

joint agreements grow. Both are continental in scope, both are dedicated to the peoples of the two countries, one, initially, to the preservation of their security, and, both, through the fullest utilization of our resources, to their well-being. One is the Alaska Highway, the other the St. Lawrence Seaway. Together they represent the North American genius.

Let me ask you for a moment to think of these two great undertakings not as engineering projects but simply as ideas. The Alaska Highway idea, which for long has challenged our imaginations, became a reality through war. The St. Lawrence Seaway on the other hand is a vision which has endured in spite of war and will come into its own in times of peace.

Both ideas were born before the war; both have long challenged our imagination. The first I mention as proof of our capacity to bring to fruition, smoothly and without friction, the great potentialities of our North American mental climate. The second I mention as an indication of the challenge of the future for it is the future vitality of our mental climate that really matters. It would be sterile indeed if we could point only to past accomplishments; the Seaway, however, is the reminder that it is a rich and fertile climate, that great work lies ahead if we are to realize the highest potentials of the North American idea.

No project was ever initiated under conditions of more extreme urgency than was the Alaska Highway, but not even the tremendous pressure of military needs

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