

Mr. Secretary, Mrs. Shultz:

Welcome to Calgary. As a native Albertan, I am especially pleased that as we begin our second year of these quarterly meetings that we could have as our backdrop the Canadian Rockies and the rolling foothills which surrounded me as I grew up.

Although I had not planned it, we are celebrating an anniversary today. Five years ago, over my strenuous objections, the National Energy Program was introduced in Parliament. I think that came to your attention. It was an unpopular policy in the United States. It was a disastrous policy in Canada; and my colleague, Pat Carney, will be celebrating that anniversary later this week with further steps to end the philosophy of the NEP, and restore the vitality of the Canadian energy industry.

One of the ironies, however, of the relationship between Canada and the United States is that we sometimes persist in silly policies just because you don't like them. I hope that era is over. There will continue to be some Canadian policies you dislike, but I trust that we are now mature enough as a nation that our standard will be the interest of Canada, not the opinion of others.

Canada and the United States are good neighbours. We have been good neighbours for more than a century and we hope that we shall always set an example to the world of how civilized peoples can live together. But just as in private life, friendship is a thing which must be cultivated if it is to endure, so between nations there must be a continuous effort towards a better understanding. That is the purpose of our talks here in Calgary today. It was Dr. Johnson who said that a man should keep his friendships in constant repair. New problems, new modes of thought, are always arising and it is vital that each should keep in touch with the development of the other. No two countries in the world have more in common. The test of our friendship is the way we assert our common interest, and respect our differences.

As independent nations enjoying joint tenancy for the richest continent on the globe, we have been inspired by a common heritage, by a common commitment to peace and freedom. As societies, we each stand for freedom. That is our conviction for ourselves; that is our commitment to others.