

In these surroundings and at this particular time, it would be difficult to offer a better symbol of this comprehensive tradition than Abraham Lincoln, who is honored not only locally and nationally, but also throughout every part of the world where men live by the same ideals as those to which Lincoln dedicated himself. I recently returned from an official visit to Brazil and there, in the office of the governor of one of the Brazilian States, I was not surprised to find in a prominent place, a commanding portrait of this great American President. Nor is it any more surprising that the Mayor of West Berlin, whose native language may not be Lincoln's but whose voice rings with the same timbre of freedom, will deliver the annual Lincoln Day address in Springfield. And nowhere outside of the United States is the the memory of Lincoln more revered and more respected than in my own country. Abraham Lincoln is one of the few heroes of childhood years for whom admiration and affection only increase over the years of our lives, as the depth and magnitude of his life and achievements become the more appreciated against the background of our own experiences, aspirations, successes and failures. I believe that the almost universal appeal and meaningfulness of a symbol such as Lincoln is one of the most powerful psychological bonds within the free world and especially between Canada and the United States, between whom the bonds of international understanding are close and indestructible.

Let me assure you now that I do not intend to deliver the usual sermon on the sources of the Canadian-American entente, based on such commandments from the sacred scrolls as "thou shalt not defend the undefended border". I hasten to add, however, that I consider the commandments no less mandatory because they are so frequently discussed.

Less frequent and more appropriate in this present company, are references to a less dramatic perhaps, but enormously effective means of deepening our understanding of each other. I refer to the exchange of students and professors between our two countries.

Between Canada and the United States there may be differences, some of them very important, in tradition, in contemporary attitudes, but these are honest differences arising out of the inescapable fact that there are and will continue to be two separate political communities existing in the Continent of North America. Such differences, we may be thankful, do not arise out of deliberate distortions of facts or wilful misrepresentation. There are not now and as far as I can ascertain, there never have been any intellectual barriers between us. The freest possible flow of ideas across national boundaries, just as candid exchanges of views either between private citizens or government representatives, are the best possible form of insurance against the sort of mistrust and international paranoia which are so distressing a feature of the contemporary world.