

There are certain matters which belong peculiarly to each - not better and not worse than those of his neighbour, but different and distinctive. I suppose in many ways the characteristic of democracy is the right to be ourselves and, at the same time, to be different from our friends and neighbours. Under totalitarian philosophy each should be made from the same mould, bear the identical impress, have no distinctive characteristics of his own and no privacy. So I think that fences can be a symbol of some of the best things - things which we most cherish. As we talk about our two great countries, I would like you to picture with me this long borderline fence which forms the meeting point for good friends and neighbours as the nice country stone fence of the poet and not the high board spite fence of which we hear on other continents. The length of our friendly fence is not 4,000 miles of undefended border as often stated by orators. It is 3,987 miles, not including a distance of some 1,540 miles with Alaska.

There is one important thing to remember about the fence between Canada and the United States. It is a very low fence and it has many gates. Because it is not defended by watchdogs any more fierce than Customs and Immigration officers it has been possible, I find, for a whole horde of Canadian Kiwanians to descend upon Chicago to attend your meetings this week.

There is a very close association between the Department of External Affairs and Kiwanis International. Every year during April you celebrate "Goodwill Week" and it is our pleasure and opportunity to join with you at many of your clubs on these occasions. Indeed it is only a couple of months ago that I met with our Ambassador in Washington and Consuls from our various posts in the United States and discussed such problems as how, with our small numbers of staff, we could possibly cope with the large number of attractive invitations offered to us to celebrate "Goodwill Week". With several thousand Kiwanis clubs in the United States, it just is not possible for some thirty or forty officers to visit them all at the same time. A practical solution, of course, has in many instances been worked out by providing some of the productions of our National Film Board, of which we are very proud, and which help present Canada in beautiful and true colour. As a concrete suggestion, may I say that where co-ordination of requests has taken place within a district and it has been presented by the Lieutenant-Governor's office, it has cut down considerably on our administrative work and also, I believe, made it easier for us to meet your requests. I feel sure I am speaking for the United States Ambassador in Canada and his Consuls when I suggest that clubs in Canada give similar consideration to the practical aspects of the implementation of your praiseworthy annual "Goodwill Week".