

Parties complacent towards students

MacKenzie labels Hatfield response tokenism

Government response to a lobby for revision of student financial assistance has been termed "a perfect example of tokenism."

University of New Brunswick student senator Warren McKenzie levelled the criticism Wednesday after he and UNB Students' Representative Council president Peter Galoska received a letter from provincial premier Richard Hatfield pledging to improve the bursary element of the present plan.

McKenzie, Galoska and representatives from the Université de Moncton, St. Thomas University and UNB in Saint John last month approached leaders of the province's Liberal, Conservative and New Democratic parties proposing changes to student aid legislation.

The proposals—aimed primarily at making assistance more accessible to students with low financial resources—requested lowering the loan figure from \$1,100 to \$900. Legislation now entitles students to \$700 in bursary after borrowing the \$1,100. The student politicians said figures

from the provincial loans office indicated a substantial number borrowed just slightly less than this ceiling, thus missing out on the bursary.

Hatfield's letter, dated November 8, said the government, although "conscious of the need to increase student assistance" would aim to improve the bursary element rather than "Raising the loan component." McKenzie said the letter also invited further consultation "but I'll bet it'll be arranged after the election."

McKenzie had said in an interview earlier Wednesday the group had difficulty contacting the party leaders until "we got to the right people. At election time the premier's office practically closes down and you have to go to the 'assistant' level. After that, though, it was a piece of cake."

McKenzie—who professed a Liberal bias as a result of the meetings—said he was impressed by Liberal leader Robert Higgins' concern. "Higgins doesn't want to make promises he can't keep," McKenzie said Higgins did, however, promise to meet within one month to discuss specifics of

their proposals and if elected, to form a student advisory committee with cabinet liaison through a minister.

McKenzie said he was impressed by Higgins' including in the Liberal platform a student aid platform "using even our original wording." The stand was released the day following the meeting.

He contrasted the atmosphere of the meeting with the Conservatives as "formal." McKenzie said the meeting with

health minister Lawrence Garvie, substituting for Hatfield who was stricken with laryngitis, was "stiff and business-like." He suggested Garvie was not used to dealing with students.

The senator said the PC's did address the specifics of the proposal and promised concrete representation in their platform. He says he can't find any such representation "but I'm sure it's in there somewhere."

(continued on page 16)

126 Brunswickan letters vanish

According to officials at the provincial headquarters of both the Liberal and Progressive Conservative parties, 126 letters mailed in October by The Brunswickan have vanished.

The letters requested information on the candidates running in New Brunswick's ridings in the Nov. 18 general election. They were addressed to the riding presidents.

Liberal officials contacted Wednesday said they had no information about the fate of the letters. "I can't explain why they

were not answered," said one, "but we had problems getting a few of our biographies out." The official suggested the letters might have arrived before the release of the party's platform.

The letters, however, included the request they be filed until information was available.

Conservative officials didn't have any answers either. One suggested their disappearance was "unfortunate, but perhaps they were (among) some of those things which get lost in the shuffle."

and representation major issues in Fredericton South

sired. It has a farm looks admirable on been mismanaged ed to the demise to farm. It has not quate assistance to Governments in the sportation. This is ident in the rural transportation is a em. In the area of the government has ver, not a leader. eshaveled the way g drug payment g substitution plans

to reduce the costs of Pharmaceuticals, Dental care programs, and the development of integrated community Health centres.

"With respect to economic development, the Progressive Conservative program finances with taxpayers' money extremely risky ventures like the Bricklin Automobile Company, assuming the major financial risks, while allowing the private owners the right to take over full ownership of the company if it succeeds. If it ends in failure, however, it is New Brunswickers who bear the

greatest burden, standing to lose millions of dollars.

"In bargaining with government employees, the Progressive Conservative Government has stood idly by as inflation rose over 10 per cent, while many workers have had to support their families on as little as \$87.00 a week. The Hatfield government refuses to do anything substantial about these poor wage scales; instead they offer the employees the grand sum of \$125 for the year.

2. "The Liberal Party under Robert Higgins offers only fancy

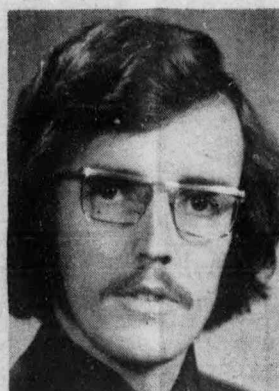
slogans and old cliches to the People. They are not an alternative to the present Government. There is very little difference between the two old-line parties. Neither offers a viable solution to the economic problems in New Brunswick. All that the Liberal Party offers is "sensitivity". Sensitivity is fine, but what about the bread and butter issues?

3. "Dr. Chalmers has been the representative for this riding for a number of years. Since I only moved to Fredericton in 1973 I

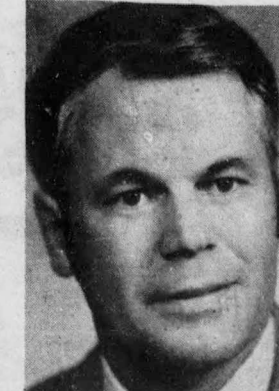
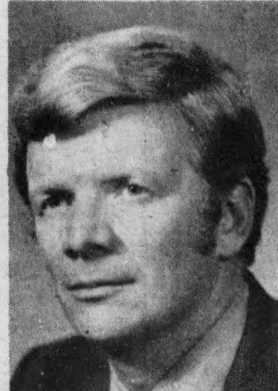
cannot comment upon his performance prior to then. During the time that I have lived and worked in Fredericton, I have heard very little about him or what he has been doing in the Legislature. My criticism of the Conservative Party, therefore, can probably be directed at Dr. Chalmers as well since he, as a member of that Party, supports their policies and believes in their philosophy of government.

4A. "The Major Issues in Fredericton South in this election (continued on page 18)

YORK SOUTH:



YORK NORTH:



UNAVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME

HOWE

NDP—MICHEL GOUDREAU

PC—LESLIE HULL

LIB—ROBERT STRANGE

NDP—JENNY MUNDAY

PC—DAVID BISHOP (INC)

LIB—RON MCGUIGAN

NDP—LINDA HATHEWAY