- 1. to help develop coordinated national networks of futures research,
- to consider how best the on-going activities in the futures studies area, within the federal government, can be monitored to ensure, insofar as this can be done, that coordination will be effectively achieved, and
- 3. to assess the catalytic and residual role of the Institute for Research on Public Policy in the development of these national networks.

The Committee has asked all government departments and agencies to respond to a detailed questionnaire on their futures research activities. A copy of that questionnaire is also attached herewith. Since your organization has already demonstrated a genuine interest in this area, we invite you to respond to these questions to the extent that they are relevant to your activities. In addition, we hope that you will send us any views, counsel or information you believe would assist us in our forthcoming endeavour. If you decide to send us a brief, we hope to receive it as soon as possible, but not later than the end of December.

The Committee does not intend at this stage to hold a long series of hearings. We cannot, therefore, undertake to hear all those who will submit briefs, but we will certainly give serious consideration to all the written representations we will receive.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Lamontagne.

This survey was proposed as part of a report presented to the Senate on July 10, 1975, where the Committee recommended that "it be authorized to consider and report on Canadian governmen and other expenditures on scientific activities and matters related thereto"; this recommendation was approved on July 24, 1975. A copy of the Committee's report to the Senate is attached herewith.

As you will see in that document, our interest in Tutures studies and information goes back to 1972 and has taken a major portion of our time since 1974. You will also note that the leadership role we had assumed in this area, because of the vacuum which then existed, has now been assigned to the Institute for Research on Public Policy. We have therefore decided to maintain our interest in this field but to fulfill a watchdog role. In making a survey of futures studies within the federal government, as part of its broader mandate, the committee's specific objectives are: