

Quebec separation could be advantageous - Brym

by Jamie Rowan

Would Quebec sovereignty be an economic disaster for the rest of Canada? Not according to this year's W.C. Pacey Memorial Lecture lecturer, Dr. Robert J. Brym, a sociologist from the University of Toronto.

Brym, while stating that most English-speaking Canadians view the prospect of Quebec's sovereignty with "either indifference or horror", argues that "separation could be more



Robert J. Brym

economically advantageous for English-speaking Canada than any probable constitutional alternative".

The lecture, titled "Some Advantages of Canadian Disunity: How Quebec Sovereignty Might Aid Economic Development in English Canada" was given Monday night in Tilley 102.

In the lecture, Brym terms Confederation a "marriage of convenience", with deliberate ambiguity as to the exact distribution of powers to the federal and provincial governments, and laying the groundwork for the "quintessential Canadian creation," regional and economic cleavages.

These cleavages have proved costly, says Brym, preventing Canada from any hope of a centralized economy. Brym predicts that the economic powerhouses of the next century will be the planned markets, with high standards of living and low unemployment, exemplified by Japan and the Scandinavian countries, where labour, business and government work together in a "corporatist" system.

This is characterized by "consultative central planning" and by higher taxes that are used to retrain workers and to

"Separation could be economically advantageous for English-speaking Canada." - Brym

encourage the transition of capital and manpower to more competitive industries. All three groups work in concert to maximize employment and productivity.

Once Quebec has attained its sovereignty, Canada will cease to be decentralized by Quebec's "centrifugal force" and it will be possible to revise the economy and the political system allow Canada to better compete. As well, social issues will rise in priority with the simplification, if not the elimination of the continual class struggle and present endless constitutional turmoils arising from the current French-English tensions.

While admitting that the work is of necessity speculative, Brym has used the economic history of many countries to create a model of a new Canada without Quebec.

Poverty

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number of community college programs . . . We can't expect any program to be 100 per cent perfect. The government wants to provide work experience and integrate them into workforce. There is always room for improvement but I think it is important to know what the government is doing now," she says.

"The poor are not to be pitied, but assisted and to be given a sense of

empowerment," Barry adds.

She also explained that factors associated with poverty such as provincial infant mortality rates and teenage pregnancy are equal or lower in comparison to the rest of the country. Barry also says any ideas brought forward would seriously be taken into consideration.

Elizabeth Weir, leader of the New Democratic party, points out that the number of foodbanks in the province has doubled in one year and that the provincial government is failing to deal with the problems of poverty effectively.

Weir implies that the government gives special deals to friends of the liberal party but says, "there are no special deals for those men, women and children who are poverty stricken."

"If we are going to meet the problem of hunger, we can't do this simply through food banks. The government decides in its budget its priorities. Can all political issues boil down to dollars and cents? A government must understand," she concludes.

During the day there were various sessions and workshops held dealing with the issue of poverty.

Referendum

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students to define what they want and what they need in a health program", and continues that the visions to the plan have been made in response to the concerns expressed to the SRC by many students.

If the new health program is implemented, it would be reviewed at the end of next year as prices may increase due to an unexpectedly high number of users.

McGee states that it is up to each individual to vote and play a part in determining which health plan they will receive in the upcoming year; he emphasizes that participation in the referendum is essential if the SRC is to obtain an accurate reading of student opinion.

NOTICE

Brunswickan Election

The Brunswickan is now taking applications for editorial positions for the academic year 1991-1992. All applicants for positions other than Editor-in-chief and Managing Editor should have been staff of the paper before. Applicants for the positions of Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor should have held an editorial post in the past to qualify for the position. *The Brunswickan* staff will then hold elections at a general meeting to choose the new editorial board.

Applications should take the form of a letter stating interest in a particular position. The application should include name, student i.d. number and experience if desired. Campaigning for positions is encouraged among interested persons. **Applications should be in no later than Thursday March 28. Election day will be announced in next week's Brunswickan.** Send applications to The Editor-in-Chief, the Brunswickan, Room 35, Student Union Building, UNB.

The following positions are being vied for:

Editor-in-chief

Managing Editor

Sports Editor

News Editor

Entertainment Editor

Features Editor

Distractions Editor

Off-set Editor

Photo Editor

The positions of **Business Manager** and **Advertising Manager** are paid positions and applications for these positions, along with resumes should be sent to the Editor-in-chief of *The Brunswickan* no later than April 1st 1991.

The Brunswickan is looking for interested and enthusiastic people. Please support your campus paper by participating in its development.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Over 300 lost, found, seized, unclaimed and obsolete items including all-speed bicycles, tools, furnishings, electronic equipment, etc., will be sold by the City of Fredericton Police Force on **Saturday, April 27 from 9A.M. - 1:00P.M.** in the Fredericton Coliseum, Exhibition Grounds, Smythe Street.

Viewing ...8:00A.M. - 9:00A.M.

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March 22, 1991