

history has a habit of coming up with some surprising developments!

[*Translation*]

Mr. President, you are aware of the importance to Canadians of the ties between our two countries. Sharing a continent and common values, we are in the habit of considering you as our American cousins. Although our symbols would seem to contradict each other—the star-spangled banner of the Republic and our country's sovereignty within the British Commonwealth—our relations have always reflected a profound mutual respect.

[*English*]

Our common political origins and our long history of amity and co-operation allow us to affirm that our friendly relations are destined for perpetuity. Your presence and your words to us today are additional proof of this, and we offer you our respectful gratitude.

We are honoured that you accepted our invitation to address us. Thank you, Mr. President.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Mr. President, many distinguished visitors address both Houses of Parliament in this Chamber, but no occasion is more welcome than when the long friendship that exists between our two peoples is manifested by the presence here of the President of the United States.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: On each past occasion, Presidents have spoken of the close friendship between Canada and the United States, and your words today maintain that tradition.

Canadians have reciprocated with the heartfelt welcome our people give to very special friends.

We share a continent and have done so peaceably for many generations. We have fought as allies against tyranny and for the democratic principles which we both share.

[*Translation*]

We have remained close allies, despite some difficult times. We both know that only mutual cooperation will enable our respective nations to meet their obligations to each other and to the rest of the world.

[*English*]

We who cherish freedom and parliamentary institutions are aware not only of the advantages and privileges we enjoy as free people, but also of the responsibility we have to set an example of mutual co-operation for others.

The close relationship which exists between Canadian parliamentarians and members of the Senate and House of Representatives is consequently of great significance. That close relationship will be again strengthened later this year when the Canada-United States Parliamentary Association holds its annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

These meetings exemplify a growing desire of parliamentarians in both our countries to come together to address both the problems and the opportunities which we share as a consequence of our close association as neighbours and friends.

Your visit, Sir, encourages this close relationship, and we are grateful for your personal commitment in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Mr. President, as Speaker of the House of Commons, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this Chamber today, on the occasion of your visit and that of Mrs. Reagan.

It is an honour and a privilege to do so, and we thank you for this opportunity.

[*English*]

You take with you our renewed expression of respect and warm affection for you and for all our American friends. Thank you, Mr. President.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I now adjourn this meeting.