



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADIAN LABOUR AND A FREE WORLD

Notes for an address by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Milton F. Gregg, at the Convention of Canadian Congress of Labour, Toronto, September 23, 1952.

There is no need to tell this audience of realistic workers that we are living in a troubled world, a world of tensions, in which in some places the doctrine of force is gaining ground.

On the other hand it could be a world for a greater richness of life for all people in all lands. That is what we should like to make it. The part we have to play calls for steadfast patience and for clear understanding both of our own situation and that of peoples in other lands.

There are just a few things I should like to talk about in relation to our position as a growing world power and also in relation to the inter-dependency of some of the social and economic factors within our own country.

I am not going to tell you that you must not strike. It seems that in the not-very-distant past some remarks of mine were taken to mean that I was asking labour for a no-strike pledge. I did not ask it then and I do not ask it now.

I am going to exercise my right,....to speak forthrightly as one Canadian to other Canadians, all of whom have a deep concern and an abiding love for our country.

Two years of bitter fighting in Korea, with the Communist disregard for an honest approach to a peace settlement, have added to our knowledge of what we can expect of the men of the Kremlin.

It has also brought into sharp focus our now greater responsibilities for helping to maintain the powerful defences of freedom which still remain in the world.

Coinciding with that development is the rapid expansion of our country's great resources, which could unleash mighty forces - forces that could guarantee the more abundant life for millions, if they could be used for peaceful purposes.

Our task has been one of superimposing on the development of our own country our share of the international