

The Task Force statement

Progress Report of the Task Force on Canadian Education, January 27, 1971.

The remaining members of the Task Force on Canadian Education at York University wish to make a final progress report 1970-71 Council of the York Student Federation.

First we feel it is important to clarify our status. The Task Force has always considered itself as an independent research group committed to providing a serious basis for informed discussion and for taking appropriate measures to promote a genuinely Canadian education at York University. The Task Force was never conceived as a group formulating policy for any particular group at York — whether student, faculty or administration. This independent status was indispensable in seek of support and co-operation of students, faculty and administration during the course of our work. The results of our work — both the written studies which are in the final stages of preparation and much of the actual information and data we have collected — will be made available to all interested persons and parties to act upon as they see fit.

At the same time the Task Force has felt a special responsibility to the present Council of the YSF which expressed its commitment to formulating policies and activities to promote Canadian education at York by generously supplying the financial and administrative support to the Task Force. We sincerely regret that it has proved impossible for our work to contribute directly to this year's Council policy formulation and activities. Changes in our research design and in the scope of our study were necessitated late in

the summer owing to inadequate survey returns and the difficulty — familiar to this Council — of obtaining certain information critical in assessing the present state of affairs at York University.

Task Force members are planning to publish within a few weeks, two separate studies under their own signatures: general over-view of the problem of Canadian education at York and a somewhat more extensive in depth study of one of the Social Science Departments. Circumstances prevented the writing and issuing of a collective report and thus these studies will not be collective reports, but individual studies by some Task Force members. We are hopeful that the results of our work will prove to be a significant contribution to forming the discussion about Canadian education for the next few years. Since our work attempted to focus on the trends and tendencies in the development of Canadian Education at York policy assumptions which underlie rather than immediate questions of numbers, we feel the studies will be useful to all concerned about the development of Canadian education at York for more than this year alone.

This sense we feel — as we would hope members of Council will share this conviction — that the many months of work the Task Force has undertaken has been worth the support and effort of all concerned with promotion of a genuinely Canadian education at York University and other universities.

Gregor Beadling
John Huot
Andy Stanley
The Members of the Task Force on Canadian Education.

Canada takes part Major oil companies rushing to S.E. Asia

PARIS, France (LNS) — The Saigon government has recently passed a law granting foreign companies permits for oil exploration off the South Vietnamese coast.

In 1969 ten American companies undertook exploratory work there. Their research must have proved fruitful, because six other American companies, two Japanese, and one Canadian firm, have joined the list of the "pioneer" enterprises.

A meeting of the businessmen concerned is due to take place in February in Saigon.

The companies have already begun to invest, even though Nixon is using the slogan of "Vietnamization."

Vietnam is not the only country involved. Four months after the intervention of American troops in Cambodia, Cambodian-Thai negotiations aimed at reducing economic barriers between the two neighbours took place in Bangkok. The negotiators examined the possibilities of establishing a common programme of prospecting for all.

On November 11, 1969, the U.S. ambassador to Thailand, Mr. Unger, made an important declaration before a Senatorial commission:

"There is one very, very large development that may take place. Nobody knows at this point whether it will prove out or not.

That is oil exploration that is going on in the Gulf of Thailand. It is going on actually not only from Thailand, but also from Malaysia, Indonesia, and so on, but it is very important in the case of Thailand, and there are now six companies, five of them American, that are now carrying out explorations and presumably with some pretty good hope of finding something there. Now, if that develops, it of course will be a very major additional American investment in the country."

The oil of this region interests the ecology-conscious U.S. and Japanese firms because it has a very low sulfur content.

But it is above all the abundance of oil hoped for which interests the American companies taking part in the exploration, and for which they intend to prospect throughout the huge stretch reaching from South Korea to the Gulf of Thailand. Vast territories have been allotted to them in the entire Indonesian archipelago, off the shores of the Malaysian mainland and north of Borneo. Mr. Joachim Joesten wrote in *Weltwoche*, a German newsweekly, last May 22:

"Compared to the South East Asian offshore deposits" said a top oil company official, "those of Louisiana are like a postage stamp on the back of an elephant." U.S. geologist James Gauntt, veteran of fifteen years of searching the South China Sea, thinks that in five years the offshore oil fields of Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, South Vietnam and Indonesia will be ready to produce four-hundred million barrels a day — or more than is now produced in the entire western world. From this viewpoint, the American effort in Indochina, so little understood in the world and even in the United States, begins to make more sense. Like his predecessor Lyndon Johnson, President Nixon is closely tied to the oil business."

Law students now on strike at University of Saskatchewan

SASKATOON (CUP) — Law students at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon voted last Saturday to continue the strike which began January 27.

At the Saturday general meeting, the students declared the strike committee as the sole bargaining agent of the students, and that only another meeting of the law students could end the strike. The general meeting directed the law students' association not to engage in any negotiations with administration or faculty.

The strike blew up over the massive failure rates which were given the second year law students on the Christmas exams. In one class, student papers were given a bonus of 30 marks, and the class average was still only 59 per cent. The issue was apparently the

focus of a much more general dissatisfaction of students with the school, and with student-faculty relations, there.

The law students' demands, ratified at the Saturday meeting, included a call for a parity committee of six students and six faculty to investigate examination policy, and a demand for a permanent investigation review board.

The Saturday meeting also directed the strike committee to meet once more with Dean Roger Carter to explain the issues and directives arising out of the Saturday meeting, and then to hold no more negotiations until the law faculty council met to discuss the merits of the strike and the demands made.

So far the strike has been a major success. So few students

attempted to attend classes that none have been held since the strike was declared.

U.S. after our water

WASHINGTON (CUP) — C.B. Rogers Morton, soon to become Richard Nixon's secretary of the interior, thinks that draining Canada's north to supply America's fresh water needs is "an imaginative concept."

Interviewed at a U.S. Senate hearing to confirm his appointment, Morton was questioned about the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA).

NAWAPA is a plan conceived by American think-tank engineers that would divert water from the Canadian north that now flows into the Arctic through the natural trough of the Rocky Mountains into America.

The plan was first unveiled about five years ago and has been gaining support in the U.S. ever

since. It would destroy all ecological balances that exist in the north.

Utah Democratic senator Frank Moss is a leading voice for the plan.

The Utah senator told the Senate committee that:

"There are a lot of ramifications. There are international aspects and the Canadians are involved. We cannot answer all the questions. We want to know how much we can pay for that (Canadian) water."

Morton is a Republican congressman from Spiro Agnew's home state of Maryland. He has been picked by Nixon to replace Walter Hickel who was fired last November for having too many disagreements with Nixon's dealings with protest.

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York homophiles having forum on homosexuals

The York Homophile Association plans the first forum on homosexuality ever held at a Canadian university on February 12 and 13.

The guest speakers at the lecture in LH2L at 7 on Friday will be: Dr. Franklin Kameny founder of the Mattachine Society of Washington and candidate in the upcoming senatorial election and Reverend Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles.

At 9 pm on Friday, there will be dance in 002 Winters College featuring "hits of the past."

On Saturday, the forum will continue with lunch in Vanier at noon followed by documentary movies in 118 Winters and discussion groups led by the guest speakers and others.

The purpose of the forum is to acquaint more people with the aims of the homophile movement and to encourage the demise of the myths, ignorance and fear surrounding the subject of homosexuality.

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