

The reasons for this splendid record of amity and co-operation are to be found in our history — in the unfolding of our common heritage and in the common sense we have learned to bring to bear on our differences.

In the early history of our two countries, the dramatic story of discovery and settlement, we share much in common.

We share also common origins of race, language and law. Canada is unlike the United States in that we in Canada are a nation of two basic races and two official languages — English and French. But French place names scattered over the map of the United States from the Allegheny Mountains to the Rockies — names like Detroit, St. Louis, Vincennes and Joliet — are a reminder that the French Empire once covered the greater part of this western continent.

And there have come to the United States and to Canada alike millions of people of other races from many parts of the world, notably from western Europe. These people, welcome citizens, have added variety and vigor to both nations, have made and are making a special contribution to art, education and culture; and life on this continent has been greatly enriched by the blending of all these strains.

Epochal events in this century have also served to draw our two countries together. We have each participated in two great wars in defence of things we both hold dear. Brave men of our two countries have fought side by side to resist armed aggression in Korea. And in the face of a common and persistent threat to world peace, we are today working together in great projects for the joint defence of this continent and, indeed, of the whole western world.

We read pretty much the same books and magazines, see the same motion pictures and listen to similar radio and television programs. And withal each country has maintained its own individuality.

Millions of tourists cross the border each year. In a single year I am told the border between Canada and the United States is crossed more than 53 million times by citizens of both countries, either as tourists or commuters who live on one side of the border and work on the other.

Moreover, throughout the years there have been continuing migrations from each country to the other country.

During the fifty years 1905 to 1955 you sent 1,400,000 of your people to Canada. Today there are about 280,000 United States born persons in my country, and it would be difficult to estimate the number of Canadians of United States parentage or ancestry. It must be several millions.