

RCMP : more than ethnic repression

A rewarding future for the young token ethnics of Canada, from deep roots in our proud past.



People from every known national origin combined to forge this great country, Canada. And who knows more about forgers than the RCMP? The Force shares its roots with dedicated people whose ancestral homelands do not dot the entire globe (except for maybe a few countries. You can't be too careful).

The ever-broadening horizons of career opportunities in officially-sanctioned lawbreaking with the Force are attracting men and women from coast to coast in ever greater numbers. Trouble is, all these men and women from coast to coast are 6'4" guys with short little mustaches.

If you're a Canadian citizen 18 or over, even if you're black or something, and you're capable of submitting a high school diploma (doesn't matter whose), can speak, read, OR write English (French will do in a pinch), are physically and medically (not necessarily mentally) fit, can drive fast and smile a lot, mail us this coupon and we'll put you on our list. If you know what we mean.

You could be with the RCMP. (Better check).

To the Gazette:

Please allow me to comment on your Nov. 2, 1978 editorial entitled "RCMP distorts". First, I would like to congratulate the Gazette on its refusal to print the RCMP ad which encourages Canada's youth to seek employment with one of this country's most insidious institutions. Certainly the RCMP is not nor ever has been a multi-racial force serving the interests of a multi-racial society and you are correct to point this out. Your editorial raises the question of just what is the RCMP. Your answer, "Canada's national police force was from its very origins a racial unit used to repress the self-determination of a racial minority. The Force was in fact created as an instrument to advance the interests of Central Canada's economic elite (predominantly white, Anglo-Saxon, and Protestant)," which seems to me to further mystify the nature of Canada's national police force.

Your characterization of the RCMP as being principally a 'racial unit' working to advance the interests of Central Canada's 'economic elite' suggests that racism constitutes the essence of the RCMP. Although an important ele-

ment of the RCMP's role is to engage in the repression of minority's attempts to obtain their democratic rights within the liberal society, it is by no means this which provides us with an accurate characterization of the Force's overall role within the society. Your suggestion that the RCMP serves the interests of Central Canada's economic elite (bourgeoisie?) is also true but nonetheless the statement manages to obscure the fact that the RCMP does not discriminate according to provincial boundaries when it comes to serving the interests of the country's elites. The RCMP have historically been used to serve the interests of the CANADIAN STATE whether to hunt down communists in the National Film Board during the McCarthy period or to aid in the smashing of the most recent CUPW strike. We should also remind ourselves of the fact that the RCMP has had its counterpart in Canada's past in the form of the militia which was employed throughout the country's history in repressing working class struggles. The RCMP is the major but certainly not the sole coercive arm of the state within its territorial boundaries.

Finally, your objections to the RCMP fail to point out the fact that the RCMP is the principal instrument of political repression in this country today. It is the RCMP which provides the courts and the legislators with the intelligence data necessary for them to continue to impose order within the state. Given that the Canadian police apparatus is much more centralized within the RCMP than the American one is within the FBI; it is the RCMP which

keeps files on tens of thousands of 'leftists', invades the privacy of the Canadian people through the opening of mail and the tapping of phones, acts through the Department of Manpower and Immigration to keep tabs on 'foreigners', etc. The scale of the activities of the police force is directly increasing in relation to the increased economic depression of the capitalist world. To conclude I would underline James Petras' observations*:

"This means that we are entering a period in which the crisis of the democratic regime will become more acute: bourgeois democracy is not capable of both eliciting popular consent and pushing anti-popular economic. Therefore, while the formal democratic structures may remain, the content and substance of the political system will be increasingly shaped by the bureaucratic police apparatus unless checked by a mass democratic movement which links the issues of social-economic repression to those of political repression."

Let us learn the lessons of Allende's Chile. We should be seeking constantly to demystify the relationships between the various elements of the repressive state. No, the RCMP is not solely nor simply a racial unit working in the interest of the upper Canadian elite.

Fraternally,
Tony N. Kelly

*James Petras (professor of political sociology, New York State Univ.), *Repression in the Advanced Capitalist Countries*, (May, 1978) p. 17. 17.

The Uniter, the student newspaper at the University of Winnipeg, adopted a different method of denouncing the RCMP's latest recruitment ad. They ran the above parody on the page opposite the RCMP ad.



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The unique taste of Southern Comfort, enjoyed for over 125 years.

After the Game it's
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ZAPATAS



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Molly Oliver

1591 South
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Next week
Ram