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The Right To Do What?

Student Apathy is no more (the topic, that is). After a few days of public exposure (to the editors) it was rapidly returned to the dust-heap.

Poking hopefully around for something else we accidentally came across an equally moribund topic called "Maritime Rights." With considerable trepidation and very little optimism, we herewith present it for your views, with one caution; this is an old topic, rather decayed, but of great sentimental value to Maritimers. If you must criticize (ah! vain hope!) be gentle; a stiff jolt would scatter it in a hundred pieces.

The logical starting place isn't always the proper one and Maritime Rights is a case in point. For right off, we should determine the precise nature of the beast and proceed from there. But you see, this has never been done. Maritimers have gone grimly along for years insisting on their rights, but the fact of the matter is that no one knows what they are. This is a serious matter; one which should receive prompt attention.

Mr. Gordon allowed that one of these rights was the right to move (out). This was so vigorously denied by Maritimers that hadn't (moved) that it is probably safe to scratch it. A popular notion is that Maritimers be permitted to call their territory "The Cradle of Confederation". This however, gave rise to such brilliant displays of wit as "Yes and they're still in it" that it prompted Maritime advocates to play it down. We can only conclude that some of them haven't developed a high sense of humor.

You begin to see the kind of thing that makes this discussion so difficult. So far the only thing on which we are clear is that some things are not Maritime rights. Look at the Loyalists (United Empire variety), for example. It is generally considered that it is a Maritime Right to be proud of those citizens who fled the American Revolution and settled in New Brunswick. Is it? The Americans don't seem to think there is anything uniquely praiseworthy about them. In fact not a few Americans have on occasion been prompted to label them traitors. Is it Maritime Right to be proud of traitors? In any event, they are all dying out.

It is because we recognize the lamentable lack of consistency about Maritime Rights that the following draft has been drawn up. In its finished form it could prove of some value to evangelists of Maritism. It could be included in a party platform in the forthcoming national election. It could be used as . . . But stop; There is no need to anticipate everything. To be adopted as the official "Maritime Bill of Rights" our humble proposal needs ratification by the Atlantic premiers (separately and then together), by the WCTU, by the IODE by APEC and by the countless other influential groups of Maritimers that together comprise Atlantic Provinces' power and opinion.

A Maritime Bill of Rights

Whereas the people of the Maritime Provinces live in the depressed area of Canada and become quite bothered when anyone questions this and whereas the said people have of late become almost as depressed as the land on which they live, said depression being a strain on their sense of humor and whereas this depressive gloom might conceivably be a threat to national security if allowed to spread over the whole country and (finally) whereas a statement of the rights of Maritimers might revive their low spirits, be it therefore resolved that the following be adopted as the "Maritime Bill of Rights".

1. All Maritimers have the right to live in the Maritimes and no one can move them.
2. All Maritimers have the right to die and be buried in the Maritimes and no one can move them.
3. All Maritimers have the right to become indignant at Canadians when outside their native territories and no one can remove them.
4. All Maritimers have the right to export their brains, if they can find no use for them at home, and no one is allowed to send them back.
5. All Maritimers have the right to frown at jokes at their own expense and no one can force them to laugh.
6. All Maritimers have the right to drink, but only when the government will let them.
7. All Maritimers have the right to oppose any outside industry settling within their territorial limits except such industries which can be of no use to the said Maritimers.
8. All Maritimers have the right to be suspicious of any proposals designed to better their territory especially those which come from Upper Canadians.

From our humble pen has come the skeleton of an historical document of freedom and democracy which we sincerely hope will receive earnest consideration by the authorities. It is not complete — it is by no means finished — but it points the way to a GREATER MARITIMES.

Letters to the Editor

The Lady Beaverbrook Residence,
February 9, 1958.

Sir,

The "Brunswickan" has been for a long time publishing derogatory and unfounded statements regarding NFCUS.

For the past two days, the National President of NFCUS has been on the campus. During that time he has spoken on four occasions; once in each residence and twice at meetings before the student body. That is on four different occasions in the past two days, anyone with questions or charges concerning NFCUS was at liberty to have them aired in public.

Why is it, therefore, sir, that you, who have so freely used this paper as a medium to sway student opinion and to criticize NFCUS did not show yourself at any of these gatherings? Is this the way you and the "Brunswickan" claim to have the interests of the students at heart? Are you, as a "famous" editor once said, ". . . a little grey blob?"

Perhaps an explanation of your stand would be in order at this time.

Yours sincerely,
"Observer"

Our Stand

Kind Sir: your extremely interesting and not altogether flattering letter is very timely. Permit us to commend you upon your energies. Arriving as it did after our brief campaign for student interest makes it doubly prominent and refreshing.

To the matter in question: Our stand should by this time be perfectly obvious. During the years 1955-56 and 1956-57, the "Brunswickan" severely criticized NFCUS on clearly justifiable grounds. The local committee, with whom students are brought into contact with the National organization, was not discharging its local organization and the local organization was pitifully weak. We did all in our effort to bring this to the attention of the student body and the SRC. We succeeded and the local committee was supposedly overhauled several times. Apparently it did very little good and the

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beginning of this year saw the committee in much the same condition it had been two years ago.

The national association is loosely organized and badly coordinated. The state of the national finances revealed at last year's conference is a very good case in point. Called upon by this paper to explain its purposes and objectives, NFCUS has replied only in the vaguest generalities.

The important thing to remember is that this university contributes \$600 more or less to the national treasury every year. Is this important or is it not? If it is important, then we should see to it that the organization is operating at maximum efficiency for our benefit. This has been our aim.

A "Brunswickan" reporter attended the meeting at which the national president addressed the SRC.

The duty of a college paper is to act on behalf of the student body. In this spirit we criticized NFCUS. It would seem better to do that than to publish blanket statements of commendation and praise.

ACCOMODATION INFO.

(Continued from page 1)
time and trouble in finding a satisfactory place to live. With this questionnaire we hope to increase our knowledge of the market for rooms so that our information can become more complete. Thus we can become even more beneficial to the student body."

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