

Immigrants . . . many or few? Green Paper sparks discussion

Canada is a vast country and can accommodate many immigrants.

Canada should ensure zero population growth right now until wise plans can be made for our resources.

These were two of the most divergent opinions expressed by the panel and audience at the Oxfam program on the government's Green Paper on Immigration Friday in St. Alban's parish hall. (The Green Paper is a 570-page document which costs \$12 and is no longer available. Some at the meeting had special discussion sheets.)

Attendance at the special program was very small but the knowledgeable panel sparked interested discussion to make those attending feel the evening was very worthwhile and informative.

Government view
Dr. Frank Philbrook was the panelist with the answers from the government's point of view. He explained this paper's purpose is to stimulate discussion on Canadian immigration regulations.

good thing". Now there is concern about the ability of the country to absorb immigrants.

Paul Purritt was the person who stated Canada is vast and can accommodate plenty more people. Problems are social and economic, not the problem of absorbing people.

Henry Stanley, agricultural representative for Halton disagreed completely.

Too much good land is being used up by houses, he declares. There should be only a slow rate of immigration and people should be diverted away from cities, until we have learned to wisely plan our resources. He sees Canada in the role of a future provider of food, exporting throughout the world.

When we have wise planning then we have room to put

people, he said firmly.

He suggested retraining for our own eight per cent unemployed.

He particularly mentioned the section in the Green Paper on immigration which would give preference to French-speaking immigrants. "This is discrimination!"

We need people to help on a full-time basis, especially on

dairy farms, Mr. Stanley said. Bringing over workers is slow and an irritating process. He spoke in favor of short-term workers from the Caribbean. They are happy to come, he reported, and happy to return home when the season is over.

Prejudice
There'll always be prejudice, declared dentist Dr. Leonard Embrack. He practised in Acton, lives in Mississauga, is native of British Guiana, now Guyana. He appreciates the fact Canada is one of the few countries opening its gates to immigrants, but at a time of upheaval the Green Paper is food for thought.

There could be social catastrophe, he predicted, if immigration is not handled properly.

He also suggested a better culture of personnel as border officials.

Dr. Embrack thought immigrants should be directed toward less populated areas. Dr. Philbrook pointed out the government cannot compel people to go to a certain place.

Social problems
Peter Marks spoke of social problems—family breakdown and increased crime.

Unless there is a change in priorities we can only offer immigrants false life styles. He could see more happiness and stability in their own countries, if more assistance is given to the Third World.

He favors population control as the best policy to prevent putting our quality of life in jeopardy.

Mr. Lee explained her grandfather came from China to Canada to work for the CPR. The immigration policy has advanced very much since World War II, she said. We have to consider the quality of life we want, yet we can't be isolationist.

Elizabeth Harley doesn't appreciate the fact the Green Paper implies racial tension in cities is due to immigrants. The government is not doing much to solve the problems of social problems in cities, she said.

Live best
During the conversation which followed the panel discussion, the personal feelings

of participating expressed. When Mrs. Lee wondered if some newcomers would not be better to stay at home, Dr. Embrack spoke touchingly of how a person has one life only, and wishes to live it as best he or she can.

Several felt the present point system was tough on unskilled laborers.

Mr. Stanley burst out, "It's blooming near time we changed our attitude toward manual labor!"

One of the audience asked the people to consider whether their conclusions were based on economic aspects or humanitarian reasons.

We give immigrants such things as roads, but we're lacking the social services, Mr. Marks observed.

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12 The Acton Free Press, Wed., September 24, 1975

Walkathon plans developing nicely

Plans are progressing rapidly and the Acton Lions' Olympathon walk-a-thon is taking shape.

The walk, scheduled to take place at Prospect Park on October 4 will raise money for the local club and for Olympic athletes in training. The walk is jointly sponsored by Lions clubs across Canada and Coca Cola with the proceeds to be split in half. Each individual club will have a walk.

Vic Bristow, one of the organizers of the local walk, revealed yesterday (Tuesday) that three trophies have been donated for walkers. One will go to the youngest, one to the oldest, and one to the farthest walker.

A minimum of two miles has been set for the youngest walker, but as of yet, no minimum has been set for the oldest. There will, however, be one.

Given cards
Walkers will tackle the track at the park, which is half a mile long. They may walk as much or as little as they wish, but must have an official card given to them, stamped at the top and bottom of the track. This will show how many miles they have walked.

Snow fences will be erected at both ends of the course to stop any over-zealous walkers from cutting corners.

The Halton Regional Police have been notified of the walk and think it is a good idea. St. John Ambulance have also been told of the walk and will be in attendance. The Acton Chamber of Commerce is willing to help in anyway.

Mr. Bristow and his group have been in touch with George Elliott about the possibility of having the Acton Citizens' Band play at the park while the walk is going on. This will depend entirely on the weather of that day according to Mr. Bristow.

Application forms will be available in all the schools in town and in some businesses. Speyside and Limehouse school children will also find the necessary forms at their schools. Mr. Bristow said that because of the number of Acton children attending the Christian Reformed school in Georgetown, there is a possibility forms may also be placed there.

The organizer told this or they are in need of volunteers to man the checkpoints at various times during the day. Anyone interested in helping in this way is asked to call Mr. Bristow.



DEBBIE SPIELVOGEL and Cathy Burke whirled above the fair Sunday about 60 feet up and moving fast

Holmes at funeral

Acton Fire chief Mick Holmes yesterday (Tuesday) attended the funeral of a Guelph firefighter, Leroy Bennett who was killed in action Saturday night.

Mr. Bennett's body was found on the fifth floor of a burning apartment building Saturday, apparently overcome by fumes.

The firefighter was 47 years old and had been with the Guelph fire department for 11 years.

Over 300 firefighters from all over the province attended including Georgetown chief Ken Buikema and captain Bill Cunningham, and Milton chief A. E. Clement and captain Jim Coulson.

Money in

Donations are still coming in for the Acton Volunteer Firefighters' Muscular Dystrophy drive.

Fire Chief Mick Holmes told this newspaper that the total amount is not yet known, as individuals are still giving money. Their door-to-door campaign brought in the majority of the money.

Mr. Holmes pointed out that more money has been collected so far this year than in all of last year's drive.

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