

## Coverup, obstruction and graft continued

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provinces that employ the federal police force as its own. Quebec and Ontario have their own provincial police forces.

### RCMP power

New Brunswick has been careful not to allow this arrangement to intrude into provincial matters. Unlike the freedom of action the RCMP enjoys in some other provinces, in New Brunswick it cannot even lay an impaired driving charge without the possibility of interference by the provincial Justice Department.

However, the RCMP is left with some power of its own. The force can investigate under its own authority complaints and any crime an officer has good reason to believe is being committed. But while the force can do these things, it knows from experience that in some cases it will be pressured by government, and for that reason it does not always go ahead.

The RCMP has received complaints that criminal kickbacks have been paid to both the PC Party now in power in the province and the Liberals in the past. The force is also aware of circumstantial evidence: two, and possibly three numbered accounts in Saint John, Moncton, and maybe Fredericton, run by Conservative

Party bagmen. (One account was at least until recently, with Royal Trust Co.).

FP has been told of at least two occasions when a government supplier was asked to, or apparently did, pay money into these accounts. The RCMP has similar information.

About one year ago, officers were conducting the investigation that led to the charge laid recently against Van Horne. (Van Horne was dismissed by Hatfield in mid-1972 because of over-spending by his department. He later resigned his seat in the legislature and is now an employee of a motel company.)

This RCMP investigation turned up putative evidence of another kickback — a \$32,000 payment by a Newcastle, N.B., construction firm to a numbered account in Saint John. The company had been doing work for the government in Sugarloaf Provincial Park.

How did the RCMP respond to this information?

The energetic investigation into Van Horne continued, and the other matter apparently was passed over.

One officer left the force deeply disillusioned. Another has since been transferred out of the province. FP has heard that the

construction firm kickback may now be under investigation, but the force is still dragging its feet over the general problem of political criminality in New Brunswick.

The force's policy, in so far as it applies to this province, appears to make a distinction between kickbacks to an individual and kickbacks to a political party. The Criminal Code makes no such distinction.

The thinking of some senior RCMP officers seems to be that party kickbacks are "political" and, therefore, are beyond the purview of the force.

But this thinking is faulty for many reasons:

Until the numbered, or secret, accounts are investigated, there's no knowing where the money in them goes.

### Hands off

What if some of the cash finds its way into an official's pocket? The RCMP has, in fact, received a complaint that officials of the former Liberal government received cash from that party's numbered accounts.

Is tax paid on income earned from money in secret slush funds? It seems unlikely the income would be declared for tax purposes —

and, if it is not, that would constitute another crime.

By adopting a hands-off approach to political kickbacks, RCMP officers achieve the very opposite of what they set out to do. They make the force politically biased, not nonpolitical.

There's another recent case where the RCMP appears to have been less than thorough in order to help Hatfield's government out of a hole.

Earlier this year, a Moncton-suburb resident, Mel. F. Baker, claimed a neighbor had tried to extort from him half ownership of a tavern business that Baker was hoping to start. Baker says he was threatened that his liquor license would be blocked by Brenda Robertson, minister of Social Services.

Mrs. Robertson and the man accused by Baker of attempted extortion have denied Baker's story, but the whole business looked so bad the government asked the RCMP to investigate.

The RCMP presented the minister of Justice with a report stating there was no satisfactory evidence of criminal behaviour. The commanding officer of "J" Division (New Brunswick) advised

the minister not to table the report in the legislature. A summary was

tabled instead.

Indications are the force's investigation may have been perfunctory. Baker makes the same allegation, but nobody in official circles listens to him.

In frustration, Baker traveled to Toronto and submitted himself to a lie-detector test at his own expense. The test report state Baker was not lying (though lie detectors are not infallible).

Last spring, when Hatfield tabled his white paper on conflict of interest, he warned that any legislation in New Brunswick could not be made too exacting because the province is too small.

Presumably, he meant it's difficult for government buyers to pick their way through all the familial and historic ties between local dynasties, companies, and public officials.

But New Brunswick is not all that small — population is around 650,000.

Besides, of the 20 or so cases of conflict of interest and patronage looked at by FP, most could have both circumvented by a provincial government determined to establish a new climate of political integrity.

## Liberal, PC and NDP students in high gear on campus

By DERWIN GOWAN

With a provincial election approaching, political parties are making themselves seen and heard on campus. The most important are the Student Liberals, Progressive Conservative Youth Federation and the Young New Democrats.

The New Democratic Party campaign on campus did not start until yesterday.

The reason for the late start is mostly due to a limitation of funds, said NDP'er Brian Langille.

Two delegates from UNB attended the policy-making convention and the nominating convention.

The club plans on having an organizational meeting after the election is over at which time they will frame a constitution.

Langille said the NDP candidate for Fredericton South, Doug Birdwise, should be able to identify with students and appreciate their problems, as he was a student a year ago.

The NDP say better use should be made of funds available for student aid. For example, last year \$500,000 of the funds set aside for bursaries was not used. Present guidelines are too stringent, he said. A more fair distribution should be made, and political patronage should be removed. Also, students should have guarantees that funds will be available before the student has to go to the bank. Free tuition is the ultimate goal of the New Democrats.

Langille described the present housing policy of New Brunswick as inefficient, saying the NDP would make it possible for more people to own their own homes and bring the province out of the housing slump.

The NDP platform touches on the plight of the working man, housing, health, economic development, fisheries, farming, tax reform, public auto insurance, telephone services, bilingualism,

education, and social services.

They would phase out property and sales taxes, begin a study of the corporate tax structure, and increase taxes on luxury items. They would also try to discover and correct the reasons why that, in 1971, only about 52 per cent of 17 year-olds in the province were in school and why we seem to be lagging behind the rest of Canada with respect to education.

They would nationalize the New Brunswick Telephone Company and automobile insurance. Bilingualism would be strengthened by making it mandatory for municipalities with a 20 per cent linguistic minority to provide bilingual services. Land banks would be created for agricultural land.

Student Liberals are completing the process of amalgamating with the Grits from Saint Thomas. Liberal President Kathy Westman said they have "quite a few" members, meaning over twenty.

The student organization sent delegates to the Liberal nominating convention, and two members are on the executive of the campaign organization. They are partially funded by the Greater Fredericton Liberals, although the two organizations are autonomous.

The Student Liberals are responsible for the campaign on campus and Westman is the co-ordinator for the four campus polls. Members are poll captains and scrutineers. The treasurer of the provincial Student Liberal Association is a member of the UNB organization.

The campaign platform relating most directly to students is the proposal to create a committee of students to advise one particular cabinet minister with respect to student aid and student affairs. Westman said the student aid program would be reconstituted to meet the needs of students today.

An advisory council on the status of women would be established and civil legal aid would be implemented. No-fault compulsory

automobile insurance up to \$35,000 is another feature of the platform.

The Liberals propose to abolish property taxes over a three year period. This, coupled with land-banking and co-operative and other forms of non-profit housing might even make it possible for students to own real property, Westman stated.

With respect to the outcome of the election, Westman said there was an extremely large turnout to the advance polls. This is an indication that the people are not satisfied and want a change of government.

The campus Tories have, according to president Peter Dobbeltsteyn, about 25 active members. This group, a fully registered member of the New Brunswick Progressive Conservative Youth Federation, has been on campus for as long as he can remember.

Dobbeltsteyn said they have about 35 or 40 people working on campus at the present time. They are involved in campaigning, enumerating, and running the polls. The polls on campus are Dobbeltsteyn's responsibility, and he is directly responsible to the government. Dobbeltsteyn stressed that the election is being run by students, although the senior association is providing funds for the campus campaign.

He also said the Tories were the only organization to set up an information booth in the SUB. So far, said Dobbeltsteyn, the high points of the campaign have been when Dr. Chalmers came to the campus last week and the premier's visit yesterday.

When asked what the party had to offer students, Dobbeltsteyn said when the present premier was elected, he was the youngest in the province's history. Also, the national party president, Michael Meighen, is in his early thirties. The party has a national youth organization with people hired for the purpose of channelling youth complaints and enquiries to caucus.

The Hatfield government lowered the voting age to eighteen and the drinking age to nineteen, Dobbeltsteyn continued.

"It's a youth oriented government," he said.

There are now 50,000 more jobs in New Brunswick than there were in October, 1970, he said, and when Robert Higgins was Minister of Economic Growth, there were only 6,000 jobs created from 1967 to 1970. Dobbeltsteyn said the jobs are becoming of higher quality as well.

## NDP attack continued

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Galoska said the lowering of the loan ceiling to \$900 would be a significant improvement. "Instead of having to borrow \$4400 over a four-year university program, a student would have to borrow only \$3600," he said.

Galoska said he comes from a well-to-do family and has never had to take out a student loan so he doesn't know as much about student loans as a poorer student.

However, he said that despite this, "I think UNB is reasonably accessible to all citizens, rich and poor. While I've lived in residence at UNB, I've met a lot of students who had little money but made it through university."

Galoska had no figures to prove his argument about access to UNB for the poor. The provincial student aid department in Fredericton had no figures when telephoned Tuesday. Chief loan officer Evelyn Briggs said no study had been done to compare the average family income of UNB students to the provincial average.

Galoska said the reason why the student leaders didn't propose more fundamental changes in the province's student aid scheme was simple. "I personally think the present setup is fine, although of course there are inequities"

the type that university graduates would be interested in.

He said the tax on clothing and footwear has been dropped, and the present platform contains a plank that would place more stress on recreation and sports. A new holiday, New Brunswick Day, will be created.

Dobbeltsteyn said the government, if re-elected, will increase student aid by increasing bursaries available to students.

"To a certain extent," Galoska continued, "a university education is like a new car or a vacation trip: if you have the money it's easy, otherwise it's a bit harder."

One argument against free tuition, Galoska said, is it would cause students to lose whatever political clout they now have with government, because government could say, "We pay, so we call the shots."

The government employs thousands of workers, and "pays the shot" for all of them by means of salaries. Many of these workers are unionized, and most earn a higher than average wage. However, Galoska was unimpressed with this analogy, as he doesn't consider the role of student to be a job.

Most vocational school students have their way paid as well, but the provincial student leaders decided not to press for equal rights for university students.

Their moderate proposals stand a reasonable chance of being accepted by the new government, but Goudreau feels the students should have gone much farther in their demands. "What the student leaders are doing will only serve to perpetuate a system of inequities," he said.