

Abortion report won't alter law says Basford

OTTAWA (CUP) — No changes in Canada's existing abortion laws will be recommended, justice minister Ron Basford said Feb. 9, as result of the release of the government's report on the operation of the abortion law.

Basford said the report "clearly shows, to me at least, that the law is not operating equitably." He said the inequality of the provincial regulations was at fault, not the law itself.

The Badgley report (named after its chairperson, Robin Badgley) was given, according to its terms of reference "a fact-finding mandate to determine if the procedure set out in the abortion law was working equitably. The committee was

instructed to make no recommendations on the policy underlying the abortion law."

Committee chairperson, Badgley, was reluctant to say what the report's political implications were going to be.

"I'm not a politician. I'm a researcher," he said at a press conference.

In response to a question about what the government can do with this 474 page, year-long study, Badgley said that was parliament's job.

There were all main findings of the committee: 1) There is no consensus for major changes in the abortion law. 2) The law is not operating equitably throughout

Canada now. 3) The abortion law itself is not inequitable. 4) There are a number of additional provincial requirements in order to perform abortions. 5) Hospitals have developed some additional requirements in order to perform abortions. 6) There are delays by physicians in actually doing the abortion. 7) There are no detailed reviews by the provinces of the provincial provisions for the abortion procedure. 8) One of every six Canadians who has an abortion leaves the country to do so. 9) There are a fewer risks when abortions are done in special treatment centres. 10) Canadians lack accurate and detailed information about family

planning and contraception. 11) There is little extensive collection and classification of information relating to abortions.

Views of doctors on questions relating to abortion were indicated in a number of surveys taken by the committee.

Over one third (39.2 per cent) of the 3,129 said they would be prepared to accept an appointment to serve as a member of the hospital therapeutic abortion committee, an almost equal number said they would not (34.6 per cent) and the remainder (26.6 per cent) gave no reply. Only 20.2 per cent of the physicians surveyed had ever served on an abortion committee.

In a chapter on post-secondary student health services, it was stated that a majority of the student health services, 76.0 per cent, handled requests for abortion on a local basis, while the rest, 24 per cent, directed requests to out-of-town hospitals or to abortion facilities in the United States.

Over half (58.1 per cent) of those referring health services said there were financial problems for students seeking an

induced abortion.

One report, from a larger institution said, "It is my impression that fewer students are using university resources in the last two years. In that time period, community resources have become more numerous and more visible."

Abortions reduce deaths

SAN FRANCISCO (ENS-CUP) — Legalized abortion in the U.S. has greatly reduced the number of deaths resulting from the operation.

According to a survey conducted by the Federal Center for Disease Control, before abortions were made legal, they accounted for 20 per cent of all deaths among pregnant women. In contrast only 3.9 per 100,000 women died from having a legalized abortion between 1972 and 1974.

The survey also found that having an abortion is safer surgically than having a tonsillectomy, having an appendix removed, or having a baby.

Unemployment up ; controls blamed

OTTAWA (CUP) — Statistics Canada figures released Feb. 8 show there were 889,000 unemployed people in January, up 89,000 from the same time last year. Seasonally adjusted the unemployment rate is 7.5 per cent the same as that of December 1976.

Canadian Labour Congress president, Joe Morris, said Feb. 9 that "Although at first glance the latest seasonally adjusted unemployment figures have not increased since December, a

closer look at the information provided by Statistics Canada shows in actual numbers, there were 889,000 unemployed people in January — 135,000 more than the month before. This represents 8.8 per cent of the work force compared to 7.4 per cent in the previous month. It's the worst record in decades."

In his response to the latest figures, Morris blamed the federal government controls program and said "continued reliance on the program is driving the country into

another economic recession."

Figures included in the Statistics Canada labour force document for the first time gives a breakdown of the unemployment figures.

By status, 104,000 (or 11.7 per cent) of the unemployed were single and living alone. Heads of households accounted for \$226,000 (3.0 per cent) and single sons and daughters unemployed accounted for 261,000 (29.4 per cent) of the total number of unemployed.

The figures also show that 403,000 young people, between the ages of 15-24 were not employed. This amounted to 45.3 per cent of the total.

Other data indicated that more men than women were not employed, and more married people than single people did not have jobs.

The statistics contained in the report were based on sample surveys taken by the department of 55,000 households.

According to Statistics Canada "Fluctuations in economic time series are caused by trend, seasonal, cyclical and irregular movements. A seasonally-adjusted series is one from which movements occurring on a regular annual basis have been eliminated."

Genuine emergency says NDP

OTTAWA (CUP) — The real rate of unemployment in Canada is 11 per cent not the Statistics Canada official rate of 7.1 per cent NDP leader, Ed Broadbent, said Feb. 5.

"When you add the discouraged worker who was laid off or lost his or her job several months before and who had given up looking for work, the national rate of unemployment becomes 11 per cent of 1,185,000 men and women without employment.

Speaking at a union meeting in Cambridge, Ont., Broadbent said, "that means that more than one out of every 10 Canadians willing and able to work cannot find jobs."

Broadbent repeated the NDP strategy to fight unemployment, a five point program including decreased personal income taxes,

re-activation of federal capital works programs and expansion, with the provinces in capital budgets for low income and co-op housing and land assembly.

Three days later, Broadbent called for an emergency debate in the House of Commons on the unemployment situation. Speaker of the House, James Jerome, refused the request saying that the unemployment situation was a continuous, ongoing matter and therefore not a matter for debate under standing order 26 which allows debates for matter of a "genuine emergency" calling for immediate and urgent consideration."

Broadbent's emergency debate request was just the one of a series of questions and requests for debate over the growing unemployment situation.

Is the price right?

SAN FRANCISCO (ZNS-CUP) — If you think the prices you're paying for records and tapes are too high, you may not be alone.

Billboard Magazine reports that the U.S. justice department has launched a major investigation into the methods used by record wholesalers and retailers to set their prices.

The investigation is being coordinated by the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles and is centering around the leading members of the powerful National

Association of Record Manufacturing.

According to the report, individual members of the association have received notices from the justice department asking about their specific pricing policies, and warning they could be subpoenaed for questioning before a federal grand jury in Los Angeles.

Just a month ago, several of the major record companies announced boosts in record album prices, some being increased to \$7.98 each.


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Estes

By DERWIN GOW

They may be a hick Massachusetts who d time brew between son their bottles on top amplifiers, but the Estes was probably one of enjoyed acts of Winter 1977.

Not a large number enjoyed the act, bec about 50 showed up bu who did, this just meant a little more elbow ro shortage of drink.

They played that North American comb country and rock some "stomping music", but it conformist music critic have yet to realize the this form of musical ex

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