

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA - U.S. ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Excerpts from an address by Mr. C.D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to The Milwaukee Association of Commerce, Milwaukee, October 16, 1956.

... The Communists—and sometimes others who should know better—refer to Canada as a satellite of the United States. This assertion is so unfounded that it is barely worth denying. Nor do Canadians live in fear that the United States might at some time try to dominate them.

There is, however, in Canada a great and growing pride of country, not anti-American or anti-anyone, but strongly pro-Canadian. We are now engaged in a task, familiar to you, of. forging a nation on the North American Continent which expresses the desires and the hopes of peoples of many different racial origins living over a vast area. We have been engaged on this task for less than a century and it is only in comparatively recent years that the hopes of those who founded Canada are beginning to be realized.

Today, Canada is amongst the most rapidly developing nations on the face of the globe--it may indeed be developing more rapidly than any other. It is expanding in all directions--in population, in wealth, in industrial output, in industrial skills. It is beginning to move north as the mineral potentialities of the Pre-Cambrian shield and the power potentialities of our great northern rivers are being realized. Oil and natural gas and iron ore, the sinews of modern industrial might, have been discovered in enormous quantities; not only discovered but are being mined and are already moving in volume to market.

Is it any wonder that there is in Canada a new pride of country? We are in many respects going through the same experience that the United States went through during the nineteenth century.

There are, however, some important differences between your experience and ours. In particular, the United States grew to industrial maturity at some distance from other great industrial nations and at a time when distance was more of a barrier