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 **Canadian Cultural Nationalism: The Fourth Lester B. Pearson Conference on the Canada-U.S. Relationship ed. by Janice L. Murray (review)**

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REVIEW

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

REVIEWS 115 discourage speculative capital movements, and, especially, reduce tolerance of domestic policies which are inflationary will not be known for some time yet. j.R. BEATTIE Ottawa Canadian Cultural Nationalism: The Fourth Lester B. Pearson Conference on the Canada-U.S. Relationship. Edited by JANICE L. MURRAY. New York, New York University Press, 1977. Pp-x, 39-\$4.95. This is neither a book, nor save for Ramsay Cook's essay on cultural nationalism in Canada-is it history. Readers of the Canadian Historical Review will none the less find its contents interesting, for in bringing together the

wisdom of participants in the Fourth Lester B. Pearson Conference on Canada-U.S. Relations it directs our attention to what is, after all, only the most recent phase of what remains a long-standing national problem: how to encourage a Canadian cultural life in the face of a massive American cultural presence. In its pages, which include, besides Cook's essay, one on Quebec by Solange Chaput-Rolland, another on the United States by Roger Frank Swanson, and a series of reports on and reactions to positions taken at the conference, a lot of underbrush gets cleared away. The essentials of the Canadian government's position in respect of the Time-Reader's Digest controversy and the CRTC's aims in seeking to regulate broadcasting content and deal with the problems of cross-border stations and cable television are set before us. We find outlined once again the consequences a policy of *cultural laissez-faire* would almost certainly entail.

We observe the making of a sharp distinction between policies of cultural promotion and subsidy—those, for example, implemented in the establishment of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Film Board, and the Canada Council—and policies of protectionism—those pursued in the 1970s by the CRTC and by the drafters of the legislation affecting *Time* and *Reader's Digest*—which interfere in the actual structure of what Denis Smith calls the 'cultural market.' Finally, we note the elements of American concern with all of this, and, in particular, see discussed the conditions under which the government might consider it necessary to contemplate retaliation. Not everything in the volume is expository, analytical, or intended to inform. The occasional suggestion for new policy initiatives is made, and at least one of these—a kind of joint commission on Canada-U.S. cultural matters—has unsettling implications. No one would deny that, as a matter of practice, American interests might be affected by Canadian cultural policy they already have been—nor would anyone reject the claim that these effects might have to be the subject of negotiations—such negotiations have already taken place. The suggestion that US officials acquire, in principle, even a muted voice in shaping Canadian cultural policy will, however, be difficult for many Canadians to take seriously. Many of the issues raised here are not new. Some of them—even those that arise out of the use of legislative instruments to alter the character of the cultural market—go back to the nineteenth century. This little volume nonetheless offers a compact guide to contemporary Canadian anti-American thinking on a contentious problem at the same time that it demonstrates that in this as in other rare cases of Canada-US relations, plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. On that account, it is worth looking at by anyone who wants information about the one area of recent national policy-making which has been stifled by more than a measure of nationalist commitment.

ALLAN SMITH University of British Columbia *POTPOURRI* Treaty No. 9: The Negotiations, 1900-1908, pp. 4; Treaty No. 9: The Indian Petitions, 1889-1907, pp. 36; Treaty No. 9: The Half-Breed Question, 1900-1901, pp. 32. JOHN LONG. Cobalt, Ontario, Highway Book Shop, 1978. \$3.00 each. Three short pamphlets documenting various aspects of inter-governmental relations in native policies, the political and administrative processes of treaty-making, and native culture and demands in the vast Treaty 9 region of northern Ontario. The author sets the context, disentangles the chronology of negotiation and policy, and presents the documents themselves. The pamphlets are carefully organized and footnoted. A pity, though, that the material was not shaped into a single, integrated volume.

Yankee Takeover at Cobalt! JOHN PATRICK MURPHY. Cobalt, Ontario, Highway Book Shop, 1977. Pp. 200. \$2.00. Contrary to its somewhat emphatic title, this book is not a study of foreign ownership in the mining industry of northern Ontario. It is, rather, a chatty history of life and mining in and around Cobalt from the discovery of silver in the early 1900s to the collapse of the boom years in the 1920s. For the most part anecdotal, the book is informed by an understanding of geology and early mining technology. The final chapter seems to contain important, but unacknowledged, material on the final mediation of the 1909 strike.

There are photographs, but no notes. Cobalt: Year of the Strike, 1909. BRIAN HOGAN. Cobalt, Ontario, Highway Book Shop, 1978. Pp. 85. \$9.95. A well-researched, carefully organized account of the strike in the silver mines of Cobalt in the summer of 1909. Early chapters set the context of industrial conflict in the postwar era and detail the history of...

discourage speculative capital movements, and, especially, reduce tolerance of domestic policies which are arbitrary without being known for a time and yet

— R. BENTLEY —
 1956

Canadian Cultural Nationalism. The Fourth Lester B. Pearson Conference on the Canada-U.S. Relationship. Edited by JANICE L. MURRAY. New York, New York University Press, 1977. Pp. x + 339. \$4.95.

This is neither a book nor — save for Ramsay Cook's essay on cultural nationalism in Canada — is it mainly. Readers of the *Canadian Historical Review* will nonetheless find its contents interesting, for it brings together the collective wisdom of participants in the Fourth Lester B. Pearson Conference on Canada-U.S. Relations and draws our attention to what is, after all, only the most recent phase of what remains a long-standing national problem: how to encourage a Canadian cultural life in the face of a massive American cultural presence. In its pages, which include, besides Cook's essay, one on Quebec by Serge C. Payer-Roland, another on the United States by Roger Brian Swainson, and a series of reports on and reactions to positions taken at the conference, a lot of underbrush gets cleared away. The essentials of the Canadian government's position in respect of the *Time-Reader's Digest* controversy and the various aims in seeking to regulate broadcasting content and deal with the problems of cross-border stations and cablevision are set before us. We find ourselves reminded once again, the consequences of a policy of cultural laissez-faire would almost certainly entail for Canada. We observe the making of a sharp distinction between policies of cultural promotion and subsidy — those, for example, implemented in the establishment of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Film Board, and the Canada Council — and policies of protection — those pursued in the 1970s by the executive and by the drafters of the legislation affecting *Time and Reader's Digest* — which interfere in the actual functioning of what Denis Smith calls the cultural market. Finally, we note the elements of American concern with all of this, and, in particular, see discussed the conditions under which the Canadian government might consider it necessary to contemplate retaliation.

Not everything in the volume is expository, analytical, or intended to inform. The occasional suggestion for new policy initiatives is made, and at least one of these — that a kind of joint commission on Canada's cultural matters be created — has interesting implications. No one would deny that, as a matter of principle, American measures might be affected by Canadian cultural policy — they already have been — nor would anyone reject the claim that these effects ought to be the subject of negotiations — such negotiations have already taken place. The suggestion that our officials acquire, in principle, even a rudimentary





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