



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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No. 54/40 CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES - OUR AREA  
OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made at the University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y., September 2, 1954.

I am delighted to be here, for more than one reason. For one thing, I am a graduate of this University, even though without benefit of or hindrance by examination. For another, it is good to see so many old friends. Then, also, I enjoy American-Canadian occasions, especially non-official ones. This particular occasion has a particular claim on both my interest and my support. It marks the inauguration of an annual series of conferences on Canada-United States relations, as a regular activity of the new Canadian studies programme sponsored by the University of Rochester.

This is an imaginative and valuable contribution to a better and more informed understanding of our mutual problems. I would like, personally and officially, to thank those who are responsible in this University for the idea, and those who have worked so hard to carry it out. In this connection, I hope that I may be permitted to make special mention of Dr. Gilbert.

In an earlier age, it would have been unusual for the Minister responsible for foreign affairs to be the spokesman of his Government at a conference dealing with economic matters. Today, however, we know that international political affairs cannot be separated from economic conditions and relationships. I was, therefore, not too surprised when I learned that the subject which you allotted to me had to do with our common economic interests and the possibilities for co-operation - and conflict - between us in that field.

It should be no surprise to anyone that the organizers of this conference have taken for granted that Canada and the United States do have economic interests in common. The very fact that we are such close and inter-dependent neighbours has itself given rise to a great variety of mutual interests in this as in other fields. It has no doubt made it easier for intimate association in economic endeavours to be developed between our people and for a volume of trade to be built up, which is now far larger than that between any other two countries in the world.

It might be a mistake, however, to read too much into the geographical accident that we share the same continent. If our countries were to be towed out to sea