

# Made Up Your Mind Yet?

By ANN POND

Free Trade dominated proceedings at the Local Candidates Forum held last Friday night at the Fredericton Motor Inn.

The well attended event, sponsored by the UNB Student Union, was restricted to representatives of the three major parties.

Monday's election is viewed by many to be a referendum on Free Trade, with Canadians

being asked to vote for or against a deal which the majority of them say they do not understand. New Democratic candidate Allan Sharp blamed the Mulroney government for this, making reference to a government memo which stated that the more Canadians knew about the deal, the more trouble the Conservatives would have in getting it passed.

Progressive Conservative candidate Bud Bird said that it

has been a government priority to get information on the agreement out to the public since the deal was signed. Copies have been available since Dec. 10, 1987.

The deal itself was criticized both by Mr. Sharp and Liberal candidate Brad Woodside. According to Mr. Woodside, "Liberals do support Free Trade, but not this deal." He condemned it as an eleventh hour agreement favouring the Americans.

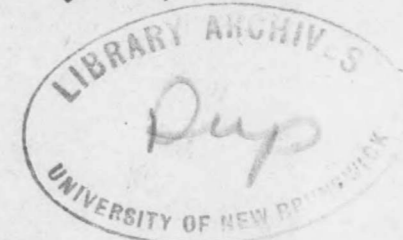
Mr. Sharp criticized the deal as "too sweeping and too fast". Furthermore, he said "Mr. Mulroney had no mandate to negotiate that deal". It goes beyond a simple trade agreement, and whether it brings a gain, loss, or switch in jobs for Canadians, it will cause tremendous upheaval. "Ronald Regan has called it an 'economic union'... it will be irreversible."

Mr. Bird voiced his personal commitment to Free Trade as

the only course of action for Canada. He said "This deal is the culmination of a process that has been going on for forty or fifty years," whereby tariff barriers between Canada and the United States have been gradually reduced. Mr. Bird chastized his opponents for their negative views throughout the campaign saying they "never talk about the opportunity, only about the risks."

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## S.U. Meets in Closed Session:

# Displeasure About President's Letter to P.M.

STEPHANE COMEAU

The UNB Student Union went into closed session for the first time this year at last Wednesday's regular meeting. Council privately discussed what was termed an "internal matter" for over two hours.

According to S.U. Vice-President Luigi Rocca "the intent of the closed session was to hash out certain problems and conflicts that had been building up over the past 2-3 weeks."

The Brunswickian has learned that a major topic of discussion at this meeting was some correspondence sent by S.U. President Dean Frost. Apparently concern was raised about Frost's use of S.U. letterhead and his title of S.U. President in correspondence that was not official S.U. business. The most prominent example is a letter sent by Mr. Frost to Prime Minister Mulroney endorsing the free trade

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03 November 1988

Right Honourable Brian Mulroney  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada

Dear Sir,

My name is Dean Frost and I am the President of the University of New Brunswick Student Union.

I must take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for a job well done over the past four years. However, the intent of this letter is to let you and the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada know that I wholeheartedly support Free Trade, and the positive effects it will have on Canada.

I can assure you that I will do all I can to see that our local P. C. Candidate, Bud Bird, is elected as our representative for the Fredericton, New Brunswick riding.

I am with you 100%.

Best of Luck,

Dean J. Frost  
President  
University of New Brunswick Student Union

DJF/gib

agreement which could have been misinterpreted as being an endorsement on behalf of the UNB S.U..

The day before writing the letter to the Prime Minister, on November 2, President Frost had written a letter to his fellow councillors encouraging them to "make a stand" on the free trade agreement at the next day's council meeting. This letter stated "I [Dean Frost] personally believe that free trade by any political party is what the citizens of New Brunswick need to prosper and grow." Council later declined to take position on the issue.

VP Rocca stated after Wednesday's meeting that "it was naive of Dean to think that S.U. letterhead and his position would not imply that he was expressing the views of the student body and the S.U.", he adds, "I would blame it on inexperience."

President Frost told us that he recognises his misjudgement and that the letter "should have been on plain paper". But he also claimed that "the air had been cleared" and that "everything had been resolved" as a result of the closed session.

S.U. Chairman James Gill said that discussion during the meeting brought to light a "communication problem" between the executive and council and that this would be further discussed at next week's regular meeting.

Near the end of the meeting council went briefly to open session to pass two motions (approximate wording):

- 1-No executive shall use S.U. letterhead in correspondence or communications not pertaining to S.U. business.
  - 2-Executive must present to council a broad agenda for the next 4-5 months.
- Immediately following this the meeting was adjourned.

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