

# Editorial

PARTICIPATION and DEVELOPMENT, the report of the Task Force on Social Development represents a substantial effort by a group of dedicated citizens to bring some of the problems, attitudes and values existing in New Brunswick out into the open. From our point of view, they did succeed, though in a somewhat round-about and ambiguous fashion. Specifically, the report itself is not a hard hitting report, considering the magnitude and duration of the problems enunciated. Writing style and general layout contributed to this. Excessive verbiage and extensive use of graphs are the main factors in this regard. This tends to confuse the reader and bury important points. Also, the writers are much too exhaustive in their description and analysis. Nothing is left to the imagination. The Task Force, in effect, are laying it all on. It is our impression that had they made their point vigorously and clearly, with only basic explanation and analysis, and pointed a few fingers in the process (which they could no doubt do very legitimately) they would have created an environment for the initiation of a healthy and hopefully public dynamic. Then, and only then, would they have brought out their reserves.

Using this approach, we think they would have made a much greater impact and scored many more points.

In their report, the Task Force make 256 recommendations. This represents the same type of mistake they made in the style of writing (i.e., too comprehensive and too exhaustive). Because of the number of recommendations, the Government is now in the position to pick and choose. If this Government is like the previous administration or like current political administration in other provinces they will tend to act on those recommendations least threatening to the establishment. However, by acting on these recommendations, they can, at the same time provide themselves with a medium for the provision of

tokenism to the poor and disadvantaged. "We are doing something, see!"

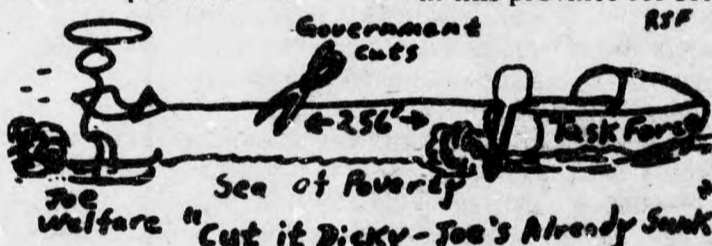
An alternate approach would be to present a limited number of key and inter-related recommendations. The Government would then have to accept and act on these recommendations as a whole or they could refuse to act and accept the political consequences.

Another aspect of the report that interests us has to do with the knowledge basic and statistical data presented. Much of it is already in the hands of politicians and senior officials. Yet action has not yet been taken; - nor have explanations been announced. The task force ignored this. It would seem that examination of this area, i.e., the impeding structure of Government, as a major social problem, would require examination recommendations with regard to this solution.

There are other points, both to the good and the bad, which can be made about the report. One very positive point is that it placed the functioning and effectiveness of various departments of government in juxtaposition. Thus a total overview is provided. However, it is not our intention to go into specifics. The point that we have been trying to make is just this: the compilation and publication of the report have been viewed as an ends rather than a means to an end. (i.e., initiating effective social action and social change.) Social development should and could have become a hot political issue.

The meat was there.

But, alas, it did not. With the exception of the initial coverage, it has hardly created a ripple (other than a local MP's condemnation). This leads us to believe that the Task Force saw preparation and completion of the report as an end, rather than a means to an end. Thus, it has not become an issue, it has become an item "to be studied carefully." The whole process to this point in time is much too passive to argue well for solid advances in social development in this province for some time to come.



## FEEDBACKFEEDBACKFEEDBACKFEEDBACKFEEDBACK

Dear Sir:

As a parent of a UNB student I have an interest in life at UNB and am a frequent reader of your paper.

I wish to reply to the criticism by L. Jon. St. Marc of

the column "Among Ourselves." In the interests of fairness his criticism deserves a reply.

In analyzing his comments I can find only one point: that Mr. Crosby is "printing stark, outright Christian propaganda." Of course, your crime, Mr.

Editor, is a related one: not "upholding the best interests of a secular, impartial publication..." by tacit approval of such material as Mr. Crosby's "Among Ourselves."

Is the critic jumping to conclusions in suggesting that you

Mr. Editor, approve of a column because you print it? By the same line of reasoning I could say that you are a supporter the sensual, hedonistic, and materialistic in the light of some of the poems and ads you have been publishing. Now if Jon St. Marc thinks at all he will have to admit that you, Mr. Editor, cannot support both Christianity and hedonism.

Maybe the critic is missing the point that you are being democratic in allowing various viewpoints to have expression. I am sure that across the years many ideologies, philosophies, and religions have found expression through the columns of "The Brunswickan." Is the partiality on St. Marc's part in wanting to silence Christian expression in particular? What is his cause? What is his bias? The fact is that many have had an attitude toward Christianity like that of the racist toward races. Once I asked an outstanding Atlantic educator (many degreed) whether or not each of us has a prejudice in his view of things. Wisely and rightly he replied, "Each of us has a bias." I submit to you that many, many articles in "The Brunswickan" have had a hidden bias. A writer who ad-

mits his bias is probably not as "dangerous" as one who overlooks his and denies it while he subtly propagates it.

What do you say, Jon St. Marc? I am sure that of all people you believe in fair play. Down with atheism! Down with humanism! Down with mechanistic materialism!

Sincerely,

C.E. Stairs

Dear Sir:

I would like to acknowledge that I have read the letter signed by the name L. JonSt.-Marc. If I am wrong, he can correct me, but as I understand them, here are the issues that he raises:

- 1) The Brunswickan, as an impartial, secular, student newspaper, should not print Christian material, written by Christian students.
- 2) This aforesaid material is "propaganda".
- 3) I am not concerned with the real issues involving people.
- and 4) Love, joy, peace, satisfaction, etc., cannot be found in J. C.

Sir, here is how I see the

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