



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Excerpts from a speech given at
Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.,
U.S.A., Sunday, June 8, 1958, by
Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, Prime
Minister of Canada

I am honoured to be admitted to the fellowship of Wesleyan College which, for more than a century and a quarter, has been in the forefront of outstanding colleges dedicated to the liberal arts and noted for their hospitality to freedom.

I regard it as an honour given not to me personally but to my country, whose relations with yours are unequalled anywhere among the nations...

With freedom challenged today in all parts of the world, and with the emphasis that is being placed on material things of defence and survival, there has developed in the conscience of many good and responsible people a demand that universities should endeavour to achieve a virtual monopoly of scientific training and research.

While the encouragement of science must receive emphatic support not only to meet the international emergency but to assure the continuing benefit of mankind, I am of those who believe that for the universities of the free world to forsake the encouragement of the spiritual things and enthrone the machine would be a course as dangerous as it would be short-sighted. To meet the challenge of the tyranny of Communism does not mean that we must adopt the techniques of its tyranny.

To repudiate emphasis on the things which make for the freedom of the human spirit, or to subvert education to materialistic purposes would, in the longer perspective, cause the irretrievable loss of freedom.

In my college days, science promised its uses for the benefit of mankind and humanity's golden age. Communism would make its use the moral cockpit of mankind, having adopted science as an essential means of dominating mankind.