

## Inside Canada by Pierre Beaudry

### Civilian internment camps?

*The Trudeau government and the Queen's Privy Council have a low regard for representative government.*

For those who doubt that Canada is in fact governed not by Parliament but by "administrative discretion" and the "secret consensus" of the Queen's Privy Council, the following events should help clear things up.

Yvon Pinard, the President of the Privy Council and the House of Commons leader for the Trudeau government, is quoted describing who really runs Canada and how in the April 3 *Toronto Star*.

Echoing the War Measures Act imposed during the 1970 October crisis in Quebec, when hundreds were arrested without charges, Pinard defended how the Emergency Planning Order, which went into effect without legislative authorization last spring, gives the Trudeau Cabinet power to impose sweeping measures in the event of what the *Star* calls "ill-defined war or peacetime emergencies."

According to the *Star*, "Under the new order, 11 cabinet ministers would have control over key sectors of the economy—transportation, production, energy, and manpower—in peacetime emergencies, and they would also be able to create civilian internment camps and censorship controls in the event of war or insurrection." Both the Conservative Party and the New Democratic Party have condemned the fact that no legislation sanctioning these measures have been submitted in the House of Commons. Pinard says that "because it's an ad-

ministrative order relating to the internal functioning of government, legislation wasn't required." Under this rubric, the Cabinet passed about 300 unlegislated orders-in-council over the past year.

The emerging tax revolt in Quebec and the growing separatist movement in western Canada are among the potential crisis triggers; there are indications that the Privy Council expects upheavals when Queen Elizabeth arrives in Ottawa on April 17.

Any "abnormal situation," as the order defines an emergency, including an economic crisis or labor unrest, may trigger the "discretionary authority" of the Trudeau government to impose a dictatorship, and this will be officially sanctioned by the new constitution the Queen is to present this month. "Pinard also pointed out," said the *Star*, "that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms will, when it becomes part of the constitution in two weeks, have an important bearing on matters related to emergency powers." With the new Charter, says Pinard, an emergency will be tested on the basis of "reasonableness and justifiability."

The Conservative opposition rightly protests that "the possibilities for abuse are endless." The Tories have called the order "draconian, sinister, and terrifying," because the whole thing "has been done in secret and civil liberties hang in the balance."

Conservative Ray Hnatyshyn asked: "What if a national strike were called by the Canadian Labor Congress, which would clearly cause some disruption to the country? Is this a situation which would be included under the definition of emergency under the planning order?"

While equipping himself with the Emergency Planning Order, Trudeau is also using more sedulous methods against constituency groups and representative government. On March 31, he addressed the founding convention of the newly formed Canadian Federation of Labor (CFL), a splinter from the 2 million member Canadian Labor Congress (CLC), and proposed that the union participate directly with the government in "a structured decision-making process. . . . I am asking you to share the responsibility for governing," said Trudeau, emphasizing that "there is no way the state can ensure [economic] recovery alone."

Although Trudeau was not explicit as to how the process would work, the intent is to break up independent unions and create a tripartite labor-business-government structure for "crisis-managing" the depression. This proposal is linked with a program that Manpower Minister Lloyd Axworthy has recently upgraded, and which is expected to "lead a new world trend." Axworthy last month announced a work-sharing program of up to \$30 million, where a worker will receive 90 percent of his normal pay while the government "tops up" the balance from its Unemployment Insurance Fund. According to Axworthy, this poverty-sharing is considered "one of the keys to solving tomorrow's unemployment."