

It is not surprising that many should reach this conclusion. A succession of witnesses have reminded the Committee of the enormous pull exerted by the United States upon Canada. First in importance they have always placed the economic and demographic factors. Climate and topography have caused Canadians to settle a narrow band of territory lying immediately north of the American border. In spite of the development of northern mining communities and the new commitment to the Arctic, 90% of Canadians live as they have always lived less than 200 miles from the border. The country being large, the population small, and the land and climate being often harsh, Canada has been and remains a costly country to develop, often requiring very large scale operations for efficient exploitation of our resources. The Canadian domestic market has always been small and relatively dispersed, so that it provides a poor base for industrial development. With high overhead and small scale production, the result has been less efficient production than in the United States, which is reflected in the Canadian standard of living which has been consistently 20% to 30% lower than that of the United States.

The economic attraction of the United States for Canada has been a persistent fact of life for Canadians. The cultural pull is a more recent phenomenon, dating particularly from the era of mass communications. In the 19th century, American periodicals circulated freely in Canada as they still do, but they were read by a minority who were in the main committed to the Canadian political experiment. But radio and television have immeasurably increased the American impact on Canada, to the point where it has become a matter of national concern. While French speaking Canadians have some built-in linguistic protection, a surprising proportion of the production of United States television is available in translation at rates which are still attractively cheap. The Committee has in Part V directed some attention to this problem.

Despite the many similarities and the close relations between the two countries, there are a number of vital differences which have set Canada apart from the United States and contributed to the maintenance of its political independence. Many witnesses have drawn the attention of the Committee to these contrasts and since they are well known it is sufficient merely to refer to them briefly. M Claude Ryan emphasized certain of these differences;

"Canada has been traditionally differentiated from the United States by traits which have enabled it to subsist during two centuries on her own. These traits have been, among many others, a different approach to the development of political, social and cultural institutions.

The U.S. decided at the outset to make a clean sweep of British political institutions and of the original culture of the people who came to settle in the neighbouring republic. They chose a philosophy and institutions of a republican type and, secondly, a certain cultural and linguistic monolithism, with the English language being chosen as the common instrument of communication, while the environment was very open to the assimilation of foreigners.

In Canada we have opted for a way of building up basic institutions which would be more in keeping with the historic traditions of each of the two founding nations. The English-speaking Canadians wanted to remain attached to their British political traditions, and the French Canadians wanted to keep their French traditions. From this duality there arose political and judicial institutions which are clearly distinguished from those in the U.S.A., and cultural institutions which are fairly different, especially inasmuch as they were set up with the assistance of the public authorities. And finally, there arose forms of