

NORTH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

MR. PEARSON'S ADDRESS: Canada's role as the "junior member of a North American partnership" was discussed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, in an address at Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, on February 21. He said, in part:

"We are the junior member of a North American partnership which will not be dissolved by Communist blandishment or isolationist timidity. You will not be surprised, however, if the junior partner occasionally expresses its own point of view and in the North American idiom. We do this because freedom is the basis and the glory of our partnership; a partnership far removed from the kind of relationship between a Communist dictatorial power and its obedient satellites. Occasional disagreement only emphasizes its fundamental unity.

"Let those who would divide the nations of the free world coalition remember that the things that hold us together are far stronger than those that would pull us apart. That is especially true of the friendship between Canada and the United States.

BEACON OF HOPE

"If in the stormy world of today that friendship shines as a steady beacon of hope and confidence, it is not because we have no problems to solve or difficulties to face. There are lots of these - economic and political - and they will doubtless increase as the relations between the two countries continue to grow in importance.

"We are more conscious of these problems than you are because they loom larger on our more limited horizon. All of them, continental defence arrangements, trade problems, St. Lawrence Seaway delays, border-crossing and security difficulties, all these and many others make up what could be quite a budget of trouble.

"While we do not need to get too excited over these increasingly complex problems, we should not try to conceal them by comforting platitudes about the 125 years of peace or the undefended border.

"It is in our joint interest and it follows our joint tradition to work out solutions to

our mutual problems which will be fair and just; will leave no bitterness and breed no strife. In the process Canadians - being North Americans - will protect their own rights and interests. But we will also realize, I hope, that these rights and interests - indeed, our whole future - is inseparable from yours.

"You will find Canada no automatic 'yes-man' but a staunch and loyal friend, especially in time of difficulty. From 1914 to 1918, and from 1939 to 1945 Canada, when she was not as strong or united or self-reliant as she is now, gave proof - for us tragic proof - that her men were willing to die in battle for a good cause. We are also giving evidence now of our will to participate in a collective effort to prevent a recurrence of such a tragedy. In this spirit many thousands of young Canadians went to Korea. Many thousands are also serving today under the banner of NATO in Europe, including the men who are flying 300 Canadian-built front line jet fighters. Since the end of the war we have also made available to our friends mutual aid which if expressed in terms of your national income, would amount to almost 57 billion dollars' worth. Nearly half of our budget is today devoted to defence.

SIDE OF FREEDOM

"Canada is a young country, crying out for development; a country of vast distances, expensive and difficult to govern and to administer. Hers is not a determining voice when the big international decisions are to be made, nor will her contribution be decisive in the conference room or where the conflict rages. It might therefore be tempting to try to stand aside in any struggle between the giants and excuse that course by arguing that those who call the tune should pay the piper.

"But that is not the way we feel about it. The conflict today is not between empires, or between one super-power and another, but between freedom and slavery, despotism and democracy, right and wrong. So we range ourselves on the side of freedom, under the leadership of the United States of America, and we will play, I hope, a good part in the long and unending fight for peace and a decent world."

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1952-53 WHEAT POOL: In announcing the Government's decision to close out the 1952-53 wheat pool as of January 30, 1954, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. C.D. Howe, said, in part, in the House of Commons on February 25:

"The final surplus in the 1952-53 pool is \$58,282,438.38 after deducting the Prairie Farm Assistance Act levy and final payment expenses and adding estimated interest earnings subsequent to January 30, 1954. This is the net surplus payable to producers and

amounts to an average of 10.934 cents per bushel on their deliveries to the 1952-53 pool.

"I might add that including the proceeds of the interim payment last fall, which amounted to \$63,962,036.83, the total surplus in the 1952-53 pool was \$122,244,475.21 over and above the adjusted initial price of \$1.60 per bushel basis No. 1 Northern in store Ft. William/Pt. Arthur or Vancouver. This compares with the final surplus in the 1951-52 pool of \$114,585,112.69.