

The understanding of mankind and the appreciation of life in terms of human values are basic to a study of the humanities. The field is vast and the challenge a very great one, but the rewards are proportionate to the effort expended. I can think of no more worthwhile occupation than this study of the human being with all his moods and all his problems. And I can think of no more important work than, if I may take liberties with William Wordsworth, encouraging "man's humanity to man".

In Canada when we speak of education and of the humanities, we think of a subject which is frequently discussed by after-dinner speakers and writers today, the development of a truly Canadian culture. There are those who affirm that a Canadian culture does not yet exist and there are others who defend our country with vigour and enthusiasm against such an accusation. I think that the very fact that this subject is attracting such frequent attention is an indication that we are in fact developing characteristics of our own. I am one of those who are convinced that we are not only geographically and legally a nation, but that as a people we have also developed certain values which distinguish us from our neighbours.

While the Canadian nation is young and has only recently attained full national sovereignty it has nevertheless been heir to the achievements of the ancient and modern civilizations of the other side of the Atlantic. To recognize this great debt does not imply either conformity or inferiority. We have been able to adapt to our own peculiar conditions the best of what has been offered and to add contributions of our own.

Through the long period of evolution of our nation, from the time the first European settlement was precariously established on our shores, we have striven to maintain the best of the Old World and apply it to the development of the New. Thus today Canada can boast of a cultural heritage dating back not only to the Renaissance but to the Hebrews, the Greeks and the Romans.

We recognize the importance in our national life of those values salvaged and further humanized through the teachings and practices of the Christian Church which have been transmitted to us from the earliest oriental and western civilizations. They emphasize the importance and dignity of the individual, the place of moral principles in the conduct of human relations and standards of judgment which transcend mere material well being.

In addition to the French and English cultures which flourish side by side within our borders we have welcomed the gifts and talents of peoples of other origins as well. The contributions of the newer Canadians have added new richness and strength to the Canadian fabric.

During my voyage around the world earlier this year, I could not but feel that there was already some recognition that we were making substantial progress toward this goal of a separate national identity in the broader sense of the term. Of course, I had to confess, particularly in Asia, that our national development was, in terms of years, in early infancy as compared to the centuries of evolution of the rich civilizations in many other parts of