



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE WESTERN WORLD IN SEARCH OF A VISION

An Address by the Right Honourable L. B. Pearson,
Prime Minister of Canada, at the Atlantic Union
Award Dinner, Springfield, Illinois, June 11, 1966.

In conferring on me an Atlantic Union Pioneer award this afternoon, you have done me high honour for which I am very grateful. You have confirmed my admission into ranks of the Atlantic Pioneer Corps, and have chosen for the confirmation this historic setting of New Salem and Springfield, steeped in memories of one of the towering figures of history.

At the same time you have added to my feeling of grateful appreciation by coupling my name with those of Christian Herter and Adlai Stevenson as recipients of the Atlantic award. I know, as you do, how much we owe to these two men. Not only the United States and Canada, not only the Atlantic Community, but the whole world is in their debt.

Mr. Herter is an old and valued friend, about whom I will say only that high ideals and constructive achievement have characterized everything he has done, in the service of his country and of free men. I wish he could have been with us this evening.

Adlai Stevenson was also my friend. When he died I tried, as many others did, to pay him tribute. We all tried and I think we all failed, because it is still too soon to take the true measure of this man and his contribution to our times. He wore out more than his shoe-leather in the persistent and patient search for peace and better relations between nations. In spite of all the difficulties (sometimes it seemed the impossibilities), in spite even of his own occasional doubts, he served with grace and distinction, with devotion and wisdom, the vision of what the world could be and what it must become. His was a more significant service than anything a man could do for himself or for his own political aspirations. Though he was denied the Presidency of his country in favour of others who shared his ideals, he gave an inspiring lead, especially at the United Nations, to his own people and to all people in the search for those ultimate and essential goals which we must reach or perish.

As I look back on the years through which we have passed since the second great war of this century, I am struck by the fact that our destinies have depended so very much on the vision and leadership of a few men; on their