

Even assuming a vigorous program of film and filmstrip distribution from the consulates (I know of no consulate filmstrip libraries at present), expansion of this service for school purposes has practical limits. For this reason, more attention should be given to the possibility of film and filmstrip deposits with the central circulating film libraries of large school systems. I understand that a start has been made in this regard, but not on any planned or coordinated basis. It is therefore recommended that:

1. Each consulate be asked to survey the major school systems in its area to determine the NFB films and filmstrips now held for circulation.
2. A panel of Canadian and American teachers be asked to select about five or eight definitive NFB films, and an equal number of filmstrips, which in their view form the best "basic package" on Canada.
3. A program be devised whereby the Information Division can obtain these "basic packages" from NFB free or at cost for this purpose.
4. The packages be distributed to the consulates for presentation to the film libraries of the school systems mentioned above -- either free or at a token cost.

Such a program would serve a promotional purpose for the National Film Board and would ensure availability of this key source of information to major school areas. It would also lighten the consulate load in regard to film handling, cleaning, repair, etc. An offer to replace prints in the basic package after a certain number of showings would ensure that these deposits continued to be in the kind of condition required for them to fulfill their purpose.