

Queen's rep in Quebec resigns over Nazi past

by Raynald Rouleau

The writer is a correspondent for the French newspaper Nouvelle Solidarité.

On the same day that President Clinton was elected, Queen Elizabeth II's official representative in Quebec, Lt. Gov. Jean-Louis Roux, resigned, in a scandal prompted by his admission that he had worn a swastika and participated in a demonstration, in February 1942, that ended by smashing the windows of shops belonging to businesses with Jewish names in downtown Montreal. This was first published in an interview he gave to the Quebec magazine *L'Actualité*. The scandal erupted at the same time that Britain's Prince Philip was in Canada for a fundraising gala of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.¹

Speaking for Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Sheila Copps, the number-two official in his administration, was put in the awkward position of defending the lieutenant-governor's track record. Copps is the Minister of Heritage, in charge of all royal visits and ceremonies.²

Roux's pedigree

Before his appointment in September 1996 as lieutenant-governor, Roux had been a pillar of what could be called "Quebec's Hollywood." He co-founded Montreal's Theatre du Nouveau Monde in 1951, after having spent four years in France with his friend Jean Gascon, studying theater. Pierre-Elliott Trudeau, the former prime minister of Canada, says in his autobiography that Roux was one of his closest friends. Roux was very close to Parti Québécois founder René Lévesque in the late 1950s, when Lévesque started his political career, with money coming from associates of

1. Canada's World Wildlife Fund took out an ad in the Nov. 5 issue of the *Globe and Mail*, thanking various oligarchs for contributing \$10 million. As *EIR* has reported, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, the co-founder of the World Wildlife Fund International, was a card-carrying member of the Nazi Party, until his wedding with Princess Juliana, and Hitler himself sent a telegram of congratulations to the bride's mother.

2. The last time a member of the royal family came to Canada, it was Prince Charles, on April 23, 1996; Copps, embroiled in a controversy of her own, was booed in the prince's presence. She resigned a few days after his departure, but she ran again for office two months later in the same district, was reelected, and was renamed by Chrétien to the same post.

Maurice Strong, the Canadian oligarch who ran the UN's Earth Summit in Brazil in 1992, and who unofficially runs the World Bank. Today, Roux takes a very public anti-separatist stand.

In his interview, Roux also mentions that he belonged to a secret society headed by a "Jesuit poet." He has not yet said what this was all about, but Canadian sources say that there is much more to the whole story, especially in terms of those who were involved in pro-Nazi activities.

B'nai B'rith's soft reaction

It was a shock to many in Canada, that the B'nai B'rith, which claims to be an organization representing Jews, did not call for Roux's resignation, but just asked for a public apology, and to have a private meeting with him. Ironically, the leaders of Quebec's separatist movement, which B'nai B'rith has accused many times of acting like fascists, were the ones that asked for Roux's immediate resignation.

The B'nai B'rith said they were disappointed that he was resigning, and said that he should have denounced anti-Semitism instead. Eventually, Roux did make a public apology to the veterans of World War II.

As for the B'nai B'rith, their stance is not really surprising. When prominent Jewish groups organized a boycott against Hitler in the 1930s, the B'nai B'rith opposed them, as *EIR* has shown.

Quebec's Premier Lucien Bouchard, who is not too popular these days because of his budget cuts in social programs, used this situation to voice his support for the popular idea of abolishing the position of lieutenant-governor, which he called "this relic from the past." Even today, all legislation passed in the Quebec National Assembly has to be approved and signed by the lieutenant-governor, as the Queen's official representative. If Quebec's National Assembly were to pass a unilateral declaration of independence, technically, it wouldn't be legal until signed by the lieutenant-governor. Roux has stated publicly that he would not sign such a law.

The whole scandal was carefully orchestrated, and synchronized with Prince Philip's visit to Canada. Taken at face value, the affair does appear to tarnish the image of the monarchy, and make the separatists look good. But, as one looks deeper, the apparent dismemberment of the old British colonial structures taking place in Canada since 1989, is not real. It could be compared to the molting of a snake shedding its skin: The snake may appear to be dying, but is merely going through a temporary transition, in order to survive. The new beast that emerges may not exactly look the same, but, in fact, it is.

So, the apparent gain over the monarchy by Quebec separatists may look good, but it is not real. Like Maurice Strong criticizing the UN, or billionaire intelligence operative Jimmy Goldsmith going after the International Monetary Fund, it only reflects the need for the beast to "change its skin," to make it into the 21st century.