



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADA TRADES WITH THE FREE WORLD

An address by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. C.D. Howe, made at the 39th National Foreign Trade Convention, New York, November 17, 1952.

There are many things my fellow Canadians and I admire about the people of the United States. Perhaps one thing that fills us with the greatest wonder and respect is the willingness of Americans to listen to public speeches. I should have thought ... that after the strenuous political campaign which ended two weeks ago, you and your fellow businessmen would have had your fill both of speeches and politicians for a long time to come.

As a Canadian politician, I am all the more grateful for the warmth of your reception today. Never again shall I doubt the statement that "Americans can take it", and, apparently, like it.

At any rate ... it must be a relief to you to listen to a politician who doesn't ask you to vote for him or his party. And, may I add, it is equally pleasant for me to talk to an audience which hasn't the slightest interest in my politics and looks upon me simply as a Canadian.

I am here today to express a Canadian point of view on some current problems of world trade, and it is particularly gratifying to be able to express these views to such a distinguished and influential group. The impressions and reports which go out from the National Foreign Trade Convention are of much more than local interest and influence. At these annual meetings, if anywhere, is to be found the authentic voice of that part of American business concerned with trade relations between the United States and the world at large.

Canadians and Americans do not always see eye to eye on matters of trade. But the differences which sometimes arise between us should not be permitted to obscure the fact that the area of agreement on fundamentals is greater than at any time in the past. This is true of our mutual trade relations and it is true of our respective trade relations with the rest of the world.

The best evidence that we are working along much the same lines and along the right lines is that we are trading with each other on a tremendous scale. More trade is carried on between our two countries than between any other two countries in the world. The United States is our best customer. Canada is your best customer. Nor is this simply a matter of proximity and convenience. We have always