

*The Address—Mr. Drew*

which the effective co-operation of all the free nations must at all times depend. For us it is of the utmost importance that there be the most complete understanding and co-operation between Canada, Great Britain and the United States. To a very considerable extent the defence planning of the whole free world depends upon the closest possible integration of the efforts of these three nations.

Never did the friendly partnership of the British commonwealth mean more to us than it does in these extremely critical days. In addition to all its previous traditions and continuing strength, it stands as an example and demonstration to the whole world that sovereign nations can work together in the closest harmony with no stronger bond than a great and abiding belief in the value of that friendship. For us the starting point of all that co-operation is Great Britain, and for that reason geography has decided that we are not only destined to live side by side with the United States, but that we are also the contact point between the United States, Great Britain and the whole of the commonwealth, which by the complete freedom of its association has a great and impressive role to play in encouraging that close friendship and understanding among all nations which we now know so well to be the only hope of a firm and lasting peace.

It is equally imperative that we have the most effective and closest understanding between our own country and the United States. Although our population is relatively small, and although their vast productive power and national strength have made them the sheet anchor for the whole free world, we are in many ways their most important partner, because of the resources with which this very fortunate land has been endowed. For the sake of our own future and the wider partnership of all free nations, it is of primary importance that Canada make no move in the international field which might lead to any misunderstanding between these two nations, which stand before the whole world as a bright example of what international friendship can really be between nations lying side by side.

In saying this I am not suggesting that we should blindly follow either Great Britain or the United States. On the contrary I assert with the utmost emphasis my own belief that Canada should at all times have a distinctly Canadian policy which would have as its first and most compelling influence the future growth, prosperity and development of Canada itself. But at this time it seems to me that while we must at all times protect our own future and our own independence, we have no choice but to recognize the fact

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that, with a population which is less than one-tenth that of the United States and very much less than that of Britain, there are obvious reasons why the responsibility of international leadership falls mainly upon them, and why it is so important that we should at all times maintain the closest and most intimate relationships with them.

I do not intend to say any more at this time about international affairs, because I think we should first have from the government a statement which will review the events of the past few weeks and indicate the course which the government proposes to follow. In the speech from the throne the references to international affairs are in such general terms that they offer little help in considering this subject at the moment. For the reasons I have already indicated, I shall reserve my comments on the policies of the government in relation to external affairs until we have received the information which the Prime Minister has told us will be placed before us before the end of the week.

A careful examination of the speech from the throne offers little assistance in reaching a conclusion as to what the government really intends to do. The best evidence of this is the extent to which there is already widespread speculation in the press and elsewhere as to the interpretation of different phrases in that speech. We all agree that there is increased danger, as the speech tells us. We all knew that; it would be hard for anybody to escape that knowledge. We also knew that the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force were carrying out certain duties in Korea, and that one battalion of the Canadian Army special force had arrived there for further training. We had also learned, with great satisfaction, of the appointment of General Eisenhower as the supreme commander of the integrated European forces. We also knew that the government had indicated on a number of occasions its willingness to proceed with the construction of the St. Lawrence seaway in co-operation with the appropriate authorities in the United States. The press and the radio had carried extensive reports about the setting up of a new department of defence production, and also about the intention to extend the powers of the government to deal with defence and economic problems. There is also reference to appropriate amendments to legislation affecting the members of the armed forces, which it was obvious would be required. Beyond that there is nothing new except the vague reference to withdrawing the rights of citizenship from those who have been disloyal to Canada. This hardly seems to be an effec-