

But when it appeared to us in 1951 that eventual ratification was unlikely, the Canadian Government decided that it would embark on this project of deepening the existing navigation channels on its own.

We Canadians are most conscious of the benefits that the United States as well as Canada will enjoy in the improvement of this international section of the St. Lawrence by admitting coastal and ocean-going vessels to our Great Lakes ports. We are most anxious to get on with the job, because of the increasing need for water-carried traffic and because of the interest of Ontario and New York in the hydro-electric potential which will be harnessed in conjunction with this development. Approval was quickly received from the International Joint Commission for the power project and, in Canada, the Province of Ontario really needs this additional electrical energy and is able and ready and anxious to build its share of the power works, which, of course, require a dam extending from either side of the river and meeting in mid-stream. In the United States, the New York State Power Authority is anxious to proceed with the American share of the undertaking as soon as it can get a licence from the Federal Power Commission to which it applied last October after the favourable decision of the International Joint Commission was announced. We in Canada are waiting anxiously for the results of that application because without the dam the development of the Seaway itself cannot be started.

These then are some of the matters we have been discussing. Primarily, though, the purpose of my visit has been, as I said earlier, to continue that warm and friendly relationship which has long existed between the heads of the governments of our two countries.

That personal contact helps to maintain the unique relationship between Canada and the United States.

I had occasion to put our relationship in what I believe is its proper perspective two years ago when I had the honour of introducing Mr. Vincent Auriol, the President of the French Republic, to our Canadian Parliament. Since I was not then speaking to Americans, I can repeat my words without any fear of being charged with flattering you. President Auriol had just come to Canada after spending a few days in the United States and that was why I said: "Here in Canada you will not fail to note the close, friendly relations which bind us to our southern neighbours, and also the untrammelled independence we enjoy in our own land. If our frontiers bordered on those of some grasping imperialistic neighbouring state, we might not have this opportunity of welcoming you in a free Parliament as the distinguished and respected head of a free France. Canada is, I think, the best evidence, permanent and historic evidence, of the peaceful purposes of the United States".