

Atlantic Issues

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What is wrong with the Post Office?

You've just put stamps on your letter or light bill. This time last year, the same letter cost 8c to mail. In September it went to 10c — now it's 12c. The extra postage is supposed to help pay for the \$1 billion postal automation programme, and chances are your letter will take at least as long to reach its destination as a letter would have taken a year ago. If you're like many people today, you'd probably rather put "your 2 cents' worth" anywhere else than on that envelope.

The Post Office is not the most popular of government services these days. While few departments are escaping taxpayers' annoyance at higher costs for doubtful services, the Post Office is too big and too visible to ease out of the glare of public opinion. Many other issues have aroused people's anger — the Judges' Affair, Lockheed, or in this region the operations of Shaheen in Newfoundland, Bricklin in New Brunswick and MAGI in Nova Scotia — but they have come and gone, while the Post Office issue remains. Every day, slow delivery and expensive rates irritate many taxpayers.

What is wrong with the Post Office? What do the postal workers want? Why are there constant strikes and a seeming deterioration of services? Why can't they settle differences peacefully? This summer, the contract between the Post Office and its inside workers will be up for renegotiation. Before the debate heats up, *Atlantic Issues* would like to examine the problem of the Post Office.

by Eleanor MacLean

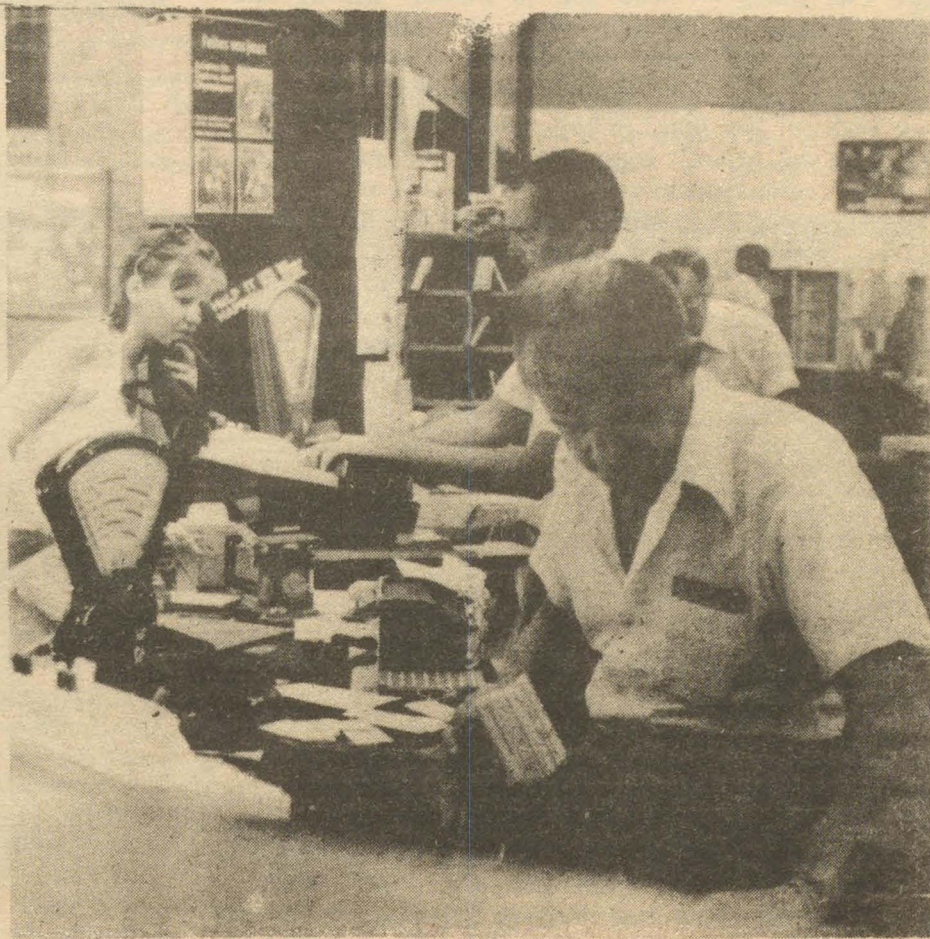
The Canadian Post Office has 50,000 people on its payroll. Of these, over 22,000 are inside postal workers organized into the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW). The others are members of the Letter Carriers' Union, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, and the Association of Postal Officers. In the past, other collective agreements have followed the CUPW contract.

Next July, bargaining for a new postal contract will involve several contentious issues. Casual labour and a manual dexterity test are major questions. But at the heart of the disagreement between the two sides is automation.

Briefly, the first two issues: The estimated 3,000 "term" or casual employees are not covered by collective agreements, yet are regularly used in the Post Office's daily operations. The union will be demanding that the P.O. hire full-, half-, part-time and relief employees as bona fide postal workers, rather than a pool of cheap, untrained labour. Difficulties with the manual dexterity test are also anticipated. A postal worker must encode 1,000 letters an hour for the mechanized system with 99% accuracy, in order to attain the minimum efficiency of the system. And after 6 months, 1,800 letters per hour are required, with 99% accuracy. Many employees lack the manual dexterity to encode this many letters at this level of accuracy. About 40% of those who took the 7-minute test in one Toronto plant failed it.

Automation

The overriding question troubling postal workers, however, is automation. Automation of the Post Office was begun in 1972, and when it is completed, the estimated cost to the Canadian taxpayer will be \$1 billion. While it will most noticeably affect postal workers in Central Canada, where the main plants and population are, the problems it brings affect the 1,750 postal workers in the Atlantic as well. At present, there are mechanized plants in St. John, New Brunswick, and St. John's, Newfoundland, and there are plans for ones in



Confidential report links management incompetence with employee unrest.

Halifax, Nova Scotia (1978), and Moncton, New Brunswick (1980).

Technological change

When work is mechanized, machines of course take the place of people. When it is automated, machines can produce work for other machines, and all the work can be controlled by a small staff with the aid of computers and other electronic devices.

What are the problems with postal automation?

Technical. From a technical point of view, there can be many problems, as there seem to have been in Canada. The 27½-acre Gateway plant in Toronto (cost so far: \$90 million) is still "practising" with dummy mail after a year, and

"I think someone misjudged how long it would take to write the programmes for this system..."

operations in the other 2 mechanized plants are already behind schedule because of computer problems. "I think someone misjudged how long it would take to write the programmes for this system" says Plant Manager Allan Davies (*Financial Times*, 22 Nov. 76). Technical problems also arise if other procedures needed for the system don't work out as planned: after 6 years, the postal code is being used in only slightly more than half the mail. The result? Huge areas in each of the new Toronto plant are still temporary locations for the manual sorting of mail.

Personnel. There are many personnel problems associated with automation in the post office, but perhaps one of the more glaring problems is that by 1980 2,000 jobs will be lost in Toronto, 1,800 in Montreal, and a total of

6,000 across the country. From labour's point of view, a brief history of automation in the region will show how this problem is related to others in the Post Office.

Automation in the Atlantic region

Article 29

This article of the Collective Agreement dates from the December 5 settling of the long "Christmas" postal strike of 1975. In it, the P.O. management agrees to "eliminate all injustices to or adverse effects on employees" when it brings in machinery for the internal processing of mail. This includes "equipment different in nature, type or quantity from that previously utilized by the P.O. Department, a change, related to the introduction of this equipment, in the manner in which the P.O. Department carries on internal processing of mail and any change in work methods and postal services operations affecting one or more employees." *St. John, N.B.*

In February 1976, postal employees were asked to move, with no notice, to a new mechanized plant. Post Office management denied that this move to a new plant constituted a technological change. *St. John's, Newfoundland*

In May 1976, postal employees were supposed to move into the new Kenmount Road mechanized plant in St. John's even though due consultation had not taken place. They countered by stating in a letter that they did not wish to move to the new premises. Post Office management replied with a letter informing them of their new place of work, and stating that if they did not comply with the call to work, they could be dismissed.

Two months later in July, the Jolliffe decision upheld the postal employees' position on the move. However, as of April 1977, nearly

Living beyond our means

The same Prime Minister who once told fishermen on the Atlantic Coast to do something else if they couldn't make a living recently told unemployed university graduates to go to another country if they couldn't find work in Canada. "If it's just a job you want," he said, "my heart does not bleed for you in Toronto," as if hoping to find work were something extraordinary. The Prime Minister was being surprisingly frank, for such comments give the impression that he just doesn't care about the almost one million Canadians who are officially unemployed, not to mention all those who are not counted in the statistics.

Trudeau's remarks are quite consistent with the government's general view of Canada's problems. According to this view, if the economy is not functioning properly, it is you and I — average Canadians — who are to blame. During the parliamentary debate on unemployment, and later during an address in Toronto, the Prime Minister told Canadians that they are "living beyond their means". As a whole they are living "too high off the hog". They must make sacrifices.

Few people in the Atlantic region will find this explanation palatable. If our regional economy is suffering, it is not because most of us have too good a life. Trudeau did not distinguish between the "means" of different classes of Canadians, between the disposable income of the rich and that of the rest of us. We are supposed to believe that the unemployed and the low and middle-income earners are just as guilty of consuming more than they need as are the millionaires like Trudeau. It is clear that the Prime Minister and his government assume that the grossly inequitable distribution of wealth in this country — where the richest 20% of the population receive over 42% of the national income, while the poorest 20% receive less than 4% — is simply to be taken for granted. The philosophy of the federal government seems to be something like this: if you are unemployed, too bad; if your income is low or moderate, learn to live with less.

This attitude translates itself into legislation like the new bill cutting back unemployment insurance benefits. It also appears in Finance Minister Donald Macdonald's new federal budget. The main features of the budget are a whole series of tax credits for the domestic and foreign owners of companies and for top level executives, which, it is claimed, should stimulate the economy. Spending on job creation programmes is kept to a bare minimum, and one of the principal aims of the budget is (in the words of the *Globe and Mail*) to "hold down labour costs", that is, to maintain or reduce the average person's share of the nation's wealth.

There is, ironically, a sense in which Trudeau is quite right when he says we are living beyond our means. An economy which is organized around the principle of maximizing profits necessarily generates various irrational forms of waste, because it depends on a continual turnover of products. If, for example, a car lasted thirty years instead of five years, General Motors would be broke and its employees without jobs. The result of this is such things as planned obsolescence, excessive advertising and packaging, creation of artificial needs, and other forms of institutionalized waste. As a society we are in fact using more natural resources than we can afford. But it is not because the average person, and certainly not because the average Atlantic Canadian, is living in an exorbitant manner. It is because all the basic economic decisions are made by a proportionately small group of wealthy and powerful individuals who are working for their own interests and not those of the whole society.

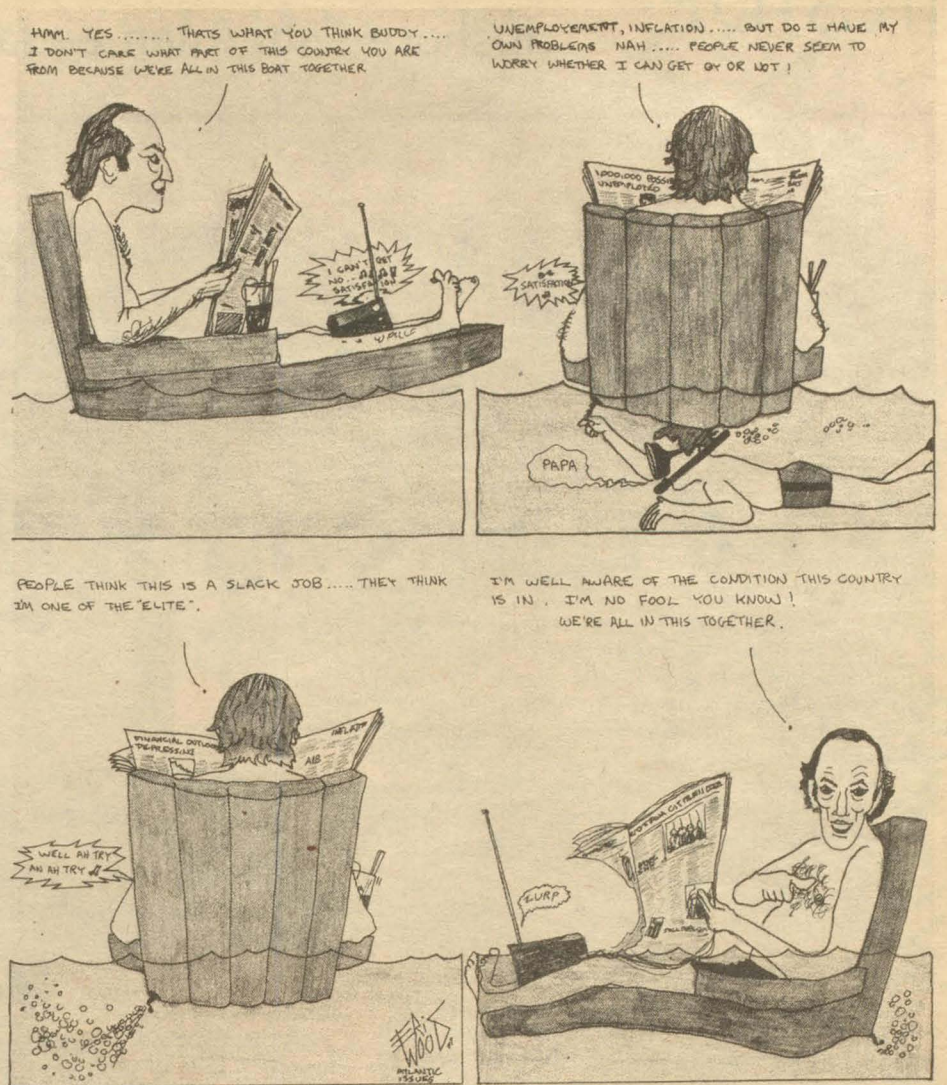
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Editorial board for this issue: **Steve Greene, Harvey MacKinnon, Eleanor MacLean, James MacLean.**

We would like to thank the following people for contributing to make this issue possible:

Mike Bradfield	Susan Perly	Donna Treen
Mike Donovan	Rick Williams	Eric Wood



Letters

Dear Kindred Spirits:

I picked up a copy of your new sheet...I am encouraged to be able to read the stuff of Ralph Surette and my good friend Don Cameron and to know that the good and truer word is being spread, although I suspect too much among the committed.

The New Brunswick view is not as prominent as I would like, and I realize people like me are mainly responsible, since we run off to the flesh pots of wicked Montreal or hog-town and seemingly forsake our homeland...All of which is leading to my offer to turn out some NB material to bolster the stuff that tells it like it is in your first issue.

Richard Wilbur
Concordia University

To the Editors:

Congratulations! I had almost despaired of seeing a publication out of the Maritimes dealing with such critical issues....

Keep up the good work.

Beatrice R. Buszek,
Wolfville

To the Editors:

Recently I had the opportunity to read one of your organizations newsletters and, I must admit, was very excited by the approach taken. It expressed a deep commitment to human rights, freedom and the importance of political analysis, to all of which I am committed....

Edwin J. Franette
Moncton

To the Editors:

...I would like to compliment **Oxfam** for its sponsorship of **Atlantic Issues**. I enclose a \$10 donation for the support of this newsletter..

Richard Keshen
North Sydney

To the Editors:

...I have read volume No.1 and have found it very interesting, as well as being very useful as a learning aid with the students in our Junior High School...

Vic Gouthro
Bras d'Or, Cape Breton

To the Editors:

...We think "Atlantic Issues" is an excellent publication and wish its producers every success....

Ray and Elizabeth Bradbury
Hampton, New Brunswick

To the Editors:

A fantastic paper! Keep up the good work...

Robert Matthews
Halifax

To the Editors:

I was favourably impressed with the first issue and believe this publication can be valuable in presenting the case for changing the erroneous government policy of embarking on huge and expensive projects that in the past few years have proved disastrous in all four Atlantic Provinces.

Your next editorial step probably should be to give some practical suggestions and examples of types of small industry that can flourish here. A listing of present federal and provincial government aids for small industry and cooperatives might be included...

Success to the fishermen and God speed the plough!

Ralph S. Morton
Halifax

P.S. Congratulations on the excellent way you have financed the project.

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Atlantic Issues
depends on donations.
Send your cheque or money order to:
P.O. Box 18,000 or P.O. Box 18,000
Halifax, N.S. St. John's, Newfoundland

New Brunswick case shows

DREE - Instant profits, no jobs

by Steve Greene

It is beginning to become common knowledge in the Atlantic community that federal development programmes, such as DREE, do not meet the needs of the Atlantic region. Further, as such cases as Brunswick Mills illustrate, these projects often create new hardships or strengthen old grievances.

In 1969, Pierre Trudeau said, "If the underdevelopment of the Atlantic Provinces is not corrected — not by charities or subsidies, but by helping them become areas of economic growth — then the unity of the country is almost as surely destroyed as it would be by the French-English confrontation." This is heady stuff. But Pierre Trudeau was not the first person who recognized underdevelopment to be a peculiarly Atlantic problem.

In 1954, the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC) was founded. Its main objective was to bring the question of regional disparity to Ottawa's attention. Out of its efforts, the Atlantic Development Board was founded and, eventually, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE).

The Council's chief concern was jobs. In their 1962 pamphlet, "Initiatives for Manufacturing Industries", they reported that between 1951 and 1957 more than 25,000 jobs had disappeared in resource-based industries. The Council urged that the federal government be active in formulating, financing and administering a regional development program. They argued that that program must be "bold, massive, and well-coordinated".

Ottawa was hard to budge. The 1957 Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects recommended federal spending on public works projects in the Atlantic community and hoped that investment would increase to meet employment needs. But in a monumental blunder, they suggested that if development did not pick up, the federal government should help people to move away.

Government bureaucracy grows

Under Alvin Hamilton, minister of agriculture in the Diefenbaker government, federal developmental agencies came fast and furious. The goal of the Agricultural and Developmental Rehabilitation Act (ARDA) and the Fund for Rural Economic Development (FRED) was to redevelop depressed rural areas, to improve rural land usage, and to retrain rural people. The Atlantic Development Board (ADB) was formed to advise Ottawa on the region. Then in 1963 the Pearson government enacted the Area Development Act (ADA) to give hand-outs to new industries in designated areas.

All this bureaucratic activity had no effect on Atlantic underdevelopment. The programs and agencies were uncoordinated both among themselves and with other federal policies. Federal economists continued to ignore advice from the region. Expensive studies from consulting firms collected dust on office shelves.

Then in 1969, with much fanfare in Ottawa and excitement in the Atlantic community, the Trudeau government ushered in DREE. Since its inauguration, DREE has given \$70,494,079 million to New Brunswick firms alone.

The stated purpose of DREE is to give money to new or established firms in order to create new employment. A typical DREE grant was the 2.9 million dollars given to McCain Foods in 1976 to build yet another food processing plant. This was at a time when McCain's was using its own money to build the world's largest "potato chip" factory in Great Britain. But what about jobs? CBC's *The Fifth Estate* has reported that since McCain's hit the big time there have been fewer vegetable producing farmers in New Brunswick. This is because McCain's labour history has been 'shady'. Farmers complain of one-sided contracts and being forced out of business. In addition, McCain's has been actively preventing the farmers from unionizing.

From this perspective, it is readily apparent that DREE promotes corporate welfare at the expense of Atlantic development. Indeed, when you add McCain's to the growing list of Bricklin, Brunswick Mills, Venus Electric, the steel

industry in Nova Scotia and petroleum refining in Newfoundland, this is the only conclusion you can draw. All of these projects required an immense amount of capital in an area that is capital poor but labour rich.

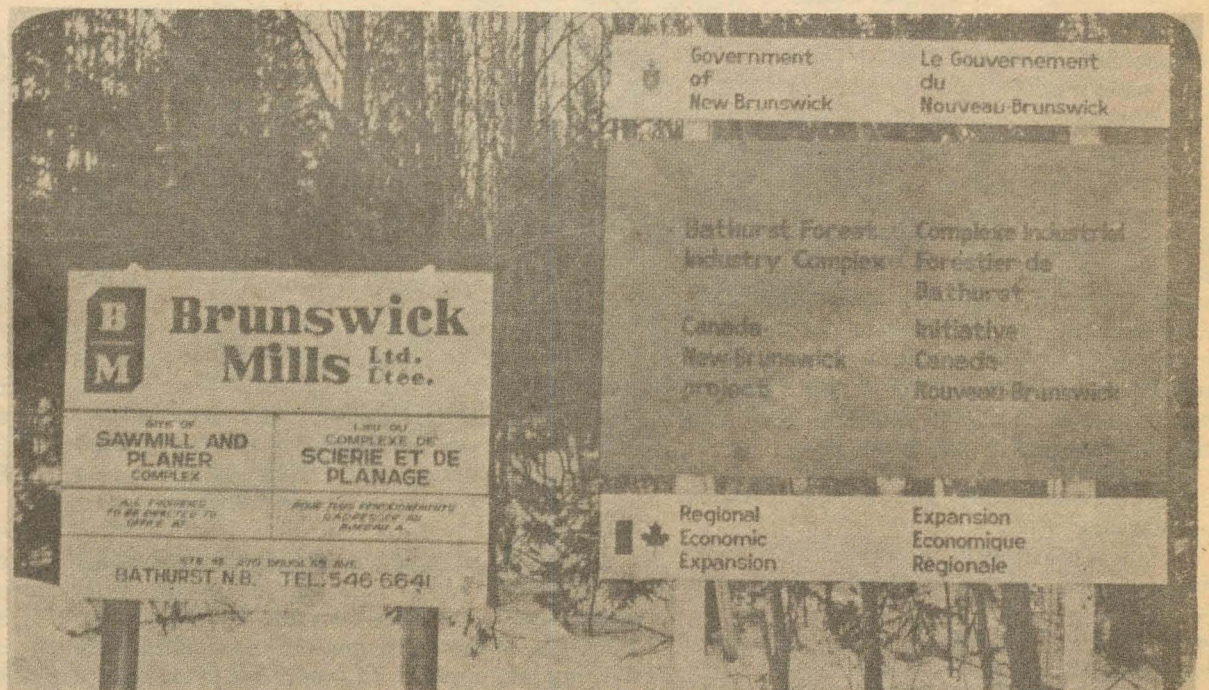
In the light of past failures, it should have been obvious years ago that if DREE is to make any dent in Atlantic underdevelopment it must concentrate its efforts on helping to expand small locally based enterprises. It must stay away from the "bold, massive" programs that APEC called for in 1962. As things stand today, DREE is worsening the problem.

Brunswick Mills and our money

But there is little recognition of this at DREE's Ottawa headquarters. As the *New Brunswick Weekly Plain Dealer* discovered, the saga of Brunswick Mills is another example of priorities

feet sawmill successfully in operation. The project is massive. It is estimated that the Brunswick Mills pilot project will cost 10 million dollars. The price tag for the entire project is 110 million. All of it is public money. Much of it comes from DREE. Some of it comes from the Regional Development Incentive Act. It is estimated that by the end of 1977 the amount of public funds that will have been spent will exceed the New Brunswick government's input into Bricklin.

According to the people the project was designed to serve, it is not working. Sawmill operators and woodlot owners are still petitioning the government. But there is a difference. Now they want protection from Brunswick Mills. Their main complaint is that public funds are being used to drive them out of business. One way of doing this is through "dumping". Large



Brunswick Mills, a typical DREE project, is driving small sawmill and woodlot owners out of business.

in the wrong place. In fact, Brunswick Mills provides an excellent example of DREE's fallibility.

When in March 1973 the New Brunswick Forest Resources Study reported that "pulp and paper firms had under-utilized the Crown lands while creating a shortage in the lumbering industries", it was reacting to over one hundred years of discontent.

Since the early nineteenth century, individual lumbermen and small timber concerns have petitioned local and provincial authorities to protest against the fact that a few monopolies control the timber reserves. In light of these petitions two things have become clear: the lack of confusion in the minds of ordinary citizens concerning the fairness of allocating Crown lands and the unbending, unyielding attitudes of the Governments and the interests they have served.

But in 1973 the New Brunswick government recognized that the pulp and paper firms had made poor use of Crown lands. According to Premier Hatfield, the pulp firms had undercut the higher quality wood while not making good use of lower quality pulp. Therefore, lumber and secondary manufacturing industries were in danger of stagnating. To correct matters the government established the NB Forest Authority to harvest and reallocate all woods from Crown lands.

Lack of consciousness

Was this important policy decision a result of changed government attitudes? Was "social justice" an object of the policy? Unfortunately, the answer is "no".

The NB government obviously took into consideration the amount of federal money it could get. In 1973, "regional development" was still Ottawa's pet. Everyone was in favour of it. It was the catch phrase that won elections.

The Brunswick Mills pilot project was to take over a one million acre holding formerly under lease to Consolidated-Bathurst and, through proper forest management, supply enough roundwood to keep a modern 50 million board

feet sawmill successfully in operation. The project is massive. It is estimated that the Brunswick Mills pilot project will cost 10 million dollars. The price tag for the entire project is 110 million. All of it is public money. Much of it comes from DREE. Some of it comes from the Regional Development Incentive Act. It is estimated that by the end of 1977 the amount of public funds that will have been spent will exceed the New Brunswick government's input into Bricklin.

According to the people the project was designed to serve, it is not working. Sawmill operators and woodlot owners are still petitioning the government. But there is a difference. Now they want protection from Brunswick Mills. Their main complaint is that public funds are being used to drive them out of business. One way of doing this is through "dumping". Large government subsidies enable firms like Brunswick Mills to dump excess products on the market. The effect of this is that prices go down. When prices go down, the smaller operators go out of business.

The independent operators wonder why the government allows Brunswick Mills to keep its lumber when prices are low while piling up huge debts. They point out that as independent businessmen they must either meet their expenses or go bankrupt. In short, the small operators are unable to compete with Brunswick's prices because of its government subsidies.

The promise of proper forest management is not being fulfilled either. In order to supply Brunswick Mills with the necessary 50 million board feet per year, the forest authority has had to instruct its crews to do "high grading" to cut everything in sight. Moreover, unemployment is still embarrassingly high because the technology that Brunswick Mills uses is less labour intensive than that of the independent operators. Some of these problems are the result of a "miscalculation". Despite three years of planning the 50 million board foot mill is more than the pilot area can handle.

Dree hampers growth

The story of Brunswick Mills is typical of DREE projects. According to the Quebec Federation of Labour, DREE perpetuates outside control of the economy, neglects the poorer parts of the province in favour of those that are economically stronger, and that the new employment it does create is often offset by layoffs or shutdowns elsewhere, sometimes even in the same companies that get the grants.

Government grants have eliminated the risk factor from private enterprise — the usual justification for private profit. It seems that the prevailing attitudes at DREE headquarters are that small and medium sized local companies cannot meet the challenge of regional development. But it is also clear that the government grants are not only gifts for large enterprises, but that also, they encourage further underdevelopment.

From a new book

A woman's guide to work

by Susan Perly

Cape Breton freelance writer and broadcaster Susan Perly has just published a forty-eight page book entitled **Women and the Law in Nova Scotia**. It is an introduction to all aspects of federal and provincial law which affect women — marriage, divorce, support, maternity, sex, crime, political and human rights, day care, work and others. It is written in a straightforward, non-technical style, and provides basic information which all women in Nova Scotia should know. Most of the book will also be valuable to women in the other Atlantic provinces. Copies of the book may be obtained from Resource Education Project, Box 847, Middleton, N.S. Price is 30 cents.

You get paid less

Women who work at the same jobs as men almost always get paid less. Across Canada, this is true in jobs which pay hourly, weekly, or monthly, in traditionally male jobs, in traditionally female jobs, in jobs from assembly line work to university teaching. For example:

Hourly rates across Canada in 1973:

	female	male
fish cutter	\$1.64	\$2.13
sewing machine operator (women's clothing)	2.30	3.31
laundry presser	2.12	2.59

(A 50 cent an hour difference in wages means \$1000 a year difference in over-all salary.)

Weekly rates in Halifax in 1973:

Senior accounting clerk	\$121	\$163
Class 'B' retail sales clerk	71	129

Despite women's growing awareness that they have been, and continue to be paid less than men for doing the same or similar work, despite Human Rights legislation and a Labour Standards Code, the gap between male and female salaries gets wider every year.

The gap grows

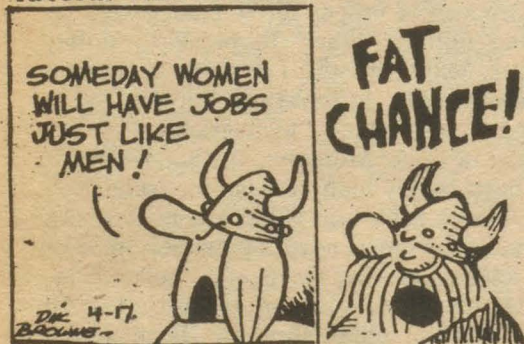
The gap between male and female salaries across Canada:

	in 1967	in 1972
clerical	\$1,925	\$2,807
sales	3,804	5,796
service	2,594	4,581
transportation & communication	2,080	4,033

The law has not made a dent in reversing this trend; women's position at work is relatively worse now than it was ten years ago. An employer can't pay a woman less than a man for doing "substantially the same work, performed in the same establishment, the performance of which requires substantially equal skill, effort and responsibility and which is performed under similar working conditions."

This law is virtually impossible to enforce. The word "substantially" is very ambiguous. It could be fairly easy for an employer to show how 'substantially' different the work or responsi-

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



For every woman who becomes a telephone line worker, how many become telephone operators?

Women in Canada are:

- 97% of typists,
- 95.3% of telephone operators,
- 93.7% of nurses,
- 80.1% of elementary teachers,
- 82.2% of bank tellers and cashiers, and only:
- 7.7% of doctors,
- 4.1% of lawyers,
- 3.1% of dentists,

In fact, women now hold a smaller percentage of professional jobs than they did in 1911.

Of all women working in Canada in 1974 63.5% were in clerical, sales or service jobs. Only 2.7% of women working were in management jobs. Remarkably, that's a smaller percentage than were in management jobs in 1962 (3.7%) or 1972 (4.2%).

One of the most important trends in the labour force is the great number of married women entering the workplace. Across Canada, in 1964 married women made up 51.1% of the female labour force. By 1974, married women were 57.1% of the female labour force.

Fewer women are employed in this part of the country than in provinces such as Quebec, Ontario or British Columbia. But fewer men are employed here too. The tight economic conditions, the movement of people and industry in and out of the region keeps work life insecure and constantly in flux.

There are some legitimate reasons for paying one worker more than another: experience, more training, skills, or responsibility. These should be the criteria for deciding differences in pay.

There are very few jobs that absolutely need one sex or another to fill them. Two examples are sperm donor or wet nurse. There aren't many others.

In the United States, two categories for which the workers' sex is a bona fide occupational qualification have been adopted: 1 Authenticity: actresses, bunny girls, models for clothing, jobs needing 'sex appeal'. 2 Community standards of morality and decency: washroom attendants, fitters for clothing, security guards who might be asked to search women.

Employers keep women out of jobs for personal reasons, and because of irrational prejudices. An employer might think that if the other employees are mostly men, they will resent a female employee. Or the customers or clients might object. They might want to stick with tradition where a job has 'always' been held by a man. The job may involve heavy physical labour, late night work, work in isolated areas, or unpleasant surroundings. The job may involve travel alone or with members of the



bility was. Also, a woman has to be working in the same establishment as a male. Many women workers are segregated into 'female' jobs and can't directly compare their work with that of a man.

In the past few years more women have been trained for, and entered into, jobs traditionally held by men: carpentry, engineering, truck driving, telephone repair work.

These efforts are important in breaking down employers' resistance to hiring women for certain jobs. But, most women workers are in the same kinds of jobs they were in 50 years ago.

A Nova Scotia report in 1929 showed that women worked in the personal service sector, the clerical sector, and the lower paying jobs in manufacturing. Professional women were mostly teachers and nurses. Not much has changed.

opposite sex. The employer may think a job needs qualities which he sees as belonging to only one sex: for example, women are tactful, men aggressive. None of these reasons are legitimate reasons for refusing a woman a job.

Myths about working women

Job training for women, application forms for work, pay scales, maternity leave, and day care policies are determined largely by popular myths about women and work. Some of them are:

Myth: Women are not serious workers. Their attachment to the labour force is only temporary. Fact: In 1971, nearly half the women in the Canadian labour force were wholly or partly supporting themselves or others. Many women have to work; they are divorced, widowed, single, separated. Also, many married women

have to work to help support a family; their husband's income is not enough. This is especially true in the Maritimes.

Myth: Women don't work for very long, they leave for marriage and children.

Fact: Women rarely leave work just for marriage, although women leave temporarily to have children. Many women would continue to work if they could find adequate day care.



Cheryl Lean

Myth: Women are absent from work more than men.

Fact: The percentage of men and women taking time off from work is about the same. Women take shorter, more frequent times off. Men take fewer periods off than women, but take them for longer.

Equal pay for work of equal value

The wage discrimination which women face is built into a structure which puts women and men into different jobs. Traditionally 'male' characteristics have been given a higher value in our society. So man who lifted heavy cartons of delicate instruments got paid more than the women who assembled the instruments. Equal pay for work of equal value means an employer assesses the value to him of the work each person does. For example, how seriously would a worker's error affect the whole operation, how much training does she need, how many people does she supervise.

In 1951, the International Labour Organization, of which Canada is a member, supported a resolution calling for equal pay for work of equal value. Canada finally ratified it in 1972, which means this country supports the principle and should be taking action to enforce it legally. Nothing has been done.

Wages for housework?

When a woman marries, she in a sense contracts to marry a household as well as a man. As legal wives, women gain the right to be supported and they are in turn expected to supply domestic services.

A husband's support is a form of payment, but in our present economy work which isn't directly paid in cash has far less status than paid work. Many women feel their housework should be legally recognized by making them salaried workers.

Unpaid housework already has an important social value in our economy. Women keep the present and future labour forces fed, clothed and cleaned. Men can better survive the burdens of their work precisely because they have wives who take care of the house and the children. And when the economy needs extra workers, women at home provide a handy source of extra labour.

Women perform socially useful work, yet it is done in a socially wasteful way. Housework is rarely done in the actual time needed; a day's work runs as long as the day itself. There is no beginning or end to the work: sparkling floors soon muddy, made beds and ironed shirts rumple, tasty meals become piles of dirty dishes. And the work is drawn out, punctuated by continual family crises.

In all logic, to recognize the work women do at home as vital to our economy would mean to make it more efficient, for example, to

continued on page 5

MacKenzie Valley Pipeline

We pay the bill

by Mike Bradfield

Most of us recognize the importance of the decision to build or not to build the MacKenzie Valley pipeline. It is important to the North since construction will impose horrific social, economic and environmental costs on the Native People of the Valley. We are told it is important for the South since the energy it carries will keep us from freezing in the dark. It is important to the oil companies and banks because it will mean hundreds of millions of dollars in increased profits.

Many people want the pipeline delayed because of the damage to native peoples which hasty construction would cause. How many realize that it will bring heavy burdens to southern Canadians too? Have the oil companies pointed out that even Atlantic Canada, which will never use the energy the pipeline carries, not even to light a single 60 watt bulb, will pay and pay dearly for the pipeline? We will pay higher energy prices, fewer jobs, higher taxes, and increased inflation. Can we afford the blessing of the pipeline?

WINDFALL PROFITS

The pipeline will take money from our pockets in several ways. Since northern energy is very expensive, the government must guarantee higher fuel prices to cover the costs—close to double the current Canadian price. But that higher price is not on just the new, northern energy, it's on *all* oil and gas. The National Energy Board (NEB) apparently is willing to give the oil companies huge windfall profits on their cheap southern reserves by letting them increase their prices for *all* their energy! Up goes *your* fuel and electric bill.

The oil companies are also asking for the federal government to cover unbudgeted costs. Given the unique difficulties of northern construction, these unbudgeted costs may be in the billions of dollars. The people of Atlantic Canada will have to pay their share of the taxes to cover these costs.

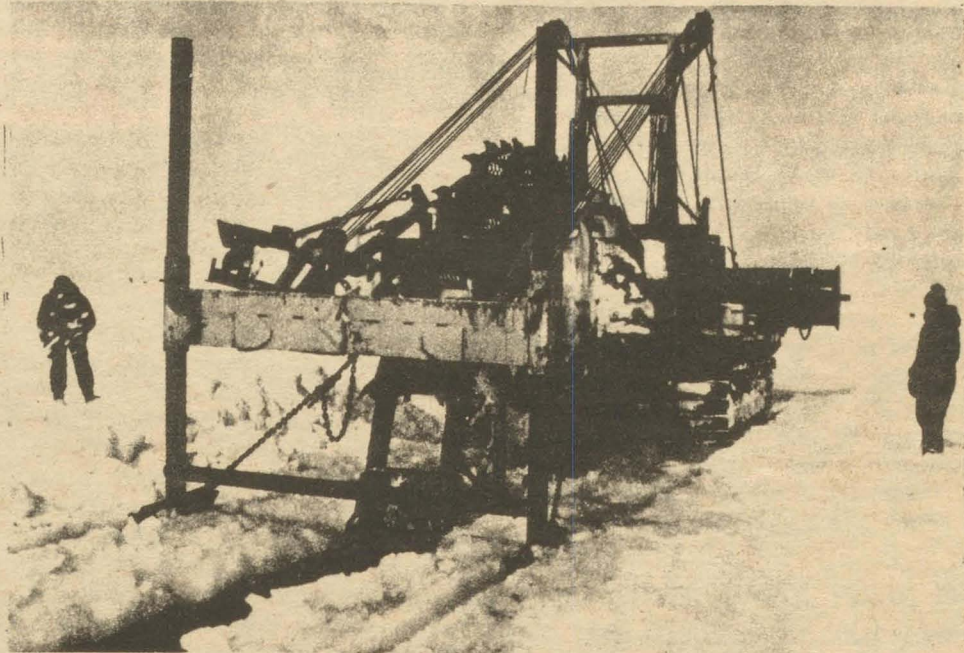
But it's going to be hard for us to pay those taxes, since we will experience higher unemployment because of the pipeline. Impossible? After all Sydney Steel may get some orders out of the pipeline and why should anyone else suffer in the Atlantic provinces? The reason is that the oil companies will bring foreign funds to Canada to finance the pipeline (and maintain control over it). Those foreign funds must be converted to Canadian money and that process increases the demand for Canadian money. But when the demand goes up, so does the price, even for money itself.

Foreign investment for the pipeline will drive the Canadian exchange rate up. That will make Canadian exports more expensive and less competitive on world markets. It will then be harder to sell our fish and pulp and gypsum in the world market. If we can't sell our exports, that means unemployment. No one begrudges the workers at Sysco extra work, but don't kid

yourself that there won't be others who lose their jobs in other parts of the Atlantic economy.

Foreign financing of the pipeline also means an expansion of the Canadian money supply. An expanding money supply will fuel any inflationary fires in the economy. And these will exist since resources will have to be drawn from other uses to the pipeline construction. That means increasing prices for those resources, higher costs, and therefore higher product prices. So be prepared to pay more for the goods you buy.

Construction of the pipeline will mean higher prices and jobs in some parts of the economy and unemployment in other sectors. It will distort the economy, and when construction stops the economy will not be able to move back to its old



Development in the north: a trenching machine lays pipe in the ice. Steelworkers say a smaller-scale pipeline, built over a longer period of time, would cause less disruption for industry, and allow land claims to be settled.

shape. There will be an extended period of unemployment after completion.

Americans will benefit, not Canadians

It is Americans, not Canadians, who will benefit from the pipeline. American oil companies will get higher profits. American energy consumers will get a few more years' supply to support their energy habit. Canadians will get a lot of problems but very little energy from the pipeline. Despite what Gillespie and the oil companies claim we do not face an imminent energy shortage.

After all, the oil companies and the National Energy Board said in 1971 that we had 923 years' supply of oil and 392 years' supply of gas. That was when the oil companies wanted to increase their exports to the U.S. Now their position has changed, and so have the statistics. And, as usual, the NEB appears quite willing to accept those statistics, despite the obvious bias of the oil companies who supply them.

How reliable are the supply and demand estimates on which predictions of an energy crisis are based? Since it is in the companies' interest to export energy, no one is considering stopping exports, even though it is only our "excess" energy that we are supposed to be exporting. Since it is in the interest of the companies to slow down the rate of development of cheap southern supplies until the price has risen to cover the cost of northern energy, the NEB has not considered an increase in the output of southern energy.

Demand overestimated

While underestimating the southern supply of energy, the companies and NEB are overestimating the growth in demand. They are assuming demand will continue to grow at rates similar to those of the past, even though prices have climbed drastically in the last few years. They are assuming that people will continue to waste energy and that government policies will continue to encourage such waste. They are assuming that we will not develop rational policies of conservation of energy, of developing al-

ternative (renewable) sources of energy. They are assuming that OPEC' prices will continue to climb—despite the break-down in OPEC control and the predictions that international oil prices have peaked and may even begin declining.

The oil companies (and the banks) are using their political clout and massive advertising power to convince Canadians that an energy shortage is inevitable, unless the companies are given the profit and rights to exploit northern energy supplies. They already convinced the government. Are you convinced that Canadians—in the North, South and in the Atlantic—can bear the costs of this pipeline? Are you willing to let the oil companies and officials who created the problem resolve it this way? If not, you'd better write your M.P., the Prime Minister, Energy Minister, and tell them what you're thinking. Right now they're listening to the oil companies—who don't even vote! It's up to us to stop this disaster.

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organize community laundries and kitchens. However, a massive restructuring of household chores means also a large change in women's position within the family and the economy.

Paying women to do housework within the present structure would make women's traditional functions only more rigid.

Unlike work outside the home, a housewife's work is tied to her personal and sexual commitments. Women are taught that personal satisfaction can come through their own unique performance of household chores, and so women become vulnerable to advertising urging them to keep searching for that sweeter-smelling furniture polish and that ever more exotic recipe for meat loaf. That finally finished set of chores, and the thunder of external praise to go with it, is one of our culture's great myths; the very structure of housework destined this goal to be always sought and never caught.

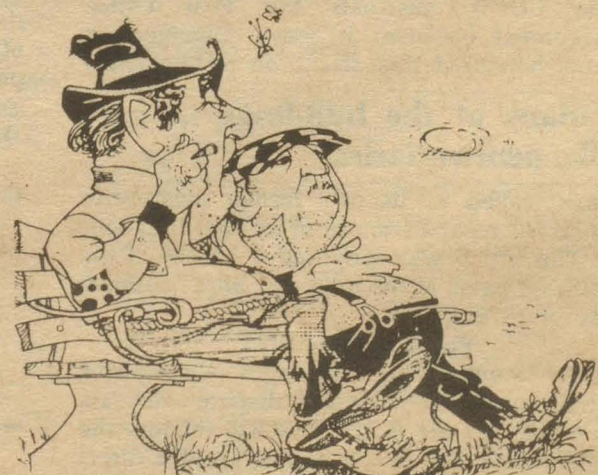
Women's position at home has been explained as an extension of women's natural, even mystical ability to cope with housework, to be wonderfully creative at it. This is largely

because women's natural ability to bear children has been redefined as women's natural ability also to wash a baby's bottom, the floor the child crawls on and the dishes the child eats from. Women, whether they work outside the home or not are given inevitable and ultimate responsibility for housework.

Wages for housework, however, would not help most women change their lives. It might create some financial independence and flexibility for certain women, especially those whose husbands' income is already adequate for daily needs. Most women would put wages for their housework back into family expenses. The total family income could increase, without the government bearing responsibility for the creation of more and better-paying jobs.

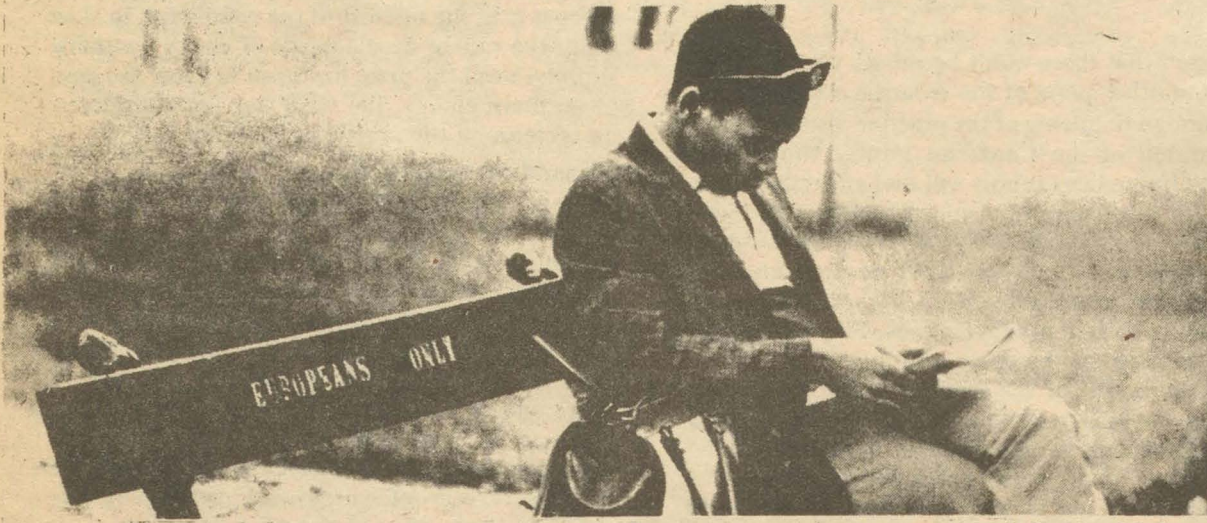
Meanwhile women at home would continue to work in isolation, missing a shared working experience and the challenge to their ideas and the mature support to change their lives which such daily contact outside the home often brings. A paid homemaker would be no less married to her house than an unpaid one is now.

Ultimately women must invent new roles for themselves, roles that don't tie the knot to the house tighter, but instead free them to get a divorce from centuries of sex-stereotyping.



"On the other hand, inflation don't erode the value of the money we ain't got."

South Africa: an Atlantic issue



If caught sitting on this "Europeans only" bench in South Africa, this man could be jailed for 20 days.

by James MacLean

Atlantic Canadians can help the non-white population of South Africa in its efforts to attain majority rule. The ways in which they can help may be small, but are nevertheless significant. This point was made by two black South African nationalist leaders recently in Halifax.

Kate Molale and Mpho Thoeabale of the African National Congress of South Africa called on Canadians to end all trade relations with that country. They said that here in Atlantic Canada the public can put pressure on the provincial governments to stop the sale of South African wines and spirits, and noted that this step has already been taken by the government of Saskatchewan. They also urged Atlantic Cana-

A member of the South African Government has described the wives and children of African workers as "superfluous appendages".

dians to withdraw their money from banks which make loans to the government of South Africa. The South African leaders named the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Royal Bank, and the Toronto Dominion Bank as those which are involved in making such loans.

Kate Molale attempted to correct a common misconception about foreign investment and trade with South Africa. She pointed out that the benefits of this investment and trade are not reaped by the country's over 20 million non-whites, as many people believe. Within South Africa the benefits go only to the white minority (17% of the population). The economic boom of the last decade has widened rather than narrowed the income gap between white and black. Continuing trade relations serve to legitimize and reinforce the power of the racist regime, she said.

Mpho Thoeabale was a student leader in the black township of Soweto at the time of the

demonstrations there last summer. She gave a chilling account of her arrest and torture by the South African police. Thoeabale managed to escape from South Africa and now works with the African National Congress. Founded in 1912, the ANC is the principal political organization seeking majority rule in the republic. It is banned inside South Africa and its leadership is now in exile.

Canadian Companies in South Africa

The South African women pointed out a fact which many Atlantic Canadians will understand; that large corporations often show little concern for the human cost involved in their pursuit of profit. The average income of black South Africans is only 5% that of white South Africans, and the low wages paid to the black worker mean high profits for those who own the companies. Canadian corporations (which are in fact largely owned by American businessmen) like Falconbridge, Massey-Ferguson, Ford, and Alcan are for this reason deeply involved in South Africa.

The Alcan workers of St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, are familiar with the human cost of that company's pursuit of profit. They have experienced the low wages, the lock-outs, and the industrial disease. But these Newfoundlanders are not the only ones who suffer at the hands of Alcan. Alcan also has a plant in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. In 1973 the

Ottawa Citizen reported that the firm paid 703 of its 706 black workers wages which were below the "poverty datum line" — a term used in South Africa to indicate the lowest possible income required to live at subsistence level.

The condition of the majority population in South Africa is bad, and it is getting worse. The white minority of 17% has claimed for itself a full 86.3% of the land (including all the areas with industry and the best agriculture land). The blacks here do not have the vote or any other political rights. Their movements are strictly regulated by a system of internal passports. Many of them are crowded into ghettos or "townships" bordering the white cities, where they must be employed or risk being deported to impoverished reservations. A rigid system of

racial segregation and discrimination called "apartheid" denies them, among other things, access to facilities like restaurants and movie theatres in the cities.

Destruction of Black Family

One of the most shocking features of life in contemporary South Africa is the systematic destruction of the black family. A member of the South African government has described the wives and children of African workers as "superfluous appendages". Unemployed women, children and old people are deported to reservations called "Bantustans", where they live without means of supporting themselves and without such basic amenities as medical care. The majority of children in these reservations die before the age of five, often from starvation. The South African government has during the last decade and a half deported several million persons to these areas, and the programme of deportation is continuing. The aim of the government is to deport all blacks who

The actions which we can take may be small, but the leaders of the black community in South Africa consider them important.

are not serving the white economy. Black male workers in the "white" area of South Africa who have not been deported are commonly kept in barracks, where often six or seven of them must share a small room while they try to support themselves and their deported families.

The disturbances in South Africa in recent months are only a response to these conditions. Any form of resistance to the regime has been met with brutally repressive measures. It has been estimated that up to a thousand young blacks, many of them elementary school children, were massacred during the demonstrations last year. Others have been detained without charges, and there have been many reports of torture and unexplained deaths in the prisons.

About 175 persons attended the public address given by the representatives of the African National Congress in Halifax. Speakers from the floor presented resolutions urging provincial governments to withdraw South African products from liquor stores in the region, and urging individual Atlantic Canadians to close their accounts in those banks which deal with the South African government. There was no disagreement with these resolutions from the audience.

Kate Molale and Mpho Thoeabale have appealed to Atlantic Canadians not to turn their eyes away from one of the most deplorable cases of the disregard for fundamental human rights in the world today. Canadian banks and corporations are profiting from this situation; the provincial governments in our region continue to deal with those who are responsible for it. The actions which we can take may be small, but the leaders of the black community in South Africa consider them important.

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one year after the original incident, no grievance placed under Article 29 has been resolved.

The CUPW mistrusts the Post Office management because, it feels, management has not honoured this article on technological

"many of the buildings ... are like penitentiaries"

change, called by its own former postmaster general the most advanced of its kind in labour law. This article was supposed to be one of the significant gains of the long and bitter national strike of 1975.

Postal strike of 1975

Automation — along with wages — was also a central issue in the fall-winter dispute two years ago which cost the Post Office \$20 million, the unions \$60 million in lost wages, and the direct mail and marketing industry between \$73 and \$95 million.

The dispute ended on December 2, 1975, after 42 days of strike, when 51.8% of union members voted to return to work. "No doubt about it," said one of those who crossed the picket lines,

"the government is making the Post Office an example for the wage and price restraints."

After the strike, the business newspaper the *Financial Post* saw as problems the lack of good management and a military-like atmosphere in the workplace, mentioning that a large number of ex-servicemen held supervisory or managerial positions. It noted that "many of the buildings, as Mackasey* says, are like penitentiaries" (13 Dec 75).

High turnover rates are further indications of these problems. Assessed in 1975, they were 71% yearly in Vancouver, 50% in Toronto and here in the Atlantic Provinces about 20%.

Management of the Post Office

What kind of an enterprise do these observations point to? A closer look at the workings of the Post Office reveals the following:

- The increase in postal rates will bring in 200 million new dollars to Post Canada, but this will not even cover the \$500 million deficit it was running even for 1975.
- In the 5 years from 1971 to 1975, mail volume has increased 13%, revenues 20%, the departmental deficit 385%, while productivity

* then Postmaster General

has declined 20%.

- In the 10 years since 1967, productivity in the Post Office declined 25% to 331 pieces of mail per man hour from 443 pieces — "despite partial introduction of an automation programme hailed as the most sophisticated in the world" (FP 5 Feb 77).

- The P.O.'s financial experts underestimated the department's loss in 1972 by \$122 million and in 1973 by \$194 million. The *Financial Times* notes ironically that "their record has

"No doubt about it... the government is making the Post Office an example for the wage and price restraints."

improved somewhat: in 1974, they underestimated their actual loss by \$44 million and in the last fiscal year, were \$50 million under the final figure".

- Since 1962, there has been an average of close to one change of Postmaster General a year.

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Fundy power

The tides are turning

by Mike Donovan

Nova Scotia politicians have a notorious record for unquestioning support of large, expensive, modern-age industrial projects designed to bring prosperity to everyone overnight.

Fundy Tidal Power, with a potential production capacity of 13,000 non-polluting, non-inflating, renewable megawatts and the promise of between 3,000 and 4,000 construction jobs, has a great deal of political appeal. One prominent Nova Scotia politician, Annapolis Valley M.P.J. Patrick Nowlan, was so moved by the prospect that he described government inaction on developing the 36 foot-high Fundy tides as a "national scandal".

However, beneath the political clamouring for Fundy Development lie many unanswered questions. Some of these questions were brought up by representatives of Minas Basin area clam-diggers and fishermen, who met recently with representatives from the Bedford Institute of Oceanography and Environment Canada. The clam-diggers and fishermen were particularly concerned that research into Fundy tidal power was disrupting their work.

The Committee for Responsible Tidal Development, made up of citizens from the area, has also expressed concern over the question of Fundy Development, particularly the effect of a large-scale project on local people and their way of life. A report by the Committee reads: "We have only to look at the Strait of Canso area in Nova Scotia, where heavy industry was supposed to solve economic problems. It has compounded the problems. People leave their traditional occupations and become industrial construction workers. Once the projects are completed they will be out of work and will have lost touch with their previous means of existence."

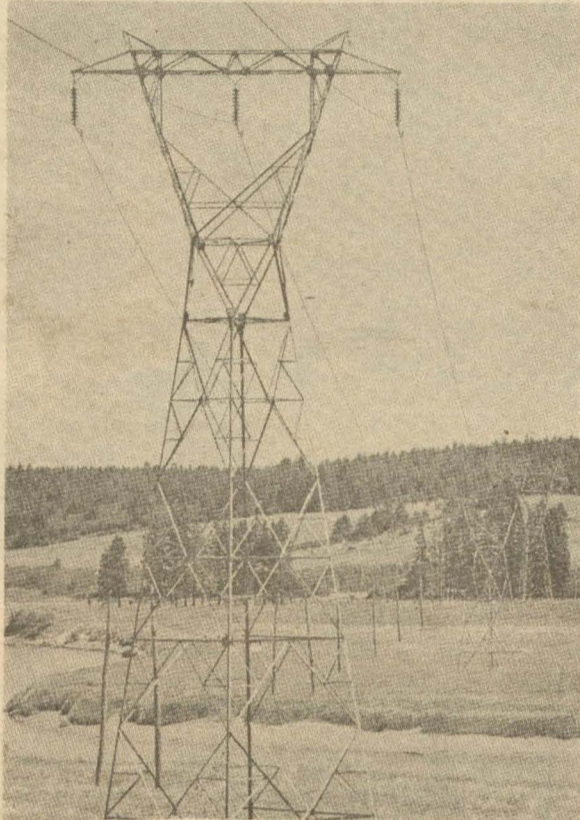
In 1969, a study completed for the federal-provincial Atlantic Tidal Power Programming Board (ATPPB) found that Fundy Tidal Power was technically but not economically feasible, as compared with alternative energy sources. The economic snag, however, was removed five years later when the price of oil quintupled. In Nova Scotia today, oil-produced electricity costs 20 mills, while tidal energy is projected to cost between 8 and 29 mills.

In 1974, a new study was launched in two phases. Phase I, currently underway, consists of a series of technical and economic assessments aimed at determining the competitiveness of tidal power. Phase II will include more in-depth technical, environmental, economic and finan-

cial assessments of those projects selected from Phase I. The study has a 3.3 million dollar price tag on it, and is expected to be completed by February 1978.

Technical Problems

Although technically feasible in a narrow sense, Fundy Tidal Power still presents



scientists with unanswered questions. Dr. Carl Amos, a sedimentologist at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, believes that constructing a mammoth barrage in the Bay may kill the goose laying the golden egg by altering the movement of silt so that the headpond between the dam and the land becomes filled with mud, clogging the turbines and changing the necessary depth of water.

Another technical objection raised by scientists is that since the phenomenon of the tides is caused by the shape of the Bay, any alteration in its shape may change or destroy the movements of the tides themselves. Studies conducted by Dr. C.J.R. Garrett of the Dalhousie Department of Oceanography indicate that although a barrage might not destroy the tides, it could alter them by as much as 6 inches as far away as Boston.

preoccupied with labour problems at the expense of other tasks...", resulting in "a lack of direction and decisiveness, a tendency to focus on short-term problems to the detriment of long-term planning..."

"the top operational management level had become too preoccupied with labour problems at the expense of other tasks..."

In Halifax, CUPW Director Darrell Tingley insists that the union is not against automation as such, but the way in which it has been brought into service in Canada, and the use it has been put to. Automation could have extraordinary potential for improving the quality of employees' life and work, by allowing shorter work weeks, vacation and the like. But instead, it has been used as an excuse to extract more work from fewer employees. One of the first results of mechanization in 1972, he said in an interview, was the downgrading of many employees' classification to "Coder/sorter", with an accompanying cut in salaries. Despite Article 29, the New Brunswick and Newfoundland mechanization process continues even though grievances have not been settled. "The employer has not bargained in good faith", Tingley said.

Solutions?

Some solutions to various specific Post Office problems have been suggested —

The primary criticism voiced against Fundy Power is that it is probably valueless as a source of energy for the Maritimes. This is because the tides are able to produce power for less than half the day. (Studies indicate that, at this time, energy-storage is too costly.) Therefore, the power would be of value only as surplus energy in a very large energy pool such as that on the United States' Eastern Seaboard.

The critics of Fundy Power question the wisdom of investing capital in the development of tidal power for export, while Nova Scotia faces the highest energy costs in Canada (principally because of dependence on imported oil). The critics add that the same dollars might be more wisely spent on developing energy schemes which will lessen our own energy problems at home.

Larry Bogan, Professor at Acadia University, argues that future demand for Fundy tidal power is based on a projected 400% increase in energy needs in the New England area by the year 2000. He suggests that this figure may be optimistic, and hints that U.S. demand for power, given the trend towards conservation, may have tapered off by the year 2000. In this case, the ATPPB and the Maritimes would be left high and dry with a 3.6 billion-dollar white elephant.

But the sale of tidal power to the U.S. has its defenders. Among them is British financier Baron Edmund de Rothschild, who is quoted as having said: "You know in Canada you have a chance to help the United States of America. Their energy problem is something that does need some understanding. This is where I believe you in the Maritimes can benefit not only America but yourselves. It is by the export of power."

Rothschild, a long-time supporter of tidal power, derives his interest in tidal power partly as a result of the technical and economic success of a small tidal power plant in La Rance, France. The Baron is also a long-time supporter of giant power development schemes. His famed banking family was one of the principal investors in what was the largest single hydro development in the Western World — the Churchill Falls Hydro-Electric development project in Labrador. It was built at an estimated cost to the Newfoundland taxpayer of \$960 million. The power generated there is sold at 2.5 mills, (or approximately \$12 million per year). Newfoundland sells it to Quebec, which in turn sells much of it to New York. The contract was signed in 1969, and will run for 65 years; at present rates, that hydro power is worth more than \$500 million yearly. It is open to speculation whom the Baron is referring to when he says "you in the Maritimes" can benefit from Fundy tidal development.

- make the entire service a Crown Corporation;
- stop expensive, hidden Post Office subsidies of commercial business and make the "user pay";
- ban the illegal operation of courier services which are capturing the lucrative part of postal services and which are growing at the phenomenal rate of 20-25% annually;
- stop the contracting out of work.

However valuable these sorts of solutions might be for the efficient working of the Post Office, one central problem remains: The history of automation in the the Post Office does not seem to have served the interests of the great majority of Canadians. In a recent tour of a Toronto plant, all the gigantic Letter Sorting Machines (LSMs) — each capable of sorting 30,000 letters and hour — were idle, despite a backlog of 2.5 million pieces of mail. It was explained that these machines were used chiefly to handle major commercial mailings in standard-sized letters.

The Post Office has undertaken a massive programme of automation of its services, with apparently little consultation of the people working for it and less regard, it seems, for their present working conditions. In a period of massive unemployment, the Post Office is tied to contracts for buying expensive machinery which is designed to eliminate jobs. Yet it has also tied itself to a collective agreement which ensures that technological change will not cause injustice or adverse effects to its 22,000 employees working across the country. The coming months will tell how the Post Office chooses to deal with this contradiction.

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Jean-Jacques Blais, the present Postmaster General, is fifth since 1970 and thirteenth since 1962. According to some, Postmasters General, often on their way up to greater positions in the government, tend to avoid controversy and thus accept the status quo. "Since 1960, well over 25 studies have been commissioned to look at post office problems and management practices. "All have made recommendations — most have been ignored." (FP 5 Feb 77).

The most recent study to be shelved was a confidential survey done by a management consulting firm, Hays Associates, in which some of the preceding facts were revealed (FP 5 Feb 77). It was submitted to the Joint Post Office and Treasury Board Secretariat study group in October 1975, and a year and a half later, any implementation of its recommendations has yet to see the light of day.

At the time the Hays report was submitted, the Deputy Minister was John Mackay (now moved to the Department of Public Works). Before joining the Post Office, he was Canadian President of International Telegraph and Telecommunications (ITT). It was shortly after Mackay's arrival as Deputy Postmaster General in August 1970 that the first contracts were signed with ITT for new automation machinery costing 70 million dollars.

The Hays report makes several observations about the P.O.'s labour problems. Among them, "...there was a general feeling that the top operational management level had become too

Inshore fishermen endangered species

by Rick Williams

The entire fishing industry on the Canadian Atlantic coast has been treated for decades as a marginal sector of the overall economy. It therefore now suffers serious problems of underdevelopment. Neither government nor the dominant corporations have ever invested enough capital to stabilize and develop the industry. We have therefore seen the gradual take-over of the resource base by foreign fishing fleets. This has been a blow not just to the fishing industry but to the economy of the region as a whole.

By the late 1960's there was a growing awareness of the consequences of this indifference. Heavy public investment was committed to helping the largest fish companies to develop the offshore fleets and the processing capacities to compete with the foreign fleets. The Canadian share of the total catch rose significantly through this period, reaching record levels in 1968.

However, this Canadian expansion was just part of a general increase in the fishing effort off the Atlantic coast. By the early '70's there were clear signs of serious depletion among all the major fish stocks. Efforts to control overfishing were slow in coming and had limited effect. Quotas set by the International Commission on the North Atlantic Fishery (ICNAF) were based on inadequate scientific knowledge and were poorly enforced.

ICNAF regulations did not counter the general over-exploitation of the resource. As traditional groundfish stocks declined, effort was shifted to other species. But this often complicated matters, since increased catches of such species as squid, capelin, mackerel and herring were reducing the food supply for the cod and haddock stocks which were struggling to rebuild. In short, overfishing by Canadian and foreign offshore fleets has created a crisis situation from the point of view of protection of the resource base and of development of the economic base of the industry. The Canadian dragger fleets and their on-shore processing facilities have been taking a financial beating as a consequence.

During the whole of this period the inshore fishery has faced tremendous problems. Prices have not improved in relation to operating costs to any great degree. Investment money from government or the private sector has not been available to upgrade technology to the extent required. The general decline in fish stocks has affected inshore fishermen, but the most serious problem here has been competition with draggers on the inshore grounds.

In spite of these problems, inshore fishermen have upgraded their technology considerably, and have managed to stay in competition for

The 200 mile limit will not have a significant effect upon the major problems faced by inshore fishermen.

stocks and markets. But their situation is very unstable, and many have dropped out or have become part-time or occasional fishermen.

Real Problems Not Tackled

The declaration of the 200 mile limit by the Canadian government at the beginning of this year undoubtedly was aimed at remedying some of these basic problems. It establishes the concept of an extended Canadian sovereignty with regard to offshore mineral rights. It makes possible a single-minded and uncomplicated approach to the regulation of fishing effort and the development of long term conservation plans. It effectively reduces foreign competition so that the Canadian companies have a virtual monopoly for whatever fish stocks and species they want to catch. If the new regulations are well enforced and the fishing capacity of the Canadian industry is expanded, the 200 Mile Zone will represent a real turning point.

But these are big "ifs", and there are real problems that have not been seriously tackled.

The presently defined zone follows an



Inshore fishermen are on the endangered species list.

arbitrary limit, 200 miles, which does not conform to the location of the major fishing grounds. Part of the Grand Banks still lie outside Canadian jurisdiction.

The present quotas and catch levels have improved little over the ICNAF regulations. A philosophy of maximum possible exploitation still predominates. There is not yet any total plan for the regulation of the entire fishery based on sound scientific knowledge. Long term planning must be based on the interdependence of different species and the regulation of the different technologies to be employed under differing environmental conditions.

Quotas and catch levels are still being negotiated with the companies and the foreign fleets—this is not sovereignty but compromise and trade-off. Canada's record for enforcement does not lead fishermen to be optimistic about the effectiveness of the new approaches to conservation.

Joint ventures with Canadian processors and foreign fleets represent a real threat to the Canadian commitment to building up the whole industry over the longer term. Although intended to keep plants working while Canadian fishing capacities are being expanded, joint ventures may encourage the companies not to invest in their own fleets but to exploit foreign fleets and their much cheaper labour. Foreign companies will be able to dump their overproduction onto the Canadian market, thereby undercutting our own producers.

At best, joint venture activities will require close regulation to prevent dumping and price instabilities. Up to now government has been weak on the issue, and there are no signs of a clear policy emerging.

Damage to Inshore Fishery

The 200 Mile Fishing Zone will not have significant effect upon the major problems faced by inshore fishermen.

One such problem is competition with draggers on the inshore grounds. The new zone will not reduce fishing by the offshore fleet in inshore areas, because it is still less expensive to catch fish close to home if they are there. Rising operational costs as well as scarcity of stocks have encouraged inshore fishing by the big boats and this won't be changed.

Draggers have also done considerable damage to the bottoms of the inshore grounds where several major species spawn. Environmental controls and regulation of technologies are problems that have not yet been considered.

Inshore fishermen suffer from a real capital shortage due to unstable prices, decline of catches, and the limited commitment of government to developing the inshore industry. The new 200 mile zone will probably drain capital investment into development of the offshore fleet—the building of freezer trawlers for example—at the cost of further disregarding inshore needs.

Increased offshore effort (and joint ventures)

will increase price instability because of overproduction. Smaller operators are unable to function well with constant and severe variations in price and market demand.

Inshore fishermen are demanding additional regulations and commitments from government which would both guarantee them some real

Joint ventures with Canadian processors and foreign fleets represent a real threat to the Canadian commitment to building up the whole industry over the longer term.

place in the overall industry and contribute to its more effective development. Their demands are for:

- the implementation of a fifty mile limit barring draggers of over 65 feet from the inshore fishing grounds. This would reserve a resource base for the inshore industry and allow for the rebuilding of inshore stocks.

- the development of a total conservation plan for the regulation of the entire fishing zone. With an adequate scientific knowledge base and effective enforcement of regulations, the Atlantic fishery can be rebuilt to become a major industry for the region in contrast to its present state of over-exploitation and underdevelopment.

- inshore fishermen are opposed to joint ventures which would create price and market instability and would displace development of our own industry.

The maintenance of the inshore fishing industry is essential. It provides a population base for the industry as a whole. It accounts for three quarters of the total employment in fishing and for close to one half of the total catch. It fulfills certain functions, such as catching lobster and other high quality fresh fish, which no other part of the industry can do as effectively and economically.

The inshore fishery is, for the most part, not backward and obsolete; it is simply poor and, in certain important regards, economically exploited. With fair prices and stable demand, the inshore industry can be a sophisticated and well-organized system of food production.

The new 200 mile zone and its accompanying regulations do little or nothing about the specific problems of the inshore industry. What is required, and soon, is a plan for the rational development of the industry as a whole and a commitment to the even development of the industry. This means in particular a commitment to the maintenance and development of the inshore fishery as a crucial part of the industry as a whole and of the Atlantic Canada community.

A fifty mile limit reserved for the Inshore fishery is the first and perhaps most crucial step in the development of such a commitment.