. Why the disapproval? Cafe, beverage room, cocktail lounge, tavern and pub patrons actually consume only one third of all drinking done in any urban community. The home and the private club account for the other two-thirds. Perhaps, the observation of drinking behavior in the latter is not as accessible, and thus there is less basis for outcry. However, protesting is healthy for it indicates that some individuals in the community are alive to what is happening.

Widespread opposition to the public drinking establishment is a common phenomenon. Such opposition has a long and interesting history. It dates back more than 4,000 years, in the Bronze Age cities of the Near East. The earliest written document registering condemnation of the public drinking establishment appears in the Code of Hammurabi, sometime around 2000 B.C. Since then, the public drinking establishment has been consistently condemned; and to this day much of this disapproval is reflected in the innumerable legislative restrictions about drinking in effect in practically all communities.

Organized opposition to the public drinking establishment tends to be concentrated primarily in certain groups: the upper socio-economic strata of the community, the church and its representatives, organizations of middle class women, the teetotalers. What relevant features do these groups have in common? Actually, they are the least likely in any community to have any direct experience or even observation of the public drinking establishment. They are the very people who

rarely number among its patrons; yet, they view the public drinking establishment solely as a place where drinking is encouraged, inevitably leading to drunkenness, then poverty, and finally, family breakdown. They also reason that alcohol makes men socially reckless, that it has an aphrodisiac effect encouraging promiscuity.

Other age-worn concepts and attitudes about the public drinking establishment has figured more or less prominently in a variety of activities which led to a change in the status quo. The Russian, French and American Revolutions were intimately associated with it. In Russia, the tavern was the rendezvous of the conspirators who laid the basis for the Bolshevik Movement. In England, after the French Revolution, severe restrictions, even attempts at prohibition, were imposed on the pubs under the guise that such establishments were sources of excessive drinking and other evils; but it seemed almost certain that this was done because the British Government feared that the revolutionary fervor of the French might become transplanted in England. At that time the pubs were virtually the only meeting places available to the working classes where they were able to discuss their common oppression.

The Trade Union Movement in Britain, too, had its origin closely associated with the English pub of the last century. The industrial worker met there, in relative freedom with his fellows, and shared sentiments which ultimately led to the power of collective bargaining. They

**All letters to the Editor must bear the name of the writer, which will be published and the address, which will be kept confidential.**

were, evidently, a threat to the security of the managerial and proprietary classes of that era; and it was not surprising that these groups condemned the pubs as dens of intrigue and drunkenness, and sought to have them restricted by law. Our own Upper Canada Rebellion was largely planned in a tavern and one of its battles was supposed to have been fought in it. The Second World War had its rumblings in the "Beer Hall Putsch" of Munich.

The public drinking establishment constitutes a type of meeting place, sometimes the only available one, for certain groups in the community, where they can relax, talk and drink. It provides an atmosphere conducive to fellowship, promoting a free exchange of common views and grievances about the drudgeries of their daily lives. Women, particularly, have long been vocal in their opposition to it. One has only to reminisce about the unrelenting attitude of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. This may be partly attributed to the fact that the public drinking establishment is not merely a place where alcohol is sold and consumed; but rather, a "workingman's club," a traditional male stronghold from which women have frequently been excluded. It represents the smarting symbol of inequality where women are still reminded of the traditional inferior status relegated to them.

To limit the number of public drinking establishments in any community, as a device to controlling the supposed evils of drinking, is pure self-deception. Rather, we must look inside each such establishment, understand the human beings who patronize it, the personnel who serve them, and the relations between the two, prior to labeling them as dens in iniquity.

JACK GOLDNER.

Montreal, Jan. 13.

Hotel cabarets  
Follies Royal

# Proposed N.D.G. Cabaret To Go Ahead With Plans

By WALTER TURNER

Surprised to learn that he might face a law suit if he opened his controversial cabaret in Notre Dame de Grace, Follies Royal manager Gabriel Richard said today he had no alternative but to go ahead with his plans to open Feb. 12.

Executive Committee Chairman Lucien Saulnier said yesterday that if the cabaret opened in its presently planned site — the Empress Theatre — the city would bring suit to force it to close.

Montreal's amended zoning bylaws, he declared, ruled out cabaret operation on Sherbrooke street and Monkland boulevard. Earlier objections to the future cabaret had come from the N.D.G. Community Council and the N.D.G. Liberal Association.

"We have already invested a quarter of a million dollars in our project and our legal counsel has advised us to proceed," Mr. Richard said.

Both the actors and musicians unions, he noted, required posting of bonds, and whether or not the cabaret opened he would have to pay the contracted \$20,000 entertainment allotment.

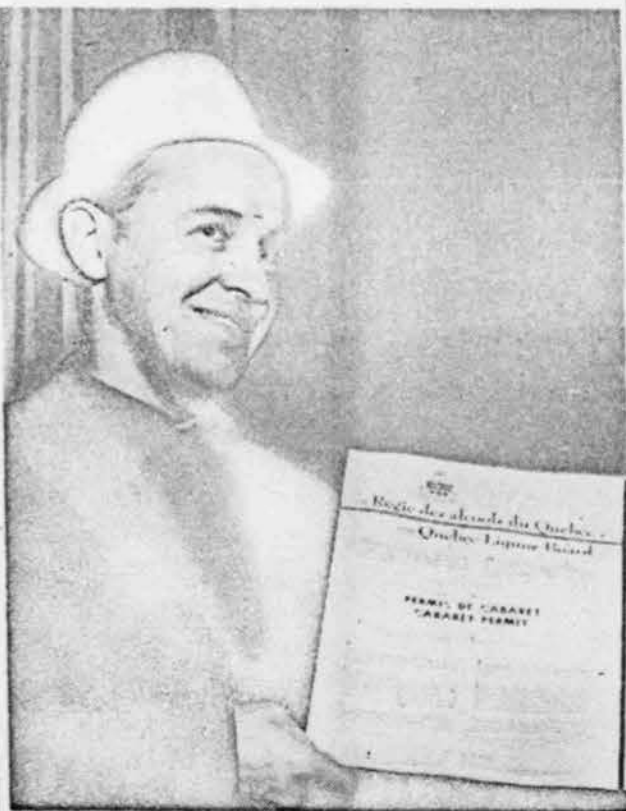
## Nothing Settled

The City of Montreal to date has neither authorized nor refused the permits sought by promoter Richard—a permit for repairs to the theatre, a dining room permit and a permit to operate a "theatre de varieties."

"Yesterday," Mr. Richard said, "we were visited by all sorts of city inspectors—from the health department, the police department and the city planning department. They were very courteous but just did their job and left without comment."

He said he could not understand the city's objections at this late date. "They made no legal objection when the Liquor Board published notice of our application. Now, if they are going to sue us, the courts will have to decide who's right and who's wrong. We will have the proper arguments at the proper time."

Legal sources expressed the opinion that Mr. Richard's case in law might be stronger than



Star Photo by David Bier

Gabriel Richard, manager of the controversial cabaret to open in the Empress Theatre Feb. 12, displays the permit issued by the Quebec Liquor Board.

supposed, there apparently being nothing in the city's zoning bylaws to exclude operation of a restaurant or a "variety theatre."

Any legal battle, they said, would perforce be lengthy, with two years for a hearing in the civil courts and another two years for an appeal to be heard.

Executive Committee Chairman Saulnier last night reiterated his declaration that permits granted by the Quebec Liquor Board lie outside the city's jurisdiction.

He told members of the Board of Trade Associates that the city's "only alternative" to prevent operation of establishments violating municipal bylaws was to take court action, but added that the city had granted no permits and was "checking the matter very closely."

During a question and answer period following a dinner of the Associates, Mr. Saulnier had been asked why the city was contesting the granting of a licence when everyone knew a similar establishment had been in operation for some time "on the other side of the street."

The establishment in question is "Ma" Heller's Restaurant at 5617 Sherbrooke west. It obtained its licence to serve liquor from the city in October, 1961, two months before the amended zoning bylaw excluded Sherbrooke street and Monkland boulevard from areas allowed to operate on liquor licences.

Issuance of this licence was also opposed by the N.D.G. Community Council but supported by numerous friends of Ma (Mrs. Jennifer) Heller, including hundreds of servicemen for

whom she had organized a letter writing system while they were overseas.

Noting that the residential character of Sherbrooke street west of Girouard had been lost some time ago, Ma Heller said she thought a cabaret "could be good for the district and wished them well."

Cabaret promoter Richard said a canvass of neighboring businessmen had found them sympathetic and added "I still feel the N.D.G. Council is afraid we might be planning a honky-tonk and would change their minds if I could tell them personally what we plan." What he planned, he repeated, was a "Canadian showplace."

Pour combien de temps?

## Le cabaret de NDG doit ouvrir ses portes en février

par Albert TREMBLAY

Selon M. Gabriel Richard, nouveau propriétaire du cinéma Empress et initiateur d'un projet de cabaret "ultra-chic" à Montréal, les citoyens de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce n'iraient pas de protestations massives à l'endroit de son projet s'ils connaissaient mieux ou s'ils savaient tout simplement ce que sera l'ancien cinéma Empress une fois converti en cabaret.

M. Richard, cuisinier et gastronome, ancien président provincial de l'Association des cuisiniers et président-fondateur des Amis d'Escoffier, a dit hier mal comprendre les raisons de ces protestations. On sait que le Community Council de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, le ministre Paul Earl en tête, s'en est pris violemment au cours des derniers jours au projet du "Folies Royal".

C'est en disant, presque sur un ton de défi, qu'il "aménageait pour ou moins dix ans" que M. Gabriel Richard a pris possession hier de l'ancien cinéma Empress, situé au 5560 ouest rue Sherbrooke. "Folies Royal" a demandé son permis

municipal et comme la ville n'a pas encore officiellement refusé ce permis, l'on continue allègrement les travaux de rénovation.



M. GABRIEL RICHARD  
nouveau propriétaire du  
cinéma Empress  
qui sera transformé en  
un chic cabaret

tion. Le cabaret doit ouvrir le 12 février et il ouvrira le 12 février... si l'on se fonde uniquement sur la détermination de son principal initiateur.

Tel que conçu, le projet prévoit l'ouverture prochaine d'un "cabaret ultra-chic" qui présentera 10 spectacles par semaine, durant quatre jours. Le "Folies Royal" sera fermé le dimanche et n'ouvrira ses portes les lundis et mardis que sur réservation et à l'intention exclusive de groupes ou clubs sociaux intéressés. Il sera le premier club de Montréal à ne servir que du champagne. Il n'y aura pas de bar et les pourboires seront prohibés.

Enfin, pour éviter l'infiltration d'éléments indésirables parmi le personnel, les garçons de table seront choisis par les soins d'une agence privée de détectives.

M. Richard, qui dit avoir déjà investi \$500,000 dans ce projet, croit fermement qu'un tel cabaret a sa place à Montréal, qu'une certaine classe de gens le désire et que, plus encore, il "faut à la métropole du Canada un cabaret ultra-chic".

Il fait également valoir qu'il aurait été impossible d'obtenir un permis d'exploitation de la Régie des alcools si l'on n'avait présenté aux régisseurs un "programme sensé". Il ne se poserait également aucun problème du côté stationnement.

Quoi qu'il en soit, le "Folies Royal" ouvrira ses portes le 12 février... mais pour combien de temps? C'est là qu'est toute la question. Les lois sont les lois et la ville de Montréal, qui a la ferme intention de poursuivre les tenanciers, ne peut procéder avant que le "cabaret ultra-chic" ait ouvert ses portes.

M. Lucien Saulnier est catégorique: "Aussitôt qu'il ouvre ses portes, on poursuit."



## An Extraordinary Number Of Protests

Rarely have there been so many pleas for the reconsideration of a public board's decision than the decision of the Quebec Liquor Board to grant a licence for a cabaret to be opened in the former Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke Street in Notre Dame de Grace. The Board has claimed that it granted the permit because no objection was lodged during the period of 15 days allowed for protests. But against this fact are an extraordinary number of requests that the matter be reopened:

1. Protests have come from the N.D.G. Community Council. It claims that a notice of objection was filed. It was acknowledged by the Quebec Liquor Board. The Board informed the Community Council that it would be notified of the date and place of a public hearing. No such hearing was ever held.

2. Protests have come from Mr. Lucien Saulnier, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Montreal. He says the liquor licence granted by the

Quebec Liquor Board for the proposed cabaret in the Empress Theatre "flagrantly" violates the zoning by-laws. If the cabaret opens, the city will take legal action against it.

3. The three city councillors representing N.D.G.—James Bellin, Jacques Brisebois and John Parker—have joined in protesting against the granting of the licence.

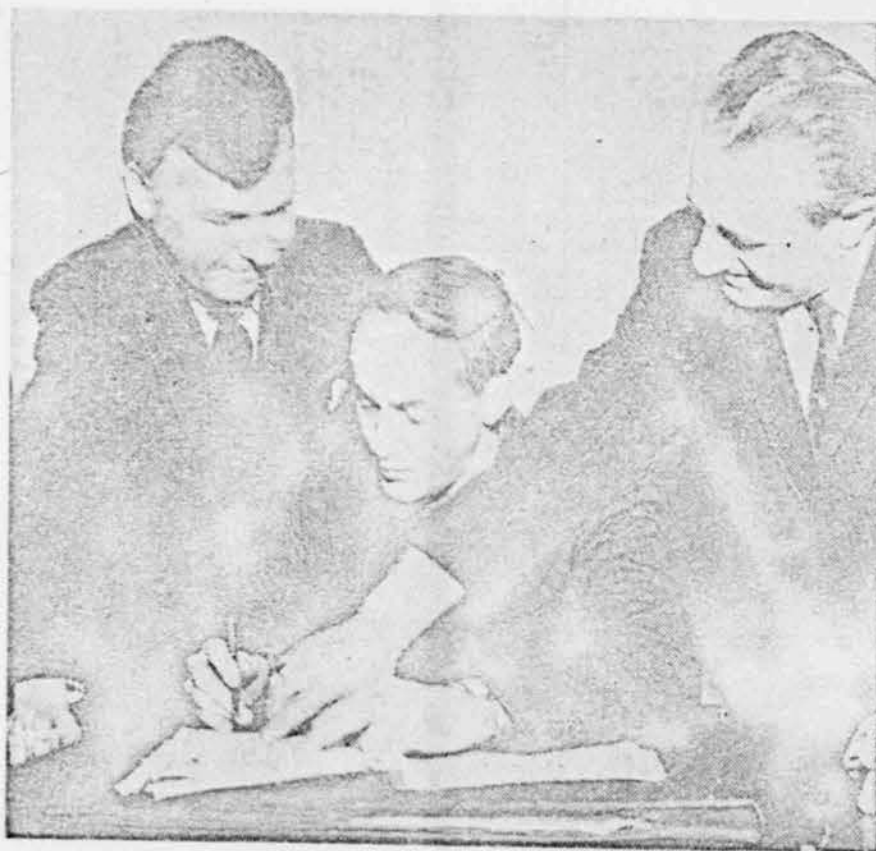
4. Hon. Paul Earl, Minister of Revenue in the Quebec Cabinet, and the provincial member for N.D.G. for the last five terms, is emphatically opposed to the licence.

5. The N.D.G. Liberal Association has protested.

6. The licence was granted by only three of the six members of the Quebec Liquor Board.

It is true that decisions made by boards should not be lightly reconsidered. But in this case the grounds for a consideration are scarcely light. At least the holding of a public hearing seems in order.

Hotel. cabarets  
Folies Royales



LA SIGNATURE OFFICIELLE du contrat du luxueux nouveau cabaret FOLIES ROYALES a eu lieu la semaine dernière, à New-York et à Montréal entre le directeur GABY RICHARD (au centre) et JOHNNY REED (Reed Theatrical Agency) (à gauche) et son collaborateur SYDNEY TAPLEY. Ce cabaret nouveau style ne vendra que du champagne. Les clients le paieront au prix de la régie plus le bénéfice de l'établissement. Les POURBOIRES seront prohibés! Les spectacles seront de la classe du LIDO, de Paris. La date d'ouverture sera vers le 12 février prochain.

On n'y boira que du... CHAMPAGNE!

## Le cabaret "LE PLUS CHIC DU MONDE" ouvrira ses portes bientôt à Montréal!

Par Serge Brousseau

**L**E SECRET a été très bien gardé, depuis de longs mois, et même depuis l'époque qui précéda les élections provinciales du Québec. Il le fallait car les intéressés ne voulaient pas embarrasser les politiciens d'un parti ou d'un autre et ne voulaient pas davantage être tenus de répondre aux questions délicates que l'on n'aurait pas manqué de leur poser. Il s'agit tout simplement de l'ouverture, à Montréal, de ce qu'il est maintenant convenu d'appeler "LE CABARET LE PLUS CHIC DU MONDE"... le "FOLIES ROYALES".

Ce cabaret, puisqu'il n'est plus indiscret de le dire, sera situé à l'endroit où est construit l'ancien édifice du théâtre "EMPRESS", rue Sherbrooke ouest. L'ouverture officielle est prévue vers le 12 février et l'on espère bien, si la chose est possible, que MAURICE CHEVALIER soit "l'invité d'honneur" pour ce soir-là.

Plusieurs vedettes sont sur la liste des autres invités. On y peut lire les noms de BRIGITTE BARDOT, PAUL ANKA, LILO, PIAF, PATACHOU, MARJANE et quelques autres grands noms, en outre de nos plus célèbres vedettes canadiennes d'expression française et anglaise.

Il va de soi qu'au moment où ces lignes sont écrites, qu'aucune acceptation "officielle" n'a encore été reçue mais on compte bien, d'ici l'ouverture, pouvoir présenter une liste des plus allé-

chantes au grand public. On sait déjà que c'est la maison REED THEATRICAL AGENCY qui est chargée d'engager les artistes qui participeront aux spectacles, après l'ouverture. C'est le sympathique industriel bien connu GABY RICHARD qui a été nommé directeur de l'établissement.

Mais ce qui rend ce cabaret DIFFÉRENT de tous les autres, c'est ce fait que l'on se propose de n'y servir que du CHAMPAGNE! Rien que ça. Mais détrompez-vous, lecteurs, si vous vous imaginez que les prix seront prohibitifs. Ils seront au contraire, très abordables, car le champagne sera vendu au prix de la Régie des Alcools plus le bénéfice REGULIER de l'établissement. Et une nouvelle qui ne manquera pas de réjouir le cœur des habitués des établissements nocturnes, c'est que les pourboires seront prohibés partout dans la vaste salle qui sera aménagée de plus de 1,200 places. On ne veut pas exploiter les clients.

Il y aura même, pour les LACORDAIRES, un champagne non-alcoolisé!

Bref, tels sont les secrets du Show Biz qui sont publiés aujourd'hui en premier. Le FOLIES ROYALES fera couler beaucoup d'encre... et de champagne. On y verra des spectacles selon la formule du Lido, de Paris, du Quartier Latin, de New-York etc. Ils seront grandioses quant à la production et l'emphase entourera le spectacle lui-même plutôt que les noms des grandes vedettes.

Il s'agit bien d'une authentique innovation dans le monde du spectacle!



Qu'on l'empêche d'ouvrir ou non, le nouveau cabaret  
de N.D.G. aura reçu toute la publicité voulue

Le cabaret-restaurant "Fol-  
lies Royal" ouvrira vraisem-  
blablement ses portes vers le  
15 février en dépit de protes-  
tations énergiques de plu-  
sieurs organismes sociaux de  
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce et des  
poursuites judiciaires que la  
ville de Montréal intentera  
contre cet établissement, à  
moins d'une injonction de la  
Cour Supérieure.

Le gérant de ce chic caba-  
ret, Gabriel Richard, a déclara-

ré, en fin de semaine, qu'il  
n'avait pas d'autre alternati-  
ve que de procéder tel que  
prévu et d'entrer en opéra-  
tion le 12 février.

"Nous avons déjà investi  
un quart de million de dollars  
dans ce projet, et nos procu-  
reurs nous recommandent  
d'aller de l'avant", a déclaré  
M. Richard. "Les unions d'ar-  
tistes et de musiciens ont dé-  
jà exigé des bons de garantis,  
et que nous ouvrons ou non,

il nous faudra leur verser  
\$20,000..."

#### C'est compliqué

Gabriel Richard détient son  
permis de la Régie des Al-  
cools, mais il n'a pas de  
permis municipal. La ville ne  
lui a pas encore accordé ni  
refusé ce permis. Vraisem-  
blablement, à la suite des dé-  
clarations de M. Lucien Saul-  
nier, président de l'Exécutif,  
elle le lui refusera.

"Depuis quelques jours",  
souligne M. Richard, "nous  
recevons régulièrement la vi-  
site de toutes sortes d'inspec-  
teurs de la ville. Ils sont tous  
très polis et ne font que leur  
devoir. Nous n'avons pas un  
mot de critique là-dessus..."

Selon des experts en la ma-  
tière les poursuites intentées  
par les autorités municipales  
n'empêcheront pas le cabaret  
de poursuivre ses activités,  
du moins pour trois ou qua-  
tre ans. Il s'agit d'une cause  
civile, ce qui veut dire peut-  
être deux ans avant qu'elle  
soit portée à l'agenda de la  
cour; et, s'il y a appel (ce qui  
est à prévoir), les proprié-  
taires des "Folies Royal" auront  
encore du temps pour respi-  
rer et... servir la clientèle.

De toute façon, d'ici l'ou-  
verture et dans les mois qui  
suivront (s'il y a ouverture),  
le club n'aura pas manqué de  
publicité, et le gérant Gabriel  
Richard n'est pas loin du sou-  
rire de la satisfaction...

#### M. Dugas s'expliquera

Le président de la Régie  
des Alcools, M. Lucien Dugas,  
a convoqué les journalistes  
pour demain afin d'expliquer  
clairement la position de cet  
organisme dans cette affaire.  
Cette position est simple : la  
demande de permis pour les  
"Folies" a été publiée dans  
les journaux comme toutes  
les autres et aucune objection  
n'a été signifiée à la Régie

dans la limite prévue de 15  
jours. Quand il n'y a pas  
d'objection, la Régie ne tient  
pas d'audience publique. Les  
différents groupes qui "font  
du tapage" aujourd'hui "dor-  
maient" à ce moment-là et  
ne se sont réveillés qu'une  
fois les délais pour protester  
expirés et le permis émis fau-  
te d'objections, dira en subs-  
tance M. Dugas, demain.

#### Du champagne

Le cabaret des "Folies  
Royal" sera copié un peu sur  
le fameux Lido de Paris, et  
l'on y vendra uniquement du  
champagne. On prétend que  
le coût d'une bouteille de  
champagne pourrait se limi-  
ter à \$12., ce qui est meilleur  
marché que dans la Ville-Lu-  
mière. Les garçons de table  
seraient suffisamment payés  
pour ne pas exiger de pour-  
boires (ce qui reste à voir).

Pour ce qui est des specta-  
cles, ce seraient les mêmes  
que l'on peut applaudir à Las  
Vegas, à Reno, à Paris, etc.

Les noctambules formulent  
un regret : que la boîte n'ait  
pas été installée un peu plus  
dans le centre de la ville, ce  
qui faisait la force et l'un des  
atouts du défunt Bellevue Ca-  
sino.

*Hotels-cabarets  
Folies Royales*

## Folies royales, une nécessité ?

Lors d'une conférence de presse, on nous a annoncé qu'on transforme le cinéma Empress pour en faire un vaste cabaret. On nous explique dans un communiqué que les grandes villes du monde entier ont des clubs de nuit de réputation internationale : le Lido, à Paris; le Latin Quarter, à New York; le Stardust, à Las Vegas; le Coconut Grove, à Los Angeles, etc. "Pendant ce temps, écrit-on, Montréal, à la veille d'une Exposition internationale, ne peut se vanter d'un seul club de nuit de réputation mondiale." Evidemment, et l'auteur de ce communiqué aurait pu ajouter qu'ils sont excessivement rares, les cabarets où l'on présente de véritables spectacles de music-hall à Montréal.

"Le 12 février, les Folies Royales combleront ce vide d'une façon qui permettra à nos oiseaux de nuit de s'amuser, à un prix raisonnable, à la façon des plus riches habitués des boîtes les plus huppées des deux hémisphères", lit-on.

C'est beaucoup dire. La réputation d'un cabaret ne se fait pas en un jour, surtout une réputation internationale.

## Objections Overruled

# Liquor Board Says Cabaret Case 'Over'

By BRUCE TAYLOR

The Quebec Liquor Board is going to stand by its issuance of a licence for a cabaret on the site of the Empress Theatre, controversy or no controversy, and objections by the Notre Dame de Grace Community Council and the City of Montreal notwithstanding.

Judge Lucien Dugas, who is chairman of the board, said at a press conference here yesterday that:

1. "A widely publicized letter of objection from the N.D.G. citizens' group was received by the board 'two and a half months after publication of the application for the licence not just a few days after, as is generally believed;'"

2. "The board doesn't consider the letter a valid objection, anyway; it is 'classified merely as an opinion with out concrete argument;'"

3. The city, which threatens to sue somebody because the building at 5560 Sherbrooke street west is in a zone which prohibits the establishment of bars, "can do what it likes. As far as we're concerned, the case is closed. The licence stands," and

4. "There will be no public hearing of the matter."

Application for the licence was made by one Gabriel Richard last July 31. Notice of the application was published in two Montreal newspapers Aug. 14, and under the Quebec Liquor Act objections would have to be received by the board within 15 days.

If any objections had been received within that period, Judge Dugas explained, a public hearing would have been held to decide the merits of the application. As none was received the licence was ordered issued.

It was not until the first week

of September that the N.D.G. group complained that city zoning laws prohibited a bar there. This was followed by elaboration by the city. By then, said the judge, it was too late. "Anyway, the N.D.G. letter does not constitute a valid argument against the issuance of the licence. It states only what we consider to be an opinion."

He said the case was judged solely on the merits of the application. "All requirements were met by the applicant, so the licence was given to him. Now, if the city wants to do something about it, it's up to the city to concern itself with municipal bylaws. The case is closed as far as we're concerned."

### No Action Against "Ma"

Judge Dugas said that Ma Heller's restaurant was issued a licence last summer, and there were no objections from the city then. The place is diagonally across Sherbrooke street from the Empress Theatre. "No action has been taken by the city to stop her operating, so we did not think any action would be taken in this latest case."

The area is considered "commercial" in city zoning bylaws, although bars are prohibited there.

"We judge cases only as they affect the Quebec Liquor Act," Judge Dugas said. "We don't go into municipal laws. If we did, we'd never get any work done."

He said that in the past year, more than 14,000 liquor licence applications — about half of them renewals — had been brought before the board. Of that number, 909 had resulted in public hearings.

He pointed out that objections to applications must be based on fact. "Opinions don't mean a thing," he said. "If we had a public hearing on every case where an opinion-objection was entered, we might have to listen to 800 to 1,000 people in each case—most of them people who are merely against drinking and don't think there should be any bars at all."

## Travaux interrompus au cabaret de NDG

Les travaux entrepris au cinéma Empress, rue Sherbrooke, à Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, pour le transformer en un cabaret ultra-chic ont été interrompus ce matin par l'arrestation du propriétaire et de

plusieurs ouvriers qui y travaillaient.

Cette intervention des autorités municipales a été décidée comme dernière ressource, après que des inspecteurs du service des permis eurent averti deux fois le propriétaire, M. Gabriel Richard, de cesser les travaux qui étaient effectués "sans permis de construction", dit-on.

C'est un autre obstacle que rencontre M. Richard dans l'établissement de ce qu'il veut être le plus chic club de nuit de Montréal, dont le nom serait "Folies Royales". Il est déjà aux prises avec les autorités et le N.D.G. Council qui s'opposent au permis que lui a accordé la Régie des alcools, parce que celui-ci entre en conflit avec un règlement municipal défendant la vente de boissons dans ce secteur.

Une demande de permis avait été enregistrée le 17 janvier, pour des modifications à la scène et au plancher du théâtre. M. Roméo Mondello, directeur du service des permis, a déclaré qu'on n'avait pas accédé à la demande parce que les plans prévoyaient des matériaux impropres, d'après le code de construction de Montréal. "Si on se conforme au code, a ajouté M. Mondello, la ville n'a pas d'objection à accorder le permis pour ces modifications."

Entretiens, les ouvriers et le propriétaire ont été relâchés sous cautionnement et doivent comparaître en Cour demain.



Publié  
Sécher - Béguel.

## L'opposition est venue trop tard

— M. Dugas

par Claude GENDRON

S'il n'en tenait qu'à la Régie des alcools, rien n'empêcherait Montréal, la métropole du Canada, d'avoir son "cabaret de grande classe", comme Paris a son Lido et New York, son Quartier Latin...

Mais, il y a les sobres résidents de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce et, bien entendu, les administrateurs municipaux...

Les uns s'indignent et crient, mais trop tard. Leur opposition est parvenue à la Régie deux mois et demi après la publica-

tion d'un avis d'une demande de permis de cabaret...

Les autres ont fait connaître la nature des règlements municipaux de zonage, un mois après la publication.

Cependant, l'octroi d'un permis de vente de liqueurs alcooliques ne permet pas au détenteur d'ignorer les règlements municipaux. Celui-ci doit, en tout temps, se soumettre à ces règlements et obtenir de la ville les permis nécessaires, s'il veut exploiter son permis de la Régie.

Voilà en somme la précision qu'a apportée, hier après-midi, devant les membres de la presse montréalaise, le juge Lucien Dugas, président de la Régie des alcools de la province de Québec, concernant l'octroi d'un permis de cabaret à M. Gabriel Richard, qui désire transformer les locaux du cinéma Empress, au 5360 ouest, rue Sherbrooke, pour en faire un chic cabaret, "Les Folies royales". ou, paraît-il, on ne vendrait que du champagne et ne présenterait que des spectacles de très grande classe.

L'octroi de ce permis, le 27 novembre, a soulevé l'ire du Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Council, appuyé par son député le ministre provincial Paul Earl, ainsi que des autorités municipales de Montréal qui ont menacé les promoteurs de poursuites judiciaires si le cabaret ouvrait ses portes. On a accusé la Régie des alcools de ne pas avoir tenu d'audience publique en cette affaire et de ne pas avoir tenu compte des règlements municipaux de Montréal. M. Earl a même dit qu'il demanderait une enquête.

A ces accusations, M. Dugas répond que la Régie n'avait pas à tenir d'audience publique. "La loi, dit-il, exige que toute demande de permis soit publiée dans des journaux locaux et prévoit un délai de 15 jours avant d'autoriser la régie à accorder ou refuser le permis demandé.

"Si quelqu'un manifeste une opposition pendant ce délai, la Régie doit alors tenir une audience publique et juger de la cause au mérite et selon le droit."

"Or, dans le cas qui nous occupe, la demande de permis

a été faite le 31 juillet, l'avis a été publié le 14 août dans "Le Devoir" et "The Gazette". Personne n'a fait connaître d'opposition dans le délai prévu. La Régie avait donc droit de disposer de la requête sans audition publique.

"L'avis de la ville de Montréal est parvenu à la Régie le 14 septembre et celui du NDG Community Council, le 1er novembre."

### Cela n'aurait rien changé

Sur le mérite de la requête de M. Richard, le juge Dugas précise que l'opposition des citoyens de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce n'aurait changé en rien la décision de la Régie, car elle n'apportait pas de raisons valables. Il explique que l'établissement en était un de "grande classe" qui serait particulièrement apprécié lors de l'Exposition mondiale de 1967, que le règlement de zonage situe l'établissement dans une zone commerciale, que le local a été longtemps exploité comme cinéma, que le cabaret n'aurait rien changé au caractère du secteur et que, d'ailleurs, un autre établissement exploitait un permis de la Régie non loin, au 5617 ouest, rue Sherbrooke.

En droit, le juge Dugas dit que la Régie n'a rien à voir avec les règlements municipaux de Montréal et qu'elle ne peut pas se prononcer sur ce sujet qui relève de la compétence des Cours municipales. Il a noté que souvent les permis municipaux sont sujets à changement ou font l'objet de procès. Mais il souligne que le détenteur d'un permis de la régie doit se soumettre aux règlements municipaux s'il veut exploiter son permis.

Ici, le juge note qu'une entente tacite, mais non officielle, est intervenue entre les administrateurs de Montréal et la Régie, à l'effet que, lorsque celle-ci émet un permis, elle attend que le nouveau détenteur ait obtenu son permis d'exploitation commerciale de la ville, avant de lui remettre le certificat prévu. Mais certains doutent de la légalité d'une telle procédure.

"Il ne s'agit en somme que d'une mesure de coopération entre les deux corps publics, précise le juge, afin d'éviter des imbroglios comme celui-ci."

Hotel - clubs de nuit  
Folies Royales

## **La Régie des alcools a octroyé un permis à "l'Empress", nul ne s'y étant opposé dans les délais**

La ville de Montréal seule a le pouvoir de mettre en vigueur ses règlements municipaux, a déclaré hier à l'occasion d'une conférence de presse Me Lucien Dugas, président de la Régie des alcools. Il a expliqué la position de la régie dans l'imbroglio qui s'est élevé autour du projet de transformation du cinéma Empress, 5560 Sherbrooke ouest, (N.D.G.), en un cabaret qui porterait le nom de Folies Royales.

La régie a accordé au requérant, M. Gabriel Richard, le certificat lui permettant d'ouvrir un cabaret. "Le Devoir" et la "Gazette" du 14 août dernier publiaient l'avis de la requête inscrite au nom de M. Richard. Le permis de la régie lui a été octroyé, aucune opposition ne s'étant manifestée à la régie dans le délai prévu de quinze jours. Il n'y a donc pas eu d'audience dans le cas de l'octroi de ce permis.

Il appert qu'en vertu du règlement de zonage 1264, tel qu'amendé, la cité refuse d'accorder à son tour le permis municipal d'exploitation d'un cabaret dans ce secteur commercial, mais où serait prohibé tout établissement de la nature d'un barsalon, d'une

taverne, d'un cabaret. Il y a relativement peu de mois, la cité accordait un permis de débit de boissons alcooliques à un établissement situé face au théâtre Empress.

Me Dugas a expliqué que la régie tenait à établir sa position, à la suite de la protestation qui lui est parvenue le 1er novembre de la part de NDG Community Council. De toute évidence, cette protestation venait trop tard et les requérants ne peuvent s'appuyer sur des bases légales pour reprocher à la régie l'octroi d'un permis en dépit d'ordonnances municipales.

Selon les explications de Me Dugas, la régie ne tient pas la Cité de Montréal au courant des requêtes de permis qu'elle reçoit. La Cité doit donc surveiller les avis publiés dans les journaux et s'opposer devant la régie dans les délais prévus.

Au cours d'entretiens entre M. Lucien Saulnier et M. Dugas, expliquait ce dernier, la régie a cependant consenti à ne pas émettre de permis tant que le requérant ne pourrait produire le permis principal de la Cité.

Le président de la régie a noté que les divergences d'avis entre la régie et les municipalités sont rarissimes; des 14.000 dossiers enregistrés au cours de l'an dernier, 7.519 avaient trait à des renouvellements de permis et 7.241 à des requêtes nouvelles; en 76 jours d'audience, 909 causes ont été entendues par la régie qui prenait les décisions opportunes.



Hotel-club de nuit  
Police Royal

## 'Licence In N.D.G. Defended By QLB

Judge Lucien Dugas, head of the Quebec Liquor Board, yesterday defended the action of the QLB in issuing the licence for a cabaret on the site of the old Empress Theatre.

The objection filed by the Notre Dame de Grace Community Council was 2½ months late and "even if it had been filed within the 15-day delay of publishing the notice, I don't think it would have changed our minds," he added.

Judge Dugas called a press conference to answer questions concerning the permit and point out the law to reporters. He made these points:

On July 31 last, one Gabriel Richard asked for a cabaret permit to operate at 5560 Sherbrooke St. West, saying that he wanted to open a high class cabaret like the Lido in Paris and the Latin Quarter in New York.

The notice of the application was published in The Gazette and Le Devoir on Aug. 14, 1962, with the reminder that objections must be filed within 15 days.

No objection was received by Aug. 30, but the City of Montreal registered one on Sept. 14, pointing out that the zoning by-law prohibited such an establishment. On Nov. 1, the QLB received a notice of objection from the NDG Community Council.

### Application's Merits Are Discussed

On the merits of the application, Judge Dugas pointed out that it was in a commercially-zoned section of the city and the site had been used as theatre previously.

Also notwithstanding the city's own zoning bylaw against alcoholic beverages in the area, the city had approved a permit for 5617 Sherbrooke St. West, almost directly across the street from the proposed new cabaret.

In summary, the judge said, the QLB could not take into consideration every bylaw of the city and considering that it appeared by their lack of action in this case that the City of Montreal did not wish to enforce this bylaw, the permit was issued.

The board had no intention of opening a public hearing on the case.

It was up to the city, if they wanted, to judge the application of its laws and act.

Hotel - clubs de nuit  
Folies Royales

La Régie des Alcools en décide ainsi

# Le "Folies Royales" garde son permis

(Par Maurice Archambault)

"Si les autorités municipales de Montréal et le Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Council s'étaient opposés, dans le délai légal, à l'émission d'un permis

aux propriétaires du cabaret "Folies Royales" — l'ancien cinéma "Empress" — la Régie n'aurait pas émis le permis avant qu'une audition publique ait eu lieu."

Telle est la conclusion à laquelle en est arrivé, hier après-midi, le président de la Régie des alcools du Québec, le juge Lucien Dugas, à son bureau au Pied du Courant, au cours d'une conférence de presse convoquée pour lever le voile sur cette affaire.

## Non consultée

On sait que la R.A.Q. a accordé un permis aux nouveaux proprios de l'ancien cinéma, le 27 novembre dernier, sans avoir entendu le point de vue des autorités montréalaises et du Conseil communautaire de N.D.G.

C'est à la suite de la menace, par le président du comité exécutif de la métropole, de poursuivre les dé-

tenteurs du permis devant les tribunaux, dès que le cabaret "Folies Royales" aura ouvert ses portes, que le juge Dugas a décidé de rendre publics les faits qui ont entouré l'émission du permis.

## Délai non respecté

Le président de la Régie a souligné le fait qu'à la suite d'une demande de permis de M. Gabriel Richard, pour l'exploitation d'un cabaret au 5560 ouest, rue Sherbrooke, conformément à la loi les journaux ont publié cette demande.

Selon la loi, les organismes désireux de s'opposer à l'émission du permis devaient le faire savoir au bureau de la Régie, dans les quinze jours suivant la parution. Ce qui, dans le cas présent, n'a pas été fait.

"La demande a été publiée le 14 août 1962, a souligné M. Dugas, et ce n'est que le 14 septembre que Montréal a informé la Régie de l'existence de son règlement de zonage, et le 1er novembre que le Community Council a fait parvenir un avis d'objection".

## Raisonnable

Considérant que les deux intéressés n'ont pas fait opposition dans les délais légaux et n'ont aucun droit d'exiger une audition publique, le juge Dugas a expliqué que la demande de permis paraissait raisonnable, puisqu'elle avait trait à un établissement "très bien".

Le président de la Régie a encore souligné que le site se trouvait dans un district zoné commercial, et que la cité avait déjà octroyé un permis pour un établissement du même genre, situé en face du cinéma "Empress".

## Tribunaux

Soulignant enfin que la cité peut faire appel aux tribunaux pour trancher le litige, M. Dugas a rappelé qu'une entente venait d'être conclue avec Concordia, de sorte que dorénavant la Régie n'émettra aucun permis à un établissement non en possession de son permis municipal.

Ce sont les mots du juge Lucien Dugas

## Opposition "ENFANTINE"

Commentant la lettre de protestation expédiée par le Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Council à la Régie des alcools du Québec, lettre réclamant le retrait du permis au futur cabaret "Folies Royales", le juge Lucien Dugas a déclaré qu'il s'agissait d'une opposition "enfantine".

On sait que l'organisme social a fait savoir que l'ensemble de la population du district était opposé à l'établissement d'un cabaret à cet endroit.

"L'opposition des gens n'est pas à considérer, a déclaré le juge Dugas. Il faut d'abord songer à l'intérêt de la ville. Ce sont tous les Montréalais qui pourront bénéficier du cabaret, et non seulement les gens du quartier, comme cela se

produit dans le cas d'une taverne."

Le président de la Régie a ajouté que l'établissement s'élèvera dans un district commercial et qu'il ne changera nullement l'aspect du quartier.

M. Dugas a déclaré enfin que le local proposé était exploité antérieurement comme cinéma et que les établissements commerciaux pullulent dans ce coin.

Hotel - cabaret -  
Folies Royales

## No Building Permit

# Workmen Arrested At Cabaret Site

The controversy over the proposed conversion of the Empress Theatre into a cabaret took on a new twist yesterday with the arrest of nine workmen and the owner within the theatre's premises.

The men, including a foreman and a sub-foreman, were taken into custody on charges of violating a city bylaw which prohibits construction without a city permit.

The city has not given the go-ahead to convert the theatre into a cabaret to the new owners, although a liquor licence has been granted by the Quebec Liquor Board.

The foreman, Raymond Comeau, left immediately with his men for the police station where he was joined by the cabaret owner, Gabriel Richard, who enquired about the nature of the charges.

### Released on Bail

The foreman and owner were released on \$50 bail, the sub-foreman on bail of \$25 and the seven workers on \$10 each. They are to appear in Municipal Court today.

The workers were arrested after Robert Dupuis, of the permits department, who is the chief inspector of works, told the men they were violating a bylaw and that they must stop work. The men refused. Mr. Dupuis called police from nearby Station 14 who made the arrests.

The controversy over the theatre developed when the N.D.G. Community Council protested the granting of the liquor permit. The City of Montreal joined in the dispute by saying that the establishment of the cabaret would violate the zoning laws. Both the city and the council have threatened to sue.

The premises had been under watch since the weekend by Dominique Sylvestre, city buildings inspector for the Notre Dame de Grace section, who informed his superiors that work had got under way.

Work had just begun on a raised platform inside the old theatre when police arrived in force to stop the work from going ahead. Capt. Raymond Jarry took the men into custody with six police officers, manning a paddy wagon and cruisers.

Monday Judge Lucien Dugas, chairman of the Quebec Liquor Board, declared that controversy or no controversy, the board is going to stand by its issuance of a licence.

### Calls Press Conference

He called a press conference to explain that a widely-publicized letter of protest from N.D.G. citizens had been received months after publication of the application for the licence.

There would be no public hearing on the matter and the case is closed, "as far as we're concerned," said Judge Dugas.

Hotel -  
Police Report

## N.D.G. Cabaret Case Reaches Court

By PAUL DUBOIS

The controversy over plans to convert the Empress Theatre in Notre Dame de Grace into a cabaret-style night club will reach the courts today.

Gabriel Richard, holder of a Quebec Liquor Board licence to operate a night club on the site of the Sherbrooke St. theatre building, was arrested yesterday, along with seven of his employees, on charges that they had performed alteration work within the building illegally.

The eight men were "invited" by police to No. 14 Station, where they were formally charged and released on deposit of a total of \$145 bail. They are to appear in Magistrate's Court at 10 a.m. today to answer the charges.

Meanwhile, all building work at the theatre has been stopped "at least until

we've appeared in court," Mr. Richard said. "Police told us that if anyone did the slightest bit of building work here they would be arrested immediately and held without bail," he added.

When uniformed officers and plainclothesmen walked into the theatre shortly before noon yesterday, Mr. Richard was supervising construction of large wooden platforms, "which we plan to use to level the theatre floor."

Mr. Richard revealed he had recently asked the city for a building permit to level the floor "in a permanent manner."

The application was turned down, he said, in a letter signed by Romeo Mondello, director of the city's Permits and Inspections Department.

"The reasons given us were that it is illegal for us to operate a night club in this building and that it is also illegal to have wooden supports for a theatre stage," Mr. Richard said.

"We didn't build the stage—it was already there when we bought the place. We merely did some repair work to the existing stage. It's just a case where the city will do all it can to delay our opening," he declared.

"The platforms we want to use to correct the 64-inch slant in the floor are portable and not 'tied' to the building. That's why we feel we do not need a building permit to set up the platforms," Mr. Richard said.

"We'll see what the judge decides," he added.



Hôtel - club & nuit  
Folies Royales

## 'Coup royal aux "Folies Royales"

La controverse qui oppose la Ville de Montréal et les dirigeants d'une compagnie, qui veulent transformer l'ancien cinéma Empress en club de nuit de grand luxe, aura son écho en cour, ce matin.

M. Gabriel Richard qui détient un permis de la Régie des alcools pour exploiter un cabaret dans l'immeuble de l'ancien cinéma de la rue Sherbrooke, a été arrêté hier midi en même temps que sept ouvriers et leur contremaître, sous l'accusation d'avoir effectué des travaux de rénovation à l'édifice sans posséder à cet effet de permis de la cité de Montréal.

Le groupe fut conduit au poste No 14 et relâché par la suite sous divers cautionnements d'un montant global de \$145. Les 9 accusés seront traduits en cour du Magistrat dès 10 heures ce matin.

Le directeur du service des

permis et inspections de la ville, M. Roméo Mondello, a déclaré que la descente avait été effectuée après qu'un inspecteur eut constaté que les ouvriers se livraient à des travaux pour lesquels ils ne possédaient pas le permis requis.

De son côté, M. Gabriel Richard a déclaré que la ville s'acharnait sur lui et ses associés sans raison valable. Il a ajouté qu'au moment de la descente on ne procédait pas à des travaux de construction mais qu'on érigait tout simplement des échafaudages en vue des travaux qui devaient commencer seulement après l'obtention du permis.

## MACKAY DARES JUDGE TO DISCLOSE

### PRINCIPLES BACKING N.D.G. CABARET

**K**ENNETH MACKAY, president of the N.D.G. Community Council, smarting from statements from the chairman of the Quebec Liquor Board, Judge Lucien Dugas, that the Council's letters protesting liquor licences in N.D.G. have never been valid arguments, has challenged the Judge to make public the principles financing Les Folies Royale — the old Empress Theatre.

"Gabriel Richard, in whose name the cabaret received its licence, is not in financial position to operate the cabaret," Mr. Mackay said yesterday afternoon, "and Judge Dugas should make public the names of the principles of the club."

#### Objections

not  
sustained

Judge Dugas, at a press conference Monday afternoon, said the licence had been granted, not only because no objections were received in time, but because they were not valid even when they did arrive.

He said that the Community Council filed a letter of protest stating that "drinking establishments would not be in the best interests of the people residing in the area," but that did not make a valid protest.

Mr. Mackay disagrees, and has called a public meeting for Monday evening at 8 p.m. at the Shaare Zedek, Chester and Rosedale, and has asked one and all in N.D.G. to attend to air their views pro and con the argument of whether the cabaret should be allowed.

Meanwhile, police from Station 14 Tuesday arrested Mr. Richard and eight workers on the site, charging them with violating a city by-law for doing construction work without a civic permit.

#### Not making repairs?

Out on bail, Mr. Richard said Tuesday night that they should not have been arrested because they were not actually making repairs, but had just put up scaffolding to prepare for levelling the theatre floor.

Mr. Richard and his foreman, Raymond Comeau, appeared yesterday in court. Mr. Richard was released on \$50 bail, and Mr. Comeau on bail of \$25. Trial was set for January 30. The others will appear today.

Pending decision on January 30, all work at the club has stopped.

Mr. Mackay, speaking yesterday, accused Judge Dugas of taking the attitude in dealing with protests against the establishment that two wrongs make a right.

He scored the Judge for citing the case of Ma Heller's permit as being a valid excuse for Les Folies permit being granted.

"The Quebec Liquor Board is far from partial," Mr. Mackay said.

#### Heller case brought up

He pointed out that Mrs. Heller received a beer and wine licence as a restaurant before an amendment to a zoning by-law was passed by the city to prevent future drinking establishments.

The zoning amendment was flaunted, Mr. Mackay charged.

ed, when Mrs. Heller later got a full dining room permit, which permits the sale of hard liquor.

The Quebec Liquor Act, Mr. Mackay stated, as amended last year, states "the only exception to granting permits where a municipal by-law is in effect is in the case of banquet permits."

In other words, Mr. Mackay said, it was up to the QLB to refuse the permit to Les Folies because it was in direct contravention to an existing municipal by-law forbidding cabarets or other drinking establishments in the area.

Judge Dugas is directly misleading the public when he says the N.D.G. Community Council letter is not a valid objection," Mr. Mackay said, stating that five similar letters had been sent to protest taverns, of which one was refused and four withdrew their applications.

#### Door is open

Judge Dugas, though, left the door open Monday to the possibility that the licence may be rescinded in the future.

"If we receive new facts, we'll cancel it," he said.

But he said the Council's letter was only a statement of fact, and in his opinion, did not constitute an objection.

"Just because a few people say they are against it," Judge Dugas said, "does not constitute a valid objection."

And he said the Council letter wouldn't have changed the Board's opinion even if it had been received on time.

Opening of the club, to be called Les Folies Royale, is scheduled for mid-February, but the City of Montreal's Executive Chairman, Lucien Saulnier, has promised further legal action if it does open.

Hotel Cabarets  
Folies Royales

## N.D.G. Cabaret Battle

# Allege Permit Pressure

By BRUCE TAYLOR

Charges were levelled yesterday that "important people" behind the would-be operation of a cabaret on the site of the Empress Theatre exerted political pressure on the Quebec Liquor Board to acquire a licence.

Kenneth C. Mackay, president of the Notre Dame de Grace Community Council, which opposes the nightclub on Sherbrooke street west, demanded that board chairman Judge Lucien Dugas identify them publicly.

He also accused the judge of deliberately misleading the public in the matter.

The allegations came in the course of a press conference at Mr. Mackay's downtown law office, and were in answer to a question by a reporter who sought elaboration of a sentence in Mr. Mackay's carefully prepared, four-page statement designed to refute "incorrect" remarks by Judge Dugas in a similar meeting with newsmen Monday.

The sentence: "It would be in the public interest if Judge Dugas would reveal the names of the real promoters of the cabaret." (The licence was issued in the name of Gabriel Richard.)

The question: "Do you know who these people are, and in what way they have acted?"

The answer: "I have heard who they are...they used pressure on the board to acquire Richard's licence. Political pressure."

Mr. Mackay said he was in a position "to know certain things. I am also vice-president of the Quebec Liberal Federation."

He invited Judge Dugas to attend the council's meeting to protest the issuance of the licence. It will be held at the Zhaare Zadek Social Hall, 6805 Chester avenue, at 8 p.m. Monday.

"We would like him to state publicly the reasons why he refuses to rescind a decision opposed by the vast majority of the residents of Notre Dame de Grace, the Member of the Legislative Assembly, by two of Montreal's leading daily newspapers, by the district's principal weekly newspaper, by N.D.G.'s three city councillors, by the Member of Parliament for N.D.G. and by many political, social and religious associations in N.D.G."

### 75 Associations

Mr. Mackay said, "our organization represents 75 associations, such as Parent-Teachers, or about 20 per cent of the interested adult population of N.D.G."

"They were the ones who called upon us to present opposition to the opening of the cabaret to the liquor board."

Mr. Mackay said the community council was not against cabarets "in the proper place." What it objected to was the issuance of a licence for a nightclub in that particular location and "the arbitrary and high-handed action of the board in granting the licence in the face of public opposition and in defiance of city zoning by-laws forbidding a cabaret there."

Mr. Mackay said the board has misled the public by issuing the licence without a public hearing, when it had said such a hearing would be held.

His statement was supported by one from the city today, which also opposes the issuance of a cabaret licence there. It, too, said it had received

posing a renewal application for a licence held by "Ma" Heller diagonally across Sherbrooke street from the Empress Theatre.

"I've always objected to the licence there," he explained, "but by now she has acquired a regular clientele and we don't think it's fair to attack her. We're attacking the people who issue the licences."

Then why attack the Empress operation now that Richard already has been granted a licence?

"Because in this case, the board acted arbitrarily and political pressure was employed to secure the licence."

written acknowledgement of its opposition from the board and advice that a public hearing would be scheduled.

Mr. Mackay asserted: "Our letter of opposition may not have been sent within the 15-day period prescribed by the Liquor Act (it was sent two and a half months after notice of the licence application) but we contend that the board waived that requirement when it specifically undertook in writing on Nov. 16 to hold a hearing into the merits of the application."

Mr. Mackay was questioned about the community council's intention to refrain from op-

Empress  
Theatre  
Folkies R1472

## Building Bylaw Trial Date Set

Two men appeared in Municipal Court yesterday, charged with violating a city construction bylaw following their arrest on the site of the Empress Theatre.

The men, Gabriel Richard, 41, of 8764 Lejeunesse street, and Raymond Comeau, 33, of 5544 Jean Paul Cardinal street, pleaded not guilty to the charge. Their trial was set for Jan. 30. Richard was released on \$50 bail and Comeau on \$25.

The men, along with seven others, were arrested Tuesday for taking part in construction work in the Empress Theatre, on Sherbrooke street west, which is to be converted into a cabaret.

Richard, the owner, has already received a liquor permit from the Quebec Liquor Board, but, according to the City of Montreal, has not received a construction permit.

He and Comeau, a foreman, were charged with violating city bylaw 1900 which prohibits any type of construction, repair work or modifications without a permit.

The seven other men will appear in court today.



## Trial Date Is Set Over Alterations

Trial was set for Jan. 30 in city bylaw violation charges against Gabriel Richard and Raymond Comeau who were arrested Tuesday while engaged in alteration operations in the former Empress Theatre.

Richard, 41, of Lajeunesse St. is the liquor licensee of the projected nightclub in the NDG theatre premises which has stimulated bitter controversy in that area. Comeau is a carpenter foreman engaged by Richard in preparing the new quarters.

Both men pleaded not guilty to participating in alteration or construction work without a city permit. The nominal bail set on Tuesday was continued by Chief Judge Roland Paquette.

Seven carpenters who were also picked up on the cabaret

site on Tuesday failed to appear with the other two accused yesterday. It was explained that they had believed they did not have to appear personally.

The Chief Judge suspended the issuance of bench warrants for the group until this morning. He was assured by counsel they would be present at the opening of court today.

## L'affaire du théâtre Empress

# Me Mackay somme Me Dugas de nommer les appuis influents de M. G. Richard

Des pressions politiques de la part de personnes influentes, de toute évidence, s'exercent en faveur de la requête de M. Gabriel Richard qui veut transformer en cabaret le théâtre Empress, rue Sherbrooke ouest, à Notre-Dame de Grâce, en dépit de l'opposition de NDG Community Council. Me Kenneth C. Mackay, président de NDG Community Council, au cours d'une conférence de presse hier, a soutenu que l'on ne pouvait trouver d'autre explication à l'attitude prise par la régie des alcools.

Il s'en est pris à Me Lucien Dugas, en réfutant les explications que Me Dugas offrait à la presse, au début de la semaine.

Dans la déclaration remise aux journalistes par Me Mackay, l'on note le souci d'établir dans l'ordre chronologique les faits qui ont trait à l'ouverture de débits de boisson, rue Sherbrooke et avenue Monkland.

Les règlements municipaux ont une importance capitale en ce domaine; en 1960, l'ordonnance 1246 prohibait l'ouverture d'un cabaret, rue Sherbrooke, dans le quartier Notre-Dame de Grâce.

Me Dugas, peu de temps après la formation de la régie des alcools, en 1960, répondait à une lettre de NDG Community Council au sujet de son opposition à l'ouverture de débits de boisson, qu'il en tenait compte en toutes circonstances, de même que de l'avis de même nature exprimé par M. Paul Earl, député provincial.

A cette époque, cinq demandes de permis de taverne n'ont pas eu de suites. En été 1961, NDG Community Council s'opposait à une demande de permis de restaurant que demandait Mme Jennifer Heller avec l'intention de servir bière et vins aux repas. La régie accordait ce permis, parce que l'ordonnance municipale 1246 n'interdisait pas l'ouverture d'un restaurant licencié.

En décembre 1961, la Cité amendait l'ordonnance 1246; dans la nouvelle, l'ordonnance 2247, elle interdisait l'ouverture de tout débit de boisson, rue Sherbrooke et avenue Monkland. NDG Community Council avait soin de faire parvenir une copie de l'ordonnance à Me Dugas.

Une audience de la régie des alcools, en mai 1962, en dépit de l'opposition de la Cité et de NDG Council, établissait que Mme Heller avait acquis des droits antérieurs à l'amendement de l'ordonnance municipale 1246 et qu'ainsi un permis lui était accordé.

Me Mackay s'en est pris particulièrement à Me Dugas quand ce dernier invoque l'expiration d'un délai de 15 jours avant l'enregistrement de la protestation du NDG Community

Council; selon Me Mackay c'est pratique courante d'outrepasser quelque peu les délais. De plus, Me Dugas aurait laissé entendre que la Cité ne s'était pas opposée à la requête de Mme Heller; pourtant Montréal était bien représentée à l'audience.

Quant à M. Gabriel Richard, il est douteux qu'il agisse en son propre nom dans cette affaire, puisque selon Me Mackay, M. Richard était mêlé récemment aux affaires de sociétés banqueroutières. Dans l'intérêt public, Me Dugas devrait révéler les noms des véritables promoteurs du projet de cabaret, a ajouté Me Mackay. L'attitude de Me Dugas n'est pas logique, selon Me Mackay, quand il prétend ne pas s'opposer à l'ouverture d'un cabaret, mais manifeste son opposition à celle de tavernes.

Me Mackay a fait état d'une lettre de M. Lucien Saulnier dans laquelle le président du comité exécutif fait part de l'intention de la Cité d'appliquer le règlement municipal 2247 sans défaillance.

NDG Community Council tiendra une assemblée de protestation au 6805 avenue Chester, lundi le 28 janvier, à 8 heures. Le public y est invité. Me Mackay a prié Me Dugas de s'y rendre et d'expliquer pourquoi il ne répond pas au désir des citoyens de NDG et refuse de revenir sur la décision d'octroi de permis à M. Richard.

Hotels-cabarets  
Folies Royales

## L'affaire des "Folies royales" rebondit

# A quoi bon cette enquête?

Les dirigeants de la Régie des alcools du Québec savaient que l'opposition de Montréal à l'émission d'un permis de li- queurs alcooliques avait été si- gnifiée après le délai légal; pourquoi ont-ils quand même déclaré qu'une audience publi- que aurait lieu pour entendre les parties ?

C'est la question que l'on se pose, à la suite de commentaires rendus publics par le président du comité exécutif, M. Lucien Saulnier, qui faisait écho à certaines explications fournies par le président de la R.A.Q., le juge Lucien Dugas, lundi dernier.

### Délai légal

Le président de la Régie, on s'en souvient, avait allégué que l'opposi- tion de Concordia au permis des "Folies Royales" n'avait pas été si- gnifiée dans le délai légal de 15 jours après parution de la demande du permis dans les journaux.

Faisant remarquer que la Régie pouvait alors décider du sort du permis sans avoir à convoquer

(Par Maurice Archambault)

d'audition publique, le juge Dugas avait fait savoir que le point de vue de Montréal aurait été respecté, si soumis à temps.

### Pourquoi ?

Le président Saulnier, pour sa part, a expliqué que le délai dans l'opposition avait été causé par suite de vacances accordées au pré- posé à la vérification des avis pu- bliés dans les journaux.

L'avis ayant été publié le 14 août 1962, c'est le 14 septembre 1962 que, sur les conseils de ses avocats, Concordia expédiait sa lettre à la Régie.

Dans une lettre datée du 19 sep- tembre, le greffier de la Régie, M. A. Lagacé, écrivait au contencieux de Montréal :

"Nous accusons réception de votre lettre du 14 septembre 1962, formulant vos objections à l'émis- sion d'un permis. Vous serez noti- fié en temps et lieu de la date de l'enquête et de l'endroit où sera

tenue l'audience publique pour entendre les parties."

### Le litige

On sait que l'affaire se rappor- tait à un nouveau cabaret qui doit ouvrir ses portes le 12 février, le "Folies royales".

Ce cabaret, de Notre-Dame-de- Grâce, l'ancien cinéma "Empress" renové, bien que nanti du permis de la Régie des alcools, ne possède pas le permis municipal, puisqu'il est situé dans une zone ne permettant pas ce genre d'établissements.

"Si la Régie savait déjà qu'il n'y aurait pas d'audition publique, pour- quoi a-t-elle quand même voulu nous laisser croire qu'il y en aurait une ?" s'est demandé M. Saulnier.

Le président de l'exécutif a ré- pété que des procédures judiciaires seront intentées aux propriétaires du cabaret, dès qu'il ouvrira ses portes.

## WE SAY

### The cabaret case: there's been nonsense

**J**UDGE Lucien Dugas, Quebec Liquor Board chief, deserves praise.

First, for performing an often thankless job which is rarely praised and almost always elicits opposition to decisions. Drinking and non-drinking publics alike probably are the most difficult in the world to please.

And now, for coming down from the board room and explaining to the ordinary people the granting of a QLB permit for a cabaret in the Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke street west in the heart of old Notre Dame de Grace.

The good judge frequently is confronted more by emotion than by good sense. Often there is an undertone of politics.

In the Empress case there has been nonsense, too.

Mr. Kenneth MacKay, N.D.G. Community Council president and a consistent opponent of liquor licences in the West End, simply has not made out a case against. His objection was filed after the legal delay — though we must say it would have been sheer sophistry if Judge Dugas relied on this fact alone for dismissing the opposition. And his objection, or such of it as we have seen, did not give valid specific reasons why the permit should not be granted. Opposition to liquor per se is not sufficient.

Judge Dugas, in his explanation, well might have gone on to say that a sophisticated, adult cabaret would be preferable to the teenage hangout which that corner has been for years to the annoyance and terror of the neighborhood. He might have drawn attention to the changing character of the district in which a cabaret would not be out of keeping. He might have asked why West Enders must be expected to travel downtown for cabaret entertainment.

In short, it is doubtful whether a sufficiently large number of residents of N. D.G. really care, one way or the other.



## YOU SAY

### **Saulnier called on to stop cabaret**

Sir: In recent public statements issued by Mr. Saulnier, Chairman of the Executive Committee, regarding the proposed cabaret at the old site of the Empress Theatre, he claims that the city will take legal action as soon as the cabaret begins operating. As everyone knows, this type of legal action can be dragged through the courts by the operators of the club for many many years and in the meantime they could be operating until the whole business gets lost in a political shuffle somewhere.

If Mr. Saulnier is serious in his statements, then are there not by-laws whereby any person who intends to make alterations or improvements to a building must first obtain permits from the city and if the city has not issued any such permits for improvements or alterations, then should not the city take legal action now to prevent them from making this conversion.

It is my opinion that if this work is being done without the necessary permits, then the city can seek a court injunction to prevent them in carrying out any further alterations to the building and in such a case the city can easily prevent the club from opening.

It has always been my contention that if we are going to do things, let us do them right from the beginning because as stated in my previous correspondence, I am most emphatically against the opening of a cabaret in our vicinity because, as everyone knows liquor establishments—cabarets included—tend in many instances to bring undesirable elements within their areas.

Having the greatest respect and admiration for Mr. Saulnier and his colleagues I know they will do the right thing.

B. V. Fedorka

*J. Heller  
Régie*

**Le chic carabet de NDG**

## Le Community council invite M. Lucien Dugas à s'expliquer

par Maurice LAPERRIERRE

Dame politique a-t-elle donné le coup de pouce qu'il fallait pour mettre le permis de la Régie des alcools entre les mains du propriétaire — ou des propriétaires? — du cinéma Empress, rue Sherbrooke, à Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, pour transformer cet établissement en cabaret de grand luxe?

Le président du Community council de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, M. Kenneth C. MacKay, n'hésite pas pour sa part à affirmer que tel est bien là son avis.

M. MacKay a précisé au cours d'une conférence de presse, hier après-midi, que certaines personnes lui en ont donné la certitude.

Quoi qu'il en soit, M. MacKay invite le président de la Régie des alcools, M. Lucien Dugas, à venir rencontrer les membres du Community council en assemblée publique, au Zhaare Zadek Social Hall, au 6805 Chester Avenue, lundi soir prochain, à 8 h.

Au cours de cette assemblée, le président du Community council de NDG demandera à M. Lucien Dugas d'expliquer les raisons qui lui ont fait refuser d'annuler une décision contraire au vœu exprimé "par la grande majorité des citoyens de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce par le représentant du comté à l'Assemblée législative... et de nombreux groupements."

Le président du Community council de NDG soutient que M. Lucien Dugas a tenté d'induire le public en erreur dans sa conférence de presse de lundi dernier, quand il a donné les raisons justifiant la

Régie des Alcools d'accorder un permis aux propriétaires de l'ancien cinéma Empress.

M. MacKay a précisé qu'en 1960, au moment où la Régie des alcools a été créée pour remplacer l'ancienne Commission des liqueurs, le Community council de NDG a écrit à M. Lucien Dugas qu'en général il s'opposait à l'émission de tout permis — sauf aux épiciers — dans la rue Sherbrooke et dans l'avenue Monkland, à Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. M. Dugas aurait alors répondu qu'aucun permis ne serait accordé dans NDG.

M. MacKay a poursuivi en

affirmant que, depuis lors, cinq demandes de permis pour exploitation de tavernes dans la rue Sherbrooke et dans l'avenue Monkland ont été refusées après l'intervention du Community council.

Au sujet du permis accordé à Mme Jennifer Heller, au cours de l'été de 1961, pour la vente des bières et vins dans un restaurant, M. MacKay a dit que le Community Council s'y est opposé. Mais le permis a été accordé dans ce cas parce que le règlement de zonage dans NDG ne prohibait pas l'exploitation d'un restaurant. Ce même règlement a par la suite été amendé pour interdire toute vente de bières et vins, rue Sherbrooke et avenue Monkland.

Mme Jennifer Heller, qui avait demandé un autre permis pour l'exploitation d'une salle à dîner et d'un salon où elle pourrait vendre tous les alcools, a obtenu gain de cause, malgré l'opposition du Community Council et aussi des autorités de la Cité de Montréal.

Le Community council de NDG admet que la demande de M. Gabriel Richard a été publiée le 14 août 1962 et que l'opposition de la Cité de Montréal n'a pas été enregistrée avant le 14 septembre. Il admet également que sa propre opposition n'a été enregistrée que le premier novembre. Le Community council a décidé d'entendre au mérite la demande de M. Gabriel Richard le 16 novembre.

Relevant l'une des déclarations de M. Lucien Dugas à l'effet qu'il peut voir des objections à l'ouverture d'une taverne mais qu'il n'en voit pas à l'ouverture d'un cabaret, M. MacKay a déclaré :

"Cela est tout à fait étonnant. La logique de cette déclaration est indéfendable. M. Lucien Dugas veut dire en fait que si je puis me payer une bouteille de champagne à \$12 je puis boire dans NDG. Mais si je n'ai que dix cents pour une verre de bière, je devrai aller boire ailleurs."

## 'Political Pressure' Charged In N.D.G.'s Cabaret Case

The N.D.G. Community Council yesterday accused the Quebec Liquor Board of bowing to political pressures from a group of anonymous promoters when it issued a licence for a champagne-serving cabaret on the Sherbrooke Street site of the old Empress Theatre.

Council President K. C. Mackay lashed out at Judge Lucien Dugas, head of the liquor board, with press conference allegations that he had deliberately tried to mislead the public with an inaccurate version of the controversial licence case.

He then invited Judge Dugas to a public protest meeting on Monday evening "to publicly state why he refuses to rescind a decision opposed by the vast majority of the residents of Notre Dame de Grace."

Despite the council's all-out fight to stop the cabaret from going into business, Mr. Mackay said it seemed that the promoters would probably go ahead with their plans anyway.

By BRUCE GARVEY

He said the council demanded a public hearing into the licence application and, if its approval was upheld, would drop the matter.

Mr. Mackay yesterday admitted that the Council's objection to the cabaret was not filed within the 15-day limit. The application was, in fact, published on Aug. 14 and the council objection was not filed until Nov. 1.

"However," claimed Mr. Mackay, "we contend that the liquor board waived our failure to file an objection within 15 days when it specifically undertook in writing on Nov. 16 to hold a hearing into the merits of the application."

He said that Judge Dugas had deliberately misled the public when he termed the council's "objection" a "letter opinion", and not a valid objection.

"It was an objection in legal

form drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Act," he said.

Another misleading statement, claimed Mr. Mackay, was that the promoter of the cabaret had fulfilled all requirements.

He had, in fact, recently operated a number of insolvent companies.

"It would be in the public interest if Mr. Dugas would reveal the names of the real promoters of this cabaret," he added.

These "real promoters," he claimed, had pressured the board into granting the licence. He said he knew who they were and knew that the pressure was "political."

Mr. Mackay said he was not opposed to a cabaret in NDG—providing it did not break a city by-law.

He said he was also opposed to the liquor-serving facilities at a nearby establishment operated by Mrs. Jennifer Heller.

### Attack Source Of Licences

"I don't think it belongs in that area and I've always opposed it," he said.

The Council, however, would not oppose a renewal of the Heller licence because "we attack the person who gave it, it's not fair to attack the one who received it."

Mr. Mackay said that many people not living near the site of "Les Folies Royales" did not object to the nightclub.

"The majority" he added, "are disturbed about the arbitrary decision taken by the board."

The cabaret, which plans to treat 500 customers to French variety shows, plans to open its doors—and champagne bottles—in mid February.

*Hotel Plan  
Selling Royal*

## Hotel Plan May Allow Cabaret

The men who hope to operate a cabaret on the site of the Empress Theatre have a new plan to overcome city zoning bylaws prohibiting a nightclub there: they may turn it into a hotel.

If they do, they will be able to have their cabaret legally after all, for Article 7c, bylaw 1264, stipulates a cabaret can be operated at the Sherbrooke street west location — as long as it's in a hotel.

The owners say they're thinking about adding a third floor and building enough rooms to have the place classified as such.

This latest development in the widening controversy over the proposed opening of the cabaret — which already has heard allegations of political pressure being exerted on the Quebec Liquor Board to acquire a licence — came yesterday afternoon after a lengthy city hall meeting.

Participants were City Permit and Inspection Director Romeo Mondello and Gabriel Richard, in whose name the liquor licence for the cabaret was issued.

### Outcome of Talks

Richard was reported to have consulted Mondello on measures that could be taken to obtain city permits for the operation of a cabaret. The hotel angle was the outcome.

Richard now is expected to withdraw his applications for permits to operate a theatre, dining room and cabaret. Several of his workmen were arrested this week when they began renovations without possession of the permits. It was their aim to build a nightclub that would present first rate revues and serve only champagne.

Some time next week he expects to submit a formal application for permission to enlarge and renovate the building in compliance with zoning regulations for the area, and legally be allowed to open a hotel.

The action would be taken in accordance with the bylaw which reads, in part:

"In the Class II commercial zone, it shall be prohibited to occupy or use any lot or parcel of land, and to erect, repair, alter, transform, enlarge, occupy or use any building for any other purpose than the following . . . however, the following shall not be included among the purposes permitted under the present article and shall be prohibited in the Class II commercial zone: cabarets — except in hotels."



*Billings  
Cabaret  
Fellows*

## Conflict Of Laws And Liquor Permits

THE allegation of the N.D.G. Community Council, that the Liquor Board succumbed to political pressure in granting a cabaret licence where cabarets are prohibited is too serious to be ignored. When the Council's objections were first stated it was noted here that the Liquor Board must keep itself above suspicion of reverting to the vicious practices of the past. The Council charges in effect that it has reverted to past practices. Clearly the case should be reopened so that the Board may exculpate itself or the Council prove its case.

It is not enough for the Board to say that it applied the technicalities of the law in granting the licence without a public hearing. It must also meet the charge that the law gives it no right to over-ride a city bylaw prohibiting cabarets in the area for which a liquor licence has been granted.

If there is a conflict of laws here it can be resolved only by the Legislature, for the Liquor Board Act denies the aggrieved citizen access to the courts. There is in fact some conflict between the Liquor Board Act's definition of a cabaret and the definition in the city bylaw.

The Act's definition is this: "A cabaret, within the meaning of this section (17) is a place equipped for giving performances and possibly for dancing where, for payment, food and drink may be procured."

The city bylaw (No. 1264) definition is much wider: "The word 'cabaret', according to the meaning of this bylaw, has comprised and constituted and comprises and constitutes a bar, a night club, a public ale house, a tavern, a wine shop and establishments of a similar nature, where alcoholic beverages are sold for consumption on the premises."

The point has already been made that the Act gives the Liquor Board no right to create these establishments; all it can do is grant liquor permits. Montreal is therefore well within its rights in applying its building permit rights where no building permit has yet been granted.

## Le cabaret de NDG sera... un hôtel!

L'histoire déjà presque trop compliquée du "cabaret ultrachic" de la rue Sherbrooke, dans le quartier Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, a pris une tournure nouvelle hier après-midi à la suite d'un long entretien qui s'est déroulé à l'hôtel de ville de Montréal entre M. Gabriel Richard, le propriétaire de

l'ancien cinéma Empress d'une part, et le directeur du service des permis et inspections, M. Roméo Mondello, d'autre part.

Il est résulté de ce long entretien (les deux hommes ont discuté durant plus d'une heure et demie), que M. Richard reviendra à l'hôtel de ville au

jourd'hui, mais, cette fois, pour retirer ses trois demandes de permis municipaux soit des demandes d'exploitation d'un théâtre, d'une salle à manger et d'un cabaret.

Mais tout ceci est bien loin de signifier que le projet des "Folies royales" est mort dans l'oeuf. Bien plus, le projet

grandit en prenant de l'âge.

En effet, il semble maintenant presque assuré que M. Richard a décidé de "changer son fusil d'épaule", de transformer son projet de cabaret en celui d'un... hôtel.

Ce changement constitue une façon presque élégante de contourner les règlements de zonage de la ville de Montréal. Le règlement no 1264, qui régit la construction dans Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, stipule en effet qu'il est défendu de construire ou de maintenir en opération un cabaret, dans ce secteur, mais précise, un peu plus loin, "ailleurs que dans les hôtels".

Le vieux cinéma Empress s'enrichirait, à cette fin, d'un nouvel étage.

M. Richard doit présenter son nouveau projet d'hôtel aux autorités municipales au début de la semaine prochaine.

## NDG 'Cabaret' May Be Hotel To Conform With City's Bylaws

By MYER NEGRU

Indications yesterday, on assumption the Quebec Liquor Board stands by its decision not to rescind its permit, were that the promoters of the projected "Les Folies Royales" cabaret in the former Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke St. West will take steps to bring the operation into conformity with municipal by-laws.

Gabriel Richard, holder of the liquor licence, which has been protested by the civic administration and the Notre Dame de Grace Community Council, conferred yesterday afternoon for 1½ hours with Director Romeo Mondello of Montreal's permits and inspections department.

Following the parley, Mr. Mondello said Mr. Richard intended to return today to withdraw applications for three municipal permits—for a theatre, a dining hall and a cabaret.

And next week, Mr. Mondello added, Mr. Richard would re-

turn to City Hall with new plans for complete renovation of the former motion picture theatre building — "probably into a hotel," with possibly an additional storey to be put on.

Mr. Mondello made no further comment, but observers held that, should the hotel plans be in conformity with the municipal building code and the permit for such structure be issued, the cabaret operation would be within the zoning regulations for the site if the provincial liquor licence stands.

The zoning bylaw for Notre Dame de Grace Ward, adopted originally in December, 1933, and since amended several times, bars cabarets there, "except in hotels."

It was on the strength of this exception that the civic administration had protested to the Quebec Liquor Board that the pro-

jected cabaret as originally planned was in contravention of the zoning bylaw for the sector, and had refused to issue the municipal permits requested by the promoters.

When work of converting the former movie house was undertaken, arrests were made, and a hearing is scheduled in the courts on the charge that construction was proceeding without a permit.

Meanwhile, the N.D.G. Community Council has invited Mr. Justice Lucien Dugas, chairman of the Quebec Liquor Board, to a meeting Monday.

Quelques chambres et tout est dit

## Les "Folies Royales" vivront

Malgré les protestations des autorités municipales et du Community Council de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, il semble bien que les propriétaires du cabaret "Folies Royales" réussiront à contourner les règlements municipaux en vue d'exploiter leur établissement en toute quiétude.

Nous apprenions, en dernière heure hier, que le gérant de l'établissement se présentera au bureau du service des Permis et Inspections de la cité, aujourd'hui, en vue de retirer sa demande de trois permis municipaux, soit des permis

Par Maurice Archambault

pour exploiter un théâtre, une salle à manger et un cabaret.

### Un hôtel

Le gérant retournerait à l'hôtel de ville, au cours de la prochaine semaine, muni de plans et devis destinés à convertir l'ancien cinéma "Empress" en hôtel.

Les propriétaires songeraient même à ajouter un étage supplémentaire à l'édifice et à le transformer complètement.

Pour éviter des poursuites judi-

ciaires certaines, les autorités du cabaret auraient, semble-t-il, décidé de réclamer de la ville un permis pour exploiter un hôtel.

En effet, dans le règlement no 1264, les hôtels sont acceptés dans le secteur N.D.G., de même que les cabarets exploités par ces établissements.

Il semble bien que les dirigeants de l'ancien cinéma réussiront à contourner la difficulté, et pourront exploiter leur cabaret tout à loisir, n'en déplaise aux autorités municipales et au Community Council.



*J. M. Ryan*

## Drops Permit For Cabaret, Seeks Hotel

Gabriel Richard, the man who hopes to operate a swank nightclub on the site of the old Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke street west, formally withdrew his applications for city permits for a theatre, dining room and cabaret yesterday.

But Richard was not bowing to opposition to his plans. He is expected to submit a new application next week for permission to build a hotel there. City zoning bylaws, which prohibit a cabaret as such in the area, do permit a cabaret to be operated if it's part of a hotel.

Meanwhile, the N.D.G. Community Council is proceeding with plans for a meeting to protest a cabaret in that particular section of the community. It is to be held Monday evening at the Zhaare Zadek Social Hall, 6805 Chester avenue.

The council has invited Judge Lucien Dugas, chairman of the Quebec Liquor Board to attend and to name "the important people behind Richard who exerted political pressure on the board to acquire his liquor licence."

*Folies Royal*  
Il était temps...

ÇA VA NOUS FORCER À BOIRE DU CHAMPAGNE!

par Rudel-Tessier

Nous aurions pu avoir les Folies Royales, mais nous aurons droit tout au plus aux **Folies Royal** (sic et resic!), ce qui est, paraît-il, une façon de dire les choses en français!

Avec le plus grand sérieux, quelqu'un a essayé de me persuader que c'était une façon de reconnaître que Montréal est une ville française — puisque M. Gaby Richard aurait bien pu appeler son cabaret les **Royal Folies**!

Quoi qu'il en soit, ces Folies Royal seront un grand cabaret, le plus grand de toute l'Amérique du Nord, qui présentera des spectacles à plumes devant (les Bons soirs) 1200 personnes bien habillées, bien assises et aimant le champagne ou du moins la champagnette.

Quand ça?

Dès le 12 février!

Où ça?

Entre les quatre murs de l'ex-cinéma Empress, rue Sher-

brooke, dans la paroisse de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Cela en dépit de l'opposition organisée de citoyens du quartier, qui, prétendant agir au nom de la majorité, ont déjà présenté une pétition au Prince. Aux dernières nouvelles ils n'avaient pas renoncé à travailler des pieds, des mains et de la langue pour faire échouer le projet de M. Richard et du syndicat dont il est le porte-parole.

M. Richard et ses associés n'ont manifesté aucune émotion devant cette opposition, et, tranquillement, ont continué à faire comme si de rien n'était. Le fait est qu'ils ont convoqué les journalistes, lundi dernier (je n'y étais pas), pour leur faire part de la transformation prochaine de l'ex-Empress en cabaret. Ce cabaret sera le plus vaste et le plus luxueux du continent, l'unique cabaret montréalais où le champagne sera obligatoire et le pourboire strictement interdit; où on présentera un plateau de \$20,000 par semaine (un orchestre de 16 musiciens, plus un trio); où, pour tout dire, le champagne ne sera pas seulement obligatoire mais exclusif, si l'on peut s'exprimer ainsi pour dire qu'on ne pourra s'y abreuver que de

champagne ou, à la rigueur, de champagnette (dans les deux cas, on vendra la bouteille au prix coûtant majoré de \$4, mais on aura, au préalable, payé un droit d'entrée de \$2 par tête).

Mais on ne promet pas seulement un orchestre et un trio: on promet aussi un spectacle varié et de grandes vedettes — les plus grandes vedettes, comme Maurice Chevalier (ce parfait bilingue!), qui n'a encore rien promis, mais qu'on a vu et avec qui on a discuté argent, et sur qui on compte pour l'affiche du premier spectacle.

On nous promet aussi quatre maîtres d'hôtel, qui, à eux quatre, parlent une douzaine de langues bien comptées (dont le français, on peut le présumer).

Et quoi encore?

Ah oui! Le metteur en scène des spectacles des Folies Royal sera un certain Don Arden; il est déjà le metteur en scène des spectacles du Lido de Paris, du Latin Quarter de New York et d'une grande boîte de Las Vegas dont j'ai oublié de noter le nom.

Mais j'ai oublié de demander si l'habit, ou du moins le smoking, seront de rigueur... Il me semble, à moi (qui ai fait la dépense) que ce serait une bonne idée. (Mais depuis le temps que je n'ai plus l'occasion de m'habiller, je me demande si je puis encore entrer dans l'un et dans l'autre!)

Très sérieusement, Montréal semble se mettre tout de suite à l'heure de l'Exposition!

# Le juge Dugas n'ira pas discuter en public le cas des "Folies Royales"

Gabriel Richard, l'animateur du projet d'aménagement des "Folies Royales", un super-club de nuit qui s'installerait dans l'ancien cinéma Empress, rue Sherbrooke ouest, a retiré sa demande pour obtenir un permis municipal. Dans la demande, M. Richard faisait part au bureau des permis de la ville qu'il désirait opérer un théâtre, une salle à diner, de même qu'un cabaret où l'on ne vendrait que du champagne.



Le juge Dugas

Cependant, M. Richard ne prend pas pour acquis que l'affaire est à l'eau. Au contraire, il doit se présenter, cette semaine, une nouvelle demande pour la construction d'un hôtel à cet emplace-

ment, car un règlement municipal de zonage permet l'ouverture d'un cabaret à condition que celui-ci soit situé dans un hôtel. On ajouterait même un étage à l'ancien cinéma pour les chambres.

## Pas de rencontre

De son côté, le comité des citoyens de Notre-Dame de Grâce a invité le président de la Régie des Alcools, M. le juge Lucien Dugas, à une réunion qui sera tenue demain soir, au "Zhaare Zadek Social Hall", 6805 de l'avenue Chester.

Le but de cette rencontre serait de demander au président de la Régie les noms des personnes qui appuient Gabriel Richard dans sa demande et de discuter de toute cette affaire. Toutefois, M. Dugas nous a déclaré, lors d'une conversation téléphonique, qu'il n'avait pas à expo-

ser son point de vue en dehors des réunions de la Régie.

Et le président de préciser: "Aucune demande officielle

n'a été faite à la Régie pour une telle rencontre et, dans un cas pareil, les invitations par la voie des journaux ne comptent pas."

*Hold  
Follow - Regard*

## No Hotel, N.D.G. Council 'Resolves'

By HANS GROTKE

Fireworks were expected at last night's meeting of the Notre Dame de Grace Community Council as Chairman Lucien Dugas of the Quebec Liquor Board had been invited to attend the session to explain the board's stand in the current cabaret squabble in the district.

Judge Dugas did not show up. But that didn't prevent the fire-

works from going on as scheduled. In a stormy 1½ hour session, the 30-odd members of the council who sat in on the proceedings haggled over a number of motions designed to determine once and for all future policy of the council on the issue of liquor permits in NDG.

After a number of motions and

amendments were lost in the general confusion, Bill Fedorka, defeated candidate in last October's municipal elections, came up with an all-encompassing resolution which was passed.

It stated simply that the council oppose the future granting of all liquor licences in NDG and also oppose the establishment of all hotels in the area.

When it was pointed out this motion did not deal adequately enough with the current case — the conversion of the old Empress Theatre into a cabaret — another resolution was passed unanimously.

This one urged the council to use all means at its disposal to stop the licencing of a cabaret or hotel on the site of the Empress theatre.

While neither of these final motions met with any real opposition when it came to a vote, the discussion period leading up

to them at times assumed comic opera proportions.

Motions and amendments were made and then withdrawn which led up to Mr. Fedorka's suggestion that "we throw them all out and start over again."

Earlier, Council President Ken MacKay was assured by representatives of the NDG New Democratic Party and the Parent and Teachers Association of Herbert Symonds School that they supported the council's stand in its dispute with the Liquor Board.

However, Ken Lyall, president of the NDG Businessmen's Association, said he felt the council was getting away from the original ideas which led to its establishment.

He claimed that the council seemed to be devoting all of its time to fighting liquor permits for the area when there was plenty of other good work it could do.



*Yellow Pages*

N.D.G. Group Fights Hotels, Too

## All Cabarets Opposed

By BRUCE TAYLOR

The Notre Dame de Grace Community Council last night held its widely advertised meeting to protest the establishment of a cabaret, either as such or as part of a hotel, on the site of the old Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke street west.

It started out on that theme. It ended by deciding to oppose any and all new cabarets or hotels anywhere in the riding.

Fewer than 40 members of the council showed up. But

their exuberance so far outdistanced their representation that at one point late in the evening the meeting came close to foundering in a sea of motions, amendments to the motions and sub-amendments to the amendments.

A member saved the day by making yet another motion: that all the previous motions be withdrawn and the meeting begin again from scratch.

It did, and the outcome was the adoption of a resolution calling for the council "to oppose with all the means at its disposal the granting of liquor licenses anywhere throughout Notre Dame de Grace, and to oppose the establishment of all hotels in N.D.G."

### Dugas Absent

Judge Lucien Dugas, chairman of the Quebec Liquor Board, had been invited to make an appearance and tell the meeting "why he had granted a licence to the owners of the theatre in the face of a bylaw prohibiting a cabaret there . . . and to identify them publicly."

Like the majority of the council members, Judge Dugas declined to attend.

This, however, did nothing to mar the general enthusiasm of the session. It began with an hour-long address by Dr. Aberdeen McCabe, lecturer in dental public health at the University of Montreal and representative of the Dental Hygiene League of Quebec, who called for fluoridation of the city's drinking water.

Dr. McCabe showed slides to emphasize his remarks. When he ended and sat down, he found that he was caught at the head table in a debate one safely might say was somewhat removed from the realm of decaying molars and what to do about them. He remained there for the next two hours as the council members began piling one motion atop another in their quest to block the operation of the would-be "Folies Royales" on Sherbrooke street.

Council president Kenneth C. Mackay got things rolling by re-describing the by now well-known opposition of the group's executive board to the cabaret which, if its would-be owners have their way, will be ensconced within a hotel. City zoning bylaws prohibit a cabaret in that particular area — but not if it is part of a hotel. A hotel is what the owners now say they intend to build.

When Mr. Mackay concluded his history, he called for a mandate that would allow the council to proceed with its opposition. He was practically inundated with suggestions in the form of motions.

Up leaped a representative of the New Democratic Party. "We give you our complete support," he said. "We are against laws being broken."

The members cheered.

"The general feeling of our members is that we may be fishing behind the net," said the representative of the Hebert Symonds Parent-Teacher Association, "but we're behind you."

"Hooray," yelled someone.

"Nightclubs sometimes bring bad people to roam the area," warned member Bill Fedorka. "Too many high-class clubs wind up as joints in Montreal."

Applause.

"The three city councillors of the district are against it," Mackay announced. "So is the Hon. Paul Earl."

More of same.

It was about that point the motions started to come. First, they called for opposition to the Empress Theatre location. Then they expanded to include all locations on Sherbrooke street. Soon it was Monkland avenue, too. And Decarie boulevard.

"Hold on," said Ken Lyle, president of the N.D.G. Businessmen's Association. "We're getting further and further away from the original concepts of the council. If the owners want to build a cabaret there, let them. What do we care? Let's get back to being a community council . . ."

"I take exception to your remarks," interjected the man from the NDP. "We are worrying about community affairs here."

Loud applause.

"Okay," said Mr. Lyle, taking his seat. "That's just my opinion. I can have one. I suppose even the NDPers are entitled to one."

Catcalls.

It was here that another member stood. "I'm a little confused by all these motions and amendments," he confessed. "Suppose we withdraw them all and start all over again . . ."

Groans.

The meeting accepted his suggestion, however. "We're confused, too," several others sang out. So the new motion — minus amendments and sub-amendments — was carried unanimously.

The meeting ended just before 11 p.m. The members had cookies and coffee.

## L'hôtel-cabaret de NDG est dans une impasse

Le projet "d'hôtel-cabaret" qu'on veut aménager dans l'édifice de l'ancien théâtre Empress, rue Sherbrooke ouest, semble être entré dans une impasse qui pourrait compromettre son avenir. Et cette fois-ci c'est de la Régie des alcools que surgit la difficulté.

On sait que le promoteur, M. Gabriel Richard, d'accord avec les autorités municipales, a décidé d'abriter ses "Folies Royales" non plus dans un simple cabaret, mais dans un hôtel, de façon à éviter les restrictions des règlements municipaux qui défendent le cabaret, mais non l'hôtel.

Mais la loi de la Régie des Alcools prévoit que dans ce cas, le permis de cabaret revêt un caractère de "sous permis" greffé à un "permis d'hôtel", lequel ne peut être émis, dans la ville de Montréal, que pour un hôtel d'au moins 50 chambres.

Les nouveaux plans que M. Richard a soumis au service municipal des permis et inspections prévoient l'aménagement d'une douzaine de cham-

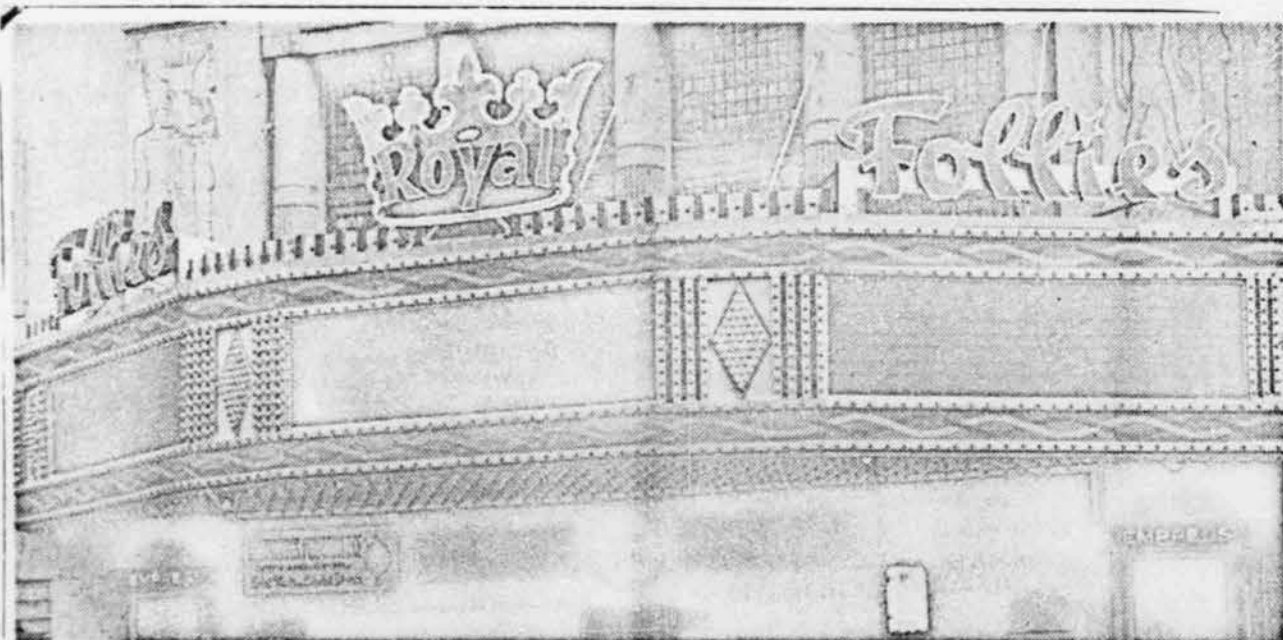
bres, ce qui est suffisant à la municipalité pour donner à l'édifice le nom d'hôtel.

Cette mesure réconcilie en quelque sorte M. Richard avec l'autorité municipale (à la déception du Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Council) et lui permettra d'obtenir, peut-être dès demain, les permis municipaux nécessaires à l'aménagement d'un hôtel, même si celui-ci contient un cabaret.

Mais alors, M. Richard perdra automatiquement le permis de cabaret qu'il a obtenu de la Régie des alcools et devra présenter une autre requête pour obtenir un "permis d'hôtel" et un "sous-permis de cabaret". Requête qui lui sera refusée si son hôtel n'a pas un minimum de 50 chambres.

En somme, à moins qu'on trouve une autre solution, le projet est sérieusement compromis... Ce qui devrait certainement réjouir le **s o b r e** Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Council, tout simplement opposé à l'établissement du cabaret, puis de l'hôtel, dans son quartier.

*Callahan  
Feller  
Rogers*



ACT ONE: While the vocal controversy surrounding the conversion of the old Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke St. west into a cabaret (or hotel) continues unabated, a sign proclaiming the building's intended future status has been hoisted into place. The proposed new cabaret has been the subject of criticism by both the City of Montreal and the Notre

Dame de Grace Community Council which claim it violates city by-laws. Only Monday night, the Community Council passed a resolution condemning the future issuing of any liquor licences in NDG and also opposing the erection of hotels in the district.

(Gazette Photo Service)

*Editor  
Rejoice*

## Money is sought for legal action

Sir: Tuesday night the N.D.G. Community Council held a meeting which was called by the president, Mr. Ken Mackay, to discuss the question of the proposed cabaret on the site of the old Empress Theatre.

Present at this meeting were representatives and delegates from many local organizations, including home and school associations, religious groups, The N.D.G. Liberal Association, The N.D.G. NDP Association and many others.

A resolution was proposed "that the N.D.G. Community Council use whatever means we have at our disposal to stop this cabaret from opening." The vote was unanimous in favor of this resolution. Every persons at this meeting strongly objected to the opening of this cabaret and many objected to the manner in which the licence was granted.

It is quite obvious that the majority of our residents of N.D.G. do not want this cabaret in the area. This fact is well known.

Unfortunately, not one of our elected representatives saw fit to attend this meeting and it looks as though the residents themselves must take appropriate action to protect and defend our interests.

Despite strong protests and objections, despite strong editorials in the newspapers, work at the site is still going on. If our elected representatives can not or will not do something about this situation, then it's time for us the citizens to act. I have discussed this situation with some legal advisors and was told that we may be able to take court



**YOU SAY**

**Proposed cabaret  
'Wretched project'**

Sir: As an N.D.G. parent directly and adversely affected by the attempt to downgrade a select residential and playground area into a "Place Pigalle" honky-tonk reservation, against both our by-laws and our wishes, interests and rights I urge each individual to act, both singly and collectively, in all legitimate ways, e.g.

Write your MP in Ottawa, no postage is needed.

Write your MPP in Quebec.

Consider the feasibility of sending a deputation to the Minister of Justice in Ottawa requesting inquiries into the ways and means of impeaching Mr. Justice Lucien Dugas and disclosing the identities of the shadowy figures behind-the-scenes involved.

Write the Mayor of Montreal and the City Council.

Ascertain the names of the firms servicing this wretched project.

Remember, "Place Pigalle" cannot exist if an aroused neighborhood strongly intends to prevent it!

Mary Tracey.

# Richard plans to build 50-room hotel at Empress

GABRIEL RICHARD, in whose name a liquor permit for a cabaret has been granted for the old Empress Theatre, said this morning that he will conform with Montreal by-laws and QLB regulations by building an additional storey to the building and converting it to a 50-room hotel.

This decision was reached when the QLB announced yesterday that if Mr. Richard opened a hotel, he would lose his cabaret licence.

He has already applied to the City for a permit to build a hotel, but plans called for "about a dozen rooms," but this does not meet the requirements of the QLB.

## Needs new licence

A QLB official said today that even if Richard's hotel does contain 50 rooms, he will still lose his cabaret licence and must make a new application for a hotel licence, and his cabaret then would operate under a sub-licence within the hotel.

The N.D.C. Community Council, after a stormy and confusing meeting Monday night, has resolved to oppose both, and is against any more drinking establishments in N.D.G., and against the construction of a hotel in the district.

Mr. Richard's dilemma has

also become confused:

- The city has blocked any renovations to make the building into a cabaret because it is against existing by-laws;

- If he makes a 12-room hotel, which will satisfy the city, it will not meet requirements of the QLB;

- If he adds a floor and makes a 50-room hotel, he will still be forced to apply to the QLB for a new licence;

- And in any case, he will be bitterly opposed by the N.D.G. Community Council, which has been charged "to use every means at its disposal" to see that neither a cabaret or hotel is opened on the site.

## Illegal sign

Richard was yesterday given a notice from Mr. Mondello's office that placing a sign on the Theatre Monday afternoon was in itself illegal because he did not have a permit.

In court, Richard and eight workmen appeared on a charge of carrying out renovations without a proper permit, but the case was put over to February 6.

That the controversy has reached comic proportions became evident yesterday when a prominent French-speaking West Ender said that the sign giving the name of the cabaret is neither English or French.

The sign reads, from left to right, Folies Royal Folies, and the resident pointed out it should properly read Folies-Royale, with the hyphen, as in Folies-Bergere in Paris.

At the Community Council meeting Monday night, a spokesman for the Herbert Symonds PTA said his group was against the cabaret regardless of where it would be.

"It may start off as a high-

quality place, but we have no guarantee it will remain so," he said.

## Legal action

After a number of motions, amendments to motions, sub-amendments, withdrawal of motions and new motions, it was finally agreed at the meeting that the Council would officially oppose any further drinking establishments in N.D.G., and also any hotels, and to use every means at its disposal to make sure that the Folies in particular does not get to open, either as a hotel or cabaret, or both.

Bill Fedorka, who seconded the motion at the Council meeting, has since suggested that a fund be set up to raise money to take legal action against the principals of the cabaret (or hotel or whatever it will become).

Still another N.D.G. resident has suggested that people write to their federal MPs, provincial MPPs and local councillors to protest the cabaret.

And others are suggesting that some loophole will be found so the cabaret will open as scheduled in mid-February.

Ken Lyall, president of the N.D.G. Business Men's Association, spoke up at the meeting in favor of allowing the cabaret to open in the name of progress.

"Why," he asked, "should the cabaret be forced to move to some other district when it would be a good business for N.D.G.?"

However, when it came to a vote on the motion to oppose liquor licences and hotels, Mr. Lyall carried only three other votes with him against it. There were about 30 people at the meeting.

Also at the meeting, Dr. Aberdeen McCabe spoke on fluoridation and gave an involved series of statistics to show why he was in favor of introducing it to the Montreal water system.

## No Licence for N.D.G. Hotel

# QLB Reveals Ruling

By BRUCE TAYLOR

Gabriel Richard's liquor licence for a cabaret on the site of the old Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke street west will become extinct the moment he is issued a permit to construct a hotel there, an official of the Quebec Liquor Board revealed yesterday.

And permission to begin building the hotel is expected to be granted by the city today it is learned.

Richard was granted a cabaret liquor licence for the site in December, but city zoning by-laws prohibited him from operating a cabaret there. So, he withdrew his applications for city permits to build a cabaret and reapplied for the right to build a hotel. City by-laws say a cabaret can exist on the location, provided it is within a hotel.

City Permits Director Romeo Mondello said yester-

day Richard had submitted plans and specifications for the hotel — which would contain six rooms — and that a permit "most likely" would be granted by the city this morning.

The moment he is granted such a permit to build a hotel, however, his cabaret liquor licence would be cancelled and he would have to reapply to the Quebec Liquor Board for a hotel liquor licence, with a sub-licence for the operation of a cabaret.

The Quebec Liquor Act clearly states that no liquor licence can be issued for a hotel in the City of Montreal unless the hotel contains a minimum of 50 rooms.

Richard, it is pointed out, would then find himself with no means of operating a liquor-dispensing outlet.

He cannot operate a cabaret on the proposed site because

city zoning bylaws prevent him from doing so, and he can't operate a cabaret within his planned hotel because the hotel won't be big enough to meet Quebec Liquor Act requirements for the issuance of a hotel liquor licence.

Late yesterday, Richard indicated to the Hotel Service of the Quebec Trade and Commerce Department that he wanted to build a total of 51 rooms by adding two additional floors to the building.

In Municipal Court, meanwhile, the case against Richard and eight workmen charged with doing construction work on the site without a city permit was postponed by Chief Judge Roland Paquette until Feb. 6.

Attorneys for Richard explained he couldn't make an appearance "because he was busy seeing Permit Director Mondello about getting a per-

mit to build his hotel . . ."

Richard went to see Mondello on Monday, armed with plans for the hotel. They specified that he would build at least six rooms.

The plans did not meet immediate city requirements, so he was told to come back later. The new plans now are in Mondello's hands and are being studied.

"It would seem most likely that they meet our requirements and that Richard will be given his permit to start construction," Mondello said.

A top official of the Quebec Liquor Board told The Star: "The minute Richard gets his city permit to build a hotel, his cabaret licence no longer will be valid."

"He will then have to reapply for a hotel liquor licence. Unless he has a minimum of 50 rooms no such licence can be granted to him."

"A cabaret licence within a hotel is a sub-permit to the main hotel liquor licence. Without the latter, he can't get the former."

He added: "It would appear Richard will be left entirely without a licence to sell liquor."

And if that wasn't enough trouble for one day, Richard was handed a notice from Mondello's office to the effect that he was in contravention of city ordinances by erecting a sign over the entrance of the building this week.

He didn't have a permit for that, either.

"Technically, we can't sue him because we have his prior application for permission to put the sign up," Mondello explained. "But he has been issued official notice of the violation and told it can't legally be erected until after construction of the hotel is completed and a permit for the sign is issued."

"We are keeping his application in abeyance."

## Hotel Permit Given In N.D.G.; QLB States New Licence Needed; Court Case Postponed

Three major developments occurred yesterday in the case of the "Follies Royal," the new cabaret proposed for Sherbrooke St. West in Notre Dame de Grace.

1) Plans were submitted to the City of Montreal Permits Department to build a hotel on the site — the old Empress Theatre — which would make the issuance of a liquor dispensing permit on the premises within the city by-laws.

2) The Quebec Liquor Board made it known that if the promoters of the "Follies Royal" gain the permit to build the hotel, their original liquor permit for a cabaret will be void and they will be obliged to make application for another permit.

3) The action by the city against Gabriel Richard and workmen on the premises for allegedly carrying out alterations without a city building permit

was postponed in Municipal Court until Feb. 6.

The City Permits Department said yesterday Mr. Richard had submitted plans for a hotel in the theatre. It is understood that if hotel is built on the site, the builders would be within the city zoning bylaw.

A spokesman for the city department said the revised plans call for a hotel of "less than 12 rooms."

Meanwhile, the Quebec Liquor Board said yesterday that if the licence holder alters the premises to a hotel, the first permit issued — one for a cabaret alone — would be revoked and a new

application would be needed.

The QLB also pointed out that Section 22 of the Liquor Act says:

"A hotel permit recognizes an establishment as a hotel within the meaning of this section and entitles the holder to apply for one or more of the following permits for use in such establishment: dining-room, restaurant, bar, lounge, tavern or cabaret permit. . ."

"A hotel permit shall not be granted except to an establishment containing at least the following number of bedrooms reserved for travellers:

"a) In Montreal or Quebec, fifty . . ."



## Surrenders Licence For Cabaret

Gabriel Richard has surrendered his cabaret liquor licence for the nightclub he intended to open on the site of the old Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke street west.

He announced today he will seek a new hotel liquor licence.

He has received permission from the city to begin construction of a six-room hotel instead, and says he will eventually make it 50 rooms or more.

The Quebec Liquor Act stipulates that a hotel in Montreal must have a minimum of that number of rooms in order to be licensed to sell liquor. Such rooms as cabarets, lounges and dining areas within the hotel must be issued sub-licences in order to sell liquor.

Hôtel -  
Folies Royales

#### L'ALCOOL MAUDIT

Or donc, certaines personnes ont voulu ouvrir un cabaret luxueux à Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, un cabaret qu'elles auraient nommé "Folies Royales".

Et les braves gens de NDG se sont levés en masse, le bouclier de la Tempérance en main, en protestant contre l'insinuation des effluves du champagne dans leur sobre quartier — lequel, comme chacun sait, a toujours été du genre plutôt inodore et sans saveur.

Ce réjouissant litige n'est pas réglé, loin de là. Mais ne croyez pas que Montréal soit la seule ville au Canada qui subisse présentement sa campagne contre le champagne. Une histoire semblable vient d'éclater à Toronto. Avec certaines variantes, toutefois.

Il existe en effet dans la Ville Reine une rue connue sous le nom de "Temperance Street", véritable château-fort et bastion du régime "sec", depuis plus de 125 ans.

Or, mardi dernier, la Régie des alcools (celle de l'Ontario) a accordé un permis au restaurant Panonia, sur cette rue.

Pauvre régie ontarienne ! Elle a fait le même faux pas que la nôtre : elle ne s'était pas suffisamment renseignée. Et elle ne savait pas que, il y a 122 ans, le millionnaire Jesse Ketchum, quand il vendit plusieurs propriétés le long de cette rue, fit inclure dans l'acte de vente une clause interdisant strictement la vente d'alcool par les nouveaux propriétaires.



Et ce, à perpétuité.

Mais là, on ne sait plus si le restaurant en question fait partie du groupe d'édifices concernés par cette clause prohibitive.

Car tous les immeubles n'ont pas été pareillement affectés. Ainsi, un acte de vente datant de 1860, et transférant une partie de Temperance Street à la cité, ne comporte aucune restriction du genre.

Et on se demande maintenant dans quelle catégorie est inclus le "Panonia".

Dans l'intervalle, l'arrière petit-fils de Jesse Ketchum, un septuagénaire, qui porte le même nom et qui incidemment ressemble à Diefenbaker, a décidé de mener une lutte à finir, pour préserver la vertu et le beau nom de "Temperance Street".

— Ils ne passeront pas", a-t-il dit, comme Pétain à Verdun.

Mais il est tout plein de doléances :

— Pour toute fortune, explique-t-il, je ne possède qu'un sixième des valeurs que détenait ma mère dans la succession Ketchum, et, en plus, mon allocation de retraite comme télégraphiste de chemin de fer. Comment voulez-vous poursuivre avec ça la Régie des alcools — sans compter qu'il s'agit là d'un organisme gouvernemental !

Voilà pour Toronto. Quant à l'affaire des "Folies Royales" de Montréal, on sait que ses instigateurs vont probablement remporter, quand même, une sorte de victoire, en ajoutant des chambres au cabaret, ce qui le transformerait en hôtel, et lui donnerait droit quand même à un permis de la Régie sans que la ville puisse invoquer les règlements de zonage.

Plaisantes, ces astuces qui donnent un croc-en-jambe au statu quo, sans enfreindre les lois !

Et puis, entre nous, amis de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, croyez-vous vraiment qu'une belle boîte de nuit en votre quartier le corromprait à ce point ? Et que vos trottoirs seraient dès lors infestés de pochards ?

Les super-cabarets doivent-ils être confinés à la rue Ste-Catherine et à la rue St-Laurent ? Puisque ce sont des établissements chics, ne peut-il y en avoir dans des quartiers chics, ainsi qu'il s'en trouve dans plusieurs capitales ? (Surtout quand on n'y vend que du champagne...)

Non, je n'ai pas été soudoyé par les gens des "Folies-Royales", quels qu'ils soient, pour écrire ces lignes. Je ne leur ai même jamais parlé !

Je dis simplement ce que je pense — et je pense beaucoup à l'expo de 1967. J'aimerais bien que nos visiteurs ne soient pas obligés d'arpenter la "Main" pour se divertir.

Au fond, c'est un compliment aux gens de NDG !

Hotel  
Folies Royales

**Un permis annulé, un autre accordé**

## L'hôtel-cabaret de NDG est sorti de l'impasse

par Claude GENDRON

Le projet d'aménagement d'un "hôtel-cabaret" de grande classe dans l'édifice du cinéma Empress, rue Sherbrooke ouest, est sorti hier de l'impasse dans laquelle la complexité des lois l'avait plongé la veille.

La solution était fort simple, mais entraînera une mise de fonds plus considérable. Les "Folies Royales" ne comprendront pas seulement une douzaine de chambres (cinq suffisaient pour l'obtention des permis municipaux), mais une cinquantaine et peut-être plus, afin de satisfaire aux exigences de la loi de la Régie des alcools.

A cette fin, on ajoutera deux étages à l'édifice actuel pour contenir les 50 chambres, sans avoir à réduire la grande salle du cabaret de "l'hôtel".

### Permis de cabaret annulé

D'ailleurs, deux gestes ont été posés hier en ce sens par M. Gabriel Richard, le seul promoteur du projet dont on connaît officiellement le nom.

Dans un communiqué officiel remis aux journaux, le juge Lucien Dugas, président de la Régie des alcools, déclare ce qui suit :

"Gabriel Richard a, ce jour, remis à la Régie des alcools le permis qui lui avait été octroyé le 27 novembre 1962 pour l'exploitation d'un cabaret au no 5560 ouest de la rue Sherbrooke. La Régie, se rendant à

la demande de M. Richard, a annulé en conséquence ledit permis, à toute fin future que de droit."

La Régie n'a pas fait savoir si M. Richard présentera ou a présenté une autre requête pour l'obtention d'un permis d'hôtel et d'un sous-permis de cabaret.

### Permis municipal accordé

Cependant, de l'hôtel de ville, M. Roméo Mondello, directeur du service des permis et inspections, a déclaré que la ville avait émis à M. Richard un permis "pour transformer en entier le bâtiment en vue d'en faire un hôtel et d'y aménager un cabaret".

"Cela lui permet de poursuivre les travaux entrepris, de préciser M. Mondello. Cependant, s'il veut ajouter d'autres étages à l'édifice et augmenter ainsi le nombre des chambres, M. Richard devra nous soumettre ses plans et obtenir un permis d'agrandissement de la bâtisse."

On croit savoir que M. Richard soumettra des plans d'ici quelques jours. Mais la transformation et l'agrandissement des locaux ne donneront pas au promoteur le droit d'ouvrir son cabaret. Il lui faudra alors obtenir d'autres permis municipaux d'exploitation ainsi que les permis de la Régie des alcools.

La joie du NDG Community Council aura été de courte durée . . .

*St. Reg.*

**L'affaire des "Folies Royales"**

# LE PERMIS EST ANNULÉ

Les développements se sont suivis à vive allure, hier, dans l'affaire des "Folies Royales".

Les plans d'un hôtel ont été soumis au département des permis de la ville de Montréal en vue de la construction d'un hôtel où s'élève actuellement le vieux cinéma "Empress". Les règlements municipaux permettent la

construction d'hôtel avec permis de boissons alcooliques dans ce district.

M. Gabriel Richard, propriétaire des "Folies Royales", a remis à la Régie des Alcools le permis de liqueurs pour l'exploitation d'un cabaret, qui avait été obtenu le 27 novembre 1962. Se rendant à la demande de M. Richard, la Régie a annulé le dit permis qui n'aurait pu être exploité si le

vieux cinéma est converti en hôtel.

Et finalement, les poursuites intentées par la ville de Montréal contre M. Richard et ses employés, sous l'accusation de s'être livrés à des travaux de réfection sans permis, ont été ajournées au 6 février.

Un porte-parole du département municipal des permis de construction a fait savoir que les nouveaux

plans soumis par M. Richard prévoient la construction d'un petit hôtel où l'on aménagerait 12 chambres.

Or, la section 22 de la Loi des Liqueurs alcooliques précise qu'un permis pour l'exploitation d'un hôtel ne doit pas être émis à moins que cet établissement ne compte un certain nombre de chambres. Pour les villes de Montréal et de Québec, ce nombre minimum a été fixé à 50.



Hotel -  
Folies Royales

## Qu'arrivera-t-il ensuite ?

# Le gérant des "Folies Royales" de N.D.G. s'engage à ajouter cinquante chambres à son hôtel-cabaret

Le gérant du cabaret-hôtel, les "Folies Royales", Gaby Richard, n'en a pas fini avec les difficultés et complications qui entourent l'obtention de son ou ses permis.

Voici, en résumé, où en est la situation au premier acte de cette petite guerre froide :

1) Il est probable, au moment où ces lignes sont écrites, que Richard va obtenir son permis municipal pour transformer le théâtre Empress en un hôtel de pas moins de 12 chambres, qui comprendrait le cabaret "Les Folies Royales" proprement dit; avec un hôtel, il n'y aurait pas in-

fraction aux règlements de zonage actuels. Cas réglé ?

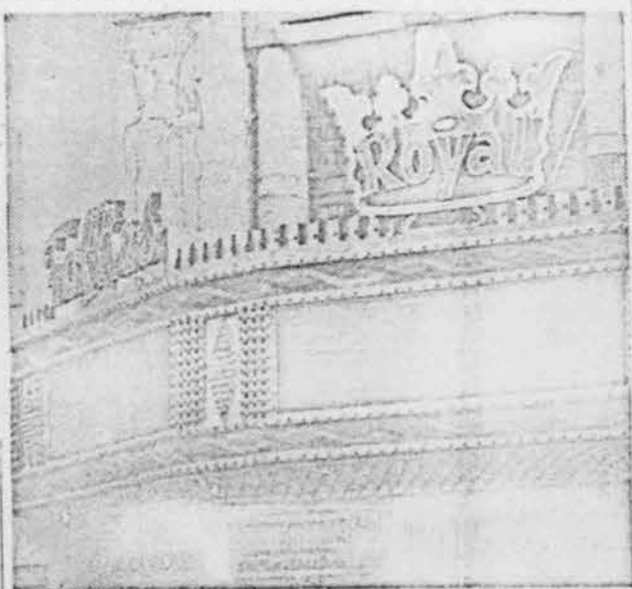
2) Si le cabaret est transformé en un hôtel, Gaby Richard perd automatiquement le permis provincial de cabaret qu'il a obtenu de la Régie des Alcools, et il lui faudra de nouveau faire application pour obtenir un permis double d'hôtel et de cabaret. Or, selon la loi des Liqueurs, pas de permis à moins que cet immeuble ne compte 50 chambres (tel que prévu pour les villes de Montréal et de Québec).

3) Si Gaby Richard trouve une solution à ce problème de 50 chambres, il devra quand

même réclamer son permis d'hôtel et de cabaret; et il est à prévoir que le bureau des permis de la Régie des Alcools se verra "invité" à tenir des audiences publiques, et c'est alors, n'en doutons pas, que le comité des Citoyens de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce sera, cette

### Gaby Richard a remis son permis

En deuxième acte et en fin de semaine, le gérant Gaby Richard a remis à la Régie des Alcools le premier permis (provincial) qui lui permettait d'ouvrir et de diriger un



Acte No 1 : Alors que la controverse se poursuit autour du cinéma Empress que l'on est à convertir en cabaret (ou hôtel), l'enseigne des "Folies Royales" est déjà installée et n'attend plus que le soir de l'ouverture officielle pour briller de tous ses feux et couleurs. Il faudra quelque 50 chambres ayant que la cérémonie ait lieu.

fois, à temps, pour mettre de l'avant une stratégie nouvelle et solide.

4) A cause de ces circonstances, la ville de Montréal a remis au 6 février prochain ses poursuites contre Gaby Richard et les employés de son établissement qui avaient entrepris des réparations sans permis.

cabaret dans Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Il a expliqué aux journalistes qu'il allait faire application pour un nouveau permis (d'hôtel) et il a clairement laissé entendre qu'il verrait à la construction d'au moins 50 chambres, tel qu'il est prévu par la loi provinciale. M. Richard devrait aussi demander et obtenir des permis "séparés" pour son cabaret, à l'intérieur de l'hôtel, pour le "lounge", et pour les diverses salles où l'on servira de l'alcool, avec ou sans repas, aux clients.

Et la publicité indirecte continue pour les Folies Royales...

*Hotel Follies - Cabaret  
Follies Royales*

## **— Follies Royal — to be or not to be?**

Indications are this week that "Montreal's largest nightclub," the Follies Royal, will never open in N.D.G., and neither will the 50-room hotel proposed by holder of the liquor permit, Gabriel Richard.

Mr. Richard, faced with mounting opposition to a proposed cabaret on the site of the old Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke street west, last week announced he would comply with city by-laws by building a hotel.

Late last Thursday afternoon he surrendered his existing liquor

licence to the QLB and said he would re-apply for a hotel licence.

### **Idea abandoned**

But reliable sources actively involved in the four-week controversy said yesterday they believed the whole project would be abandoned and that the hotel idea would be dropped and no further liquor applications would be made.

Previous owners of the Empress, United Amusement Corp., have stated they have not heard about any change in plans.

President William Lester told The Monitor late yesterday afternoon that the building had been sold and he did not know anything about Mr. Richard's change of plans.

By surrendering his licence, Mr. Richard has not lessened his dilemma in any way because he still will be unable to open a cabaret here because of city by-laws, and now to get a QLB hotel licence, his establishment must have at least 50 rooms.

And even if he does apply, the N.D.G. Community Council is bound to object to the QLB as the result of a motion passed at a recent meeting opposing hotels and further drinking establishments in N.D.G.

Hotel-cabaret  
Folies Royales

## WE SAY

### The Empress — monument to folly

THE new sign on the old Empress theatre, marking the cabaret (or hotel) which isn't, mocks those who oppose the enterprise.

We say "enterprise" advisedly — because it takes enterprise to find backers, to conceive a business where none of its type before existed, and to fight delayed and unreasoned opposition.

And we say "unreasoned" advisedly, too — because in all the verbal exchange over this issue we have failed to detect expression of reasons, sound or otherwise, which specifically and point-by-point say why this enterprise should not have gone forward. Emotions, even if well-intentioned, ruled.

We have the utmost respect for the N.D.G. Community Council and, through the years, all its good works — but its action in this instance was not one of them. Attendance at its recent meeting on the subject, in numbers, failed to show there is popular support in the N.D.G. community for the Council's position.

As for the enterprise itself, it lies deathly still, perhaps dead. Hard lines for the enterprisers; but we don't know them and hold no special brief for them — except for this:

These people were prepared to bring a new activity, a new business (a legitimate one, incidentally), and perhaps new life to the flagging commercial Sherbrooke street area of the West End.

The issue isn't, and never was, sin against good.

N.D.G. people apparently prefer continuing slow decay of the once-proud main street of their community.

The dark and empty hulk of the Empress will be quite a monument to folly.

par Fabienne Julien

La création à Montréal d'un cabaret qui recevra 1,200 personnes à la fois a fait ressurgir la question de la censure dans les boîtes de nuit. Les noctambules accusaient déjà les règlements municipaux d'avoir tué la vie de nuit à Montréal. Le touriste, disent-ils, s'ennuie devant son whisky en regardant des pseudo-danseuses qui ne sont que de très pâles copies de ce qu'il peut admirer chez lui à longueur d'année.

Or, sous ce même régime, on projette d'ouvrir la plus grande boîte de nuit jamais vue en Amérique du Nord, au dire de la publicité. Les frais de plateau s'élèveront à \$20,000 par semaine. Que devient la censure? Le contrôle de la municipalité se relâchera-t-il?

A cette question, les imprésarios du Folies Royal (ou Folies Royales comme vient de lancer un quotidien), MM. Johnny Reed et Sidney Tapley, répondent:

— La censure et les règlements municipaux ne nous gêneront en rien. Ce sont des spectacles de grande classe que nous voulons présenter, du même type que ceux de Las Vegas, du Latin Quarter de New York et du Lido de Paris.

— Y aura-t-il des effeuilleuses?

— Non.

— C'est à cause des règlements de la Ville?

— Le strip-tease est démodé aujourd'hui. Le public n'en veut plus. La mode est aux grands déploiements comme à New York et à Paris.

— Le public change aussi de goût parce qu'il se résigne. Ne croyez-vous pas qu'un contrôle trop sévère a fini par tuer le goût du music-hall à Montréal?

M. Tapley affirme le contraire. Même aux Etats-Unis, le strip-tease disparaît de plus en plus. Ce que veut le public, c'est la grande numéro où paraissent une vingtaine de filles en travestis somptueux, à plumes et à ornements pailletés. Seule une grande boîte comme se proposent de créer les propriétaires du Folies Royal peut arriver à donner ce genre de spectacle. Lors même que la municipalité ferait sauter toutes les défenses, les effeuilleuses ne charmeraient plus. Le petit music-hall est mort après la guerre, au moment où l'argent coulait à flots. Même si le plateau était médiocre, le client venait quand même prendre son verre et rencontrer des amis. Forts de cette clientèle assurée, les cabarets congédièrent les danseuses professionnelles dont le cachet s'élevait à \$400 et \$500 pour les remplacer par des petites filles de table qui, du jour au lendemain, devenaient des "artistes" à \$70 et \$80 par semaine.

Avec le résultat, commentent les imprésarios, qu'un homme qui se respecte hésite, aujourd'hui, à amener sa femme ou sa compagne voir un spectacle dont le goût est plus que douteux. La décision de ne servir que du champagne au Folies vise à n'attirer que du "meilleur monde" et à faire en sorte que les officiers de la censure y soient toujours les bienvenus.

— Mais vous vous comparez au Lido! Les danseuses n'y ont-elles pas la réputation de s'y présenter en bien petit appareil?

— Un spectacle doit s'adapter à la population à laquelle il s'adresse. Notre intention n'est pas de choquer le public. Les troupes qui dansent à Paris et à Las Vegas la poitrine nue porteront ici un soutien-gorge.

D'ailleurs, même à Paris, ces numéros sont bien plus des tableaux que de la danse.

Et à la police municipale, que dit-on? La surveillance des cabarets relève du "Bureau de l'Aide à la jeunesse" tandis que l'escouade de la moralité s'occupe de la prostitution. Le capitaine Russell Trépanier et le lieutenant Lucien Quintal acceptent de répondre aux questions suivantes.

— Sur quelle loi, sur quels règlements vous basez-vous pour décider qu'un spectacle est indécent?

— Le Code criminel ne spécifie rien. Tout ce que nous avons, ce sont les articles 150 et 152. Est accusé d'indécence "le locataire, le gérant ou l'agent d'un théâtre, de même que le participant, qui présente ou donne ou permet qu'y soit présenté un spectacle ou divertissement immoral, indécent ou obscène". Mais quant à définir ce qui est IMMORAL, INDECENT ou OBSCÈNE, c'est impossible d'arriver à des précisions.

— Ce jugement est-il laissé à la discrétion de l'enquêteur?

— Oui.

— Votre tâche doit être pas mal difficile.

— Terriblement, puisque tout dépend de l'interprétation de chacun. Tout le monde ne réagit pas de la même manière. Il y a des individus qui sont révoltés par un numéro de danse alors que d'autres restent absolument froids.

— Et alors?

Le capitaine Trépanier m'explique que lui et le lieutenant Quintal vont eux-mêmes dans les cabarets dont on se plaint. S'il y a lieu de préparer une cause, ils sollicitent parfois le concours de quelques personnes qui serviront de témoins.

— Gagnez-vous souvent vos causes?

— Très rarement.

#### ● Le scandale difficile

Le lieutenant Quintal, qui fut le héros de l'affaire des Ballets

africains, il y a quelques années, et du procès de la fameuse Fawzia Amir (danseuse du roi Farouk) arrêtée et libérée en 1959 et 1961, déplore grandement qu'on doive se fier uniquement à l'interprétation des individus. "Le juge et les avocats de la défense finissent toujours par poser cette question aux témoins: "Avez-vous été scandalisés?" Une réponse négative suffit à faire rejeter la cause. Or, je prétends qu'il y a toutes sortes de publics, des jeunes et des moins jeunes, des gens avertis et d'autres mal préparés à voir de ce genre de choses."

— Avez-vous déjà demandé à des jeunes de se prononcer?

— Oui, j'ai déjà demandé à un groupe d'étudiants de le faire dans le cas de Fawzia Amir. (Cette cause a fait sensation quand le juge a demandé à la danseuse de venir présenter son numéro en cour.)

— Quelle a été la réaction des étudiants?

— Ils n'étaient pas scandalisés, comme ne l'avaient pas été non plus, à ma grande surprise, un groupe de dames qui avaient vu un numéro de Lili St. Cyr il y a quelques années.

— Et le numéro présenté par Fawzia à la cour?

— Elle était en tenue de ville. La différence d'atmosphère est immense. Le juge a dit que ce spectacle n'était pas indécent et il l'a acquittée.

Non, la tâche n'est pas facile pour les policiers et on sent presque du découragement, du moins une certaine lassitude dans le ton des représentants de la loi. "Quand on interdit un spectacle, ou une partie du spectacle, comme ce fut le cas pour les danseuses africaines qui voulaient danser la poitrine découverte, on nous accuse d'étroitesse d'esprit, de ne pas distinguer entre l'art et l'indécence. Les journalistes partent en guerre. Si on laisse faire, on reçoit des plaintes de partout: la police, s'écrie-t-on, ne fait pas son devoir!"

Hélas! oui. Mais qui, mais quoi pourrait obvier à cette anarchie, à cette confusion?

Le capitaine Trépanier renchérit: "La défense finit toujours par l'emporter-avec cette question: "A quel titre présentez-vous cette accusation? Quels sont les experts pour juger de ce cas?" Pour lui, la solution à ce marasme serait de créer un comité de surveillance formé de spécialistes, de psychologues et d'éducateurs. Il faudrait également fixer, comme dans certains Etats américains, les limites de la décence: dimensions du soutien-gorge et du bikini, aucune danse où l'interprète se couche sur le parquet, les danseuses ne doivent se servir d'aucun objet, les spectacles d'amateurs sont interdits, etc.

( suite: p. 2 )



( suite: Censure et morale... )

—Jusqu'ici, ce qui sert de contrôle, ce n'est pas un règlement, c'est une entente entre la police et les directeurs de cabarets. Elle a été conclue en 1955 par le chef Albert Langlois. La police n'a aucun pouvoir légal pour établir de règlement et toute loi à cet effet serait qualifiée d'ultra vires, dit le capitaine Trépanier.

— La tâche vous serait plus facile si vous pouviez faire une loi ?

— Sûrement !

L'entente spécifie pour l'instant que le déshabillé sur la scène est interdit. Mais pour faire arrêter une danseuse, il faut prouver que son numéro incite à l'immoralité et à l'indécence.

Dans cette confusion, comment se débrouillent propriétaires et danseuses de cabaret ? Mal. Nous avons fait le tour des boîtes de l'est et de l'ouest, de la rue St-Denis à la rue de la Montagne, assez en tout cas pour connaître public et figurantes.

Les fameuses "danseuses exotiques" — qui se trouvent subitement promues du statut de filles de table au rang de danseuses —, si elles sont parfois jolies et bien tournées, peuvent aussi avoir l'air souffreteux et être fort maladroites.

En costumes qui tiennent plus du déshabillé de chambre à coucher et du "baby doll" de nylon transparent que du travesti pour la scène, elles n'ont pour la plupart jamais su ce que c'est que de la danse, fût-elle érotique ou simplement en mesure. Dans une tenue que ne désavouerait pas une jeune mariée, elles vont et viennent au rythme de la marche. Seul le sourire et les oeillades font comprendre aux clients que leurs intentions sont tout autres que celles de prendre une marche de santé ou de présenter une revue de mode. Et encore !

J'en ai vu qui paraissent aussi relaxées que si elles avaient été dans leur cuisine.

Le tout coupé de quelques intermèdes, par une chanteuse ou un chanteur qui module d'une voix mielleuse: "Pour t'aimer, j'ai péché, pour t'aimer j'ai menti".

#### ○ "La toute charmante"

Il présente "la toute charmante", "la délicieuse", "l'unique" Yolanda ou Diana ou Loulou ou Francine. Quant à celle-ci, elle fait le tour de la scène deux ou trois fois, pendant que les clients, taciturnes pour la plupart, prennent leur bière ou leur gin tonic. A moins, comme ce fut le cas pour Loulou, que son caractère heureux et jovial ne lui ait déjà fait dans la salle quelques amis qui lui parlent, l'interpellent, et à qui elle s'adresse en faisant son numéro.

Et soudainement la danseuse sort dans les coulisses ou descend les quelques marches de la scène en se dirigeant vers une sorte d'alcôve. C'est à ce moment que la batterie entre en scène et plonge toute la salle dans une atmosphère de suspense. La danseuse réapparaît, cette fois en petite tenue, ample soutien-gorge et bikini pailleté. Pour se conformer au contrôle municipal, elle n'oseraient retirer un mouchoir ou un gant sur la scène.

De toutes ces danseuses, seules les Noires savent encore ce que c'est que la danse. Elles remportent d'ailleurs les applaudissements du public. Si elles laissent tomber la jupe derrière les rideaux, du moins cette jupe était très attrayante et elles savaient s'en servir. Pieds nus pour la plupart, elles exécutent avec un entrain irrésistible des numéros qui ravissent les clients. A preuve qu'ils sont peut-être moins désintéressés qu'on pouvait le croire d'abord. En robe rouge, jaune ou bleue avec un rythme démoniaque, elles sont infatigables et fort habiles. C'est ce que Montréal, semble-t-il, présente en ce moment de meilleur.



Le lieutenant Lucien Quintal: "Notre tâche est difficile. Aucun règlement municipal, aucune loi ne précise ce qui peut être qualifié de spectacle indécent ou immoral."

Folies  
Royale

## Les Royales Folies

Rien ne sert de courir, il faut partir à point. M. Richard ne méritait pas tous les soucis qu'on lui a causés avec son ancien "Empress" qu'il voulait transformer en "Folies royales". C'est peut-être la bonne fée qui a voulu se venger ou venger la gent royale. En toute justice, les gens de N.D.G. n'auraient pas dû attendre que M. Richard ait fait des dépenses pour le lui courir après. On aurait dû agir dans les délais prévus. Maintenant, on joue au pharisien pour avoir sa peau.

La Patrie /

MONTREAL, SEMAINE DU 7 AU 13 FEVRIER 1963

Noted  
for the Royal

ON AND OFF

## *THE RECORD*

● FOLIES ROYAL PUSHES OPENING PLANS: Round-the-clock shifts of workmen are rapidly converting the former Empress Theatre in Notre Dame de Grace, and the building housing it, into a hotel-cabaret, with an opening planned in about six weeks. This despite strong district opposition, conflict with municipal by-laws now said to be resolved, and surrender of the original cabaret licence issued by the Quebec Liquor Board. No application has been made as yet for any other type of liquor licence. Conflict with the zoning regulation forbidding a cabaret but allowing a hotel in the district has been removed by persuading tenants of eleven apartments in the building to vacate and converting the apartments to hotel-type rooms, reportedly approved by city inspectors Tuesday. Q.L.B. requirement that a hotel in Montreal must contain 50 rooms to be licenced are being met by the intent to provide eventually at least 60 rooms.

♦ ♦ ♦

★

THE GAZETTE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1963

*Letter  
Replied*

## Community Council defends stand

Sir: There has recently been drawn to my attention two editorials which appeared in the Monitor condemning the action of the Community Council in opposing the granting of a cabaret permit on Sherbrooke street west in N.D.G., which permit would have been contrary to the City's by-law governing zoning on that part of Sherbrooke street.

Your editorial writer contradicts some of your previous editorials supporting the Council's stand in calling for the enforcement of by-laws in Notre Dame de Grace. As you may be aware, the purpose of the Notre Dame de Grace Community Council is to discuss ways and means of tackling important community problems and to implement decisions arrived at with the utmost effectiveness.

For a number of years, the Community Council has considered the flagrant violation of City by-laws a matter of the utmost importance to the community. The granting of the cabaret licence to Mr. Richard by the Quebec Liquor Board was merely another incident of this nature and called for action by the Community Council. The Community Council took such action and, as a result, the City enforced the by-law and subsequently the illegal cabaret permit was rescinded.

If The Monitor is interested in having taverns and cabarets and other liquor outlets on Sherbrooke street, it would be better advised to campaign for the amendment of the Sherbrooke street zoning by-law rather than indulging in snide criticism of the Community Council's successful effort in seeing that the zoning by-law was observed.

K. C. Mackay, President,  
Notre Dame Community  
Council, Inc.



Hotellier  
Cabarets

## Les "Folies Royales" décidées à "naître"

Les travaux ont repris au coin des rues Sherbrooke et Girouard sur le site du futur cabaret "Les Folies Royales" ... et le Comité des honorables citoyens de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce s'en émeut.

Le Comité a envoyé un SOS à ses commettants pour les maintenir en état d'alerte et sauvegarder le principe du règlement municipal qui interdit les folies de cabarets dans ce quartier chic de la métropole.

On sait qu'un permis de vente de boisson alcoolique a été retiré aux propriétaires des "Folies", sur la protestation des citoyens. Il ne pourrait être accordé de nouveau que si les "Folies" s'adjoignaient 50 chambres.

Le Comité croit savoir que les constructeurs ont réduit à 5 chambres le nombre d'abord fixé. Ce

nombre suffira-t-il pour obtenir un permis de boisson.

Il n'est pas question de savoir si ces 50 chambres seraient occupées un jour par des touristes égarés dans ce quartier... On exige des chambres et des chambres même vides ont le pouvoir de déclencher l'obtention d'un permis de vente de boissons... tant pis si elles manquent de locataires.

C'est la deuxième ronde qui commence dans le match opposant les citoyens de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce aux Folies... un match qui ne prendra jamais la manchette des pages sportives.

*Notre  
Folies Royale*

## 'Folies Royale' Fight Looms All Over Again

Round 2 in the battle among the Notre Dame de Grace Community Council, the City of Montreal, the Québec Liquor Board and the promoters of the "Folies Royale" has started.

Last week, the Community Council sent a notice to its affiliated organizations asking for opinions on the question of granting liquor selling permits in the area.

Work has recommenced at the "Folies Royale" site, the old Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke St. near the corner of Girouard Ave., to transform it into a cabaret.

Last year the Québec Liquor Board granted a licence for a cabaret. The City of Montreal did not object at a hearing, even though it was pointed out later that a cabaret in that location contravened a city bylaw.

The council then requested that the QLB revoke the permit. The city, through Administration Chairman Lucien Saulnier, said it would sue if work was carried out.

The site can be used as a cabaret provided there are hotel rooms on the premises. The provincial law requires that such a hotel must have "at least 50 rooms" in order to obtain a liquor permit.

QLB Chairman Lucien Dugas said that if the builders added rooms, a new application for a permit would have to be made.

A spokesman for the council said yesterday that work has started anew at the site. No application for a new permit has been posted with the QLB and the promoters apparently are ready to open for business in "the early part of September," the spokesman said.

The builders have apparently satisfied city regulations with their plans, pending a final check by permit officials at City Hall. A city spokesman said the build-

ers have plans "for a minimum of five rooms."

The owners and promoters of the "Folies" could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Hotellerie  
Cabarets Charles de mait  
Folies Royal

#### FOLIES LIQUOR PERMIT AGAIN SOUGHT

Gabriel Richard, on behalf of Mount Royal Folies, has made another application to the Quebec Liquor Board for a permit, this time for a cabaret-bar, and as expected, it will be opposed by the N.D.G. Community Council.

The application was published Monday, and those against it have 15 days to file written objections.

"It will be vigorously opposed," Leslie Greenshields, president of the Council said last night just before the executive met to discuss the contentious issue.

"I guess we'll have to go to work again," he quipped.

#### Second time

A permit was issued earlier this year for the Folies for a cabaret, but after heavy objection, Mr. Richard voluntarily surrendered it to the QLB and said plans would be changed to include a 50-room hotel to be in line with municipal bylaws governing drinking establishments in the area.

It is well known that work has been going on inside the Folies building, the former Empress Theatre, but no-one has been able to establish what has taken place.

One "spy" reported that the interior, as a club, was just about finished, but he didn't think there was anything close to 50 rooms.

"I don't think they conform at all," he said.

#### How long?

At the time of his first permit, Mr. Richard said the place would feature high-type entertainment and cater to the champagne-and-filet crowd.

The Community Council, on the other hand, concedes that this might be the case, but have time and again expressed grave doubts about how long such a high-class policy would remain in effect.

The Council has a mandate to oppose granting any more licences for drinking establishments in basically residential N.D.G., and plans to oppose any such applications.

More than 60 community and church groups are represented by the Council.

## Council objects to all

Council president Leslie Greenshields yesterday cleared up some confusion about an application for a permit for a restaurant on Western avenue near Claremont.

"It has not come up yet for a hearing," Mr. Greenshields said, "but when it does, we will oppose it."

He explained that this summer a questionnaire was sent to all member organizations on the question of liquor licences, and the replies indicated that all applications should be objected to, including the one on Western avenue.

It was previously understood that, since the place was in more of a commercial than residential area, the council would not raise an objection.

## Liquor permits expected to be 'beef' subject

The Mount Royal Follies, and other liquor applications in N.D.G. is expected to be one of the leading topics at the annual Beefs and Bouquets Night, scheduled Monday at the YMCA on Hampton avenue, and sponsored by the N.D.G. Community Council.

The Council, comprised of nearly 70 independent community and church organizations, has recently objected to the second application for the Folies — one last spring was surrendered voluntarily when opposition was so violent that the Folies decided to build a hotel to meet all existing by-laws governing such establishments in residential N.D.G.

### Open to all

The Beefs night is open to all citizens of N.D.G., and is an opportunity for disgruntled residents to state their objections to any place of local administration, and such —

Or to compliment some group or person for good work done during the past year.

Complaints and compliments submitted to a judging committee in writing, at the meeting, and are then submitted to the audience for further discussion.

After the meeting the judges proclaim the winners in both categories, and they receive a real, genuine beefsteak for the best beef, and flowers for the best bouquet.

Needless to say, more steaks than flowers are given away.

President of the Community Council is Leslie Greenshields.



## Next Wednesday set for Follies hearing

The N.D.G. Community Council is once again preparing to do battle with the owners of the Follies Mount Royal, as the once-proposed Follies Royale is now known.

Leslie Greenshields, Council president, said last night that the hearing before the Quebec Liquor Board will be next Wednesday, probably early in the morning.

"The Follies is number four on the list," he said, "so it should take place quite early."

Mr. Greenshields said the Council would be on hand with legal representation to protest granting the place a licence, and he has urged all member organizations to make a protest also. The Council represents nearly 70 individual business, church and school groups in N.D.G.

### Second time

Earlier this year the Follies voluntarily surrendered a cabaret licence in face of stiff opposition from the Council and in view of the refusal of the City of Montreal to grant the building permit to allow the renovations to be made.

At that time the City said the place would not be allowed to open because it violated a bylaw forbidding such an establishment. To get around this the Follies manager, Gabriel Richard, announced it would be converted to a 50-room hotel, the only way it would comply with municipal regulations. Whether or not this work has been done, nobody has been able to establish. In any case, a new application has been made for a licence, and the Council filed written objections to it.

*Hotel Calcutta, clubs downtown  
Folies Royal*

# QLB HEARS FOLLIES PROS AND CONS

The case for and against the Mount Royal Follies was heard by the five-member (four men, one woman) Quebec Liquor Board yesterday, and the voluminous testimony has been taken under advisement. No decision was announced.

A parade of witnesses on behalf of Gabriel Richard, applicant, was heard, dealing mostly with the type of establishment to be run if the permit is granted, and a large group on behalf of the N.D.G. Community Council gave reasons why the permit should be refused.

Testimony given revealed that the place would be known as the Mount Royal Follies, and the Hotel Empress. The hotel portion, Mr. Richard testified, would have five hotel rooms, but not for transient trade. They would

be, he indicated, for the use of the performers.

As to entertainment, Mr. Richard presented plans to import top-line shows from out of town and stressed the "champagne atmosphere" he hoped to maintain.

## Bylaw violated

The N.D.G. Community Council, represented by legal advisor Warren Allmand, maintained that in order to skirt a municipal bylaw forbidding a drinking establishment in the Sherbrooke street west area, the place would of necessity be primarily a hotel.

"Five rooms does not indicate that it would be primarily a hotel," he stated to the Board, "but rather it would be primarily a cabaret."

While five rooms may technically make a hotel, he pointed out, the intention certainly breaks the spirit of the law, and he expressed hope that the Board would agree.

The case for Mr. Richard revolved around a presentation that an establishment of high calibre would be maintained and that it would in no way detract from the primarily residential area, nor would the high calibre be allowed to deteriorate.

Witnesses on behalf of Mr. Richard included officers of the company owning the old theatre building, plus an engineer in charge of the plans for renovations and an entertainment book-

er. For the Community Council, Leslie Greenshields, president, plus a group representing reli-

gious and community organizations, including the bursar for Lower Canada College speaking on behalf of the board of directors, and a real estate expert, testified.

Mr. Greenshields ran into some difficulty in testifying when the chief judge, Judge Dugas, asked that resolutions be submitted as evidence to prove the Council's contention that member organizations had passed that they were not in favor of the permit being granted.

"Of some 70 questionnaires sent out to our member organizations," Mr. Greenshields said, "some 24 came back, 23 of which were against the permit."

Members of the Board then raised the question that they would like to know how many people the 24 who replied represented, and how many the 46 who did not reply represented.

Mr. Allmand agreed to get this information and submit it to the Board for later consideration.

A long discussion ensued about the proper definition of a hotel. A legal representative from the City of Montreal, protesting the permit, and Mr. Allmand quoted various laws and bylaws which gave definitions agreeing generally that a hotel is a place catering to transients, providing meals, a dining room and lodging, "in consideration of payment."

In any case, the final irrevocable decision now rests with the Board which will announce its decision at a later date.

*Hoteliers - Cabarets  
Chinatown - Folies Royales*

### Permit Plea Taken Under Advisement

The Quebec Liquor Board yesterday took under advisement an application for a liquor permit submitted by the Folies Royales, a proposed theatre-restaurant recently built in the former Empress Theatre in Notre Dame de Grace.

In a short hearing before the five-man board at the QLB court room at Delorimier Ave. at Craig St., Gerard Beaupre, legal counsel for the petitioners, produced leases to show that the building, business and hotel were under one management.

The club seeks cabaret, dining room and bar licenses. No date was set yesterday for judgment.

## Gabriel Richard a son permis pour doter Montréal d'un club ultra-chic, Folies Bergères, rue Sherbrooke-ouest

Après deux ans de luttes légales, la ville de Montréal a enfin donné un permis d'opération pour un club chic dans Notre-Dame de Grâce. — La Régie des alcools émet également un permis.

Après une lutte de deux ans, M. Gabriel Richard vient de gagner son point. C'est-à-dire qu'il a obtenu de la ville de Montréal un permis pour opérer un restaurant et un club de nuit à Notre-Dame de Grâce et qu'il a eu, de la Régie des alcools, la permission de vendre à son endroit de commerce des liqueurs alcooliques.

Son club ultra-chic aura lieu sur la rue Sherbrooke-ouest et portera le nom de Folies Bergères. On estime à \$500,000 le coût de rénovation de l'édifice actuel qui, dans un avenir indéterminé, sera converti en hôtel de 200 chambres.

Au cours des deux dernières années, plusieurs organisations de Notre-Dame de Grâce se sont objectées à ce qu'un club du genre des Folies Bergères opère à cet endroit de la ville. Quand la nouvelle fut annoncée qu'un permis d'opération avait été émis en

faveur des Folies Bergères, M. Warren Allmand, aviseur légal d'une organisation de Notre-Dame de Grâce, s'écria que la ville de Montréal avait cédé avant même de livrer une lutte aux promoteurs du projet.

Y aura-t-il maintenant une poursuite judiciaire préconisée par des citoyens de Notre-Dame de Grâce dans l'organisme "Community Council"? M. Richard a la permission de procéder et on nous a déclaré, hier après-midi, que les choses ne traîneront pas.



## **"Les Folies Royales", rue Sherbrooke ont enfin obtenu leurs permis d'opérer**

Gabriel Richard a gagné de haute lutte une guerre qu'il menait depuis deux ans dans le but d'ouvrir un cabaret dans l'ouest de la rue Sherbrooke sur le site de ce qu'était autrefois le théâtre Empress.

Ses "Folies Royales" ont obtenu un permis de la Régie des alcools de la province de Québec et en même temps la permission d'opérer un café à cet endroit par les autorités municipales de Montréal. On sait que les deux "endossements" sont nécessaires.

Une foule d'objections avaient été faites depuis deux ans par une multitude d'associations du quartier Notre-Dame de Grâce. On prétendait alors que l'établissement d'un cabaret à cet endroit constituait une violation de la réglementation municipale.

Les autorités ont insisté sur le fait qu'aucun blâme ne

pouvait leur être attribué par suite de cette décision. On affirme que la ville ne pouvait pas espérer gagner, advenant que cette affaire ait été intentée en poursuite devant les Tribunaux.

Le permis de restaurant et d'hôtel avait toujours été le facteur majeur empêchant, jusqu'à maintenant, l'ouverture de ce cabaret qui est un projet de l'ordre de \$500,000. Richard a également l'intention d'en faire un hôtel. Au début l'établissement ne comptera que cinq chambres, mais dans l'avenir il voudrait porter ce nombre à 200. Richard qui est un gourmet bien connu espère ouvrir les portes de son

établissement dans trois mois.

*cabarets  
Folies Royales*

## Cabarets, Hotels And Zoning Laws

THE community-proud members of the Notre Dame de Grace Council are fighting a battle which has already been lost in their continuing opposition to the granting of liquor permits in the west end. Not so long ago the area was dry, as far as public drinking emporiums were concerned. That is no longer true by any stretch of the imagination. At the same time the association of district organizations may be expected to make blistering protests, and ask some sharp questions, over the appearance of a cabaret on Sherbrooke Street at Girouard Avenue.

Of course, as far as the city is concerned the cabaret is not a cabaret, but a hotel. So far, however, City Hall's almost casual explanation of its about face on the matter is not going to satisfy very many people. Whether a cabaret is a good thing or a bad thing for the district is quite aside from the main point. What is at stake is the effectiveness of the city's own zoning regulations.

For two years the Folies Royale was not acceptable as a theatre-cabaret. Even after the Quebec Liquor Board issued its own permit for the establishment, the city was able to block it by withholding authorization for construction work within the old Empress Theatre.

But as the law stands, the city could find no objection to a hotel in the restricted zone. And in the city's eyes, five rooms is enough to constitute a hotel. Ergo, the Folies Royale is now a hotel recognized by the city. And a hotel may have a cabaret.

To the Quebec Liquor Board, on the other hand, it is still a cabaret, and that's what it is licensed as for liquor purposes. It's not recognized in that quarter as a hotel at all since it lacks the minimum 50 rooms prescribed under the liquor act. And it's doubtful whether it's going to be recognized by anyone else as anything but a cabaret either, even though the owner has spoken of 200 rooms at some future date.

An unidentified City Hall spokesman has been quoted as saying the city shouldn't be criticized for giving in without a fight. He says the city simply knows it could not win a lawsuit threatened by the project's sponsor. If that is the case, the city and its legal advisers have some work to do. What has happened in this instance is obviously quite legal. But it is obviously not within the intent of the zoning restriction, whether the restriction is justified or not.

## Des citoyens de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce s'opposent encore à l'ouverture des Folies Bergères rue Sherbrooke

Plusieurs organisations de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, groupées sous le nom de N.D.G. Community Council, s'opposent fermement à l'ouverture et à l'exploitation d'un cabaret dans leur quartier.

A la suite de la décision de la ville de Montréal d'accorder un permis à M. Gabriel Richard pour construire un établissement de ce

genre à l'endroit où se trouve l'ancien théâtre Empress, rue Sherbrooke ouest, l'organisme a demandé à ses aviseurs légaux d'étudier toutes possibilités légales permettant d'empêcher l'entreprise de réussir.

A l'issue d'une réunion d'urgence de l'organisme, M.

Warren Allmand, l'un des avocats de l'association, a affirmé que ses collègues et lui-même chercheraient les moyens légaux d'obtenir que le permis soit annulé.

Selon un porte-parole de la ville, toutefois, le permis aurait été accordé en toute conformité avec les règlements municipaux.

## AN INJUNCTION OR NO THE FOLLIES WILL GO!

By Larry McInnis

Despite the announced intention of the N.D.G. Community Council to "fight to the highest courts" for a recall of a cabaret permit issued to the Follies Royal, the establishment will open early in the New Year, it was stated this week in an exclusive interview and tour of the building, the old Empress Theatre.

James McNicoll, a principal of the Follies with Gabriel Richard, and himself a lawyer, said he regretted the Council decision, since the Follies now conforms to provincial and municipal hotel regulations.

He said Tuesday that he felt as confident the Council will lose its case as the Council is it will win.

Mr. Allmand's stand is that the principal business of the old Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke street west should be a hotel, with a cabaret inside. However, he claims, it is a cabaret with a hotel inside, and on that basis he is preparing to fight the city to recall a cabaret permit issued earlier this month.

### High ideals

Mr. McNicoll, Mr. Richard and Sidney Tapley, in charge of entertainment for the Follies, said Tuesday that their ideas have not changed about high-class entertainment, and offered a tour of the building — the first ever for an "outsider" — to prove the point.

Mr. Richard said that a three-year contract has been signed with the Queen Elizabeth Hotel to use the Follies for conventions every Monday, and several television stations are bidding to tape the extravaganza-type floor shows every Tuesday. That would mean the place would be closed to the public on those two days.

For the public, there will be two shows on Wednesday and Thursday, three on Friday and Saturday. It will be closed all day Sunday. And, Mr. Richard pointed out, a cabaret permit means that it must be closed all day every day, opening only in the evening.

Further, Mr. Richard said, the Follies will be closed for

two weeks at Christmas and two at Easter every year.

Admission price will be \$2 per person. In the cabaret proper (the old theatre line has been kept, with a balcony and a main floor) only wine and champagne will be served. Prices will be, Mr. Richard said, QLB prices plus \$4 per bottle, or \$2 the half-bottle. No tipping will be allowed, either!

Mr. Richard, a prize-winning chef, said food will be served, but the menu will be limited to five specialties so as not to interfere with established business of other local eateries. Price will be \$3.50 for a complete dinner.

### Top shows

"The Follies will offer shows comparable to the Lido in Paris or the Desert Inn in Las Vegas," Mr. Richard said. There will be an orchestra of locals, 14 musicians and a trio.

Mr. McNicoll pointed out that the Decarie expressway will mean a great expansion for this area of the city. He said he was grateful that the old theatre had been purchased; it is now a prime location. More than \$400,000 has been so far invested, with another \$250,000 to go before it can open, he said.

"This investment originates from private local sources," he said.

Both Mr. Richard and Mr. McNicoll bemoaned the fact that they have had considerable capital tied up in the Empress since exercising options two years ago, but felt that the "prestige" cabaret would eventually make a proper return.

Eventually, Mr. McNicoll said, the rear of the building will be converted to a drive-in hotel, and it will shoot up 15 stories to contain 150-200 rooms.

In the guided tour, Mr. Richard pointed out that the old and expensive Empress' Egyptian decor has been kept throughout. Seats have been removed from the main floor and four levels have been arranged for table seating. In the balcony, there are three more levels. In all, about 300 persons persons can be seated.

On the main floor, only wine and champagne will be served, Mr. Richard said. On the upper level, there will be a small "Cleopatra" lounge serving other types of beverages.

"But definitely," he said, "there will be no tavern!"

Work is going on apace, but because of the Liquor Board strike, no definite date is being planned at this time for a full-scale opening.



Hotel Cabaret  
Follies Royal

## WE SAY

### Not the Follies, but a principle

THE Follies Royal has all its permits and will open as planned. It is out of the fight that is about to begin between the N.D.G. Community Council and the City of Montreal, based on the Council stand that a cabaret permit should never have been issued by the city.

It is noteworthy that the Council is not fighting the Follies, or drinking establishments as such, but a broad principle: municipal by-laws are lax for this area, and if the Follies got a permit on technical grounds, other establishments might be encouraged to find legal loopholes.

The second point of the argument is that the Quebec Liquor Board will, when the case comes to court, be required to give certain testimony to give a clearer picture of

the two-year running fight to prevent opening of the establishment.

This in itself is worthwhile. The QLB is empowered to grant or reject licences, and is not required to give any explanations, nor to hear any appeal of its arbitrary decisions.

In our enlightened society this is clearly an intolerable situation. A body sitting in judgement, regardless of how incorruptable they may be, cannot be allowed to make mighty decisions without offering some sort of reasoning. The state of the liver on any given morning is not valid as a consideration in any deliberation!

Furthermore, a long time ago the Council was empowered by its member organizations to fight any and all liquor applications for the district, and this is what it has done.

The point now is, while the Community Council may have to take a long, hard look at its liquor stand, the City Council should have a longer, harder look at its outdated civic by-laws, make them clear and modern, and plug any gaping loopholes.

# Fin le régime sec à NDG

**LE PROJET** des Folies Royal (Royal Folies ou Folies Mont-Royal), comme l'on voudra) semble enfin prêt d'aboutir. Dénouement heureux, du moins pour les propriétaires de ce futur club de nuit. La Régie des alcools vient de leur accorder un permis et ils n'attendent plus que le champagne, (c'est-à-dire la fin du régime sec) pour accueillir la clientèle.

L'histoire des Royal Folies (décidément ce franglais fait grincer!) se raconte comme un film à suspense. Le début remonte à 1962 alors que deux hommes d'affaires canadiens-français décident de doter Montréal d'un luxueux cabaret. Ils visitent quelques locaux et se portent acquéreurs du vieux cinéma Empress (rue Sherbrooke ouest, dans Notre-Dame-de-Grâce). Aussitôt débute l'installation de ce qui deviendra peut-être (la publicité l'affirme) le cousin germain du Lido de Paris et du Quartier Latin de New York.

## La fin d'un suspense...

Mais crac! les malheurs commencent. Les nouveaux propriétaires apprennent qu'un vieux règlement interdit l'établissement d'un "débit de boissons" dans ce secteur de la ville, à moins qu'il s'agisse d'un hôtel. Qu'à cela ne tienne! L'on construira un hôtel d'une quinzaine d'étages sur les fondations solides de l'ex-Empress. C'est un placement en prévision de l'Expo '67.

Hélas! les habitants du quartier voient la chose d'un fort mauvais oeil. Au nom d'un groupe d'associations religieuses et sociales, le comité de vigilance de N.-D.-G. proteste. Les plaintes s'accroissent.

Entre-temps, de sévères règlements de sécurité entraînent des réparations plus coûteuses que n'avait pas prévu la compagnie des Folies Mont-Royal Inc. — c'est le nom véritable de l'établissement, mais on l'abrége dans la réclame, d'où le franglais). Le président, M. Gaby Richard (un ancien chef cuisinier et restaurateur, devenu exportateur de papier), estime devoir payer pour ces travaux l'équivalent du prix d'achat du vieil Empress, soit quelque \$175,000.

Quoi qu'il en soit, les choses ont fini par se tasser. Le permis a été accordé. Mais, comble de malheur! l'émiss-



Gaby RICHARD  
Satisfaire une clientèle choisie

sion de ce permis a coïncidé avec la grève de la Régie des alcools. L'ouverture des "Folies Royal" ne tient plus donc qu'à un cheveu ou plutôt à une bouteille de champagne...

## Champagne et p'tites pépées

Car on ne servira que du champagne au parterre de cet ancien cinéma que M. Gaby Richard qualifie de monument à cause de sa décoration égyptienne. Les amateurs de scotch ou de whisky devront se réfugier au balcon. Les "girls" (engagées à Las Vegas), emplumées et vêtues de brillants costumes lèveront la jambe sous l'oeil plaide des pharaons et des esclaves peints.

La devise des propriétaires (ils insistent) est de satisfaire une clientèle choisie, celle qui ne fréquente plus les clubs de nuit parce qu'on l'en a dégoûtée.

D'où leur résolution: pas de pourboires, mais un prix d'entrée fixé à \$2. Des prix raisonnables pour les repas et les boissons. Un spectacle à grand déploiement pour lequel on compte dépenser chaque semaine entre quinze et vingt mille dollars. Un orchestre de 16 musiciens et une vaste piste de danse. Dernière précaution: les garçons de table et maîtres d'hôtel seront bien payés et triés sur le volet.

Un point noir à cette coûteuse organisation: le nom. Mais le président rendrait les armes, paraît-il, en retranchant un I et en ajoutant un judicieux ml devant Royal pour éviter la fâcheuse syntaxe que provoquent ces trois mots inscrits en lettres-néon sur la devanture et qui prouvent un curieux sens du bilinguisme: Folies (pour les francophones) Royal (pour tous) Folles (pour les anglophones).

B.M.



La scène intérieure des Folies Royal  
Sous l'oeil des pharaons, des jambes de Las Vegas

La Patrie

Calabrese  
Follies Royal

#### EDITOR'S CORNER

By  
Larry McInnis

—Some hesitancy is being shown by the legalites of the N.D.G. Community Council about mounting a fight against the City on the Follies Royal hotel permit issue. It seems that it's a 50-50 chance to win, and the odds aren't worth the high cost involved.

However, the Council is expected to go after the City for a speed-up on zoning regulation modernization, especially the by-laws covering hotels in the area. The Council feels, and reasonably, that five rooms isn't enough!

\* \* \*

—And on the subject of the Follies, while all the permits are in order and only the end of the QLB strike is awaited, rumors are still flying: a prominent local wheeler-dealer in real estate claims he was offered the place lock, stock and barrel for \$400,000, which would net the owners a tidy profit for their troubles over the past two years. A call to J. C. McNicoll of the Follies to confirm or deny went unheeded.

calgary  
Follies Royal

## Council hesitates to take injunction

A firm decision whether to seek an injunction against the hotel permit granted by Montreal to the Follies Royal has not yet been reached by the N.D.G. Community Council, and it is believed the matter may be dropped for technical reasons.

However, a concentrated effort to get the city to update zoning bylaws and other regulations for the West End will definitely be made, it was learned following a special executive meeting Monday night.

One of the problems the Council faces in seeking the injunction is the fact that the Council's charter does not contain a monetary clause — it is a non-profit organization, and therefore could not be held financially responsible if it lost the suit. Legal advisors, though, pointed out a 1955 case where an association was allowed to file suit because it had a specific interest in the community.

### High cost stressed

In any case, it was pointed out at Monday's meeting, the cost of such an action would be high — \$1,000 or more — and the chances of an ultimate victory not much better than one in two.

In the meantime, while legalites are figuring the best method of attack, various groups and churchmen in the area will be polled to see if they will help financially, and if individuals will lend their names to the action if it is decided that the Council cannot file in its own name.

A committee is being formed to conduct the poll, and to find any citizens who feel strongly against the Follies who might

allow the suit to be filed in their name.

At the same time, a request will be made that the City of Montreal spare no effort in updating local zoning regulations, particularly the antiquated one which states that five rooms in this area makes a hotel, the loophole used to force issuance of a city permit to the Follies. In other parts of the city, and in the country, anywhere from 15 to 50 rooms are necessary to be classed as a hotel.



## **YOU SAY**

### **Council urged to drop case**

Sir: — It was interesting for me to note in your edition of two weeks ago the apparent decision of the NDG Community Council to drop seeking an injunction in its own name against the hotel permit granted by Montreal to the Follies Royal.

Although not a student of legalities, I am from the school of good old common sense. This qualification permits me to suggest to the Council through your column that it discontinue efforts to seek an injunction in whatever name and by whatever means legal advisors deem most satisfactory.

I am not entirely insensitive to the feelings of the Council in this controversial affair. With due respect to their reasoning, I question their motives insofar as I am unable to see what is to be achieved through any further attention to the case.

The Follies, having acted within the terms of law, renders itself an established and legal club. Any attempt to reverse the decisions are doomed to desperation of an illegality.

The greatest misfortune in any pursued change in the relating conditions would come to the Council, who would spend a large sum of money—raised from individual contributions — and would pour it into a den of frustration.

The council has a great many more efforts in the public interest with which they are connected and could wisely attach whatever financial sources are available to them to this cause.

I for one would encourage them to do so.

**Garth Vinet.**

# FOLLIES TO OPEN APRIL 19, OPPOSITION DIMINISHES

April 19 is the date set for the official opening of the Follies Royal, Sherbrooke street west, it was learned this week. It could be ready for opening in about five weeks, but the owners felt that a post-Lenten date would be more appropriate, and acceptable.

Meanwhile, the N.D.G. Community Council is still studying the possibility of taking legal action against the City of Montreal to force cancellation of a hotel permit which would, if successful, either prevent the opening or, if judgement came later, force the Follies closing.

It is understood that because of the Council's charter, an individual name must be used to support such legal action, and there is difficulty in producing a volunteer!

A circular is being sent to all constituent members of the Council — some 60, roughly — to determine if they oppose the opening, and if they are willing to contribute financially toward the estimated cost of \$2,000 — plus.

## RC churches against

Two Roman Catholic parish priests have so far come out against the Follies, it was learned, but that is about the extent of the opposition.

It is believed by several who are regarded close to the Council that it is now doubtful if legal proceedings will be instituted because of the lack of financial and moral support, but especially financial.

Sidney Tapley, of Reed Entertainment Reg'd, who will be responsible for staging the shows at the Follies, said Monday that he and Gabriel Richard, in whose name the QLB permit was issued, will

leave within the next week for New York and Las Vegas to book shows for the coming season.

Mr. Tapley said the time from now to the April 19 opening will be used to put the finishing touches on the club, including rug-laying and some carpentry work still to be done.

One of the biggest projects left to be done is a complete reconstruction of the lobby-entrance to the old Empress. The entrance will be enlarged from its present theatre-type, and glassed in to the farthest extremity of the existing theatre marquees.

The Follies' plan is to serve only steak and champagne, and good wine, in the main portion of the club — the old theatre balcony and the main floor — while other types of cocktails will be served in an upstairs "Cleopatra" bar.

Mr. Richard said that only special meals will be served that will not be in direct competition with the large established restaurants in the district.

## **Clarke says NO to purchase offer**

An offer by Gabriel Richard to purchase, for the Follies, the property of Clarke Funeral Homes, which adjoins the Empress site, was turned down out of hand, owner **John Clarke** confirmed Tuesday.

"Yes, it's true he was in to make an offer," Mr. Clarke said, "but that's as far as he got."

Will Mr. Clarke sell?

"Not a snowball's chance," Mr. Clarke said.

It was not clear whether the Follies owners wanted the property for use in expansion of hotel facilities, a project contemplated in time for Expo 67, or for parking facilities, the one problem still confronting the Follies.

Several months ago Mr. Richard disclosed that at one time several blocks of property were held on option for destruction to make room for parking, but with the long delays in obtaining a QLB permit, the options were allowed to lapse.

**Jas McNicoll**, one of the owners of the Follies, said at the time that he intended to look for suitable property nearby for parking at a later date.

*Notation  
club - Billie Berggren*

## YOU SAY

### Novel suggestion made for Follies

Sir, What a pity the Empress doesn't turn their premises into a youth centre instead of another bar for adults.

With local theatres now charging downtown prices (and for many pictures only fit for most sophisticated adults) — and most homes too small and too neighbour-conscientious to permit kids getting together to let off steam — there is very little for them to do. They hang around corner shops because they have no where else to go, often getting into mischief.

If the Empress were to put in a huge pool on the main floor (or one shallow and another deep) and a dance floor upstairs — they could do wonders for N.D.G. In winter, the pools might become skating rinks.

A small admission fee for school children, a larger one for adults, could be charged for those who just want to look on. (Benches could be placed around the walls on both floors behind some kind of fence.) A nominal fee could be charged for the pool and/or dancing. Soft and hot drink and snack machines could be placed upstairs and down.

Groups of local parents, perhaps through PTA, might be spurred into taking turns as supervisors, for free. If the place became too popular, proof of N.D.G. residence (school pass or other identification) could be requested.

Miss Lorna Norman



*Follies  
Club  
Solely  
Royal*

# NDG Community Council

## drops Follies injunction plans

The N.D.G. Community Council has officially shelved its proposal to seek an injunction that would force the City of Montreal to cancel a hotel permit that led to the controversial Follies Royal receiving a liquor permit for a cabaret, it was announced at a meeting of the Council Monday night.

A telephone survey of constituent members showed that only 45 percent were in favor of seeking an injunction. The remaining 55 percent were either against it flatly, or undecided — with probably the heaviest proportion undecided.

Many of those who were undecided specified the issue did not concern them, specifically because of location far removed from the Sherbrooke street west site.

A Council official stated that if any outside interest wanted to take up the fight, the 45 percent of the organizations against the Follies should align themselves with that interest.

### Not against liquor

John Cerini, QC, president of the Council, said it is not against liquor, but the Council is against loose interpretation of the law in order to get permits.

Warren Allmand, legal advisor to the Council, has maintained that the Follies is not a cabaret in a hotel, as the law specifies, but rather a hotel in a cabaret, considering that only five rooms were added to classify as a hotel, enough to qualify under the zoning bylaw for N.D.G.

"We have requested Montreal to send someone from Zoning to talk about it," Mr. Cerini said, "but they refused until after the bylaws were passed."

Mr. Cerini was referring to a scheduled meeting of the Council earlier this month when experts on city zoning were to speak. The meeting was cancelled when the City would not send anyone to speak on the subject of zoning and re-zoning.

Monday night the Council formed a zoning committee to prepare a brief for submission to the City on zoning, headed by Cy Durocher.

Local councillors John Parker and Jacques Brisebois, who sit on an official city committee charged with revamping all city bylaws, reported that the city has not revised any zoning bylaws as yet.

### Definitions vary

The Council has maintained that the Follies' five rooms does not make a hotel, even though five rooms is all that is necessary under the bylaw that covers N.D.G. In some other parts of the city, and in the province generally, 50 rooms are needed to be classified as a hotel. Straight cabaret permits are forbidden in N.D.G. under the bylaws.

Meantime, an official of the Follies said that the scheduled opening of April 19 has been postponed, probably for at least one month, because a top-notch act is not available.

"We had two booked," a spokesman said, "but had to cancel them because of the Quebec liquor strike."

The cancellation left them in a bind, he said, because all top acts from Florida, New York and Las Vegas are booked solid. He said alternatives were being studied, but he emphasized the Follies would not open without a first-run floor show, as officials have promised since their first liquor application three years ago.

## **L'administration montréalaise doit décider si Montréal est devenue une ville "adulte" pour les spectacles**

Pour la première fois depuis des années, un cabaret présente à Montréal un spectacle à grand déploiement. Il s'agit des "Folies Royal", club installé dans l'ancien cinéma Empress, à Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Le tout a été transformé pour y donner un air de grand luxe. Par contre, disons que le prix d'entrée est raisonnable et que la liste des prix nous a semblé acceptable: le champagne se vend \$4 de plus qu'à la Régie des Alcools, et un diner complet coûte \$3.50. Et les pourboires sont interdits.

Le spectacle, pour ceux qui aiment le genre, est de classe: il rappelle ceux des meilleures années du "Casino Bellevue", mais, disons-le tout de suite, les costumes sont fort réduits: dans certains cas, ils se résument à des "trente sous" aux endroits "stratégiques". Il y a quelques années — dans le temps où un policier affirmait que "si ça bouge, c'est indécent" — la police aurait déjà déposé une plainte. Mais Montréal se targue d'être maintenant une des grandes métropoles du monde, la censure des films est inexistante, et l'Expo approche à grands pas. L'ouverture des "Folies Royal"

pose donc à l'administration de Montréal un problème épineux: notre ville est-elle devenue assez "adulte" pour présenter des spectacles semblables en tous points à ceux de Las Vegas, de Chicago, du "Quartier Latin" à New York, des "Folies Bergère" et du "Lido" à Paris?

Le monde du cabaret est une industrie importante à Montréal; c'est une "attraction touristique", qu'on le veuille ou non. Il y a certaines sortes de spectacles qui ne doivent pas être tolérées: nous pensons, par exemple, à ces "strip-teaseuses" qui viennent s'asseoir sur les genoux des clients dans certains "trous". Mais lorsqu'un cabaret est bien tenu, que l'on n'exploite pas la clientèle, que le spectacle (même s'il est "deshabillé") est bien fait, la ville de Montréal doit-elle intervenir?

Il est probable que l'administration montréalaise et la police municipale étudieront la question avec le procureur général et les dirigeants de la Régie des alcools pour éviter des conflits une fois une décision prise. Ajoutons que quelle que soit la décision, elle sera l'objet de critiques acerbes!

Club  
Folies Royal



PAUL COUCKE

IMPRESSIONS SUR LA VILLE DE MONTRÉAL

## Pourvu que ça ne bouge pas...

La police de San Francisco vient de décider que "tout ce qui bouge est immoral". Il s'agit, vous le devinez, des poitrines dénudées de ces dames dont certaines sont livrées aux regards du public, au cours de spectacles dits "artistiques". Les propriétaires des clubs de nuit de San Francisco entendent livrer bataille sur ce point délicat. Il se pourrait fort bien qu'une autre bataille du même ordre se livre ici même à Montréal, à l'occasion des spectacles que donnent, présentement, la troupe des "Folies Royal", à Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

Il s'agira encore une fois de trancher dans le vif. Il y a quelques années la police des mœurs de Montréal s'était couverte de ridicule en prenant action contre les proprié-

étaires d'une salle de spectacle de la Métropole qui donnait en représentations les fameux ballets africains. Ces danses classiques, point du tout assimilables à un specta-

cle de cabaret furent jugées lascives non pas tellement du fait que l'on nous présentait des poitrines dénudées, mais que l'ornement principal des ces poitrines féminines "bougeait", empruntant le rythme de ces danses primitives. Nos policiers en étaient restés sur leur position: "Si ça bouge, c'est immoral".

Mais voilà, le monde change si vite, que nous nous trouvons devant des faits nouveaux dont certains serviront la défense. La rage du monokini, conçu par des couturiers audacieux, donne au problème un aspect nouveau. Ajoutons pour la petite histoire de la danse, que lors du voyage de la Reine Elisabeth II et de son

époux le prince Philippe en Afrique, les danses des tribus africaines affichèrent, sans gêne, aucune, des poitrines féminines nues, sans que la Reine et son époux s'offusquèrent. Il n'y eut aucune arrestation pour crime de lèse-majesté. Doit-on être plus royaliste que la Reine, plus puritains que les Anglais eux-mêmes? Nous ne le pensons pas.

D'autre part, nous en revenons toujours là, en 1967, Montréal sera le carrefour du monde, grâce à l'Expo 1967. Devrons-nous, à cette époque, présenter aux étrangers qui nous visiteront les spectacles décevants sur le plan artistique que nous présentent actuellement la majorité de nos clubs de

nuit ou aurons-nous la possibilité de présenter des spectacles de grande classe, pouvant rivaliser avec ceux de Paris, New York, Chicago, Las Vegas? La question se pose! Les "Folies Royal" tentent une expérience. Leur spectacle étant de qualité cette expérience sera d'autant plus concluante. Ou la censure y mettra son grain de sel et contribuera à nous présenter aux yeux de l'univers comme un peuple de refoulés, où elle se montrera intelligente et nous nous présenterons comme un peuple adulte. Nous sommes à l'heure du choix. Pas du nôtre, il est déjà fait, mais de celle d'une censure qui se doit de se mettre à l'heure du XXème siècle.



# MAM'ZELLE PIGALLE

## égaye les nuits de Montréal

Allô Jacqueline!  
Allô Paris!  
Allô champagne!  
Allô les Girls!

Rien de changé sous le soleil: mêmes fards, mêmes paillettes. Nouveau spectacle, autre mentalité, mais les mêmes cuisses fortes, chevilles nerveuses, même sourire éclatant, même euphorie.

— Et vous, Jacqueline Douguet, vous vous souvenez?

— Pas très bien, je dois dire.

Papiers d'identification et tout le tra la la...

— Vous savez, il y a tant de gens qui disent vous connaître...

— Tenez... des photos. Faites à Paris, au "Casino de Paris". On s'était amusé.

Elle me regarde...

— Ah! mais si, j'y suis maintenant. Ça c'est vrai, ce qu'on s'était marré alors! J'étais dans la loge à six filles, avec l'autre Jacqueline qui était drôle... juste derrière la scène. Bernard, viens ici que je te présente... (bla bla bla bla). Ecoutez, nous devons partir; venez donc à la maison: on pourra parler... Venez lundi. Pas trop tôt, n'est-ce pas?...

### Des salaires de... prostituées

La "maison", c'est un appartement moderne, frais, fonctionnel, anonyme et impersonnel dans une ruche de la rue St-Luc. On s'y retrouve à trois: Jacqueline Douguet et son partenaire — ami, fiancé, promis ou ce que vous voudrez, mais enfin son compagnon inlassable — qui a nom Bernard Chareyron. Ils ont défait leurs bagages pour trois mois, peut-être plus. Ils y sont habitués, n'ayant revu Paris que huit jours, depuis trois ans qu'ils poursuivent, en quelque sorte, leur tour du monde...

— Dites, Jacqueline: il y a quatre ans, est-ce que vous auriez cru pouvoir faire tant de chemin?

— Il y a quatre ans, vous savez ce qu'il nous a fallu faire pour seulement aller à Deauville (villégiature française)? Il nous a fallu présenter notre numéro dans cinq boîtes par soir. Il y en avait du boulot! Déjà, à ce moment-là, c'était pas mal. Mais lorsque vous êtes venu au Casino, je n'étais que danseuse et doublure.

— Vous rêviez de devenir vedette et vous amassiez vos sous...

— Danseuse, ce n'est pas facile. On ne gagne même pas \$4.00 par soir et il faut payer le logement, les vêtements, se nourrir. Un salaire comme ça, c'est presque forcer les filles à accepter les offres de ces vieux beaux qui attendent la fin du spectacle. Moi, ça pouvait aller, je vivais avec ma mère et nous partagions le loyer à deux. Mais les étrangères, celles qui ne

sont pas de Paris... J'ai une copine, elle n'attendait que les invitations pour se taper un steak.

### L'essentiel: un body-body

L'ami Bernard intervient: "Les Anglaises, elles, vivaient en colonie, à cinq ou six dans la même chambre. Et puis elle se contentaient de thé et de biscuits.

— Et de danseuse-doublure vous êtes passée artiste de nus.

Il s'agissait d'une promotion...?

— Ils m'ont pris pour mon corps et aussi parce que je savais danser.

Bernard: Mais pour la danseuse nue, l'essentiel, c'est d'avoir un body-body.

Jacqueline: Les danseuses, en principe, n'ont pas

## Comme au bon vieux CASINO

Aux "Folies royales" de la rue Sherbrooke, à Montréal, les "Girls" qui sont un peu des girls de Paris mais aussi des girls et des numéros "made in U.S.A." présentent une vedette spectacle du nom de Jacqueline Douguet.

En 1960 elle n'était que danseuse au Casino de Paris, dans une revue menée par Line Renaud. Bien sûr, elle avait fait ses classes de ballet au Conservatoire de Casablanca, puis à celui de Paris, et elle avait travaillé avec Roland Petit. Mais danseuse au Casino de Paris, c'est commencer à neuf un métier qui n'est déjà plus seulement de la danse.

C'est à ce moment là que j'étais fait la connaissance de Jacqueline. Caméra en bandouillère, j'étais resté une semaine dans les coulisses de ce Casino, connu et populaire sous toutes les latitudes.

Espiègle, vive, sympathique, attirante, appétissante, bûcheuse et déterminée, doublure de temps à autre, et aspirante à la profession de danseuse nue avec ses 35-21-35.

Les magazines américains m'ont tenu au courant de ses engagements en Amérique, mais ce fut une agréable surprise de la retrouver "tête d'affiche" des "Girls", aux Folies royales.

Jacqueline Douguet, "the taste of Paris" parce qu'elle est parisienne et même un peu parigande — habitant Pigalle — Jacqueline Douguet que je vais retrouver et avec qui je vais discuter "NU", puisque c'est un sujet à la mode.

P. L.

de seins, tandis que les "nus" doivent en avoir.

— La danseuse nue étant la vedette du spectacle, quand vous êtes entrée au Casino, vous aviez donc l'intention de faire du nu...?

— Lorsque vous êtes venue en 1960, la revue débutait. Ce n'est que neuf mois plus tard que je me suis décidée à faire du nu. C'est le patron, Henri Varna, qui m'y a poussée. Et l'homme qui le premier me déshabilla sur scène, c'est Bernard. Oh, Bernard, dis, tu te souviens de ce soir-là...?

Nous faisions le numéro depuis déjà une semaine et je ne parvenais pas à enlever mon bikini. Comme il s'agissait de ma dernière chance, à la toute fin du numéro, Bernard tira sur le soutien-gorge. Et voilà.

— Et vous semblez très bien vous en porter...

— Ça n'a pas été facile, croyez-moi. A la plage, je ne portais même pas de bikini. J'étais bourrée de complexes, je me voyais mal faite. Aujourd'hui, plus les bikinis sont petits, mieux j'aime cela.

### Son grand rêve: une longue robe noire

— Hésiteriez-vous à vous montrer nue, si vous n'aviez pas un corps si bien?

— Lorsque je serai moins bien, on me le dira et je devrai me rhabiller. Ce n'est pas moi qui est juge de cela.

— Vous voulez un chocolat?

— Non merci.

— Mais votre diète?

— Le régime? Ah! je mange comme une e... Non, n'écrivez pas cela.

— Enfin, vous mangez beaucoup.

— Ouais!

— Est-ce que tous les publics réagissent de la même façon devant une femme nue?

— Au début du spectacle, les femmes rient. Tenez, hier soir, au premier rang, il y a une dame qui s'est mise à rire lorsque nous sommes apparus. C'est partout la même chose, excepté dans des villes comme Paris et Las Vegas.

— En plus de danser, de vous montrer belle et nue, vous chantez. Ça vous est facile?

— Ça va, quoi... Je chantais déjà au "Casino de Paris" vous savez. Mais j'ai l'impression qu'on doit plutôt me regarder... Le spectacle que j'aimerais présenter, c'est un numéro classique en tutu, un moderne, un nu et enfin — dans une robe noire, une robe qui me couvre des pieds à la tête — pouvoir chanter et que les gens m'écoutent chanter.

Pierre LUC



Arthur  
Folies Royal



## OURTOWN

By Al Palmer

### Show Time

We doubt if any other cabaret in Ourtown's show business history overcame as many obstacles before it opened its doors as the west end's Folies Royal.

Converting the Empress Theatre into a combination hotel and theatre-restaurant was an imposing task but it didn't end there. There were zoning regulations to face, permits to obtain and, when all that was overcome, came a Quebec Liquor Board employees strike.

As shows of the size the Folies planned take at least a month to book, booking was impossible because no one knew how long the liquor people were going to stay out.

After the strike was settled the show was arranged and the place finally threw open its doors after two years of frustrations.

And quite a show it is, too. There are no individual stars although Jean Philippe, a handsome young singer from Paris, would be the choice of stardom for many in the audience.

Peel Street wise money was against the Folies ever getting off the ground and into continuous operation. We, personally, think they're going to lose their bet. The place has been running at near capacity since it opened.

Its creation and operation was mainly the work of two men; J. C. McNicoll and Gaby Richard.

Working on the theory that there is no substitute for a pretty girl, the Folies uses about 35 of them on stage at one time. They're from Las Vegas, England, Belgium and France.

Straight variety acts appear between the production numbers and Al Nicols' orchestra plays from a suspended pit about 12 feet above the stage.

It's quite a place. There is a quarter-million dollars worth of machinery behind the stage and lighting is controlled from a console in the balcony.

McNicoll revealed that a 15-storey hotel will be the next stage of the operation. One feature will be that guests will be able to park their cars on the same floor as their room.

Completion date is set for 1967 and Expo. "The Folies,"



J. C. McNICOLL

McNicoll said the other night, "is the first establishment that has been conceived to be an accessory of the World's Fair."

"Where else is there to go to see a show this size? There's no place in the west end running spectacles at the present time," he pointed out.

The show has a distinct continental flavor and is larger than any now on tap in New York or Boston. It's more on the style of the Lido in Paris than it is of Manhattan's Latin Quarter.

"A place like this," McNicoll continued, "has a part to play in Montreal because of our city's cosmopolitan atmosphere."

Richard planned the interior of the place and he apparently didn't spare the expense. In fact, the stage curtains at the Folies are more expensive than those at Place des Arts.

The Folies could start a trend towards lavish night club productions for which Ourtown was justly famed in the 1930s.

Even so, nothing around town in that halcyon era ever came near the size of the show in the new west end place.

All those pretty girls, hoo boy.

*Follies Club  
Follies Royal*

### It didn't take long . . .

**I**T has been reported that the show at the Follies Royal, which opened a couple of months ago, is due to run until October.

That is of little consequence, but what matters is the further report that the "champagne only" policy has gone by the boards, which was the forecast of the N.D.G. Community Council during the long fight to prevent issuance of a liquor permit for the Sherbrooke street establishment.

In fact, waitresses are now pushing hard liquor, and patrons must make a special request for champagne, it was reported this week.

All of this leads one to wonder if it ever will, indeed, become a hotel, as has been so often touted, and whether the replacement show in October will be of as high calibre as the one now playing.

3620.64

**GABY RICHARD** jubile. Grosse clientèle aux "Folies Royales". Ça ne dérougit pas. Et les directeurs de cette boîte unique font des plans pour accueillir les visiteurs de l'Expo. Il paraît même que **M. LUCIEN SAULNIER**, le sympathique président du Conseil Exécutif, aurait été ébranlé à la suite d'un article paru dans McLean dans lequel l'auteur, après une tournée des boîtes, prétendait que "C'était atrocement ennuyant à Montréal". Même un président stoïque ne peut digérer ça. Montréal, ennuyant? En tout cas, ça ne le sera pas en 1967.

Depuis une semaine, le chic cabaret de N.D.G., le Royal Folies, a fermé ses portes. Depuis plusieurs mois de nombreuses rumeurs circulaient à l'effet que ce club était en très mauvaise position financière, que des demandes en faillite avaient été faites, que la United Amusement songeait à reprendre son théâtre, que les musiciens comme les artistes étaient plus ou moins payés. Aujourd'hui la rumeur va plus loin, on dit que le montant des dettes se chiffre à plus d'un demi million de dollars.

Comment se fait-il que Montréal ne puisse "faire vivre" un chic cabaret de classe internationale? Comment se fait-il que les administrateurs doivent fermer les portes de leur établissement trois mois seulement avant l'Expo 67? Pour le savoir nous avons fait une enquête dont nous vous livrons le résultat.



une faillite de \$500,000

LES FOLLIES ROYALES FERMENT LEURS PORTES...

### L'OPINION DE PROPRIOS

Nous avons rencontré plusieurs propriétaires de clubs qui nous ont dit n'être pas surpris de la situation. A leur point de vue les raisons qui ont conduit ce club à la débâcle sont assez nombreuses mais les plus importantes sont les suivantes: très mauvaise administration causée par l'incompétence des gens en place dans le domaine des clubs de nuit. N'avoir pas su garder à l'affiche des spectacles du même niveau artistique. Les gens qui avaient assisté aux spectacles de Jacqueline Douguet se trouvaient fort déçus par les spectacles suivants qui, de plus en plus, étaient de niveau inférieur, avec prix d'entrée demeuré le même.

### LE PUBLICISTE PARLE

Le jovial et sympathique Gérard Vermette qui, depuis les débuts des "Royal Follies" agissait comme publiciste, nous a déclaré: "Je l'ai vu naître et mourir. C'est triste!" A nos questions il a bien voulu répondre franchement et en voici le résultat: Lui comme la majorité des employés croyaient au succès de la boîte à un point tel qu'ils ont fait d'énormes sacrifices monétaires. Les administrateurs ne croyaient pas à la publicité et pourtant, aucune boîte à Montréal n'a obtenu autant de publicité dans les journaux que les "Royal Follies" durant le séjour de Jacqueline Douguet et même pour les deux spectacles qui suivirent. M. Vermette profite de l'occasion pour remercier ses amis journalistes pour leur collaboration, mais déplore que l'administration n'ait pas su être reconnaissante. Toujours d'après M. Vermette, celui qui a eu l'idée des "Royal Follies" aurait dû se contenter d'agir comme président mais non comme gérant car il ne connaissait pas le domaine. La même chose pour le président actuel, M. Mc Nicoll qui, à son point de vue n'est pas

un bon administrateur. De Fabiola et Muriel Millard, plus, Gérard Vermette affirme que pour des raisons d'économie de bouts de chandelles on a présenté au public des spectacles de deuxième ordre en exigeant un prix d'entrée pour un spectacle de premier ordre. Depuis quelque temps la qualité des alcools n'était plus la même mais le prix est demeuré le même. Lors de la dernière semaine, il y avait si peu de monde que le maître d'hôtel, Raymond Prévost, n'a fait que \$2.15 dans sa soirée!

### LES UNIONS SE DÉFENDENT

Il n'est pas facile de parler aux représentants d'Unions Américaines. Ils se fichent de nous comme de leur première chemise. Pourtant ce sont des Canadiens de langue française comme vous et nous, mais ils sont employés par des Américains. Voilà pourquoi nous n'avons pu parler à M. Charette de l'Union des musiciens. La téléphoniste a servi d'intermédiaire. Nous avons ainsi appris que l'Union a pris les moyens pour que les musiciens de l'orchestre soient payés. En ce qui concerne le musicien Ferland qui écrivit la musique pour le spectacle "Les Girls de Venus", on lui devait la somme de \$5,000.00. Une grande partie de cette somme a été payée mais l'Union des Musiciens a été obligée de mettre cela entre les mains de ses avocats et on est convaincu que monsieur Ferland ne perdra pas un seul cent. Il paraît que le chef d'orchestre Bob Lavoie aurait également des argents dus mais cela nous n'avons pu le conformer.

En ce qui concerne l'AGVA nous n'avons pu rejoindre son représentant officiel M. Patry mais son assistant nous a déclaré que depuis plusieurs mois les "Royal Follies" n'avaient plus de garantie et qu'ils déconseillaient à leurs membres de travailler dans "cette boîte". Ce fut le cas pour

Si la première fut entièrement payée ce n'est pas le cas de la seconde et cela n'est pas la faute de l'Union. Le cas des Japonais "Harada et les Cinq Caractères" est semblable. L'impresario américain n'a pas demandé au local montréalais si cette boîte avait une garantie déposée. Le résultat: les Japonais ne purent obtenir la totalité de leur salaire. On espère cependant que d'ici quelque temps ce problème sera réglé. La même chose se produisit en ce qui concerne la célèbre vedette française André Tahon. Il ne put toucher ses cachets avant de quitter Montréal. C'est la chanteuse "Souris" qui, chaque semaine, va "collecter" une partie des cachets dus à son ami Tahon et lui fait parvenir à Paris. Une telle situation est incroyable de nous dire Souris et cela fait une mauvaise réputation à Montréal.

### LE MILLIONNAIRE DAIGLE

Il paraît que le véritable propriétaire des "Royal Follies" serait le millionnaire Daigle qui fut propriétaire du "Ruby Foo's". M. Daigle aurait décidé, aux dires de gens généralement bien informés, de prendre les moyens pour que les "Royal Follies" puissent revivre et prospérer. Il est bien entendu que cette fois, il choisira soit un président, soit un gérant de carrière, même s'il faut se rendre en Europe pour le trouver.

### LE PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL EXECUTIF

Nous avons pu rejoindre M. Lucien Saulnier, président du Conseil Exécutif, de la ville de Montréal. Nous lui avons demandé ce qu'il pensait de la situation en ce qui concerne les "Royal Follies". Il n'était pas au courant de la chose mais déplore que le plus chic club de la métropole ferme ses portes à quelques mois de l'Expo 67.

Et voilà, amis lecteurs, la triste histoire des "Royal Follies". Espérons qu'il ne s'agit là que d'une tempête dans un verre d'eau! Et que d'ici quelques semaines on annoncera sa réouverture avec un spectacle digne de la clientèle internationale qui doit nous visiter en 1967!

## L'EXPO VERSUS MONTREAL?

Lundi soir, à l'occasion de la première du nouveau spectacle des Jérolas au Casa Loma, je me suis entretenu avec le co-propriétaire de cet établissement, M. Andy Cobetto. Ce dernier semblait évidemment très heureux ce soir-là puisque les Jérolas y triomphaient magistralement.

Mais, car il y a toujours un mais, M. Cobetto nous a fait part de sa grande déception devant l'attitude des autorités policières de la ville de Montréal.

"Comment, me disait-il, peut-on avoir l'audace d'aller arrêter des vedettes internationales qui donnent leur spectacle au ROYAL FOLLIES? Ça, ça me dépasse vraiment!

"Sur le terrain de l'Expo, il paraît qu'on va permettre les spectacles de danseuses aux seins nus, ce qui est bien normal puisque toutes les grandes capitales du monde les acceptent. A ce moment-là, comment



ANDY COBETTO

Il a bien raison.

se fait-il que l'on pourra voir ces spectacles à l'Expo alors qu'ils seront défendus à Montréal. Nous nous demandons de plus en plus s'il n'y a pas une grande rivalité entre Montréal et l'Expo."

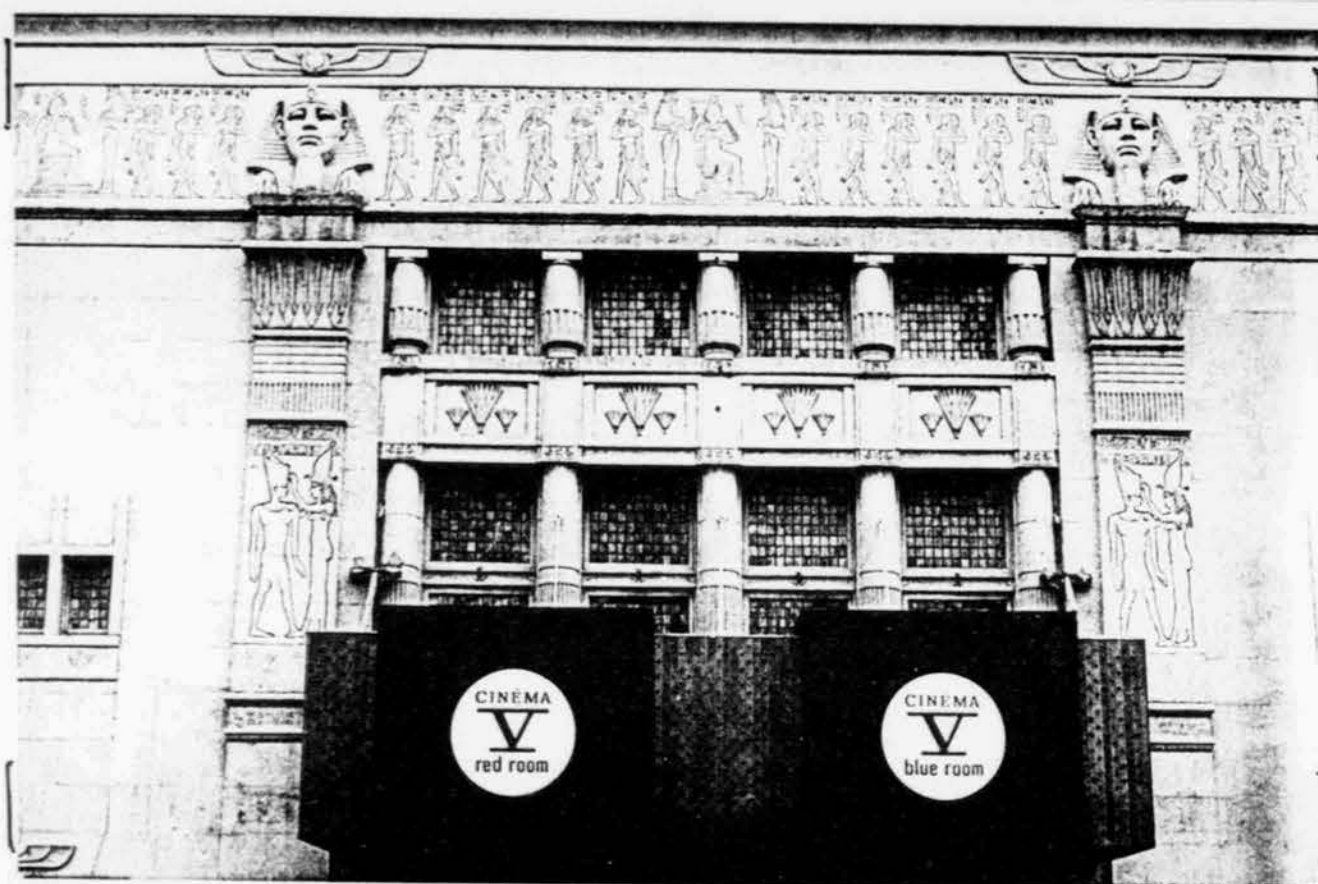
Je pense qu'il a bien raison M. Cobetto de parler ainsi. Il me semble que la police de l'escouade de la moralité y va d'un zèle insensé depuis

quelque temps. On a beau vouloir faire respecter les bonnes mœurs, il ne faut pas pour autant tomber dans le ridicule. Car ce ridicule excessif, c'est nous tous qui devons le supporter, bien malgré nous.

Pour ne citer qu'un cas, celui de M. Cobetto, disons que ce dernier a engagé un spectacle de vedettes internationales de la danse. Il se demande actuellement s'il pourra présenter ce spectacle, si on le lui permettra. Est-ce raisonnable?

QUI EST LE RESPONSABLE DE CETTE OPERATION NETTOYAGE DU PRINTEMPS? J'aimerais beaucoup savoir qui peut oser prendre de telles décisions, qui s'acharne ainsi à détruire la réputation de notre ville tout en tuant l'industrie du cabaret dans la métropole. On veut savoir!

• NEW THEATRE FOR MID-TOWN AREA: Work has started on construction of a new theatre on St. Catherine street between McGill College avenue and Metcalfe street, which will give that artery three theatres in a single block. The theatre, which will seat 800 to 900 persons, will be opened in mid-October and will be named the Cinema de Paris' carrying on the name of a now defunct theatre which once operated in the next block. It will have a policy of art and better class pictures in the French language. Owners are Cine-Art Films. The same firm has acquired the former Empress Theatre on Sherbrooke street west in Notre Dame de Grace, which was altered to accommodate the ill-fated Follies Royale. It is being rebuilt as two theatres, an art house, Cinema Five, and a larger theatre Salle Hermes, for French pictures with sub-titles in late September. The two new theatres will give Cine-Art a total of 11 locations.



Cinéma V

Sherbrooke O. coin Old Orchard

1976



## • Grand old movie theatres on brink of extinction

By DANE LANKEN  
Special to The Gazette

In the old days, before there was television, people went to the movies. They went often, once a week or more, and they didn't sit in boxy cinemas like they do today. They sat in huge and opulent theatres with names like Palace and Capitol that glowed with a life and aura of their own and were almost as much a part of the show as the adventure of the romance on the screen.

But then TV came, and people found they could stay home and watch for free what they used to have to pay a quarter or 50 cents for. The big theatres, in Montreal and in every other city in North America, found themselves severely underused — a hundred people, sometimes, on a Friday night in a theatre built for 2,000.

And so through the 1960s and '70s, the big theatres began to go. Some were divided up and became complexes of boxy cinemas. A few others were given new lives as symphony halls (but not in Montreal). But most, being situated downtown on prime real estate, were knocked down and turned into highrise office tower sites.

### Demand for movies

All that ornate plaster, the Roman columns and the Byzantine arches, the marble walls that were sometimes real and sometimes cleverly painted plaster, the great ceiling domes that glowed soft orange or pink, the nymphs and sylphs that danced on the walls — this stuff of dreams — it was all turned into rubble and dust.

The movies began around the turn of the century. First there were nickelodeons, which were peep-show machines, and then in the mid-1890s, systems were developed in both France (by les frères Lumière) and the U.S. (the Edison labs) that could project images onto screens.

There was great demand for movies, and on-the-ball entrepreneurs rented stores on busy thoroughfares, hung a sheet at one end, rented some chairs and put out a sign — something eye-catching, akin to the half-acres of neon outside St. Catherine St. pinball parlors today. And they were the first movie theatres.

Montreal earned a niche in the history of the movies in 1906 when a Montrealer named L. Ernest Ouimet, one of the pioneer film exhibitors in Canada, built his Ouimeto-

scope on St. Catherine St. at Montcalm. It was the first theatre built especially for movies in North America, and perhaps the first in the world. It's long gone now, but there's a bronze plaque today on the site.

By the mid-1910s, the movies had taken great strides. Audiences were huge, and the films themselves had become highly sophisticated. D. W. Griffith's epic melodrama of 1915, *The Birth of a Nation*, had action scenes and pretty girls (including Lillian Gish, née de Guiche) and a technique of cinematic story-telling that has not essentially changed since.

So with these big audiences and big movies, naturally movie theatres began to get big and fancy as well. There were certain precedents for their growing grandeur.

One was the European opera houses, which had a tradition of being very ornate, and the other, in North America, was the vaudeville house.

At the time the movies came along, vaudeville — a series of comic, dramatic or musical skits — was the leading entertainment of the day. And the dominating power in vaudeville was the Keith-Albee Agency, controlled by the much-hated E. F. Albee. The agency at its peak controlled about 400 theatres in North America, many of which it had built itself — including, in 1912, the Imperial on Bleury St.

### Movies sold ice cream

Around the turn of the century, a man named George Ganetakis had an ice cream parlor on St. Catherine St. E. To improve business, he would sometimes show movies on the wall of the parlor. After a while the movies became more popular than the ice cream, and Ganetakis went into the movie business instead. With backing from Ernest Cousins, the dairyman who had been his ice cream supplier, he started a company called United Amusements that became the city's leading theatre chain.

Among quite a number of theatres, the company built the elegant Strand, on St. Catherine St. at Mansfield, in 1912; the Regent, with a great, sweeping balcony and extensive murals, in 1915, and the Rialto, with its long and magnificent facade and a richly decorated interior, in 1924, these latter two on Park Ave.

The Strand was knocked down in 1973, in the development project that also doomed the greatest theatre ever built in Montreal, the Capitol. But the Regent and Rialto are still there, the former showing skin flicks and renamed the Beaver, still in wonderful condition and very well cared for; and the Rialto, hanging on pretty well though some genius a few years ago saw fit to whitewash a good half of the oil paintings and stained woodwork in the interior.

The 1910s and '20s was the era when movie theatre decorators took their inspiration from wherever they wanted — Egyptian temples, Roman forums, Renaissance ceilings — and mixed 'n' matched with gay abandon. They weren't out to impress the art critics; they wanted the people who'd paid a quarter to feel as far removed

from their grimy flats as possible.

The high points in this decorating style in Montreal were the downtown first-run houses on St. Catherine St., the Loew's, the Capitol and the Palace. The Loew's dates from 1917, and was designed by Thomas Lamb, a major American theatre architect of the period. The Palace and Capitol were both built in 1921, the Palace by the Allen brothers Jule and Jay J., Canada's first national theatre chain owners, and the Capitol by the Hollywood-backed N.L. Nathanson of Toronto.

The Palace and the Capitol tried to outdo one another in grandeur. Both were huge, close to 3,000 seats each when they were built. Both had enormously distant ceilings (you never get that kind of headroom in a modern building) centred with wide, soft-lit domes. Both had columns on the walls and winged dragons and murals in oils and marble balustrades (fake and real) and all sorts of delightful excesses.

All three of these theatres did very well over the years — until the lean times that came with TV. Then the Loew's and the Palace were subdivided, the former quite sympathetically, retaining many of its murals and plaster details (though a gaudy color scheme

today lessens their effect). But the Palace was treated cruelly. All they could think of doing with the building that once billed itself as "Canada's exceptional theatre" was to gut it and put in a pile of plain, boxy cinemas.

Still, it was a kinder fate than befell the Capitol, which is now gone without a trace (except for the rather cynical naming of the high-rise office tower on its site as le centre Capitol).

The Capitol had been the best of the downtown theatres, the grandest in its decor, certainly the most "tasteful." And it had survived its 52 years in pristine condition. It was never repainted (a rare thing for a 50 year-old theatre), never half-whitewashed or otherwise improved. The stately color scheme was intact, the wallcloths whole, the gilt unchipped.

The word these days is that the provincial government has promised \$30 million so that a planned development across St. Catherine St. from where the Capitol used to be (where that singular former-Woolworth's building now stands) will include a concert hall, a new home for the Montreal Symphony. Ironical, isn't it, that for a fraction of that money they could have had a hall far handsomer than anything

that's going to be built nowadays.

In the late 1920s, talkies came in and there was another boom in theatre building. But this time, the more-or-less Classical inspiration of the earlier era gave way to a decor based on a single "atmospheric" theme.

Thus the Empress was entirely Egyptian, the outside, sandstone-colored and temple-like, with Ram-sesean heads and hieroglyphics (sculpted by a man named Edward Galea; does anyone know anything about him?), and the inside, with panoramic murals of Egyptian scenes separated by gilded pillars topped by massive busts like Tutankhamen's funeral mask (remember the world was still reeling then from the discovery of Tut's tomb). It must have been absolutely spectacular. Too bad the place was gutted and made over plain as a shirt cardboard about 1960. The theatre is still out on Sherbrooke West, called the Cinema V now.

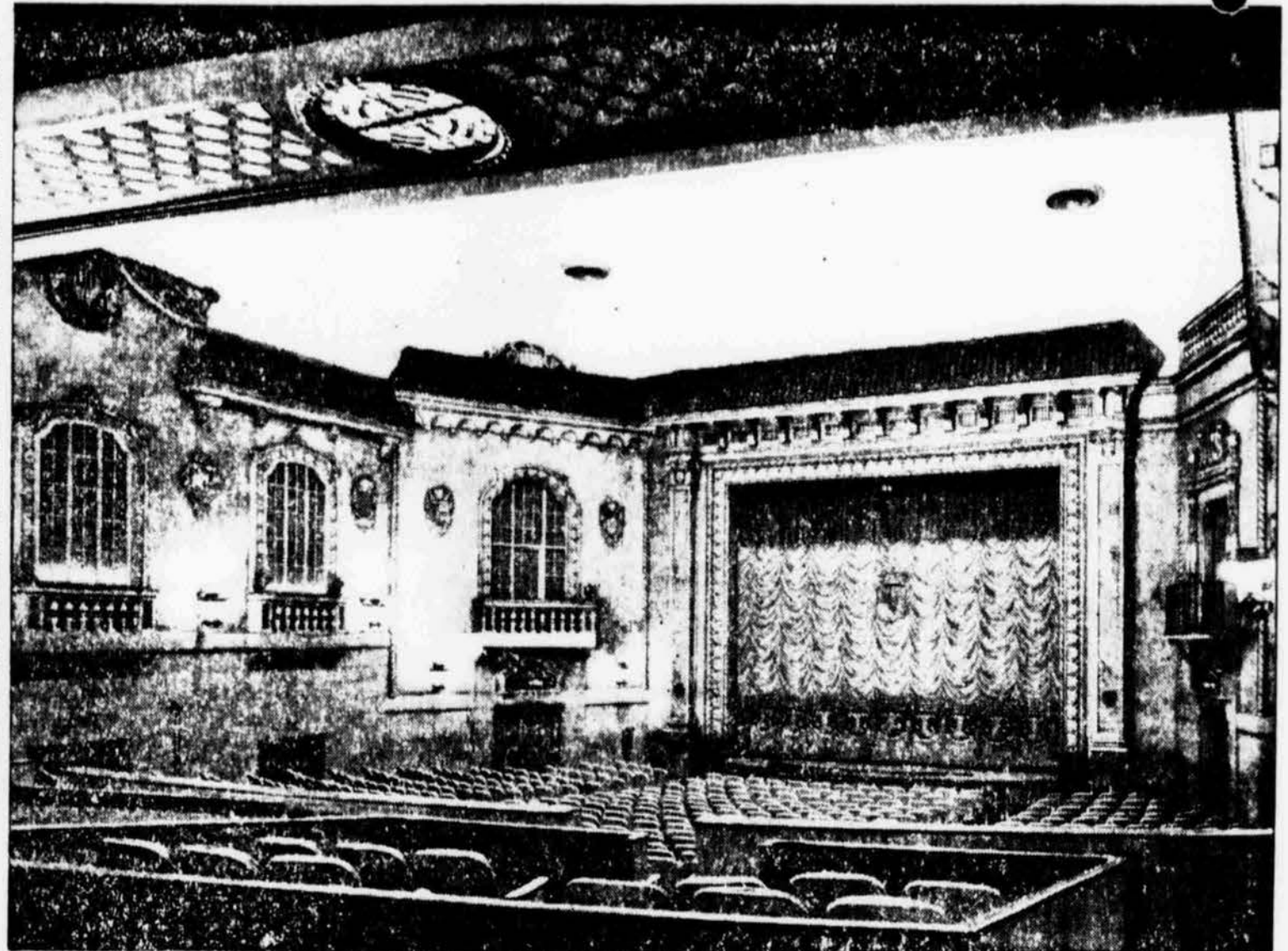
### Montreal architects

The Outremont, a pastoral scene, and the Monkland, a Spanish town square, very pretty, fared much better. They are both intact, and the Outremont, at least, is still open. The east-end Granada, which was a small theatre, delicate and very sweet, designed on a "court of kings" motif, had terrible violence done to it when it became the Théâtre Denyse-Pelletier a few seasons back. And the Chateau, up on St. Denis, mausoleum-like, full

of gilded grillwork and carved wood, one of the most remarkable theatres in Montreal, was split in two in the late '70s and now sits closed and unlit, awaiting (like so many theatres in Montreal) either some sort of re-use or the hammer.

These theatres were the works of Montreal architects: Alcide Chaussé did the Empress, Daniel Crichton the Monkland, E. A. Doucet the Granada, René Charbonneau the Outremont and Chateau. And the interior decorator on all of them, indeed on almost every movie theatre built in the city until the 1950s, was the little, Maltese-born, chaplinesque "well-known artist," Emmanuel Briffa. He left a rich heritage of "gorgeous and unsurpassed decorations" (as his ad put it), which has been more or less squandered.

Happily, one of his most striking interiors, the York, built in 1938 on St. Catherine St. near Guy, is still whole. The auditorium itself is all soft curves and recesses, making it a very airy space. And the walls are graced by eight tall murals, of mountains, trees, frolicking nude women with long straight hair, waves, winged seahorses and mermaids. They're part art deco, and also reminiscent of Emily Carr, and altogether very unusual.



The Monkland theatre in NDG: Its Spanish town square motif, designed by Daniel Crichton, is still intact.

Brian Marrett

**CE DOSSIER CONTIENT  
PLUSIEURS DOCUMENTS  
ILLISIBLES**



## ARCHITECTURE

# City's old movie houses deserve a happier ending

By DANE LANKEN  
Special to The Gazette

**T**he recent announcement that the Outremont Theatre would soon close was sad but perhaps inevitable. The big movie houses in Montreal (and in every other North American city) were built from the 1910s to the 1940s, times when people went to the movies frequently and there was no problem filling a 1,000- or 2,000-seat theatre.

But the arrival of television in the 1950s took a terrible bite out of the movie audience, and now home videos are doing further damage.

Thus big old movie houses have been dropping like flies in the past few years. The "queens" of downtown St. Catherine St., the Palace, Capitol and Loews, have been subdivided or razed. And the neighborhood houses are going, too. The Claremont has become a drugstore, the Van Horne a restaurant. The Rivoli, Château, and Monkland, among others, are destroyed.

Outremont is only another victim, not even the only one. The remarkable Rialto was recently closed as well, and the future of the Laurier (originally the Regent, recently the Beaver) is in doubt, too. Both are on Park Ave.

But the point is that the big movie theatres built in Montreal represent a rich heritage of well-made, serviceable and often very beautiful spaces. Their original function may have passed, but to continue to squander them, especially the few still remaining, is foolish and shortsighted.

### Patience and imagination

Re-use is the key, but new use for an old building isn't always immediately apparent. It takes patience and imagination.

The Capitol was considered expendable in 1973, even though it was the grandest theatre ever built in the city, and at the age of 52, still in original and perfect condition. Less than a decade later, the Montreal Symphony was looking for a new home, and governments were willing (before the project stalled) to spend millions more for a new hall than a refurbished Capitol would have cost — at a site precisely across St. Catherine St. from where the Capitol stood.

Many U.S. cities acted with similar wit. Former movie palaces are now concert, ballet or opera halls in Cleveland, Oakland, Atlanta, Omaha, Neb., Aurora, Ill., St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Boston and New York, among others. And the old Loews Valencia in Queens is now an evangelical church,

and (most imaginatively) the former Paramount in Brooklyn is the gymnasium and basketball court for Long Island University.

Many of these theatres were dark when they were saved for re-use, in poor condition and even slated for demolition. But in each case it was the whole theatre that was saved, not just the exterior.

A case like N.D.G.'s Monkland, where the building shell was kept (and fitted out with offices), and the delightful Spanish courtyard interior destroyed, serves little purpose other than sparing the developer

the expense of erecting a new building. It is the same company, Baron Byng Construction, that wrecked the Monkland as has just bought the Outremont.

Looking on to the theatres now threatening Montreal — the Rialto, Laurier, Snowdon, York, Château and Outremont — one can only hope they will turn out to be a financial favor for future Montrealers, even if minor sacrifices have to be made now. Their interiors could easily be preserved and sympathetically re-used as libraries, museums, meeting halls, galleries, studios, restaurants, even gyms, maybe even movie the-

atres — at clear savings over new construction.

But beyond that, Montreal would retain a few local examples, for the benefit of present and future generations, of what was, from the 1910s to the 1940s, the greatest theatre-building boom there ever was. Never were so many theatres built in so short a time. And never was there such a joyful explosion of the architect's and artist's skills, of eclecticism, of grandeur, of excess. These were rich and opulent palaces built not for kings, but for commoners.

The movies were a growth industry in the early years of this century. By the 1910s, filmmakers had graduated from novelty shorts to feature-length dramas with stars and grand scenes and techniques of cinematic story-telling that have not changed since.

Audiences grew phenomenally, and to house them, increasingly large and luxurious theatres were built. The elegant Strand (built 1912, demolished 1978) and St. Denis (1915, painted over inside but still whole) were among the early ones here. The huge, classically-inspired "queens" followed, the Loews (1917, now subdivided), Capitol (1921, demolished 1973) and Palace (1921, gutted 1980).

Other highlights included the Rialto (1924, half-whitewashed inside but still running), Rivoli (1926, now a drugstore), the mausoleum-like Château (1931, split in two in 1974 and now closed), Snowdon (1936, closed), and York (1938), one of the few theatres where the work of Emmanuel Briffa, the great Montreal theatre decorator, may still be enjoyed.

### Plaster and stencil-work

Briffa also did the interiors of the five "atmospherics" built in Montreal, the Egyptian-style Empress (1927, now the Cinema V, gutted), Seville, a Moorish garden (1929, long-since painted over, closed), the exquisite Monkland (1930, gutted 1985), Granada (1930), disfigured a decade ago when it became the Théâtre Denise-Pelletier, and Outremont (1929), with its "stone" walls, murals of pastoral scenes, and very fine plaster and stencil-work, the only one of the five now surviving.

Roland Smith owned and ran the Outremont as a repertory cinema for 16 years. He showed hundreds of good movies, brought life to Bernard Ave., and kept the Outremont (and the Laurier, too) in tiptop shape. He has earned our gratitude.

But he has moved on now, and it's up to others to carry on. Outremont city council will decide at its meeting this Monday if it will cite the Outremont as a historic building, or even ask Quebec City to classify, and thus, save the theatre.

Groups like Heritage Montreal and Save Montreal have noted the Outremont's architectural and cultural value. And the Association des citoyens d'Outremont has presented a 3,000-signature petition of support.

Saving the Outremont will need bold moves and imagination, but no more than what such a precious part of our urban heritage deserves.

• Dane Lanken is a freelance writer.



# Festival in clay packs the house

BY SALEM ALATON  
The Globe and Mail

## MONTREAL

There's sad news all over town with the scheduled closing of three fine repertory houses, but audiences at one of the theatres staying in business have been having a ball.

Festival of Claymation is entering its second week at Cinema V, at present the only full-time English repertory house in Montreal. The Claymation crowd is always packed with laughing kids, but the adults are getting a kick out of it too.

This nifty 90-minute compilation film comes to Toronto's largest repertory house, the Bloor Cinema, on April 24. It's the kind of friendly, "minor," off-the-wall fare that starts off looking commercially "limited" and, hence, is still within reach of repertory cinemas looking for a first-run show.

The fellows who run the Bloor Cinema remember buying Canadian rights to the allegedly "uncommercial" Eraserhead for three marbles and a bag of buttered popcorn, but that's another tale. Let's just say that Claymation audiences at Cine-

ma V and the Bloor are getting another snort of the sweet diversity that battered old repertory houses can still provide.

The title of the picture in question is properly Will Vinton Productions' Festival of Claymation. That means that weird, winsome, wired Will and his creative chums are the only ones supplying the party. And Vinton obviously makes some of the best claymation in the universe, not that the field is choked. It could be mentioned, however, that he's not the only one; Co Hoedeman at the National Film Board, for example, has done gorgeous work along lines related in technique but aimed to a different esthetic altogether.

Considering that almost all the stuff in the festival has come out of Vinton's Portland, Ore., studio, with a repertory company of artists headed by Vinton's writer-director wife, Susan Shadburne, there's a reasonably wide and crazy assemblage here.

But what is claymation and what can it do? There seems to be nothing that claymation — animation using clay models — can't do. For

the artists involved, the process is as painstaking and slow as was the classy ink animation of yesteryear, with days needed to produce a few seconds of film. The best of Vinton's stuff metamorphoses as rapidly and imaginatively as those glorious cartoons of the forties. As a West Coast boy of the sixties, Vinton also has the requisite untethered mind, producing work that functions as a kind of wholesome and safe hallucination.

The difference clay brings to such animation is the third dimension of depth which is offered before the camera. As we see in a brief documentary that's included in the compilation, the craft typically involves building models, maybe 10 to 20 centimetres high, with an articulating wire frame being built up with clay, which Vinton and company have concocted in more than 100 hues.

The figure is set; the camera shoots a frame; the figure is almost imperceptibly shifted; the camera shoots another frame. One scene in which an artist places a tiny clay eyelid on a figure, to make it appear

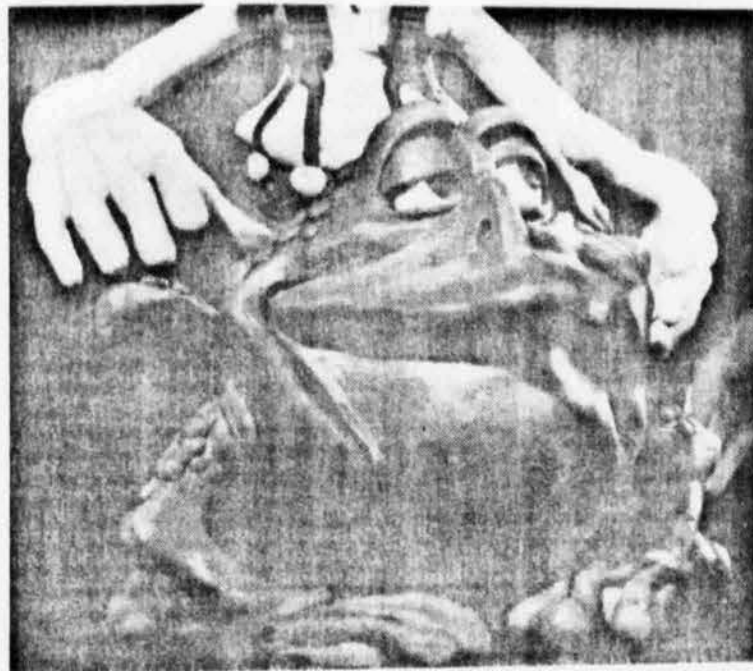
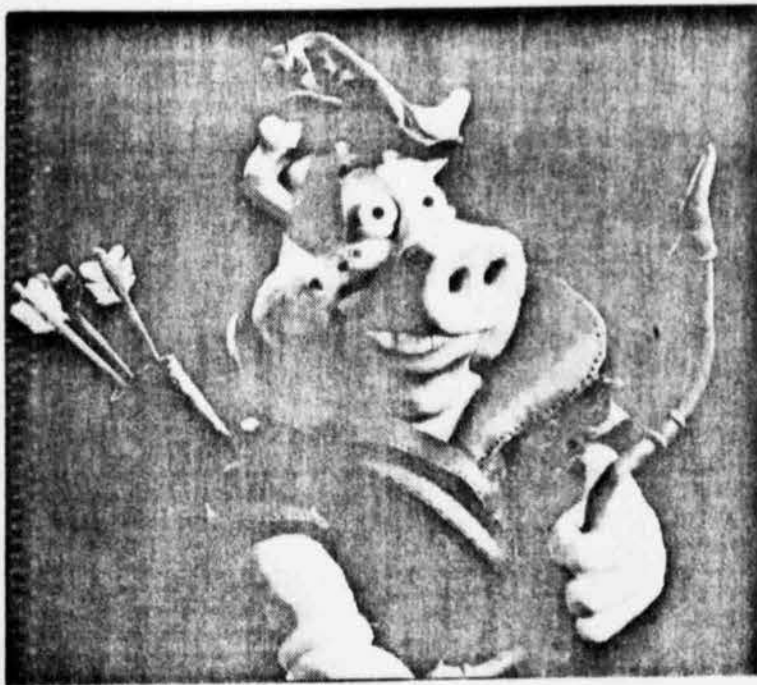
to be blinking, reveals the essence of this rather Zen-like labor.

This is how Vinton came up with his two famous California raisin ads, in which a particularly soulful dried fruit, vocally backed by three other raisins in tuxedos, sings I Heard It Through the Grapevine.

Other bizarre moments recalled in the Festival of Claymation include a pocket-picking pig in a musical video with John Fogerty; a middle-aged man recalling famous military generals while transforming, at breakneck speed, into each of them; and a championship jumping frog who swallowed the contents of a kitchen.

A couple of pieces strike an entirely different chord, such as a rather sentimental tale of a lonely Christmas night. One fascinating short is called The Creation, taken from part of Genesis and using clay almost two-dimensionally, somewhere in the area that palette-knife painting starts to become three-dimensional.

Most of the work, however, is out-and-out wacky. In the case of claymation, that's a compliment to be reckoned with.



Scene from Vanz Kant Danz (left) and from The Adventures of Mark Twain, both part of the Festival of Claymation.

## Film buffs in drive to save repertory theatre

A handful of film buffs have gathered nearly 1,700 signatures on a petition to keep revival movies flickering on the screens of Cinema V.

Famous Players announced last week it is taking over Cinema V, on

Sherbrooke St. W., and Cinéma de Paris repertory theatre on St. Catherine St. W. Famous Players plans to show first-run movies.

Kathryn Zalatnai decided to start a petition to persuade the new

owners not to change Cinema V.

"We just want Cinema V to remain a repertory cinema, and we don't want people to lose their jobs," Zalatnai said. She said she attends the theatre at least once a week.

## Le Cinéma V peut-il perdre sa vocation ?

■ Plus d'un millier de cinéphiles ont apposé leur nom sur une pétition réclamant que le Cinéma V conserve sa vocation de cinéma de répertoire.

Vendu vendredi dernier à la chaîne United Theaters, il semble en effet que le Cinéma V, situé au 5528 ouest, rue Sherbrooke, soit en voie de devenir «un cinéma comme les autres», aux dires de Kathryn Zalatnai, l'instigatrice de la pétition.

«Nous avons déjà perdu l'Outremont, le Paris, le Séville, dit-

elle. Le Cinéma V est l'un des derniers cinémas de répertoire de Montréal et sûrement le dernier qui diffuse des films en anglais.»

«Ils font de l'argent, alors pourquoi vouloir changer une formule gagnante?, lance la jeune femme. A quelques rues de là, le Kent, qui présentait des films conventionnels, a dû fermer faute de clientèle. Veut-on aussi tuer le Cinéma V, non seulement comme cinéma de répertoire mais comme salle de cinéma tout court?»



Hand in coupon to any Famous Players box office.

## ***Save Our Cinema***

I, the undersigned, protest the plan to end repertory-film showings at Cinema V and Cinema de Paris and ask the new tenants, Famous Players, to reconsider the policy.

***Signed*** \_\_\_\_\_

# Rep/protest grows



English reps won't die without a fight: Robert Austman and Thierry Martin

FRED SHERWIN/Daily News

by Brendan Kelly  
Montreal Daily News

## Petition circulates to save two cinemas

ANGRY cinema goers are circulating petitions and planning a demonstration to protest Famous Players' decision to end Cinema V's role as a repertory theatre and turn it into a first-run movie house.

Some 2,500 have signed the petition. Protest organizers have threatened to chain themselves to the doors of Cinema V if Famous Players goes ahead with its plans and a demonstration is planned for sometime this week.

N.D.G.'s Cinema V and the downtown Cinema de Paris were leased to Famous Players last week and their repertory program comes to an end June 12.

"Cinema V is the only place people can go to see older movies," says Kathryn Zaladni, the Grade 11 student who initiated the protest. "And it's the only place to see movies at prices people can afford."

It costs \$3 to see a movie at Cinema V.

"It was not our decision to cancel the repertory programming at Cinema V," says Carole Boudreault, director of film operations for Famous Players in Quebec.

"That was the owner's decision. We were just looking for a replacement for the Kent Theatre, which recently closed. It's important for people in western Montreal to have a first-run cinema. Running repertory theatres is not our business."

Under the brief tenure of Roland Smith last year, Famous Players took a stab at French repertory programming at UQAM at St. Catherine near Berri and at running classic art movies at the Bogart on Park Avenue, but both failed to make money.

"Cinema V shows movies

you can't see anywhere else," says Robert Austman, one of the organizers of the petition. "Rambo III is just not my style."

Famous Players should run repertory films a couple of nights a week and first-run for the rest of the week, according to Michael Costom, who negotiated the deal with Famous Players and represents the owners of both cinemas.

"This kind of policy would pack the house," says Costom. "There certainly is a market for second-run cinema here."

"It's impossible to combine repertory with first-run booking at the same cinema," says Boudreault. "Distributors demand that movies be booked seven days a week. We're not

interested in rep business."

But Costom insists it's now Famous Players' problem.

"I don't care how many people signed the petition. They can't succeed in keeping Cinema V as a repertory cinema. It's a useless effort."

An average of between 100 and 150 people came to each movie at Cinema V, which was not enough to make a profit, according to Costom. He believes that the Cineplex's \$3 Tuesdays and the \$5 week-day price at Famous Players ensured Cinema V's demise.

"There were not enough faithful movie-goers to keep Cinema V alive. Even without the Famous Players' deal, Cinema V would've gone belly-up."

Over 12 years in business on

Sherbrooke near Girouard, Cinema V is Montreal's oldest repertory cinema and its manager, Thierry Martin, says business is going well enough to keep the rep in business.

"I'm glad they're making a fuss," says Martin. "Customers are shocked and angry."

The protest has focussed on Cinema V mainly because Famous Players signed a month-to-month lease with Cinema de Paris and the chances are the cinema may be converted into boutique space. Cinema de Paris used to be a first-run cinema with the Cineplex chain prior to last September.

Zaladni believes the protesters have a 50-50 chance of winning their battle to keep Cinema V as a repertory house. They collected some 2,500 signatures over the weekend and hope to get a few thousand more this week. They'll be sending the petition to Famous Players and to the management of Cinema V.

## Now give the old classic flicks a try

There is little interest among Montreal anglophones for repertory cinema. That's one way to interpret the announced closure, for lack of patrons, of Cinema V and Cinema de Paris on June 12 by Famous Players.

But there may be another way to read these theatres' failure. The definition they had of "repertory" may have been too limited.

Cinema V, for example, showed largely second-run movies — and frequently second-rate ones (*9½ Weeks*, for one, seemed to be there all the time). There was only a speckling of classics. And by showing tired children's fare at Sunday matinées (*Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* was a perennial), the theatre never developed a family following.

Meanwhile, the remaining repertory houses in town seemed to specialize large-

ly in esoterica. For all their qualities, festivals of Polish, Chinese and feminist films will seldom draw crowds.

Can another version of repertory do any better financially? It is conventional wisdom in repertory circles that the public does not want classic Hollywood movies — ones that tens of millions of North Americans flocked to a few decades ago.

Yet the experience of Vermont ETV (Channel 33) challenges that notion. Twice a year at fund-raising time, it maximizes its audiences by showing mostly old box-office hits — with such stars as Katherine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy and James Stewart. Says Marketing Director Ann Curran, "From listeners' letters and cheques, we know there's a real appetite for classics, especially in Quebec. That's where we get about half our members."

In California, birthplace of cultural trends, the first golden-oldie repertory house got its start last summer in Palo Alto. A theatre whose Cinema V-style programming had been drawing an average 500 people per week changed hands and averaged 1,000 people *per night* during a two-week festival of Fred Astaire films.

The head of the Stanford Theatre, David Packard, says VCR films do not cut much into his market, which ranges from teenagers to the elderly. "People say they like the shared experience," he says. "They were cheering during the dancing."

At a time when many shopping centres use theatre to draw potential customers, a modestly-sized classic cinema might be just the thing to draw upscale patrons.

Is there still a market for the movies that put Hollywood on the map? In Montreal, we won't know until it's been tried.

# Repertory protests futile: theatre chain

By **BRUCE BAILEY**  
Gazette Film Critic

Petitions aimed at saving Montreal's last two English film repertory houses have been signed by some 3,000 moviegoers, but those who negotiated the switch to first-run cinemas say all protest is futile.

Cinema V and Cinéma de Paris will be screening their last repertory programs on June 12. After that, they will be operated as first-run cinemas by Famous Players, the second-largest theatre chain in Canada.

Carole Boudreault, director of film operations for Famous Players in Quebec says the agreement cannot be reversed because the chain "is in the business of first-run movies — and that's that."

"We didn't make the owners lease it. We needed a theatre to replace the Kent (in suburban N.D.G.) for our purposes and we got it."

Protest organizer Kathryn Zalapnai, 17, a student at MIND (Moving in New Directions) High School, says the closing of the theatre is "a major stab at the cultural side of Montreal."

"I find it incredible that there are 17 listed pornographic movie theatres in Montreal, but only one repertory cinema and it's being threatened."

Zalapnai and other protesters will be outside Cinema V every night this week collecting signatures for a petition, which they will deliver to the Famous Players head office on Monday.

Michael Costom, who closed the deal with the chain on behalf of a numbered company, argues that "this never would have hap-

pened if business was good.

"People who say they want a repertory house have nobody to blame but themselves. If they cared so much, they would have gone to the repertory theatres more, but they didn't."

"That might have had some effect, but protests in the streets are useless."

"I can tell you now that the attendance this Monday (after the announcement) was no higher than it was the Monday before that or the Monday two weeks ago."

According to Costom, a number of factors figured in the demise of the repertory circuit. Chief among them was the competition that came with the lowering of the standard \$6.50 first-run admission prices during the week.

The Cineplex-Odeon chain charges only \$3.50 on Tuesdays, while Famous Players discounts admission to \$5.00 Monday through Thursday.

"That was more devastating than the increased market in home videos," he says.

Taxes were also a problem.

"The city looked at the 8,000 sq. ft. and said this property should be bringing in \$8,000 or \$9,000 in revenue. But it's not, and they didn't show any understanding that this is a repertory house and needs a break."

The big distribution companies also failed, says Costom, to take the circumstances into account.

"They wanted their rental fees no matter what — even though we had an average of only 100 or 150 customers a night. Sometimes we even had as few as 30."



# Fight to save rep cinemas continues

By BRUCE BAILEY  
Gazette Film Critic

Repertory cinema fan Kathryn Zalatnai won't give up without a fight.

Zalatnai is spearheading the campaign to save Montreal's last two English film repertory houses from being turned into first-run cinemas.

And she says she'll continue the campaign despite hard-line resistance from Famous Players, the theatres' new lessees.

Cinema V in N.D.G. and Cinéma

de Paris downtown are scheduled to end their rotating second-run policies June 12. After that, Famous Players — the second-largest theatre chain in Canada — will program both venues like every other first-run cinema under its control.

Famous Players representatives insist that protest is useless. But despite those assurances, Zalatnai, a 17-year-old Montreal high school student, is continuing to circulate a petition protesting the changeover.

And Zalatnai says she's also organizing a protest march Monday after-

noon.

"On Monday at 3 we're going to be having a march — with singing and things — from Cinema V (5560 Sherbrooke St. W.) to the Famous Players head office (at 5887 Monkland Ave.).

"I just want them (Famous Players) to know that there's a public response to what they're doing," she says.

At that time, Zalatnai plans to present management personnel with an updated tally of the signatures on the petition. The petition now has about 3,500 signatures.

She expects to be joined in her protest by "lots of groups" she has talked to as well as people attracted by the posters she has put up in the area.

If the march and petition do not have the desired effect, there will be a moonlight vigil for the cinemas June 12.

Protesters will light candles outside Cinema V just before the last show.

"After that," says Zalatnai half-seriously, "I'm going to have to start chaining myself to things."



AUSSIE WHITING / Daily News

Some of yesterday's 100 marchers prepare to hand in 6,000-name petition to Famous Players.

## Cinema V protesters present petition

THE FIGHT to save English repertory cinema took to the streets yesterday but the protest march didn't create any new reasons to be optimistic about the fate of Cinema V.

About 100 young cinema fans, waving placards and chanting slogans, walked from Cinema V on Sherbrooke St. West in N.D.G. to the offices of Famous Players on Monkland Ave. They presented the Toronto-based chain with a 6,000-signature petition asking it to reconsider its plans to change Cinema V into a first-run cinema.

"All we are saying is give

us a chance," sang the marchers, to the John Lennon tune. Placards proclaimed: "Go home, Rambo" and "Wasn't the Seville enough," referring to the closing a couple of years back of Montreal's other main English repertory cinema.

The protesters were told that there was no one there who could respond to their petition. Kathryn Zalatnai, who organized the petition, says she'll return tomorrow to talk to Famous Players executives.

"We didn't expect Famous Players to do anything," says Zalatnai.

"I was very upset when I heard that Cinema V was closing" says Andrew Lea, 21, who came out to protest yesterday.

"I just wanted to do something. With 6,000 signatures, maybe there's a chance of saving Cinema V."

Famous Players couldn't be reached for comment yesterday but throughout the public outcry the company has maintained that it will go ahead with its plans to show first-run films at Cinema V and has no intention of programming repertory films.

Cinema V is set to end its repertory schedule this Sunday.

After some renovations, the large two-screen theatre will re-open as a first-run house. Famous Players has signed a 10-year lease with the building's owner. Famous Players is also taking over the Cinema de Paris downtown but, with a month-to-month lease, the fate of this unsuccessful cinema is still up in the air.

If the protesters don't make any headway this week, they're planning a candlelight vigil outside Cinema V Sunday night.

"Movies on video are not that great," says Mitch Davis, 16. "It's much better to see them at the cinema."

— Brendan Kelly

## Film-lovers march

Chanting "Save Cinema V," more than 100 people marched through Notre Dame de Grâce yesterday to protest the June 12 conversion of the repertory house to a first-run movie theatre.

The group, mostly young people, then staged a peaceful sit-in at the Famous Players office at Monkland and Royal Aves.

Organizer Kathryn Zalapnai, 17, dropped off a 6,000-name petition protesting the closing. She and other demonstrators vowed to return today to speak to company officials.

Cinema V is one of the last English-language repertory theatres left in Montreal. But Famous Players spokesman Gillian Howard said from Toronto that the chain is "in the business of first-run movies — that's what we do best."

## Closing is a serious loss

The closing of Cinema V as a repertory theatre will be a serious loss for all film-lovers. That it will be replaced by yet another first-run movie house is no consolation at all.

In the two weeks, May 15 to 29, Cinema V offered 35 different movies. None of them were available at first-run movie houses and some of them never had been. Many excellent films would not be seen at all if we had to depend solely on Famous Players.

The length of time any film is shown in a Famous Players theatre in any particular community is very unpredictable. They are withdrawn without warning and shown without a guaranteed run. One important function of a repertory theatre is to give good films a second showing, and to show them at a

price that makes them more available to the community at large.

Just down the road from Cinema V is the Kent Cinema. Famous Players ran it for a while and then closed it down. The building is to be redeveloped as a commercial complex. Does Famous Players really believe that it will be any more successful with a first-run movie policy at Cinema V?

We do not need a first-run movie house in our community. Those that already exist are easily accessible by bus and Métro. Nor do we need uncontrolled commercial development by speculators. We need what we have enjoyed for the past 12 years: a good local repertory theatre.

M. BRYANT  
Montreal



## MP JOINS CINEMA PROTEST

MONTREAL'S oldest repertory cinema prepares to close its doors tomorrow night but the "Save Cinema V" movement is far from dead.

N.D.G. MP Warren Allmand and several city councillors have joined the protest.

At a meeting of the N.D.G. Community Council, Allmand suggested that the council write to Famous Players urging the chain to reconsider its plans to convert Cinema V into a first-run cinema, a motion endorsed by the 45 people there.

Kathryn Zaladni, who started the petition which now carries 6,000 signatures, says that all efforts to get a response from Famous Players have been unsuccessful.

Sam Boskey and Arnold Bennett, both Montreal Citizens Movement councillors for N.D.G., signed the petition.

"I'm sad to see one of my favorite cinemas closed," said Boskey. "Reps are useful because they provide a whole richness beyond the first-run circuit."

— Brendan Kelly



Cinema V protest is led by Kathryn Zaladni and Robert Austman (above). Coupons like the one at right have been handed in to Famous Players theatres.

### *Save Our Cinema*

I, the undersigned, protest the plan to end repertory-film showings at Cinema V and Cinema de Paris and ask the new tenants, Famous Players, to reconsider the policy.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



Gazette, Arne Glassbourg

Kathryn Zalatznai was breakfasting on Coke when the dreadful news arrived.

## When they closed her favorite cinema Kathryn, 17, decided to fight back

By WALTER BUCHIGNANI  
of The Gazette

Seventeen-year-old Kathryn Zalatznai was rummaging through the fridge for a can of Coke — her breakfast — when her best friend Rowena Haines phoned with the terrible news.

It was something Haines had read in the newspaper that morning: Their favorite film repertory house, Cinema V, would be converted into a first-run movie theatre by Famous Players.

No more *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. No more *A Clockwork Orange*. No more *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*.

No more \$3 admissions.

"I screamed very loudly," Zalatznai says. "Then I was in a state of shock for two hours."

That was two weeks ago. Since then, the high school student with dyed red hair has been at the forefront of a campaign to save Cinema V as a repertory.

She collected 6,000 names on a petition. She put up posters at the theatre on Sherbrooke St. in Notre Dame de Grâce. She organized a march to the headquarters of Famous Players, the cinema's new leasees.

It all fell on deaf ears. Barring a last-minute reprieve, the repertory will show its last movie, *Hope and Glory*, tonight at 9:45.

But Zalatznai has not lost all hope. She and other repertory sup-

porters will announce their next move at a candlelight vigil at the theatre tonight.

"We can organize boycotts of their movies," she says. "We can make them lose money."

"Famous Players will be disgraced in front of all Canada. I haven't given up."

■ **Childhood:** An only child, she was born in Montreal Feb. 9, 1971 but grew up in Vancouver. Her father is a jeweller and her mother a jewellery designer. The family returned to Montreal when Zalatznai was 10.

■ **Education:** After attending grade school in Vancouver, she went to Kirkland Elementary School and then Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School. She's about to graduate from MIND (Moving in New Directions), an alternative high school on University St. She has applied to The New School of Dawson College, an alternative CEGEP program in arts based on humanistic education.

■ **Residence:** She moved into an apartment on Summerhill Ave. in May and is looking for a job to share the \$400 rent with roommate Rowena Haines. The walls of her cluttered living room are plastered with posters of David Bowie, Garfield, Marilyn Monroe and the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. In one corner last week was an unfinished white sculpture that she dubbed "procrastination" because

it was due for school the week before.

■ **Music:** David Bowie, The Beatles, U2 and the *Hair* soundtrack.

■ **Books:** She says she should be reading school books but is now in the middle of *Portnoy's Complaint* by Philip Roth.

■ **Television:** She watches little of it, although there are two sets at the apartment. (One doesn't work and is used as a table; the other works, sort of, but has no cable.)

■ **Movies:** She had been going to Cinema V at least once a week with friends and her boyfriend of one month, Robert Austman, 20. She claims to have seen *Rocky Horror* 60 times and says she has a friend who has seen it 380 times. She last went to a mainstream cinema two months ago to see *Beetlejuice*. "I don't feel the movies they're showing now are worth the price they're asking."

■ **Night spots:** Carlos & Pepes and Bar Thunder Dome on Stanley St., and Restaurant l'Annexe on Bishop St.

■ **Sports:** She plays badminton at school from time to time and plans to play tennis and basketball this summer. She hopes to be able to afford a bicycle.

■ **Pet peeves:** Margarine, matching socks, polyester and people who don't open windows on buses.

■ **Pet please:** Showers, *Rocky Horror* and sculpture.

■ **Dreams:** To produce and direct movie musicals. □

## CITY BRIEFS

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### Movie-lovers mourn closing

About 100 movie buffs mourned the passing of Montreal's last English-language repertory theatre with a candlelight vigil last night.

High school student Kathryn Zalatnai, 17, organized the event to protest Famous Players' plans to turn Cinema V on Sherbrooke St. W. into a first-run playhouse.

The change, announced three weeks ago, will also affect Cinema de Paris on St. Catherine St. About 30 people will be out of work.

More than 400 people attended the last two repertory movies at Cinema V. It will begin showing first-run movies on Friday.

## Cinema sale great

All this protest over the selling of Cinéma V and Cinéma de Paris to Cinéplex Odeon leaves me cold.

This transaction is a bonanza for all of us; we can now catch the insipid Hollywood fare of senseless violence, spectacular car chases and buxom blondes, with movie titles ending with roman numerals at two more locations. And the price is great, too. Only \$6.50.

Why don't these complainers grow up and join the rest of us — the McDonald's generation — who love well-packaged mediocrity served with a smile?

DAVID RODIER JR.  
Kirkland



CINEMA V

Autre adresse du "Cinema V": 5528 ouest



Debris litters doorway in aftermath of fire as firefighter heads into Cinema V to retrieve the last hose. GAZETTE, ALLEN MCINNIS

## Fire chief blames careless smoker for blaze at venerable N.D.G. cinema

*Cinema V first opened back in 1927 as the Empress*

The fire at Cinema V that caused \$75,000 to the landmark building and disrupted rush-hour traffic on Sherbrooke St. W. yesterday morning was caused by a careless smoker, a Montreal fire official said.

"It was definitely accidental," not arson, District Fire Chief Michel Cioli said of the three-alarm blaze at the Notre Dame de Grâce movie house.

"The fire started in the back row of the main theatre and spread. We think someone dropped a lit smoking article (cigarette, cigar or pipe) Monday night and the fire smouldered throughout the night."

No one was injured in the 90-minute blaze.

The fire is the latest blow to a landmark that has been part of the city's cultural fabric since opening in 1927 as the Empress.

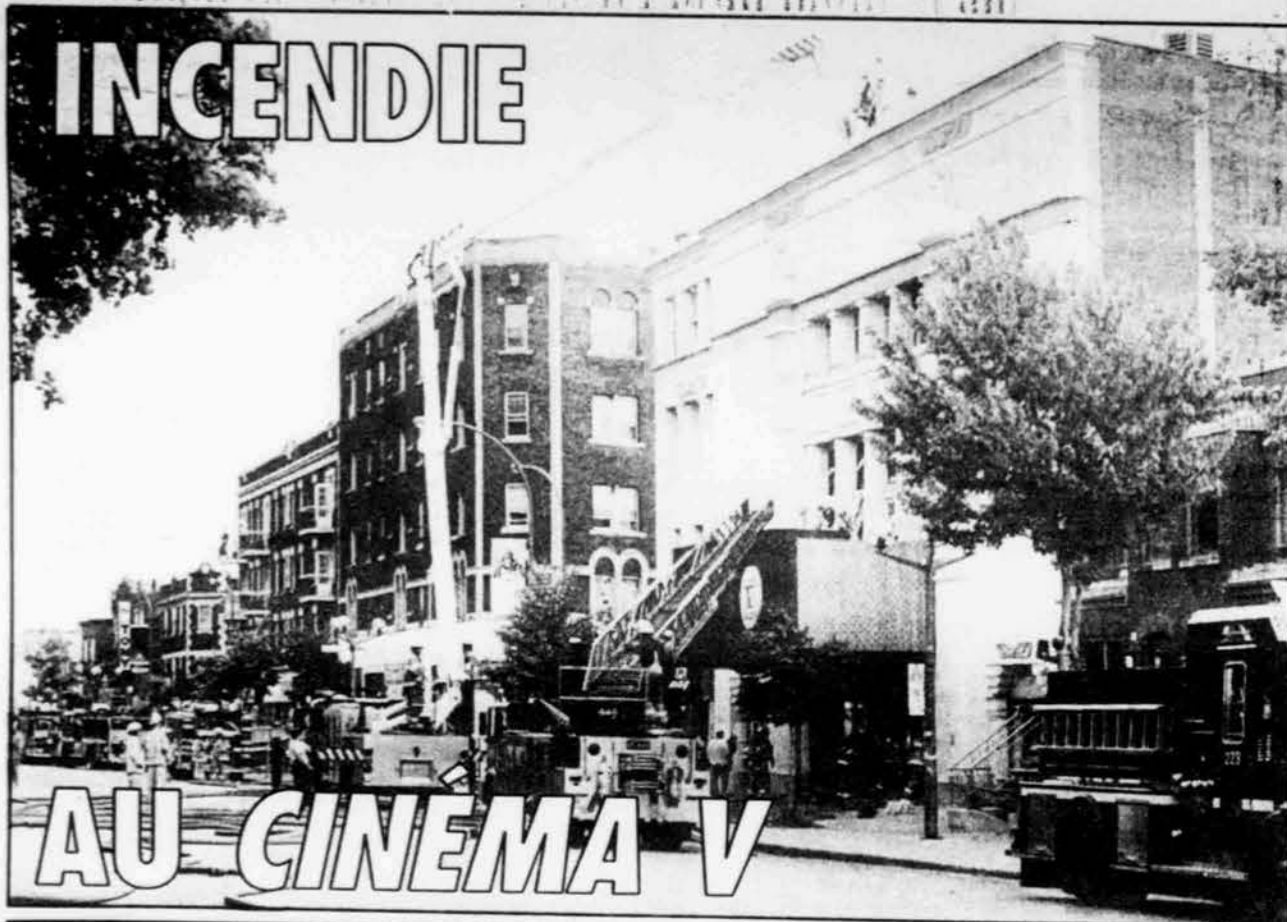
The ornate Egyptian facade across from N.D.G. Park is all that remains of the original theatre. In 1975, the interior was divided into two floors and run as a repertory movie house under the name Cinema V.

In 1987, it became a two-screen, first-run movieplex under the Famous Players banner. Yesterday, those screens were silent.

"I loved that building," said Thierry Martin, manager of Cinema V for eight years when it was a repertory house. "It was a beautiful cinema."

"I can't believe it has closed."

Famous Players said in a statement the theatre will remain closed until further notice. The chain hopes to reopen it as soon as damage to the first-floor auditorium, box office, candy bar and lobby is repaired.



# INCENDIE

## AU CINEMA V

(AIB) — Un incendie allumé par un article de fumeur a causé pour environ 75 000 \$ de dommages au Cinéma V hier matin, dans le quartier Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

Les flammes ont heureusement épargné l'extérieur de la bâtisse, reconnue pour ses qualités architecturales.

L'incendie aurait couvé toute la nuit dans des fauteuils situés dans les rangées arrière de la salle du rez-de-chaussée, avant de prendre de l'ampleur vers 7 h hier matin et de s'atta-

quer aux murs, au guichet et au *snack bar* de l'établissement.

Il a fallu une heure et demie pour maîtriser les flammes. Environ 75 sapeurs ont combattu l'incendie, qui a nécessité trois alertes.

Ce sont des pompiers qui retournaient chez eux après leur quart de travail de nuit qui ont donné l'alerte.

Le directeur des pompiers, Michel Cicioli, a déclaré hier que ses hommes ont d'abord dû assurer la ventilation des lieux.

« Ce type d'incendie dans du maté-

riel de rembourrage génère beaucoup de fumée et de gaz », a-t-il expliqué.

Des trappes sur le toit ont été ouvertes et les pompiers ont pu pénétrer dans l'édifice.

L'article de fumeur responsable de l'incendie a vraisemblablement été laissé là par un cinéphile, lundi soir, après la dernière représentation du film.

Personne n'a été blessé. Les dommages sont évalués à quelque 75 000 \$. Le cinéma devra garder ses portes fermées le temps des réparations.