

But I hope you will continue not to expect Canada always to be the one to give in.

Though the United States and Canada have been remarkably successful in the past in handling our common problems harmoniously, I believe we can do still better. And the better we do, the more the world will profit from our own experience. We are living in the midst of a great struggle between two conceptions of the political destiny of man. The one is that men should be free individuals, and that political institutions exist to secure the freedom and promote the well-being of individual men and women. The other conception is that individual men and women are simply the material out of which to erect a powerful state. This other conception often attracts well-intentioned people who believe that the inhabitants of a state may, in their own interests, be deprived of personal freedom and well-being in order that they may eventually share in the greater wealth of an all-powerful state. That such a conception is a fallacy has been proved for all to see by the increasing despotism and the increasing misery in each successive totalitarian state.

In this atomic age, the United States has appeared as the foremost champion of the one conception and the Soviet Union of the other. The struggle between these two ideas will not be decided by material power alone. In that struggle, one of the sharpest contrasts is provided by the respective attitudes of the two great powers in the world to their smaller neighbours. Just compare the position of our country with the fate of Czechoslovakia.

We know -- or think we know -- better than any others, the measure of responsibility in world affairs which has fallen upon the United States in recent years. We know, as no one else knows, how, by tradition and experience, the people of the United States hesitate to become involved in affairs far from the shores of this continent. We know you have no lust for conquest and no urge for domination. We appreciate and respect your historical desire so aptly expressed in the good old American phrase "Mind one's own business". We know, as you know, that it is not by choice that today no great nation is free to mind its own business, in the old sense of that term. Both our peoples are proud of their national independence, but both are also a part -- perhaps the most fortunate part -- of the whole of humanity.

We, in North America, are still in less danger of direct hostile attack than most other parts of the world; but we have learned that we can have no security in a world of insecurity and no peace in a world at war. We, in North America, enjoy the highest standard of living in the world; but we are beginning to learn that we cannot count upon lasting and stable prosperity in a world of poverty and misery.

I have already mentioned the part which the graduates of Rensselaer have had in the scientific and technical advances of our industrial age not only on this continent but across the face of the globe. In the twentieth century the United States has led the world in invention and in the application of science to the production of wealth, and we in Canada, as your closest neighbour, have shared perhaps more than others in the benefits -- as we have also shared in the achievements themselves. The world needs more than ever the scientific knowledge and technical skill of this continent. But in a world dislocated and impoverished by two terrible world wars, we have learned that it is not enough to give leadership in invention, in engineering and in industrial development. The demand upon the statesmanship and