

At this juncture we might conceivably act in a sensible, rather than a popular, manner.' And he produced eighty-two more shoeboxes, and handed a wild flag to each delegate, bowing ceremoniously.

"Next day the convention broke up and the delegates returned to their homes, marveling at what they had accomplished in so short a time. And that is the end of our dream."

We have not, of course, reached the ideal embodied in this story, but I think, in spite of discouragements, we are making some progress toward it, at least in the free world. Certainly, the contrast between alien and citizen is weakening. For this we must thank, I think, the experience and the evolution of our Commonwealth of Nations with its emphasis on association, as well as independence. We can also point to the intimacy of the relationship between Canadians and Americans. They are technically aliens to each other, but certainly no Canadian ever feels an alien when sitting, say, in the bleachers of the Yankee Stadium in New York. Significant also is the development of a North Atlantic association, a community of peoples with special relationships under the North Atlantic Pact. All this is, I think, to the good, because the advance of science has made a mock of national boundaries; or, indeed, even parallels of latitude! The world is too small for competing, jealous, rival states.

In all this, there should be no contradiction between loyalty to our own country and loyalty to humanity, just as today there is no contradiction between loyalty to our city, and loyalty to our province, or to our country. As we move toward these larger horizons, there need be no weakening of our devotion to our own country. Certainly we can be proud of that country. It has gained a proud place in the councils of the world. This, however, should be no cause for boastful pride or smug satisfaction, but for sober consideration of the responsibilities that this position place on the shoulders of our 14 million people.

With these responsibilities there go new duties, new problems, as well as new opportunities. We cannot any longer sit back and say, let John Bull or Uncle Sam do the job; remain negative and passive in a swiftly moving world. Nor should we, on the other hand, be too assertive or too smug. We do not need to assume that we are doing everything we should do or could do to secure our citizenship at home, and defend it abroad by assisting our friends in preventing a communist aggression, which would replace it by a ruthless dictatorship in which the citizens would be supine and obedient tools.

We can take pride in Canada that we are citizens of a free democracy, a social and economic democracy, as well as a political one. We should never be on the defensive in discussing it. More important, we should never take it for granted. If we do, we may lose our freedom and only then awaken to what it really means. I have seen this happen in countries behind the Iron Curtain where people realized too late what their citizenship meant. I have heard the lament of the lost when it was too late to do anything about it. Indeed, it may well be that the greatest danger to our free citizenship may not come from outside, but from within, in our indifference and our carelessness, in our selfish feeling that the other fellow can work at being a good citizen, while we go after the profits and the pleasures. We hear a good deal these days of the Fifth Column of those who, as agents of a ruthless foreign imperialism, would destroy the freedom of their own country. We do not hear so much about a "Sixth Column" of those who don't care.