

share to criticize and argue in words that cannot be softened by translation. At times it seems to assist us in learning more easily the wrong things rather than the right ones about each other. I must confess that I could wish that one or two American newspapers and magazines were published in Tamil and that one or two radio or television commentators carried on in Swahili. And I'm sure the feeling is the same here about the use of the English language by certain speakers and writers in Canada and the United Kingdom.

#### Common Language Dilemma

A Canadian, Bruce Hutchison, writing in an American publication a few weeks ago, quoted a wise old Cambridge don on this common language dilemma, as follows:

"Most of our troubles with the Americans stem from the awful barrier of a common language. Since they speak the same language, the British and Americans expect each other to be the same sort of people. When they turn out to be utterly different both are disappointed and angered, as if the other fellows had somehow let them down. An Englishman isn't disturbed when a Frenchman eats snails or keeps a mistress. That is the French way. But when the American chews gum, dresses oddly, uses a queer accent or starts a fight in a pub, we find it inexcusable because it isn't British. And the Americans feel the same way about us."

Nevertheless, to continue on a less cynical note, while unity among *all* free peoples is essential for peace and progress, there is a special reason for and importance to unity among those peoples whose common use of the English language, whatever disadvantages it may occasionally have, does symbolize the important truth that we derive so much of our culture, institutions, ideas and customs from a common ancestry. We are very close together, in an ever shrinking world, and though propinquity does not make necessarily for peace, as any honest married man or woman in this audience will testify, it does impose on those who are together a special necessity and a special responsibility for staying together, with a minimum of friction and a maximum of understanding and good will.

Well, *are* we staying together? You might be pardoned for some pessimism if you read or listen to certain shrill and noisy persons on both sides of the ocean. Their irritable and sometimes violent words, however, should not, I suggest, be mistaken for the voice of the people. There is no reason to believe that we are not at one in our determination to work closely together to preserve the peace against aggression and for other good purposes. Nevertheless, there are, in this difficult and trying period of political trench warfare, many stresses and strains on the great free world coalition, of which the English-speaking countries form the core.

#### Inevitable Differences

It is, of course, inevitable that we should have our differences and that we should express them. Such right of expression is the price we pay for freedom. But we are foolish and worse when, by rash, ill-tempered or irresponsible utterances, we make that price any higher than it need be. When we do so, we give comfort only to those whose aggressive and subversive policies threaten us and who fear our free world unity even more than they fear our strength.

One danger to our close co-operation is the tendency here and there in English-speaking non-American countries to express, occasionally in irritating terms, anxiety at the power which the United States has acquired and criticism of the way that power is being used. This has gone so far in certain quarters as to evoke a feeling of nostalgia over the good old days when the United States was isolationist and the British could always send a cruiser.

It is customary these days, and very wise, to plead, for patience in the face of the difficulties that stem from the Cold War, for a minimum of provocation and a maximum of steadiness and understanding. I suggest that one way of strengthening English-speaking unity is for the rest of us to show some of that patience—and understanding—of American leadership and American policy. We should also not hesitate to speak out in public recognition of the generosity, the constructive energy and imagination of the American people as they carry the Atlantean burden of world leadership and power; something which they never sought but which they are bearing in a way which may already have meant our salvation from those aggressive, expansionist forces eager to destroy our freedom and erase our future.

We Canadians claim the special privilege, as a close neighbour and a candid friend, of grouching about our big, our overwhelming partner, and of complaining at some of the less attractive manifestations of her way of life. It makes our own junior status seem relatively superior and helps us forget some of our own problems and mistakes. But we Canadians also know, from our own experiences and from our relationship with the United States, which is closer than that of any other country, that the sound and fury of contemporary clamour, while it may at times mar and even conceal, cannot destroy the noble qualities and the deep strength of this land on whom there now rests (for there is no other strong foundation) the hopes of all peoples, not merely English-speaking peoples, for free existence.

The ceaseless roar of Broadway is only a small part of the American scene and behind the pushing and shoving of the Manhattan crowds are millions of good and godly people, in quiet New England towns, on the rich soil of the Midwest, or in thousands of other places where Americans are working hard and unselfishly to build up a good