

MUGWUMP JOURNAL

Hatfield's "reversible pipeline" not realistic

By EDISON STEWART

Faithful readers (and there are a few, I hope) will forgive me this week if I stray off the campus and onto a problem that's likely to bother Canadians (and hence New Brunswickers) for some time to come.

It all began in 1961 in Ottawa, when George Hees (then a minister in John Diefenbaker's government) announced a "two-Canada energy policy." What it meant was simply this: Canadians west of the Ottawa river valley would use western Canadian oil; Canadians east of the valley would be supplied by oil from foreign sources. (As we all know now, these foreign sources — mainly Venezuela and the Middle East — can raise the price of oil at will. Worse still, they can impose a boycott, as is being done now by the Arab countries.)

Even though it might not look good at first glance, eastern Canadians were able to get oil cheaper from foreign sources than they could from western Canada. So that was the reason behind the policy.

Now is oil to be imported, deep water ports and deep water ships must exist to handle it all. More jobs for Canadians, right? Pretty well, but more oil spills for Canadians too.

Saint John Deep is just such a New Brunswick project.

It means jobs and activity in this province of joblessness and inactivity. Clearly, Saint John Deep, if it could be pulled off, would be the politician's dream. Correction: the parochial politician's dream. That man is Richard Hatfield.

Because if Saint John Deep isn't built, Hatfield will be in even deeper political trouble in Saint John than he already is. His political life is at stake on issues exactly like this one.

With that in mind, Hatfield announced in the Legislature this week that he wanted a "reversible pipeline" to Montreal. In normal times, he said, Saint John Deep would supply Montreal with foreign oil. In abnormal times, the pipeline would supply the Maritimes with Canadian oil.

But there are several problems with this: first, to get Canadian oil to Montreal so they can ship it to the Maritimes requires a Montreal-Toronto pipeline. Hatfield made no mention of this. Frankly, the feds have already said they intend to build one, but doubtless they would be terribly annoyed if it's only purpose was to lie empty and wait for New Brunswick's "abnormal times," to be used only when Richard and his New Brunswick family needed it.

Second, Hatfield apparently assumes that western Canadian oil will be waiting eagerly at the pipeline's western end,

ready to pump oil to the Maritimes when we can't get it anywhere else. But it stands to reason that oil is sold by contract, and if Canadians (and that includes Maritimers) don't have an oil contract with western oil producers, they're going to sell the stuff elsewhere.

Presumably then, they wouldn't have any spare oil until their contracts to the U.S. expired. Our premier assumes, (and wrongly, I think) that western Canadian oil can be diverted from our "American friends" at a moment's notice.

He has said many times before that to do so would be "isolationism." What's changed his mind? Is his political life on the line?

Frankly, it's Hatfield's attitude that has allowed this energy crisis to occur in the first place. If scrumpy Maritimers had been willing to pay a few extra cents per gallon a few years ago, we'd now be supplied with Canadian oil and there wouldn't be any crisis here at all.

As usual, the federal government has taken action which will only produce results far too late. They have promised to build a Toronto-Montreal pipeline by 1975, and thus supply eastern Canada with Canadian oil.

Our premier, on the other hand, wants the pipeline built for use only when we need it. He expects the west to come to our

aid every time there's a fluctuation in our foreign oil supplies (which has been quite often lately). In my opinion his view is narrow and parochial. If he had announced a Canada First policy back when it counted (or even now) perhaps we could avoid future energy shortages. But if the federal government listens to his altogether ridiculous "reversible pipeline" proposal, we'll suffer "abnormal times" for many years into our future.

But the premier is not solely to blame for this mess. The federal government has had no concrete energy policy in years. Provinces are now setting up their own marketing boards: Ottawa has lost touch with reality. The only solution to the problem now is to supply all Canadians with Canadian oil. And to make sure we control our oil, at least one major oil company (perhaps Imperial) could be nationalized and thus made to act in the national interests.

The only long-term solution to the problem is to get governments both in Fredericton and Ottawa that understand what people want, not what the corporations want. And that, my friends, means a socialist government by the New Democratic Party. The old-line parties have too long proven inept at acting in the best interests of Canadians.

ALONG THE TRACKS

Some women express their creativity through sex

By STANLEY JUDD

My dog and I spent an afternoon last week walking along the banks of the Saint John River with our old friend Jake. My dog and I don't usually spend much time there; seems he prefers the oil and grease along the tracks to that found on the river. However, this particular afternoon, at Jake's suggestion, we made an exception to our rule and followed Jake to the riverside. It was snowing and there was a brisk wind. The snowflakes, heavy and wet, fell like bullets, but melted as soon as they touched the shore. Looking out over the river, you could see only two colours — the white of the snow and the gray of the water. The other side was not there. Even my dog disappeared from sight after running only a few yards ahead of us, his nose nuzzling the shoreline no doubt searching for any potential dangers lurking in the unknown future of our steps.

"The pup seems to be enjoying himself," began Jake.

"The change of scenery must be doing him good," I said, "he's been a little depressed lately. Must be getting old."

"Depression is a strange thing, Kid. Everyone experiences it. But fortunately it goes in cycles. One day happy, the next day sad. I think it's caused by frustration more than anything else. You know, Kid,

the way I have it figured is that there is a need for creative expression in every man. Everyone creates in different ways. Those who fail to satisfy their need for creative expression become frustrated and depressed and usually don't know why. But the best way to get rid of depression is to do something, to write about your depression, to talk about it with someone, to create. Why even those lonely old drunks who talk your ear off in bars are creating; it's their form of expression and they usually feel better after it. And you don't have to be a writer or a painter or a musician to create. Everyone has their own personal outlet for expressing their creative needs. Why I've even known some women who express their creativity through sex. Men do to. And good for them! It makes them feel better because it satisfies something more than their sexual drives."

"Sounds good, Jake, but I don't know how I could ever stop being depressed about growing old. Who wants to be old? The thought scares me," I said.

"Ah hell, Kid," shouted Jake, "what are you worrying about getting old for? You're still young, you've still got lots of time. Don't waste it worrying about getting old. And what's bad about being old? It's you young kids who make us feel old. Why, I'm

seventy-three and I'm still feeling like I always did. I still have as much energy now as I did when I was your age. Granted, it takes a little more effort to use it, but it's still there. But you young ones pamper us older folks, treat us like we were fragile, like we were in need of being babied again. You should spend your time convincing older folks that they don't have to feel old, that they've still got the energy to do almost anything they want. They'll be a lot happier for it."

"I see what you mean, Jake, but I can't help worrying about the future," I said.

"Well, if you worry too much about the future, you'll miss the present. Hell, Kid, life's for spending, not saving. You should live it one day at a time. It's always wise to be prepared for the unexpected, but if you can think, you can cope with whatever happens."

"I'm hoping that university is teaching me to think, preparing me for the unexpected," I said, knowing Jake would have lots to say about universities.

"You know, Kid, that's what many people believe about universities," Jake said, softly and evenly, "but it's horse manure. Universities teach you how to cope with boredom and how to live in an institutionalized system. They rarely

allow freedom of thought. They are not concerned with the individual. Good God, some of the lectures up the hill must have three hundred students in them, probably more! Hell, they pass half the kids without ever seeing their faces, just so they'll return next year and the enrollment won't be down. Professors' salaries are high you know. But the major problem with universities is that they are so completely out of touch with what really goes on in the outside world. Why, up there at UNB right now, what's the biggest problem? Parking of cars, of all things! Everyone is up in arms because they have no room to park their cars. But you know what the rest of the world is worried about? The fuel shortage! In some countries they're banning Sunday driving, they're reducing speed limits, they're closing buildings, just to save fuel. But at UNB, they worry about where they are going to park their cars. I tell you, I'm glad I still know how to use my feet. And thank God, I've always used a wood stove!"

It was getting colder and darker and my dog had lost some of his spunk, so we left Jake by the shoreline, still full of energy and still with a mind of his own. Thank God, there are still men like Jake who don't believe everything others want them to.

SRC COLUMN

SRC hearts soiled by time and yellow journalism

The SRC strikes again. With pure hearts and minds soiled only by time and yellow journalism the good guys forage somewhere.

That the Second Annual Fall Festival is over is well known to everyone. That it was an ambitious combination of events with plenty of variety and originality might have caught the aware observer. Well done Alex and crew.

There are many people who have ideas on how to make a great Winter Carnival. Come out to the Carni Committee meetings and put your ideas into action. The only trick is to extract the digit. Fred

Jordon and Mel Estey.....where are you?

Now on to the happy subject of going home for turkey, Mother and Christmas. Gid Merserseau, the Union Travel officer can arrange and book your flight to Montreal, Toronto, Halifax, Miami, Port au Prince or wherever.

Get to your essays and leave the travel arrangements to Gid. Room 125 in the SUB is where it all happens, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., 5 days a week.

Parking lots and the arena are in the news. The new lot above the SUB should be ready soon. The Multi-purpose arena is in full swing. The user's committee now is

mapping out the services and facilities which the building will hold. Reports should be ready in two weeks from the SUB committees with a general report early in the new year. Sir Max Aitken has pledged most of the money for the new complex and we are in his debt.

The Creative Arts Committee (those wonderful folks who bring you free concerts at the Playhouse) have unofficially approached the SRC requesting financial assistance in order that they might bring in Phil Nimmons and his jazz orchestra, Nimmons and Nice plus Six sometime next term. Looks good.

Charles Morgan Jr., attorney for the Democratic Party in the Watergate affair, will give a lecture on Thursday, Dec. 6 in Tilley 102 at 8:30 p.m.. As you may recall, he was previously scheduled to speak in November, but he got tied up in red tape (were they red?).

Incidentally, if you happen to see the recently deposed Edison (the mentality of a typewriter) Stewart, say hello. I'm sure he'll appreciate the attention.

The political column by Cyclops will no longer be offered on a regular basis. In its place this week we have the above political column.