

Feds pay cheap for peace

from the

Science and Technology Desk
OTTAWA (CUP) — Federal celebrations for International Year of Peace will be nothing more than a few dollars, a touring bureaucrat, an essay competition and some stamps.

The United Nations declared 1986 as Peace Year last October, and although other UN members are planning celebrations, the Canadian government has for the most part chosen to ignore it. Whereas the feds spent \$24 million on a public relations blitz last year for International Youth Year, the government will spend only \$10,000 on IYP.

The government says the money which will be contributed to the U.N.'s voluntary trust fund, is a donation for IYP. According to Peter Brown, executive officer of Operation Dismantle, an Ottawa-based disarmament coalition, even that amount is misleading.

"It's laughable. This \$10,000 is just part of the \$100,000 they

regularly contribute to the fund each year, and they're making it look like a gift by reshuffling the money," Brown said.

"And it's as if they're bragging about that \$10,000 in the first place," he said.

Lorraine Dittburner, information assistant for the UN Association in Ottawa said the government will also honour IYP by sponsoring an essay competition for three youth age groups, establish funding priorities for the Disarmament Fund, a permanent government fund, issue a commemorative series of stamps in the fall, and sponsor a cross-country tour by Doug Roche, Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament.

Brown says Roche's tour is nothing special. "I don't see why they're promoting that either — Roche does a lot of this anyway," he said.

Brown says the government shouldn't promote Peace Year if it's doing nothing new to promote peace. "It's pretty hard to say that

this is new. There's very little that is new, and what is new is uncontroversial, banal and ineffectual.

"We want to make it clear that what they're doing is nowhere near enough of what the IYP was intended to do," he said.

Constructive things the government could do include standing up to U.S. military demands, Brown said.

"If we had the guts to stand up to our neighbours to the south, we could actually stop the use of our ports by nuclear submarines, actually stop Cruise missile tests, and actually stop NORAD," he said.

Brown said peace groups will not treat this year much differently than any other. His group will continue to lobby for a world referendum on nuclear disarmament at the U.N., and stop involvement in the arms race at home.

"For us, it's business as usual," he said.



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PC youth may be disappointed

By Peter Kuitenbrouwer

of Canadian University Press
OTTAWA (CUP) — Students who were promised summer jobs in the federal bureaucracy at a secret PC youth meeting in Montreal last month may be disappointed, according to the head of the summer hiring programme.

A PC youth told Liberal MP Sheila Copps recently that party officials passed out application forms for the Career-Oriented Summer Employment Programme at Conservative Party headquarters in Montreal. Apparently, the officials told students at the meeting they would get jobs if they remained faithful Tories.

COSEP is a \$10 million employment and immigration programme to hire students for the federal bureaucracy.

In March, Copps (Hamilton East) asked Minister of Youth Affairs Champagne in the House of Commons to explain the meeting.

"Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of such a meeting," Champagne said.

No officials in the youth or employment ministries contacted later, knew of the meeting, but none denied it had taken place.

"The Tories are not adverse to

funneling public money to friends," he said.

With Champagne's letter, "You're certainly led to believe that young PCs have a much better chance of finding a summer job than other college and university students," said Herle, who now works for long-time Liberal magnate Paul Desmarais at Canada Steamship Lines in Montreal.

Michael O'Shay, a University of Ottawa law student and past-president of the Young PCs at U of O, worked on a COSEP grant in the office of Andre Bissonette, minister of state for small business last summer. He said PC youth are usually hired for exempt staff jobs, because "you have access to cabinet documents". But he said this is a very small percentage of all COSEP jobs.

O'Shay, who's been a Conservative since 1980, said he still doesn't have a summer job. "If you find somewhere preferential treatment would be given, let me know, 'cause it would certainly help me out," he said.

Wages for COSEP jobs range from \$5.75 and \$9.11 per hour.

Gordon Douglas, an aide to Copps, said the youth who at-

tended the meeting refuses to be named because s/he remains in the party. "We checked the person's credentials," and they're legitimate, Douglas said.

Ben Fior, co-ordinator of COSEP for the national capital region, where most federal summer jobs are, couldn't see how the party could guarantee jobs to students.

"Party affiliation plays no part in this staffing process," Fior said. "I haven't received any calls or special packages (of application forms). I will look it rather curiously if it happens," he said.

"Unless there's no specific reason we don't do name referrals," Fior said. But he said there was no specific safeguard against political abuse of the system, expect that "any special cases have to pass through myself."

In a secret letter leaked in March, Champagne wrote that "Support to the recruitment efforts of the PC Youth Federation will be a pre-writ priority for the government."

David Herle, president of the Young Liberals of Canada, said he was not surprised young Conservatives were told they'd get summer jobs in the government.

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