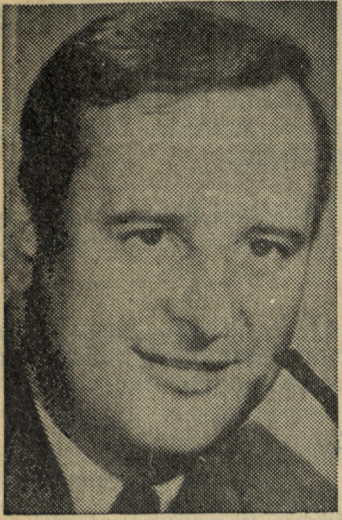


LAPIERRE ROUSES ASC DELEGATES



LAPIERRE: he doesn't always smile.

By Jim Hornby

Laurier Lapierre was the speaker on Saturday evening at the Atlantic Student Conference at Memoramcook, N.B. He injected a much-needed sense of passion which had been entirely missing since Bob Blakely's talk the night before.

Lapierre put some things very nicely in perspective. Obviously he is not a terribly original sociopolitical thinker, but he is an excellent synthesizer and showman. We wanted a show, and we got a good one.

He opened with general observations on what the Maritimes must do to gain a viable economy. These included the discernment of the rate at which changes will take place, the articulation of changes felt necessary, a questioning of the readiness of a local society to effect change, and the responsibili-

ties of the other component parts (i.e. Federal Government, private enterprise, and generally the rest of Canada).

He felt that a viable economic order "does not mean capital profit," that it "does not mean the march of massive industries; it does not mean, really, the destruction of basic human respect and values."

More specifically, reference was made to "the immense human tragedy of Newfoundland." He noted that: "Mr. Marchand talked this afternoon about an incentive program whereby the Federal Government was prepared to pay the costs up to twelve million dollars for industries to come into designated areas, areas designated of course through the guidance of the Holy Ghost upon some ministries in Ottawa."

Lapierre said that "The Newfoundland people are today in a greater state of slavery than they were when Confederation came to them in 1949 or whenever it is that it came to them."

He despaired of resources being given to the "already rich," who then proceed to make sure that no one else will be able to use the resources — such as the pollution plaguing Placentia Bay fishermen. He said: "It is not very rational that men in the name of profit should pollute your water to such a degree that your dignity and your livelihood are immensely destroyed, and afterwards the only answer that they can

say . . . is 'F--k you Charlie, we'll do it because it makes you money.' If that's the kind of society you want the continue to elect the Smallwoods of this world."

In reference specifically to New Brunswick industrialist K. C. Irving, he spoke of how public funds build railways for industrialists, give them towns, tax exemptions and honorary degrees, and sell out public resources — then tax the workers, telling them that they will cause inflation if they ask for more money. Of Irving he said: "Somebody should tell Mr. Irving to go to hell."

Other comments:

Power: "It is obvious that political power must pass from the large unit to the small unit, and the small unit means the town, the city, the cartier . . . and that community is the human community. It has every right to determine its existence, to develop its economy."

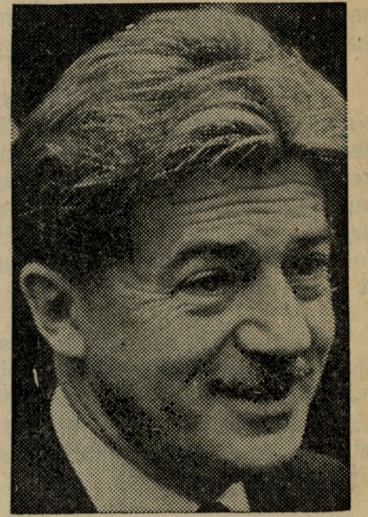
Screwers: "You are faced essentially with nations of screwers; that is, with a nation in a country where people do nothing else but screw things together. When you are faced essentially with a vast assembly line that is determined by people outside of yourselves who sit in the skyscrapers of Washington, and of Chicago, and of Berlin or what have you — the end result is that all that you do is to screw when they give you permission to screw. And in the process I suspect that you end up being screwed."

Bilingualism: "The level of bilingualism in this country, since it is completely taken out of its economic context . . . is nothing else but the national masturbation, since the national fornication becomes admittedly impossible."

Canada: "The only industrial symbol of Canada is essentially a can of maple syrup that has been tapped from a Canadian tree, but is impregnated into a can that has been made in the United States of America; and that is all we can do, and by Christ almighty, we don't even put the lid on that can, for that is an American machine that does that for us. And they say we are training all of you guys in the Universities so that you can go out there . . . to replace the guys that are there.

"Is that what you want to do with your lives? Is that what you want to do with the millions of dollars that are now being expended on your education, to become what they are — the exploiters of your people and of yourselves?"

"Do you want to be nothing else but capable of replacing them because you haven't got the guts to want to change — Christ almighty you haven't got the guts to change your universities! How in the hell are you going to change the society in which you live if you are not preparing the immediate community in which you find



MARCHAND: down the straight and narrow.

yourself?"

Indians: "And we like to think we spend millions of dollars on the Indian — why the Christ don't they like us? Over the next fifteen years the Federal Government is going to spend — what? — 225 million to develop the economy of Prince Edward Island: roughly 150 thousand people. Over the next fifteen years the Federal Government will spend 50 million dollars to look after the welfare of over 300 thousand Indians. And we say we don't live in a racist society."

Socialism: "The socialist solution is the only viable human solution that there is.

Lapierre's forty-five minute speech was given alternately in French and English. He received a standing ovation at its conclusion.

ATLANTIC STUDENT CONFERENCE

"People hurt,
People are Worthwhile"

7:30 Friday evening, Oct. 24, the A.S.C. Conference, which was held at Memoramcook, began with four speeches in which the speakers attempted to outline the actual problems facing the Atlantic Provinces. The high point of the night was the speech given by Bob Blakely who works for the P.E.I. department of development. Blakely hit home with his speech. He showed just where we stood as far as regional development goes. "In Upper Canada they don't give a damn . . . and don't you forget that" he said. "You affect decisions with action? "Your destiny is being controlled" and this statement which is so important: "People are capable of making intelligent decisions." He went on to say "People are worthwhile and unless you realize that you cannot do planning. People must be involved in all planning if it is to succeed, and we must stop being people who "have all the answers and get someone who will ask the questions."

On Saturday morning a film called "The Changing Maritimes" was shown and Gallagher, former head of the Economic Improvement Corporation, spoke on how there is a lack of goals in the Atlantic region and that if we are to solve the problems of this region there must be changes made in government structure. He criticized the departmentalization of problems and the lack of coordination within government.

Saturday afternoon Jean Marchand, Minister of the new Department of Regional and Economic expansion talked about the role government must play in programs of regional development and how it is hoped that the new department will help co-ordinate Federal programs concerning regional development.

The highlight of the conference was Saturday

The final plenary of the conference discussed the idea of setting up core groups who would continue to study and act on the problem of regional disparity within the Atlantic area.



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