

I AM A NATIVE OF NORTH AMERICA.

In the course of my lifetime I have lived in two distinct cultures. I was born into a culture that lived in communal houses. My grandfather's house was eighty feet long. It was called a smoke house, and it stood down by the beach along the inlet. All my grandfather's sons and their families lived in this large dwelling. Their sleeping apartments were separated by blankets made of bulrush reeds, but one open fire in the middle served the cooking needs of all. In houses like these, throughout the tribe, people learned to live with one another; learned to serve one another; learned to respect the rights of one another. . . .

I am afraid my culture has little to offer yours. But my culture did prize friendship and companionship. It did not look on privacy as a thing to be clung to, for privacy builds up walls and walls promote distrust.

Milton Wong



IS THIRTY-SIX and the manager of the Investment Department of the National Trust Company, Ltd., in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is the son of Chinese parents, born in Canada and married to a young woman named Fei, who is a dietitian. As a Chinese-Canadian, he is

a distinctive part of the national mosaic; as a businessman, he has his own views on economic independence; and as a British Columbian, he has the point of view of a westerner:

THE VIEW FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

I think our [the western] approach to Canadianism is different. We still probably have a kind of complex. I was going to say inferiority complex, but it really isn't. It's a different slant in terms of Canadianism. I think, in talking about domination by the US, that there's a good deal to say for both sides. The nationalism that we've gone through in the last ten years — to make everything Canadian — really bothered me.

TIES WITH THE US

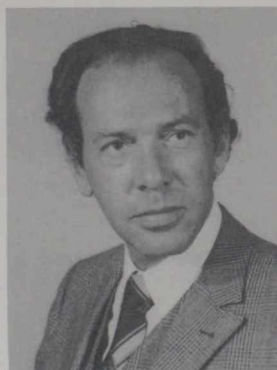
There's no getting away from our ties with the United States; no matter how a Canadian will

want to feel, it's unrealistic. The United States with its agricultural base is the strongest nation in the world, and we can't deny that. All the business cycles in the world are materially affected by what happens to the United States. But, I would like to not use the word domination. I think that as a nation which has a high degree of exports, we have to recognize realities. To what extent are we willing to accept a lower standard of living if we want to enter into a brand new Canadianism?

Pierre Trudeau

"There is no such thing as a model or ideal Canadian. What would be more absurd than the concept of an 'all-Canadian' boy or girl."

Albert Legault



TO MANY AMERICANS THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC is the least known part of Canada. It is a place like no other — French and Canadian but as different from Ontario as it is from Brittany. Albert Legault is Director of the Centre Québécois de Relations Internationales at Laval University.

QUEBEC AND THE UNITED STATES

I think the United States does not pay as much attention to Quebec as to Ontario. However, the people in Quebec seem to think of the US as a great country and a country of the future — as some kind of a model, especially in the economic field or in the industrial field.

ECONOMIC DOMINATION

I think the concern is less strong than in the rest of Canada. Let's put it another way — it's less strong than in Ontario. Ontario certainly got more investments than it was looking for in the past, and now it is looking for ways to control them. The policy in Quebec has been the policy of open door to all investments. The more we can get, some people think, the better off we are. Nevertheless, some people are concerned about the huge investments coming from abroad, especially from the United States, and they're thinking more and more about ways in which to have a better control of their industrial development.