

## McCain's

Continued from page 21

Jack Brooks said McCain's at one time concentrated on acquiring farms but now has turned its attention to "economically controlling the fate of the producers," although McCain insists that this is not the case.

Most of the farmers who deal with McCain's do so by means of contracts. They sign a contract with McCain's to supply them with a given amount of produce, chiefly potatoes, during a season. If they cannot fill the requirements, McCain's buys the remainder on the open market and the farmer pays any increase per barrel that the company might incur.

Last year, according to Brooks, when the farmers were unable to fill their contracts, McCain's bought the remainder in Maine at a price of from \$5.00 to \$5.25 per barrel. "The top price they pay New Brunswick farmers is about \$3.50," added Brooks, himself a potato farmer.

Brooks, as well as others in the NFU, claim that McCain's has attempted in some cases to have farmers agree to buy fertilizer or machinery from McCain affiliates before they would do business with them. Wallace McCain asserts that this is not the case.

Brooks also said that when farmers fall into debt, they arrange to buy equipment from McCain's. He suggested that it was therefore in the interests of McCain's for the farmers to remain in the whole. McCain disclaimed the allegation that his company was working to keep farmers in debt and added that in fact they could save 25 percent by buying potato harvesters from Thomas equipment the McCain affiliate.

Bankers, said Brooks, tend to recognize a potato contract with McCain's as good collateral, irrespective of the fact that the farmer may be losing money on it. This, he added, helps them "get a little farther in the bloody hole."

He said that the "only recourse" for the farmers as a means of protecting themselves was collective bargaining; they must bargain with McCain's or any other processing company as a unit, not as individuals. Collective bargaining, along with promoting the family farm and fighting agribusiness, are two areas of prime concern to the NFU.

Brooks said, however, that producers tended to be reluctant to partake of collective bargaining with the processor because they feared the processor's disfavor.

However, to a considerable degree, as with so many areas of the Canadian economy, the prices New Brunswick farmers receive for their goods are determined in the U.S.A., regardless of how they go about bargaining with the processor.

There are, of course, alternatives to dealing with McCain's. Farmers can sell on the fresh market, and prices this year are better than they have been in some time.



They can also sell to processors other than McCain's, although the costs of transportation might make this unfeasible.

There's no doubt that the McCain's have constructed a formidable empire. The subsidiaries of McCain Foods Ltd. include Carleton Cold Storage Ltd. of Florenceville, Day and Ross Ltd. (movers), McCain Australia Pty. Ltd., McCain International Ltd., and Valley Farms Ltd. The affiliates are Thomas Equipment Ltd., McCain Fertilizers Ltd., and McCain Produce Co. Ltd. The four brothers all hold positions with several of the family companies, but Harrison and Andrew have other offices as well. Harrison is a director of the Bank of Nova Scotia, the N.B. Development Corporation, and the Canada Development Corporation. Andrew is a member of the executive committee and director of the New Brunswick Telephone Co., and the president of Maritime and Gulf Stevedores Ltd. and Maritime Stevedores Ltd.

The National Farmers Union believes

there may be a link between the McCain empire and the Irving empire, and has been searching unsuccessfully for concrete evidence in this direction. Harrison McCain was at one time Irving Oil sales manager for the Maritime Provinces, and Wallace is a former general manager of an Irving-owned hardware operation, Thorne's Hardware. Jack Brooks quoted McCain employees as saying that when there was a work stoppage because of lack of fuel, operations would remain at a standstill until Irving fuel was available.

The McCain's also are very much involved with the community. According to the NFU report, they "contribute heavily to high school yearbooks, sponsor parades, are involved with the Rotary Club, Lions Club, the Legion. They even started the Florenceville Air Cadets. Wallace McCain sits on the school board. . ."

The McCain empire continues to grow.

## U.S. official says oil cleanup useless

The following item appeared in the daily press this week. Reassuring, isn't it?

WASHINGTON (CP) - The furor that surrounded the grounding of the tanker Arrow of Nova Scotia in 1970 was "essentially a public relations exercise," a spokesman for a group of tanker owners said Tuesday.

J. Wardley Smith of the International Tank Owners Pollution Federation Ltd. also said in an interview that the large-scale cleanup operation that followed the grounding probably was unnecessary and may have been dictated solely by regional pressures.

Smith is attending a conference here on the prevention and control of oil spills. In a speech to the meeting earlier in the day, he said newspapers had exaggerated the threat of oil pollution to the marine environment.

In the interview, Smith said he thought much attention was

directed toward the Arrow cleanup because the federal government in Ottawa wanted to prove its concern for problems in the Maritime provinces.

The tanker Arrow went aground in Chedabucto Bay, N.S. Feb. 12, 1970. It was carrying about 60,000 tons of Bunker C fuel oil and about 20,000 tons were recovered in a salvage operation. The remaining 40,000 tons drifted onto nearby beaches.

At one point, in the interview, Smith suggested the federal government could have moved the local population from the area.

But he said as far as he knew, such a move was not considered at the time.

He said that although the oil from the Arrow had covered the nearby waterfront, the cleanup may have been a waste of time.

"It probably would have been pretty clean by the end of the summer," Smith said.

"There are probably not many people there and they wouldn't have been using the beaches. . . It's not as if it were Coney Island."

However, Smith said the cleanup work had proven useful to other countries in dealing with spills that had occurred in cold-water areas.

Asked about the possibility of oil pollution from tankers carrying oil south from Alaska to Washington state, Smith said: "There's always a danger of spilling oil, but in an area like this what is it going to damage? You'd just have to clean the beaches and that would be that."

He also said there was no indication of any "short-or long-term harm" from tankers using such a route.

The Place  
an unusual  
Instead o  
opportunit  
permanent,  
people to fi

The most  
trend conce  
in St. Andre  
hiring 130  
Notices we  
campus, ad  
through  
BRUNSWIC  
application  
notices of p  
were ignor



The Car  
a lively,  
form of  
Club for  
SUB Ball  
songs, d  
performe  
and flair.  
the audie  
dishes, a  
travel inf

The sho  
the Carib  
message  
to the d  
outside. S  
both origi  
two girls  
Smart,