



Mugwump Journal

By RICK FISHER

Election momentum is in full swing with everybody trying to get organized.

That includes the Liberals, Conservatives and a few others trying to break into the political spectrum. Any new parties that come on the scene could have some pretty interesting effects on the outcome of the elections.

In the southeast a party with similar philosophy to Leonard Jones would take away votes from the Conservatives and maybe even win a few seats.

In the northeast an Acadian Party could take away sufficient votes from the Liberals to let a few Conservatives get elected.

It is nice to say in your column that you expect the two platforms to be similar and then have it reinforced when both parties announce they are proposing property tax reductions. I would think there was a leak somewhere, but I continue to think the platforms will be similar.

Some students are N.B. residents but don't live in Fredericton. There is a chance they could be enumerated twice or not at all. There is very little co-ordination between enumerators. As they get paid by the name, there is some encouragement to enumerate as many as possible. Even some people from out of province will get enumerated and be entitled to vote.

I heard the UNB Young Progressive Conservatives Club is doing the enumeration on campus. The PC's when they are in power, couldn't be less blatantly partisan could they?

I think for something as touchy as that the SRC could do the job and not be as partisan.

The lists of voters will soon be posted and it is up to individuals to check closely to see if you are enumerated properly. If you aren't I believe the date for revisions is Nov. 10.

There are a lot of factors right now in this election. For the first time in New Brunswick the whole election will be fought in single member ridings. Up until now there have been many multiple member ridings. To somebody from out of province this must seem a little strange but it is no more.

What used to happen in County A there was a population that warranted 5 members in the legislature. When you went in to vote you could make five choices out of all the candidates running. Voting was usually pretty close to party lines with small deviations.

Now, and in the future, I think candidates will give to stand more on their own record. There will always be Conservative or Liberal strongholds unless the whole system breaks down.

By the time this is printed you should have a good idea of the line up of candidates and probably hear a little bit more about each party's platform.

Politics is an interesting topic in New Brunswick and usually is taken pretty seriously. Business is won or lost in politics. I even know one friend who is going to church now so when he becomes a candidate 10 years from now he will be known as a church-goer. One of the first things I learned about this province was politically you could draw a line from Edmundston to Moncton. Above that line was French who mostly voted Liberal and below were the English who mostly voted Conservative. There are exceptions of course but that was basically it. You can draw your conclusions in the form of an X on November 18th, voting for the candidate of your choice.

Tenure is a subject I haven't discussed yet, but an individual's case came into view recently. One member of the faculty, Joseph B. Rose, this year is eligible for tenure and I heard that the committee will soon vote on this.

I was wondering whether his improved behavior was due to one of the following:

- (a) Joseph B. Rose is up for tenure.
- (b) Joseph B. Rose is chairman of AUNET's collective bargaining committee.
- (c) When Joseph B. Rose went out west he became more radical.
- (d) Joseph B. Rose is a plot by the marketing professors of the business dept at the University of Yukon.
- (e) All of the above.

An article in Tuesday's Daily Gleaner pointed out that the Provincial Council of Hospital Workers are going on strike Nov. 9 even though their contract does not expire until Dec. 31.

Unions are beginning to drive me up the wall with their careless actions over the past few years. In the above-mentioned story the Council has a contract and to me that is a binding contract which both sides agree to. Lately all sorts of unions have been striking illegally to try to get cost of living adjustments into their contracts. The contract the federal government had with the postal unions even had a penalty clause for illegal strikes. When the postal workers last went out on strike it was illegal. Did the post office take them to court? I haven't read about it and yet damages were estimated in the millions of dollars.

When is it all going to stop? Are the unions going to gain as much power as they have in England where they can paralyze the country at will? I think it is time to stop.

Comment on French high school

Dear Editor:

I would like to comment on Mr. David W. Edwards' letter which appeared in the Brunswickan on October 11, 1974 and which was entitled "French high school a farce?"

"the farce of trying to keep the poor downtrodden frenchman happy..." Downtrodden by whom? Is it an honour for any group of human beings to oppress a minority? Note that I make no reproach to the English-speaking community. But it is notorious that cliques often take control of the government of a country, province or city. Are you aware of what goes on in South Africa? Yet, the English-speaking world does not approve of Apartheid. Robert Stanfield does not approve of Jones' attitude towards the Acadians.

"keep the frenchman happy..." Sorry, you made a grammatical mistake. Frenchman takes a capital, the same as Chinaman, Russian, Ethiopian, Eskimo, Indian, Bushman, and Englishman. As far as our emotional condition is

concerned we are by nature a happy people and so little depend upon the bountifulness of the government that we go about smiling and singing even when our province spends the funds allotted to us to develop southern New Brunswick.

"give him anything he wants..." We do not want anything, thank you. We are a nation and our only concern is that greedy cliques stop looting upon us through capitalistic exploitation and imperialistic laws. Some individuals have been asking, "What do the French want?" imagining that we are slaves to whom one gives a few crumbs once in a while. A free people goes not begging from others but forges its future even after lost battles and centuries of harassment.

"no matter what the cost..." We cost you nothing. We have always paid more than our share in taxes and human sacrifice. What do you count as costs? The salaries of the tax collectors? The matches with which some mentally deranged general burned our establishments?

"entice Quebec to remain a part

of Canada?" Any prime-minister who can keep Quebec within Confederation renders a great service, not to Quebec, but to Canada. Quebec could easily survive as a nation, as Cuba can.

"a complete French Canada..." Where do you get your information from? Are we not justified in being prudent when we face an English-speaking continent since you see a menace to the entire country when one province only speaks a language with which you are not familiar.

"make the English bilingual..." Would you kindly compile a list of all the English bilinguals that you know and publish it in this newspaper.

"integrated schools so that the children can learn to like and respect each other..." Where some person like you can ask the French minority to speak white. Where the integrated library will be well supplied with books written in English. Where the principal, the school board, the working language will be English. Do you like and respect other Canadians? What you have not been able to learn in your home, do you think you could learn in an integrated school? I suspect that those who talk like only long for the day when they can let loose their sickly hatred for others. As for my friends in Acadia they have so much respect for English culture and tradition that they often listen to English programs on radio and TV and speak the English language fluently. With all your respect for others, during how many hours in your whole life did you listen to French radio and TV? How much do you know of French literature from Descartes to Rostand, from Nelligan to Antonine Maillet?

"become truly bilingual to establish a Canadian culture." I prefer two Canadian cultures (And why couldn't Canada be a land made up of many states each having its own culture?) I so respect others that I would never interfere in any way with their culture. I so respect myself that I would never allow anyone, regardless of his might or arrogance to interfere with the true fulfillment of my personality. But how many French traditions would you tolerate in a "Canadian culture"?

"for this culture and language are dead" Where do you get your information from? Some say God is dead. The sun is dying. Some religious sects are foretelling the end of the world. Don't worry too much about us. We survive military defeats, deportations, and callous exploitation and in the meantime contribute significantly to the political and cultural life of our country. Of course, some Canadians can only pronounce the name of an outstanding French-Canadian or Acadian after he is dead. Try saying Laurier, St-Laurent, Robichaud and Trudeau. Don't you feel some uneasiness when you get to the last two?

Should our culture and language be dead, who would have done the killing? Would you be proud of a country where one of the founding nations would be liquidated. What rulers would be your models? We, Frenchmen, were "invited" by thousands to join in your war

On French high school

His views clarified

Dear Editor,

I would again like to use the Bruns' pages to express my views on bilingualism, Bill 22 and this new French high school.

First I shall defend and clarify my statements. I appreciate the letter in last weeks Bruns but I get the feeling I did not express myself clearly enough. I would have liked more comments but I guess every one must not belong to the apathy society. The reader who rebutted by statements did not sign his or her name so I hope he or she reads this.

I agree that every Canadian should be entitled to bilingual education if that is what they desire. But I'm sure that French attempts to get unilingual schools is but an attempt to completely segregate the French faction of N.B., if not Canada, from all the cultures that make up Canada. They do not want anything to do with Canada or Canadians. They want to be by themselves and live their own lives. 250 students does not justify a school. If this was used as the guideline for building schools every minority in N.B. with the minimum of 250 students could and would be granted, (equal opportunity) a school of their own so that their culture would not be assimilated. Pure nonsense and the working man, the taxpayer, couldn't begin to pay for the cost of such programs.

I disagree with the reader when they state the very very over-simplified reasoning behind Quebec's Bill 22. I do not believe that is Quebec's reason for the bill. My own simplified opinion of that Bill would be that it states French must be used in all business places and public places and that it also states non-English immigrants must educate their children in French. Freedom of choice?

Bill 22 is but one more area where Canadians are being forced to speak and use the French language. The reader tells me that French culture and language are not dead because I am so aware of them. Well I say, I am only aware of French because most jobs now require you to be French speaking. If French was not forced on Canadians through legislation it would be non-existent.

As for saying N.B. is approximately made up of 45 per cent French speaking people I would ask where the reader got such "factual" information or is it just wishful thinking. The true fact is that there is only approximately a 33 per cent francophone population in N.B. I say to you "know your facts".

I wonder as to the reason why the reader called me, Monsieur Edwards? Could it be they wanted to impress me of their bilingual ability as was, I'm sure, all our dear Post Master General was trying to do when he answered L. C. Jones in French.

Be proud to be bilingual, whether or not your two languages are English and French but don't force a second language upon me! Let me learn if I want.

I do not wish to have a personal and or an emotional battle with any reader. They are just as entitled to their opinion, right or wrong, as I am. The only way this problem that exists between Canadians and French people is going to get better instead of worse is by sitting down and rationalizing and talking the problem out. I don't want civil war but I can see it coming.

I know there are many people out there with opinions on the questions I have raised here. I would like to hear your comments and I shall give a return answer if you would like.

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