

VANCOUVER SUN April 26, 1995



GLENN BAGLO / Vancouver Sun

IT WILL MAINLY be business as usual after Hong Kong Rosario and Mark O'Neil predict. They were to speak returns to Chinese, veteran China watchers Louise

today to a Vancouver business audience. Story, D4.

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RETAIL SECTOR

Ex-viceroy takes part in Chinese venture

WYNG CHOW

Sun Asia-Pacific Reporter

Recently retired B.C. lieutenantgovernor David Lam is investing in a new joint venture with one of China's largest privately owned companies.

Vancouver entrepreneur Thomas Fung said Tuesday that Lam is among 10 Canadian investors putting up a total of \$8 million toward a 47-per-cent interest in a Chinese pharmaceutical firm.

'We're teaming up with a strong company in China to act as a bridge for two-way traffic to allow Canadian businesses to expand to the Chinese market and vice versa,"

Fung said in an inter-

"Lots of people try to strike a deal with China. They talk for one or two years and still can't close the deal," said Fung, adding the new venture will also allow him to expand his business consultancy work in China.

The head of Vancouver-based Fairchild Holdings Ltd. said he used his family's Sun Hung Kai

Group connections to finalize the agreement he first signed in Beijing last November during the Team Canada trade mission.



The joint venture involves Fung's Fairchild Investment Inc., and the Beijing-based Stone Group Corp., one of China's largest companies and one of the few owned private-

Founded in 1984, Stone has offices in 58 locations in China, as well as offices in Hong Kong, Tokyo, Sydney and Seattle. Besides pharmaceuticals, it is involved in computer

hardware and software, high-tech communications and building mate-

Please see CHINA, D2

PROGRAMMING

Tiny B.C. credit union beats biggies at Atl

WILLIAM BOE Sun Business Reporter

Time for a fantasy.

You're a programmer at a little credit union in New Westminster. You're day-dreaming, and suddenly you're at the biggest computer trade show in the world, in a convention hall buzzing with thousands of people. You're up against the systems departments of two huge international banks for the big award

the Comdex computer show. "It was fantastic," Bob Parkinson was saying on the phone a few minutes after the ceremony. "It was like an Academy Awards performance."

Parkinson is chief executive officer of the IWA and Community Credit Union, which has five branches in the Lower Mainland, assets of \$145 million, total staff of 80, systems staff of four.

Gates had just handed the crystal award to systems manager Paul Friesen and pro-

banking and securities division

"The programming staff a hattan is bigger than the IWA," said Rob Murray of Ri logic Computer Corp., which credit union with PROBE for the programming environmen winning, interactive, online bar

'We're so proud, we're ready Murray, who went to Atlanta union group. "We provided

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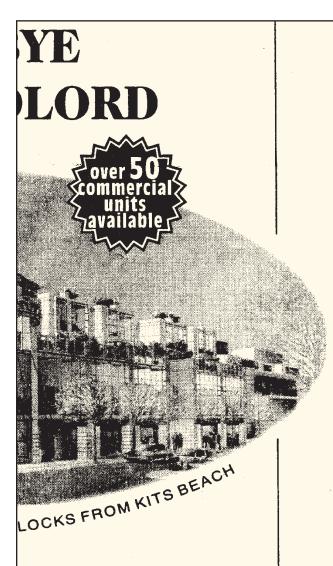
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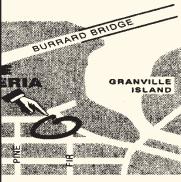
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Sunday 12-5 treet years' gambling activities that had not previously been included in revenues. That means, unless the next treasurer of Manitoba can find several years of gambling profits in 1996, and assuming everything else remains the same, the province's budget will once again be in deficit.

Is the Manitoba budget really balanced or has some accounting sleight of hand made things appear to be something they are not? Perhaps there is some fine print that has been skipped over. Could the fact Manitoba is into an election have anything to do with this creative move in redefining what balanced means?

British Columbia is another matter. Finance Minister Elizabeth Cull, in her budget address

was the minister just misled in what she wrote and said?

Why is it that governments are not held to the strictures of the laws that regulate misleading advertising? Any publicly traded company that reported its financial status in the same manner would be subject to fines and other penalties.

Perhaps it is too much to ask that taxpayers be accorded the same rights to factual information that is demanded for shareholders. Then again, perhaps the imperatives of getting re-elected preclude according the voters such respect.

Views expressed are those of David Bond, not of the Hongkong Bank of Canada, of which he is chief economist.

CHINA: no wait for cash flow

Continued from D1

rials

"It's already profitable, with contracts and orders to fill. We don't have to wait years for cash flow," Fung said. "The Chinese government looks on [Stone] as a model to show the world that even a private enterprise can be successful in China."

One of its subsidiaries is listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange.

Before the deal was signed, Fung sent his own merchant bankers and auditing firm to do due diligence work. "The reports came back favorably."

The Chinese company manufactures vitamin C under a patented "natural" process, mainly for sale in the U.S. and Europe. To meet growing international demand, the company plans to expand production during the next three years, including a production facility in Canada.

The partners plan to jointly invest about \$30 million for expansion.

"Stone and Fairchild are also committed to working to seek investment opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry, both in China and in Canada," said Fung, whose Canadian holdings include Richmond's Aberdeen Centre shopping mall, Fairchild Television, Talentvision, CJVB Canadian-Chinese Radio, a lifestyle magazine and a 114-unit townhouse and condominium complex in Oakridge.

Fairchild Investment is publicly listed on the Vancouver Stock Exchange, but trading has been suspended while it completes the private placement.

Fairchild is responsible for raising \$8 million, Fung said, with Lam, who was a family friend and real estate developer before entering public life, investing \$2 million. Nine other investors, mainly friends and business associates, are "in place."

IS CANADA BANKRUPT?

Don't you think that it is time to find out?

Mr. John Fund a senior editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal, will discuss an international perspective of the Canadian crisis. His articles have appeared in publications such as Esquire, Readers Digest, The New Republic and National Review. He has appeared on CBC's "front Page Challenge", where he discussed his article a "Bankrupt Canada".

Complimentary Seminar Tuesday, May 2, 1995 7:00 p.m. The Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre.

Topics

 Changes in the international economy • The implications of Canada's high tax and spending policy. • Why you should be investing internationally • How Canada's lowgrowth welfare state intersects with the world's economy.