



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, at a Federation of Agriculture luncheon, held at London, Ontario, January 27, 1954.

It is a pleasure to be here with you today, and to talk to the members of your Federation, an organization which has established such an important place in the life of Canada.

We hear a lot these days about expansion and development in our great and growing country. Encouraging and exciting things are happening. New areas are being opened, new vistas are unfolding, new resources being developed, new records being made. It is all very thrilling and gives cause for justifiable pride in Canada - and in the people who are doing these things. All this development, this energy, this broadening and deepening of national activity, is knitting our country together into a cohesive unity and strength that gives us great hope for the future; if even more startling advances in the science and chemistry of destruction give any country hope for any future.

We should not forget, however, and I know that you do not forget, that the soil and the men who till it, without regard to 40 hour 5 day weeks, remain the basis, the solid foundation of the national structure.

Farming, like every other activity today, bears the marks of mechanical and industrial progress - which has made the farmer's work, and especially his wife's work somewhat easier and more attractive; it also reflects the problems and the complexities of contemporary national and international political and economic life, which in its turn has forced government into the picture, both in the production and marketing aspect of agriculture.

Agriculture today, to a greater and greater extent, has become closely related to the policy of government; and not only that of its own government. A decree in some far off country whose very location may be somewhat vague to a Canadian farmer, may, nevertheless, have an important bearing on whether his wife will be able to buy that new electric washing machine. It is a chastening thought which should be kept in mind as we talk about our independence and our sovereignty and control of our own affairs.