

could better judge visitors' intentions even though they would be working under less pressure than port of entry officers in Canada. And the financial and staff implications of setting up systems and maintaining sufficient officers abroad are considerable. Again, unless a visitor visa system were coupled with an exit monitoring system there would be no way of knowing whether visitors had left Canada.

117. Consequently, the Committee has reservations about the efficacy and practicability of a visitor system and recommends that consideration be given first to the establishment of a combined entry and exit card system. If, after careful monitoring, it proved ineffective, a visitor visa system should be reconsidered.

118. With an entry and exit card system everyone entering Canada except Canadian citizens and landed immigrants, and American citizens, would be required to complete a card in duplicate stating name, passport number, country of citizenship, and intended place of sojourn in Canada. The Immigration Officer would check the card against the passport for authenticity, accuracy, and legibility, and date-stamp and code or number the card and its duplicate. The duplicate (possibly secured to the passport for safekeeping) would be surrendered to the Immigration Officer on departure. A computerized match would then indicate which visitors had, and which had not, departed. This procedure would give only a first lead as to where to look for people suspected of having failed to depart, but it would indicate whom to start looking for, and would for the first time provide some firm evidence of the dimensions of illegal immigration. Knowing that authorities had such records would itself discourage some visitors from overstaying.

119. A limited experiment with entry and exit cards was undertaken in Canada a few years ago, and was subsequently dropped. However, the system introduced at that time involved no inspection on departure and departing visitors were simply invited to drop their forms