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A NICE SPRING DAY
MATHIEU PAGE
SHERBROOKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TUESDAY

June 11, 1991

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Jean-Guy: I was trying to save her

MONTREAL (CP) — Jean-Guy Tremblay — the man who went to Canada's top court trying to stop an ex-girlfriend from having an abortion — told a Quebec Court judge Monday he only grabbed his landlady by the collar to prevent her from falling.

Tremblay, 27, is charged with assaulting 81-year-old Gracia Lapalisse, who suffered a broken hip af-

ter a rental dispute with the former mechanic and model in February.

In April, Lapalisse told the court Tremblay punched her in the shoulder so hard she was lifted off the ground and landed in a sitting position on the stairs, her head banging against a wall.

Tremblay, who in 1989 unsuccessfully went to the Supreme Court of Canada to prevent Chantal Daigle

from having an abortion, gave his version of his events Monday to Judge Jean Longtin.

He testified that on Feb. 7, Lapalisse had come to his north-end apartment, asking for the rent, as she had almost every day that month and the month previous.

When Lapalisse appeared at the door Feb. 7, Tremblay testified, he closed the door when she appeared

to want to put her hands in the doorway.

When he opened the door again, he said, he saw Lapalisse, back turned to him and legs in the air. "I grabbed her to stop her from falling the rest of the way down the stairs," he told the judge.

Tremblay's lawyer, Jean-Paul Perron said Lapalisse had walked into a very dangerous situation

when she climbed up the stairs without her cane — having had a hip operation just a year previous — and kicked the door when there was a small carpet under her feet.

That action alone could have caused her to fall and break her hip, Perron told the judge.

The judge is expected to rule on the case June 27.

Doctors: Côté backs off on controversial changes

By Daniel Sanger

QUEBEC (CP) — Quebec's health minister made what he called a final concession Monday to doctors threatening to strike if the province pushes through reforms to the health care system.

Marc-Yvan Côté said the province would suspend application of the controversial articles of the reform for two years to give the doctors time to propose their own alternative.

But he maintained the reform — which the doctors want scrapped entirely — will still become law by the time the session adjourns for the summer later this month.

"It will be adopted by June 21," Côté said after a drawn-out meeting with doctors' leaders that was labelled by both sides as a "last chance" for an agreement.

But while he maintained that "there wasn't and will not be retreat of any kind," Côté also gave the doctors another week to come up with minor amendments that might make the law more palatable to them.

Spokesmen for the doctors refused to make any comment after the day-long meeting, rushing out of



Marc-Yvan Côté... Put up or shut up.

the National Assembly to discuss Côté's proposal with their executives.

In three recent one-day protests labelled "study sessions," Quebec's 16,000 doctors have walked off the job providing only minimal medical service to protest several articles of the reform they say would put health service in the hands of bureaucrats.

THREATENED STRIKE

Particularly hostile to an article that would compel young doctors to work in ill-served and often far-flung regions of the province, they have threatened a general strike if the reform is not put on ice.

Côté, in turn, has said that if the doctors don't stop their protests the government will pass a special law that would fine them heavily for leaving their posts.

On Monday, he said the special law is still a very real possibility.

Côté also said it's time for the doctors to put up or shut up.

"What's annoying is that since January they haven't put a single point on the table that's allowed us to progress. All they talk about is philosophy but the people in the regions are waiting for more than philosophy," he said, naming several towns that lack general practitioners or specialists.

He added: "They never want to work together to improve these

things, they always want us to scrap them and start again. That's unacceptable this time round."

Giving the doctors two years to solve the problems of the specialist and GP shortage in some regions is a sign of good faith — not backtracking, Côté said.

And he said giving the doctors an extra week for amendments is a sign that the government is determined to make every effort to reach an amicable agreement.

"It's been a living hell (trying to get the reform passed) but I'm prepared to endure another few days of martyrdom," he joked.

USER FEE

He also predicted that the reform — which contains a limited \$5 user fee for people who go to hospital emergency wards for non-urgent treatment — will be accepted by doctors and considered progressive when in place.

"The ferocious opposition we're seeing now is the same sort of ferocious opposition we saw in 1970 (when Quebec was passing the medicare program) — it's the same system they are fighting so determinedly to save now."

Côté also continued his harsh criticism of a sensationalist publicity campaign launched by the doctors that dramatically tells Quebecers bureaucrats will be in charge of saving their lives if the reform is passed.

"It has one sole aim — to scare people," he said.

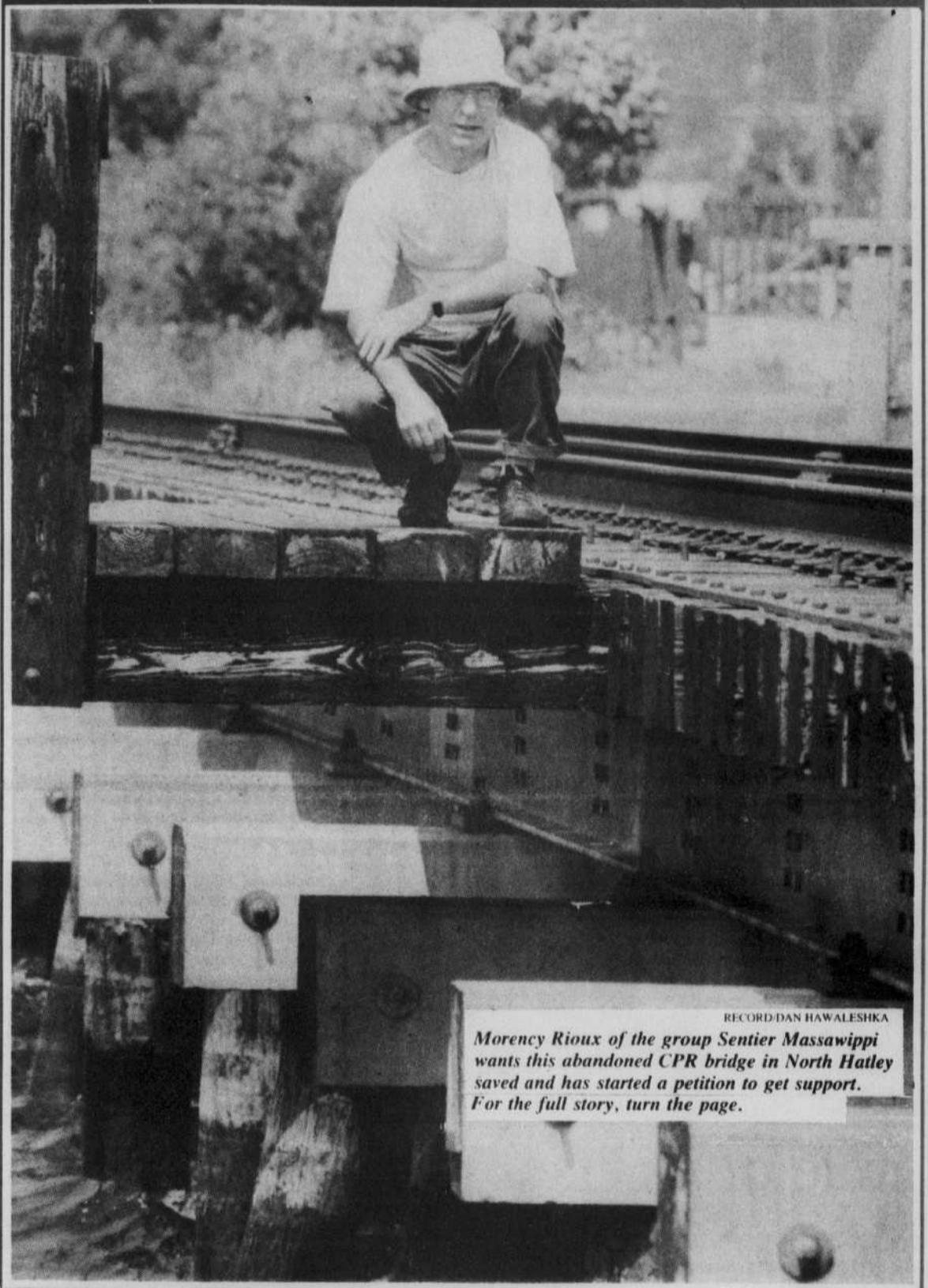
CBC and its French-language arm Radio-Canada have refused to air the campaign's TV ads.

Parti Québécois health critic Guy Chevrette said the party's caucus will meet to discuss the government's plan but said at first glance the plan to delay application of the contentious articles seemed a good one.

Equality party member Gordon Atkinson also had kind words for the plan.

"I'd rather see one unhappy doctor than a community of 5000 without medical service," he said. "But I think the government should go with the carrot and not the stick."

End of the line?



RECORD-DAN HAWALESHKA
Morency Rioux of the group Sentier Massawippi wants this abandoned CPR bridge in North Hatley saved and has started a petition to get support. For the full story, turn the page.

Wrong constitution cited

OTTAWA (CP) — The Canadian Press reported Sunday that the federal Liberal party has postponed a constitutional reform convention until Feb. 20-23. The story gave the impression that the convention would discuss the Constitution of Canada when, in fact, the party will discuss its own constitution.

Rambo? Bail set high for 'mercenary'

By Laura Eggertson

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (CP) — A Canadian soldier who led Maryland police on a 41-hour manhunt was granted \$350,000 US bail Monday — but the amount means it's unlikely he's going anywhere, police said.

Handcuffed, bearded and dressed in a green prison smock, 21-year-old Eric Schumacher appeared for a bail hearing on closed circuit television from the county jail where he's being held in this port city east of Washington, D.C.

Schumacher, who scowled or kept his eyes downcast for most of the hearing, spoke only to confirm his identity for Judge Donald Lowman.

The small, normally obscure hearing room was host to half a dozen reporters and cameramen in what Schumacher's lawyer described as a "media circus."

Timothy Murnane, a public defender, suggested the attention was unwarranted and called some of the charges against his client ridiculous.

"I certainly don't see someone who our colleagues in the fourth estate would suggest is a Rambo psychopath," he said.

During the search through dense underbrush and swamp by police using heat-seeking helicopters, video cameras, bloodhounds and attack dogs, officers described Schumacher as a man with "mercenary tendencies."

ON 'SPREE'

But Murnane argued that activities during a "10-day to two-week spree" were uncharacteristic of a "young boy" with no prior record. "To me, it just doesn't make any sense," Murnane said.

The soldier is charged with a variety of offences, including the attempted murder of two state troopers after a roadside shootout last week. Neither was hurt, thanks in part to trooper Kim Bowman's handcuff case, which took a bullet.

Despite a request from state attorney William Kateef to hold Schumacher without bail, Lowman said he was granting Schumacher bail as guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

But the business-like judge called the amount substantial, and lawyers said Schumacher's parents, Hilda and Gerhard, would have to put up the entire sum or persuade a bail bondsman to post 10 per cent.

"Anybody in their right mind wouldn't post for him — he is AWOL (absent without leave)," said Maryland trooper Kevin Lambert.

Schumacher, from Montreal, and fellow private Donald Roger Nelson, 20, both missing from the Canadian Forces Base in London, Ont., are also wanted in the May 30 shooting of Toronto police Const. Larry Dee.

OFFICER RECOVERS

Dee is recovering from wounds in the hip and cheek after being shot while investigating car break-ins at Toronto's SkyDome stadium.

Nelson, from Surrey, B.C., was to be released from an Annapolis hospital today following surgery to remove a bullet from his knee after he surrendered to Maryland state police on June 7.

The Canadian charges against the pair were the focus of much of the bail hearing, with the state wanting to try the soldiers in Mary-

land and the defence arguing they should be sent home.

"If Mr. Schumacher makes bail, then he will be gone. We will never see him again," said Kateef.

But the judge, saying he did not have a fugitive warrant on which to hold Schumacher, granted the bail — prompting an on-camera smile from the soldier.

A Canadian request for extradi-

tion is working its way through the U.S. system, said Mike Heineman, special assistant to the U.S. attorney in Baltimore.

"The Canadians are certainly serious about wanting these people back," he said.

But so are prosecutors in Anne Arundel County, where the shootout occurred.

"If... they're going to take them

back to Canada, I would protest," said Frank Weathersbee, state's attorney for the county.

"While we've got 'em, we might as well try 'em."

A spokesman for the Canadian Embassy said it could take years to get Schumacher back because the U.S. would "in all probability try him first."

U.S. prosecutors would want to

see the merits of the Ontario attorney general's case before deciding whether to proceed with an extradition hearing, Heineman said.

"My gut feeling is, unofficial but based on half a day of talking to the folks, that we may end up with standing (trial) on the Anne Arundel County charges and then return (Schumacher) to Canada."

"That's a likely result."

No rush to ship these soldiers home

By Calvin Woodward

WASHINGTON (CP) — Eric Schumacher's prediction of a swift return to Canada — "See you soon, dudes" — appeared on shaky ground Monday as officials considered whether to have him face the courts in the United States or Canada first.

Despite an extradition request from Ottawa, U.S. and Canadian authorities said Schumacher would probably be tried in U.S. courts before being returned to Canada to face charges in the shooting of a Toronto policeman.

Schumacher and Donald Nelson, both soldiers missing from a base in London, Ont., are wanted in the wounding of the Toronto officer.

The soldiers were arrested after a shootout Thursday between two Maryland state policemen and two suspects in Anne Arundel County near the port city of Annapolis. Nelson was arrested on Friday and Schumacher on Saturday.

Schumacher was ordered held on \$350,000 US bail Monday while

police awaited Nelson's release from hospital, where doctors removed a bullet from his knee.

The Canadian Embassy in Washington confirmed that Ottawa has asked for Schumacher's extradition, but spokesman Malcolm McKechnie said "the U.S., in all probability, will be prosecuting them first."

Extradition could take a long time, "even years," he said.

A U.S. justice official said many factors were being weighed in deciding whether to support a quick extradition.

"The Canadians are certainly serious about wanting these people back," said Mike Heineman, special assistant to the U.S. attorney in Baltimore, the chief federal prosecutor in Maryland.

CASE ALL SET

But he added: "It would appear now that the Anne Arundel County charges seem to be more defined and rarin' to go."

"My gut feeling is, unofficial but based on half a day of talking to the

folks, that we may end up with standing (trial) on the Anne Arundel county charges and then return (Schumacher) to Canada."

Schumacher has been charged with a variety of U.S. offences, including attempted murder.

That crime carries a potential life sentence, with parole possible in 10 to 15 years, perhaps earlier with good behavior, officials said.

Maryland has not gone as far as some other states and the federal justice system in adopting mandatory sentences, banning parole for certain violent or drug-related crimes and otherwise restricting the discretion of judges, said Abraham Dash, professor of criminal law at the University of Maryland.

He said he believed a quick extradition was possible even as Maryland authorities set up the prosecution.

Given the severity of pending charges in Canada, the overloading of courts in the county and the fact the case is not politically sensitive to prosecutors — some of

whom are elected in the United States — a Canadian trial might make more sense, Dash said.

COSTLY DECISION

"There's no public policy reason why the county would want to take on the expense... of incarceration," he said.

But Frank Weathersbee, the state's attorney for the county, said he'd protest an immediate extradition. "While we've got 'em, we might as well try 'em."

Heineman said an amendment to the Canada-U.S. extradition treaty has made it easier to have prisoners who are convicted in one country tried in the other before starting their initial sentence.

This addresses a leading objection to extradition — the possibility that the second trial will be so far in the future that witnesses' memories will fade, he said.

The U.S. attorney's office was preparing a special arrest warrant aimed at holding Schumacher for possible extradition proceedings in the unlikely event he made bail.