

many of whom have lost everything in the holocaust of war, can look to the future with hope, surely we who have suffered so little can be confident in our ability to go forward building on our secure foundations of economic, social and political freedom.

My third test, the test of political unity, of growth in our efficiency as a political organism is the most difficult to apply, for it is intangible, a thing of the spirit which cannot be measured or counted.

"Canadian statesmen", says Professor Lower in his recent stimulating history of Canada, "Colony to Nation", "accomplished one of the greatest acts of state-building in history when in 1867 they brought together scattered provinces and two peoples into one country. Though the extremists would more than once have wrecked it, the structure built has never failed in crises to rally to it the moderate men from both races. It has stood through the storms of two world wars. In every generation Canadians have had to rework the miracle of their political existence. Canada has been created because there has existed within the hearts of its people a determination to build for themselves an enduring home. Canada is a supreme act of faith."

Yes, the founding of Canada was indeed a supreme act of faith. And I believe that I can say today, without boasting, that the faith of our fathers is being justified in this generation. A nation has emerged distinctively Canadian, not just a group of provinces or a group of peoples united for certain common purposes. We have had our domestic squabbles, bitter at times as family quarrels frequently are, but we have emerged from the second world war with our unity strengthened by working together in a cause greater than ourselves, with a new sense of pride in a great achievement and a deepened consciousness of the glory and the responsibilities that we are to share. We as one of the so-called "Middle Powers" have been in full accord with the far-sighted and magnanimous leadership shown by your great country in the European Aid Program and now in the discussions which are proceeding for a defensive pact of the countries bordering the North Atlantic aimed at making more assured the future peace of the world.

There is one development in the political field which seems to me to have a unique significance, the agreement reached at Ottawa last month between the representatives of Newfoundland and Canada on the terms for a political union of the two countries. Many of you will recall that twice in the past Newfoundland has considered confederation with Canada, but that on both occasions the two countries were unable to reach agreement. This time we hope that the dream of a federal union embracing all of the former British colonies in the northern half of North America will be realized. We now expect that the necessary legislation embodying the terms of union will be passed by the Parliaments of Canada and the United Kingdom in time for the actual union to take place on March 31st next.

It is our earnest hope that this larger union of peoples who spring from a common heritage, held together by bonds of mutual economic advantage and friendly intercourse, and displaying for all the world to see the advantages of democratic parliamentary institutions, will fulfill the prediction of the old proverb "In unity there is strength". In a world divided by ideological differences, mistrust and ignorance, it is encouraging to find an example of this sort -- an example of a people, a proud people with a fine tradition, voluntarily and without any semblance of outside pressure, agreeing to throw in its lot with another people. It is also a challenge to Canadians to do everything possible to make sure that the new partnership will justify the faith of those who brought it about and promote greater prosperity, greater security, and greater happiness for the people of Newfoundland.

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