

develop between two great nations and two neighbors.

Mr. President, you are welcome here. Les Canadiens qui comme moi connaissent bien les Etats-Unis parce qu'ils y vont souvent, parce qu'ils y ont passe, comme sur mon cas, plusieurs etes pendant leur enfance, ou qui vont pendant l'hiver pour trouver votre soleil plus chaud en Floride. Ces Canadiens vous connaissent. Ces Canadiens sont contents de vous accueillir.

And this sense of excitement, this sense of expectation that we felt in anticipation of your visit, Mr. President, we owe it to this friendship between our nations. I love hecklers. I don't know about you, Mr. President. This could go on for a long while because to each of these manifestations, to each of these concerns, there are answers. You and I, your government and ours, your people and ours, will find the answers because we have faith in the people of the United States. As you have said Mr. President, the greatest asset of the United States is the freedom of its people. This freedom we enjoy and this freedom you will feel amongst us. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Madam Speaker of the House, it is a pleasure to be here today not only to hear such warm words of welcome, but also to appreciate through a visitor's eyes these splendid halls of government.

It was said once of this place that it grasps and materializes the beauty of Canada, the vastness of its lands, its loneliness, its youth and its hope. And yet Parliament Hill is more than the imposing symbol of your nation. It is also a landmark of the New World, a monument to the right of self government and the value of human freedom, that even sometimes as you, yourself, have pointed out make raucous behavior permissible.

This belief in self-rule and the rights of the individual springs from a common heritage that forms the back-drop for our discussions in the next two days.

Now, Mr. Prime Minister, there is important work on the agenda before us -- improving our trade, protecting our environment, safeguarding our freedom. But before we begin our public business, I did want to address one other matter between us that should be dealt with early on.

You will remember a little while back when our national troubles were widely known, a journalist penned a testimony to our country that was entitled simply, "Let's hear it for the United States". It spoke with great affection about people of the United States, their generosity, their inner strength. That testimony in our land was reprinted many.