

local expenses while you are in that country, including, perhaps, paying your performer(s) a modest per diem. As no foreign currency will be exchanged by your organization to obtain this per diem, it will normally be impossible to exchange any unspent sums into a tradeable foreign currency when leaving the country. Unless someone in the company has changed foreign traveller's cheques or cash, has kept the receipt from the transaction, and is willing to make a deal with the person or persons with local money left over, the only thing to tell your frugal members is to spend all they have before they leave. You will, of course, have warned them about this situation in advance.

Many of the countries with such regulations will ask you to make a declaration of the foreign currency that you are holding when you enter such countries. (This is normally done to limit "black market" trading.) Even if you are to carry quite large sums this should not alarm you providing that you keep all the receipts from every transaction you make while you are there, and the receipts and the balance of foreign currency you have with you when you leave all match. If you are travelling with a large group, allow additional time at your point of departure for such papers to be checked.

GOING FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY

If you have been careful in your calculations, you will not have a lot of foreign cash left when it comes time to leave. But do not forget such last minute expenses as the cost of getting to the airport, porters and airport tax (if your presenter is not paying it as part of your contractual arrangements). You will almost always be best served by changing whatever cash you do have leftover at the airport before you leave that country and *not* by waiting until you get to the next country. Even though you may be dealing

with a currency that is traded internationally, it does not necessarily mean that the currency is traded by every bank and *bureau de change* in the free world.

In most countries you will find that the U.S. dollar and about half-a-dozen other currencies are widely traded, while all others are exchanged by financial institutions specializing in trade with a particular country or region (e.g. even though the Singapore dollar is a strong and widely respected currency, it can only be exchanged in Japan at a branch of a Singaporean bank). Whereas this unofficial list of "preferred" currencies will vary from one region of the world to another, you might be surprised to find that the Canadian dollar is generally accepted almost everywhere.

Some currencies fluctuate in value a lot more than others. Thus, in a touring situation, you must keep your wits about you as you cannot afford to wait until you get to your next destination to start working on your per diem rates and so on.

Get hold of the best available information before you leave Canada. You should certainly be able to determine accurately the rate of exchange you can expect to obtain for the Canadian dollar in the first country you are going to visit before departure. Once you are in the first country, you will have to keep track of the rates of exchange that apply to the currencies of all subsequent countries on your itinerary.

The best way to do this is either to telephone a bank of the next country that you are going to visit and inquire about current rates or to go to a newsagent that specializes in foreign newspapers and buy a newspaper from that next country with a comprehensive business section or a newspaper with a good international business section like the International Herald Tribune. If you do this for several days prior to your next border crossing you will be in the best position to know what to expect and to update the information that was given to you in Canada before you left.