

As Henry Ford II recently put it, the time has come to "step forth with a hard-hitting programme to speed the peaceful and orderly development of the under-developed areas of the earth and help them to adjust to life in the new age of technology."

The Path To The Future

Today, history is at the crossroads. The turn we now take will affect the future course of mankind, not for a year or two but for many generations to come. The great question of our time is whether the world will follow the high road of freedom or stumble into Communism's dead-end street.

Here on this continent we have learned that free men in a free society can put to shame all the hollow promises of Communism and its blind philosophy. Our task is to demonstrate to all the world and particularly to the unpledged millions in the great nations of Asia and the Far East that the temptation of Communist propaganda and the strength of Communist force can never match the productivity and humanity of a free society.

In our two countries not all voters think alike on matters of economic and social policy. That is natural and right under our democratic system. But the great majority do share the deep-seated instinct to produce adventurously, abundantly, so that this continent can be in truth a brave new world and so that even the humblest of our fellow-citizens can still find opportunity to sustain themselves on a decent level of life.

For we in the United States and Canada have demonstrated, to the confusion of Communism and all other unproductive and sterile systems, that we can convert each hour of effort into more goods and services than anywhere else in the world. We have also learned the secret of this century: that to endure, prosperity must be shared. We have learned to work out responsible protective measures, measures within our capacity, to quarantine poverty so that its contagion will not, neglected, leave an entire generation sick and dispirited. If in countries like the United States and Canada, the people and their governments are prepared to go on safeguarding freedom, maintaining economic stability, and caring for the human problems of the individual citizen, this continent can, and will in truth, provide the kind of leadership demanded by its role of responsibility in this Twentieth Century. This is the North American pattern for peaceful progress, for in the words of Thomas Jefferson:

"The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government."

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