

Student summer program in Germany

Students enrolled in the German Department, Carleton University, Ottawa, again have an opportunity next summer of taking charter flights to Frankfurt, of attending courses in West Germany free of charge, or of working for the summer in jobs found with the help of a government agency there. The cost of the round trip Toronto-Frankfurt-Toronto has been reduced to \$100.

The program is co-sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service and the Canadian-German Academic Exchange Association. The latter, a voluntary Canadian organization, was begun about ten years ago with the aim of making available a summer in Germany to as many Canadian students of German as possible. In the past decade some 2,000 Canadian students, roughly 50 of them from Carleton, have spent a summer in Germany with the help of the association.

Light opera at Stratford

Stratford Festival will stage the comic opera *La vie parisienne* this summer.

Opening June 27 in the Avon Theatre, Offenbach's portrayal of Paris in the 1880s will be directed by Jean Gascon, with costume design by François Barbeau and sets by Robert Prévost. Stratford's recently appointed music director Raffi Armenian will be in charge of music and orchestra. A new translation into English, will be adapted for the stage by Canadian playwright Jeremy Gibson, whose recent Festival work includes textual editing on *Pericles* last season and *Lorenzaccio* in 1972.

Described as a composer gifted with "verve, spontaneity, wit and ready flow of lovable melodies", Offenbach concocted light, musical confections that continue to delight today's audiences. *La vie parisienne* combines farce — with its mistaken identities, disguises and hectic pacing — with spectacle and beautiful music. The result is an excursion into an improbable, lighthearted world where bored, rich *bourgeois* arrange gala balls and banquets at the drop of a fan to deceive gullible husbands and win

the favours of lovely ladies. It is light opera at its most joyful.

The Stratford production, whose cast has not yet been announced, will play through the summer, closing on August 31.

Passengers to pay airport charge

Transport Minister Jean Marchand has announced that air passengers enplaning in Canada will pay an airport charge of \$2.80 beginning January 1 or as soon as administrative details can be worked out. Only one charge will be made regardless of how many planes a passenger embarks on in the course of a continuous one-way trip.

The decision to levy the charge was arrived at following studies into means to offset the increasing cost of providing airport and air-terminal facilities required to keep pace with the expanding requirements for aviation facilities.

The practice of levying charges to recover the costs of air transportation is already in use in over 100 countries including the United States, France, Israel, Japan, Brazil and Italy. In the United States there is a tax on air transportation levied at the rate of 8 per cent for all domestic air travel, and an individual head charge of \$3 for each person travelling overseas from points in the U.S.

Out of the total Canadian charge, \$2.50 is in lieu of the more expensive air transportation tax passed by Parliament in 1969 but not yet proclaimed by the Government. This tax would have been levied at the rate of 5 per cent of the air fare plus a departure charge on international flights of between \$2 and \$5. The remaining 30 cents of the new airport charge will be used to offset the costs of security measures incurred by the Ministry of Transport.

Mr. Marchand said that it was not realistic to expect the majority of the public who travelled rarely by air, or did not travel by that means at all, to subsidize those who did.

The present cost of operating airport facilities in Canada amounts to some \$150 million annually, while revenues total only \$70 million. The airport charge is expected to reduce this deficit by some \$30 million.

Federal clerks' collective agreement

Treasury Board negotiators signed on December 6 a memorandum of settlement with the Public Service Alliance of Canada on the proposed terms of a new collective agreement covering some 40,000 Federal Government clerks (called the Clerical and Regulatory Group).

It is expected that the proposed agreement will be ratified by the members involved, who are employed in all federal departments and agencies.

The main terms of the agreement include an increase in rates of pay averaging 8.5 per cent retroactive to July 30, 1973. Increases of 9 per cent for employees at the level CR 1, 8.5 per cent for levels CR 2 to CR 5, and 8 per cent for levels CR 6 and CR 7 are included. All employees in the group will receive a further increase of 7.5 per cent on September 30, 1974. The agreement would cover a 27½-month period from July 30, 1973, to November 16, 1975. There would be no change in the present 37½-hour work week.

The most populous level in the group is CR 3 with a maximum annual rate of pay prior to negotiations of \$7,372. The new maximum for this level, effective July 30, 1973, would be \$7,999, and this would be increased on September 30, 1974, to \$8,599.

Churchill River impact study

Federal-provincial agreement has been reached on financial sharing for the \$2.5 million Churchill River Environmental Impact Study, which will cover a 15,000-square-mile area in northeastern Saskatchewan and a section of the Churchill River downstream to Southern Indian Lake.

The Federal Government will pay 50 per cent (\$1.25 million) of the cost, Saskatchewan 43 per cent (\$1.075 million) and Manitoba 7 per cent (\$175,000).

Until the study is completed in 1975, over \$170 million in proposed hydroelectric dam development in Saskatchewan and additional amounts for possible park developments are to be held in abeyance. Results will assist the Saskatchewan government in deciding whether or not to proceed with development proposals.