

"Here (on this continent) independent and sovereign peoples have built a stage on which all the world can see... a joint recognition that neighbours among nations, as among individuals, prosper best in neighbourly co-operation actually exemplified in family life."

This is true - and in many ways we do behave as members of a family. But even members of the same family don't always agree or see things from the same viewpoint. And it would be foolish to pretend that the national interests of Canada and the United States, or the idea which Canadians and Americans may have of their interests, will always coincide. Nor, in considering the affairs of our partnership, should we fail to take into account the differences in our national situation and makeup. For there are differences, for all our similarities. And these differences influence profoundly our national attitudes.

Let me mention a few of the things, significant things, in which we differ materially from you. In the first place, our country is a relatively small power, in terms of population, wealth and influence. And although our strength is growing and growing steadily, we have no ambition to be accepted as a great power. The United States, on the other hand, is the most powerful nation on earth. Her interests, and the obligations which go with them, are world-wide. Further than that, the United States has accepted the leadership of the free world and no international decisions of importance can be made without American concurrence. If you are sometimes accused of throwing your weight around, it should be remembered that you're at the top of the heavy-weight class. Canadians at the best are middles; the fact that we think we're pretty good middles should give us no illusions.

Another quite striking difference, which affects our thinking much more than we realize, is in our institutions and conventions of government. Both Canada and the United States are, of course, based on the same foundations of free and representative government. Both are federal states. But Canada is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy, while the United States is a Republic wherein the executive and legislative powers are deeply divided. From this fact many misunderstandings arise, not only in Canada but elsewhere. Further, Canada is proud to retain a strong, intangible and somewhat mysterious, association with the British Commonwealth of Nations - another family tie if you will, the symbol of which is the common Crown. To us Canadians, Elizabeth II is the Queen of Canada, acting in all our affairs solely on the advice of Canadian Ministers. With an independence which is as complete in every aspect of our internal and external affairs as that of the United States, we still cherish this relationship - a relationship, incidentally, which links us not only with Europe but with Asia and Australasia as well.

And our economy - I feel sure that most of you know how important to our standard of living is the volume and freedom of our foreign trade. The great products of our fields and forests and mines, and increasingly those of our industries, must find abroad the larger markets which 15 million Canadians cannot alone provide. Hence our attachment to liberal commercial policies and our impatience