

Promises, promises

OTTAWA (CUP) — Fighting inflation and unemployment remains a federal government priority, but the Liberals are just as vague about solutions as they were two years ago.

The throne speech opening the second session of Canada's thirtieth parliament reiterated government legislation that has been in the offing for years and promised little that is new.

"The continued reduction of inflation and the creation of many more employment opportunities for Canadians are and will continue to be the government's highest priorities" the speech says. But the government still cannot be more specific than that.

RESTRAINT

Government restraint is seen as the key to stopping inflation but the restraint continues to take the form of social service cutbacks.

All the contradictions remain. While the government will cut down on growth in the civil service through amalgamating departments like the Unemployment Insurance Commission and the Manpower and Immigration Department, and therefore provide poorer service, the speech promises more grants for small business, job creation programs and a new national institution "dedicated to improving the quality of life in the workplace."

Referring to Fiscal Arrangements Act negotiations it says, "In the areas of medical insurance and post-secondary education, negotiations will continue with the provinces concerning the gradual introduction of new financial and administrative arrangements."

"These changes would not only allow the provinces to exercise greater feasibility in the provision of services, but would also serve the federal government's goal of co-operative restraint upon the rising

cost of health and social security programs".

The speech gives no indication that the standard method of cutting health and social service costs — reducing services instead of working towards preventative health care — will change.

"Other programs will provide more job opportunities and improved employment counselling for young people."

Again, given recent government actions, it is not unreasonable to suspect that the objective of employment counselling is to direct young people straight into the job market and away from post-secondary education.

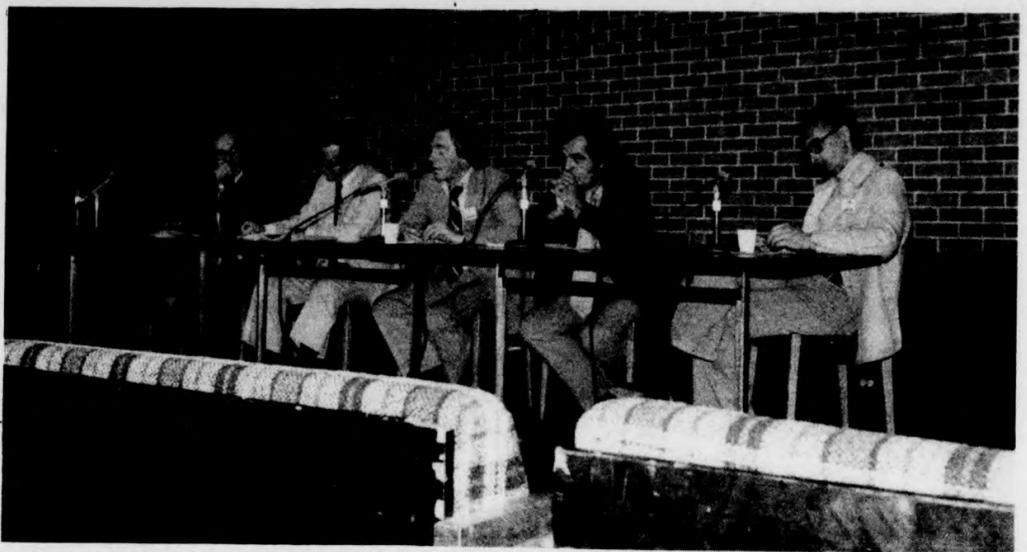
Another area which appears contradictory in light of education cutbacks is bilingualism, a top government priority. The speech promises a move toward teaching French in schools rather than concentrating on the civil service.

However, at bilingual post-secondary institutions, bilingualism budgets were the first to be cut. Even at the primary and secondary levels French immersion programs have been cut back.

"You will be asked to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act in ways which will permit insurance funds to be used to maintain the income of Canadians being trained for new jobs and to help employers retain workers who might otherwise be temporarily laid off."

Nowhere are the UIC cuts introduced with the last budget mentioned. The extension of the UIC qualifying period from eight to twelve weeks is one which will particularly affect students.

Other areas discussed in the speech — labor, civil service and a human rights code — have all been talked about before. For instance the speech promises a collective bargaining information centre.



Due to the massive job of untangling the tapes and tales of the weekend's activities, Excalibur's report on the Press in Canada will be delayed until next week's issue. The conference in Winters College went smoothly, from Montreal Le Devoir editor Claude Ryan's opening address, through author Kildare Dobbs's Saturday after-dinner speech, to senator Keith Davey's closing speech Sunday mor-

ning. The crowds were small - from 50 to 100 people per session - but the response was enthusiastic, and most of the debates were lively. Is Canada's press behaving responsibly? Are foreign correspondents doing their job? Tune in next week and learn the answers to these and other pressing questions. So to speak.

Ford and Carter to wipeout U.S.

WASHINGTON (ZNS-CUP) — It's looking like a wipeout victory for presidential candidate Jimmy Carter over Jerry Ford in the tissue issue poll.

Hoop Enterprises, the company which has been marketing the toilet paper rolls with portraits of both presidential candidates on them, reports that Carter is now enjoying a 59.1 per cent lead over Ford's mere 40.9 per cent showing.

Hoop's president, Hall Leiner, says that "The figures, based on voters in 14 states and some 3500 samples, indicate to us that perhaps it is Ford's support that is soft. All the other national polls have indicated that Carter's support is soft."

The poll, Leiner says, is based on the belief that Carter supporters will buy Carter toilet paper while

Ford partisans will buy rolls containing the President's likeness. Critics contend the reverse may be the case.

College by-elections

By AMELIA AMARD

Both McLaughlin and Founders colleges had student council by-elections in the past week. New seats had been added while others had been vacated due to resignations. Both elections had poor voter turnout.

At McLaughlin college Jan Toodd's resignation as council member allowed for the seat to be contested by three candidates. Gary Newman emerged the victor with a 20 vote lead on his closest opponent; Gary Shelley, Brian Oney came third. There were only a 70 votes cast representing roughly

6 per cent of the eligible voters.

All seats were acclaimed in the Founder's election. Former CYSF presidential candidate Izadore Musallam became Vice President. Cultural Representative's seat was obtained by Morris Scivington. The seats had become vacant due to former members having other commitments to fulfill. A new position was added to the council that of Social Representative to be held by Robert McMillan. First year representatives were Judy Rossman and Wendy Mitchell. All Founders' seats were won by acclamation.

Dirty apartments

continued from page one

had to give a longer notice period the two week vacancy period might be shortened because it would allow the housing office more time to locate the new tenant. Corbett said the present system considers student problems in giving two months notice, with such situations as last minute decisions concerning choice.

Fleet feels the system should be reorganized to solve cleaning problems and difficulties in finding tenants.

For example, rather than being cleaned between tenants, apartments should be cleaned every second lease by professional cleaners for five days at a time. If such a provision were included in

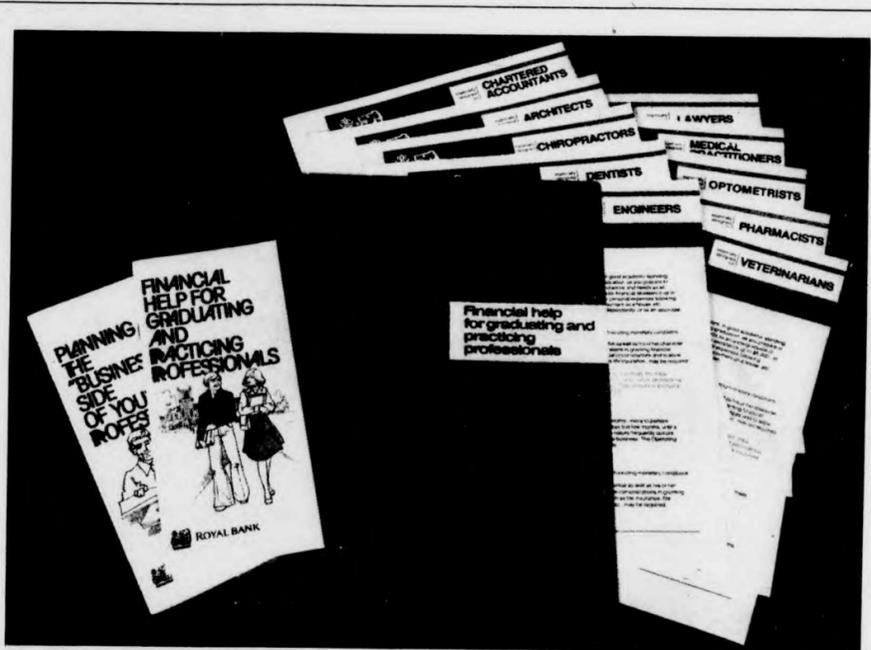
the lease then the tenants could prepare for the cleaning and there would be a shorter waiting period between tenants.

Now the system compels tenants to accept uncleaned apartments because if they wish to skip the waiting period, they must accept an uncleaned apartment she said.

Fleet said that the best procedure in dealing with these problems is to accept the university's invitation to 'nose around' on anything YUTA likes, and then to form a group to make specific allegations and accusations.

Corbett admits the system is an inefficient one but says the housing office is in the process of writing new procedures that are more equitable to future tenants' chances of receiving apartments and faster doing it. She hopes the new policy will be publicized soon.

Pain's Commandos featuring Hojo



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