

Address by Mrs. Ellen Fairclough,
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration,
to the Chicago Women's Athletic Club,
March 17, 1960.

Each year, for every two Americans who emigrate to Canada, five Canadians cross the border to live and work in the United States. They are leaving behind a country so rich in natural resources that we still have not been able to count the contents of our treasure chest. They are leaving behind a country which has struggled obstinately with its rugged terrain and which is just on the threshold of economic greatness. The American investors who have poured millions of dollars into Canada's petroleum, automobile or pulp and paper industries will certainly verify this prospect of the future.

The movement of people and the flow of money across the 49th Parallel symbolize the neighbourliness of our relations. One hundred and fifty years ago we were at war; 93 years ago fear of the United States was one compelling factor in welding the federal union of our provinces into one Canadian nation. Since then we have grown together in friendliness, understanding and tolerance. Last year we shared our Queen with you when she made her memorable visit to Chicago. Indeed the ties that bind us are growing stronger and more complex every year. We have fought side by side in three great wars during the last half century. Today we stand together in NATO and NORAD and have voluntarily integrated the air-defence system of North America. The advent of the jet and the guided missile has broken the impenetrable barrier of the Arctic and transformed it into a direct frontier with the citadel of Communism. Americans and Canadians together have built three radar warning systems which hang like three strands of pearls across the map of our country. We are now co-ordinating defence production to such an extent that other countries, as my Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker, said in Chicago only a few months ago, would find it unbelievable if they were aware of the whole story.

A second major tie is that of trade. Living in a country which still has, compared with the United States, a small population, trade is Canada's very lifeblood. Indeed, while you are the greatest trading nation in the world, Canada's per capita foreign trade is three-and-a-half times that of the United States. Sixty per cent of our entire exports cross the border. Seventy per cent of our imports come from the United States. Your own state of Illinois, as you undoubtedly know, sells more to Canada than any other state. Chicagoland sells as much to Canada as does West Germany. In return, Canada sells more to the Chicago area than to any other region of the United States, especially raw materials and semi-processed goods for your mills and factories.

We have many other ties. Many Canadians are descendants, like myself, of United Empire Loyalists, people who preferred to remain under the British Crown in those troubled times of 1775