

CHAPTER V

A REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR LOBBYISTS: THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL

Having explored thoroughly the options available when designing a registration system, we have reached conclusions on such matters as the definitions to be applied to lobbying and lobbyist, the amount of disclosure, administration of the scheme, sanctions to be imposed, and finally how this system would mesh with other aspects of our legal system such as the Access to Information Act and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The components of our model for a registration system are described in the pages that follow.

Lobbying Activities Which Are Subject To Registration

We are well aware of the problems which have resulted from the judicial limitations that have been placed on the definition of lobbying contained in the United States federal statute dealing with lobbying. As a result, registerable lobbying only occurs when Members of Congress are directly approached by lobbyists. Those who concentrate their efforts on political staff, the bureaucracy and the executive are exempt from registration.

It is our intention that lobbying activities would include efforts to influence the Executive, the Bureaucracy and Members of Parliament including both Members of the House of Commons, the Senate and their staff.* The definition of lobbying activities should be comprehensive so that it will not be possible for lobbyists to focus their efforts on one branch of the government and thereby escape registration.

* We wish to make it clear that although in this and other chapters we may use the word "government" to denote the object of lobbying activity this term is to include efforts to influence the executive, bureaucracy, Members of the House of Commons, the Senate and their staff.