

'UNB is most vicious anti-labour employer in N.B.'

By RICK BASTON

"It's no secret that the University of New Brunswick is the most vicious anti-labour employer that we have found in our 131 locals, in New Brunswick." Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) spokesman Phil Booker said in an interview with The Brunswickan on last Thursday.

Booker explained that the main problem in the current negotiations is the attempt on the part of the university to reclassify a number of positions out of the union.

The origins of the problem began in May of 1970 when CUPE decided to organize a union on the campus. The usual procedure is for the organizing body to apply to the N.B. Labour board for certification that the majority of the employees want to be members of a union. This however was not done at UNB.

Instead, what's known as a voluntary recognition agreement was signed by the union and the university. This is a sort of gentlemen's agreement that recognizes the desire of the employees to belong to a union but it is not certified. It is a weaker form of union as a result.

The contract negotiated at the time was for two years until June of this year at which time the contract would be renegotiated. In June of this year the university wanted to reclassify some of the positions out of the union, which they could do as the union wasn't certified, subject to negotiations on the part of the union.

Booker said that CUPE will fight this as it believes all employees should be under one local and that none should be outside of the local. He stated, "We regard a signed voluntary agreement as the same as a certification under the labour department."

Just how does the university feel

in regard to all of this?

The Brunswickan talked with Vice President, Administration, B. F. Macaulay. He indicated that he was puzzled about Booker's references to reclassification as he said that the university regarded the voluntary recognition as a gentlemen's agreement that could

be renegotiated when an agreement expired.

When asked about the university's feelings on the voluntary recognition agreement, he said, "Everybody, thought two years ago, that this was the best way." In reply to Booker's statement

about UNB being antilabour he said, "As far as the union is concerned we have no thoughts of shutting or cutting out the union on this campus."

At this moment CUPE has applied for conciliation talks with the labour board.

Residence lounges closed by Fire Marshall

By BRUCE BARTLETT

A routine check of the university this summer by the Provincial Fire Marshall's office led to the closure of two lounges in men's residence because they were decorated with barn board.

Instructions issued under the authority of the Fire Prevention Act of 1952 were received by Dean Ward and resulted in the closing of recreation rooms in Harrison and McKenzie Houses. The notification stated that barn board created a fire risk which could not be ignored since the two buildings were basically sleeping quarters.

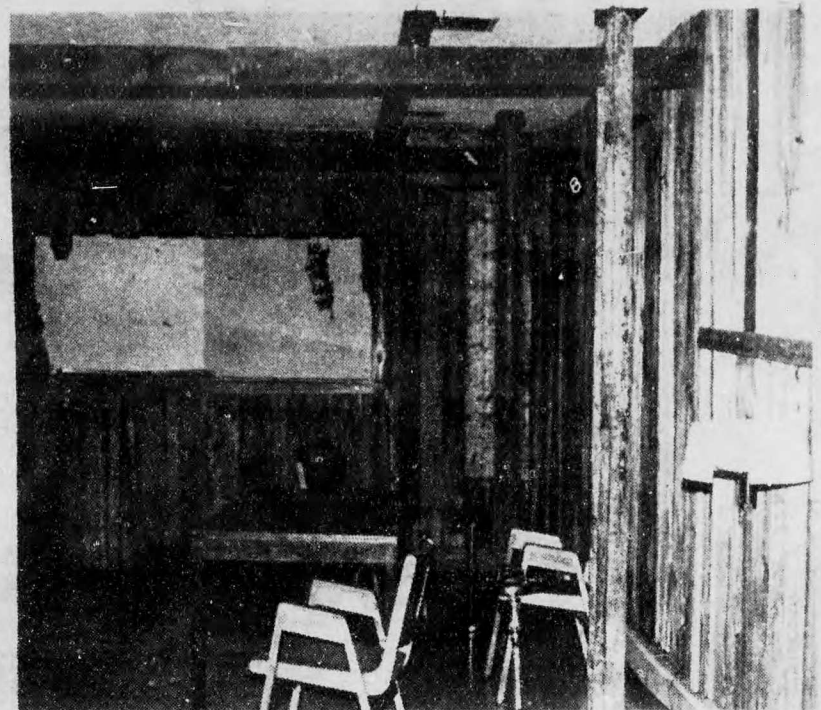
Dean Ward appealed to the Fire Marshall twice on behalf of the residents but was unable to change the decision.

Since that time the men of Harrison have removed their barn board but McKenzie still has some

hope of retaining their's. They had a bit of a problem over the ownership of their barn board last year.

It seems that the wrong barn was torn down. The mistake was discovered by one of the university security men who recognized his old wood stove and his barn boards decorating the lower lounge of McKenzie House. With the aid of a \$400.00 bank loan the two parties reached an out of court settlement.

Taking into consideration everything they have been through the men of McKenzie are understandably reluctant to give up their boards. At present they plan to take them down and store them someplace until the fire risk can be removed. Cost is an important factor but there are two paths open to them: a sprinkler system or some type of fireproofing process for the wood. Considering their past ingenuity they are likely to come up with something.



Some of the residence lounges were shut down by the Fire Marshall this summer because of the barn board they used to decorate the walls. Apparently it was a fire hazard. Above is the lounge at MacKenzie House.

African Student Union is active

By LORETTA MACLEAN

Students of African origin on the UNB campus are invited to join an association which promotes their interests. This association is called the African Student Union. President of the ASU is Mr. John Msolanda. Others on the executive are vice-president Afam Ogbechis and secretary Kehinde Odgbesan.

The purpose of this union is to bring the students of African origin together on a social basis and to convey any problem they might encounter on campus. It also

promotes African relations with various other students.

Presently the Union numbers 30 students in it's membership.

Among the activities planned for the Fall is an African night where their many talents may be seen through native dances and songs.

Another interesting event planned by the ASU is an international night where students from all nationalities participate.

Students of non-African origin are also invited to join the Union as associate members.

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