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Paul LePage, president of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour, this June warned that unless corrective measures were taken for the problems of Northeastern New Brunswick, there would be more demonstrations. LePage stressed that actions must be taken which would prevent further crises, rather than act as a stopgap. He said that programs such as the Federal Government's Local Initiatives Project were good in themselves, but were not the answer.

This summer, in a historic move, the N.B. Federation of Labor endorsed the New Democratic Party.

In a speech during ceremonies at Bathurst Community Days in August, LePage once again stated that the future was not bright unless actions were taken. He noted that some secondary industry was coming to the area but stressed that resources would have to be opened up more to primary industry.

In September, in a move which the Tribune referred to as "Christmas time in the northeast," it was announced that \$67,810,000 would be spent in northeastern New Brunswick for economic and social development through the Federal-Provincial Funds for Regional Economic Development (F.R.E.D.) program. The plan was intended to supplement the federal and provincial programs already underway. As far as creating employment is concerned, the aim of the program was to create employment through the development of public facilities and inducement to private enterprise.

LePage is still worried. He had hoped that the Day of Concern would persuade the federal and provincial governments to set up a development corporation in Northern New Brunswick similar to the Cape Breton Development Corporation. He feels that the status quo has been maintained, but that new jobs will have to be created. He would like to see amendments to the Regional Development Incentives Act which would allow the provincial government to negotiate sufficient capital with existing companies for the development of our resources. What we need, says LePage, is continued expansion within our economy.

LePage said that we can't just be dependant on mining and forestry; secondary industries must be developed. "If there ever is another shift in the economy," said LePage, "will the forestry in Northern New Brunswick ever survive?"

According to LePage, the pulp and paper and fishing industries in northeastern New Brunswick are not as viable as they once were. He said that the fish stocks had been depleted because fishing boats from other provinces and countries were frequenting the waters. In the pulp and paper industry, said LePage, the government had not shown sufficient foresight and had allowed too many mills to be built. He added that they should merely have modernized the existing mills and expanded the communities built around them.

Part of last year's unemployment problem was relieved when some of the 320 workers laid off at the Consolidated-Bathurst pulp and paper mill got jobs with the Brunswick

Mining and smelting operation.

Another operation hit by layoffs last year was Nigadoo River Mines. Following a strike in which the management maintained that it could not afford to raise wages, operations were suspended with the loss of 300 jobs.

Ed Levert, international representative of the United Steelworkers of America in Bathurst, reports that some of the men laid off at Nigadoo got jobs with Brunswick Mining and Smelting or with Heath Steel. "A few others," he added, "have problems."

"We're always hopeful that Anaconda will open again," said Levert. Last year, Cariboo Mines, a wholly owned subsidiary of Anaconda American Brass, laid off 110 men.

Although he admitted that the outlook was somewhat better than it had been a year ago, Levert said that indirectly there had been more layoffs as a result of the Day of Concern. He said that the government didn't do anything fantastic as far as pumping in money for secondary industries is concerned. Like LePage, Levert believes the development of secondary industries is of primary importance.

Levert said that northeastern New Brunswick was a particularly susceptible area when there were fluctuations in the economy. There is always the dual problem of foreign ownership and the fact that the companies are interested in maximizing their profit, not in providing a livelihood for the workers. When times are bad, they merely close down a couple of their plants. Said Levert; "I don't think you can play with peoples' lives just going by what the hell the market says".

He said the NDP was "the only political arm that we've got in Canada." He feels that nationalization of industries would be a last resort, but said it could happen when companies refused to operate because large profits were not present.

Even the labor leaders, like LePage and Levert, don't think the Day of Concern was particularly successful, although they did not appear to regret the occurrence of the demonstrations. LePage admitted that the business community "wasn't that receptive to it...they think the demonstrations discouraged investment in the area." Although he did not say whether more demonstrations were in the offing, LePage did say that "we are always going to make sure that the issue is presented to the public."

Father Poulin, the Sociology professor we mentioned earlier, said that there were both right and left wing reactions to the Day of Concern. The establishment of Bathurst, he said, thought that it was a mistake. Many of the people don't talk about it at all. A few, however, thought that it was the only course of actions if the situation was to be improved. Poulin admitted that the demonstrations might have discouraged some businesses from coming to the city.

"The rich people didn't like it," said Poulin, "the poor have nothing to lose." He said that there was a strong reaction against those who were responsible for the Day of Concern.

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