

Canadian branch plant universities?

by Lynn Marchildon
TORONTO (CUP) — Free Trade might encourage more American Universities to set up satellite campuses in Canadian cities according to Ontario's minister of industry, trade and technology Monte Kwinter.

While Kwinter said the increasing number of American institutions offering degree programs in Canada is something to watch, he said he hopes the high tuition of the programs will continue to act as a deterrent.

"Where we do have the control is that our universities are all state-financed," said Kwinter, adding that Ontario's student assistance program also helps to defray the cost of a Canadian university education, but not a foreign one.

Kwinter spoke at the University of Toronto to outline the Ontario government's opposition to the recently signed free trade pact.

The minister said an economic union between Canada and the U.S. won't work because the cul-

tures are so similar and Canada is already dominated by the States. He pointed out that 42 per cent of all Canadian industry is already American-owned, and 95 per cent of all prime television shows, music and films are American.

"We have a severe problem and we have to be extra vigilant to make sure that we don't get swept away by it," Kwinter said. "There's very little to differentiate us if we want to maintain that Canadian identity."

A graduate of Syracuse University and of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Kwinter said he knows the American way of life but said "there is a quality of life in Canada that people cherish."

He said the free trade pact does not give Canadians any more of an economic advantage than they already have, while it gives the United States a coveted continental energy policy.

"What we have done is given them the right to proportional access to our energy," said Kwinter,

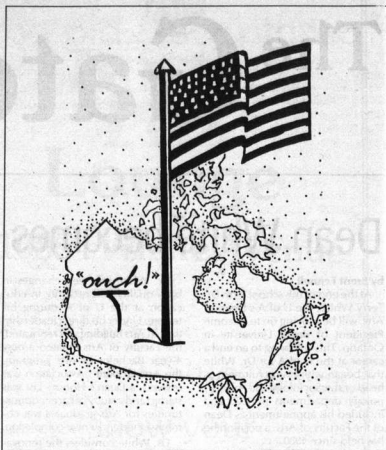
adding Canadian oil producers will no longer be able to charge different prices to domestic and industrial consumers.

Kwinter said there is a common misconception that an iron curtain lies across the border to the United States and if Canadians could only raise it, 250 million more people will buy their products.

"At this point in time 80 per cent of all trade of goods and services between Canada and the United States is duty-free," said Kwinter, adding the number of tariff items decreases with each round of GATT (General Agreement on Tariff and Trade) talks.

"Anything that reduces tariffs and barriers is good," he said. "But it's got to be done in a way that allows some time for adjustment."

The Ontario government passed a resolution January 7 intended to send the federal government a clear message of disapproval of the free trade deal signed five days earlier, said Kwinter.



Regina 'Gears up own tuition

REGINA (CUP) — Engineering students at the University of Regina decided to cough up an extra \$50 per semester for the next eighteen months so their faculty can purchase new equipment.

Students presented a petition calling for the increase to U of R Board of Governors last month. The petition was signed by more than 70 per cent, or 240 of 330 students enrolled in engineering signed the petition.

"It took me by surprise — a pleasant surprise," said Bruce Cooke, Dean of Engineering. "The whole faculty was startled, and I

think, very impressed. We're pretty proud of (the students') responsible stand."

"I can't see an extra fifty bucks as a lot of money," said Engineering Student Society President Dave Fulton, a fourth-year electrical engineering student. "It's an investment in the future."

Both Cooke and Fulton said that the university's department of engineering is in dire need of more and modern equipment. "What we're really lacking in Regina is the labs. A lot of the equipment we have right now needs upgrading and replacing, and we could really use

equipment we don't have right now."

"Because of the rapid technological change, equipment can get out of date very quickly," said Cooke. He cited the purchase of a robot, a numerical-controlled lathe, and computer software for the new equipment. "We bought that over the summer, and it cost about \$100,000. The robot was about \$40,000."

Fulton said the students' contribution alleviated fears that the department was on the verge of closing.

"When things got scary with the provincial government, the fundraising drive, which this is part of, was showing Hepworth that this is a good school and we're willing to help all we can."

In his brief to the University of Regina on March 13, 1987, Education Minister Lorne Hepworth said the University of Regina must concentrate its "core curriculum" at the expense of other faculties. Engineering was one of those on the outside.

Garbage bursary

VANCOUVER — Geology students at the University of British Columbia now have access to a \$600 bursary because one professor believes in the principle "waste not, want not."

Professor Wibert Danner of geological sciences donated \$7000 to a bursary with money he raised by collecting empty cans, bottles and loose change from UBC's beaches and grounds.

This fund really shows students what a waste of money it is to throw stuff around on the beach," Danner said.

Danner said, "there is no stigma attached" to collecting bottles and cans and said he knows of other faculty who do the same thing.

But Danner's bursary, aptly named the "beer, pop, can bottle, deposit, refund bursary", almost never got off the ground.

The Senate awards committee thought Danner's bursary title inappropriate and named it the Department of geological sciences bursary. Danner objected to the renaming.

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