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A FORTUNATE SYMBOL OF GOOD NEIGHBOUR RELATIONS

On August 21, Prime Minister L.B. Pearson joined President L.B. Johnson in the laying of the cornerstone of the new Visitors' Pavilion at Roosevelt-Campobello International Park, New Brunswick. His remarks on that occasion follow in part:

It is a great privilege to take part with the President in this further development of the Roosevelt-Campobello Memorial Park. Two years ago yesterday, our wives were the principal speakers... in an even more significant ceremony – the official opening of the Park itself. Today's ceremony shows that this imaginative and important idea of an International Park at Campobello, as a memorial to a very great man and as a tribute to the good neighbourhood of two great nations, has made a great appeal to the people on both sides of the border....

SIGNIFICANT SYMBOL

Mr. President, when we signed the agreement in the White House on behalf of our two governments establishing the Roosevelt-Campobello International Park, we were providing for the kind of memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt he would have best appreciated.

I had not seen Campobello when the idea was first broached. I do not think President Johnson had either. But we both recognized, as President Kennedy had before us and as the Hammer family had done, when they so generously offered the property to the Canadian and United States Governments, what a happy and significant symbol it would be of that special relationship that has developed between our two countries and our two peoples over the years.

A FRENCH-CANADIAN TEXAN

Why, Mr. President, that relationship even includes the influence of Canada on the history of your own

State of Texas. I do not think it is generally known that one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence of Texas in 1836 was a Canadian, Michel Menard, who was born in 1805 in the then village of Laprairie near Montreal. His memory is commemorated in the name of the town and county of Menard which is, I understand, 100 miles or so from Johnson City. We are proud of this Canadian contribution to Texas independence – long before Texas took over the U.S.A.

In his first inaugural address, Franklin Roosevelt spoke words which had a very special meaning for Canadians as the first Presidential expression of his "good-neighbour policy". But neighbours, however good, particularly those that have long common fences, are bound to have their differences. So it is with us. The significance of our relationship is that we have learned to resolve our differences in the way good neighbours should always resolve them, in a spirit of moderation and conciliation, with mutual understanding and common sense.

AN OLD CONTROVERSY

This good-neighbourhood did not just happen. Indeed, was not always so. Why, even peaceful and beautiful Campobello Island itself, now a symbol of our friendship, in the early years of the nineteenth century was the object of some controversy as to whether it should be a part of the United States or of Canada. Happily, it did not at that time, nor has it since, inflamed passions in governments as deeply as it did those of Charles Dudley Warner, a noble son of New England, and a distinguished editor and essayist, who wrote in 1874 "It was impossible to prevent our cheeks mantling with shame as we...saw ourselves, free American citizens, landlocked by alien soil in our own harbour. We ought to have war, if war is