



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made at the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Dominion Marine Association and Lake Carriers' Association, Seignior Club, Montebello, P.Q., January 21, 1953.

...Few outside the lake shipping industry itself realize how much we owe to the Canadian and American vessels which ply their way on the waters of the Great Lakes, and to the men who sail in them.

The layman's ignorance is perhaps most readily tested by his (or her) reaction to the following brief description which I recently read in a publication with which our friend Mr. Donovan will be familiar: "She may not be a thing of beauty - judged alongside her racy sisters - but she is strong and true and efficient."

To the layman this might appear to be a description of his wife by a doting husband. To any lake shipper, however, it is clearly recognizable as a description of the Laker which serves the needs of transportation on our great inland waterways.

I know there is a long tradition of friendship between the Dominion Marine Association and the Lake Carriers' Association. That tradition reflects, in terms of common interests and friendly co-operation, the solid foundation on which Canadian-United States friendship is built. In a world of sudden storms and often dense fog, our two peoples, like the men of the two great marine services on the inland lakes, have learned to chart their courses together. Over many years, we have tackled our joint problems with an honesty and directness and frankness which occasionally surprises and perhaps even shocks some people in other countries, but which, we know from experience, is the best way for us. I am glad to be able to acknowledge this friendship as a new administration and a new President take over - as the guard of freedom is changed. All Canadians wish President Eisenhower well. No man has greater claim on our gratitude, our affection and our respect than the Great Captain who led us through the trials and crises of World War II, and who has now accepted the call to leadership in an even greater crusade, the fight to protect the peace after the victory which he did so much to win. May he be given strength and guidance in the days ahead.

In the terribly difficult days ahead, our countries are bound to have differences as our relations become even closer and more important. We must not allow