

# Reactionary amendment

by Roger Metcalf

Bloodied but still under their own power the tenure regulations staggered back into Senate's December meeting. At the November 18 meeting Senate approved the consolidated regulations and recommended their approval to the Board of Governors. On December 2 Senate Council recommended that Senate make five amendments to the fifth draft. By December 9 Vice-President MacKay had thought of another five changes that Senate should make.

Leaving aside questions as to why a document that took

three years to prepare had to be changed at the last minute, let us consider the two substantial "eleventh hour" amendments.

The first was a direct reaction to the Dombrowski case. One of the arguments made by professor Dombrowski was that the Board of Governors never saw the grievance committee's report and that Dr. Hicks should not have made a recommendation contrary to that of the Arts and Science Tenure Committee. Therefore, it was proposed that the regulations make it abundantly clear that the Univer-

sity President can make any recommendation he pleases, and that relevant reports should be before the Board of Governors.

It was stressed that these changes merely describe present practice, and were designed to prevent misunderstandings by staff members. However, another motive must be the possibility that the Nova Scotia Supreme Court will decide that the Board of Governors misunderstood, not Professor Dombrowski.

Professor David Braybrooke is Vice-President of the Canadian Association of

University Teachers. He is also one of the three people who drafted the appointment and tenure regulations. On December 9 he revealed that the committee was unable to agree on the "Dombrowski" amendment. He felt that it was reactionary, that it was an unnecessary block to the use of binding arbitration, especially in view of the fact that the new regulations at Dalhousie are behind those at most Canadian universities.

However, Professor Braybrooke argued in vain, and the amendment was approved. Later he was more

successful. This was when Senate debated a proposal by Senate Council that although the first contract of a faculty member is to be for three years, the second be for only two years.

Braybrooke pointed out that the regulations were a delicate balance of many conflicting interests, and that the recommendation would seriously upset this balance (which had been found after more than a year of negotiation.) The President of the Faculty Association, Dr. H. King, spoke

cont'd on pg. 7

## the dalhousie gazette

Volume 107

December 12, 1974

Number 14

# Shaheen: saint or scheister?

by Richard Whitby

John M. Shaheen is fifty-seven years old, and a twenty-five year veteran of the oil business. So states the public relations material released by his organization, Shaheen Natural Resources Company Inc. This is the parent corporation of Nova Scotia Refining which, for two years, has been saying that it is going to build the largest oil refinery in Canada at the Strait of Canso. The project, which has gotten virtually nowhere since November 10, 1972, the day the original agreement was announced, has never-the-less increased in cost from \$233 million to around \$400 million.

Who is John M. Shaheen? Is he a Greek bearing gifts? Is his company as financially sound and competent as they say? And most importantly, will the Canso refinery ever get built? These are the questions now being asked and it is difficult to answer them now, unless one relies on Mr. Shaheen's own P.R. material. They were certainly never asked before. Who would dare question the reputation of an American flashing a lot of money around? Who would argue with the Premier when he produces a goose that seemingly lays golden eggs? Well, I will try to answer some of the questions now. Some of the answers come easily, and some are hard to research about this mysterious oil baron, but one gets the unmistakable idea that the Premier produced a turkey.

Mr. Shaheen runs an organization founded on public relations. Press releases are their bread and butter. The release regarding the Canso project states that he, "has been in the oil business for twenty-five years." It fails to mention some of his other interests, past and present. He has been in the vending machine business, and is attempting, without much success to get the newspaper business in New York City. Of the corporations that were listed in the release, only one has ever been listed on the stock markets in New York, Shaheen's home base. That company, MacMillan Ring-Free Oil, is no longer there, making a financial investigation very difficult. In fact, his operation seems to deliberately attempt to conceal information, or at least make it hard to obtain.

In a story by Mary Perot Nichols, of the VILLAGE VOICE, (a New York weekly) Shaheen is said to have hired detectives to follow two reporters from the WALL STREET JOURNAL, the daily financial newspaper of New York, who were doing an article about him. This is important here, in that the article would have dealt with the financial aspect of his dealings. Another reporter mentioned that he had also been followed around and consequently pressure was applied to his publication and the article never appeared.

The VOICE itself is having problems. After the original article appeared, an advertisement appeared the following week in the form of a press release, completely denying the allegations made and threatening legal action against the paper. This is not the general form of a denial made by someone accused of something in print. Shaheen did not see fit to simply say that the article was



Premier Regan (l.) and John Shaheen at news conference describing the project

wrong in public to reporters, he spent two thousand dollars to take a full page ad to say things the way he wanted to, where no questions could be asked. Another piece that the paper planned to print with more information concerning the mysterious Mr. S, has been stopped prior to publication. The normal course in an event such as this would be that if a newspaper printed libelous material, an honest man, knowing only the truth, would be completely surprised by such a move. Mr. Shaheen knows what is in that article because he is either spying or it is the truth. (Interestingly enough, though this is by no means an accusation, the copy of the VOICE containing the original article, was removed from the Killam Library shortly after its reception, being the only issue missing at least as far back as July.)

Enough for his background, let us look at Mr. Shaheen's connections. Before becoming president of the United States, Richard Nixon was a member of a law firm, along with John Mitchell among whose clients were International Telephone and Telegraph and Shaheen Natural Resources. Guilt by association is of course, not sufficient grounds to condemn anyone, but one cannot help but wonder in light of some of the other things that have been revealed. During Nixon's presidency, it is known that Shaheen provided his home in Southampton, a very influential town on Long Island in New York, for him on his visits to that state. This seems to indicate that they are good friends, and one cannot help but be reminded of some of Nixon's other good friends like Bebe Rebozo and Robert Vesco. Rebozo is under indictment and Vesco has been indicted for stock fraud and has fled the U.S. to a Caribbean island where he is safe from extradition. (Another interesting aside is that at the time that the Canso project was announced, S.N.R.'s cable-radio code was Usinvesco, the last five letters being important.)

Nobody needs to be reminded that Shaheen is behind Come-by-Chance in Newfoundland. But what might be important to note is that when he set up the visit of the QE 11 to it, it had a number of American politicians aboard, most notably, James Buckley. It seems that Shaheen is in the business of cultivating influential friends, Mr. Regan. Maybe someone should ask Joey

Smallwood about this.

Getting back to the P.R. release, it states that Mr. Shaheen was a captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve. It does not mention the rest of his service record, which reveals that he was in the OSS, the U.S. military equivalent of the CIA. If you read ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN, you can see some of the other alumni of this type of service in action. It also neglects to mention what the USIA is, though it does mention that he is a commissioner of it. USIA stands for United States Information Agency, the public relations branch of the U.S. government overseas, or more accurately, its propaganda office. Their most notable function is to run Radio Free Europe. It seems that he has had quite an education.

Mr. Shaheen has had the enviable appointment as special U.S. Ambassador to Columbia, at least it is supposed to sound enviable. It is, only in the sense that it means that one knows some high placed people in the U.S. government. Ambassadorships and in fact, all titles with little power in the U.S. are appointed as repayment for political favors. It is a well known fact in the States, but us dumb Canadians aren't supposed to know that, and be impressed.

The financial setup of Nova Scotia Refining is indeed sound, if you agree that sound means to insulate yourself if the company folds. It is owned by SNR, but SNR is not responsible for anything other than its own investment. Should NSR go bankrupt and owe money, that money can be paid back only as far as NSR's assets last, NOT SNR's. Theoretically then, through various maneuverings, SNR can legally have NSR declared insolvent, take the money and run, and leave the Nova Scotia government stuck holding the bag to the tune of \$200 million. This is simply conjecture, but it would be interesting to see what someone more qualified would say regarding this. The setup is the same used at Come-by-Chance and no one has taken a huge loss there, yet.

How does all of this affect Nova Scotia? Well to start, the Nova Scotia government is financing the project through mortgage and import agreements with the British government. This means that we guarantee to purchase goods and services from them, goods and services that might otherwise be purchased here. You may have noticed that recently a newspaper article appeared in Halifax stating that the price of the project had gone up to \$400 million. Alongside that piece, there appeared another one stating that drilling along the coast of Nova Scotia for oil had temporarily been suspended, adding that little had been found. Is this just coincidence? Let us see if drilling is ever resumed. Let us also note that Newfoundland is another potential source of crude oil. Since Nova Scotia has found little oil it seems that it is becoming harder and harder to build a refinery here. Labor problems, major redesigning, it causes one to wonder if the project was ever designed to accept Arabian oil, and if it will ever be built. Enough has been said about the jobs created and the advantages, but are we giving too much away to get too little?