

Do not allow our form of government and our form of social organization to be run down and depreciated. Other forms of government may seem to be more efficient; they may be more streamlined; they may make the trains run on time, and even make jay-walkers keep in step; but as systems based on compulsion and not on the free will of the citizen, they bear within them the seeds of their own destruction. I have heard it put this way. Despotism may be compared to a fast, sleek, high and dry steamer which moves over the waves with efficiency and despatch until it runs into an iceberg, when it goes down with all hands. Democracy might be compared with a raft where the passengers very often have their feet wet, but which never sinks. Mr. Churchill, that master of imagery, once put it, "Democracy is the worst form of government, except all those other forms which have been tried from time to time and have failed."

Nor do I think you will be deceived by the benefits of the so-called "People's Democracy", which has been defined as that kind of government "where the candidate you vote for cannot lose". There is nothing in that for Canadians. We are the citizens of a living, free, progressive democracy. Let us keep it that way. In doing so, there will be nothing more important than education, something which is far broader and better than learning the facts; education for citizenship, education which will help us to keep our heads and exercise our judgment, calmly and objectively, as citizens, in the face of the propaganda battering to which one is subjected from every quarter by all the mechanisms of science. It is, indeed, hard to come to a conclusion today based on sober judgment when the mind and the heart are under a continuous assault from every agency which can be brought to bear on them - the press, the radio, television, the movies and others.

Let us remember also that we in Canada are the citizens of a land of many peoples, that there are rich strains woven into the complex but coherent pattern of our democracy. This gives it life, variety, and richness.

From these we must develop and maintain a united nation, from sea to sea, above the petty squabbles of its lesser citizens who would degrade it to the level of separate and suspicious groups and sections and races.

I wish I could put what I feel about my own country, and what I know you feel about it, in a single paragraph. The best, however, I can do is to repeat to you what one non-Canadian said about it:

"Canada, strong in the equal partnership of two great races, illustrious in peace and in war, a mighty mother of men, a great garden of the fruits of the earth and beloved for the glory of mountain, river, prairie and lake and all the delicate and changing beauties of sun and of snow."
