

Motions

Friendship" between Canada and the United States of America.

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and certainly a pleasure to speak to this motion on Canada, the United States, and friendship. I owe a debt of gratitude to the Government and the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) for his interest in this important matter. I thank the Opposition for their support today. We can look at a map and see a great frontier stretching over 3600 miles, scratch our heads and ask what is defending it, and know there is nothing but the sound common sense and goodwill of two practical nations. That is what Admiral David Beatty said before the Canadian Club in Toronto in November, 1921. Sixty years later, common sense and goodwill prevail with the knowledge that over 70 million people cross our border without a passport. While it is true that Thomas Jefferson wrote in the year 1812 that the acquisition of Canada would only be a mere matter of marching, and one hears the same talk today of Canada becoming the fifty-first state, it is utter nonsense. Such myopic views have proven and will continue to prove to be groundless. Common sense and goodwill are the key ingredients that make us special neighbours and an example of the peaceful and amicable coexistence of two neighbours which ought to be upheld for all countries who share their borders to see.

Arthur Meighen may have described the special relationship between us and the United States best when he commented: "We are not in the same boat but we are pretty much in the same waters". Indeed, we are not the same and we have our differences, but we can discuss and negotiate our differences in a friendly fashion, without war.

The motion before us today began in earnest nearly a year ago when Mr. David Boyer, whose name was mentioned today, as senior editor for the *National Geographic* magazine, the Hon. Member for Lethbridge—Foothills (Mr. Thacker) and I met and discussed the merits of a proposal to recognize not only the unique worth but the warm and friendly feelings that each country holds for the other.

The "Canada-United States Days of Peace and Friendship" will begin in 1987, centred on July 2 and July 3, between Canada Day on July 1 and Independence Day on July 4. Hundreds of American and Canadian towns and cities will pair themselves off and celebrate the close ties that each have shared historically and geographically.

I want to pay special tribute to the Chairman of the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group who has worked with the Member for Lethbridge—Foothills and myself so closely. We appreciate his effort in bringing it before the group.

Not only was I fortunate to play a role in the "Canada-United States Days of Peace and Friendship" motion, I am also the Member from the riding of Erie at a time when this summer the communities of Fort Erie, Ontario, and Buffalo, New York, will stage a four-day celebration between July 1, Canada Day, and July 4, Independence Day, inclusive. It will

mark 175 years since the War of 1812. What better symbol to emphasize the peace and friendship that has existed between these sister communities than the Peace Bridge over the Niagara River? The Peace Bridge was initially planned to be a memorial to be completed and officially opened in 1914 to mark the one hundred years of peace between Canada and the United States since the War of 1812-14. However, due to wars elsewhere, about which Canadians are only too familiar, it was not officially opened until August, 1927. Nearly sixty years later, the Peace Bridge remains the largest port of entry between the United States and Canada. It is still useful and still vital, much in the same way as the ties of peace and friendship between Americans and Canadians, two great neighbours.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I want to join with all those Members who have spoken in the House today in lending my support to this resolution moved by the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) and seconded by the member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray). I am now aware that it comes about in large measure because of the work of three members of the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary committee who just spoke. I want to commend this motion which would designate July 2 and July 3 as "Canada-United States Days of Peace and Friendship".

The people of Newfoundland have long had an historical relationship with the people of the United States that, in fact, predates our days as members of the Canadian Confederation. During the Second World War Newfoundland was an independent colony and not a member of the Canadian federation. The American Air Force and Navy established bases at Goose Bay, Labrador, Harmon Air Force Base at Stephenville, Pepperrel at St. John's, and the navy installation at Argentia, just off Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula.

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In those days, Newfoundland, as an independent nation, became very much a part of the Commonwealth war effort. We worked hand-in-hand with the people in the Government of the United States of America. We developed a relationship which to this day is still important to many people in Newfoundland and, I believe, very important to many people in the United States. Historically, preceding those days, Newfoundland's main trading partner was not, as some would assume, the country called Canada, or the province of Canada, but the eastern seaboard of the United States.

I am typical as a Newfoundlander in that my father was employed for 30 years with the United States Air force as a fireman and ultimately a fire chief. I grew up and lived a good part of my life on an American air force base. I recall now with some amusement that as a teenager, and a Newfoundlander living on an American air force base, living in American housing with young people from all across the great United States, I was saying things like: "Right on, man", and dancing the "bump" before most Newfoundlanders on the Island. I also recall with some amusement that quite a few of my American