

..... Or look 700 miles due north from here. Up the Pacific coast of Canada close to the Alaskan Panhandle one of the most remarkable engineering developments is going forward that has ever been attempted in Canada -- or, I believe, in any other country. High in the Rockies the flow of a whole river basin has been reversed to form a man-made lake 160 miles long. When the first stage of construction is completed this spring, water from this lake will be dropped through a ten-mile tunnel cut in the mountains in order to run hydro-electric works that eventually will generate a million and a half horsepower of electricity. From the new plant power lines will be strung to aluminum plants being built on the coast, about fifty miles away. When these are in full production, they will double Canada's output.

Do these random details begin to focus into any kind of a picture? Perhaps not. Perhaps, like shots taken by an unskillful photographer, they tend to merge into a meaningless blur. Then let me try to focus the image by some general observations about Canada as a whole.

It is perhaps safest to begin by reminding you that Canada is a fully independent and sovereign state. At one time it was thought that sovereignty should be decently veiled in mystery or even in divinity. That time is long gone by. But our friends may perhaps be forgiven for still finding some mystery in the way in which eight separate, but associated, sovereign states are united in the British Commonwealth. It would take me too far afield to try to uncover the mystery fully. It must be enough for me merely to remind you that Canada in all its internal and external affairs is as fully independent as the United States. We in Canada rejoice in having as our queen, Elizabeth II. But she was proclaimed in Ottawa as the Queen of Canada, and she unhesitatingly accepts advice, so far as her Canadian subjects are concerned, from her Canadian ministers, and, in particular, from the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Louis St. Laurent. As the Queen's personal representative in Canada, she has a Canadian, Mr. Vincent Massey, who -- not so long ago --- was my predecessor as the first Canadian plenipotentiary to the United States. Our Supreme Court, like yours, is the court of the last resort for Canadian causes and has the responsibility of interpreting our constitution.

All of these functions of government are concentrated in Ottawa, our capital city. Shortly after it was selected, a sarcastic Englishman described it as "a sub-arctic lumbering town transformed by a stroke of Queen Victoria's pen into a cockpit of malodorous politics". And to some in other countries, I suppose, Ottawa may still seem not much more than a negligible northern town known, if at all, because it lies on the outskirts of a well-known district of summer and winter sports. To us in Canada, however, it is the place where decisions are made which are of importance, not only for 15 million Canadians, but for other countries as well.

The next characteristic of my country to which I would draw your attention is that Canada, even more than the United States, is a unity that has been welded out of very different and easily distinguishable parts. To form some idea of our diversity, you might begin at Quebec -- the great rampart of rock on which the French governors had their citadel -- and look over the parish steeples of the old French seigneuries, faithful today as always to their traditions of race, of language, and of religion. You might then move eastward down to Halifax or Newfoundland, where fish is still the largest