

Province of British Columbia

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REMEMBRANCE DAY, 1987

## GOVERNMENT TO DECENTRALIZE B.C. UNIVERSITIES

The Premier has decided to decentralize (=privatize) its three major universities (University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and the University of Victoria). A five-year plan is under preparation and will be unveiled in the near future. The government will establish an open-door policy of consultation with any group or individual who wishes to assist in the rapid, efficient implementation of the plan.

The Premier made his pronouncement today, following his recent trip to the Orient. After consultation with the leading rulers and traders in China, Hong Kong, Taivan, Korea, and Japan, Premier van der Zalm has issued the following statement:

"It has become obvious to me and others that our universities are not being well-administered and that the needs of our province are not being met. We are spending large amounts of money for no gain. Too many students are coming to university poorly prepared, with false expectations and wrong attitudes. The professors spend far too much time on old-fashioned ideas, false theories, and political issues. This has naturally led to much whining, complaining, and general dissent on our campuses. This must be stopped before it leads to even greater problems. My solution is to nip the problem in the bud."

"I know that the public will back my decision, which has been a difficult one for me. This decision was not made in haste. In fact, the idea came to me while Lillian and I were flying back to beautiful B.C. after our stopover at Kauai, Havaii's fantasy garden island. The decentralization of our universities will present unprecedented opportunities for all British Columbians to participate in the growth and development of B.C."

## \*\*\*\*\*HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW DECENTRALIZATION PLAN\*\*\*\*\*

- \* formation of a new government Corporation called Fantasies United, which will soon be offering its shares (@ \$25 each) to the public.
- purchase of existing university campuses by the Fantasies
   United Corporation for the legally required \$1.00.
- \* project developer will be octobillionaire Li Ki-Shing of the Bank of B.C. (Hong Kong).
- \* amalgamation and transfer of existing campuses to a single "REMOR".

  location in the north-eastern corner of the province, near

  the Yukon border.
- extension of the Coquihalla Highway to a new Phase IV. to service the new campus. Contractor: Kerkoff Enterprises. Inc.

- \* a renewed emphasis on more practical subjects, such as Horticulture (bulb-growing, etc.)
- \* the new campus has been tentatively titled 'Fantasies United Corporation (University of).
- \* the new Administrators will be Albertans trained in the United States (Horticulture, etc.).
- \* UBC campus to be converted to an exact replica of Amsterdam in the mid-1940's, complete with dikes, canals, and castles; Spring Tulip Festival.
- \*SFU campus to be converted to a world-class ski resort complete with tram, 5-star hotel, and casino.
- \* UVic campus to be converted to a major house of fashion, selling pure silk headbands, flowers, handkerchiefs, etc. for the growing tourist industry.
- \* development of work camps in remote areas of the province for the re-education of wrong-thinking students.
- \* assumption of the Rubber Stamp Department of the recently decentralized Government Printing Service by the B.C. Legislature.

## \*\*\*\* MEETING THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL \*\*\*\*

The government is aware that some university personnel will experience difficulties in adjusting to the new realities. In order to reach its five-year goal with minimum impact on those concerned, the government has instituted a series of unique options and opportunies to help university personnel make the required adjustments with smoothness and ease:

- \* early retirement scheme for those who qualify (details to follow).
- \* obligatory relocation to FUCU, to work at the new campus.
- \* opportunities to purchase up to 10 000 F.U.C. shares.
- \* opportunities to join their students in the bush.
- \* a one-time only payment for moving expenses to the provincial boundaries.

Future announcements on this topic will be issued from the forthcoming \$1000/plate fund-raising dinner, to be held at the site of the new Tiger Balm Fantasy Gardens (former Expo 86 site) in Vancouver.

And finally, some last words from the Premier: "my plan of decentralization, privatization, and deinstitutionalization will be copied all over the world, as a new kind of democracy -of the private sector, for the private sector, by the private sector. It's just like my friend Michael Walker recently told Ronald Reagan: You ain't seen nothin' yet, folks. There's a lot more to come! Fantastic!"