

Throughout the years there has been a movement of peoples between our countries. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, have gone from Canada to the New England states, and great numbers from the United States have settled in Canada. Indeed, sir, Massachusetts holds a special place in my heart and sentiment, for two of my wife's ancestors, Brewster and Warren, were of the Mayflower company that laid the foundations of democracy in the new world in the British tradition.

I summarize the relations between our countries as represented in your presence here today by that inscription on the St. Lawrence seaway granite plaque which reads:

This stone bears witness to the common purpose of two nations whose frontiers are the frontiers of friendship, whose ways are the ways of freedom, and whose works are the works of peace.

We have our problems in trade; we have them in defence. I am of those who believe this, that no nation in the world today by itself can provide for adequate defence. Canada cannot. I say to you, sir, that one of the abiding things of this gathering has been the fact that we realize this fact, that we together have a responsibility to each other to maintain jointly our defences for the benefit of freedom.

That brings me to the next question, and it is this; the need for unity in addition to security. Co-operation in defence and economically is a price that all freedom loving nations, great and small, not only in NATO but everywhere in the world, must pay; for the prize of co-operation may be freedom itself.

I think great benefit comes to us by your visit, sir, in that you again have the opportunity of stating some of the principles upon which the western world stands. I have felt that we have failed among the western nations to state in simple terms the things in which we believe so that all mankind may understand that those principles shall recognize the equality of all peoples, that each and all shall work for the benefit of the other.

Great responsibilities rest upon those such as yourself who are the leaders of the free world. Leaders will not always be right in their decisions. Sometimes they will be on the wrong side. That is of the essence of democracy; but as long as they are never on the side of wrong, freedom will not suffer.

You have a great responsibility as the leader of the world's most powerful nation; young in years, old in experience, scholar, veteran, author, statesman. When I was in Ireland a few weeks ago—and Ireland is the rock whence you were hewn, sir—I was told something of your ancestry, shown the arms of the O'Kennedys of Ormonde and of

the Fitzgeralds, renowned in Irish history as the "Geraldines". And I was shown a poem about the Geraldines written by the poet-patriot Thomas Davis who, incidentally, was the most famous Dublin associate of one of Canada's fathers of Confederation, Thomas D'Arcy McGee, one verse of which has significance today:

"These Geraldines! These Geraldines! rain
Wears away the rock
And time may wear away the tribe
That stood the battle's shock;
But ever, sure, while one is left of all
That honoured race,
In front of freedom's chivalry is that
Fitzgerald's place."

That is your place today, Mr. President. And I express the wish, not only on behalf of my fellow Canadians but of all people who love freedom everywhere that you may be richly endowed—in thought with faith, in words with wisdom, in deed with courage, and always in service.

In these qualities is greatness. These qualities I have in mind when I present to the Senate and the House of Commons the President of the United States.

Hon. John F. Kennedy (President of the United States): Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. Prime Minister, members of the Canadian Houses of Parliament, distinguished guests and friends.

I am grateful for the generous remarks and kind sentiments expressed toward my country and myself, Mr. Prime Minister. We in the United States have an impression that this country is made up of descendants of the English and the French, but I was glad to hear some applause coming from the very back benches when you mentioned Ireland. I am sure they are making progress forward.

(Translation):

I feel I am truly among friends.

(Text):

It is a deeply felt honour to address this distinguished legislative body, yet may I say I feel very much at home with you here today, for one third of my life was spent in the parliament of my own country, the United States congress. There are many differences between this body and mine. The most noticeable to me is the lofty appearance of statesmanship which is on the faces of the members of the Senate, who realize that they will never have to place their case before the people again. I feel at home here also because I remember in my own state of Massachusetts many friends and former constituents who are of Canadian descent. Among the voters of Massachusetts who were born outside the United States the largest group