Crisis or opportunity . . .

(McGill Daily)

The interim report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism has made a timely appearance. The report, which was unanimous, has a simple theme. The problem is vital, and radical changes will be needed to sovle it. Given such changes, a solution is not impossible.

The report is timely, because we have entered upon a period of relative optimism about The Canadian Question, and optimism shows signs of degenerating into complacency. Earlier this week the Minister of Justice stated that separatism was on the wane. Possibly it is, but let us be cautious in our optimism. Complacency can be as destructive as despair.

Undoubtedly the situation is better than it was two years ago. The new tax-sharing agreements with the provinces, the acceptance of a procedure for amending the constitution, the opting-out formula which will go before parliament in the present session, the Royal Commission itself — all these achievements have given cause to believe in the ultimate viability of the Canadian experiment. In effect, the pressure is off.

It would be tragic, as the Commission report suggests, if these real but modest gains became a pretext for relaxing our efforts. Their significance is that they provide us with a breathing space in which we can asses what needs to be done and how to do it. This opportunity, if now lost, will not recur.

We have only begun to tackle the basic problems. The articulate elements in the French-Canadian commmunity are divided on the question of whether the aspirations of their society can be realized within the framework of Canadian federalism, but they do not doubt the vital and primary importance of those aspirations. Those French-Canadians who say that they can be furthered in cooperation with English Canada must explain to their compatriots as best they can the shocking position of French-Canadian minorities in the other nine provinces. They must explain why the elementary courtesy of bilingual street signs can still be a source of bitter controversy in the "national" capial city of Ottawa. They must explain why a party which seems to have won a plurality of English-speaking votes even in 1963 can be led by a man as grotesquely insensitive to French-Canadian aspirations as John Diefenbaker.

English Canada itself must do some explaining, and some hard thinking. We must create a federal structure flexible enough that it can allow Quebec to carry out its own transformation, while at the same time leaving the federal government enough authority to direct the national economy through fiscal and monetary policy, to build up the poorer provinces and regions by drawing on the resources of the richer, and to provide the other services which can come from nowhere else. A structure, moreover, within which both of the Canadian peoples can enjoy the same fundamental rights as groups and as individuals, regardless of which province they happen to live in. It will be, if it is to be at all, a federal structure unlike any in the world.

It will not be easy, but then Canada has never been easy. It was created against ridiculous odds, and has had to struggle for its existence in every generation. The crisis of this generation is the most serious of all, but it may also be the greatest opportunity. We will "nobly save, or meanly lose" the chance to create a bicultural community, an experiment that may benefit the whole world.

Let us begin.

DAN SCANS

Our S.R.C. has assumed a new and revitalized appearance. They have a Public Relations Director, a Cabinet (which I hope they will use), a Speaker whom I hope they will not misuse, and an Executive Secretary I'm certain they do use. All that remains is to mold and temper the Council into a unit that is worthy of all the trappings.

The S.R.C. must not assume the knowing role of a wise grandfather, because it simply does not fit. However, this is not to try to say that it must assume the personality of a wildcat oil driller. My advice to President Carty is not to lead his council solely by instinct, but to read past minutes and talk with as many of the older (graduate), students in order to avoid pitfalls which often recurr. Let us hope that no future council will ever venture so blindly into entertainments as did last year's S.R.S.

Many council members this year, as in other years are new on the S.R.C. President Carty must spot those who lack confidence and encourage them to speak their minds,, and yet be sure their minds do not become cluttered with trivialities.

To those serving on the S.R.C., be warned that it is an inglorious job, and that your reward will be ridicule in the **Brunswickan**, and the label of "wheel" from your classmates.

U.N.B. is growing (to use a worn out phrase) and with that growth comes the added responsibility of it's student government to move away from solely campus affairs. The cries of student apathy we heard this year were nothing of the sort. This campus is not suffering from apathy, but from growing pains.

The students, by virtue of increasing numbers are moving away from matters of purely campus interest and the S.R.C. must recognize and represent these interests.

These are recommendations made over four years of candid observation of campus student affairs. To those who agree, I thank you. To those who disagree, I respect you. To those who are indifferent, I pity you, for it is not an indifferent world you are about to enter.

LETTERS

ROD AND GUN STRIKES BACK

Editor:

Mr. Pierce is to be congratulated on his highly active imagination when he refers to a financial scandal concerning the Rod & Gun Club in last issue's "Full Time Secretary".

Having more than a passing interest in the club's affairs, I find it strange that no mention of the so-called "scandal" had reached my ears. It would be interesting to learn what he is referring to and his source of exclusive information.

I urge Mr. Pierce to make more effective use of the grey matter presumably at his disposal, before making any further vague allegations of this type.

Conrad Leroux
President
UNB Rod and Gun Club

FATHER OF TOMORROW

Editor:

As a past student of Teacher's College Secondary Course, a teacher of two years experience, and a present third year Arts student at this University, I should like to make a reply to "Opinion" in last week's **Brunswickan.**

I agree completely that many people go to T.C. because they can do nothing else. Having been at T.C. I, too say, you look at some of these students and wonder, "These are the teachers of tomorrow? (Girls not alone in this category).

However, we have some excellent teachers in New Brunswick and, hence, have had some excellent students at T.C. The statement that the universities take the tops of the graduating classes and leave the rest for T.C. is wrong, absolutely wrong. In our two-year course, few of the people were below 75% in their departmental examinations. Many of these students were not only from the tops of graduating classes — they were the leaders.

Why were they at T.C.? A Financial problem — a very serious problem. "Dad's money" does not necessarily make a top-notch university student. (UNB has its examples). No matter how much education these people had, they would never make good teachers. Roam the UNB campus this year and see how many students are teachers on "leaves of absence" continuing their studies. The number is amazing, and these people after earning the money to do so are some of the best students a university could have. So, one cannot generalize about T.C. the way the writer of the "Opinion" has.

By the way, what was Mr. Stanley doing at the K.P. Hall to be able to chuckle at these silly T.C. girls? If they are the teachers of tomorrow about to teach the children of N. B., then, he is one of the fathers of tomorrow. Consider.

Juanita McQuade

SCOUTS' REPORT : "YESSIR, CAPN PEARSON, SIR, THEY'RE OUT THERE.

WHY WAIIT FOR SPRING?

Editor:

Now that the new SRC have

(Continued on Page 8)

Brunswickan

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ..... Rod Mills
BUSINESS MANAGER ..... Bill Freeland
LAYOUTS EDITOR ..... Donn Atchison
NEWS CO-EDITORS ..... Bob Burrows
Doug Stanley
SPORTS EDITOR ..... Bill Redden
CARTOONS EDITOR ..... Charlie Chaisson
INVALUABLE ASSISTANTS ..... Others

Established in 1867, the Brunswickan is published weekly for the students of the University of New Brunswick at Fredericton, N. B. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Students' Representative Council. Subscriptions are available to non-students at $3.00 a year. Authorized as second class matter, Post Office Department, Ottawa, and paid for in cash. The office of the Brunswickan is located in the Students' Center, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N. B. Telephone: 475-5191. The Brunswickan is printed by Capital Free Press, Fredericton, New Brunswick.