



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1947

An Address by Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Quebec, October 7, 1947.

I wish, first of all, to assure you that I take great pleasure in being here this evening and of having the opportunity of greeting you both as a member of the Canadian Government and as an almost lifelong resident of the City of Quebec.

As a member of the Government I wish to assure you that we are deeply appreciative of the services being rendered to the economy of the Canadian Nation by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the four hundred and fifty, or more, Boards of Trade and Local Chambers of Commerce which bring together in one great body the men and women of Canada who are most active in her industrial, financial and commercial enterprises.

It would, of course, be almost an impertinence for anyone to express thanks to the others for what they are doing in that regard. We are all equally interested in the result and as far as each one is concerned, his own affairs are so intimately linked up with the affairs of the whole Canadian economy that it is only natural and proper he should be doing everything he can to maintain and stabilize the rhythm of that economy.

And as a citizen of Quebec, it is a privilege to be here and to extend to each of you most cordial greetings and thus have some part in that process which is gradually bringing Canadians from one ocean to the other closer together and making them more conscious of the fact that they are all of one country and that each section has its part to play in the well-being of the whole.

When I was first invited to attend this dinner I was not sure that it would be possible for me to do so; it seemed I might have to be away attending the General Assembly of the United Nations. I therefore suggested to your President that he should invite someone else to be the principal speaker. He complied with my suggestion and my Colleague, Mr. Martin, is the one who had to burn the midnight oil on the preparation of the speech for this evening.

On the other hand, Mr. Ilsley is doing my work for me down at Lake Success and here I am getting all the breaks. I will be able to learn in a few minutes from Mr. Martin quite a lot about one of the principal activities of my Department during the last months and to do it much more easily than if I had to dig it out of the files and documents myself. Instead of having to do a lot of similar work to get material together for a speech of my own, your President assured me that you would be quite satisfied with something like half a speech and even allow that half to be made up of things still quite fresh in my mind as a result of my recent attendance at the meeting of the United Nations at Flushing and Lake Success.

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