

a reasonable retainer.

The above suggestion may strike the reader as a kind of overly complicated, "Rube Goldberg" kind of invention. But Canada is an overly complicated country, and some such convenient access is required if we really mean to invite -- rather than discourage -- intelligent foreign interest. In far too many cases, Canadian individuals and agencies in Canada and abroad take it upon themselves to provide "definitive" answers to questions about which their knowledge is less than expert -- and this merely compounds the confusion of our image abroad.

In terms of this study, there are a number of prime potential customers for such a service. Chief among these are the curriculum committees, both at the state level and in the multitudinous local school systems in the U.S.A. With the best will in the world, it is extremely difficult for such bodies to obtain reactions to their drafts of new course units on Canada, such that they may place confidence in these reactions. Curriculum planners in the Chicago school system made the useful and spontaneous suggestion that any curriculum planning body in either of our countries would do well to seek the advice of experts from the other country when planning a unit on any aspect of that country or its culture. A laudable thought, and one can only be grateful for the interest that gave rise to it. But where does a curriculum planner begin to look for such experts? So very much depends on the genuine authority of the knowledge of the individual contacted, and the genuine knowledge of any subsequent individuals to which the enquirer is referred. Given one or two unfortunate referrals, it is fairly easy to predict the fate of the original well-meaning impulse.

The textbook industry is another potential customer for an authentic clearing-house of information on Canada. One publisher gave me an address in Japan to which his firm sends all manuscripts dealing with that country. Within a week or two they receive, from the same single address, reactions obtained from the most eminent Japanese authorities in the field concerned.