

Charlie Van Horne

"Gosh dammit, I am not through yet! In politics, no one should ever set a limit to his ambitions."

This was a statement made by a particular politician, who is at present a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Restigouche County and leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in the Province of New Brunswick, J. C. (Charlie) Van Horne. Van Horne is one of the most dynamic and colorful politicians to appear in Provincial politics that this generation has ever known. His present ambition is to obtain the highest political position in his Province — that of Premier. In doing so, he must defeat the present Premier Louis J. Robichaud, who has a similar personality as Mr. Van Horne.

Mr. Van Horne's background is as complex as his flamboyant personality. He was born on the fourth day of January in 1921, at his father's lumber camp located in Five Fingers, six miles from St. Quentin, New Brunswick. His father, John Havelock Van Horne, was of Dutch ancestry and of United Empire Loyalist descent. His mother, Alice Perron, was of French Acadian ancestry and, as a result, her son was brought up in the Roman Catholic faith. He is not from a wealthy, but a hard-working family. His father, like many of his friends depended upon the forest for their livelihood.

Charles Van Horne obtained his elementary education from the public schools in Atholville. He was given financial assistance in order to attend Sacred Heart College in Bathurst. This assistance was rendered by Monseigneur Savoir, who took an interest in Charles as a boy. In 1940, at the age of nineteen, Charles Van Horne joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Prior to this, he had been a taxi-driver, a logger, an insurance salesman and a clothing salesman. After his basic training with the R.C.M.P., Mr. Van Horne was attached to the subversive activities squad in Montreal. During the 1941 visit of Winston Churchill to Canada, Charlie was attached to the squad which was responsible for guarding the war leader.

During the peak of World War II, Van Horne enlisted in the Canadian Army as a Private. During his tour of duty, he became Provost Marshall of New Brunswick. On his discharge, he held the rank of Lieutenant. Immediately upon his discharge from the Army, he enrolled as an article clerk in the law firm of Benoit Michaud in Campbellton. Within one year, Van Horne had completed the usual three-year law course and



J. C. VAN HORNE

was admitted to the New Brunswick Bar in 1945.

Before Mr. Van Horne completed his law studies, he was married on the eighteenth day of June, 1944, to Helen June Richard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Richard of Londonderry, Nova Scotia.

In 1947, Charles Van Horne opened a law office in Campbellton. In 1963, he formed a partnership with Yvon Arseneau. This partnership, which exists today, was only briefly interrupted when Van Horne undertook business interests in California.

Mr. Van Horne first became active in politics when he ran as an unsuccessful P.C. candidate in the Provincial general election in 1949. His first successful bid as a candidate was in 1955 when he won the Federal by-election for Restigouche - Madawaska. He was later re-elected in 1957 and 1958. Due to financial