



Crosbie supports national inquiry

By SARAH ABRAHAM
Brunswickan Staff

Former federal finance minister John Crosbie says he may be prepared to support a national public inquiry into federal financing for post secondary education. Crosbie was reacting to recent plans by the federal government to cut-back funding to the provinces under the Established Programs Financing agreement, currently being renegotiated.

Mr. Crosbie said "there seems to be a lot of dispute about who is paying for what" and "the whole area of job training and education is one that needs to be looked at by some impartial body." "It's an area that could do with an objective study."

Crosbie, the current External Affairs Critic in Ottawa, spoke earlier Wednesday as guest lecturer to a near capacity audience in Tilley 102.

His talk, sponsored by the P.S.S.A., covered a vast array of governmental topics. These ranged from the condition of the economy to Canada's recent stand on the Polish affair.

The views that Crosbie offered were often quite humorous due to the minister's ability to poke gentle fun at the Liberal and N.D.P. "coalition." He condemned the N.D.P. party which he felt had a habit of supporting any Liberal policy at a time of crisis. Crosbie branded Broadbent's party as the "little red rump of the Liberal party."

On a more serious note, Crosbie defined reasons for the economic ills of the nation. He alleged that the high cost of living, falling wages, soaring interest rates and advancing inflation were the results of the "slipshod economic direction" and "self-indulgent economic policies" of the government of the last decade.

While Crosbie admitted that Canada's economic outlook was grim and that no "magic wand" would overcome the situation, he took the Liberal government to task concerning the lack of restraint within the government itself.

The former conservative Finance Minister had harsh



TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE Photo

John Crosbie demonstrates the flight of a Canada Goose. He flapped his wings while criticizing other politicians.

words for Liberal Minister Alan MacEachen's budget calling it, "A budget that he didn't bring down, he brought up." Crosbie stated in no uncertain terms he felt that this budget was an absolute outrage. The minister then quoted some statistics which indicated that in MacEachen's budget, indirect

taxation went up 54 percent, taxes jumped by 32 percent -33 percent and government spending increased by 22 percent.

Turning to foreign affairs, Crosbie referred directly to the country of Poland claiming that Trudeau was a "pusillanimous chicken," in his attitude towards martial law in this country. Crosbie said: "He (Trudeau) doesn't want to annoy or bother the government of Poland or the government of the U.S.S.R. by objecting to their imposing martial law on the people of Poland."

Crosbie pointed out that normally the government of Canada would oppose the trampling of human rights. However if the oppression took place behind the Iron Curtain or in the East Block, Canadian policy became inconsistent. Crosbie accused Herb Grey of being unconcerned about the regional disparities in Canada and felt that all of these new governmental structures merely represented needless bureaucracy.

Bookstore not overcharging

By GORDON LOANE
Brunswickan Staff

The Campus Bookstore is not overcharging students for textbooks or attempting to rip students off. That's essentially the message from Doug McConnell, manager of the Bookstore.

Last week two students, in a letter written to the editor of the Brunswickan, claimed they were overcharged for a textbook sold for a Spanish course. UNB students James Caven and Kim Dromiewicz claimed a textbook that should have cost them \$3.50 was listed and sold by the bookstore for \$12.95.

McConnell says the error occurred at the Bookstore and an administrative mistake was made. McConnell said there are up to three or four incidents a year of this nature. The Bookstore handles many thousands of textbooks a year and it is natural that mistakes can occur. "The procedure, when an error is detected, is to call the instructor of the particular course involved. The instructor then is expected to announce the problem in class

and students can then go to the bookstore for a cash refund". Several refunds have already occurred as a result of this incident, according to McConnell.

This particular incident resulted because the textbook was purchased in Spain. An error occurred in repricing as a result of a miscalculation in foreign exchange, McConnell said.

Purchases from foreign suppliers and small book publishers present particular problems, the bookstore manager said.

The bookstore marks up textbooks by 25 percent of cost as a standard rule, McConnell says. This markup doesn't even cover the cost of overhead for our operation. Other items at the bookstore are marked up to cover costs and this is where the real profits occur. The Bookstore could not operate without other items such as stationary, school supplies, trade publications and the like.

There have been several rumours to the effect that the

Bookstore is not competitive with other retail stores in the city on non-textbook items. McConnell claims prices are competitive at the bookstore but said it is completely impossible to compete price wise on every item he carries.

The bookstore is not experiencing any cutbacks in staff as a result of the university's financial difficulties. The bookstore has a fulltime staff of 17 and is open Monday to Friday to serve students and members of the university community.

The Campus Bookstore operates on a break even basis. A review of UNB's financial audit for the last several years indicates that some years revenues exceed expenditures, while other years the exact reverse is the case. Last year, however, the Campus bookstore operated whereby revenues exceeded expenses by \$56,000. That figure is termed "not excessive" by bookstore manager McConnell who claims the Campus Bookstore now has total sales of 1.5 million dollars a year.

CSL policy explained

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
Brunswickan Staff

A small controversy has arisen about Campus Services Limited since an item appearing in last week's Mugwump column, incorrectly stated the band Streethart would be appearing to replace the Beach Boys at a cost of eight dollars a ticket.

Streethart will be playing at the SUB and is not a replacement. Ticket prices are four dollars and five dollars at the door. The Beach Boys were however, originally slated to appear at the Aitken Centre.

Inquiry by the Brunswickan has brought to light the issue as to what power the president and general manager of CSL have to make decisions without consulting its board of directors.

Kevin Ratcliff, former CSL president, has pointed out certain irregularities in procedures for approving actions to be taken by the CSL. He said a motion was not passed until yesterday to officially bring

Streethart to the SUB. Another irregularity was the motion to officially sanction the sale of the LCD Pen-Watches before Christmas. In the minutes of the December 8 meeting (see Soundoff this issue) a motion was made to sell the novelties, however they were on sale on December 6.

SRC and CSL President Gerard Finnan explained that he and CSL manager Kent Gup-till, in their positions, have the right to allow any expenditure under \$2,500 without asking the board. Such was the case with the pens; Kevin Ratcliff had originally arranged for their sale through the Student Union. It was realized, though, that the Student Union, as a non-profit organization, could not make any money on the sale. It was passed over to CSL at the last minute, and the decision had to be made without the board's consent for a short while. This was quite legal. Another issue was the
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