

The fifth and final volume of Michalos' comprehensive study into the quality of life in Canada and the United States discusses economics, religion, and morality. The two nations are compared on such measures as GNP per capita, savings rate, income inequality, and net public debt. They are also compared on such indicators as belief in God, divorce rates and average family size. But because the author himself has very little confidence in assessment of religiosity--saying at one point that "the evidence is so meager that its hardly worth saying at all" (p. 147)--only those indicators relating to economics and morality need be reviewed here.

With respect to economics, Michalos' general conclusion is that the "quality of life in Canada is higher than that in the United States". This is so, he finds, because Canada does better than the United States when such things as manufacturing output, female income levels, and the female unemployment rate<sup>1</sup> are compared. Canada, the author finds, also outperforms the United States on such measures as the rate of bankruptcy and the level of the net public debt. Interestingly, though, the U.S. is found to do better on such indicators as the percent of poor people, taxes as a percent of GNP, and income inequality.

As for morality and social customs, Canada is yet again discovered to be ahead. She is found to outperform the United States on such indicators as one-parent-families, the divorce rate and prejudice. Canadians, polling data reveal, also seem to be generally more content than Americans.

What conclusion can be drawn about the overall quality of life from the statistics presented in this and preceding volumes? Michalos' evaluative schema--a method that often

*1 How about distribution of wealth?*

Inv 83192

FT 353-1

gives as much weight to aggregate levels as it does to positive changes and trends-- suggests that the quality of life in Canada is superior to that in the United States. In fact, after analyzing statistics compiled for the 13 issue areas with which his volumes have dealt, Michalos is able to boldly assert that Canada, at least for the decade between 1964 and 1974, was ahead by a score of 884 to 775--a decisive margin indeed.

F10

Inl 83192

FT 353-2