

political leadership of this continent, and particularly of the United States, is even greater.

Your leaders have shown remarkable capacity for acts of statesmanship in new and perplexing circumstances. That statesmanship, exemplified in the Marshall Plan, the North Atlantic Treaty, and your President's Point Four, gives us confidence, and the whole world renewed hope.

We are proud that Canada, of all the nations which signed the North Atlantic Treaty, was the first to ratify it. For both our countries the North Atlantic Treaty represents an almost revolutionary departure from tradition. We have learned that security depends on the strength, economic and social, as well as political and military, which springs from combined endeavour. And in these last few months we have been harshly reminded that economic strength is quite as essential as military strength to the security of the free world.

For four centuries after the discovery of America, the nations of Europe gave the world political, economic, scientific and technical leadership which, whatever its defects, did result in a vast increase in the standard of living not only of Europe, but of many other parts of the world. In this twentieth century, the old continent of Europe -- twice ravaged by war -- is pre-occupied by its own restoration.

We, in Canada, know how rapidly the investment of American capital, American engineering skill, American industrial "know-how" can transform the wilderness, develop natural resources to serve human needs and human desires, and contribute thereby to the rising standard of life which we, on this continent, are justly proud. But, in a world with a steadily increasing population, with growing needs to be met, and vast resources crying out for development, we here in North America must, in the interests of our own lasting security and prosperity, look beyond the confines of this continent.

To many thoughtful people it appears today that the application of science and engineering to the conservation of the soil, the production of better crops and the more effective and economical use of the products of field and forest may be even more important than the further development of industry to the future of the human race. That is why there are many who feel that no more promising agency of international co-operation has been created since that war than the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

I recently read a book which fascinated me. It is called "The Coming Age of Wood" and was written by Mr. Egon Glesinger, Chief of the Forest Products Branch of the Food and Agriculture Organization. The purpose of the author is to show what a great and continuing contribution forests can make to the building of a world of plenty.

Of course, I have not the competence you here at Rensselaer have to judge its merits, but I do feel sure that its constructive outlook is the kind of attitude we need in the free world, if we are to present a positive and dynamic alternative to the system which prevails beyond the iron curtain.

One judgment I do feel competent to make. It is this: In the establishment of security and peace, in the restoration of