

Appendix I

A Bicentennial Gift from Canada to the United States

The year 1976 is the 200th anniversary the United States of America. Canada will wish to offer the United States a gift to mark the occasion.

In the Committee's opinion, great care should be taken in the selection of Canada's gift. The occasion is a unique one. The Canadian bicentennial project should be a visible and enduring one which not only present but future generations of Americans will see and enjoy. A substantial amount of money should be set aside for the purpose. If it were a question of a Canadian pavilion in a World's Fair the cost to Canada for a notable display would be in the millions. By comparison, the bicentennial year project is considerably more important to Canada.

The Committee has heard testimony to the effect that the government undertook a cultural programme at the Kennedy Centre in Washington—a project which it has linked to the U.S. Bicentennial. It also understood that Canada would participate in the Centennial Parade of the Roses in Pasadena, California on January 1, 1976 and in the presentation at the East-West football game on January 3.

In themselves, such contributions and programmes are commendable. Large numbers of American television viewers watch the parade and the football game resulting in maximum exposure for the Canadian participation. None of these programmes, however, has a lasting commemorative value which is appropriate for such an occasion.

The Committee understands that Canada is preparing a book which highlights the interaction of the peoples of the two nations and that a Canadian grant to the Centre of Canadian Studies at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, Washington has been linked to the bicentennial year. The Committee is unaware, however, of what Canada's major presentation will be to mark this important anniversary.

The Committee recommends that the government give urgent consideration to this problem of an appropriate bicentennial gift to the United States. The Committee wishes to emphasize the desirability of a permanent and lasting quality to such a gift and the need to choose something which will stand as a visible and constant reminder of Canada to the people of the United States.