

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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"CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES -A PATTERN FOR PEACE"

An address by Hon. Paul Martin,
Minister of National Health and
Welfare, on the Occasion of the
Celebration of Canada Day at the
99th Annual Michigan State Fair
at Detroit, Mich., September 12,
1948.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be your guest here today -- both personally, as a close neighbour of yours from just across the river, and also as a representative of the Canadian Government.

I propose to speak to you for a few minutes today on the subject of "Canada and the United States". That is a big subject, and I am going to have to take great care if my remarks are to be as brief as I -- and you -- would wish them to be. It is an interesting fact, incidentally, that it is much easier for me to think of the things I need not say on the subject, to an audience like this, than of the things I ought to say.

It would be useless, for example, for me to spend any time extolling the 3,000 miles of undefended border between our two countries. The border is right at your doorstep. I venture to say that the people of this area, and of the adjacent region of Ontario, are among the world's most experienced border-crossers. You know perfectly well that the border is undefended -- from a military point of view.

A resident of Michigan probably feels more at home, in many ways, in Ontario than he does in some of the more remote areas of his own country. A native of Ontario similarly finds fewer things in Michigan to remind him that he is away from home than he would in other parts of Canada.

And I think that leads me to the first point I ought to make today: not that we are similar but that we are different. It is something that can easily be overlooked in a border area like this, where our neighbours are closer to us, and more like us, than many of our compatriots.

It would be easy to think that the abolition of that imaginary line running down the Detroit River would eliminate a minor nuisance and do little else. But this would be an over-simplification. In spite of our similarities, we are not entirely the same. Your

.....domestic