

Canadian newspaper correspondents in the United States is increasing and will, I hope, increase a good deal more. Canadian journalists can contribute better than anyone else to Canadian understanding of American affairs. But most of the news we now get in Canada is tailored to an American audience, who are assumed to have a background which we in Canada do not share.

Again, I wonder how many Canadians fully appreciate the veritable revolution that has taken place in the United States in the last fifteen years, a revolution which has radically affected the life and outlook of every single American? I am thinking primarily of the dramatic developments which have projected the United States from a position of isolation and insulation from world affairs to that of leadership of a strong coalition of the free nations - from a position of military weakness and no international commitments to one of immense military strength and heavy engagements round the globe.

It seems to me that we have accepted too easily a situation in which United States forces and funds provide the principal bulwark of our world. The other day the President laid before the Congress a budget which contemplated a total expenditure by the U.S. Government in 1955-6 of some \$62 billions. Of this no less than 65 per cent - some \$40½ billions - was made up of estimated expenditures for defence and security - all over the world. And yet the contemplation of such immense expenditures (and their implications for the U.S. taxpayer) has produced almost no complaint or criticism. Indeed, there were some who said openly that the amount is not enough. And so the free world is once more assured of U.S. troops and air squadrons in Western Europe, U.S. garrisons in vital areas of the Far East, and a powerful U.S. fleet to guard the peace on the seven seas.

Of course, we all know that these great expenditures, this new policy of international responsibility, are necessary in the best interests of the United States itself. Nevertheless, it is sobering to imagine what our situation - the situation of the whole free world - would have been in the face of the continued threat of Communist imperialism - if less wise counsels had prevailed in Washington, and if the American people had grown weary under the heavy burden they have been called upon to shoulder.

In its conception of its role among the nations, in the policies its government has adopted and its people have supported to perform that role - in many other ways - the United States today is a very different nation than it was a generation back. And its citizens of today are very different from their fathers and their grandfathers. Still the frank, friendly, generous neighbours we have known over the years, they have been thrust pretty abruptly to the front of the world stage. They have accepted, with remarkably little domestic dissension, the large responsibilities which go with this new and ungrateful role.