



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Address by Mr. A.D.P. Heeney, Chairman of the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission, to the Canadian Club of Montreal, January 14, 1963

Surely, history can afford few examples of two sovereign nations having as much to do with one another as Canada and the United States. The multitude and extent of our dealings is matched by their almost endless variety. They range all the way from the great issues of war and peace to the detailed bargaining of our mutual commerce - and the care and feeding of each other's tourists. They include not only public affairs, but the thousands of daily, hourly, contacts between our citizens in virtually every department of human activity.

In addition to the normal diplomatic means for the conduct of business between the two governments, there has developed - particularly in recent years - a considerable network of "joint" Canada-United States committees and boards to deal with particular problems. So, for example, we have joint Canada-U.S. committees at cabinet level on defence, on trade and economic affairs - and a number of other bodies, similarly constituted, on various subjects, at the official and expert level. The practice of Canadians sitting down with Americans around a table to tackle problems we have in common has become a settled feature of our dealings with Uncle Sam - private as well as official.

There is no need for me to emphasize to this audience the supreme national importance of our relations with the United States. Nor should it be necessary to do more than mention what seems to me self-evident, namely, that this relationship is presently in an especially important phase.

What I do propose is to say something of one venerable (in North American terms) Canada-U.S. institution (with which I am now connected), which is concerned not usually with matters of high policy but nevertheless with an area of significance to our national future.