

Press gallery decides to continue free services

OTTAWA (CUP) - The Parliamentary Press Gallery has voted to continue accepting free services such as telephones, stationery, parking and cheap meals from the government.

At its annual meeting last weekend, the 160-member gallery defeated by a wide margin a motion that would have obligated reporters and news organizations to pay their own way.

The vote came after a lengthy debate during which many gallery members said they could not commit their employers to costs that had not been accurately determined. A lesser motion to eliminate the government paid stationery with a gallery letterhead was also defeated.

The meeting adjourned before another proposal to endorse the

principle of paying for services came to a vote.

A study by the gallery estimated overall costs, including telephones, stationery, parking, accommodation and other services such as Hansard, government reports, subsidized meals and records at \$160,000 a year.

In essence the Canadian taxpayer will continue to support those members of Canada's commercial establishment media while they work in the Press Gallery.

This comes at a time when government spending is soaring and newspaper profits are climbing.

Last year the Southam News Chain which includes the Ottawa Citizen and the Winnipeg Tribune, was named by the Financial Post

as the top corporation in Canada in terms of its return on investment which ran at 30 per cent.

The Toronto Star, Canada's largest daily, made \$8-million in profit last year as well as paying

off over \$4-million in loans that were not due for several years.

The Gallery is also a select club. The members of the Gallery decide who can obtain membership and who cannot. Naturally small

newspapers or organizations with little power or money are denied membership. The large rich newspapers reap the benefits paid for by the Canadian taxpayer.

American military action alleged

BEIRUT, LEBANON (ZNS-CUP) - The Arab Press Service, a specialized oil and political magazine published in Beirut for the Arab world, is charging that the United States is becoming involved in a Vietnam like military venture on the Arabian peninsula.

According to the press service report, the U.S. earlier this month

stepped up its military commitments to the small nation of Oman by agreeing to supply sophisticated military equipment to Omani troops.

Sultan Quabas, the leader of Oman, returned from Washington this month reportedly with American agreements to supply his country with sophisticated U.S. radio and electronic equipment, antitank missiles and helicopters.

Oman lies on one side of a strategic 26 mile wide strait which overlooks and controls access to the oil rich Persian Gulf. According to the Arab Press Service, the decision for direct aid to Oman was made after first hand

visits to the country by CIA director William Colby and former CIA director Richard Helms.

Recently Iranian troops, armed with American weapons, have been fighting in Oman against Marxist liberation forces. However, the new agreements announced in Washington signify the first time that the U.S. has supplied direct military aid to Oman.

The Arab Press Service, further charges that the U.S. already has advisors on the ground in Oman and that the latest United States move has the markings of another Vietnam style operation to keep the oil rich Arabian peninsula out of rebel control.

CLC is pleased with pension plan

OTTAWA (CUP) - "Something must be done to protect the majority of Canadians when they enter their retirement years," according to Joe Morris the president of the Canadian Labour Congress.

In a prepared statement Morris said the CLC would push this year for improvements in the Quebec and Canada Pension Plans as part of their February "Citizenship Month", a traditional CLC activity aimed at fostering social development.

Morris said the program had actually started last year when unions established committees to study pension protection. This year's February activities will be aimed at getting the government to make legislative changes allowing all Canadians "an adequate pension in their retirement years."

In 1970, only 39.2 per cent of the Canadian work force were covered by private pension plans. The changing nature of the country's labour market means that many workers change their jobs every five or six years during their career. Many of these job changes take place before the employee is entitled to vesting rights in his pension meaning that he loses the benefit of employer contributions

to the plan on his behalf. Also, the worker's next employer may be enrolled in a different scheme or in no plan at all. It has been estimated that only four to ten per cent of private pension plan contributors receive full pension benefits when they retire.

Morris said the CLC "Citizenship Month" campaign in February will rally the Canadian trade union movement and Canadians generally around a program of pressure on the governments to make Canada and Quebec Pension Plan benefits available at age 60 by 1981

and to increase the amount of pension benefits by 2.5 per cent per year until they reach 75 per cent of wages in 1996.

"The CLC is also recommending that Canada and Quebec Pension Plan contributions be based on a worker's salary and not just on the present 'maximum yearly pensionable earnings' system. This would eliminate the current inequitable situation in which lower income earners pay a larger proportion of their income for coverage than people at the top of the wage scale," Morris said.

National Nothing Day observed

WASHINGTON (CUP-ENS) - People all over America held large celebrations January 16 to mark the third annual National Nothing Day.

According to Harold Coffin, President and treasurer of the National Nothing Foundation, National Nothing Day is meant to "provide Americans one day when

they can just sit, without celebrating, observing or honoring anything".

Coffin notes that there are now roughly 1,800 special days on the calendar celebrating such monuments as: National Pickle Day, National Nuts and Bolts Week, National Millard Fillmore Day and National Buzzard Day.

Sound Off continued He alleges unfair ticket sales

To the editor:

I was sitting in the SUB thinking about Winter Carnival and felt I just had to write to congratulate the SRC on the wonderful job they did of disposing of the tickets. It is of small consequence that the majority of students won't be able to attend any of the popular events since the people in the front of the line bought tickets for everything. I guess the SRC thought it wouldn't be as quick or efficient to have 2 or 3 lines where tickets for different events might be purchased so that a minority of the students wouldn't have a monopoly on the Carnival.

It also seems strange that tickets went on sale on Tuesday which isn't a regular class day such as

Mon., Wed., or Fri. resulting in that many students weren't even on Campus. The best part of that ridiculous line-up, however, was that tickets didn't go on sale till noon, which gave it time to grow into a mob of tired, angry, and impatient people. But why should that bother the SRC, they don't have to line up. In fact, rumour has it they reserve a couple of hundred tickets for themselves, and if you happen to be friends of certain members of the elite, you don't have to stand in line either. Anyways, I don't see how the SRC can justify raising their fees \$10 if this is the service they are going to deliver.

Alan Clark Arts III

The Bookstore has arranged for a
Hewlett-Packard Seminar Feb 17, 1975
Details to be announced later

Action Corps

is now working on campus.

Volunteer students are needed to tutor young Canadian Indian Students.

Where: Education Building, rm. 208 and 212
When: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm 6:30 - 8:00 pm

MONDAYS - Kingsclear students phone Linda, 454-5145,

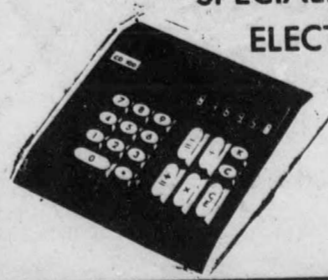
WEDNESDAYS - St. Mary's students phone Eric, 455-2541, for info.

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