

Hatfield speaks at UNB

By ANDREW HARVEY
Brunswickan Staff

Premier Richard Hatfield was the guest speaker of the Political Science Department and the Political Science Students Association on Monday, March 21, at Tilley Hall, 102. Mr. Hatfield talked on reform in the New Brunswick election process and answered numerous questions on current issues and events. Mr. Hatfield was introduced by Professor G.C. Kuun, chairman of the political science Public Speakers Committee. Mr. Hatfield referred to past election years where open public voting was used. Later their was the introduction of the secret ballot. This was in a time of multi-member constituencies.

The first major reform was in the boundaries of constituencies which made six cities in New Brunswick separate constituencies. Also, the ballot was changed to include the political name of the candidates. Before this reform, each political party had their own ballot listing their

candidates.

In 1974, the multi-member constituencies were reduced to single member constituencies but the same boundaries were retained. Mr. Hatfield thinks that not only numbers should be used as the guide for redistribution, but rural-urban makeup and the history of the area should be considered.

Mr. Hatfield noted that the Political Process Financing Act is unique to Canada. This Act controls the level of spending of individuals and corporations. Before this Act, New Brunswick election campaigns relied heavily on the contributions of major forest companies.

Mr. Hatfield also mentioned the establishment of committees in the Legislature. By working on committees the M.L.A.'s can learn more about the province rather than just concentrating on their own constituency. He said that political parties have become more competitive in all constituencies, which keeps the political parties more open to the public. In past election campaigns,

political parties have written off certain constituencies because of numerous voting manipulations that could not be countered. Due to these reforms, no seat can be taken for granted in an election campaign. Democracy is in good shape in this province, however, the people of New Brunswick should be receiving better media coverage of election campaigns.

In the '82 election campaign, the P.C. party had election promises of \$70 million. Asked why they changed their thought from a government expansionary promised budget to a call for restraint in the upcoming budget, Mr. Hatfield responded that the P.C. Party overestimated their election promises because of a miscalculation of their objective.

Mr. Hatfield was asked about student job programs this summer. He stated that New Brunswick has the highest number of jobs per capita of any government in Canada. In the makeup of a budget; social services, health and welfare, education and hospital costs must

be calculated first, then programs will be studied, and considered for the budget. Mr. Hatfield could not reveal any details until the budget is introduced in the Legislature. When asked about increasing tuition fees, Mr. Hatfield replied his government's policy that tuition fees will increase percentage wise the same as the cost of living.

Mr. Hatfield also stated that the expansion of Point Lepreau will continue and the government will not be dictated by public polls or demonstrations.

Mr. Hatfield stated that the Irving's should not be forced to sell any of their media outlets because it would be the same as to deny the people rights of property. The CRTC are not in charge and have no relevant connection to the people of New Brunswick.

Mr. Hatfield further said that it is difficult to build a political career under today's leadership system. A democratic party majority no longer has a significant meaning. This "June exercise" as he called it, should not have happened. The

leadership campaigns are a waste of money and time. He has no worries about wealthy candidates buying votes because money cannot buy political wisdom, which you need to secure victory.

According to Hatfield, political parties should always choose their leader, but leaders will usually rise to the top and prove to the party they are natural leaders. When a party leader is defeated in an election, he should resign unless he has overwhelming support from the party. Timing is important as when to call a convention, because you do not want to leave the party in a vulnerable position.

Mr. Hatfield has no federal leadership ambitions and plans to lead the P.C.'s into the next election. It's a challenge to lead the P.C. Party and the province. Mr. Hatfield's political mentors were Franklin D. Roosevelt and Robert Kennedy, but he has used his own political style to lead and develop New Brunswick.

Meagher addresses SRC

Third Century Fund topic of debate

by Mac Elman

The University of New Brunswick Student Representative Council met for two and a half hours this past Tuesday evening.

One of the first matters presented before Council was the Vice-Presidents' Report. Vice-President Timothy Lethbridge informed Council in his report that preparations for the upcoming March 30 election are progressing smoothly. Lethbridge stated that all poll workers and ballot workers for the election have been hired and he told Council that the vote tabulating method used last election will be utilized again for the elections March 30.

Next on the agenda was

the President's Report. In his report to Council, President John Bosnitch read a list of the fourteen questions that will appear on the referendum being held in conjunction with the March 30 elections. Students will be asked for their decision on subjects ranging from the extension of the present one day reading period to the provision of additional security and lighting on campus, especially around the area known as "Rape Row" to the raising of SRC fees by an optional ten dollars in support of UNB's Third Century Fund.

Discussion of a ten dollar student levy to support the Third Century Fund dominated the remaining two hours of the SRC meeting. Council heard a report from Dr. Meagher, an official with the Third

Century Fund. In his presentation to Council Dr. Meagher expressed his support for a five year, ten dollar per student levy, running from September 1983 through to September 1987. He said that the money itself which is raised by the levy is not the primary concern, Meagher said that in his view one hundred percent student participation is of more importance. He said that when he goes into the corporate boardrooms of Toronto and Vancouver, it looks very impressive if he can say that one hundred percent of the students at UNB have contributed to the Third Century Fund. He added that if there is one hundred percent student participation, the Third Century Fund will surely get more corporate donations.

SRC President Bosnitch

expressed the view that there should not be a compulsory levy, but instead a voluntary donation. Bosnitch said that the faculty donations to the Third Century Fund were voluntary and they proved to be very successful. He also stated that he did not think it wise that this year's council should make a decision which would affect students five years into the future. In addition Bosnitch suggested that Council consider a proposal of a few months past and direct all student donations for use on one project, specifically the refurbishing of the Student Union Building.

After some argument over the wording of the resolution concerning the ten dollar student levy a role call vote was taken. The final wording of the

Third Century Fund question which will be included in the upcoming referendum was decided upon by a vote of ten to two. It was decided that the question will specify that the ten dollar levy for the period September 1983 through to September 1987 will be optional.

In other business, Council was informed by Education representative Randy Brodeur that the Education Club has been revived and has a new four member executive. Business Representative Oliver Koncz informed Council in response to a question by Forestry Representative Chris Chapman that the price of the UNB Yearbook has been lowered from fifteen to twelve dollars because of an anticipated increase in advertising revenue.