

ourselves completely to the task of developing our part of the North American continent. However, not many years passed before another and perhaps even greater menace began to loom on the international horizon. In 1950 we Canadians responded to the call of the United Nations to send our own men once more to halt aggression, this time in far off Asia.

To prevent a similar outbreak of international lawlessness in Europe we took the historic step in 1949 of joining a military alliance in time of peace in order to prevent Europe from being once more overrun and devastated. Since that time we have been spending in the neighbourhood of two billion dollars a year on national defence. This figure represents about half of our federal budget, a sum which all of us would much rather be devoting to our internal development. But despite this unhappy but essential diversion of our national energy, Canada has developed and is developing at a far faster rate today than at any other period of her history. We all look forward to the moment when such heavy expenditures on defence can be diminished with safety and we can devote our resources more completely to the arts of peace.

Regrettably, with the very survival of our way of life at stake, priority has had to be given to those studies which can achieve the maximum of physical safety in the shortest period of time. But to continue to over-emphasize the immediately practical to the detriment of the humanities would be short-sighted indeed. We would find in time that those values we are trying to protect had disappeared through atrophy and that we would become members of a mechanical and soulless society not too different from the one which threatens us today.

Canadians should be grateful for the work being done by the Humanities Research Council to keep up an interest in the humanities, which after all are a vital force in our kind of democracy.

It is appreciated, I believe, that your work seems to be done in the face of both public apathy and financial difficulty. You are therefore to be commended all the more for your efforts in the face of such formidable obstacles. Your achievements have been considerable in spite of these problems and I would be presumptuous indeed were I to attempt to summarize them. Nevertheless, I do feel that I would be a most ungrateful guest if I did not make reference to some of the achievements of the Humanities Research Council of Canada.

The sixteen scholars who comprise the membership of the Council by their research in the humanities are continuing to emphasize those things which are of lasting value in a free society. But the Council's work goes beyond this in its contribution to our nation's spiritual and intellectual resources. You have made possible the publication of important books which a commercial market would not have made available to scholars and to the reading public. By the pre-doctoral fellowships which the Council has granted you have enabled Canadian scholars to do valuable