

Chretien pitch on unity, from page 1

controversial guy," he said. "But I tell you, I hate being around dull guys."

The Tories had their chance and they "blew it", according to Chretien.

He said a minority government has the responsibility of making sure the policies it presents are acceptable to the House of Commons. "Their budget was not," he said.

"Last spring the Tories made a lot of promises. We Liberals campaigned and made no promises," he said. "So we lost. But one thing we didn't lose was our credibility." Chretien said he respected Trudeau's recent comments in Newfoundland, where he said he couldn't give Newfoundland the right to offshore oil resources.

"Any first-year law student knows that, if he passes his exams," said Chretien. "You need all ten provinces to agree before the Constitution can be changed."

"It's better to be honest with people."

Chretien's speech was followed by a half hour question period.

Canadian University Press

National Notes

Research funding increases

OTTAWA (CUP) — The Conservative government has announced research funding increases of \$8 million for 1980-81 which it claims will create several hundred new jobs on Canadian campuses.

Heward Grafftey, minister of state for science and technology, said Jan. 31 the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), which received a budget increase of \$39 million in November, will get an additional \$2.8 million and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) will receive a \$5.8 million budget boost.

Grafftey said the increases mean the NSERC's budget has gone up 35 per cent over 1979-80 while the SSHRC's budget will have risen 16.2 per cent.

Grafftey, speaking in Sherbrooke, also mentioned a \$12.2 million increase for the Medical Research Council (MRC) announced earlier this year by health minister David Crombie, as a key move toward increasing federal support for research.

"Research and development is the cornerstone of Canada's economic development and the increased funding, in addition to promoting excellence in university research and encouraging more of our outstanding students to go into research, will stimulate the creation of a larger number of interesting and better paying jobs," Grafftey said.

The minister said the \$9.8 million budget increase to the three councils will help achieve the government target of R and D expenditures of 2.5 per cent of the gross national product during the 1980s.

Liberals promise student input

OTTAWA (CUP) — The Liberal Party has come up with a campaign promise to introduce student representation on the upcoming federal-provincial task force on student aid. But whether the provinces would go along with the suggestion is unclear.

Liberal campaign youth director Jean Gagnon said Jan. 31 the party supports student representation on the task force, which the Conservatives created last year. Earlier in the campaign, Conservative secretary of state, David MacDonald, announced that students would not be allowed representatives on the task force, which was established to look into the whole student aid question in detail.

The NDP had pushed the Conservatives to allow a student to sit on the task force before the election was called.

The National Union of Students (NUS), which has been fighting for student representation, was optimistic but cautious about the Liberal promise.

"We're pleased that they've made this promise and hope they'll stick to it if elected," said NUS executive officer Morna Ballantyne, "but we also realize that the provinces are involved in the decision and we have to make sure the Liberals, if elected, are firm on student representation."

Students protest wet T-shirts

LENNOXVILLE (CUP) — The wet t-shirt and muscle beach contests have been dropped from the Bishop's University winter carnival because of student protest.

Several members of the Bishop's student council had tried unsuccessfully to have the contest removed from the carnival schedule at a Jan. 15 council meeting but a majority overruled their objections.

However, a petition circulated on campus by the Bishop's status of women committee to have the contests dropped soon gained more than a hundred signatures and council again debated a motion to stop the contests at its Jan. 22 meeting.

Bradley Dow, a council member, argued that the contests went against the best interests of the university.

"We are a university and the role of the university should be to lead society in elevating dignity and human rights," he said. "These contests are also contrary to the spirit of the carnival, which is supposed to be participatory and not spectator oriented."

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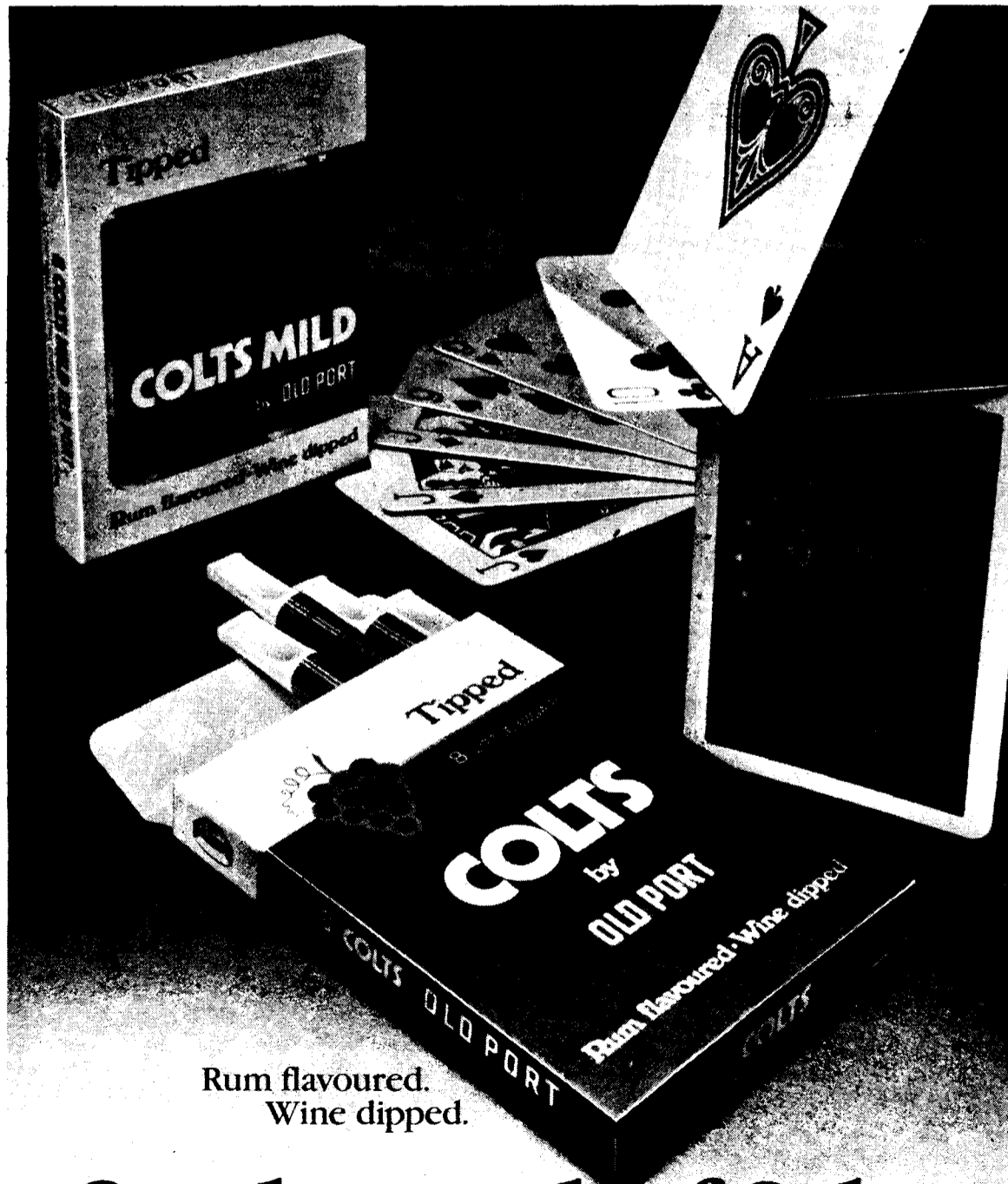
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