



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### CANADA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

An address by the Minister of Trade and Commerce  
Mr. C.D. Howe, delivered at the Town Hall series  
of lectures, Town Hall Auditorium, New York,  
April 7, 1953.

... Because we have a common language, and virtually no barriers to intercommunication, we are apt to take it for granted that Canadians and Americans understand each other as well as any two peoples ever can. I am not so sure. A friend of mine, a professor of history, once remarked that he did not agree that countries with a common language enjoy friendlier relationships than those with different languages. He was able to cite many instances from the past to prove his point. Of course, I do not for a moment doubt that Canada and the United States will always be on friendly terms. Anything else is inconceivable. But having been a citizen of both countries, I am by no means satisfied that we make the best use of the opportunities available to promote mutual confidence and fruitful co-operation.

For many years, Canadian - American relationships suffered from a lack of interest in Canada, by all but a few Americans. That situation has changed. These Town Hall talks themselves are evidence of the change. From neglect, however, the pendulum now shows signs of swinging to the other extreme. Canada is in danger of being over-dramatized. I shall feel happier when this sudden burst of enthusiasm is replaced by a glow of steady and perhaps more critical interest.

When Canada is held up as an example of political stability and financial virtue, naturally enough, Canadians are gratified. We also like to learn that Americans are impressed by the rapid development of our country in recent years. ...

Even if this kind of attention is a welcome change from the neglect of earlier years, it has its dangers. While some of your leading newspapers point with approval to the way in which Canada balances her budget, others seize upon this fact as evidence that Canada is not carrying its share of the burden of defending the free world. The truth is, of course, that the Canadian budget has been balanced by imposing sufficient taxes to pay for the ordinary costs of government plus the costs of defence. Incidentally, the Canadian defence programme bears comparison with that of any other country of comparable size and wealth. I can assure you that there are at least as many complaints about taxes from Canadians as there are from Americans.

Perhaps this is more than enough of general comment, and it is time to get into my subject. I have been preceded in these talks by an outstanding group of spokesmen