

Lynch says Canada most socialist western country

By DERWIN GOWAN
News Editor

Newspaper Columnist Charles Lynch told the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce that Canada is the most socialised country in the western world last Tuesday, and added he was glad to see free enterprisers finally speaking up.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's new economic policy he described by a joke. According to him the government is "not so skillful at controlling anything." The joke concerned a father and son in a fishing schooner that had to put in to an inlet during a storm. The next morning, they woke up and discovered that the anchor had dragged and they were lost. The father said to throw out the extra anchor but the son replied there was no rope attached to it. The father then said to throw it out anyway because it would help some.

Lynch said the Progressive Conservative leadership race was "wide open". The man who could have won, Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed, said Lynch, refused. He said Lougheed finds provincial politics more fulfilling than the federal variety, particularly now that the emphasis in Canada is presently shifting to the provincial governments.

Also, said Lynch, Lougheed did not want to confront a large federal bureaucracy he could not control. Lougheed is not bilingual and the press has given him a hard time, said Lynch.

According to Lynch, "If bilingualism rules out a man . . . as appealing as Peter Lougheed . . . it

rules out a lot of people, perhaps too many." Further, he said, it gives Quebecers a favoured position.

With respect to Lougheed's alleged fear of the media, Lynch said, "We're very gentle, we're very kind . . . we're not cruel." Lynch then illustrated some of the gibes the Parliamentary Press Gallery takes at politicians with two songs - "In the sands of Athabaska, we've more oil than Alaska . . ." and "When you're Trudeau, we'll give you dough . . ."

Lynch said Paul Hellyer would probably take the Tory leadership as a compromise candidate although Flora MacDonald would be "Very strong". Lynch said MacDonald might win with the woman vote, but added that women tend not to vote for other women. Brian Mulroney, Lynch said, had a lot of support, but he added he was suspicious of candidates with no experience.

Lynch said he did not support Leonard Jones, but said he should not have been lumped with Olympic contractor Joe Zappia who "came from nowhere and nobody knows where he's going."

Lynch said that although he was once a centralist, he now believes the federal government should slacken its grip on the provinces and added that Canada "won't fly apart". He said Quebec could be given "What she wants" in terms of control over internal affairs and that other provinces wanted this as well. "I think this would ease the pressures that are prying this country apart," said Lynch.

Lynch said he was a staunch royalist, yet the Queen should not

open the 1976 Olympic Games. He added that this did not mean he had any particular attachment for the "motherland as the motherland doesn't care any more for us than we do for the motherland." Lynch said "a majority in nine provinces accept her (the Queen) warmly" but Quebec held opposite sentiments. Lynch quoted Prince Philip as saying, "When it (the monarchy) becomes divisive its usefulness is at an end." The monarchy has become provincial rather than a national symbol, said Lynch. Therefore, it "shouldn't be beyond the bounds of ingenuity . . . to take the heat off the Queen, leaving her free to come where she's wanted and not come where she's not wanted."

Lynch said "the lines are drawn" between socialists and free enterprisers and that in the last British Columbia provincial election, businessmen "who wouldn't dirty their hands in politics" got involved.

Canada is "the most highly socialised country in the western world," said Lynch, even more so than Scandinavian nations. "the Atlantic Provinces are the most highly socialised provinces in Canada," he added. To free enterprisers, he said, "Where have you been all my life?"

Lynch said the Bricklin car project "died of government unease" and that the big auto manufacturers lauded the demise. The smart money is going to the American market, said Lynch, "leaving a vacuum for government to fill."

"You've got to fight for what you believe in," said Lynch, "I hope you will."



Photo by Pat Kirk

Newspaper columnist Charles Lynch told the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce about the lighter side of federal politics.

Byelection forecasted

With spring SRC elections less than three weeks away, there is a growing prospect that a by-election may be called soon after.

SRC vice-president Gordon Kennedy indicated as much in a telephone interview Wednesday night.

Kennedy said if the new constitution passes as presently worded, he would definitely not be running for the position of vice-president.

Unless the definition of the jobs (vice-president) is changed, Kennedy sees the external vice-president as being in a very powerful position.

As the constitution presently is worded, the external vice-president will have the power of the application committee, that is to make appointments in key positions, such as campus police chief, and yearbook editors, etc. Kennedy does not agree with this and unless the power to appoint positions is kept out of the hands of the executives, SRC will be in worse position than it presently is.

When the new constitution comes into effect, a by-election will probably be called with the election of two new vice-presidents. Kennedy said he will use this opportunity to call for a new vote on the NUS referendum.

He said that he is very

disappointed with the help that NUS has given to student aid during the past demonstration and feels that students should have a choice as to whether they stay on this campus.

Commenting on the work that the vice-president must do, Kennedy said a vice-president does "just as much as the president", writing letters, answering phones and going as a delegate to conventions.

Regarding the incumbent president and their business relationship, Kennedy stated they do not "play the same game". "I won't vote for the man again and he probably won't vote for me," said Kennedy.

However, Kennedy predicted Smith to win the next election by 80 per cent "with another money campaign". He has "the jump on everybody else" because he is receiving 90 dollars per week and can contribute this to his own campaign.

As to the progress being made on this campus over student aid, Kennedy said that we have "middle and upper class society here" who are not so concerned about it. This is shown by the performance of students in McConnell Hall on Wednesday afternoon, said Kennedy.

"I am not running for president. Definitely, capital D," said Kennedy.



Photo by Pat Kirk

Charles Lynch said free enterprise are beginning to speak up on political issues, particularly after Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau announced his new economic policy.

Election field wide open

By BURT FOLKINS

Returning officer Bill Sanderson said the field for candidates for SRC elections on February 18 is still wide open.

At present there are only six officially declared candidates for any of the positions available.

President Jim Smith has stated that he will again contest the presidency for the SRC. Rumour has it that opposing Smith will be returning candidate Dale Saulis, defeated in his first attempt

against Smith.

Sanderson said there must be three candidates declared for the presidency position before February 4 when nominations close or he must allow nominations for that position to remain open for an extra week.

Other representatives who have indicated they will run are John Bell, Arts Representative; Allan Patrick, Representative at Large; and Alan Hildebrand, Science Representative, who previously

ran against Smith for the presidency.

Assistant Comptroller, Peter Davidson, may be seeking a term as comptroller when Wence Batanyita resigns.

Positions are also available for the graduating class representatives, they include president, vice-president, secretary, validictorian. Wence Batanyita is running for V.P. and Margot Brewster will contest Validictorian against a likely Chris Pratt.