

Racist standards stain 'Green Paper'

OTTAWA (CUP) — The minister of immigration will be able to set yearly quotas on the number of immigrants allowed into Canada if the House of Commons approves a new immigration act introduced Nov. 24.

Immigration minister, Jack Cullen, said the bill, already publicly favored by Conservative and New Democratic Party spokespersons, would require the ministry to announce immigration quotas each year after consultation with the provincial governments.

The bill follows changes in immigration regulations in 1974 which have reduced immigration substantially over the last two years.

In a statement Nov. 2, Cullen announced the changed regulations ensured a 22.3 per cent decline in immigration in the first half of 1976. Immigration dropped 14 per cent in 1974 from previous year.

That year, former manpower and immigration minister Robert Andras released his "Green Paper" on immigration which was denounced by many as a racist document in a series of hearings across Canada.

Cullen said the bill, prepared by Andras before the recent cabinet shuffle, does not reflect racial preferences and termed it "color blind."

The new quota system will be based on the number of jobs available for non-Canadians and the refugee situation, and would probably be set for five-year periods, Cullen said.

This would be subject to a yearly adjustment based on the ministry's consultation with the provincial governments, which, under the act, would inform the minister of job perspectives and population plans in specific regions before the yearly quotas are set.

Besides giving the provinces

new act changes the names of the categories of immigrants, and loosens restrictions on health requirements, sponsored dependents, mental status and deported persons. The latter allows deportees to re-enter Canada after a year, where currently deported persons are prohibited from entering the country again.

Yet, the bill formalizes a ministry practiced since 1973 requiring visitors seeking work permits to obtain them outside Canada, and a 1972 ruling prohibiting visitors from seeking landed immigrant status while inside the country.

It also offers no changes to the "point system" whereby immigrants are assessed according to their ability to get work, their education, language abilities and the prerogative of individual immigration officers. It is these regulations that critics of Canada's immigration laws cite as racist.

The greatest decline by country of origin in the first six months of

1976 was in immigrants from Great Britain, whose numbers decreased to 11,017 from 19,036 in 1975, or 42.1 per cent. However, Great Britain and the United States continue to make up the greatest numbers of immigrants, and the former still comprises about one quarter of the total number from the top ten

source countries.

Of 188,000 immigrants entering Canada last year, more than 98,000 went to Ontario, 29,000 to British Columbia and 28,000 to Quebec. Recently though, according to Cullen's Nov. 2 statement, an increasing number of immigrants are going to the prairie provinces.

To be selfish

KINGSTON (CUP) — Despite the wishes of university principal, the current beneficial and stimulating atmosphere of the board of trustees at Queen's University have decided to institute differential fees for international students at that campus.

The Ontario government has decreased its subsidy of international students in university. At Queen's, 3.7 per cent of the student population are foreign students and the increased expenses are estimated at \$426,000. The university government has decided to pass on this cost, they say, to international students because of financial necessity.

Watts strongly objected to the move because it would lead to a decrease in the international student population at the univer-

sity which would, in turn, destroy the current beneficial and stimulating atmosphere of the campus.

As well, he said Canada should take on the responsibility of offering education to citizens of the third world countries since Canada has long benefited from educating its citizens outside its own borders.

Both Watts and the student union objected to a third aspect of this policy. It will now be necessary for students to prove their Canadian citizenship and student union president, Jamie Avis, argued that this seemed to constitute an infringement on civil liberties.

Watts also pointed out that "by being narrowly selfish, we as Canadians will be the big losers."

... or not to be selfish

CALGARY (CUP) — The University of Calgary Board of Governors has bowed to pressure from the provincial government and implemented increased tuition fees for visa students at U of C.

The decision to add a \$300 increase for new visa students was announced Nov. 23 and follows a "request" from Bert Hohol, Alberta advanced education minister, that the board take such action.

The request was contained in a private letter to board chairman, Ross MacKimmie.

MacKimmie denied Tuesday that undue pressure was exerted on the board by the government. He said the board had been "pretty responsible" in its decision and claimed the university's autonomy "had not been compromised".

However, Board member, Harvey Buckmaster, a physics professor, said Nov. 23, Hohol threatened to change the province's Universities Act which says only the board can implement fee increases, if the board did not go along with his wishes.

Buckmaster claimed that, "The minister said 'You do it (oppose a fee increase) and I'll change the act.'"

Vic Cowley, U of C students union services vice-president, said the move will generate very little revenue for the university. If the same number of new internationals is admitted next year as in the current year, only an extra \$12,000 would be raised, he said. In its resolution, the board said differential tuition fees would discourage students in lower income brackets from attending

the university, restricting attendance to those who have the money and not necessarily the academic ability.

The increased fee will be implemented only for next year's newcomers and will not affect visa students already enrolled at the U of C.

After next year, tuition fees may be determined by the board and approved by the minister, the resolution said.

The resolution also called for a royal commission to look further into the role of visa students in Canada. Board member Pat Ruby-O'Connor, students union president, said he is "pretty disgusted" with the board's decision because it was made under a great deal of political pressure from Edmonton.

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