

they would want to extend to you. If, as I said, the planet is becoming a global village, then this is the house next door. You are both, both of you, as plainly and as fully welcome as that, and then to find that hosting you could be enjoyable as well, well, that's a bonus which we shall keep in our memory and treasure. Thank you. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Your Excellency, I think this matter of humor and laughing or ribbing that may take place, I know that in World War II that Winston Churchill said of your fighting men and ours and his own that we seemed to be the only people in the world that could laugh and fight at the same time. Now, I don't think he had in mind carrying that over into peacetime. So, we won't try to do that. But Nancy and I want to thank you for your warm words and generous welcome to this land of friends.

Friendship is not easily defined, but today I think I gained a better understanding of what our friendship means to each other. As we arrived this morning on Parliament Hill, we crossed Ottawa's Rideau Canal. Now, the old canal now nearly 150 years old winds through Ottawa as a reminder of our relationship. (Laughter.) I learned that it was built by an engineer who planned it as a military defense to protect Canada from the United States. (Laughter.) Once intended to protect your nation from mine in war, it's now a place of serene peace. In the winter it becomes one of the longest skating rinks anywhere. And in the summer it charms visitors, and I've been told with the weeping willows that arch over it -- but I didn't see that portion of it where there were weeping willows, but I trust they are there.

Canada's Gratin O'Leary once noted that this canal "tells the blessed thing that has come between these two countries and which today has roots deeper than before. That's friendship." An historian once described the vast and wealthy continent that we share as "a boundless vision of great forests, silent mountains and wilderness oceans mingling with the sky." Your national motto is "A mare usque ad mar," from sea to sea. And in the United States, we sing of "America the beautiful, from sea to shining sea".

Our people know that our nations were forged in this like heritage. Our people inherited the resilience of those who first opened the mighty waterways which cross and thus give life to our continent, the Mississippi, the Columbia, the Saint Lawrence, the Great Lakes. We've grown up with our own national characters. But we share the independence and self-reliance of courageous pioneers such as Cartier, LaSalle, Lewis and Clarke and McKenzie.

Yet we also share the frontiersman's dependence on his neighbor, a trait that came to us early when settlers turned to each other