

the author himself, most notably a naked shouting match with a former Ontario Premier in the Glendon College gym (oddly, not the one who recently skinny-dipped with CBC comedian Rick Mercer). As a contribution to Canadian political and intellectual history, and as a commentary on public engagement by intellectuals, *The Teeth of Time* is a valuable, and often entertaining, addition to the literature.

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William Tetley, *The October Crisis, 1970: An Insider's View* (Montreal & Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007).

Before opening the book, my initial reaction was, "Not another book on the 1970 October Crisis!" There is a sense that so much has been written on this tragic event and if someone decides to publish a book on this, he has something new to reveal. Unfortunately this book does not bring a new perspective on this event that captured Canadians' attention in 1970. Even the author seems to have anticipated my reaction and those of others since he devoted a portion of his introduction to a justification for the publication of another book on the October Crisis.

I have to confess that I expected a lot from this book since the author was a member of Premier Robert Bourassa's cabinet. At that time, he was Minister of Financial Institutions. Although William Tetley warns his readers that his book is "not a work of history ... it is a commentary on a particular event ..." (XXV), I was disappointed because the book does not contain many new elements that would make this a must read. In the author's defence, I should mention that he refers occasionally to his personal diary. Also, the book is the result of a careful reading of every book, article and official report that has been published on the issue since 1970.

William Tetley's book is divided into twenty-one chapters, including a conclusion, around a series of issues such as the calling out of the army, the invocation of the War Measures Act, the conduct of the federal and provincial governments and the Duchaine report. For those who want to learn anything about how the Provincial Liberal party, the caucus, the Cabinet, the inner circle surrounding Premier Bourassa and the Premier himself experienced these difficult events, the reader will be disappointed. Although the author has included excerpts from a diary that he kept during the Crisis, I wished he would have written more from the perspective of being an elected official and a Cabinet member and revealed more about the states of mind of those who surrounded him, other politicians and the Cabinet. From time to time, Tetley mentioned that he approved the decisions made by Premier Bourassa such as not negotiating with the Front de libération du Québec, calling in the army, or asking the federal government to invoke the War

Measures Act. On the issue of the reading of the Manifesto on television, Tetley wrote that it was a good decision because “the document was not convincing” (37). The use of the War Measures Act was another good decision but there were mistakes made in how it was implemented. According to Tetley, these mistakes were that the State should have been “more careful in the choice of those arrested”. Those who were arrested should have been allowed to see their lawyers and should have been released “more quickly”. As well, the government should have said more to the public (94). Finally, Tetley acknowledged that Cabinet ministers had access to the list of individuals to be arrested. Did Provincial Cabinet Ministers try to remove names from the list? Tetley wrote that “none of use recognized any names” (96).

His comments on the Cabinet are not abundant and only reassure the reader that ministers were not divided and not in a state of panic (134). Concerning Premier Bourassa, he was “calm, fair and human” (41). The author does not say much about his role during the Crisis. Was he asked to advise the Premier? Did he feel that his views of the Crisis were well received by his fellow colleagues at the Cabinet table, those who worked for the Premier’s office and the Premier himself? He did not say much about it.

Throughout the book, Tetley justified the decisions made by governments at various stages of the October crisis. His criticisms are for those who lost what he called their “composure” during the October Crisis. Who were they? The elected members of the Parti Québécois (PQ) in the National Assembly, the PQ leader himself René Lévesque, the editor of *Le Devoir* Claude Ryan, and the intellectuals who signed the petition calling on the Quebec government to negotiate an exchange of Cabinet minister Pierre Laporte and James Cross for political prisoners.

In conclusion, for those who don’t know anything about the October Crisis, Tetley’s book is a good place to start. However, those who are familiar with this tragic event may wish that Tetley would have written more about his experience. Perhaps I should send my review directly to him since he indicated in his introduction that he would welcome any comments on his book by giving his email and professional addresses.

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Andrée Lévesque, translated by Yvonne M. Klein, *Red Travellers: Jeanne Corbin and Her Comrades* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill Queens University Press, 2006).

In the corpus of writing on the Canadian left, there have been few critical scholarly biographies, particularly in comparison to US and British historical writing.