

Our relations with Asia, Africa and Latin America are developing quickly and significantly. This is important for us and welcomed by us, but the Atlantic triangle, the Atlantic Community, continues to occupy a central place in our affairs and in our concern.

It would be invidious to suggest whether one side of the triangle has greater significance for us than the others. But there is no doubt that the square of the problems on the American side exceeds the sum of those on the other two. So far as we are concerned, the square of the benefits on that particular side may also, of course, be disproportionately large, as we Canadians do well to remind ourselves. Both the problems and benefits come from the importance and the intimacy of our relationship with the United States. Canadians and Americans are all mixed-up, together. Mixtures are rarely perfect, but usually stimulating. They develop interesting tastes and an occasional headache.

If Canada and the United States were not trading with each other to an extent, as our chairman has pointed out, not equalled by any two countries in the world, there would be fewer trade problems between us. If Canadian and United States industries were not so closely linked together, there would be fewer problems resulting from investment connections, inter-company relations and control policies. If United States and Canadian labour did not have joint unions, naturally headquartered in the United States, certain serious international labour difficulties that have recently disturbed us would not have arisen.

We should be careful not to ignore or minimize these problems, but we should also be careful not to distort and misrepresent them. When Canada seeks to defend her own national interests, and this causes difficulties, as it sometimes does, for certain United States interests, we are charged by some with being anti-American. The charge is usually made with a feeling of shock and surprise; we are your best friends, and hardly a foreign country, at all. Et tu, Brute!

This flattering identification by assimilation often confuses real issues. The chairman, referring to the closeness of our relationship, said that in Canada you can get your hair cut while you are having your shoes shined in the United States. That's true, I believe; it's also true, you can get your hair cut in Canada and your hair curled in the United States, and vice-versa! This merely means our people are very close together!

Our peoples are so close together, so friendly. They talk together about the same things and in language that is clear and understandable. Our economies and our activities are so intertwined that, when we in Canada do something by national action to protect a national interest, we are charged, more often in sorrow than in anger, with acting not like North Americans but "like Canadians".

Canada - A Separate Nation

It would be wise for Americans to consider any Canadian government as a friendly, foreign government whose first responsibility is the protection of the national interests of its own people, which includes as a very important