

which 50 civic officials dressed in red blazers and wearing Texas stetsons stood waiting to welcome us to beautiful San Antonio. San Antonio, one of the most interesting cities of the United States, and its wonderful citizens spared no effort to ensure that we saw and enjoyed every part of it. It is truly a tourist city, if only for the sake of the Alamo, which is immortalized in American history and song. This fine old mission still stands as a reminder of the Texas revolution in 1836, between Mexico and a few strong Texans. I must interject here for the benefit of my honourable colleagues that San Antonio is a bilingual city and that one heard as much Spanish as English. Through the city runs a beautiful canal system, much like the one here in Ottawa but, because of the more temperate climate, it is utilized for tourist purposes on a greater scale and for a longer period of the year.

During the course of these visits the news commentators asked for our impressions. I remember my wife, on being asked what she thought about San Antonio, saying in her well-chosen words, "Well, I don't intend ever to come back to San Antonio. I am thinking of staying right here."

I had the pleasure of being presented with a key to the City of San Antonio. I do not know the exact purpose of this or what it represents in practice, but I was very grateful to them for presenting it to me. The Chamber of Commerce presented me with a scroll naming me Ambassador-at-Large for the city as long as I keep putting the name of San Antonio in the news on every occasion on which I have the opportunity to do so.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): You are doing very well tonight.

Hon. Mr. Deschatelets: On Sunday at noon it was with regret and sadness that we had to say adios to the new friends we had made in this charming city, and also to our American colleagues who had accompanied us on these memorable five days. But, like the symbolic yellow rose of Texas handed to each of us as we boarded Air Canada to come back home, I am sure these friendships will continue to flourish and grow through the years.

Honourable senators, this was probably one of the most successful meetings we have had with our American colleagues for many years, and I would like to express to both our American co-chairmen, Senator Frank Church and Congressman Cornelius Gallagher, our thanks and gratitude for everything they did for the Canadian delegation.

Next year these meetings will take place in Canada, and I must tell you that we will have an enormous problem in matching this visit to the United States. However, we will certainly do our best to give them the kind of friendly reception we received.

In the remarks I made before we left I expressed the possibility that part of the next trip by the Americans to Canada could take place in the heart of French Canada, namely Quebec City. I told our American friends that they cannot understand Canada and the problems facing us if they are not acquainted with the French fact. Therefore, I think we should explore the possibility of taking them to the heart of French Canada, which is Quebec City, during their next visit. This invitation has been received very favourably, and I hope it will be possible to explore the feasibility of such a visit to Quebec City next year.

Honourable senators, the importance of these meetings is obvious. As an example, over the years the problem of immigration was on the agenda for discussion at two or three meetings. Over the years complaints have been expressed by Canadian delegates that it was not possible to obtain visas to the United States, even in some urgent cases, within a period of under a year to a year and a half, although a similar request from American citizens wishing to come to Canada could be dealt with in three weeks. When we reached Washington it was agreed that the immigration item should be deleted from the agenda this year, because we were told that following the pressure by Canadian delegates at previous meetings a bill is actually before the American Senate which will deal at least partly with the complaints previously expressed by Canadian delegates. That is only one example which shows that from the exchange of views it is possible that some of the complaints on either side can bring positive results. I thought I should mention this to you at this time.

The general purpose of these meetings, honourable senators, is to improve relations between our two countries through the exchange of ideas and the discussion of mutual problems. It is true that we enjoy cordial and friendly relations with our United States friends. However, as the honourable Senator O'Leary said in his speech, our American friends should not take Canada for granted. We should try to understand on both sides our respective objectives, which are not necessarily identical, and we should never cease to work at bettering our relations. I submit that this is one of the purposes