Teacher fired over claims he expressed FLQ support

DAWSON CREEK (CP) — A Dawson Creek high school teacher has been fired as a result of complaints to his school board by some of his students and their parents that he expressed support for the FLQ.

Arthur Norton Olsen, 30, a chemistry teacher, was dismissed Tuesday night after a special meeting by the Peace River South school board.

Rudy Landsfried, chairman of the school board, refused Wednesday to give the reason for Olsen's dismissal, although he admitted the meeting had been called to examine the complaints and obtain Olsen's answers to them.

Don Marshall, Social Credit MLA for the district who attended the meeting as an observer, said none of the alleged breaches of the War Measures Act had been sustained.

In a defence lasting some two hours, Olsen told the school board he had not stated, as some pupils claimed, that it was "too bad there aren't more FLQ types in Western Canada."

George Hartford, principal of the South Peace senior secondary school where Olsen was employed, said the affair began Monday after he and a group of students decided the school should send a telegram of support to the federal government for its action in attempting to curb FLQ terrorism in Quebec.

Olsen, however, decided this was "a little unfair," Hartford said, and subsequently got into a discussion with some of the students.

Hartford said he, personally, could not pinpoint any "flagrant flouting of the law ... indiscretion, maybe, yes."

"The upshot of the whole thing was a meeting of the board," Hartford said. "I can't give any reason for the action of the school board. That's a matter entirely up to them."

Ronald Kimak, secretary-treasurer of the school board, said Olsen's FLQ remarks "may have been a contributing factor" in his dismissal, but were not the only reason.

He said Olsen, who has a degree from the University of British Columbia, did not have a teacher's certificate nor a letter of permission, the temporary accreditation granted teachers without certification.

Terrorism deplored

A letter deploring recent terrorist activities in Quebec has been sent to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau by the Unemployed Citizens Welfare Improvement Council of Vancouver.

In the letter UCWIC condemns the actions of the FLQ in kidnapping British diplomat James Cross and assassinating Quebec Labor Minister Pierre Laporte.

"We do not believe such measures are conducive to redress of problems of national inequality that have been imposed on the French Canadian nation," the letter says.

At the same time UCWIC points out it believes invocation of the War Measures Act was unnecessary and that it can lead to further escalation of strife.

It urges the government to work toward solving the problems of unemployment, poverty and national inequality in Quebec.

The letter states: "Unless these problems are resolved there will continue to be opposition and resistance by the French-Canadian people."

University newspaper censored

HALIFAX (CP) — The Saint Mary's University Journal returned from the printers Wednesday with its editorials censored and an inside page shorn of everything but advertisements.

"We can't distribute the newspaper the way it is — it's an abortion," said news editor Mike Smith.

Smith said the Journal staff had agreed to the censoring of certain parts of the editorial dealing with Quebec but did not expect the other articles to

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