

Plebiscites don't work

MP's make the right decisions for us: Trudeau

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, at an open bear pit session last weekend at Osgoode Hall said that Canadians should not put 'great expectations' on any further federal-provincial conference to discuss the patriation of the BNA act.

When asked what the federal government's policy is to preserve the free market system and the private sector can be like he said. few companies have been nationalized since he became

prime minister.

"In one case", he said, "we gave back a crown corporation, Polysar corporation, back to the private sector.

"People should live in European countries or a province like Saskatchewan" to find out what government intervention in the private sector can be like he said.

"The private sector," he added, was not providing the equitable services people need — that's why we had to do it". Trudeau cited old

age pensions and family allowances as some of the social objectives the government has placed before economic objectives.

When asked why government can't be more sensitive to the common citizen, Trudeau asked the enquirer to consider the type of democracy Canada has.

"If we had a plebiscite on every questioner to consider the type of wash its hands and say 'over to you brother'."

According to Trudeau, the

average citizen does not have the overview to know what is good for the country at that particular time.

"Therefore, we elect a representative, a member of parliament that will, by and large, make the right decisions for us."

Later on in the bearpit session, Trudeau was asked whether Canada was any closer to the just society than before.

He replied, "in 1967 the Economic Council of Canada reported that 18 per cent of Canadian families lived

before the poverty line. In 1974, the ECC, after seven years of the Trudeau government, reported that only 11 per cent of families were living below the poverty level.

"Keep me in power for another seven years ..." he quipped.

The bearpit session ended on a light note when Trudeau was presented with a t-shirt with 'hang in there, baby' written on the front, and 'some PM's are better than others' on the back.

Art show on road from polluting paper company

EDMONTON (CUP) — The company that dumped 30,000 pounds of mercury into the English-Wabigoon river system in north-western Ontario is using a travelling art show to cover up its exploits.

The livelihoods, and quite possibly the lives, of natives in the Grassy Narrows and Whitedog reserves have been ruined because of the pollution.

In a common corporate public relations policy, Reed paper Limited has sunk \$30,000 into an exhibition called "Changing Visions - The Canadian Landscape". The company's motives are clear when it baldly states in the art show catalogue that it considers itself "... among the growing ranks of people who care deeply about the future of this country and about the invaluable heritage of our land."

The attempt becomes even more absurd in light of Reed's latest venture — a plan to strip the timber off 26,000 square miles of Indian land in northern Ontario. That effort would affect 12,000 Cree Ojibway natives who use the land to hunt and fish.

Currently showing at the Edmonton Art Gallery, the show moves to Winnipeg from Oct. 28 to Nov. 28, Calgary from Dec. 16 to Jan. 23, Burnaby in February and London March 18 to April 17.

Reed first gained notoriety last year when one of its affiliates, Dryden Paper, was ordered to stop pouring mercury into the river system. Over a period of 13 years the company had discharged enough of the chemical to systematically contaminate the entire river ecology and the people who made their living off it.

Mercury poisoning destroys the regenerative facility of nerve cells, resulting in a creeping disability and early death. If eaten by pregnant women, offspring may end up with cerebral palsy or retardation.

While the company has stopped polluting it has yet to pay any

compensation to victims of it. That job has been left to taxpayers. Welfare payments in the two reserves have shot up to \$270,000 from \$86,000 a year. Unemployment now stands at 80 per cent because commercial fishing has been banned.

Now, with the support of the Ontario government, Reed is embarking on another exploit. The company's plan to build a pulp mill and log an area the size of New Brunswick is in violation of Treaty Nine, signed by the federal government and natives in 1905, under which the land is guaranteed to the Cree and Ojibway nations.

While Reed claims it will reforest the area, native studies show logging in the clay soil areas raise the water table and turn the area into a swamp where seedlings would drown. In addition the black spruce trees which Reed intends to log have yet to be successfully reforested in the short growing season of the boreal forests of Northern Ontario.

Logging in sandy areas will result in erosion, leaving only bare rock the studies charge.

The provincial government's response to native and organized labor's opposition has been to extend its investigation to two years during which time "... detailed inventories, investigations and studies are to be undertaken to determine whether the pulp mill should be built."

Reed does not limit its exploitation to Canadian natives. It controls over 400 affiliates in over 50 countries including South Africa and Rhodesia.

Reed Paper Ltd. is owned by Reed International Ltd. a British based company with holdings in 88 countries. Its 1974 sales were over \$300 million and the company hopes to hit the \$1 billion mark by 1980 when it expects the new mill to be in operation. Reed Paper's profits have exceeded \$77 million over the last five years, ranking it in the top eight forest companies in Canada.

Snags for TA's

By IAN KELLOGG

Six English courses have run into snags concerning teaching assistants (TA's).

Under the Graduate Assistants Association (GAA) contract ratified last August, the most teaching time that can be required of a TA is two hours a week.

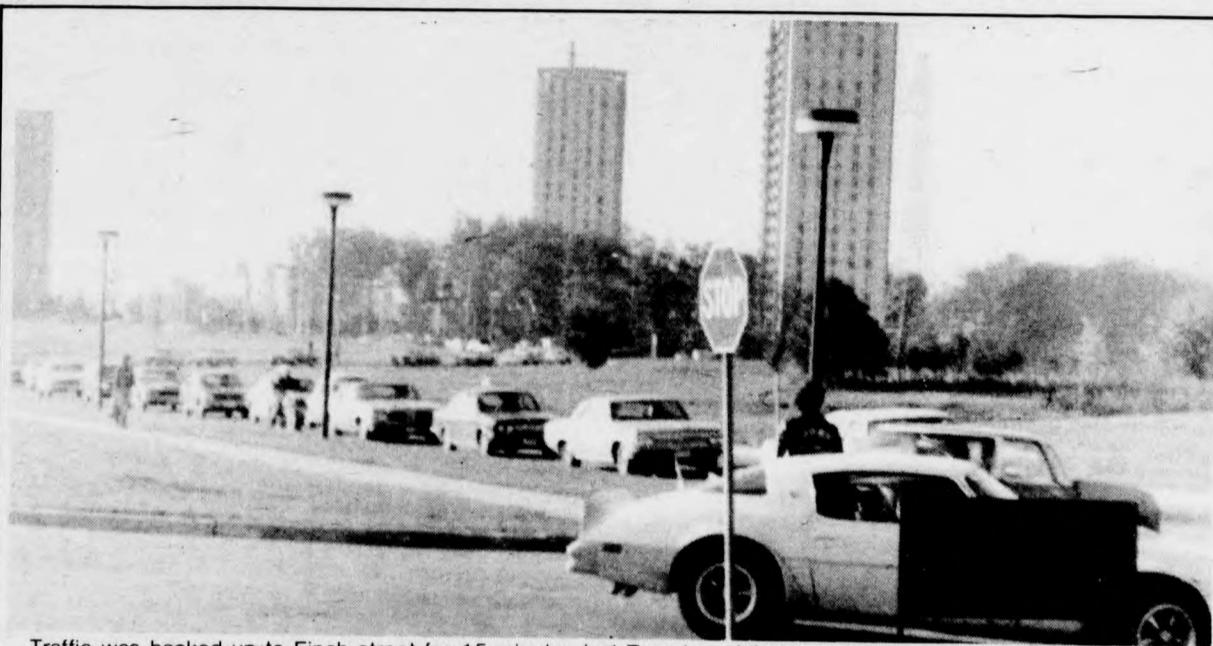
However, in the six courses concerned the course directors have sometimes scheduled three hours a week of teaching for a TA in violation of the contract. Douglas Ewen, the chairman of the English department, would not tell Excalibur which courses were involved until he spoke to the course directors. But he said the students

of these courses have been or will be informed of the situation.

Some scheduling changes may be involved but Ewen felt "nothing very violent will result from this matter".

He said the problem seems to have resulted from a lack of communication between the administration, the departments, and the GAA.

Ilene Crawford, the executive coordinator of the GAA said the two hour a week teaching limit for TA's, which has always been the norm but which has only now been codified, would have to be standardized if the GAA contract were to be fulfilled.



Traffic was backed up to Finch street for 15 minutes last Tuesday while York parking officials collected 50 cents from each car that didn't have a parking decal.

AGYU

ART GALLERY OF YORK UNIVERSITY

Ross N145

Mon-Fri 10-4:30

Sun 2-5

WESTERN CERAMIC SCULPTURE 1963-76

from the collection of

DAVID GILHOOLY

October 12-31, 1976

NOTICE

In accordance with section (9) of the Resolution Governing, The Function And Financing Of Course Unions, due notice is hereby given that all budget requests by Departmental Student Assemblies or Faculty Student Societies (Course Unions) must be submitted to the Course Union Administrative Commission no later than November 1st 1976. Care of CYSF.