

60's flashback

Housing situation desperate in Fredericton

The basic economic maxim which ordains that the consumer invariably suffers when the demand far exceeds the supply for a particular product is crucial to the unfortunate landlord-tenant situation in present day Fredericton. With the scarcity of available accommodations in Fredericton virtually every property holder is attempting to profit from the situation by charging exorbitant rents to underprivileged students. In this period of rampant unemployment most students are forced to live lives of basic subsistence depending exclusively on meagre student loans to sustain them throughout the academic year. Yet they are forced to pay unreasonably high rents to landlords who are able to pick and choose according to their per-

sonal biases the lucky ones who will be granted the privilege of utilizing their precious facilities.

Aside from over exploitation the students' plight is further aggravated by the fact that they are expected to conform to the artificial mores set down by their landlords. Most students who are interviewed for apartments must adopt the guise of the anemic scholar where only outside interests are reading, playing bridge and/or watching TV. They are threatened with severe reprisals if their behavior does not conform to the habits of a social recluse. It is strictly "verboten" to indulge in alcoholic beverages, to make "unnecessarily" loud noise, to hold parties along with numerous other petty restrictions on the tenant's

social life. To make matters worse most students are unaware of even their most basic rights under the promordial Landlord-Tenant's Act which hasn't been substantially modified since 1952. I personally was informed by an outraged landlord that I had to pay an extra month's rent because I had submitted my month's notice after paying my rent instead of before. All of us know of personal incidences of misuse of the law by landlords, i.e. the entering of apartments without due notice, the eviction of tenants on flimsy pretences, etc. . . . The typical Fredericton landlord suffers from an apparently widespread regional disease diagnosed as "mild megalomania." Although they would prefer to rent to married couples

(without children) they are forced by necessity to condescendingly admit students.

The time is certainly ripe for the formation of a Fredericton Tenant's Association dedicated

to informing all tenants of their rights, to the eradication of the feudalistic code which is the basis of the present system to help eliminate the precariousness of the tenant's position.

"Both the French and the English are asking too much of each other" — MP Fairweather

"Both the English and the French are asking too much of each other", said Mr. Gordon Fairweather at the after-dinner speech in Memorial Hall on Founder's Day.

Teach-In

Mr. Fairweather, Conservative MP for Royal, was speaking on the topic, "New Brunswick — A prelude to the Canadian Experiment". He touched upon the communication breakdown between the Acadians and the Loyalists. He felt the issue to be of national importance for, "If we (in New Brunswick) proved that these two Canadians can live together peacefully", it would serve as an example to the Nation.

"The Challenge", concluded Fairweather, "is for a number of ethnic groups to learn to live together".

Quit Rent

Fairweather's speech came after the annual farthing payment of the "quit rent", which was presented by Dr. MacKay to the Lieutenant-Governor Wallace S. Bird. This ritual is a required part of the University charter.

At the buffet supper held in McConnell Hall, President Colin B. MacKay expressed his hope that the fees issue would be settled to the satisfaction of all. He then presented copies of the student centennial project publication, "Behind the Hill", to Premier Robichaud, Opposition Leader Hatfield, Education Minister Meldrum and Lieutenant Governor Bird.

Earlier on Founder's Day afternoon, Mr. Fairweather also took part in a teach-in at Head Hall on the topic — "New Brunswick — One province or Two".

The first speaker to address the near-capacity audience was Mr. Adelard Savoie, President of the University of Moncton. Said Savoie, "I am adamant on this feature — I cannot see a two-province question in New Brunswick".

Mr. Savoie pointed to the various problems of a minority, stating that "We are not prepared to renounce our French background." He was concerned about the preservation of the French Language and the French culture. "We have a right", said Savoie, "to be taught in our own language and to develop our own traditions." He ended on a note of hope for future English-French relationships in order to become equal partners in this province.

Mr. Gordon Fairweather stated that he felt Mr. Savoie was "very polite", in his treatment of the topic. Fairweather stressed the importance of the Dunton-Laurendeau Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. "It gives us the factual background to support the ideas and opinions talked about for years" said MP Fairweather. "I hope the Legislature

will come to grips on the various proposals of the Commission."

Student Participants

The floor was then handed over to a panel of four students — Peter Blair and Lee Clifford from UNB, Donald Poirier and Ron LeBretton from Université de Moncton. Poirier was the most outspoken, and continually referred to statistics to back up his case. "We want equality," cried Poirier in French, "We don't have it." He expressed his concern over the possible expulsion of the French-speaking minority.

Draft Cops Says Police Chief

BOSTON (CUP-INS) Feb. 28 — Police commissioner Edmund L. McNamara wants to induct men into the city police forces in the near future.

The police draft will be necessary, McNamara claims, "due to the persistent disinterest of young men in law enforcement careers."

McNamara raised the proposal in a thesis written for the Tufts University Assembly on Government scheduled to meet in Medford, Mass. in March.

He said inductees would be used as "civil defense" agents to curb inner-city insurrections.

USSR AMBASSADOR SAYS "RACE IS ON"

"Which is better? History will judge." This was the comment of Dr. A. A. Aroutunian, Russian Ambassador to Canada on the superiority of Communism over Democracy, as he addressed the International Affairs Club in Mem Hall last Tuesday night.

There was, however, no question in the ambassador's mind that the Soviet Union would surpass the West economically after twenty years of following along the new economic plan outlined in the 22nd Congress. He spoke constantly of the increasing trend toward socialism and communism in the non-committed countries today.

Speaking for over an hour on current world problems His Excellency emphasized the need for peaceful co-existence.

The five main problems in the world today were outlined as follows:

1. Seventy-one million people are remaining under colonial domination. His Excellency stated the Soviet Union's condemnation of imperialist colonialism.

2. The question of general and complete disarmament is of major importance. The Soviet Union, he explained, wishes an end to armaments, stockpiles, and any manufacturing of weapons, and the cessation of all other types of armaments. He then said, rather plaintively that "unfortunately nothing has been done". He expressed a hope for something fruitful from the enlarged disarmament committee of the United Nations which begins in March.

3. The situation in Berlin, Dr. Aroutunian described as "abnormal". He then reiterated the Soviet's position here, stressing the need for a common German peace treaty. He implied that the initiative to restore peace in Berlin was the Soviet Union's, party line.



DR. A. A. AROUTUNIAN

and impressed upon the audience the need for cooperation from the Western powers.

4. The recognition of Communist China in the United Nations he considered essential if that world body expected to remain respected and influential in the world today. He expressed his country's lack of faith in the UN because of the disproportionate representation of the socialist countries, and felt that structural changes must be made. He then said that disarmament was impossible in the world if Communist China was not permitted to participate in the UN.

5. He then spoke at length in favor of increased and better relations between Russia and Canada. He considered this "essential for furthering of the peace in the world".

Following the speech a question period was held. The questions on the whole were unenlightening.

His Excellency seemed a most genial person and his knowledge of UNB and of this province's history were as impressive as his outline of the Soviet Union's party line.

A 60's note

This week we continue with the second part of our continuing serial the

"flashback". The articles chosen are pertinent to the issues of today. The arms race was announced in the

60's and continues today. In the last couple of years the students of UNB have been confronted in September with a housing crisis. And we can't forget the turmoil created by the Poirier Bastarache Report.

Mike MacKinnon