

from page 13

Housing Chairman Trevors

"The problem with living across the river is not only one of quality but also of distance. The placement officer told me that people with cars are reluctant to take up residence across the river because of the traffic jams that occur, and those people without cars because of the poor bus service. The situation regarding traffic jams is one for the City Fathers while the City Transit Limited may be able to help us solve the other. I am going to approach the CTL to find out how many 'fares' it would have to make per day in order to operate a service without loss, leaving various points on the other side of the river for the campus on the hour commencing at 8:00 a.m. and every hour until 4:00 p.m. Also a bus leaving the campus every hour on the half hour from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"Turning now to co-operatives. I have a great deal of information on co-operative housing covering such things as financing both operations and capital, organizing on local campuses and physical facilities. With all the large houses in Fredericton area plus the fact that Central Mortgage and Housing will pay up to 90% of the cost of purchasing and renovating co-operatively acquired houses, co-operatives, I believe, are within reach by September 1967.

"Finally, when the Housing Committee was set up last spring, its report was not intended to be of any value before September 1967. Never was there any hope or intention of having a report ready so as to have any effect this fall. Although the report can not be ready by November 30, I can assure you that you will all be in possession of a copy of the report for your first meeting after Christmas."

A Solution To Housing Problems

by MARCEL GERAUX

In spite of his verbal report at last week's SRC meeting, Mr. John Trevors and his housing committee have found no solutions to the student housing problem here. In his statement to the Council, Trevors insisted that "there is no housing problem, only a problem of quality". He did not seem, at that time, to realize that the quality problem is all that has interested students. Some students may be willing to live in stables rather than in a field, but that is not to say that they find this housing satisfactory.

It is becoming obvious to more and more students that if there is to be a solution to the housing problem the answers must come from the students themselves. When Council committees have failed to solve major problems, the ingenuity of a few independent students has succeeded.

So we see a few independently organized student cooperatives being born. This year there are at least three houses being run by students on their own. They do not own the houses, they rent them, but other than this important consideration the operation is the same as if the houses were cooperatively owned.

We cannot expect the housing committee to know who these people are, because they have not, as yet, made any inquiries beyond a few University officials. But our aim is to help to solve the problem, not to show our disgust with any committee.

We suggest, then, that the students, hopefully but not necessarily through some organization like the Students Representative Council, take steps akin to the following to help to alleviate that shortage of quality housing

which troubles so many of us.

An important fact, easily learned by an interested student (but apparently not by the housing committee) is that the government of the province of New Brunswick has an option on most houses on Brunswick Street from St. John Street to Church Street. What this could mean in terms of student cooperative housing is immeasurable. What loss would be suffered if the buildings should be used by the government for other purposes or if they should be sold or destroyed is also immeasurable. And the fact that the government is known to act fast in the disposition and destruction of buildings makes the problem pressing. So much so, that if a group of students, or the executive of the Student Council, do not act immediately, that whole row of large, spacious homes could be lost.

An organization of intelligent and thoughtful people has use of one of those houses for a nursery for students' children. It should be learned how this was achieved. Then it should be learned what problems have been faced, and how solved, by those who have set up their own cooperatives.

Our faith in the housing committee has been lost. When one of the **Brunswickan** reporters called all of the members of the housing committee about ten days ago, one of them giggled and said, "Oh, am I still on the housing committee?"

With activity like that the committee cannot achieve much. Therefore, we say, let us act on our own, let us establish our own cooperatives, clubs, and fraternities. It appears that the only ones interested are ourselves.