

implications of this for our independence and our ability to make independent decisions not only in economic matters but in political and other matters...

In our case, this is particularly significant because we, in Canada, are involved in something of a paradox, as we always have been, because Canada as a nation has developed to a very high degree as a result of a reaction to the United States, in many ways. It was the desire of the people north of this border, in colonial days and later, to develop a nation independent of the United States. The forces which have made possible achieving political independence and developing the political structure of the nation to a very high degree have resulted from reaction to the United States, in many ways. I do not think any forces have been stronger than this desire to develop apart from the United States. The threats occurring from time to time which suggested that this might not be possible or might be difficult have been the very forces which have made possible the political arrangements which led to the business of nation-building in Canada.

On the other hand, however, we are involved in this enormous economic integration with that nation and so we are affected by most powerful forces. And so we live in this paradox as part of our history and our existence.

The problem of development has been easy in the United States and, as I say, this led to a very substantial difference in the rate of development and growth, and the rate of developing a modern industrial nation. This, of course, gave them a head start, upon which we drew in dealing with our own problems north of the border. Of course, this was a logical and obvious thing to do. We had a large empty land until very recently, and it is still very largely empty by any standards of comparison. We have one of the huge land masses of the world, perhaps the second largest, the third largest certainly, and we have one of the smallest populations of the larger nations. As I say we have a huge empty land, empty both with regard to people, to capital and to skills, and we in this country, which stretches parallel with the other one across this continent, are attempting to develop it as a transcontinental nation, trying to cope with massive, difficult, physical, geographical and market problems which in many ways are far greater than those encountered south of the line.

It was logical, almost inevitable in many ways, that we would draw on the experience, the knowledge and the accomplishments of the society to the south which had a head start in practically all the things that we were trying to solve. So that in trying to fill this empty land we called upon their capital, their people and their skills to a very large extent to do this. These forces, of course, are operating still; in fact they have operated with greater intensity in recent times than they have in the past. For instance, just to remind you, in coping with the communication and transportation problems of this vast continent likely the same techniques were used, which had been developed in the United States earlier. I am thinking of the railroad in particular.

When we came to the settlement of the vast empty spaces of the west, the techniques of settlement which had been developed in the United States were copied almost exactly in the Canadian case a good many years later. The techniques used for developing the vast and greatly specialized industries which were built up by this settlement—the great agricultural industries, mining and so on—were copied exactly from what had been done earlier south of the border; these are merely by way of example.