

of foreign and economic policy. The paper will, of course, deal fully with the more traditional concentrations of Canadian foreign policy: our commitment to arms control, to international organizations and our leadership in international development. But there will be an emphasis on Canada's ability to compete which is both untraditional and inescapable.

Some critics suggest that the Government is overdoing the consultative process. You may remember the death-bed scene of Gertrude Stein: her faithful companion, Alice B. Tolkas, hovered over the alert Miss Stein and, ever hopeful of one last piece of advice asked, "Gertrude, Gertrude, what is the answer?" Miss Stein, with one last twinkle in her closing eyes, responded, "Alice, Alice, what is the question?"

I believe that we know the questions. The answers may be another matter.

One area where we are bringing in a new style and searching for new answers is the organization and management of our relations with the United States. That is a subject on which Canadians are schizophrenic.

On one level, our two countries are closely integrated. We share the most intensive and extensive trading relationship in the world; we are avid partners in marching to the fads and fashions that emanate from New York, California and, now, Toronto; television programs and movies are as likely to be produced in Montreal and Alberta as they are in Hollywood; the same books and other vehicles of creativity and excellence sell as well in Vancouver and St. John's as they do in Dallas and Minneapolis; and in medical transplants, the donors and recipients are as likely to come from opposite sides of the 49th parallel as they are from within the same country.

In one sense, we are all more North American than we are either American or Canadian. Many of the forces that make countries and peoples unique operate on a continental basis in North America. I believe most Canadians and Americans accept that and have little difficulty in dealing with the consequences.

There is, however, one significant caveat. Canadians appreciate the unique and distinctive life that we have created for ourselves on the top half of North America. We do not and will not accept policies and programs that alter the fundamental nature of the Canadian community. Most of the serious continuing problems in managing the relationship between Canada and the United States can be traced to that issue.

Most Canadians, in most cases, are pleased to take advantage of the very good neighbourhood we share with the United States. A whole series of bargains have been struck, and will continue to be. As long as these are seen to offer no profound damage to the distinctive Canadian community, they will find firm support. But that is a moving line and the challenge for a new government is to understand and define where the continent ends and the country begins. That this challenge is becoming more difficult is a mark of maturity, not frailty.

Canadians today are different from what we were 30, 20 or even 10 years ago. There is abroad in

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