
Interview: Bill Vander Zalm

Former B.C. premier scores new world order against Croatia

Bill Vander Zalm was premier of British Columbia from 1986 to April 1991, when he resigned following charges of corruption and an unprecedented press campaign in the middle of a provincial election. "It was a political plot if ever there was one. At any level, politically, judicially, and media-wise," says author Paul Nielsen, who is finishing a biography, *Test of Faith: The Odyssey of Bill Vander Zalm*.

"In my book I decided to tell the whole story, and it is not just a local story. Among the plotters one can find people like the powerful Conrad Black of the Hollinger Corporation, the Bronfman family, and Li Ka-shing, the so-called 'Kissinger of Hong Kong.' When Li and the Hollinger Corp. decided to move to British Columbia the troubles began for Vander Zalm. Why? It's very simple. He is not a politician who bends to the winds. He could be naive in the 'political' sense of the word but never could have betrayed the trust of the people. Others apparently have no problem."

Whatever the outcome of this test of strength, Vander Zalm is still a very important political figure in British Columbia and, according to rumors, ready to jump into the national arena. Before being elected premier, in the 1986 surprise victory that infuriated his political opponents, Vander Zalm had been a member of the provincial legislature, a minister of human resources, a minister of education, and mayor of Surrey. In 1984 he organized the visit of Pope John Paul II to British Columbia.

Since the escalation of the assault against Croatia, Vander Zalm came back into active politics defending Croatian independence. He is now touring Canada and will go next to the United States. "It's strange," said Nielsen, "but in investigating both the enemies of Vander Zalm and people who oppose the Croatian independence, I found a very high density of Freemasons. There will be a few interesting pages on this issue in my book." Bill Vander Zalm was interviewed by Umberto Pascali on Nov 11.

EIR: Mr. Vander Zalm, you have started a political campaign in favor of Croatia's independence. Recently you were the guest of honor at the banquet organized by Mrs. Marija Gled of the Croatian Mothers for Relief Fund.

Vander Zalm: This initiative is excellent. The banquet was successful, the attendance was great, the interest was high.

The theme of my speech was in part likening what is happening in Croatia to what the reaction in Canada might be if we, the rest of Canada, reacted similarly to the separation of Quebec. In Canada, of course, as you're aware, there is a great deal of talk about sovereignty for Quebec. Now whether that will ever come about or not we don't know.

But certainly if that was their choice we, the rest of Canada, could express our dissatisfaction and our unhappiness, but we certainly could not bomb Quebec City and flatten it or destroy hospitals and churches in Montreal or the villages in Quebec or go about killing innocent men, women, and children. That just would not be acceptable. So I put it in that perspective in order to make Canadians understand that what is happening there is totally unacceptable and a crime against humanity.

On Nov. 7, 8, and 9 I was in Winnipeg [Manitoba]. I was involved with media meetings, with an open line show on radio and with meetings with all the prominent Croatian representatives as well as someone representing the Jewish community. It was a good information and awareness tour. We are not only working locally, we are trying to influence public opinion through an awareness program elsewhere in Canada and hopefully in the United States. I am leaving later this week for California.

EIR: What do you think can be obtained with this campaign?

Vander Zalm: It's my hope that at some point there will be recognition by the politicians in Canada and the United States—hopefully Europe as well, but we can't influence Europe as much as we might influence North America—but it is our hope that Canada and the United States at least will recognize Croatia as a country entitled to its independence based upon a democratic process, a vote. They don't want Communist rule, they want to have democratic rule. They want to have their own country.

EIR: Many people found it so astonishing that the leadership of the United States is not doing anything adequate vis-à-vis the aggression of the Yugoslavian army, the last communist army in Europe.

Vander Zalm: Well I suppose there are all sorts of theories,

but I have to believe that our leaders, the President in the United States and the prime minister in Canada and perhaps others throughout the world are so hung up on this "new world order" that this decentralization would be potentially in conflict with what they see for the new world order.

EIR: Recently a major Italian magazine, *Famiglia Cristiana*, wrote that the explanation for the abandonment of Croatia to the savagery of the Army was to be found in the role of the international Masonry. A large number of European foreign ministers are members of the Masonry. The magazine stressed that the Masonry does not want the creation of two Catholic countries in the middle of Europe.

Vander Zalm: Masonry!?! Well, that's a theory I've heard a number of times as well, and again I expect that the higher-ups in the Masonry are a tremendous influence on governments throughout the world. They are not only concerned about what you say but also they have been long the promoters of these "world orders."

This concept of world order goes back many years, and as I recall reading or hearing, the Masons have long promoted that sort of approach. Sort of world government, world order, that's the way some politicians would like us to be moving. We had a world order approach back after World War I in 1918 in Versailles. They divided Europe a little differently and the result of that, at least in part in my opinion, was World War II. Then we had a world order after World War II when there was again a division, eastern Europe, Germany, and so forth and we had the Cold War on account of that.

Now we hear the President, the prime minister and other world leaders talking about world order again. And without getting into the pros and cons, obviously it doesn't fit this "order" that the Soviet Union or Yugoslavia should be dividing up into independent republics.

EIR: During his recent visit to Europe, George Bush told the European leaders that they have to decide immediately between an independent defense or the "primacy" of NATO under an Anglo-American leadership. Bush brought up the example of Yugoslavia to show how Europe needed "protection." He said that the war there was a consequence of "nationalism."

Vander Zalm: The war was not the consequence of Croatian nationalism. I saw the suggestion made that it was an ethnic war, I don't agree. I think it's a war for independence, it's a democracy versus a communist system. The people, when they voted for Croatian independence, did so according to the terms of the constitution. They didn't go about this illegally. They did it quite properly. The illegality came from the Yugoslavian Army when they then invaded and started their executions and destructions.

EIR: Do you think there are economic reasons as well? For example, Lawrence Eagleburger, the deputy secretary of

state, had a lot of business with the Yugoslavian government in Belgrade.

Vander Zalm: There are always those who unfortunately benefit from wars. And there are undoubtedly those who have benefited from doing business with Yugoslavia. And they see that threatened. Now what and how much an influence these people have, I can't say but I would expect that it could be considerable.

EIR: You were for many years the premier of British Columbia, and probably you will be again in that position in the future. On the basis of your experience, what do you think about the economic future of Croatia and Slovenia in the context of the Productive Triangle proposal?

Vander Zalm: Economic prospects? I think for Croatia and Slovenia they are very good. They are an industrious people, they are a family people, they are a proud people and that's all of the ingredients for economic success. I also believe that small countries can be extremely successful.

Now I don't know what the impact on Serbia might be. Serbia has too long depended on the resources of other republics for its economy. If they will have to go independent themselves and find their own way, they will become stronger as well. I don't believe a country prospers or anyone prospers by living off the others. And I think you are better off with healthier neighbors than you are with distressed neighbors.

Interview: Zlatko Kramaric

Europe's neglect of Croatia 'criminal'

Professor Kramaric is the mayor of the Croatian city of Osijek. He spoke with correspondents Renate Rumpf and Hartmut Cramer on Nov. 11 in Frankfurt, Germany.

EIR: Mayor Kramaric, can you briefly give us a picture of the situation in your beleaguered city?

Kramaric: To anyone who is not in Croatia and hence does not know our situation, I can say that Osijek finds itself under a semi-blockade; the best way to put what that means at the moment is with Remarque's words, "All quiet in Osijek!"

Our city currently runs the risk of being completely destroyed. There is no "logic of war": The city is being bom-