Articles of Confederation, as ratified in 1781, contained a clause which was an open invitation, and an eminently one to Canada. And I read Article IV:

"Canada according to this confederation, and joining in the measures of the United States, shall be admitted into, and entitled to all the advantages of this union; but no other colony shall be admitted into the same unless such admission be agreed to by nine states."

So, we have always had a favored position. In any event, we did not join, and history has recorded our difference.

Two hundred years later, the results of our separate and distinct political existence are evident for all the world to see: Professional hockey is a major spectator sport from New York to Los Angeles, and "Peanuts" is one of the most popular comic strips from Halifax to Vancouver.

But Americans should never underestimate the constant pressure on Canada which the mere presence of the United States has produced. We are a different people from you. We are a different people partly because of you.

Our two countries have pushed against one another from time to time, perhaps more courteously in recent years than previously, when your institutions and your trade/tariffs