

VISIT TO OTTAWA OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN

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Government Luncheon, Chateau Laurier
Wednesday, June , 1947

Mr. President, and honourable members of the Parliament of Canada:

This is a memorable and a happy day in the history of Canada. Today, we welcome on his first official visit to Canada, the President of the United States. More especially we welcome him to Ottawa, as the nation's capital; and in this company of members of both Houses of the Parliament of Canada, that welcome takes on a representative quality and color which I believe cannot be exceeded elsewhere.

We are all delighted that the President has been able to make a visit to Ottawa this year, and we are especially pleased that Mrs. Truman and Miss Truman have accompanied the President to Ottawa. To all of them we express our most cordial greetings.

This gathering of members of the Parliament of Canada is a reminder of the development of representative and democratic institutions in two neighbouring and freedom-loving communities of peoples in the western world. Nearly two hundred years have gone by since the original meeting of the first representative assemblies in what today is Canada. The United States of America was already five years old, and President Washington was in the fourth year of his first term of office, when the first representative assemblies of Lower and Upper Canada met together.