

to the maintenance of a single nation, as, in fact, our motto over the House of Commons puts it in Ottawa — "The wholesome sea is at her gates, her gates both east and west".

We in Canada, like you in the United States but in a slightly different way, have demonstrated throughout our history a genius for compromise in the most appropriate sense of that word. Like you, we have an enormous amount of sheer geography to contend with. Like you, we have opted for the federal system, although in our case with a parliamentary democracy rather than the Congressional system. But apart from these slight distinctions, I do not believe that there are two countries anywhere in the world that have been by tradition and by heritage — and one could even say by instinct — more prepared to provide diversity for their citizens, to provide the maximum degree of openness and opportunity for the expression of the widest possible range of views and for the gratification of the widest range of individual desire.

And so I repeat that, while we in Canada have our difficulties, they are not significantly different from those of countries such as your own, where, for instance, you have demonstrated such remarkable courage, remarkable ingenuity, in dealing with the inevitable problems of minorities, in dealing with the inevitable alienations that can set in when one has such a spectrum of states or provinces, each of which tends on occasion to feel itself remote from the centre, to feel itself in some way deprived, as I know, for instance, this region did for a very long time, and as my own Maritime or Atlantic Provinces still feel in terms of the Canadian mosaic.

So I really wanted to say these few words as a background against which to talk about some aspects of Canada/United States relations. On that subject let me begin by saying that no two countries in the world are as close as Canada and the United States and, while the normal diplomatic techniques that have been developed over centuries have a great value and are essential in terms of preserving an ordinary relation between countries, and, indeed, in some instances avoiding certain tensions that can exist below the surface, the Canada/United States relation calls for considerably more than just the routine or standard diplomatic approach. We Canadians are increasingly anxious to ensure that we get to know far more than we do at present about you, and I say (in the kindest fashion, of course) that it is important that the United States gets to know more about us.

There is something of a dichotomy in the situation, where, though our relations are coming closer and closer together in economic terms and in political terms, nevertheless, the gap of knowledge — of hard, real knowledge about each other — has actually been widening over time. And there are many perfectly defensible reasons for that. But, in the years of challenge that lie ahead for us, where our destinies, in a great many respects, are inextricably linked, it is going to be of increasing importance to us to ensure that the flow of communication and of contacts is increased and improved. We have the mechanisms in place. We, for instance, have something like 15 or 16 consulates throughout the United States. We have one of our most distinguished public servants and our best-known diplomatic leader in the person of His Excellency, Mr. Jake Warren, whom I am happy to have with us today,

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