

phone, non-anglophone Governor General, is the grandson of an Austrian immigrant farmer. The family still owns the farm in Ladyfield, Manitoba. He speaks English, French, German and some Ukrainian and Polish. He and his wife Lilly, and their four children, Lisa, Karmel, Jason and Toban, will move into Rideau Hall in January.

Retiring Governor General

Jules Léger, the retiring Governor General of Canada, made it clear in the Speech from the Throne on October 11 that he would be leaving his position soon. He thanked parliamentarians and the people of Canada for the "respect and affection" they had shown him and his wife during his term of office.

Mr. Léger, who is 65, was appointed in January 1974; a few months later he suffered a stroke which affected his speech. Although he was able to fulfil his official responsibilities, his wife Gaby undertook many of his speaking duties, including the Throne speeches.

During his term of office, Mr. Léger visited all ten provinces, the Northwest

Territories and the Yukon. His brother is Paul-Emile Cardinal Léger, former Roman Catholic Archbishop of Montreal, who left to work among lepers and the poor in Africa.



Retiring Governor-General Jules Léger.

Speakeasy

Inmates at the minimum security Pittsburgh Institution in Kingston, Ontario have initiated an interesting language-training project for recent immigrants employed at Kingston General Hospital.

The institution's social development officer, Tim Walsh, organized the program after noting low morale and confusion among immigrant hospital staff. He notes that "the English training available to immigrants to Canada in the Kingston area is minimal; manpower is running two-and-a-half years behind, so we decided that the inmates at Pittsburgh could teach English to people provided by the hospital", he explains.

"Initially the hospital will provide us with 20 people from various work locations. They will come out here one night a week for three hours, for a period of 26 weeks. Each week we will tackle a vocabulary of 50 words, translated into the language spoken by the individual. A certified English instructor will give the initial hour-long lecture on the words, and then the students will break off with one of the inmates for two hours of one-to-one practice. The beauty of it is that it's total immersion. Other than the 50-

word vocabulary for each lesson, nothing will be translated.

"Speakeasy" is for the families, too. If a crucial problem is identified at home and a member of one of the families needs English to get a job, we'll take that person too. Twenty students is a tentative number and our first course is experimental. Then as we gain experience we will assess where the program should be altered. At the end of the 26 weeks, we'll offer information on resumé writing and how to have a successful job interview."

Gord Connors, barter broker at nearby Joyceville Institution, also has an interest in the project. It fits well into the mandate of the Barter Exchange Program, where services provided by inmates of Joyceville are exchanged for services offered by the Kingston community. Barter Exchange will also contact the ethnic groups to translate the vocabularies needed for the English classes.

Tim hopes that other minimum security institutions will pick up the idea and get their own Speakeasies started. "We can only take 20 people here and that's a pretty small number compared to the number of people who want this type of learning experience."

(From *Liaison*, Vol. 4, No. 7.)

Minister visits London and Brussels

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson attended the ministerial meetings of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels December 7-8, joining foreign ministers of the 14 other North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations in discussions over a wide range of issues of mutual concern.

En route to Brussels, Mr. Jamieson visited London, where he held discussions with David Owen, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and addressed a meeting of the Royal Commonwealth Society. On December 5 he met with the heads of Canadian diplomatic missions in Western Europe.

Proposals for maternity leave

The Government may loosen unemployment insurance rules to make it easier for women to get maternity benefits. Employment Minister Bud Cullen's recent announcement included:

- Extension of supplementary unemployment benefit plans to include those which cover unemployment caused by maternity only. Currently, maternity benefits are only allowed under plans which also provide compensation for temporary lay-offs.

Under such plans, the Government pays the woman about two-thirds of her regular salary and the employer pays the rest, up to a maximum of 95 per cent of her regular salary. About 400 employers have supplementary benefit plans for layoffs covering about 400,000 workers.

- Women who receive maternity pay from employers will no longer be penalized when they get government maternity benefits. They now lose two weeks of government benefits if they got employer benefits during a two-week waiting period.

- The qualifying period for women unemployed because of pregnancy would be doubled, easing work requirements. Under current rules the woman must work ten to 14 weeks in the last year to get regular insurance benefits. Under the new rule she would have to work only ten to 14 weeks in the last two years if she was unemployed because of pregnancy.

- Women who wish to have their babies outside Canada could collect maternity benefits.