

EUR-6

AIRGRAM

AT 0
POL IP CAN
S.2

FOR RM USE ONLY

RM/R	REP	AF
1	7	
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
12	1	
L	FBO	AID
AGR	COM	FRB
	10	
INT	LAB	TAR
		2
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
	10	
OSD	USIA	NSA
	10	3
		NSC 6

32
NO.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

52
OBI/ED/H
HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

Info : Ottawa, Saint John, St. John's,

ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
BRANCH

FROM : U.S. Consulate General, Halifax DATE: April 5, 1966.

SUBJECT : Atlantic Provinces Union Suggested.

REF :

Suggesting that the time is "opportune" for some form of political union of Canada's Atlantic Provinces into the single province of "Atlanta," Edward G. Byrne, Q.C., the Bathurst lawyer who chaired New Brunswick's controversial Byrne commission report on municipal reforms, told Dartmouth's chamber of commerce such union would be essential with evolution of a strong federal government in Canada.

He said the far-reaching recommendations of the Byrne report, with particular reference to the proposals aimed at creating fiscal equity through standardized assessment and taxation on a provincial basis would "well warrant study" for application to such an Atlantic Provinces merger on an overall basis although the report was aimed only at New Brunswick's problems and was not framed with the total area in mind.

Mr. Byrne said Canada's minority government situation was conducive to the evolution of co-operative federalism now growing in Canada. He contended, however, that instead, the provinces of Canada should be becoming "more subservient" to a strong central government--and that in view of this need Canadians should be asking themselves which should come first "provincial rights or Canadian rights."

He said the leadership existed in both Nova Scotia (Premier Stanfield) and in New Brunswick (Premier Robichaud) which could provide the strong national governments required.

Con't

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

In Out

FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by: RSBlack:rc April 5, 1966

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances: RSBlack

1966 APR 7 PM 1 05

COPYFLO-PBR

UNCLASSIFIED

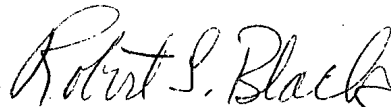
-2-

A-32
HALIFAX

When such federal strength becomes evident--the needs for Atlantic union would increase accordingly, he said.

Comment:

As reported previously, possibility of a union first came from Premier Robichaud of New Brunswick, who a year ago proposed a study be made "on possible political union of the Maritime provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P.E.I.)." Maritime - not Atlantic provinces were specified since Premier Smallwood of Newfoundland had indicated no interest in joining such a union, if ever formed. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick each approved legislation a year ago to establish committees to study the advantages and disadvantages. A joint investigating committee was set up but, so far as is known, has not met. Furthermore, a committee chairman has not been named. About the chairman, Premier Robichaud was recently quoted in the press as saying, "We are looking for a prominent man from outside the Maritimes, one who is not biased. That is a rare bird indeed."



Robert S. Black,
United States Consul General.

CC: U.S.Embassy, Ottawa (2)