



association of university and college employees

July 13, 1983.

PRESS RELEASE

As a result of the decision to discontinue the University of British Columbia Library Retrospective Conversion (Recon) Project, eleven library workers have received lay off notices for the end of August, 1983. The discontinuation of funds to the Recon Project is a result of the heavy allocation of funds to another project, the implementation of the BC Library Network. BCLN is a system of computer services which does not require additional staffing of the libraries involved, and which is still in its experimental stage. The Recon Project, which has as its purpose the conversion of the old card catalogue to machine readable form, is only partially complete, with most of the monograph (book) holdings yet to be converted. This project has been running for four years, and has employed up to 21 people at a time. Since it has been such a priority until now, we find it hard to understand why it is suddenly necessary to sacrifice it to another project which provides no additional jobs. The Recon Project could provide employment for its present staff for several more years, and at a very low cost — the cost of their wages. The University has already, over the past couple of years, reduced its staff of library assistants by some thirty or forty positions. We feel that this further cut is unnecessary.