

One area of particular concern to all Canadians, I know, is the problem of acid rain. When the Prime Minister and I met in Quebec two years ago, we appointed two distinguished Envoys, Bill Davis and Drew Lewis, to examine the problem. They issued a joint report, which we have endorsed, and we are actively implementing many of their recommendations.

The first phase of our clean coal technology program is under way. It is the beginning of a \$6 billion commitment through 1992, and I have asked Congress for the full share of government spending recommended by the Envoys—\$2.5 billion—for the demonstration of innovative pollution control technologies over the next five years.

Literally thousands of firms and millions of jobs will be affected by whatever steps we take on this problem, so there are no quick and easy answers. However, working together, we have made an important start. I am convinced that, as in the past, our disputes will bring us closer as we find a mutual accord, and our differences will become only another occasion for co-operation. Let me assure you that your concerns are my concerns.

I was struck recently by the words of a Canadian—a Hungarian Canadian you might call him—who came to this country, as so many before him, to escape oppression. He said: "I wanted to stretch. I needed a place where I could move mountains or carry larger stones than Sisyphus, and here was the place for it—nobody telling me what I'm supposed to believe as a Canadian—gave me a kind of freedom for my mind and my spirit and my creative energies that I had never experienced before in life. (And) I found that, for me, anyhow, anything could be possible here".

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Reagan: This is your Canada, and our continent. This is the chosen place in history our two nations occupy: a land where the mind and heart of man are free; a land of peace; a land where, indeed, anything is possible.

May I add a word about our discussions today on two issues of critical interest to our two countries. The Prime Minister and I agreed to consider the Prime Minister's proposal for a bilateral accord on acid rain, building on the tradition of agreements to control pollution of our shared international waters.

The Prime Minister and I also had a full discussion of the Arctic waters issue, and he and I agreed to inject new impetus to the discussions already under way. We are determined to find a solution based on mutual respect for sovereignty and our common security and other interests.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Reagan: Thank you all very much, and God bless you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Guy Charbonneau (The Speaker of the Senate): Mr. President, Mr. Speaker of the House, Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen:

[Translation]

Mr. President, first of all, I would like to thank you for your visit to this country and to the Parliament of Canada, and also for the words of wisdom and encouragement you have just spoken. They confirm that Canada and the United States of America have in common, as has ever been the case, a desire to build a better, safer and more prosperous world, with a profound respect for liberty and justice. They also confirm that the special ties between our two countries are as important to you, our neighbours and American friends, as they are to us Canadians.

[English]

We are particularly pleased that your visit takes place during the Bicentennial of the birth of the American Constitution, that godchild of Montesquieu's enlightenment. It is a happy reminder of the ties between Europe and America, and gives us reason to believe that the most important event in Europe in the 18th century was the Congress of Philadelphia.

The Bicentennial of your Constitution has a profound significance for us. Without it, our own Canadian Constitution might well have been quite different. Your founding fathers were innovators in their day in that they established a federation, a bold departure in a world dominated by unitary or at best confederative systems of government. We shall always be grateful to them for setting an example of a federative system of government.

Your republican Constitution and a consciousness of the relationship between Canada and the United States played a part, too, in the naming of our country in 1867, the year of Confederation. In calling the new country "The Dominion of Canada" rather than "The Kingdom of Canada", the British Government tactfully deferred to the republican feelings of our southern neighbours. It was a gesture which showed considerable statesmanship, in that it could present Canada as a republican monarchy.

In fact, in 1787, your fellow Americans saw clearly that the office of President closely resembled that of a monarch. They proposed that the President be addressed as "His Majesty". This idea was rejected, but for a time, people still spoke of the President's "throne". As you will know, Mr. President, by another paradoxical situation, the impecunious Hamilton promoted the royal symbols, while the wealthy Jefferson pleaded for the republican emblems.

In 1867 we chose to name our Upper House the Senate, and, like yours at the beginning, it is a non-elected body. After all, it was not until 1913 that by an amendment to the Constitution your country decided to elect rather than designate Senators. In that process, the prestige and influence of the House of Representatives was somewhat diminished. I doubt that my Senate colleagues expect soon to be in a similar position *vis-à-vis* the House of Commons but, as you know,