

Ladies and gentlemen, we are more than glad to welcome today a man of tomorrow, Canada's dashing young Prime Minister -- and I would like to stress that "young" because he is not all that much younger than myself. He is pictured by reporters in Canada as a member of the Jet Set, an intellectual, a nonconformist, a French bon vivant, a bold adventurer, a swinger. Well, he may be all these things, and I notice his press clippings don't contain any disclaimers by him. But he is also pictured as a possessor of a tough and thoughtful mind, a pragmatist, and not an arch-radical.

Prime Minister, it has been said that you came on a "get acquainted" visit to President Nixon. I think all of us here have the same approach to the first official visit of a head of government to Washington since the change in Administrations here. We have read a lot about you in the last 12 months since you were elected leader of the Liberal Party in Canada after the comparatively short experience of some three years in national politics. But we would all like to get more about you.

Canadians look to you as a unifying force, one who has stirred their nationalism and their desire to have a greater identity in international affairs. You have promised changes in foreign policy such as recognition of Communist China. You have promised a major effort to advance bilingualism and biculturalism across Canada.