

ADDRESS  
of  
RICHARD M. NIXON  
*President of the United States of America*  
to  
Both Houses of Parliament  
in the  
HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBER, OTTAWA  
on  
Friday, April 14, 1972

*The President was welcomed by the Right Honourable P. E. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and thanked by the Honourable Lucien Lamoureux, Speaker of the House of Commons.*

• (1510)

**Hon. Lucien Lamoureux (Speaker of the House of Commons):** I now call upon the Right Honourable, the Prime Minister to introduce the President of the United States.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. President of the United States, Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, members of the Parliament of Canada:

On behalf of the people of Canada, and of their parliamentary representatives gathered in this chamber, I extend to you, Mr. President, and to Mrs. Nixon, a warm welcome to Ottawa.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** You, Sir, are the fifth holder of your office to honour a joint session of the Parliament of Canada. Because your colleague President Eisenhower visited this place twice, your address will be the sixth such to be heard here.

[Translation]

You see before you, Mr. President, Canadians from every corner of this far-flung land we call Canada. They reflect not just the geography of the country but as well the great mixture of peoples which adds such richness and variety to our national life. The different origins of many of these men and women, and the languages they speak, illustrate the diversity of Canada. Their presence in the Chamber symbolizes our unity of purpose and our devotion to our parliamentary heritage. Part of that tradition was carried from France to England by the Norman conqueror nine centuries ago. It blossomed there and found its way naturally to Canada where it serves us admirably, and distinguishes us from the many countries elsewhere in the hemisphere.

[English]

Your presence here today, Mr. President, is striking evidence of the flexible yet harmonious relationship which has evolved over the years between the United States and Canada. Our two countries and our two peo-

ples have much in common, but they are not identical in their moods nor in their interests, and it is a disservice to a proper understanding of one another if we overlook these distinctions. Our friendship is more dynamic because of our differences, and our relationship deeper and wider. Those differences stem from a past which, parallel to yours, is distinctive; and from governmental institutions which preserve like values but by different means.

In our meetings this morning we spoke a common language, employing familiar idioms, recalling an entwined history, and discussing problems identifiable to each in terms of values we share and respect. What other two countries in the world can offer to their peoples and leaders such a contribution to understanding?

What is the effect on Canada and Canadians of the existence next door to us of the great country of America? Certainly, it is one of stimulation. There is little that the United States does that is not felt or noticed in Canada. Your lofty goals, your good natured hospitality, your successes and your failures, your accomplishments and your shortcomings, your throbbing vitality, are all deeply imprinted in the collective conscience of Canadians. Understandably, there is little that Canadians do which they do not compare with similar activity in the United States.

Our relationship with you is too complex to be described, too involved to be understood fully, too deeply entrenched to be disregarded. We are no more capable of living in isolation from you than we are desirous of doing so. For those reasons, the basic friendship of Canada in the past several decades has been taken for granted by the United States, as we have accepted yours. I assure you that that friendship will continue for it is a permanent feature of our relationship with you. It will adjust to circumstance and be made more articulate in the process, but it is not regarded by us as negotiable.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** It is that friendship that has contributed immeasurably to the high degree of economic well-being, physical security and general happiness enjoyed by the peoples of both countries.

It is as an expression of that friendship that we welcome you, Sir, to this special session of the Parliament of Canada.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Lucien Lamoureux (Speaker of the House of Commons):** I will call upon the President of the United States.

[Translation]

**Mr. Richard M. Nixon (President of the United States):** Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. Speaker of