

A miracle of scientific lore,  
 Ships he can guide across the pathless sea,  
 And tell you all their cunning; he can read  
 The inside of the earth, and spell the stars;  
 He knows the policies of foreign lands;  
 Can string you names of districts, cities, towns,  
 The whole world over, tight as beads of dew  
 Upon a gossamer thread; he sifts, he weighs;  
 All things are put to question; he must live  
 Knowing that he grows wiser every day  
 Or else not live at all, and seeing too  
 Each little drop of wisdom as it falls  
 Into the dimpling cistern of his heart:  
 For this unnatural growth the trainer blame,  
 Pity the tree.—Poor human vanity,

That is the tendency.

**Mr. Sharp:** Beautifully done.

**Mr. Friesen:** I see that the individual who is standing in for the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) appreciates poetry, and I compliment him for that.

**An hon. Member:** It's better than your usual speech.

**Mr. Friesen:** He could not but enjoy Wordsworth.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** He said that you are better than average tonight.

**Mr. Friesen:** The fact is I think so too!

**An hon. Member:** If it were only shorter!

**Mr. Friesen:** The fact is that we have abstracted ourselves in another devastating way. We are so pleased with what we have accomplished we are walking about, like Nebuchadnezzar saying, "Look at this great Babylon I have built; look what I have accomplished." We are just the same as he, so impressed with what we have accomplished we have forgotten that all our accomplishments are built on past wisdom.

Some months ago the Secretary of State introduced Bill C-33 and we passed it. It was designed to preserve our antiques, our works of art, and our cultural artifacts. That was a good bill, because you see the past is the prologue to the present. From the past we gain reference points which we need for today to measure ourselves. We think today that we have accomplished a lot by our architecture, our science, and our engineering. If we look at only our accomplishments and think we have arrived at a reasonable design and development, then all we need to do is look into the past and see that there were other civilizations which had done equally well, and in some cases maybe even better.

● (2050)

The anthropology books and the archaeology books are full of examples of past societies in which the plumbing, I am sure, was in many ways as good if not better than ours. The library in Alexandria was so filled with books that when the Turks captured the city they used the books as fuel for 20 years. Where would we be without the mathematics of Newton and Kepler, or the research of Pasteur?

### *Non-Canadian Publications*

What would Buckminster Fuller have done without the mathematics of the Egyptians? Where would medicine be today without the work done by the Greeks and Moslems, and where would Picasso be without the exposure to the primitivism of African art? Bertholt Brecht learned from Shaw, who learned from Shakespeare, who learned from the Greeks. Here we have wheels within wheels within wheels. Unless we catch the inextricable bond we have with the past we lose our moorings, we drift on a sea of disassociated human entities.

**An hon. Member:** You are adrift.

**Mr. Friesen:** Some people here missed the drift a long time ago. Today we have become so cocky we have conned ourselves into an existential nightmare thinking that we can never discover our authentic selves unless we cut our moorings from each other and from our past.

**An hon. Member:** Look at yourself.

**Mr. Friesen:** Sometimes I do. I do examine myself on these scores. When we disassociate ourselves from the past that is where the confusion begins and is compounded, and we actually lose our identity. The beautiful part of life is that we find our identity when we relate to each other not separate from each other. We become persons when we identify with people rather than disassociate ourselves from them. We find our wholeness in cosmic relationships, not fragmented abstract ones. That is precisely what publications like *M.D.*, *Art* or religious publications are all about. These publications are here not to see what they can get out of us but what they can impart to us.

They want to leave with us their richness and the fullness of relatedness. These periodicals join us to our humanity; they unite us to our total being. They enrich us by relating us to our past and to our present. These are the humanizing vehicles. They give the doctor, the engineer, the physicist, and the layman contact with themselves, and contact with their past. They do this so that these people can better relate to the people around about them.

Specialty periodicals abound. They sharpen the intellect. There are some whose total mission is to tenderize the heart. They are here to serve. And we want to make it more difficult for them. We want to see how we can complicate their work and make it more difficult for them to operate in Canada. Have we become so small, so smug, so isolated in our nationalism that we feel we have need of nothing? And is our national identity so fragile and our economy so brittle that we feel threatened by a few thousand magazines? Have we become so dehumanized that we have not only lost all feeling but do not even remember what it is like to have that need?

If we deny publications like *M.D.*, fine arts periodicals or religious periodicals the right of free access into our offices, into our minds, and into our hearts, we are of all men most miserable. We will in fact hasten the day of 1984, a brave new world, a clockwork orange. If we let our feelings grow beyond our intellect we will become as confused children. But if we let our rational being, our intellect outstrip our sense of feeling, we will become machines, robots, goose-stepping our way to self destruction. We get periodicals like those I have mentioned not