

our country where you have played such an important role for so many years.

I don't suppose there is anybody who is in a better position than I am to appreciate the value of the contribution you have made as a member of the government; to our party when we were in opposition, especially in its parliamentary activities, and to the Canadian public service before that. No one knows better than I do, how much you have given of your great knowledge and outstanding talent; of your energy and your devotion, to the service of this country.

We have been colleagues for more than thirty years in public service and I have valued our close collaboration only less than I have the friendship that has grown up between us as we worked together.

My great regret at your departure, however, is reduced but not removed, by the assurance that our friendship will continue, as well as that close personal association which I value so much.

All the best in the days ahead,

As ever,
L. B. Pearson
