

Legion Reports

Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion
By Eric Chapman

National Legion Executive Fears Security And Cultural Threat From Present Immigration Policy

Minister of Manpower and Immigration Robert Andras recently asked the Legion National Executive to submit a brief to the government task force that is presently studying immigration policy. The brief has been completed and excerpts from it are as follows:

"The Royal Canadian Legion feels strongly the cornerstone of our immigration policy must be that no foreign national has a 'right' to come to Canada, and that Canada alone has the right to confer immigrant status and citizenship on a deserving person.

"We believe a controlled orderly system of admittance of immigrants must be at the heart of the amended Immigration Act. The selection should be based in the first instance on the individuals' potential to become a good Canadian citizen. There may be a temptation to establish a quota system which would permit a greater flow of immigrants from countries that have historically given fine citizens to Canada, but such a deliberate effort is not recommended.

"Immigrants should be prepared to be assimilated into the Canadian community. There is a degree of uneasiness within our membership that unwarranted concentrations of some immigrants has created ghetto-like neighborhoods in large urban centres. Many of these people find they can get along quite well without making any determined effort to learn one of our languages.

"Ethnic communities tend to perpetuate the life styles of their countries of origin which have little place in Canada. Foreign language newspapers, together with radio and television programming to suit the needs of these immigrant groups, further aggravate the situation.

"A special aspect of the immigration policy has to do with admittance of foreign persons on humanitarian grounds. While Canada has some responsibility to do its part as a member of the world community, acceptance of such persons in future should only be approved after careful consideration of the effect on the economic and cultural well-being of the country, in consultation with the provinces. The Legion feels Canada must also be especially careful in the acceptance of political refugees, particularly following the overthrow of their own governments. Their primary goal is to simply escape from the new regime, and their interest in becoming Canadian citizens is remote, or at the best incidental.

"The country now has what we feel is a serious problem in that many thousands of foreigners are in Canada illegally. The recent amnesty has permitted the authorities to legalize the status of thousands who have been here for long periods. But an unknown number are still unaccounted for. This suggests either a serious weakness in existing legislation, or inefficiency in law enforcement. The Legion views this matter as a possible threat to the security of our country.

"Another area of concern to the Legion is the large number of U.S. citizens who came to Canada, either as deserters from the armed forces, or as draft dodgers. While many individual Legion members have held strong views on the morality of the Vietnam operation, our membership was nevertheless outraged to know that the immigration laws could not stop this influx. Men who have served their country in war are not tolerant of such a matter, and we are convinced Canada has gained little from these men who chose not to obey the laws of their country. If the American government ever approves some form of amnesty, we believe many of the men concerned will return home, having used our country as an illegal sanctuary.

"We have looked carefully at the question of the admission of foreign students to pursue higher education in Canada. In all such cases, whether the individual is citizens with higher educa-

being assisted under a Canadian program for developing countries or not, our Immigration Act should not permit the student to remain in Canada on the completion of his studies. In the case of developing countries, the latter are in desperate need of it.

"Consideration was also given to the questions which arise as the result of admission of immigrants destined to take a place in the Canadian academic community, as teachers or instructors in our schools and universities. While it would be unfair to comment in detail upon the individual qualifications of such immigrants, there is concern within our Legion membership that these men and women do not have the necessary appreciation of our national history and our culture, to be acceptable teachers of our children."

Legion Executive Vice-President Robert McChesney, chairman of the special committee set up to prepare the brief on immigration policy, states there will be those who disagree with some of the recommendations made to the federal government. There may also be others who wish to add points not considered by the committee. He welcomes Legion members' response and constructive views. His address is Legion House, Ottawa, Ontario.

Elgin Mills And Jefferson News

CORRESPONDENT: CAROLINE LOMAS — Phone 884-3000

Birthday Wishes

This week birthday wishes go to Melanie Petrie who will be nine and to Debbi Blain who will be eight May 3, to Sherri Blain who will be 10 and to Judith Taylor who will be 11 May 6, and to Christine Bales who will be nine May 8.

Achievement Day

York South 4-H Homemaking Achievement Day was held April 20 at the Victoria Square Community Centre. In the morning the girls took part in a number of activities related to the project "The Club Girl Entertains". They judged a class of sandwiches for afternoon tea and a class of flower arrangements. They also did a quiz on etiquette and voted on a project for next spring. Lunch was enjoyed at the noon hour.

The afternoon program was open to all, family and friends. Eight exhibits were set up and commented on by a member of the group represented. Four skits were presented with all members of each group taking part.

Temperanceville 1, led by Mrs. Wilfred James and Mrs. Charles Henshaw, set up an exhibit entitled "A Table Setting For Two". Carol Jennings was the commentator.

Temperanceville 2, led by Mrs. Hugh Orser and Mrs. A. Winter presented a skit entitled, "Packing A Weekend Bag", with all members participating.

Awards, both county honor and provincial honor were presented in the afternoon program. County honor awards were received by Carol Jennings of Temperanceville 1 and by Kathy Winter of Temperanceville 2.

School News

Eight students from Bayview Secondary School Band visited Jefferson Public School April 22. They brought their instruments — flute, piccolo, clarinet, oboe, baritone, tuba saxophone, trumpet and trombone — with them. Each instrument was demonstrated individually and then songs were played using all the instruments together.

The group played for the grade five and six students in the team room and for the grade three and four students in their class room. It is hoped to have other groups demonstrating different instruments in the future.

Church News

There will be a family service at St. John's Anglican Sunday at 10:30 am. Last Sunday the choir anthem at the celebration of Holy Communion was "Hail Festal Day". Flowers on the communion table were

placed to the glory of God and in loving memory of Beatrice Fleming who died May 2, 1973, by her husband John, 2 Stancroft Drive, Richmond Hill and John and Judy Fleming.

The Spiritual Life Fellowship met Monday evening at St. Mary's Anglican, Richmond Hill, at 8 pm.

The annual ACW Daffodil Tea and bake sale will be held at the home of Elizabeth Grant, "Four Acres" on 19th Avenue, May 11 from 2:30 to 5:30 pm.

The Mixed Blessings sang at St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg, last Sunday.

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I'm 15 and pregnant. Where do I go now?

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