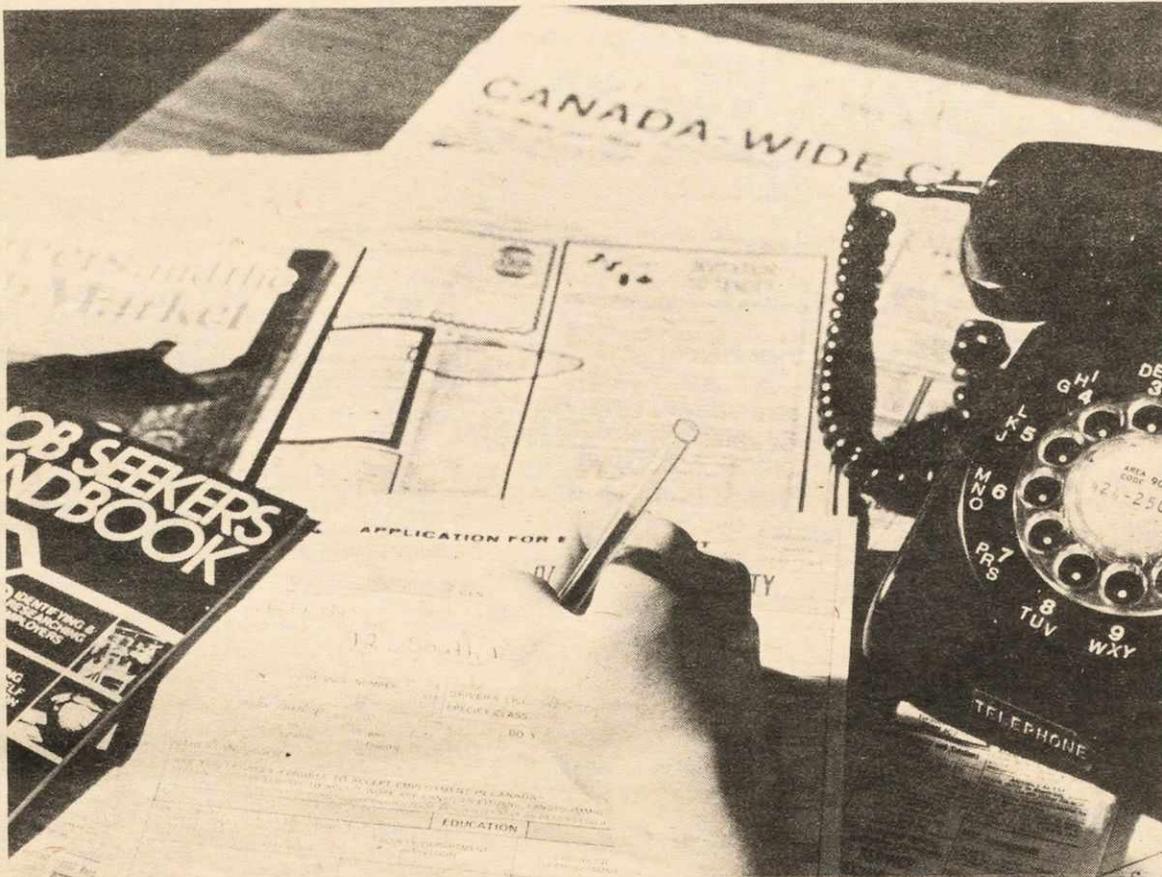


Feds axe summer job program



OTTAWA (CUP) — A \$20 million reduction in the federal summer job creation program will likely mean less jobs for Canadian students next summer.

The government allocation of \$100 million for summer job creation for 1981 is down from \$120 million for 1980. According to Jeff Parr, researcher for the National Union of Students, the primary cutbacks are in the area of community development and federally sponsored programs.

"These are the real job creation programs in the package," said Parr. The other areas of expenditure are national defense programs and hire a student campaigns and employment centres.

"It seems the government is placing a higher priority on military training than on job creation," said Parr. "Much of the defense allocation does not create any jobs."

According to Parr, 60 per cent of the defense area of job creation is for cadet training, a six week course for teenagers of between 13 and 18 years. Participants are not paid a wage, but instead are given a \$100 bonus if they complete the course.

Yet, Hallam Johnson, execu-

tive director of the employment development branch of the Ministry of Employment and Immigration, disagrees that emphasis has been placed on military job training. He considers that the \$20 million cutback is a "generalized reduction" across the board which does not favour any area.

Johnson did not feel the programs would suffer much because of the reduction. "There has been a history of varied funding."

However, Johnson did admit "of course, the number of jobs does fluctuate with the level of funding."

Johnson said increases in the expenditure for hire a student campaigns and employment centres would mean that area would be able to maintain the current level of service.

But, says Parr, the employment centres only indirectly aid students.

"They are supposed to help students find jobs. Only a few students are directly employed by the centres," he said.

"What is needed is a stronger commitment to the areas of the program that directly create jobs for students," he added.

Constitution

Gays react

by Glenn Walton

Gays in Halifax have reacted angrily to the vote of a Special Subcommittee of the House of Commons against including the term 'sexual orientation' in the proposed Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom.

"It's just another example of the government's contempt for people", said Robin Metcalfe of the Gay Alliance for Equality in Halifax. "There hasn't been enough time allowed for community groups and minorities to participate in a real way in the constitutional process."

Metcalfe cited other examples of alleged government contempt in "the way it has treated the demands for entrenchment of native rights and the fact that according to a 1977 Gallup poll, a majority of Canadians favored prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the Canadian Rights Act." So far only the Parti Quebecois government in Quebec has included sexual orientation in its Human Rights Act.

As it stands, the amended Charter proposal would provide that every individual is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection without discrimination, *in particular* without discrimination because of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age or sex.

In a seminar on Gays and the Constitution held on January 22 in Halifax, McGill law student Stuart Russell said this recent amendment fails to follow either recommendation advanced by Gordon Fair-

weather, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, who had recommended inclusion of the term 'sexual orientation' in the charter. Russell, reminding

his audience of the 1977 Gallup poll, added that in that year, then Justice Minister Ron Basford had defended the position of the government on sexual orientation, reasoning that since no provincial rights code explicitly prohibited discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, the federal government should not do so.

"Such an amendment can no longer hold water in light of the amendment to the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms," Russell said. "The government should now consider following the lead of the P.Q."

This week's vote on NDP member Svend Robinson's proposed inclusion of the term now makes eventual inclusion of sexual orientation in the charter less likely.

Russell said it is conceivable that a court may in the future interpret the words "in particular" to include sexual orientation. But, he noted, such an interpretation would only be grafted to the Charter and become a part of law as a result of a clear ruling by the Supreme Court, which would not occur until 1983 or 1984 at the earliest.

"And even then," he said, "there is no guarantee that the highest court in the land would endorse such an interpretation."

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Health Plan referendum

YES... NO... MAYBE SO

by Paul Creelman

A referendum will be held this spring to find out if Dal students are willing to continue paying the cost of the university health insurance, according to Theresa Reno, member of the Student Council's Health Plan Committee. Reasons for the referendum are rising costs and negative feedback from students, says Reno.

Reno says that there are a number of problems with the present health plan, which went up \$3.00 per student this year and offered less coverage than previously. One of the major complaints has been students resent paying for the cost of the plan if they are already covered by a Blue Cross plan or other type of insurance. Also, many find that the red tape and wait to get a claim processed is not worth the effort for an inex-

pensive prescription.

Graduate studies representative Greg Graham feels that the present Health Plan should be kept.

"I definitely feel that it's a good idea to have it next year," says Graham. "The only way to have a health plan within a reasonable cost is to have the Student Union keep the present arrangement. An optional health plan would cost too much for individuals." Graham also feels that the number of students who already have other health plans are overestimated, and they are a vocal rather than numerically important fraction of the total population.

However, Caroline Zayid, Science Society representative, would like to see the Health Plan discontinued because of the cost.

"It's costing an awful lot of

money any way you have the plan. It's also going to increase next year, when we're going to have a large student union fee increase already. If we went with an optional health plan, that would allow people who wanted to be covered to get it, and so we would satisfy both people. This would seem to be a fair solution to me."

Sue McKinley, also a member of the Health Plan committee, stated that the present health plan was probably the cheapest one available, and the Health Plan committee had not really looked around for an alternative this year because of previous experience that the present company was pretty well the best deal available.

The present plan covers a number of hospital services, but its main use is reimbursement of the cost of drugs.