

learning systems

Mr. Brown emphasizes that computer-aided teaching systems will not replace teachers, but will relieve them of time-consuming routine tasks making it possible for them to give more attention to the problems of individual students. A carefully designed system can tailor lessons to the needs and the learning rate of the individual student: it can challenge the gifted, enrich the curriculum of the superior student, provide the more repetitious instruction needed by the slow learner and afford the special facilities needed for the disadvantaged and those confined through illness. Probably only a small percentage of a student's time will be occupied with a computer in a conversational mode; much of the learning period likely will be occupied with tutorials and discussion groups under

the teacher's guidance.

A major advantage of such systems is that a computer is impersonal and impartial. A student is not subject to class ridicule if he gives an incorrect answer and the computer can be programmed to provide statements progressively in greater depth until a point is clearly understood by the student.

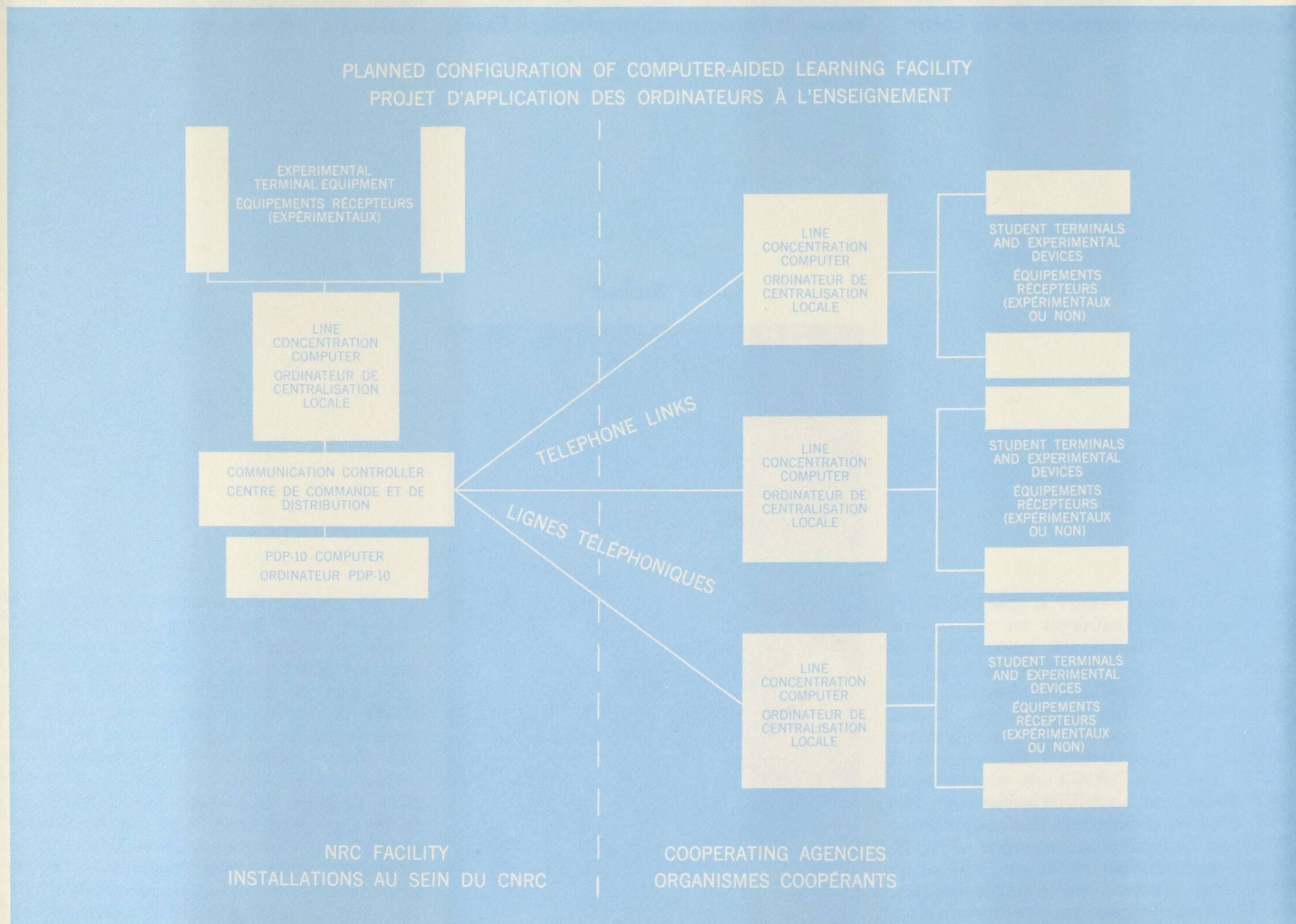
Such systems offer the possibility of a higher level of education for an increasing number of students, and assistance in the retraining of workers displaced by automation and in the training of immigrants.

Mr. Brown says detailed objectives of the program are:

- To provide a central research facility for cooperative development, evaluation and optimization.
- To serve as a nucleus for a national,

cooperative effort where each sector, government, educators and industry serve in their most effective role.

- To provide a source of unbiased advice and expertise.
- To encourage a flourishing Canadian market in educational electronics at home and abroad.
- To avoid fragmentation in this field through central coordination of effort.
- To achieve a sufficient degree of standardization that all educational activities in Canada can benefit from instructional material from any Canadian source.
- To achieve the integration of an information retrieval mode that will permit author, teacher, student and eventually home users, to have access to information banks. □



Remote terminals in cooperating educational groups across Canada may be used to prepare, evaluate and exchange course materials utilizing the NRC PDP-10 computer.

Les cours mis en mémoire dans l'ordinateur PDP-10 sont envoyés par fils jusqu'aux ordinateurs de centralisation locale où les utilisateurs se les procurent.