

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER



Clubs for Retired & Semi-Retired Professional & Business Persons, Former Executives & Others

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N E X T M E E T I N G

Date: April 21, 1998

Location: Stanley Park Pavilion

Time: 9:30 a.m.

SPEAKER: David Bond, Vice-President
and Chief Economist

Topic: THE CANADIAN ECONOMY TODAY

Hong Kong Bank of Canada

PROBUS CLUB VANCOUVER: Meeting Tuesday, March 17, 1998.

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Fred Cotton called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. Roy Williams has accepted the position of Nominating Committee Chairman. He then discussed the need for members of the various committees for next year, which will start in September, 1998. Bill Manson then reported the expenses for the Boeing trip to be at break-even point. The proposed Golf Tournament is to be on May 11, 1998 at Shaughnessy Golf Club with costs to be: 1) green fees, \$65.00; 2) dinner \$35.00. Brice Macdougall then reported our speaker for April will be David Bond, Vice-President and Chief Economist for the Hong Kong Bank of Canada, and for May it will be Dr. Pat McGeer.

Jack Croll then introduced our speaker, Darrell Evans, Executive Director, B.C. Freedom of Information and Privacy Association. Mr. Evans started his talk with the following remarks: He feels technology is driving us as a society; that technology drives changes in society and that this will accelerate. He feels there is nothing more dangerous than an ignorant public, but also that the average person has the ability to take an active and informed interest in public affairs. He feels we must understand technology information on a policy basis, and that the public must be involved in involved in policy decisions concerning:

1) Access to information; 2) Control of information; 3) Privacy.
The challenge for his association is to balance these three.

In 1992 the government passed the Freedom of Information Act by narrow definition. Freedom of information means the right of access to government information. By broader definition, it means the free flow of information in society. Mr. Evans became involved in this field because of his concerns about the government's ability to gather information about you as an individual. He mentioned such things as the "Eschelon Project" which he feels will continue and expand.

He feels corporations need to release more information to enforce openness, accountability and honesty. He also feels there are examples that make him question governments' adherence to the Act, such as data sharing agreements between provincial and federal governments. In closing, he said his association wants more privacy for the individual, but also to ensure more access to information. A question period followed. David Campbell thanked our speaker for his very thought-provoking talk.

BIOGRAPHY

David E. Bond

David E. Bond was born in Hamilton Ontario and received his university education in the United States at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. He earned his doctorate in economics at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. In 1964 he returned to Canada and taught at the universities of Western Ontario and British Columbia. During that time he co-authored a book on the impact of U.S. - Canada free trade upon the Canadian furniture industry, as well as a textbook on Money and Banking, which is now in its third edition.

Dr. Bond entered the public service of Canada in 1972 and served in the departments of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Statistics Canada, the Ministry of State for Economic Development, and Regional Economic Development. He was an Assistant Deputy Minister and later a Deputy Secretary. In 1982 he was named the Federal Economic Development coordinator in British Columbia and was responsible for the coordination of all economic development activity by the federal government in the province.

In 1985 he was named to be the President of a National Trade Association. In the spring of 1988 he joined the faculty of the University of Quebec at Hull as a professor of Administrative Sciences. In the summer of 1989 he was named Vice President, Public Affairs and Marketing for the Hongkong Bank of Canada. In 1992 he was named Vice President, Government and Public Affairs and Chief Economist. He will retire from that position in May 1998 and will join the Faculty of Commerce at the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Bond was the founding President of the Friends of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, past President of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, and served as a member of the Advisory Committee on Revision of the Payments System.

In January 1997, Dr. Bond was elected and served one year as Chairman of the Board for Simon Fraser University.