



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

58/23

THE SURVIVAL OF FREEDOM

An address delivered by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker at Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Quebec, June 14, 1958

The life of this university spans the history of Canada from its small beginnings in 1843, and it has been, from the days of its small beginnings, one of Canada's centres of light and learning. According to the intention of its founders, Bishop's was to have two functions: "to offer to the country at large the blessing of a sound and liberal education upon reasonable terms", and to provide training for future clergy.

Since the launching of Sputnik and other events recording Soviet achievement, we have been plunged into a renewed and sterner struggle between the liberal arts and sciences. The modern view is humourously expressed in a new version of Gilbert and Sullivan's epigram:

"Every boy and every girl that's born
into the world this year
Must be a little scientist or a little
engineer."

To meet the challenge of the tyranny of Communism does not mean that we must adopt the techniques of its tyranny.

Over-emphasis of scientific achievement and production at the expense of the spiritual things may achieve temporary advantages but will ultimately lead to the loss of freedom.

The danger to mankind's survival was anticipated with prophetic accuracy by the Right Honourable Herbert Asquith, one of the First War Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, when, in 1920, he said:

"The experience of this war has made actual what was unimaginable before. But there are, or would be, if the old system were continued, two new factors at work. The first and most obvious is the unexplored and still incalculable effect of the harnessing of science to the chariot of destruction. We have seen