

"Let's separate," says Trudeau

In a surprise move today Prime Minister Trudeau came out in support of the general principle of self-determination for Canada's disparate groups.

However, Trudeau stressed that self-determination is too important a democratic right to be limited to Quebec alone.

"If Manitobans or Saskatchewanes wish to leave Confederation, they should be allowed to separate without constraint," he said. Even sub-provincial units such as, say, Westmount, St. Urbain St., sections of the Dene "nation," Mennonite colonies etc., should be able to opt out of existing government structures."

"I would be very pleased, in fact, if our country, with its rich cultural diversity and strong sense of individualism, began to express its multi-faceted character by immediately dividing into its natural components," he said.

The response to Trudeau's announcement was almost immediate in Prince Edward Island. The provincial legislature, which had been considering routine business when news of the speech came, went into special session at the suggestion of Premier Bud DeSpud.

Within an hour the legislators had unanimously declared independence. At a hastily convened press conference afterwards the Premier said, "The West has been ignoring us and riding roughshod over our interests for years. Now they

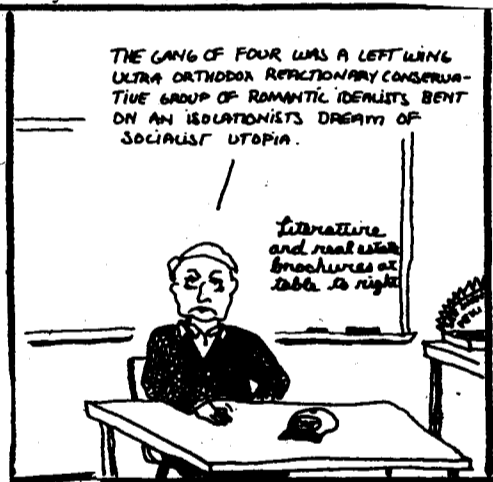
can freeze in the dark without our potatoes."

Elsewhere reactions were mixed. In Quebec City Rene Levesque's Office had no comment, and refused to confirm or deny rumors that the Premier had been taken to hospital in a state of shock. However, sources in the Parti Quebecois said that the move had "really thrown a *clef Anglaise* into the works."

The National Indian Brotherhood issued a statement later in the day saying that, though they were pleased with Trudeau's generous recognition of their nationhood, they would stay within Confederation as long as funding of research into land claims continues.




And in Alberta, Wegreille Wladykolslaw, leader of the militant Mekking Our Owen Gopherment Witout Haylping From Nohbohdy Party, said he was looking forward to "frrroot-fool" negotiations with Peter Lougheed regarding Home Rule for the province's Ukrainians. Ownership of the province's giant pysanka would be the major point of contention, he said, followed closely by oil pricing agreements.

Elsewhere in Alberta, Irma Garglethorpe of Bawlf has already conducted a referendum regarding her proposal to gain independence from the oppressive cultural domination of Ernie Garglethorpe: the result, with a 100 per cent voter turnout, was 100 per cent in favor of the move.



STUDENT ASSISTANCE TASK FORCE

- The Federal-Provincial Task Force on Student Assistance is reviewing current and proposed alternative programs for post-secondary Canadian student assistance related to a student's financial need;
- written views are invited from the public. These may deal with any or all aspects of student assistance including alternatives for the continuation, modification or replacement of existing policies and programs of both federal and provincial governments;
- further information can be obtained from: The Federal-Provincial Task Force on Student Assistance, P.O. Box 2211, Postal Station P, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2T2;
- closing date for submissions to the Task Force is June 1, 1980.

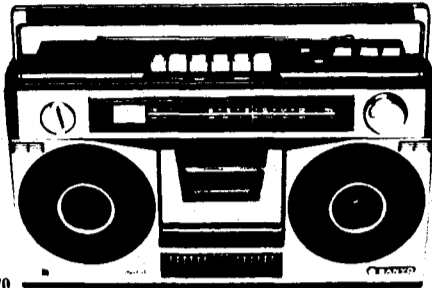
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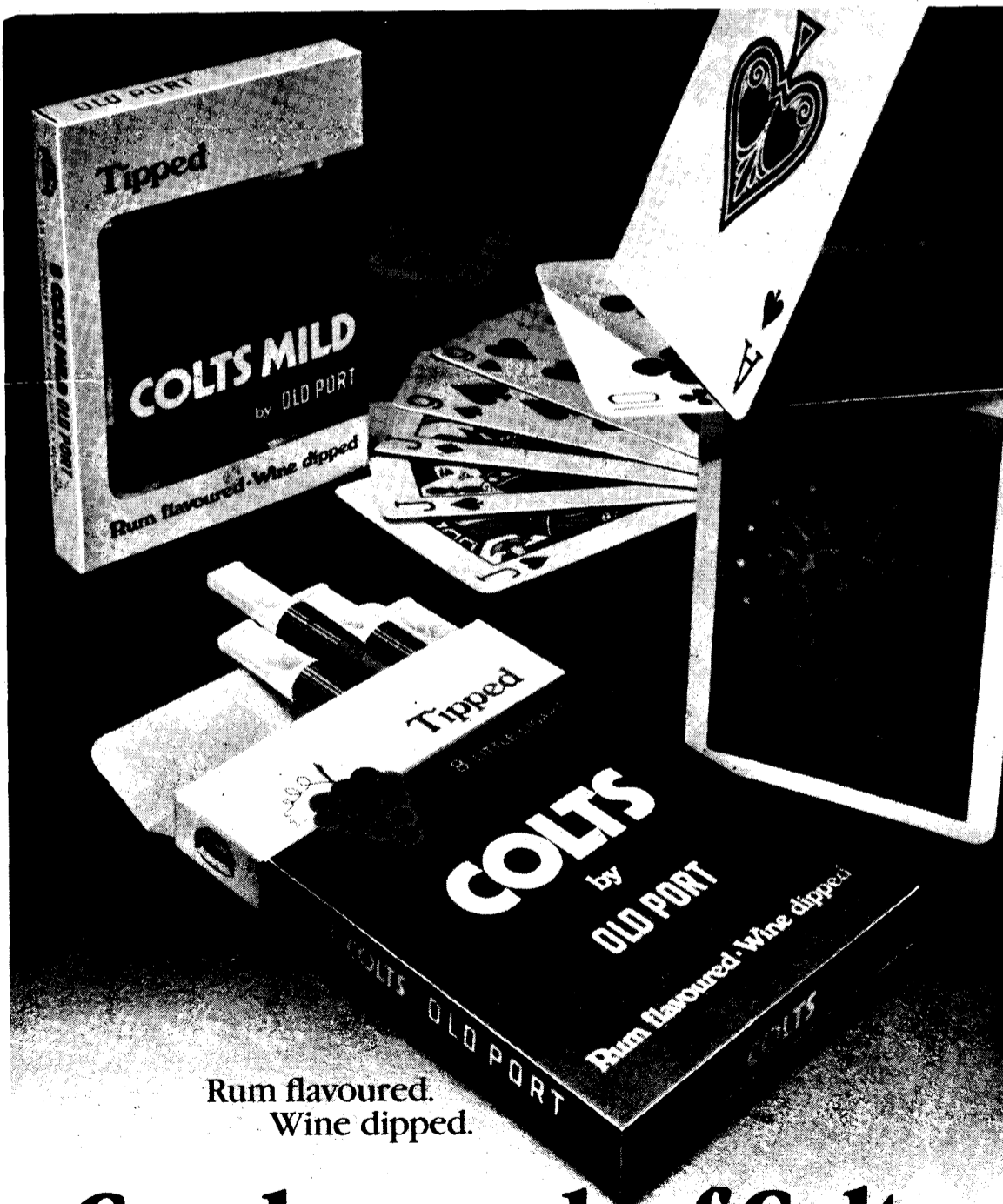
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