

If we in Canada are to maintain with the United States our traditional relations or practical friendship and partnership, we must, it seems to me, do more to understand the Americans, their way of doing things, their enthusiasms and their prejudices. And as Canada itself is developing into a position in which our opinions count for somethings, we can no longer rely upon the assumptions of the past and the platitudes of after-dinner oratory. Let us, in our dealings with the Americans and in our expressions concerning their country, avoid any trace of ancient prejudice. Let us refuse to yield to the temptation to second and applaud those other foreign critics of the United States whose snide or distorted talk plays into the hands of our enemies. Let us, while maintaining our strong right to differ and assert our differences, behave as responsible adult friends and partners.

If we want the Americans to know us better, to have more appreciation of the character and traditions of this land; if we want them to understand why we are determined to develop this country as a sovereign North American nation; if we want them to appreciate the nature and strength of our association with the Commonwealth - if we want the Americans to understand these things about us, then we on our part must make it our business to know them and their country better than we do. More than that, we have a unique opportunity - and responsibility - to strengthen immeasurably our friendship with a people whose course in the next few years will determine the future of our world.

And so, it is not enough that we should be at home in each other's company south or north of the border. We in Canada must seek to know and appreciate the essence of these neighbours of ours, of their history, their traditions, their institutions, and their springs of action. If we do make it our business to deepen our understandings of these things, we will, I feel quite confident, emerge with a greater respect - and affection as well - for that great nation and its inhabitants next whom Providence has placed us on this fortunate continent.

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