

Fairweather advocates change in Secrets Act



Photo by Ken De Freitas

R. G. L. Fairweather, PC candidate for Fundy-Royal, spoke out on the changes he believes should be made in the Official Secrets Act in order to make democracy more participative. Mr. Fairweather addressed UNB students at McConnell Hall on Tuesday as part of the residence program to discuss the forthcoming election.

By JOHN BALL
R. G. L. Fairweather believes changes should be made in the Official Secrets Act in order to make democracy more participative.

Speaking at McConnell Hall on Tuesday, the PC candidate for Fundy-Royal, stated there are three areas in which he believes that secrecy in government could be supported. These areas are the security of the state, the privacy of the individual (i.e. Income Tax or Census information), and where citizens or the state have claims against one another.

He said, "Secrecy today has nothing to do with the security of the state but with the security of the government." He went on to suggest that the system used in Sweden may be the best. There, all government reports are kept available for public perusal except those concerning national security.

A second area on which he spoke was that of the constitution. He said it is but paper and ink, allowing for the division of powers unless it is applied.

Fairweather said he was impressed with what Robert Stanfield had written and said about the constitution prior to 1967 and that is why he was drawn to him. He feels that there is a need

for much more flexibility in solving constitutional problems than is presently being applied.

With regard to the government's approach to post-secondary education he said, "You are faced with a government which has no mind about higher education. It should be an area of inquiry for all students, especially in view of the fact that the present system of grants have only been extended to 1974."

During the question period Fairweather was asked if he would extend the openness of government to the political parties as well. He said he would, and stated that there were never any cover-ups in Fundy-Royal.

He replied to questions about the legalization of pot saying he did not favour it. On abortion, he thought the matter was one which should be left to the woman and her doctor. "It has nothing to do with the state," he said.

He also stated that there are areas of the economy in which foreign ownership should be prohibited or diminished, but that he would not like to see policies in this area applied in a piecemeal manner.

On land ownership he said he was more concerned with land use than ownership. He suggested

that in his own riding there are at least 25,000 people with relatives in the United States so the problem of foreign ownership could be very easily gotten around. He feels that more concentration should be placed on the land use problem. Headlands, beaches, parks, etcetera should be protected by government land banks.

"After all the land belongs to those who chose to make Canada their home," he said. "One major problem in this area is that prop-

erty and civil rights are the domain of the provincial governments. Some accommodation would have to be made with the provinces about this", he continued.

On the question of what the Conservative Party had been doing with the research funds made available to it, he said, "The Conservative Party has been developing policies in such areas as foreign affairs and native peoples. We have not resorted to the simplistic overstatements of the

NDP but the policies are there."

Fairweather admitted he was stumped on one question. When asked why students at technical schools were paid and university students were not, he said, "Some people like easy answers but I don't, and I don't have one."

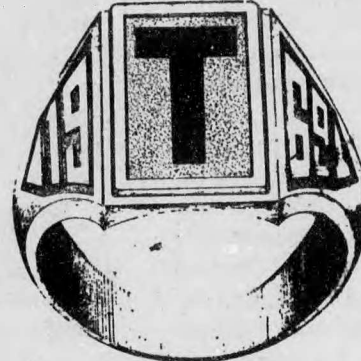
Fairweather was on campus as part of the residence program to discuss the forthcoming election and was accompanied by the York-Sunbury PC candidate, Robert Howie.

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