

of Canada but which nevertheless is an integral part of this country and makes it a strong and united country, coming, as I say, from that province, I am not afraid to state that the presence by your side of your ravishing wife adds to the attachment we feel for you and all that you represent. Indeed, it is common knowledge that even before you were elected President of the United States, many Canadians hastened to look through the civil status registers in the hope of discovering that Mrs. Kennedy was of Canadian descent. Unfortunately, this search did not bear fruit. But we soon gained comfort from the knowledge that your wife, like us, was of French descent.

Her charm, her grace, her beauty and her vivacity have conquered all our hearts. Your union thus doubly justifies our attachment and our affection for you and your children. Thus, I bow to Mrs. Kennedy in expressing our confidence in you, Mr. President, and our every good wish for the greatness and prosperity of your country. May God be with you!

(Text):

**Hon. Roland Michener (Speaker of the House of Commons):** Mr. President, in the name of the House of Commons, in whose chamber we are assembled, I have the honour to offer you our sincere and profound thanks for your presence here today and for your encouraging message of friendship. I am sure that in this respect the House of Commons reflects the sentiments of all Canadians, not only the distinguished leaders of church and state and the guests of parliament who are present, but all Canadians everywhere. Many of them have seen and heard you this last half hour on television. All of them are pleased with your visit. They are all deeply sympathetic with you as you undertake the great responsibilities of your office, responsibilities which have so much significance not only for us as a neighbour, as a partner in NATO and in the free world, but for the strategy of peace in the world at large.

Beyond that, they are deeply interested in you as a person; as a young man who adds resourcefulness and integrity to a profile of courage. If you look about the House of Commons you will see many young men; in fact there are 54 members who have not reached their 44th year. As a group we may be slightly prejudiced in favour of youth and enterprise, in your favour shall we say. There is no doubt whatever of our attitude toward charm and beauty and, therefore, of our wholehearted delight with your wife and

with her presence here today. We not only thank you for bringing Mrs. Kennedy but rejoice in the good fortune which gives you such a beautiful and talented helpmate.

Having regard to some things that have been said today, and in taking unto myself and to my words this broadly representative character, I must make one exception. None of us in this house would dare to speak for what we refer to rather obscurely as the other place—in the plainest English, the senators. Of course they have already been most eloquently represented by my colleague, their Speaker, whose impeccable French, the envy of all would-be parliamentary bilingualists, has given our sentiments most perfect expression.

I can tell you privately, Mr. President, that although we are glad to have the senators with us and to seat them in this chamber, we are not sure that our love is reciprocated. When we are invited from time to time to their chamber—"summoned" is the appropriate word—our fraternization is somewhat restricted by a brass barrier which they have placed just where the red carpet begins. Perhaps in Washington these legislative rivalries have not been thought of.

However, both the Canadian Senate and House of Commons collaborate most sincerely to welcome you. We collaborate in other ways which would interest you. Twice a year a delegation from our two houses meets a delegation of your Senate and House of Representatives in parliamentary exchanges which are carried on under the name of the Canada-United States interparliamentary group. These have been most cordial and fruitful. Taken together with many other exchanges between our two countries, private and official and at all levels, they are evidence of how closely the social and economic life of our two countries has been interwoven. They are evidence, too, of our determination not to let our proximity produce any unnecessary friction or misunderstanding, of our determination to be good neighbours rather than just neighbours.

We regard your visit, Mr. President, as the highest expression of these neighbourly interchanges, a sort of coping stone added to a solid structure of good will. It serves to bring to focus all our desires and hopes in this most important area of international co-operation.

To our thanks to you and to Mrs. Kennedy may we add our best wishes for continued success and enjoyment of your visit, and express our hope that as you have come first to us in Canada we shall continue to deserve and receive that priority in your affections.