



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 55/17 CANADA: ENERGY TO SPARE AND TO SHARE

An address by the Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Mr. A.D.P. Heeney, to the Dallas Council on World Affairs, Dallas, Texas, March 28, 1955.

A first visit to Texas is rather like seeing the ocean for the first time. It is exhilarating, but - even for a Canadian brought up on the prairies - a little overwhelming. Encountering this new element it is reassuring to find fixed and familiar points. That is one reason why I am glad to be addressing your Council on World Affairs. For you in Texas, as we in Canada, have always been willing to look beyond the concerns of your own country or even of this continent. Though you form almost a world of your own, you have had good cause to realize how the destiny of all of us is involved in the fate of the whole community of nations.

I think I am not mistaken in saying that one of the sources of that realization in Texas, as well as in Canada, has been that you have needed, for practical reasons, to give thought to world trade. Your exports have been shipped over everywhere on the Seven Seas; and the oil industry which has its focus here has particularly wide international ramifications. In Canada rather more than 20 per cent of our gross national production is accounted for by our export trade. For that reason, if for no other, we should be in as little danger as you of turning all our attention in upon ourselves.

An ambassador must walk warily if he is to avoid the charge of being partisan about the politics of the country in which his mission lies. But I hope I may be forgiven if I express in one and the same breath my admiration for those two great Texans, President Eisenhower and Mr. Rayburn, for the determined way in which they have continued to advocate the need for freer trade. For reasons of social welfare and national security, it may not be possible for either of our countries to accept the full incidence of the principle of the international division of labour. But we in Canada are convinced that the more that principle can be applied, the better it will be for the economic health and well-being of all countries in the free world. Moreover, in present circumstances, it is essential that the military strength of the great alliance led by the United States should be underpinned by liberal trading arrangements in order to prevent strains and stresses developing which could only work to the advantage of our enemies.