



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 59/5

THE NEED FOR A DECLARATION OF FREEDOM'S CREED

Notes of a speech by Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, to the Convocation of the University of Toronto, on January 12, 1959.

My deep appreciation of the honour you have bestowed on me is enhanced by the attributes of this university which have won world-wide renown, not only in the field of learning, but also among men of practical affairs. No Canadian can be made a member of the family of the University of Toronto without being aware that he has entered into the privileged society of one of the ranking universities of the world.

Of the pre-eminence of the achievements of the University of Toronto in many different faculties, there is general agreement. This university has won highest renown all over the world in the superlative degree to which the university has served, and serves, Canada in adapting the pursuit of learning to the material, as well as to the cultural, welfare of this nation in particular, and to the nations of the world in general.

This university has made its contribution to every facet of Canadian life. To public life it has given to this nation two Prime Ministers and many other leaders, national and provincial, and in the international field I have but to mention the present Secretary of State for External Affairs and his predecessor in office, the Leader of the Opposition.

This is an age of scientific advancement and physical exploration. The mind of man is moved as it has not been since the first Elizabethan age, in the spirit of adventure, and in the field of exploration, as for example, the climb of Mount Everest, and the explorations of Fuchs in the Antarctic; the Nautilus moving four hundred feet under polar ice for eighteen hundred miles, or the variety of satellites that have woven their longitudinal patterns around the globe these last sixteen months and now, more dramatically than ever before, the fingering of space by man, as the recent Russian rocket speeds its way around the orbit of the sun.