



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 52/22

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES:
DISTINCTIONS AND SIMILARITIES

An address by the Minister of Resources and Development, Mr. R.H. Winters, to the Alumni Association of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., June 9, 1952.

...The manner in which Canadians and Americans live side by side, do the same things, share the same interests, and have the same concern about the fate of the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Boston Red Sox, and, perhaps most of all, our 4,000 miles of undefended boundary, make us unique in the eyes of the world. When everybody else regards us as being ideal examples of friendly neighbours, it is only reasonable that we should take our friendship for granted. Certainly it is farthest from my mind this evening to say or do anything which will cast doubts. Rather it is my hope that by looking briefly into some of the things we take for granted that we will find reason to cherish our mutual friendship even more and thereby perhaps strengthen it.

Geographic Highlights

At Tech we were required to submit to varying degrees of exposure to a wide variety of subjects. The curriculum covered a multitude of courses, some of which had names that I never did get to pronounce, let alone interpret. But I don't recall seeing - at least in any of the courses lined up for me each year - anything very much on geography, except as an incidental part of a lecture, during which one of the professors would point out to the class the hazards involved in performing some particular engineering feat in a remote and wild area of Canada having an unpronounceable Indian name.

It occurred to me that I might attempt to make up for some of that lack of geographical reference this evening by spending a few minutes on the "principles of geography". I have selected that wording very carefully, having in mind the practice so prevalent amongst those who write engineering text books to try to avoid the danger of having the reader think his grasp of the subject is limited by referring to each text, no matter how advanced, as being devoted to the "principles" of that particular phase of the science involved. This at once gives the author ample scope to cover the whole field and, at the same time, is effective in creating the impression that he knows far more than he really does. So it is in this case, when I refer to the "principles" of geography.

The United States and Canada are two of the biggest countries in the world. The United States land area is approximately 3,022,000 square miles, making it the world's