

(d) Discussion

In the discussion on the papers the following points were covered: the future of the Canada House Library and the withdrawal by the Canadian Government of full depository status for Canadian federal government publications; libraries in Britain and France which have exchange of publication arrangements with Canadian provincial governments; the extent of scholarly demand for Canadian materials; emphasis had generally been in the fields of the humanities and social sciences — the sciences should not be overlooked; lack of provision of current Canadian newspapers; and the proposal to establish a Library and Resources Group for Canadian Studies.

Canada House Reference Library: great regret was expressed by users that the Federal Government of Canada had withdrawn the *full depository* status and substituted only *selective depository* status, especially as the only library in Britain retaining *full depository* status for Federal Government documentation was the British Library, to which access was limited. The hope was expressed that the Canada House Library would be reinstated.

The Sciences and Canadian Studies: it was pointed out that the conception of Canadian Studies held by the Government of Canada was confined largely to the Social Sciences and Humanities. Canadian Scientific Journals are much in demand, there are many areas of scientific collaboration and interest between Britain and Canada, and there is considerable potential for developing scientific contacts and research between the two countries. There is a need to give *Science* a greater emphasis within the context of *Canadian Studies*. In a number of British universities, such as Leeds (which is a Regional Canadian Study Centre), the *Sciences* considerably outnumber other areas of the curriculum (Leeds: 60 per cent are Science, Applied Science and Medicine).

Library and Resources Group for Canadian Studies. In considering proposals for the formation of a library group to co-ordinate library resources for Canadian studies, Mr. D. Walker (Leicester) spoke on behalf of the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (SCONUL). SCONUL's American Advisory Committee would be more correctly named North American Advisory Committee as its coverage included Canada though this had never been spelled out. It might be possible for a separate Advisory Committee on Canada to be formed under the SCONUL umbrella; such geographical Committees already existed for other areas: e.g. Latin America, Oriental Studies.

Dr. Peter Lyon (Chairman, BACS) felt that as all the library and bibliographical initiatives in Canadian studies had come from BACS or the High Commission until now, this association should continue; there was a danger that Canadian studies would be swamped by the volume of United States studies if Canadian studies were to be absorbed by the SCONUL American Studies Advisory Committee.

Other points discussed in considering the rival merits of the two organisations were:

SCONUL is an organisation of university and national libraries — membership of the present body is of institutions not of individuals. Its system of advisory committees permits participation in specialist activities by librarians in public and other types of library not in membership of SCONUL.

SCONUL pays the travel expenses of Committee members.

SCONUL can make available funds for bibliographical projects though there had been no activity in the field of Canadian studies to date.

Its status gives it a strong position in making its needs heard at a high level.

BACS is an organisation of persons interested in Canadian studies — mostly academics but some librarians.

There is no institutional membership.

Its constitution has a declared interest in library resources for Canadian studies, and this was more explicitly confirmed at its last Council meeting.

It has enjoyed financial support from the Canadian government in the past and key members of the High Commission's staff attend its Council meetings and conferences as observers.

Dr. Lyon proposed that a Steering Committee should be appointed to consider the points under discussion and make recommendations on the formation of a library group for Canadian studies. Mr. Hannam (Foreign & Commonwealth Office) proposed that the Steering Committee should consist of the afternoon's speakers with Mr. Simpson as Convener. Other additional members should include a representative from the British Library, Mrs. Gallimore representing specialist libraries and spokesmen for SCONUL and BACS. Mr. Hellyer suggested that Canada House should have observer status and that the incoming Librarian, Mrs. House, should serve in his place.

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