

Youth programs coming

Long summer ahead

by Susan Reisler,

Canadian University Press

OTTAWA — Last summer there were 200,000 students involuntarily out of work. This summer the numbers will grow even larger.

The federal government is being pressured from all sides to come up with some fast answers to this crisis.

A fleet of 25 chartered buses which would carry our youth free across the country is one of the proposed solutions of an inter-departmental committee set up to study this unemployment.

The committee has completed its report but the federal government is studying it and nothing has been heard of since.

The cost of the committee's proposals is estimated to be in the \$50 million bracket. The government spent \$28 million last year for the same group of people.

The idea of a fleet of buses has brought much sarcasm from the opposition in Parliament, but it would alleviate the hitchhiking problem a little. Last summer at times there were more hitch-hikers on the roads than there were cars.

The buses would transport the travellers from one hostel to another across the country. Passengers would be required to disembark at various stages to make room for others who had stopped off and wanted to continue their journey.

Youth hostels will be set up in cities across Canada. The defense department will approve of the use of their armories again this summer and the federal government will

probably offer subsidies to people who operate hostels in their own communities.

In order to avoid the friction that developed last year between some communities and those who ran the hostels (government employees), members of the communities will be invited to participate in the running of the hostels and the federal government will not interfere.

The committee also proposed the creation of a youth village, perhaps somewhere outside of Ottawa, modelled after European examples in Germany and Switzerland.

There will also be an extensive campaign to boost student summer employment and the government may set up information kiosks in major centres to inform transients of hostels, routes they should travel, and points of interest.

A project involving some 30,000 students planting trees and clearing salmon streams has already received verbal approval by many members of the House of Commons. The greatest number of students, 20,000, would come from B.C., Quebec and the Maritimes, where unemployment is the highest. The students would be paid \$10 per day.

The militia program which involved some 5,000 male students last year, will be renewed this summer.

All of the programs suggested by the government inter-departmental study are meant to be for youth rather than just any unemployed person. A member of the committee said they do not plan to discriminate

among those who use the program, including those who would have access to free transportation across the country, but some means will be taken to ensure that older unemployed don't take advantage of the government sponsored program.

The main obstacle standing in the way of implementing any recommendations is the 'Rochdale experience'. Rochdale is one of the political footballs of the year and opposition members are going to complain that they don't want any youth village or bus shuttle service turning into another centre for drug trafficking.

The inter-departmental committee will have to convince the cabinet that this won't happen if such a youth community is to be designed and constructed.

But even as the federal government is considering these make-shift solutions to unemployment, some provincial and municipal politicians have already indicated that they will be cracking down on the very people the federal government is trying to help out.

Vancouver's Mayor Tom Campbell, arriving back in Vancouver from a trip to Hawaii and other sunny climates, stepped off his plane with a warning to other "transients". He was referring to students and unemployed youth.

Campbell warned them to stay away from Vancouver. He said he would aim at strict enforcement of the law as far as transients are concerned.

Ballet, orchestra perform at Dal

Two performances are scheduled for this weekend as a grand finale to the Dal Concert Series, sponsored by the Cultural Affairs office.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, a modern ballet company, combines traditional and contemporary forms and themes. Although only in existence for eighteen years, the group ranks among leading international dance companies of the world.

Directed by Ludmilla Chiriaeff and Fernand Nault, the Grands Ballets performs works of various choreographers. They will perform in the Cohn Auditorium Saturday, March 13, at 8:30 p.m.

The Hamburg Wuehrer Chamber Orchestra will perform the next day, March 14, at 3 p.m.

The orchestra has received rave reviews from all parts of the world where it has played. One reviewed in FRANKEN-THALER ZEITUNG said, "Here we are not dealing with ordinary orchestra players, but first-class virtuosi. Each and every one of them is an artist in his own right and it seems unbelievable that they can play with such oneness and togetherness."

The orchestra, which has two sub-groups — the quartet and the sextet — has been in existence for twelve years.

Tickets for both concerts are available at the central box office on the 4th floor of the SUB or at 424-2298.

"One thing I would like to make clear to them", he said, "they can't come here on the excuse they are looking for work, because there isn't any."

Meanwhile Vancouver is attracting more and more of those very people. The city has become the mecca for migrating Canadian youth.

Youth on the road — under 25, from backgrounds varying from upper middle class to below the poverty line, living on unemployment insurance, welfare or spare change they beg off the streets, dealing and sharing.

These are the nouveau-pauvre, 30,400 of them in B.C. alone — the under-25, unemployed products of accelerated education and an affluent society which has lost control of its labor market says Michael

Bennett, a writer for Canadian Press.

Young people, many of whom are recent school drop-outs, pick up and move to the west coast, hoping for something better. But the Good Life in B.C. shows an unemployment rate of no less than 8.6 per cent. It has risen above 10 per cent this year.

The Canadian labor force is spilling over. School enrollment is on the decline. No longer will the job market be aided by a beanstalk education system that goes on forever thereby keeping the number of people on the labor market down.

The Trudeau government is facing a heavy crisis that could prove our system has all the answers it claims.

What are you going to do this summer? And next September?

Good fences make good neighbours . . .

Introdal was a success, at least in its own terms. The public jumped at the opportunity to visit the university and familiarize themselves with some of the mysteries which it held. Not only prospective students, but parents and kids from the elementary schools through the high schools came by the hundreds to take a look.

If Introdal's purpose was to open the university to the public, it was a success. But now that Dalhousie has been introduced, it remains to be seen just how the acquaintance will be carried on.

Introdal illustrated many things. It showed that many people in the community are interested in the university. It also showed that there are hundreds of kids in the city who have nowhere to go and nothing to do.

Dal students often talk about doing meaningful work in the community. We figure that we'll break down the barriers between the university and the community through "community involvement" projects; working in the hospitals, doing tutoring, working in existing recreational programs. Yet we seem to neglect the fact that existing programs may not be sufficient.

This is not to say that going into the community is not valuable work. Yet it remains that there are thousands of kids who do not qualify as 'dis-

vantaged', who don't have access to a Drop-in Centre or any social events except an occasional school dance.

This year, the City of Halifax is cutting down on its programs because of 'budget restrictions'. In this case, it means that teachers, firemen and recreation are the first to go. There just isn't enough money to go around.

(Of course, that budget does not include any revenue from the University. Through an agreement with the city, all university property is tax-free; this applies to revenue producing property owned by the university and the President's residence, as well as property used by the university for academic purposes.)

In the same way as the church, the university is not forced to contribute anything to the community; yet it gets its lifeblood — money — from the very people it excludes from its property.

If we were really concerned about community involvement, we would invite the community to share our facilities more often than once every two years.

Opening the first floor and basement of the SUB to 'outsiders' one night a week would be a start. Films (NFB shorts and features for a start, as well as any programs CBC could donate) in the Green Room, a coffeehouse in the cafeteria and the TV lounge in the

basement would provide kids with something to do and somewhere to go, as well as a chance to rap with Dal students and each other. Chances are that if such facilities were offered, students involved would have their own ideas about what they want and need.

In fact, it seems strange that such a suggestion would have to be made. On what grounds is the SUB private property? Granted, the funds for the \$3.7 million building came from student funds over the past twenty years. Yet those students were, and still are, provided with the right to this university by money paid out by the majority of citizens.

Sure, we could argue that recreation should be the responsibility of the individual schools or communities. However, the SUB is already open evenings; so there would be a minimum of expense and hassles for Dal students to open 'their' building to non-students, starting with the suggested program.

And contrary to public opinion, while hundreds of pre-university students roamed the building during Introdal, "there was no damage, only a lot of dirt", according to Building Manager Doug Shaller.

It could be described as breaking down the barriers between the university and the community. Another way of putting it might be, from each according to his (her) ability, to each according to his (her) needs.

by Leslie Macdonald