

To have the Englishman comment on the insignificance of the things that make the Canadian different is small comfort to the Canadian nowadays. He isn't looking for a way to return to the British fold. Nor is he cheered by the American's assertion that the Canadian is his double. That sort of anonymity, in which individuality is related to a mountie or a bad joke about prohibition, is not enough. The Canadians are too rich now, and too much aware of an important future to accept such patronage. As Lester B. Pearson, leader of the Liberal Party, put it, we love the United States but we don't want to marry the brute.

The problem was brought into focus shortly after World War II. It hadn't come to marriage yet, but the love affair was apparent even to the least perceptive. American magazines, American radio, American movies, and eventually American TV were flowing across the border. No one seemed to mind that they virtually eliminated competition from the smaller, less well-heeled Canadian ventures in these fields. The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. attempted to combat this influence by controlling the ratio of American and Canadian content on its programs, as well as the ratio of live to canned broadcasts. Its efforts were under constant fire from the Government opposition and from a large percentage of newspapers, which regarded such control as an invasion of private rights.

The tide began to turn 12 years ago, when the Prime Minister of the then Liberal government, Louis St. Laurent, called for the appointment of a royal commission "to study national development in the arts, letters, and sciences." In one direction lay total absorption by the United States—a long, slow swallow that hardly anyone would notice and that even the victim would not resent. Or if "victim" presents a misleading image (because no blame attaches to America) let us say that Canada would simply smother itself on Columbia's ample breast. In the other direction lay Canadianism. It would be a little synthetic for a while, perhaps; it would mean nurturing regional characteristics that might be considered outmoded in these less isolated times. But if it worked, the Canadians would be able to go back to loving Americans again.

Out of the studies that followed, the 2 years spent in holding hearings across the country, reading documents solicited from organizations and individuals, emerged a 500-page document that came to be known as the Massey report (a tribute to the commission's head, the Right Honorable Vincent Massey, later to become Governor General of Canada). It was a bestseller among Government documents in 1951.

The recommendation of the commission that attracted the widest attention read like this: "We therefore recommend that a body be created to be known as the Canada Council for the Encouragement of the Arts, Letters, Humanities, and Social Sciences, to stimulate and to help voluntary organizations within these fields, to foster Canada's cultural relations abroad, to perform the function of a national commission for UNESCO, and to devise and administer a system of scholarships."

No one has thought of a satisfactory explanation for the 6-year delay between the appearance of the report and the implementation of its most important recommendations. Part of it was due to the objection of Maurice Duplessis, Premier of the predominantly French-speaking (and Roman Catholic) Province of Quebec, to the university capital grants fund. He claimed, with some justice, that it would represent Federal interference in education, a purely provincial field and one that in Quebec is dominated by the Catholic School Commission. To date, no grant has been made from the fund to a Quebec institution. (The Ottawa Government was reluctant to oppose Duplessis, who had been put in power by the Province that contains approximately a third of the voting population of Canada.)

The council was discussed through each session of Parliament, and in 1956 the Liberals managed to delay action for another 7 months with the excuse that qualified members for the council, who had already been selected, were too busy at the time to give their services.

When the act creating the council was finally passed on March 28, 1957, the news reports gave first importance to the method of financing the council. Its funds came from the succession duties on the estates of two millionaires from the Maritime Provinces: Sir James Dunn, who died in his summer home at St. Andrews, New Brunswick, on January 1, 1956, leaving an estate of \$70 million; and Isaac Walton Killam, who had died 5 months before at his fishing camp at Cascapedia Quél, leaving an estate of \$100 million.