

# National

## ABUSE OF NATIVE RIGHTS 'WIDESPREAD'

# Marshall report indictment of judicial system

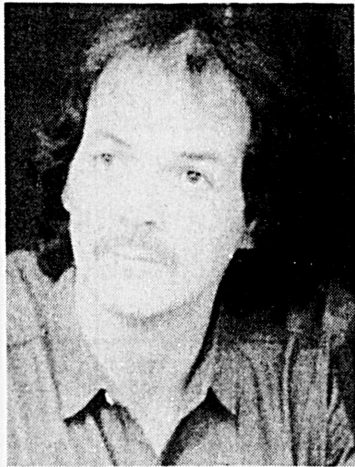
By PATRICK NAGLE  
Southam News

HALIFAX — The long-term implications of the royal commission investigation into the injustices perpetrated against Micmac Indian Donald Marshall extend well beyond the report's 82 basic recommendations.

The commissioners propose a whole new system of justice administration to protect citizens, particularly minorities, from the overt racism and bureaucratic bungling that jailed Marshall 11 years for a murder he did not commit.

But the commissioners leave three major areas open to question:

- What will Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan do with the finding that he presides over a justice system populated by bigots and incompetents?
- What will Prime Minister



Marshall: rights trampled.

Brian Mulroney do with another report showing the Royal Canadian Mounted Police woefully susceptible to political influence?

■ Finally, what is the real future of the Canadian aboriginal population in the wake of cross-Canada investigations showing an unhappily similar record of human rights abuses against natives by officialdom?

Premier Buchanan will have to face his legislature Feb. 22 and has promised a government response to the Marshall inquiry before that date. He will be responding to some of the most damning accusations ever laid at the door of a provincial government.

Although the royal commission on Donald Marshall was empowered by the Buchanan cabinet, it seems unlikely it anticipated such an overwhelming indictment of their police, public servants, judges and politicians.

The premier has a thin Progressive Conservative majority at Provincial House and will have to

make a strong defence against both Liberal and New Democrat civil rights critics.

In the past, Buchanan has not responded kindly to outside criticism of his administration. Most recently, federal Auditor General Kenneth Dye was attacked for suggesting Nova Scotia squandered federal funds on projects unrelated to the money's authorized use.

Should Buchanan's temper conflict as violently with the Marshall findings as it did with the Dye report, the government could continue its previous delay tactics in hopes the controversy will blow over now that the report is on the record.

The Marshall commissioners assiduously avoided recommending criminal charges against anyone involved in the affair, but their report gives numerous and unnerving citations of perjury, racial

discrimination, obstruction and failure to serve the administration of justice — all of which are crimes in Nova Scotia law.

For the RCMP, already under fire in its handling of politically explosive Montreal and Ottawa cases, the Marshall report produces further troublesome anecdotes about the force's inability to handle investigations impartially where public figures are involved.

In comparing the Marshall case to investigation of questionable financial transactions by two Buchanan cabinet ministers, the royal commissioners found clear evidence of a double standard.

"The conduct of officials in both the RCMP and the (provincial) department of the attorney general exemplified the attitude that status is important and that one is not blind to influence in enforcing the law," the report states.

The entrenched racism displayed by all components of the Nova Scotia justice system strikes a resonance with public information gathered last year in Alberta and Manitoba during hearings on native peoples in conflict with the law.

The evidence gathered in those provinces told of police and administrative systems insensitive to the rights of aboriginal minorities.

In Nova Scotia, investigators found clear evidence of individuals in the justice system covering up to protect themselves rather than working to protect Donald Marshall's civil rights.

Taken with the evidence from other provinces, the Marshall report gives a very disagreeable national picture of disregard for the civil rights of native peoples — an image the federal government will eventually have to take responsibility for.

## Castration statement defended

THUNDER BAY, Ont. (CP) — A minister who called for the castration of child molesters in a sermon says he's satisfied with the controversy he's generated.

"My intent from the beginning was to involve the entire community in the discussion (of sexual abuse)," Rev. Keith Ashford said Sunday after his sermon.

Ashford's service at Wesley United Church attracted 300 people, many who aren't even members of the congregation. Some came from as far away as Toronto. He got a positive response from many.

"I think it's high time somebody does something," said church member Betty Lake. "God knows, the justice system isn't doing anything."

One 68-year-old woman said she attended because her daughter was the victim of a sex criminal 10 years ago.

"This is how it doesn't leave you — I have a sick feeling right now just talking about it," said the woman, who asked not to be named.

Ashford has said he concluded child molesters should be castrated when he heard horror stories about the sufferings of their victims.

The minister reported last week he received a death threat from a caller who identified himself as a molester. The caller threatened to kill him if he gave the sermon, the minister said Wednesday.

# Liberal contenders square off on Meech

By DAN LEGER

TORONTO (CP) — Despite pledges of a friendly competition, the opening round of the Liberal leadership campaign had an aggressive, at times combative tone as the six candidates debated Sunday for the first time.

No clear winner emerged from the day of policy workshops, speeches and bearpit debates despite efforts of the contenders to land telling blows on each other.

Particularly forceful speeches were given by candidates Sheila Copps, John Nunziata and Paul Martin Jr. but none of the six speeches fell flat. It was only later in the

day that the intensity level was raised.

Remarks bordering on insult were exchanged in an afternoon debate while some in the crowd hissed their disapproval. The audience of about 1,200 Grits in a huge underground auditorium in the Metro Convention Centre was loud, raucous and seemed to enjoy the action after months of underground campaigning.

The hottest disputes revolved around the Meech Lake accord and the question of national unity.

"Do you feel you can get Quebec to the table?" Paul Martin Jr. snapped at Jean

Chretien, the acknowledged leader in the race.

"I can do it," Chretien retorted, adding: "At least I'm not talking out of both sides of my mouth," an apparent reference to Martin's stated support for the accord while also calling for further negotiations.

Copps jumped into the fray, pointing to the clause in the Constitution that allows the provinces and Parliament to override individual rights.

Amid heckling from Chretien's supporters in red-and-white shirts, she said that when Chretien and the rest of the Liberal govern-

ment of the day patriated the Constitution in 1981-82, "he knew it was not perfect."

Former Quebec cabinet minister Clifford Lincoln got in his licks at Chretien, too.

"I detest the notwithstanding clause; I lost my job for it," he said, referring to his 1988 resignation from Premier Robert Bourassa's cabinet over Quebec's use of the clause to restrict English-language rights.

There was one small area of agreement among the candidates, who unanimously called for an end to outside interference in federal election campaigns.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS BEGIN

# Abortion to head agenda

OTTAWA (CP) — The political debate on abortion, relegated to the back burner during the Christmas parliamentary break, will be back at the boil this week as MPs begin public hearings on the government's proposed new law.

Justice Minister Doug Lewis is to appear Tuesday as the first witness before a 14-member legislative committee examining the bill, brought in two months ago in an effort to bridge deep divisions within Conservative ranks.

In theory, the committee of eight Tories, four Liberals and two New Democrats could amend the legislation before returning it to the Commons for further debate and a final vote.

In practice, the committee is so evenly split between anti-abortion

and pro-choice advocates that neither side is counting on major changes.

"The likelihood is not great," concedes John Reimer, a Tory backbencher from Kitchener, Ont., and longtime anti-abortion activist.

But if their efforts are blocked in committee, Reimer and like-minded MPs will likely carry the fight to the full House when debate returns there, probably sometime in April.

They would like to toughen the bill which, as currently drafted, would permit abortion at any stage of pregnancy if a single doctor agrees there is a danger to the physical or mental health of the mother.

But Lewis and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney have already warned that tighter restrictions may run afoul of the Supreme Court of Canada, which struck down previous Criminal Code provisions in January 1988 as a violation of women's rights.

"I don't see any substantial amendments," says Dawn Black, the New Democrat women's critic. "This is the bill the government wants."

The NDP, which opposes any Criminal Code restrictions on abortion, hopes to scuttle the bill when it returns to the full House.

Meanwhile, Black and Mary Clancy, the Liberal women's critic, both fear that government MPs — contrary to their public statements — are determined to hustle the bill

through committee with a minimum of controversy.

"I think the fix is in," said Clancy.

"The sham is that this is a free vote in the Tory caucus. I don't think it's a free vote at all."

Tory committee members, despite their personal differences on abortion, united in December to block an opposition effort to take the committee on a cross-country tour and televise the hearings.

Some major lobby groups, including the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund and the National Association of Women and the Law, have yet to be invited to appear.

One group sure to be heard is the Canadian Medical Association, which has indicated it will oppose the legislation, partly because of the heavy burden it would put on doctors.

The bill would leave it up to individual physicians to define a threat to physical or mental health. But it would make both doctors and women liable to two years in prison if they engage in an abortion without such a threat.

The legislation passed second reading in the Commons — approval in principle — by a 164-114 margin in a free vote in November.

But some MPs voted for it only so they could try to amend the bill later. They could turn against it in future legislative manoeuvring.

## Troop cuts denied

TORONTO (CP) — Canada's military chief has denied the armed forces is a target for deep cuts in personnel and more base closures.

In a report from Ottawa, the Toronto Sun on Sunday quoted Chief of Defence Staff Gen. John de Chastelain as saying he knows of no cuts being planned to the National Defence department.

He was commenting on a newspaper report that the government may chop up to 15,000 troops over the next five or six years, and close more bases.

"I've heard no suggestion of a figure that large. I don't even

know if there's going to be any cuts. There are simply rumors — it's purely speculative."

Last year, defence was hit with a \$2.74-billion budget reduction over five years. Also axed was a proposed \$8-billion fleet of nuclear-powered submarines.

In addition, 14 military bases were to be closed or reduced.

Defence Minister Bill McKnight was not available for comment, but said Friday that "if the government doesn't look after its economic house now, we'll pay the price later. That's the fiscal reality in Ottawa today."

PROVINCIAL, LOTTO B.C., THE PICK, KENO, LOTTO 6/49

Sponsored by

CONNAUGHT AUTO SALES

"Cleanest Cars & Trucks In Town"

1797 Victoria St.

562-1341

D.L. 5145

The winning numbers in Saturday's Lotto-649 draw were 1, 5, 6, 10, 33 and 49. The bonus number was 36.

The jackpot of \$2,096,334.80 was divided into four prizes of \$524,083.70.

The second-prize pool, awarded to those matching five regular numbers and the bonus number, had 10 winners of \$71,194.90.

The third-prize pool, awarded to those matching five regular numbers, had 443 winners of \$1,367.00.

The fourth-prize pool, awarded to those matching four regular numbers, had 21,876 winners of \$53.20.

In addition, there were 379,300 prizes of \$10 awarded to those matching three regular numbers.

There was a total of 401,633 prizes worth \$8,450,668.00.

The four extra winning numbers for British Columbia on Saturday were 15, 37, 42 and 80.

The winning numbers drawn Saturday in The B.C. Keno lottery were 3, 23, 29, 37, 40, 44, 46 and 48.

The four winning numbers in the Express draw were 275430, 408308, 875981 and 000774.

The winning Lotto B.C. numbers were 8, 12, 22, 30, 35 and 36.

The \$1,000,000 winning number in Friday's Provincial lottery draw is 3396205. There are also subsidiary prizes.

In the event of a discrepancy between any of the numbers above and the official winning numbers list, the latter shall prevail.

To All Our Adult Learners  
You Are Cordially Invited To Attend The  
**FREE INTRODUCTORY  
ADULT LESSONS**

Being Offered At  
**THE FOUR SEASONS  
LEISURE POOL**

**Wednesday, January 31st  
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

or

**Friday, February 2nd  
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

If you are able to attend please contact  
the pool receptionist to book your date.



**FOUR SEASONS  
LEISURE POOL  
Parks &  
Recreation Dept.  
563-8806**

