

Secondly - and I know you agree - we must not over-emphasize the similarities between Canada and the United States for fear that we shall forget the differences. We have referred already to some of these. There are, however, other differences which we may have passed over too lightly. If it were not for the differences, there might not be very much purpose in having an international boundary at all. To illustrate, our nations are alike in that both are profoundly wedded to a democratic system of government based on adult suffrage, and in having a federal structure of government. But we have organized our democracy in quite a different way from yours. Except in municipal politics, our only public elections are elections to provincial or federal legislatures. Our administrations, both federal and provincial, are headed by ministers coming from the dominant party in the legislatures and sitting in them. We cannot have a situation in which the executive government is controlled by one part and the legislature by another, because the legislature can then vote the executive government out of office, and promptly does so. All this may sound a little involved and abstract, but it has important practical results since it means that a deadlock between Cabinet and Parliament - between, that is, Administration and Legislature - is impossible. In the conduct of government, and in the attitude of the public toward it, this results in profound and subtle differences between the politics of our two countries.

Nevertheless, we come back to the essential thing. Even if it may seem at times to the people of one country that the other country is acting selfishly or short-sightedly, we do not distrust each other. We know full well that our international problems will be settled peacefully, that each country will be ready sooner or later to arrive at a just compromise through negotiation, and that never in any circumstances will there be a resort to force. That, as you have said, Mr. Ahterton, is the achievement of the common people of our two countries, and we are, one and all, convinced that it is an achievement of enduring worth.