

specific references to sources for verification of details or fact. This is particularly worrying because of the apparent conjecture and inaccuracies found in some portions of the book. These are particularly evident in the authors' recounting of the history of party politics in British Columbia. For instance, when Vancouver lawyer Leslie Peterson became a Social Credit candidate late in 1955, we are told that he was seen as "the future leader of the party." In fact, such speculation would have been more than a decade premature. And CCF MLA Rand Harding is referred to as "Ron" Harding. These are examples of small but irritating errors that highlight concerns about the lack of documentation in this book.

The Sommers Scandal does explore a number of the more important questions surrounding this case, such as: how could Sommers be found guilty of accepting bribes in the awarding of a forest licence to a company when no one in it was found guilty of offering him money or

benefits? The book does not, however, adequately explain how such a serious political scandal failed to adversely affect the government of the day. Premier W.A.C. Bennett never seemed touched by the affair, and his Social Credit Party was re-elected both in its midst and aftermath. The authors are hardly sympathetic to the old Socreds, but their continuing triumphs at the polls seem a mystery in this account.

The authors conclude that this important scandal ultimately had little or no effect on forest policy in British Columbia. Such an unqualified judgment seems to ignore the political reality that future forest ministers would become much more cautious about involving themselves directly in the awarding of forest licences. The scandal also hardened the Socreds, making them a much more careful and combative political force. In fact, it is possible to argue that the Sommers Affair may actually help explain how and why W.A.C. Bennett would become British Columbia's longest-serving premier.

Pepper in Our Eyes: The APEC Affair

Wedley Pue, editor

Vancouver: UBC Press, 2000. 241 pp. \$39.95 cloth.

BY PAT MARCHAK

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IN NOVEMBER 1997 Vancouver was the venue for a meeting of the heads of state representing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies. Though the meeting was intended to deal with trade issues, by far the major story it generated was

about the tactics the RCMP used against student protesters. This story was soon augmented by evidence that the federal government had exerted pressure on the RCMP to act in accordance with political, rather than legal, requirements for crowd control.

Subsequently, the RCMP Public Complaints Commission (PCC) launched an inquiry amidst continuing public outcry. The chair of the first panel of inquiry, Gerald Morin, resigned following gross interference with the panel's conduct by the chair of the PCC. A second inquiry was chaired by a single judge, and the final word is yet to be delivered.

Examination of these issues by Wesley Pue and other contributors to this collection of essays is timely and helpful. The central argument throughout the essays is that the conduct of the police and government before, during, and following the APEC summit fundamentally violated the Canadian constitution and citizens' rights. As Pue states in the opening essay: "If [the students'] allegations are borne out by the slow grind of evidentiary processes, we will be forced to conclude that the RCMP were deployed by the government of the day for political, not law enforcement, purposes" (9). He argues that no functioning democracy can tolerate that arrangement.

Margot Young; Andrew Irvine; Donald J. Sorochan, QC; Philip C. Stenning; and Nelson Wiseman add information on, and insights into, the relationship between free speech and democracy, the nature of political interference, the evolution of the PCC legislation, and the history of the relationship between the federal government and the RCMP. A feisty little essay by Joel Bakan on the evils of the neoliberal agenda interrupts the sober legal analysis. Constable Gil Puder (to whose memory the book is dedicated) adds a critical insider's view of police responses to political pressures. Karen Busby explains why the students had to seek federal government funding to mount their case.

Terry Milewski was the focus of attention throughout the opening sessions of the police enquiry, less because of his media reports than because of the prime minister's reactions to them. His contribution to this volume is rigorous and frank, the centrepiece of the book. Immediately following his discussion of the way the government attempted to silence him, the first chair of the panel of inquiry, Gerald Morin, reflects on the reasons for his resignation. Though both stories have been widely reported, their telling by the central protagonists reignites one's dismay with the politicians and the RCMP. However, the final assessment is less bleak than the interim politics. The judge resigned, but the media made the reasons public and there was a public reaction to government interference. The reporter was attacked by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the RCMP, and a craven CBC bureaucracy took Milewski off the story, but eventually the CBC ombudsman, Marcel Pepin, investigated and cleared the reporter. Indeed, he went further than merely clearing Milewski, he condemned the PMO, the CBC, and others for claims they had made. In the end, the government and the RCMP came out of the affair peppered (if one may dare to pun) with bad publicity for their stupid and inept attempts to control the students and then dismiss the complaints.

The last three chapters, by Obiora Chinedu Okafor, Arnab Guha, and Jane Kelsey, respectively, consider the global context for the APEC meeting in Vancouver. Here the issues that motivated the student protesters are examined by opponents of the new right agenda, with particular attention being given to the willingness of its

advocates and political leaders to support dictators whose compliance with the corporate agenda rests on the repression, and often oppression, of their own populations – Suharto, of course, being at the forefront during the Vancouver meeting.

The book is somewhat repetitive regarding the APEC events and even

more so regarding the law, but since each writer adds a new interpretation, this fault is not deadly. There is some unevenness in tone between the more academic arguments and the more polemical arguments, but, on balance, this is a good set of essays worth reading.

*The Politics of Resentment:
British Columbia Regionalism and Canadian Unity*

Philip Resnick

Vancouver: UBC Press for Institute for Research on Public Policy, 2000.
172 pp. \$34.95 cloth.

BY STÉPHANE LÉVESQUE
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PROLIFIC POLITICAL SCIENTIST Philip Resnick has ambitiously sought to conceptualize British Columbia as a “region-province” and to study its role in the Canadian unity debate. Although he set out to make a comparative analysis of British Columbia regionalism and Québec nationalism, Resnick found that the abundant material on British Columbia required an exclusive emphasis on that province. This is mildly disappointing to a Québécois such as me but still good news for all those interested in the past, present, and future political lives of British Columbians. Indeed, *The Politics of Resentment* is one of the first books to examine the insufficiently appreciated role that British Columbia has played in Canadian political debates in the last forty years or so.

Divided into six chapters, the book begins with an overview of British

Columbia as a particular region of Canada as historians, social scientists, politicians, and writers have understood the matter. In later chapters, Resnick constructs an analytical framework – not very well defined – to examine the political views of BC premiers and other politicians (Chapter 2), from W.A.C. Bennett to Glen Clark; the views of various British Columbia opinion makers, business spokespersons, consultants, journalists, academics, and others (Chapter 3); and, finally, the comments of British Columbians during the British Columbia Unity Panel hearings of 1997 (Chapter 4). In Chapter 5, Resnick presents his own construction of BC regionalism. He concludes that, in the minds of British Columbians, there resides a feeling of hurt, of betrayal, of unfair treatment in the Federation, and this he calls the “politics of resentment” (p. 119). For him, resentment is the result not only