

Quill and Quire (May, 1973)

THE CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, Matthew J. Abrams, The Canadian Institute of International Affairs and the Parliamentary Centre for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, \$3.75 paper, 140 pp.

Every Canadian Senator and Member of the House of Commons is entitled to participate in at least six parliamentary associations where legislators from various countries meet, discuss matters of common interest and in some cases pass resolutions or make recommendations to their governments. During the last Parliament (1968-1972) an average of more than one hundred places per year were available on Canadian delegations to meetings of such associations. Yet despite the increasing time, money and energy spent on these bodies they are hardly known outside parliamentary circles. This book deals with one such association and the Canadian Institute of International Affairs and the Parliamentary Centre for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade are to be commended for undertaking the publication of a book which not only recounts the history of the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group but also examines its impact on legislative behaviour in each country and adds significantly to our knowledge in the general area of Canadian-American relations.

This book is a revised version of the author's doctoral dissertation which was presented to Columbia University in 1971. Its theme is that while the Parliamentary Group does not have a direct influence on either legislative or executive decision making it has had an impact on the attitudes of individual delegates to its meetings. The author's conclusions are based primarily on interviews with more than 150 parliamentarians, congressmen and legislative officials in both countries. This material is supported with references to relevant studies in sociology and psychology as well as political science. The author might be criticized for the superficial way his concluding chapter compares the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group with certain other parliamentary organizations. But this can be explained by the almost complete absence of previous studies on parliamentary associations. In short this is a good and original book, not written in a day and not manufactured out of books read the day before. *Gary Levy*