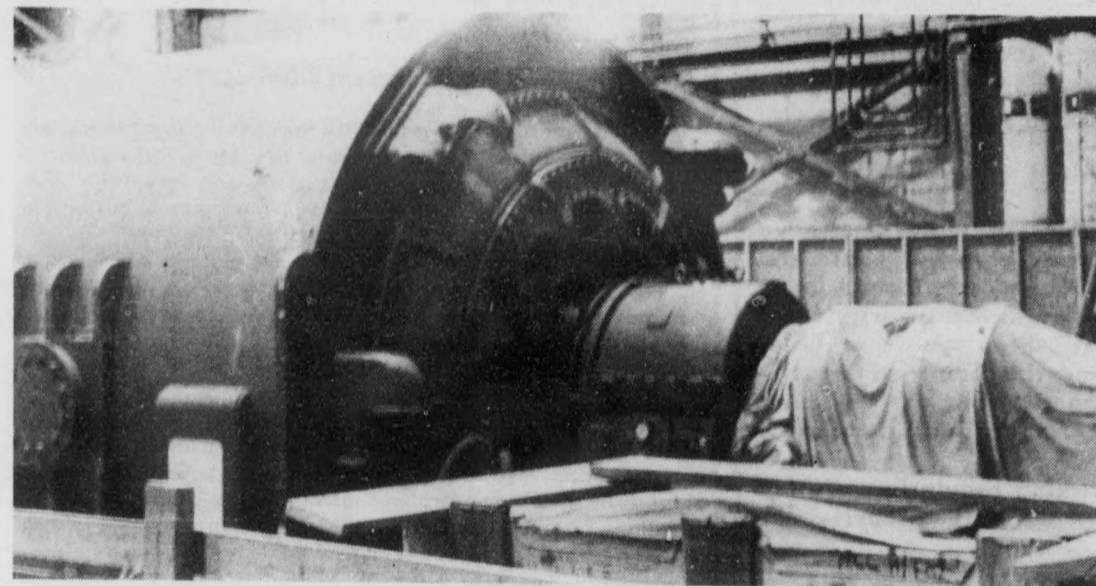
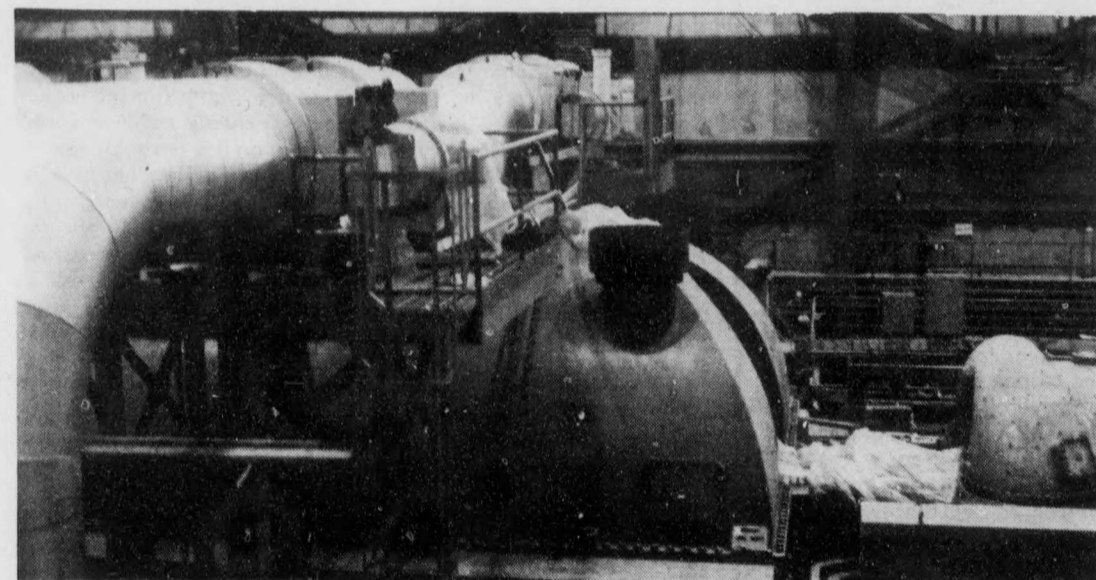


# Nuclear Power in New Brunswick - a History Club Symposium

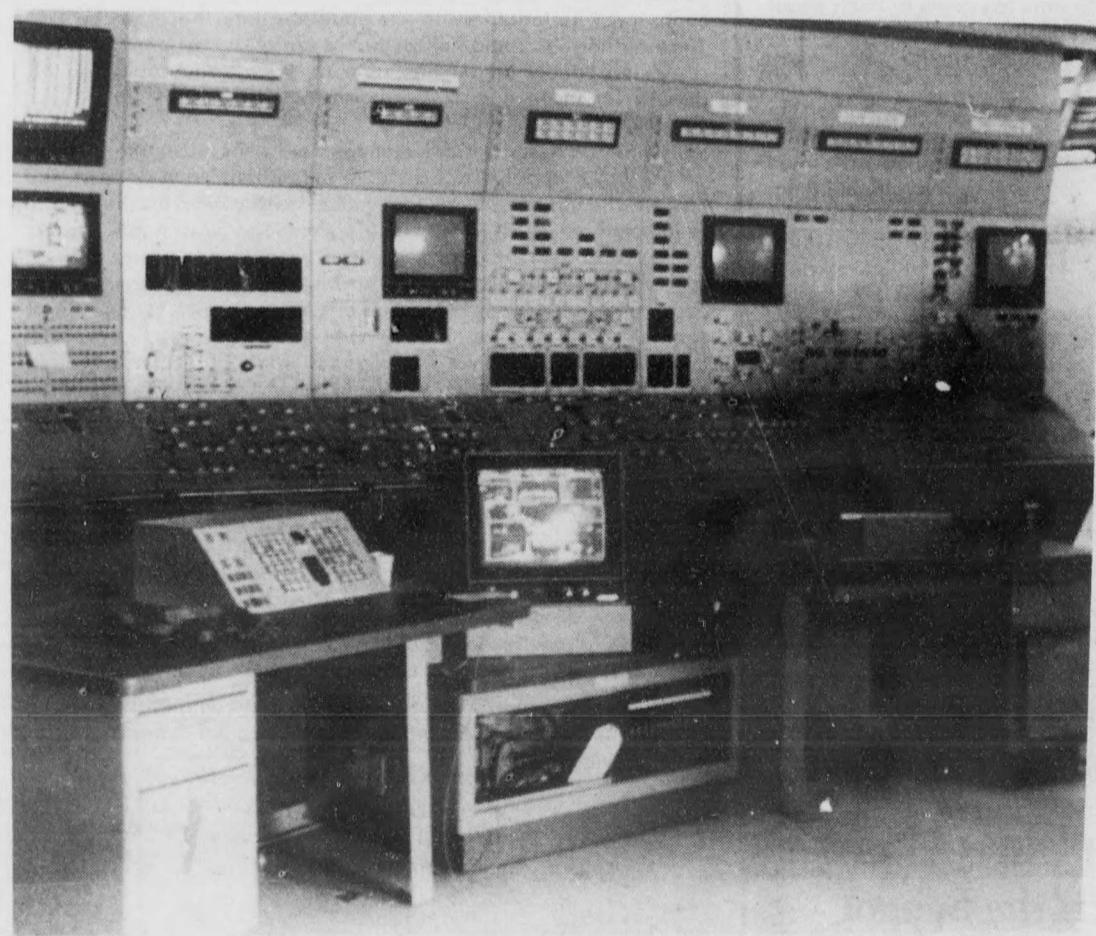
By Mark Estill, John Lockett, and Louis Harvey



The 680 MW generator at Point Lepreau.



A view of the turbine showing steam pipe inlets.



The main control room at Lepreau.

Two weeks ago 15 members of the UNB History Club travelled to St. Andrew's to discuss nuclear power in New Brunswick.

The weekend began on Friday night with an informal yet obviously well prepared lecture by Professor Steven Turner of the UNB History Department. Mr. Turner pointed out some of the problems that are involved when making political decisions about a modern technology such as nuclear power. Mr. Turner also provided us with several 'rules' to apply when listening to the experts from both sides of the debate. These 'rules' turned out to be quite helpful and Mr. Turner's talk started people thinking about nuclear power.

The next day we started the debate in earnest by hearing both sides of the nuclear debate present their cases. Representing the pro-nuclear power side of the debate was Dr. Terry Thompson, an employee of the NB Electric Power Commission. Dr. Thompson gave an informative slide presentation outlining the history of nuclear power in Canada as well as explaining some of the workings of the Candu reactor. Both United States and Canada began their research into nuclear power as an outgrowth of the development of the atomic bomb. Dr. Thompson stressed that the American nuclear plant was quite a bit different from the Candu reactor. These differences Dr. Thompson felt would prevent the possibility of a complete "China Syndrome" type meltdown in Canada.

Although Dr. Thompson's talk was interesting it was also rather long and did not deal adequately with the question of why we needed nuclear power to supply our future energy needs. Many participants at the workshop were very disappointed that Dr. Thompson did not allow time in his talk for the audience to ask questions.

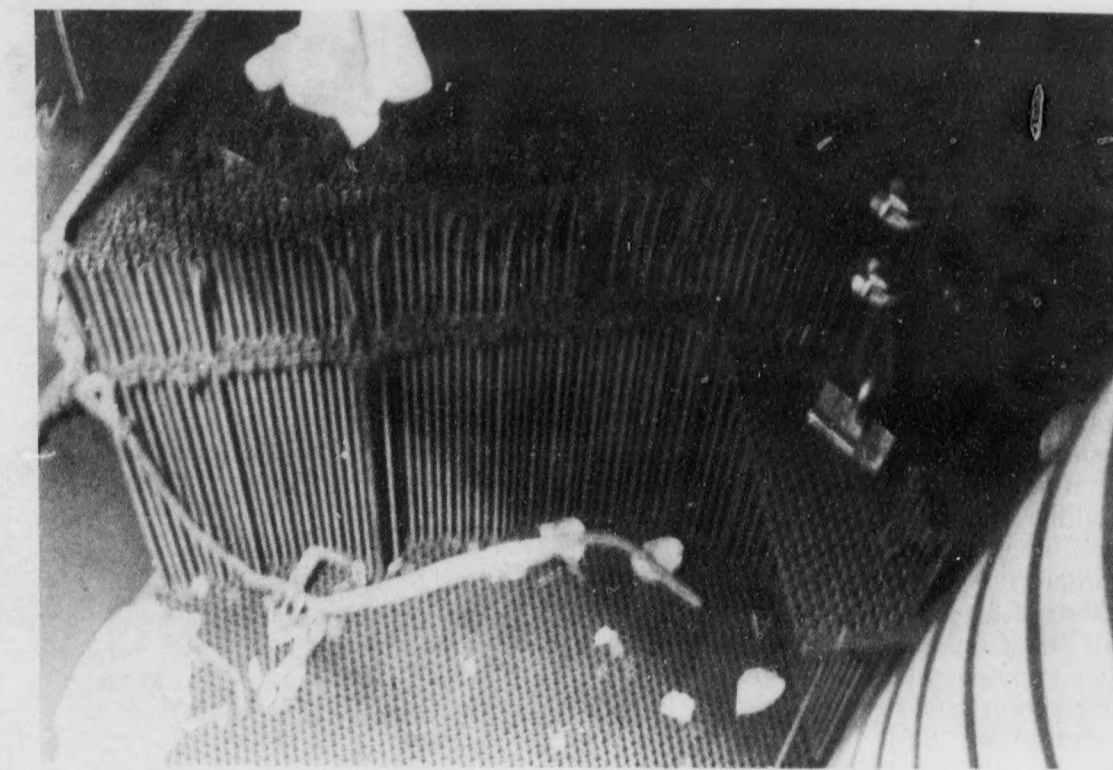
The next speaker was Mr. Joe Bongiovani of the Maritime Energy Coalition. Mr. Bongiovani seemed more comfortable with a question and answer type format.

Mr. Bongiovani pointed out several things he felt had been neglected by the Power Commission when they decided upon the Point Lepreau nuclear plant. Mr. Bongiovani pointed out that a study carried out by Scanda Consultants Ltd. had found that an investment in NB of \$230 million on insulation would save 60 per cent of the output of Lepreau (Point Lepreau will cost 1 billion).

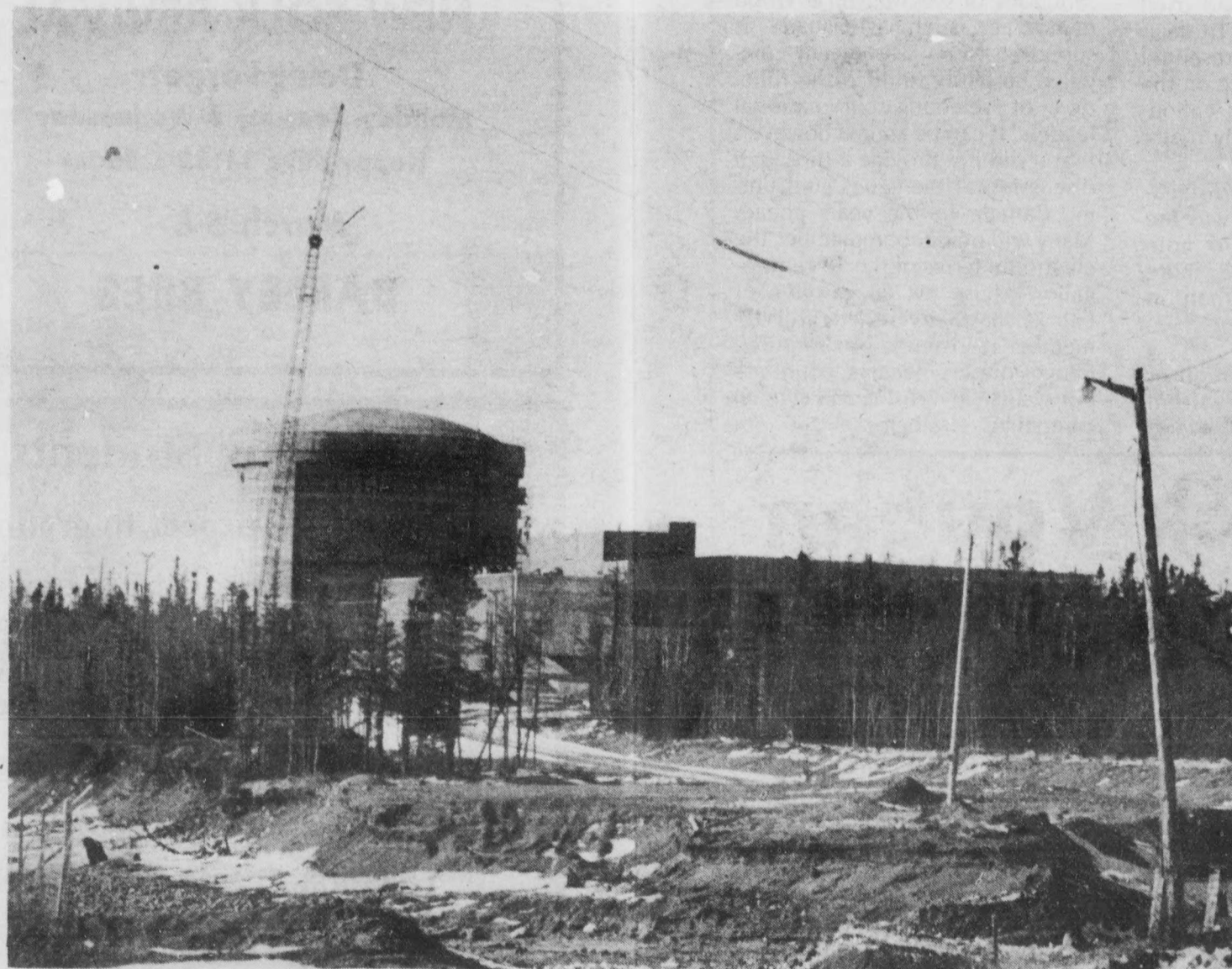
Mr. Bongiovani also branded the conservation measures of the NB Power Commission as "talk." He thought it was ironic that the Commission would enclose pamphlets urging people to conserve energy while at the same time encouraging people to use energy by giving lower rates to high energy users.

Mr. Bongiovani also pointed out the failure of the Commission to heed their own study on possible Hydro power in the province and instead opting for the more costly and dangerous nuclear power. He felt that because of NB Power overestimates of New Brunswick power needs most of the power generated by Point Lepreau will be sold to the United States. Dr. Thompson grudgingly agreed that the NB power estimates were high while chatting at lunch. Dr. Thompson also said that he expected some opposition from Mr. Bongiovani and the Maritime Energy Coalition when the power from Lepreau was ready to be sold to the United States.

The next day we had an extensive tour of Point Lepreau (see pictures). At lunch we decided on several resolutions. These resolutions have been given to Premier Hatfield.



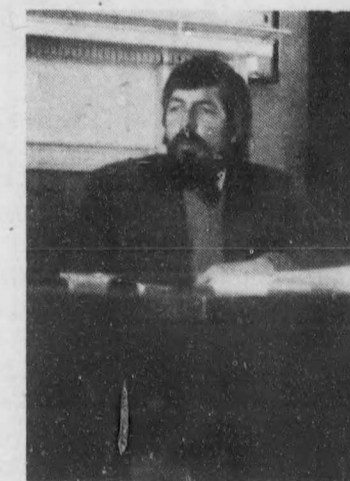
One of the steam generators (boilers) which was defective at Lepreau. The defects will cost 15 million dollars to repair and put the project 6 months behind schedule. Babcock and Wilson, the company which built the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in the United States, built and are repairing the boilers.



The Point Lepreau Generating Station



Dr. Terry Thompson  
'Candu is safe'



Joe Bongiovani  
'Who needs it?'

## Adopted Resolutions

Resolved that in light of the existing uncertainties regarding the safety of nuclear power

-that Canada impose an immediate moratorium on the construction of all future nuclear stations until the year 2010.

-that all reactors now on-line or under construction (including Lepreau) be allowed to go or to continue in operation.

-that research into nuclear power continue

-that future electric energy needs be met by the development of coal-fired plants and by a vigorous programme of economic incentives for conservation and alternate energy sources.

Resolved that because of the excessive concern of New Brunswick power authorities for increasing the supply of electric power rather than for adjusting the demand for it.

-that the Government of New Brunswick establish a Ministry of Energy through which the NB Electric Power Commission should report.