

In the Canadian book printing and publishing industry the main difficulty lies in the lack of an export market. Since the domestic market is small, the industry can achieve major production economies only through exports. However, the United States Copyright Act limits to a few thousand copies of any given title the importation of books into the United States. The United Kingdom book industry, which is much stronger, has bargained for an exception to the American import restrictions and this results, in effect, in the division by the United Kingdom and the United States of the English-speaking world book trade.

The Canadian film market is dominated by United States distributors and in fact the Canadian market is sold as a part of the United States film market for film purposes. This imposes problems in developing a feature film industry in Canada. United States domination of distribution networks also has an adverse effect on Canadian ownership or control of theatres and on television film rights.

Although the newspapers are Canadian-owned, many Canadians are concerned over the penetration of American news agency copy and American syndicated columns at the expense of Canadian writing. Claude Ryan, considering that Canadians rely on United States sources for international information to a much greater degree than they realize, put it this way:

"Internationally speaking, international news is submitted to English-Canadians by United States news Agencies and viewed through the United States concept, the United States lens."

Through an arrangement with the Associated Press News Agency, the Canadian Press now depends on A.P. for most of its international service. World events and United States responses are often therefore described in Canadian dailies in roughly the same terms as they are in American newspapers with the only adaptation occurring at the editorial level.

Mr. Pearson contrasted the Canadian editorialists demanding government action to protect Canadians from United States cultural invasion while on the same page American syndicated writers would be featured on every conceivable subject. There seems to be an obvious need at the very least for greater diversity in international news sources.

Two other areas of concern relate to the potentially explosive issues of satellite communications and data transmission. In both the fields the United States has a resounding world lead. Professor Safarian stated that the computer industry will become, in the future, as economically powerful a force as the automobile industry to-day. The Minister of Communications, in emphasizing the cultural and political significance of the computer industry said in a recent speech that it

"will, I predict, equal that of the broadcasting industry, providing us with an immense range of information, entertainment and education. In so doing, it will determine many of the decisions we make and many of the ways we live our lives."

In referring to data transmission and information retrieval systems, he pointed out the disadvantage and potential danger to Canada of having vitally important Canadian information (such as data on Canada's resource development or confidential medical, legal or credit information) beyond the reach of Canadian law. The computer industry in Canada is at present 80% controlled by United States firms.