

*Canadian
evolution
need not fear
relations
with United States*

unimportant issues are not allowed to get out of hand and our efforts are concentrated on resolution of the problems that really matter, acknowledging them on both sides for what they are, and avoiding the temptation of reading into our disagreements any wider hostility. If we can do this, if we can conduct our relations in a spirit of co-operation and work together towards the many goals we share while holding fast to what we see as our own vital interests, there is no reason to fear that relations with the United States will constrain the further evolution of Canada's identity. But this, of course, presumes that the Canadian sense of identity continues to allow for the fact of living together in North America and reflects a reasonable sensitivity to the interests of our neighbour to the south.

In the field of foreign affairs it is to be remembered that the diversification of Canada's foreign relations as an element in implementing the Third Option is

designed to supplement our relations with the United States, not to supplant them. This idea has been accepted by the U.S. Administration as natural to a country of Canada's stature — always provided that the thrust of such diversification is not anti-American or its application discriminatory.

The relationship of Canada with the United States is more important to us than that with any other country. It is no longer "special", in the sense of a quasi-automatic willingness to adjust policies to take account of the other's interests, it is certainly without equal elsewhere in scope, depth, pervasiveness, complexity and intimacy. The Third Option recognizes and responds to the uniqueness of this situation.

In today's world, I think that most Americans would ask nothing better than to live "distinct from but in harmony with" their Canadian friends and would readily concede our right to do the same.

Sharing the continent

The sharing has been done: now we need equitable dividing

A nationalist's formula

By Mel Hurtig

There are three serious problems for the future of Canadian-American relations: not the takeover of Saskatchewan potash, not the protracted demise of the Canadian edition of *Time*, not the border television dispute, not the Foreign Investment Review Act, not the Auto Pact, not the projected Mackenzie Valley pipeline or increasing Canadian natural-gas prices or decreasing oil exports. All these are comparatively lesser problems, all are symptomatic of the real difficulties. The basic problems have been around for a very long time, but, for a number of reasons, only recently have they caused much friction

between the U.S. and Canada. Things are likely to get worse before they get better. Unless there are some important changes they could get much worse.

Here are the three serious problems:

- (1) an unfortunate ignorance about Canada on the part of U.S. political policy-makers, businessmen, and the population in general, largely owing to indifference, but also because of
- (2) the failure of the Canadian Government to understand, to respond adequately to and to interpret to the Canadians the reasons for the changing mood in Canada, much of which stems from the dawning realization of
- (3) the debilitating economic results, in Canada, of the kind of "continuing sharing" we have engaged in for the past quarter of a century.

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