

I might add that we in Canada have been active, along with other Western governments, in making representations to the OPEC countries in an effort to persuade them that that kind of posture is the one that best serves the world community at the present time and that also, of course, in the long run serves their interests. This whole issue of the world economic situation bears very heavily on Canada's relations with its major friends and trading partners in the international community. I am referring to such countries as the United States of America, the countries of the European Economic Community, and Japan, as well as others.

**Canada-U.S.  
relations**

I should like to take a moment now to deal, once again very briefly, with our current state of relations with various countries I have mentioned. Turning first to the United States, I am happy to be able to tell the House that in my judgment – and it is one, I believe, that is widely shared – Canada-U.S. relations are in better condition today than they have been for a very long time in the past. I am by no means assuming, accepting or suggesting that the Government deserves all the credit for this situation, but I am happy that we have been able, during these past 12 months in particular, to undertake certain projects and discussions with the United States that have helped to create a set of circumstances that I am happy to report are most encouraging and helpful at present.

The Prime Minister has twice visited President Carter since his inauguration, and my own relationship with Secretary of State Vance is most friendly and co-operative. We have had many meetings in the last eight or nine months, not only on matters affecting Canada-U.S. relations directly but also we have been able to co-operate most effectively in concerting our efforts in terms of a number of international initiatives. Also, many of my colleagues who have direct relations with departments and agencies in the U.S. have been able to have close relations and make co-operative arrangements.

I am also pleased to note that members of the House of Commons and of the other place have substantially increased their negotiating and their discussion arrangements with their colleagues in the U.S. Congress....

I should say that, quite frankly, we in this country frequently tend to ignore, or at least to forget, the fact that there is a duality in the American system, and that while you can have good relations so far as the Executive Branch is concerned in Washington, it is of equal importance that the Parliamentary and the Congressional parts of our systems also have frequent and, indeed, almost day-to-day contact. We have set up in the past year...an arrangement whereby that is going to be possible to a greater degree than ever before.

I do not want to take the time of the House to detail the literally hundreds of issues that have arisen and have been resolved quietly and, indeed, in most cases, without publicity over the past year. We are all aware that, in a relationship as intricate as that between Canada and the United States, there are tensions that develop daily and irritants that arise daily that must be disposed of. Happily, the vast majority of them are without any serious consequences. However, I should like to mention just three