

Pot Smokers will clash with Liberals

By RON CROCKER

The pot-smokers' campaign for the legalization of marijuana won't be getting any support from the next leader of the Liberal Party of New Brunswick.

All five Liberal leadership candidates turned thumbs down on legalization during a hot-seat question and answer session held at UNB Wednesday night. However two of the candidates - John Bryden of Fredericton

and Norbert Theriault of Baie Ste. Anne - thought that control of the drug should be taken from the Criminal Code of Canada and placed under the federal food and drug act.

Bryden, a former deputy justice minister in the Robichaud government, said the law on marijuana as it now reads is "completely out of touch with the feelings of most people" and as a result "that

law and order usually falls into disrepute."

The other three leadership hopefuls - Maurice Harquail of Campbellton, Robert J. Higgins of Saint John and H.H. Williamson of Bathurst - all sought refuge in the argument that not enough research has yet been done into the long-range effects of pot-smoking.

Higgins, forerunner in the leadership race, said he could not go against the conclusion of the Canadian Medical Association and the New Brunswick Medical Association that marijuana is still an "unproven product" with possible harmful effects.

Williamson, a former cabinet minister under Robichaud, said he would not favor legalization in any circumstances and Maurice Harquail said his main concern is that marijuana use may lead to use of more potent drugs.

After brief introductory addresses by the candidates in which all made the conventional appeal for greater political activity by young people, the hot-seat session was turned over to audience questions that ran the gamut from approaches to industrial development to Maritime Union to the merits of the capitalist system.

Jay Baxter, a campus NDP stalwart, asked the candidates to try and resolve the inherent contradiction between capitalism's need to grow - the necessity to build more and more factories to provide more and more jobs - and "ecological sanity," the need to arrest

environmental pollution and ecological decay.

Three candidates - Higgins, Bryden and Harquail - took stabs at the question with Higgins and Bryden emphasizing the need for tighter controls on polluters and Harquail blaming much of the pollution problem on mass media advertising which sells the products that blight the environment.

Neither candidate, however, addressed himself to the fundamental issue of an alternative economic and social system.

Bryden suggested that any new industries establishing in New Brunswick should have the cost of preserving the environment reckoned into the capital cost of setting up here.

There was little real enthusiasm for the long-debated union of the Maritime provinces but Robert Higgins said he thinks union will come as a natural development. He said the dangers of immediate union include the possible isolation of the French community in New Brunswick and the liability of more governmental bureaucracy.

Bryden said union could only serve to remove government even further from the people and "I have seen nothing to show that the best interests of either province would be served."

H.H. Williamson said the union issue should be decided by the people - presumably by referendum - and not by the elected legislators. He said union could possibly have the effect of eliminating competition among the provinces in attracting industry. "But there

are disadvantages. I certainly wouldn't want Nova Scotia's labor troubles in New Brunswick."

Predictably, all candidates supported the motherhood issue of industrial expansion but only Harquail and Bryden elaborated on the kind of industry they would like to attract to the province. Both favored smaller industries (Harquail suggested plastics and electronics) that would cut pollution, enable people to remain in their suburban environments and, in Bryden's words, "help preserve the New Brunswick way of life."

The New Brunswick Liberal policy and leadership convention will be held in Fredericton Oct. 15 and 16. After holding power for a decade under Premier Louis Robichaud, the Liberals lost the provincial election last October to the Progressive Conservative Party under current premier Richard Hatfield.

FLQ keeping terrorist squad busy

MONTREAL (CUPI) - The Front de Libération du Québec (FLQ), in the wake of Québec intellectual Pierre Vallières' disappearance underground, has come forward to claim responsibility for two robberies and a bombing during the past two weeks.

The Combine-1 Anti-Terrorist Squad is presently studying two communiques found Saturday night by Montréal newsmen acting on tips from anonymous telephone calls. The communiques, found in telephone booths, were signed by the FLQ.

The communiques state that the FLQ is responsible for the

credit union robbery in Mascouche, Quebec, last Friday; the bombing of the Canadian Association of Independent Associations on Saturday (September 25); and a bank holdup in Montreal two weeks ago.

The CAIA is an association of labor unions that are not affiliated with the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), or with the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC).

RCMP experts working with the anti-terrorist squad are attempting to determine whether the communiques are similar to those received during last year's October crisis.

EUS to sponsor one hour films at noon

By GORDON JOMINI

UNB - Commencing about the end of October the Engineering Undergraduate Society will sponsor one hour of films in Head Hall Theatre every Tuesday, from 12:30 to 1:30. There will be no admission charge, and all students, not just engineers, are invited to

bring a lunch with them. The general idea is to pass at least one lunch hour in a slightly more pleasant manner than, for instance, waiting in lines at the SUB for a bit to eat.

The films to be played are mainly 15 to 35 minute shorts, to make up a program of one hour.

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