

In the cultivation of such a level of public opinion, in developing the wide popular base on which foreign policy of a democracy must rest, I can think of no more suitably constituted forums than the Canadian Clubs. In speaking to the last Biennial Conference in London in 1956, I said that the Canadian Clubs, throughout their history, had been talking clubs, and I hope that they will continue to be just that, for the type of talk we value is not chatter, but informed talk leading to thought and then to intelligent action. This pattern has, of course, a relevance for all the frontiers of our national experience, be they economic, cultural or intellectual. I pray, however, that I may be forgiven for universalizing my own concerns, if I propose that this pattern has a special relevance for the international frontier, where the need for an awareness of the problems on the part of the people as well as on the part of the diplomatic pick and shovel gangs, has never been greater.

To the opening and expansion of this relatively new frontier in our experience the Association of Canadian Clubs can - and, I am confident, will - make as great a contribution as they have in developing other phases of the sense of Canadianism which we seek to promote.

For Canadians, as for all who respond to the challenges of an unknown land beyond the frontier whether it be geographical or the uncharted regions of human understanding or in the swamps or the mountain ranges of international affairs, the attitude which we must nurture for our action and our course of progress is curiosity. "Where there is much desire to learn" and I quote from the Areopagitica - "there of necessity will be much arguing, much writing, many opinions; for opinion in good men is but knowledge in the making". With the addition of the words "many meetings and speeches", I think that this piece of Miltonian prose might well serve as a motto for the Association, pointing as it does to the essential relationship between the form of our modus operandi and the objectives which we seek to promote throughout and through Canada.

I have spoken of the objectives of our Association in terms of the development of a vital sense of Canadianism, and of expanding the horizons of our experience as Canadians, in rather general terms but while I am still on my presidential feet, I wish to move in the manner of Euclidian deduction from the general to the specific and to explore for a moment something which will be a milestone of the past and a frontier for the present.