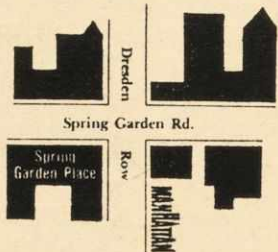




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BC universities inefficient

REGINA (CUP)—B.C. premier Bill Bennett says he thinks "it's sick" to have B.C.'s three universities managed by three separate university administrations.

Speaking in a hotel parking lot after dinner at the first ministers'

meeting in Regina, Bennett told two students he saw no need for the three distinct managing bodies.

"Yeah, that's sick," said one of the students, Kevin Weedmark from the University of Regina,

disgusted by Bennett's comment.

Bennett said the universities must use their operating grants from the government more efficiently. He added, "there are going to be a few surprises" when the government unveils its budget in March.

Bennett said British Columbians angry about the government's cutbacks in funding for education and social services should "wait for the next one and I'll give them something to scream about."

Earlier at the reception, Bennett refused to answer a student reporter's question about accusations that the B.C. government was diverting federal transfer payments away from education.

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U of Regina president threatens resignation

REGINA (CUP)—The University of Regina administration president has vowed to resign if the university is forced to close any more programs or colleges.

"I've indicated I'm a builder, not a buster," Lloyd Barber told a packed university faculty council meeting recently. "If the university is facing a major winding down, they will have to find someone else to do it because I'm not capable of doing it. I wasn't hired to do it."

Grappling with a \$3 million deficit, the university board of governors is searching for ways to make the cuts. A proposal drawn up in October calls for a 15 per cent tuition fee hike, closure of the university's extension program, athletics program, sculpture studio and music conservatory in the event of a two per cent funding increase next year.

The Saskatchewan government, however, has hinted it will freeze university funding in the 1985-86 academic year.

Students are concerned the university will close its fine arts college, a source of worry since the government formed a committee last summer to investigate the province's deteriorating fine arts education. Students fear the committee may recommend the amalgamation of the province's two fine arts colleges at U of R and the University of Saskatchewan.

"It's not like a steel mill where you can shut down production for one month and then start it up the next," Barber said. If the university shut down the college "you couldn't start doing it until 1986 or 1987, and it would take six or seven years for a phase out."

Barber said the university would increase tuition fees or its deficit before recommending closure of the fine arts college.

Lori Latta, student council president, says Barber's decision to resign will not likely result in "one iota of good" and expressed regret at his stand. She says Barber should take responsibility for the university because he was president when the university became increasingly mired in financial difficulties.