

Editorial

Canadian Education and the American Dollar

Delegates to the recent International Conference on Communications Media in Education and the Atlantic Showplace were impressed, in spite of the usual shortcomings of never-ending lectures and lack of opportunity for small group discussion. There is no doubt that delegates went home with electronic hangovers.

One's first reaction might have been "put in the sky" but later when one realizes that it is possible to "plug into" a computer center in N. Y. by telephone to solve math problems or for other educational tidbits, one sees that national barriers are down. Business corporations are ready to welcome educators to their club.

This raises certain questions. What is the club like? Who has the finger on the education button? Will the cost of electrical hardware force

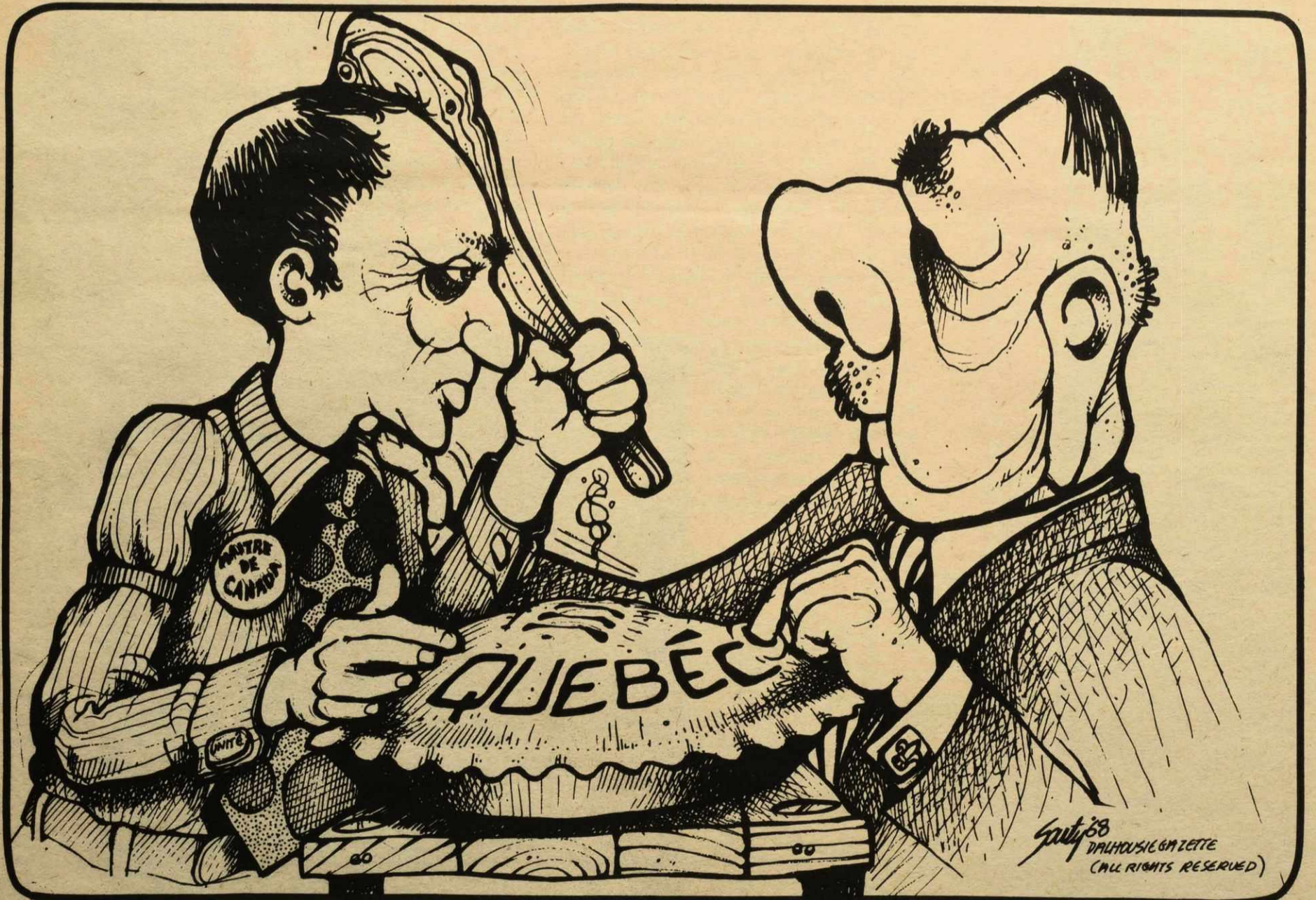
the complete centralization of education and in such an event, where does that leave provincial jurisdiction and expression of public concern for local control? Are there enough public-school and university administrators properly trained to choose and use such hardware in the best interests of education? Where does education begin and the hardware leave off?

When one hears that American electronics manufacturers have already bought out at least one large Canadian textbook corporation, one is forced to conclude that the trap has been baited, ready to be sprung. Do we jump in? Who is really in control of our curricula? American textbook manufacturers certainly have huge voice in what Canadian children are and will be studying.

Dr. Everote, Pres., of the Ency-

clopedia Britannica Educational Corporation (Chicago), who addressed delegates, expects nations to "share more fully" with each other their educational experiences and the scholars. "Man will gain the growing conviction that he can become the master of change, not the reverse." But is it possible for this process of sharing to be a two way street or are the Americans on top of the hill so that information only rolls in one direction?

We must realize that the power of the big U.S. Dollar wields a great deal of authority already within the Canadian Educational system and the huge cost of electronic equipment may allow such inroads to become much more complete. Will man become the master of change or will change make some men stronger masters over others?



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The SUB Opening Committee tells us tentimes a day to tell you that the GOOBB is coming, so we are.