

to say that there are few neighbouring states in the world between which ordinary day to day life is so completely intertwined. There are few families in Canada which have not relatives living somewhere in the United States. Many of our clubs and other societies straddle the border, read the same magazines, listen to the same radio programmes, watch the same movies, and, for better or for worse, are exposed to the same quiz programmes. Commercially we are each other's best customers. Between no two other nations is there such a free interchange of ideas and products.

These intimate contacts at the citizen level are matched by a network of inter-governmental arrangements more complex than between any other two nations. In the realm of defence, we have the Permanent Joint Board, established in 1940; and, of course, NORAD, the jointly operated air defence command responsible for the air defence of the continent as a whole. For boundary questions, we have the International Joint Commission which, I believe, is an example to the world of how trans-boundary resources can be dealt with in a civilized and equitable way. Supplementing these formal arrangements are the inter-parliamentary groups which find members of the Canadian Parliament and of the United States Congress meeting annually or oftener to exchange ideas to the common benefit of both legislatures. At the ministerial level there are two standing committees, one on trade and economic matters and the other on defence. Less than three weeks ago, my colleagues the Ministers of Finance, Defence and Defence Production and I attended a meeting of the Canada-United States Defence Committee at Camp David at which we not only discussed frankly problems of bilateral defence concern, but also exchanged views on the broad range of international problems facing the world today.

Now I am not going to pretend that we never have any differences of opinion with our southern neighbours; we do, and these differences invariably get free play in the press of both countries. It is inevitable that the impact of a large population such as that of the United States on her much less populated neighbour is profound, and that we cannot afford to be complacent if we wish to preserve our separate identity as a nation. It is the Government's policy to speak up frankly when Canadian national interests are suffering as a consequence of United States policies. I would stress the word "frankly" but hasten to add that we get as good as we give. This is the way friends face and overcome their differences -- and I am sure you would have it no other way.

4. Canada and Latin America

As we survey Canada's role in world affairs, we should never neglect the close friendship we enjoy with other nations of the Western Hemisphere -- the 20 Latin American