

The magnificent co-operation that was achieved between our two countries during the war was made possible by the simplicity of the objective. Everyone realized that nothing must be allowed to interfere with the winning of the war. In the result, the objective was attained without disturbance to the pattern of our industrial system. Looking at the problem solely from the commercial point of view, the special exchanges of goods across our common boundary did not interfere with the welfare of any individual groups in either of our countries.

The problems that we face today are no less serious than those we faced during the war years. Unfortunately, the objectives are not as clear, and the fundamentals not so well understood, in our two countries. Whether we like it or not, the peoples of the world today are divided into three distinct groups -- those who have an abiding faith in what we call democracy, which, in the last analysis, is a recognition of the supremacy of the individual over the state; those who have accepted totalitarianism, which acknowledges the supremacy of the state over the individual; and the third group, those who are trying to decide which of these two systems offers them the best hope for the future. Under these circumstances, there can be no doubt of the importance of the example set by the democracies, and particularly the importance of maintaining prosperity and a high level of employment in their territories.

In the 1930's, when the level of industrial activity was falling, and we were faced with declining employment, solutions took the form of countries trying to live within themselves. We all know what happened. This time the stakes for which we are playing are even greater and failure would mean throwing away all the efforts and sacrifices of the war years. Above all else, the trade which crosses the Canadian-American boundary must be made an example of what can be done between two like-minded sovereign states, and a model for our trade relations with other like-minded countries.

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