

There is also some inevitable formality about the various state occasions in which chiefs of diplomatic missions participate, such as the annual dinner and reception given by the President at the White House and the affairs staged by many Embassies on their national days. I should not like to leave the impression, however, that there are no lighthearted moments of frivolity in the life of Canadian representatives abroad.

I have now described the chief functions of the Canadian Embassy in Washington. Similar functions are performed by any Canadian diplomatic mission, but their relative importance varies from post to post. They can be summarized as, first, the duty of collecting, assessing, and forwarding information of use to the Canadian Government about the policies and activities of the United States Government; secondly, of negotiating on a wide range of matters from the very important to the trivial; thirdly, of seeking to ensure that decisions of the United States Government affecting Canadian interests are taken in knowledge of these interests; fourthly, of assisting in spreading accurate information about Canada in the United States; fifthly, of protecting the interests of Canadians when they are affected by acts of the United States Government; and sixthly, of representing the Government of Canada, formally and informally, on many occasions, official, social and otherwise. In addition, there is the special work of acting for Canada on a considerable number of international bodies which now hold meetings in Washington. None of these functions is the exclusive responsibility of the Embassy and thus its activities are complementary to what is done in other ways both by official and by unofficial agencies.

They add up to a very considerable volume of business. During the first five months of this year, over three thousand official messages between Ottawa and Washington and vice versa were transmitted by the teletype connecting the Department of External Affairs and the Embassy. The number of written communications sent by diplomatic bags was of the same order of magnitude. This covers only a part of the correspondence of the Embassy, since it relates only to communications between it and the Department of External Affairs.

The life of a Canadian representative in Washington is not a leisurly one and the pace is not slow. We cannot look forward to a slackening of the pace, for events are crowding upon us. If one could consider in isolation the relations between Canada and the United States, there would be little cause for concern and much reason for gratification. But in a world so interdependent and at the same time so disjointed as ours is today, that would be to adopt the attitude of an ostrich. The problems of foreign policy are more numerous and more difficult than they were during the war years; for then we had a supreme test by which to judge what should be done, whether or not it would contribute effectively to the defeat of the enemy.

Now, we are moving through a murkier atmosphere. There are few people, except for the devotees of the gospel of Karl Marx and some simple-minded believers in panaceas and fine phrases, who are confident that they could "grasp this sorry Scheme of Things entire" and "re-mould it nearer to the Heart's Desire". The magnificent and appalling achievement of the scientists in releasing atomic energy has intensified the problems of the post-war era. It is typical of our disenchanted age that when atomic energy is mentioned, people instinctively think in terms of atomic bombs, instead of the enormously beneficial uses of this incredible source of power which will in time be developed.

There is a story about the man who said, "This begins to look quite serious" as they started to slip the noose over his head at dawn. "But", he added, "at least it will teach me a good lesson." It did! Though things are certainly looking quite serious, there is time to learn a good lesson in a less drastic way. The world is still a long distance from another war, but it is also a long distance from peace and stability. We in Canada cannot do a great deal to bring them about, but we must do what we can. We have done our best to aid in building up a saner international order by loyal