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Committee is not a delaying tactic, says Hatfield

By ALISON KING

Premier Richard Hatfield was not able to be very forthcoming about the progress made to date by the committee formed to discuss the Student Aid Programme, he told *The Brunswickan*, Wednesday.

Before the demonstration in the Centennial Building ended two weeks ago, it was agreed that a committee should be established consisting of a teacher to represent the students, the Deputy Education Minister, and an impartial mediator experienced in the area of financing or chartered accountancy. In this case, the mediator chosen is an employee of the New Brunswick Telephone Company. The committee held its second meeting Tuesday 24th February, but Hatfield was unable to give any account of its progress. "First of all," he said, "they haven't reported to me, and secondly I wouldn't expect a report until

they've had several meetings. I imagine they're probably deciding exactly how they're going to go about it, and what they're going to do. There wouldn't be a progress report from day to day, or from meeting to meeting."

When asked whether the committee was a delaying tactic to appease the students, (a spokesman from U de M had cast doubt on whether anything concrete would emerge from the meetings,) Hatfield replied with a crackle of dry laughter: "Well, the committee was their own suggestion." He went on to say, "My point with them when I met them the first time was that the problem could not be resolved quickly. Firstly, I could not put more money into the programme last year, and my ability to put money into the programme this year is severely limited. It isn't a matter of delay. Those are the facts."

He added that he tried to tell students that there might be some

way of assisting those students who had "major indebtedness" but did not think that the government would be able to give out across the board increases.

As regards the question of a universally free higher education, Hatfield had no objection on

principle, but it was again a matter of cost, he said.

He said, "I'm leery of the idea of raising the entrance requirements and subsidizing students completely as in Europe, where they have a very sophisticated apprentice system and where there hasn't been

the emphasis on higher education that exists in North America." He was not in favour of a reduction in the number of students resulting in a more elitist and selective university system, he said, but added that "we may have to come to that".



New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield discusses government policies with *The Brunswickan*. He claimed the three member committee was not a delaying tactic as it was recommended by students.

Tories choose Clark

By DERWIN GOWAN
News Editor

OTTAWA (Special) — Joe Clark is the new leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada and he received support of most of the New Brunswick delegates on the final ballot.

When voting began, most of them were sporting Flora MacDonald placards, a possible indication that they were following Premier Richard Hatfield's lead. However, as soon as MacDonald withdrew from the race and moved over to the Clark bench, she took most of the New Brunswick delegates with her.

Some of the New Brunswick delegates were rooting for Brian Mulroney, Joe Clark, and Sinclair Stevens, among others, on the first ballot, but MacDonald and then Clark clearly had the sympathy of the majority.

If MacDonald had received the number of votes that Clark got on the first ballot, she would likely have emerged the winner, as she would have picked up the support

from James Gillies, John Fraser, Heward Grafftey, and possibly Sinclair Stevens, rather than Clark. Clark got his first major break when Stevens went over to Clark, taking most of his 182 votes with him. Clark and Stevens have a record of co-operation in the House of Commons, which likely explains why Stevens supported Clark rather than Claude Wagner.

After the second ballot was over, it was fairly clear that Clark was in a good position. Wagner's support had already nearly peaked, although it was not clear how much of Mulroney's delegates he would receive support from. This was especially true after Mulroney refused to back any candidate. However, Mulroney's workers knew where their man wanted them to go, and when Mulroney nominator Premier Frank Moore's of Newfoundland put on a Joe Clark scarf, the issue was settled.

Clark needed at least 60 percent of Mulroney's votes in order to win, and he received a little over this, putting him in a winning position.

Photo by Philip Wong

Bricklin will still be big issue

By ALISON KING

With the opening of the Legislature on March 8th, one of the major issues up for discussion will be the anti-inflation programme, and therefore the budget also, said Premier Richard Hatfield, Wednesday February 25.

"I suspect also that Bricklin will be discussed again and again and again," he said. He enlarged on the present situation of the Bricklin plant: it is in the hands of the receiver who is trying to invest new capital in it unconnected with the government. In the interests of creating employment the government did invest money in the plant, said Hatfield as in other industries. The problems encountered were several, and included management difficulties and those connected generally with the start-up of a new project. The plant was unable to raise capital outside the government grants, and the latter felt that

it had poured enough money into the plant. This support withdrawn, the project went into receivership.

When asked whether the government was going to cut back its expenditure on the three major areas of education, health, and social security, Hatfield said, "As I pointed out in my speech to the province in order to control increase in expenditure and bring it into line with the revenues the province is receiving either from borrowing, from the Federal government, or from taxation, we're going to have to cut the rate of growth." He thought the government would be spending more money on each of the major departments than was the case last year.

However, since the rate of growth of expenditure could not exceed 15 percent, it would not be as great. In almost every department expenditure will be decreased, with the exception of

the Economic Development departments, which will not feel the pinch quite so much, said Hatfield.

Hatfield went on to say that the greatest cuts would necessarily come from the departments which are spending the most money. "If we needed, for example, to reduce expenditures by say \$50 million, we could not take it all out of certain smaller departments. Otherwise they would cease to exist."

According to Hatfield, it is more important for the future that expenditure is controlled in the major areas as there are indications that the Federal government is going to be cutting back their contributions even further, especially with regard to health care and its allied services. He continued, "As far as education is concerned, the cost is increasing rapidly, and that increase must be curbed; otherwise we're not going

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Recommendations coming

The three member committee formed after the recent student aid demonstration is presently forming recommendations for changes to the student aid programme in this province.

Norman Martin, the deputy minister of youth and government representative to the three person body, stated that the premier has given this committee immediate attention and has asked for the recommendations as soon as possible.

"The committee has met twice

already and will continue to meet at least once a week until the recommendations can be presented to the minister of youth and the premier," stated Martin.

Martin declined comment on what changes have been agreed upon by the committee.

The other two representatives in the committee are Fernand Arsenault, a Université de Moncton professor, and Thomas Preston who is a vice-president for The New Brunswick Telephone Company.