

Also, your closeness to us in so many ways, coupled with our dependence on you in so many ways, means that we read and see and listen to almost as much American news as you do yourself; and we follow it with the same intensity; with a mixture of admiration, anxiety and awe! Some of this news, which we get in such abundance, does not put you in a very good light, for we hear more often about your controversies than your colleges. The effect of this on us may also be increased by our immunity, as foreigners, from any responsibility for your problems. So we are tempted at times to cloak ourselves in the garment of our own superior virtue as we compare the finer features of our society with some of the less attractive manifestations of the American way of life to which you so often insist on exposing us. This is for us a kind of emotional compensation for not being as big and powerful as you.

Furthermore, it would be a great mistake to think that, because our countries are so close, so alike in so many ways, we are identical in all things; that we always operate as nations, and as governments, in the same way; or that Canada should always and automatically agree, in the realm of foreign or domestic affairs, either with what you do or how you do it.

Our political system, which is a Parliamentary one, with the executive and legislature closely related, is different from yours, and accounts, in part at least, for our different approach to political problems. We think that it is a better system for us. But the point is not whether it is better or not, but that it is different. That difference, to cite one illustration, shows itself in the way we deal with the danger of communist subversion. We leave that to the agencies of government appointed for that purpose, who work quietly and, we think fairly and effectively and normally without benefit of headline; and who are all responsible to some Minister. He in his turn is responsible to Parliament, of which he is an elected member, and answers for the conduct of his officials on the floor of the House of Commons.

Another important factor in determining the attitude of Canadians to things American, is the feeling that our destiny, so soon after we achieved national independence from colonial status, may be decided, not by ourselves, but across our border "by means and at places not of our choosing"; to adapt a famous phrase. This accounts for much of the uneasiness that enters into the minds of some Canadians looking south, and realize that they are quite unable to escape the consequences of what you do - or don't do. It induces on our part an "agonizing reappraisal" of the glory and the grandeur of independence.

There is something else about United States-Canadian relations that I want to mention. I said a year or two ago in Toronto, and my words seemed to arouse some interest here at the time:

" . . . That relationship [that between the United States and Canada] as I see it, means marching with the United States in the pursuit of the objectives which we share. It does not mean being pulled along, or loitering behind."