

always have been an annexation rather than a merger. In any case it is too late now. . . . Canada has created over several centuries its own *raison d'être* and, what is more, Canadians now know we have a good thing going for us. . . . The oil of Texas or the coal of Pennsylvania were not regarded as continental resources when Canada was in short supply. . . . Our fear may well have made us too dogmatic, however, for there is an argument, which is at least worth looking at, to draw up bilateral principles for disposing of resources in the two countries based on the idea of orderly adjustments rather than the sharing of resources and shortages on the present basis of population and industry. We have to rid ourselves of the notion that we always come out the loser if we negotiate with the Americans or the British. It is historically unsound, and it is demeaning. . . .

It is in the Canadian national interest to seek accommodation rather than confrontation with the United States. . . . Many Canadians fear that we went too far in losing control of our economy in the name of growth, but surely fair-minded Canadians would blame Canadians rather than the United States government for letting this happen. . . . The fact that the position of Canada *vis-à-vis* the United States has been fundamentally altered in the past decade may be better realized in Washington than it is among Canadians — who tend to be reluctant and embarrassed millionaires. . . .

It should be noted, nevertheless, that in spite

of his acceptance of the continental divide, (President) Nixon (when in Ottawa in 1972) could still talk about the desirability of a continental resources policy. There is a dangerous clash of Canadian and American perceptions over those words. Canadians are in no mood to be denied the opportunity to exploit our new-found advantage in order to raise our industrial base, social infrastructure, income and population. That includes the right to surpass the American level of consumption. . . .

The great epic of North America is not the sharing of a continent; we only share a border. It is that after having divided the continent by traditional rough and tumble methods we settled down to live with it like civilized people — inventing procedures like the International Joint Commission and thousands of *ad hoc* agencies to seek out equitable solutions for the issues we shall never cease to have between us. . . .

We are a very long way from being equal. Still the new balance could be a healthier one and . . . more mature. . . .

When it comes to resources we may be better off than the Americans, but together we form the uniquely fortunate continent. A peculiarly seductive form of continentalism we may have to resist is the temptation to withdraw into Fortress America to protect our hoard from the barbarians. That mentality, bred of fear, would lead us inexorably to the philosophy of the efficient continent — a philosophy which has always posed the greatest threat to the Canadian dream.

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