

## Section B2: DEMAND FOR CHANGE



Image source unknown. Available throughout the internet and also from  
<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/campus-notes/2012/06/maple-spring-blooming-how-attempt-hike-tuition-quebec-set-powder>

## THE DEMAND FOR CHANGE

Around 1940, most Quebecois began to believe that the Duplessis government, the English and American influence on Quebec economy, and the role of the Catholic Church in education had influenced in a negative way the Quebecois society.

Things had to change and changes did occur. That period of change is called **the Quiet Revolution**.

Many consider these 4 events precursors of **the Quiet Revolution**. They marked the historical memory of the Quebecois for decades to come.

- a. Le Refus Total (1947-1949)
- b. The Asbestos' Strike of 1949
- c. The Richard Riot of 1955
- d. The Impertinences of Brother Anonymous (1960)

**Read the text on each event and answer the questions that follow.**



Source: [Library and Archives Canada PA-115821 via Wikipedia](#)

## B2 a. LE REFUS GLOBAL 1947- 1948 (TOTAL REFUSAL)



Low resolution non-free media from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Paul\\_Riopelle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Paul_Riopelle)  
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**Le Refus Global** was a document signed by 16 young Quebecois artists, among them were Borduas and Riopelle. The role of the Catholic Church in Quebec society (*education and health services*) was mercilessly criticized as well as Quebecois values (*attachment to tradition, allegiance to the Catholic Church, and distrust in change*).

The document, **Le Refus Global**, was released in 1948 but failed to attract interest – 400 copies were published but only about half were sold.

## **B2 a. LE REFUS GLOBAL (1947- 1948)**

### ***GLOBAL REFUSAL***

- i) What did the Quebec artists want to change in Quebec society?

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- ii) Why did the public pay little attention to what the artists proposed?

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Source: Library and Archives Canada/  
MIKAN 4325073  
via [www.biographi.ca/en/bio/  
borduas\\_paul\\_emile\\_18E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/borduas_paul_emile_18E.html)



Low resolution version of version of similar on various sites including larger at  
[https://www.aci-iac.ca/the-essay/public-enemy-  
by-francois-marc-gagnon](https://www.aci-iac.ca/the-essay/public-enemy-by-francois-marc-gagnon)

## B2 b. THE ASBESTOS STRIKE (1949)



Low resolution version of.. Angry picketers protesting the hiring of replacement workers to break the asbestos strike, Thetford Mines, Quebec, 1949. Centre d'archives de la région de Thetford, Fonds Famille Gérard Chamberland via <https://humanrights.ca/asbestos-strike-labour-rights-quebec>



Low resolution version of larger Montreal Gazette Photo via <https://humanrights.ca/asbestos-strike-labour-rights-quebec>

In 1949, five thousand French-speaking asbestos workers went on strike demanding:

1. elimination of asbestos dust in and out of the mills
2. salary of \$1 an hour (*an increase of 15 cents*)
3. “double time” on Sundays and holidays
4. a pension scheme

The Maurice Duplessis government sent police to protect mines owned by an American, while company managers sent in ‘scabs’ (*workers against a strike that cross picket lines*). The strikers destroyed the scabs’ property and hundreds were arrested. Meanwhile the Quebecois population gave money and food to the strikers, permitting the strike to continue. Soon negotiations began between company owners and strikers ending the strike. Miners received a small pay increase and a slight improvement in working conditions. This event has been considered a turning point in Quebec History.

Visit Human Rights Museum for larger images to analyze!

## B2 b. THE ASBESTOS STRIKE (1949)

i) In your opinion, what social problems emerged from the Asbestos Strike?

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ii) Did the strikers deserve to gain so little after the Asbestos Strike? State your reasons.

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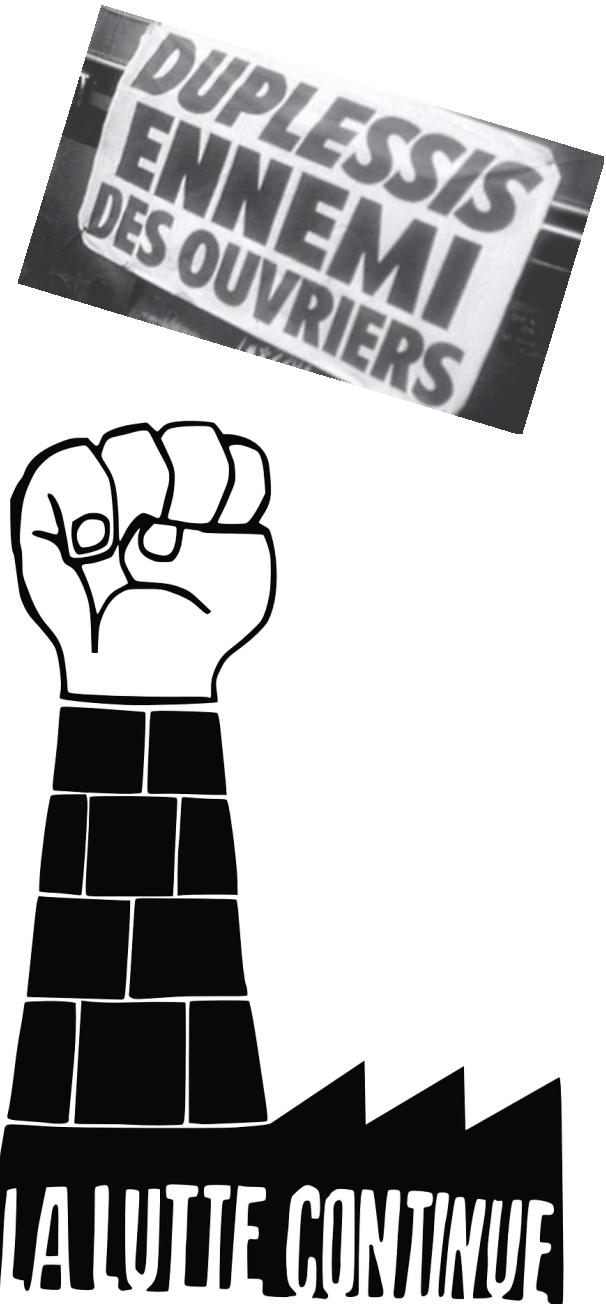
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iii) Were the 'scabs' right or wrong in going back to work during the strike? State your reasons.

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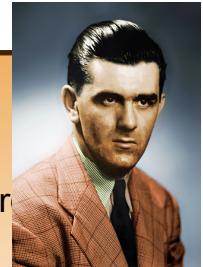
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## B2 c. THE RICHARD RIOT (1955)

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1955

"Rocket" Richard, star of Montreal Canadiens ice hockey team, hit a linesman during a game. Richard was suspended for the remainder of the NHL season by NHL president Clarence Campbell. Fans believed Rocket received such a heavy sentence because he was French.



March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1955

C. Campbell appeared at the Forum to watch Montreal Canadiens v. Red Wings game. A riot erupted, spilled to the street followed by shop window smashing and the throwing of ice chunks at passing cars. St. Catherine Street resembled a battle field. About 80 people were arrested and property was severely damaged.

This event is often interpreted as a sign of tension between English and French, and of growing  
**Many other photos at**

**The Gazette** TO PLACE A GAZETTE WANT AD. CALL UN. 6-4771

Rioters Turn To Vandalism Outside Forum

Debris-littered St. Catherine street with mob pushed back.  
Youthful riot suspect arrested

Riots erupt after "Rocket" Richard suspension  
[www.theglobeandmail.com/multimedia/rocket/article23477624/](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/multimedia/rocket/article23477624/)

**Many other photos at**

RICHARD RIOTS by eMaze user opal.15  
<https://www.emaze.com/@ATLRZIIQ/Richard-Riots>

Source Gazette via Google News at <http://tinyurl.com/y7ctgrx4>  
Also used at the Rocket Riot: Inside the Montreal Gazette - March 18, 1955  
[www.habseyesontheprize.com/pages/after-the-rocket-riot-inside-the](http://www.habseyesontheprize.com/pages/after-the-rocket-riot-inside-the)

## **B2 c. THE RICHARD RIOT (1955)**

- i) Do you agree or disagree with Richard's suspension?  
State your reasons.

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- ii) What social problem came to light with the Richard Riot?

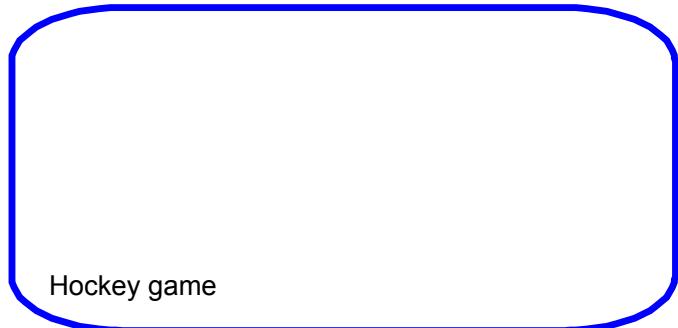
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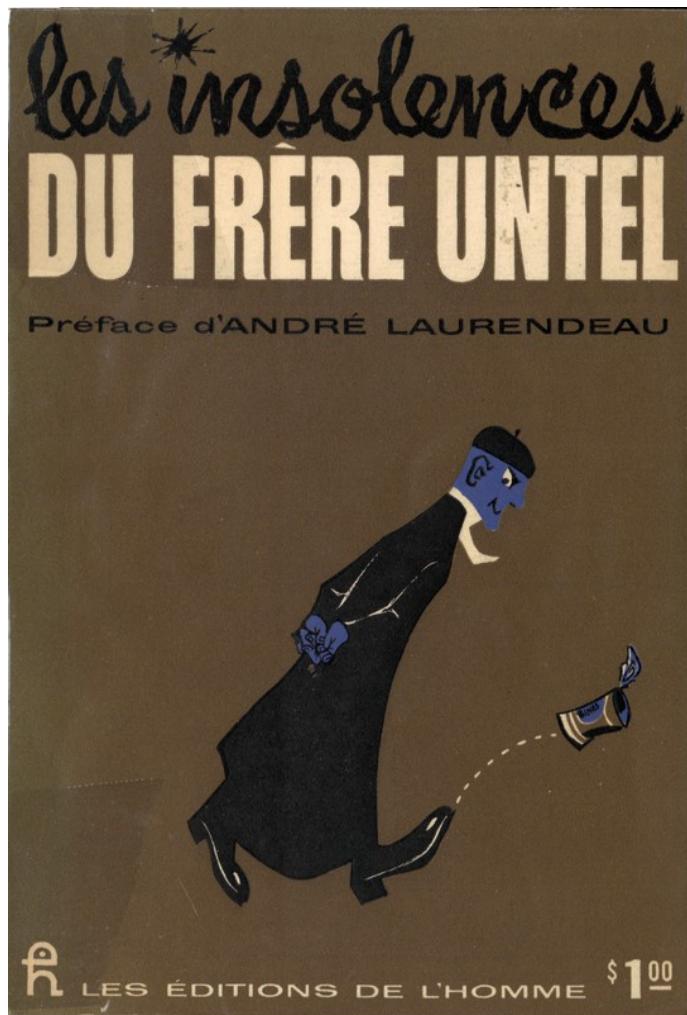
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Draw the sequence of events of the Richard riot !



## d. LES INSOLENCES DU FRÈRE UNTEL (1960)

(*The impertinences of Brother Anonymous*)



**Les Insolences du Frère Untel**, written by Jean-Paul Desbiens, was an explosive criticism of both the Catholic Church role in Quebecois society and the Quebec educational system controlled by the church. He proposed the elimination of Latin from the syllabus at secondary level, and denounced the appalling quality of spoken and written French among young Quebecois.

A 100 000 copies of the book were sold in a few days in a place where it was enough to sell 10 000 copies to be considered a best seller!

It is thought by many to be the first great book of the **Quiet Revolution**.

Cover image used with permission  
from Musée québécois de culture  
populaire

## **B2 d. LES INSOLENCES DU FRÈRE UNTEL (1960)**

i) What problems did Frère Untel see in the Quebec society of his time?

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ii) What had to be done to eliminate the problem?

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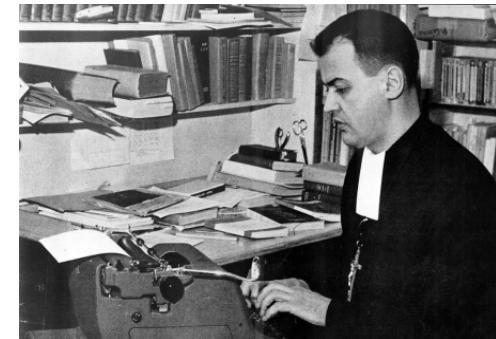
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iii) Why did so many people buy the book and yet so few bought "Le Refuse Global" manifesto in 1948.

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*Low resolution version of...*

*Un travail à la hache Les Insolences du frère Untel attaquent le système scolaire québécois  
<http://www.ledevoir.com/societe/medias/288140/un-travail-a-la-hache>*

## **B2 e. YOUR OPINION WANTED !**

- i) What do these four events tell you about life in Quebec from the 1940's to about 1960?

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- ii) What changes were needed to improve the daily lives of the Quebecois?

(Consider the people, the government, the Catholic Church, and the economy.)

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