

N.B. Liberal candidates selling platforms

BY MAURICE GAUTHIER
With only two weeks to go before their provincial leadership convention, the New Brunswick Liberal candidates are in the process of selling themselves and their platforms to their seventeen hundred odd party delegates. The Robichaud-less party, now under the temporary leadership of Andre F. Richard, ex-minister of Highways and Public Works

in the previous government, faces the challenging prospect of electing a new leader for the first time in over a decade. At the time of publication, there are five candidates in the running. Only three of these, however, appear to be in contention. They are Robert Higgins (St. John), Nobert Theriault (Northumberland County) and John Bryden (Fredericton). The remaining

two, Bud Williamson (Bathurst) and Maurice Harquail (Campbellton) apparently lack the party support required in such a venture as running for leader. Robert Higgins seems to have the financial backing and the personal charisma to win the election. His publicity managers, aided by an all-out campaign, have created a youthful and dynamic image of him. Higgins, thirty-seven years old,

is married and has four children. According to the autobiographical data released by his campaigners, he attended Saint Francis Xavier University where he was class president for three years and president of the Student's Council during his senior year. Mr. Higgins also played varsity football and hockey. He graduated in 1956 with a Bachelor of Arts and he studied Law at UNB. In 1968,

served as the first minister of Economic Growth in the Liberal Government and, the following year was appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs. Following the Liberal Government's defeat in late 1970, he was elected by the Liberal Caucus as Opposition Financial Critic. According to Art Doyle, one of Mr. Higgins' campaign

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COPE report details Marler financial fiasco

By JEFF DAVIES

FREDERICTON - COPE, a community project sponsored by the Opportunities for Youth program, has sent a report to the federal government on what it terms the "John Marler fiasco." - a report which they say "exemplifies the way in which decentralization and co-operation would eliminate such fiascos" while also outlining the "very interesting ways in which the bureaucracy in Ottawa deals with employees in the field."

It seems that Marler, a "second year law student at UNB" and a member of "a very respectable Montreal family", this summer masterminded another OFY project, supposedly an ecological forest survey.

"A better idea," the report says, "would have been to have the selection of an organizer for the project right here in New Brunswick" for the simple reason that "people here know Marler's reputation."

According to the COPE report, the first mistake was that Marler was ever permitted to undertake a project.

Briefly, Marler's "ecological survey" consisted of a lucrative enterprise whereby he hired

students to harvest, rather than survey, lumber and pulp. For this they were paid \$1.25 per hour. Marler then sold the lumber of J.D. Irving Ltd. and the St. Anne-Nackawic mill and made a good profit. He wasn't the only one that benefitted from the "fiasco", however. Both his girlfriend and his brother received cheques regularly.

The report explains that it was not until they found out that they were working for an OFY project that they became suspicious, voiced their suspicions to Marler, and were promptly fired.

The students then explained the story to Ottawa, who sent a crew to Fredericton to look into the difficulties. Among the members of this crew was Sheila Zimmerman, who had been the one to loan Marler \$35,000 with which to carry out the project.

"Naturally," says the report, "she was defensive." Regardless, Marler was asked to resign. He apparently had good reason to feel bad about that request - according to the report he had cleared \$8,600 in only six weeks.

What follows is even more interesting, says the report.

Those who pressed Ottawa for an investigation were met with a wall of negatives, even after they appealed directly with State Secretary Gerard Pelletier, who's department is responsible for the summer youth program.

The only alternative was to appeal to the RCMP for an investigation, which they did. Marler didn't back down however. He even enlisted the help of Ottawa in taking legal action, resulting in a situation that the report terms "absurd."

The report concludes by taking Ottawa to task for the "underhanded and dirty smokes-room politics that has obviously been a part of the Marler affair"; all of which could have been avoided through a more decentralized operation.

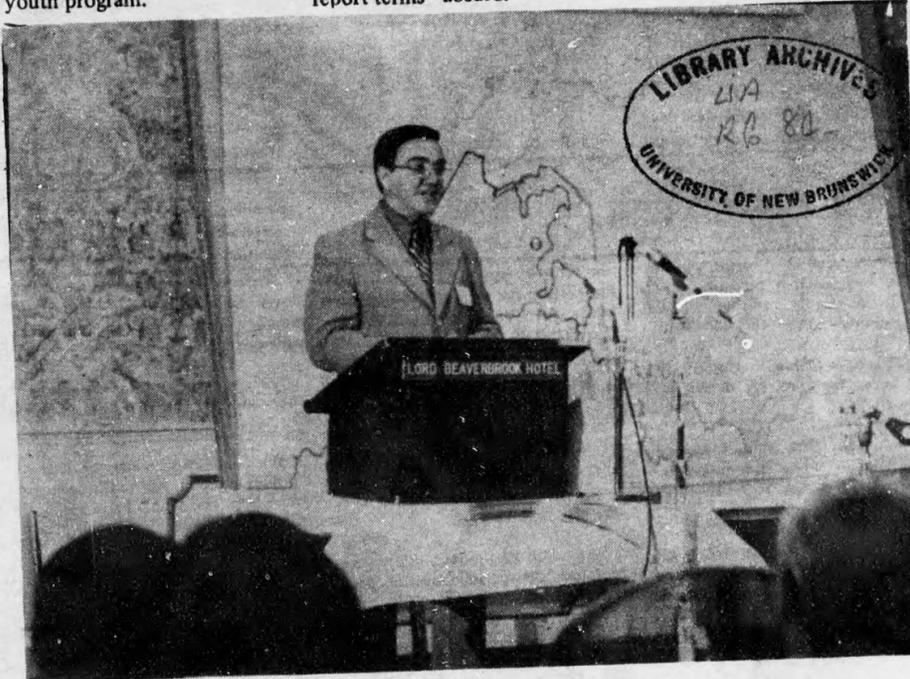


Photo by Phil Sheppard

James Barresi, Executive Director, Northern Maine Regional Planning Commission addressing the NATO symposium on pollution. Mr. Barresi stressed that public participation is necessary in cleaning up the Saint John River Basin. For the story, see page 3.

SRC making plans for UNB housing complex

By TOM CUNNINGHAM

UNB - The Student's Representative Council is presently making plans to begin construction of a student housing complex in Fredericton.

This was the word from SRC President Bob Poore at the council's meeting last Sunday.

Council was shown a press release from the University of Alberta where a similar type of housing project has already been organized and in the process of being built.

Poore, who said that he had been blocked by administration officials in the past who said that it couldn't be done, appeared jubilant as he told the council that he finally had proof to show that it could be done.

Poore added that he hopes to use a similar type of organization here as was used in Alberta. This would save both time and money, he noted, and the UNB project could get underway.

A public meeting of the

housing committee will be held later this week to discuss the developers of the project here.

This meeting is scheduled for October 22.

Council passed the CHSR and BRUNSWICKAN budgets this past week. \$5,819 for the radio station and \$11,352 for the paper.

A conference with at least nine universities in attendance will be held soon here under the auspices of the UNB SRC to discuss the setting up of

the post of Entertainment Union for the Maritime universities.

With this Union, which is paid for jointly by the nine (or whatever number agree to the proposal) the universities will be able to get better entertainment for whatever occasions they have requiring it. (winter carnivals and the like).

The meeting was interrupted and finally halted late in the evening when one of the councillors, Sue Wright, left.

As a result a quorum was lost and the meeting adjourned, even though there was still work to be done.

One of the items that was on the agenda, but as a result will not have to be dealt with this Sunday, was the report of the UNB-STU radio commission.

That report was commissioned by the SRC last year and was undertaken with the help of both the UNB and STU SRCs.