

Chileans are not interested in coming to Canada

OTTAWA (CUP) - For five months Canadian government officials have denied that large numbers of Chileans want to come to Canada.

The official position was simply stated by Andrew Ross, Canadian ambassador to Chile, in November: "Chileans have very little interest in Canada."

In those five months fewer than 500 people have been admitted to Canada from Chile, despite a reported 1,000 applications a day.

Now Canadian immigration officials in Chile complain their offices are being swamped by potential immigrants. They have asked for help to deal with the "administrative crisis of major proportions" this has created.

Immigration and External Affairs officials said Feb. 11 they regard the increase in inquiries not as a refugee problem but as normal immigration. Some Chileans don't intend to use the applications immediately but make them now in case they need them in the future, officials said.

NDP MP John Harney, an outspoken critic of the government's policy towards Chile, said

Feb. 12 the government is trying to pass off refugees from Chile's military regime as normal immigrants.

Harney said a dramatic increase in applications "is a definite indication that a lot of people feel uncomfortable about the political situation in Chile. Many of these

people are not being persecuted - they just want out."

Harney said Canadian officials "have opened the door a little bit" for some Chileans but "the real problem is with non-Chileans." When Salvadore Allende's government was in power in Chile thousands of South Americans fled

neighbouring right-wing military dictatorships and settled in Chile.

After Allende's government was overthrown by the military junta these people were trapped. If they returned to their former countries they would face the same persecution as they will if they remain in Chile.

The Canadian government has been very reluctant to help these non-Chilean refugees. Presently there are about 65 non-Chilean refugees from Chile in Panama who applied several months ago to come to Canada. Canadian officials, however, will not communicate with them.

Government on fence about reclamation

KINGSTON (CUP) - Kingston Township Council wants the Ontario provincial government to get off the fence on the matter of reclamation as a method of garbage disposal.

The council decided Feb. 4 it favors reclamation but wants assurance from the Ministry of the Environment before getting out of the president system of dumping garbage.

Queens University professors Reginald Clark and James Brown, authors of the reclamation plan accepted by the city of Kingston, appeared before the township council to determine whether the township is still interested in participating in a reclamation scheme.

The city has already committed itself to the plan to reclaim, or recycle, paper, cardboard, metal, glass and plastic.

Township Councillor Peter Berman said the township would like to meet with provincial government representatives, the city, and the two professors to discuss the project.

The two Queen's professors have been discussing the reclamation proposal with both the city and the township for more than three years

now. The city has said it will go ahead with reclamation with or without neighbouring municipalities.

The city is preparing to contract out garbage disposal for a two year period while a reclamation plant is constructed. Reclamation proposals in addition to that of professors Brown and Clark have been invited by the city.

The provincial government has remained non-committal on the feasibility of reclamation as an

immediate method of garbage disposal. James Auld, Ontario Minister of the Environment, has said reclamation is the only long-range solution to garbage disposal.

But to this date Auld has not recommended financial assistance for the Kingston scheme.

Auld has been busy looking around Southern Ontario for a place to dump Metro Toronto's annual output of 400,000 tons of garbage.

Unemployment insurance abuse studied by Commission

QUEBEC CITY (CUP) - The Unemployment Insurance Commission (UIC) is tightening up procedures to cut down abuse.

Federal Manpower and Immigration minister Robert Andras said, in a speech to the Canadian Construction Association, that administrative reforms have drastically reduced abuses and led, last year, to more than 225,000 disqualifications and disentitlements.

Andras said the UIC benefit plan was being more closely integrated with the Canada Manpower program to make it part of an employment-oriented national system.

"We started by increasing our benefit control staff and by introducing new programs to find and identify people who were misusing the system. Our new procedures have resulted in four times as many disqualifications from benefits in 1973 as in the previous year.

"An interview program was initiated at the beginning of December. Its purpose is to direct

claimants as quickly and systematically as possible into one of four categories:

- "They are placed in a new job where they can use existing skills and receive income close to what they had;

- If this is impossible, they are counselled to accept alterna-

tive employment, possibly using secondary skills;

- "They may be retrained or relocated;

- "If none of these alternatives proves appropriate, they may be entitled to temporary income support from unemployment insurance."

Meliorist invites students to faculty lounge opening

LETHBRIDGE (CUP) - Faculty at the University of Lethbridge now have their own private lounge on the top floor of the main university building. Faculty say permanent members of the university community need a private place for relaxation, but secretaries, technicians and maintenance workers are barred unless invited by faculty. The faculty extended administrators an open and permanent invitation.

The Meliorist, the Lethbridge University student paper, distributed open invitations to the university community to attend the gala opening of the lounge. Frank Schaffer, head of the Faculty Association, which started the lounge, stormed into the Meliorist Office last week and denounced the students for insubordination. He feared, he said, a riot by invitation

waving mobs when they discovered the invitations were fake. Furthermore, he was afraid, he said, demonstrating students would abuse the combination lock which acts as sole barrier between the professoriat and rabble - rousing students.

A plot has emerged which threatens privacy within the sanctum. The code of the combination lock has been cracked and as soon as a new combination is concocted for the lock, grapevine tactics ensure the digits become common knowledge.

Students say they are objecting to the lounge facilities because it is one more step in changing the University of Lethbridge from an experimental school into a carbon copy of tradition bound institutions which provide higher education and sanctum to a privileged few.

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