

stranded on some desolate Pacific island outpost, asks himself in a moment of almost pathetic anguish, "What am I doing here?". It was the irrational and unpredictable circumstances of war which led to that question, but I am sure that one way or another Americans will be asking themselves again and again, even in the peaceful courses which we all hope we shall be able to follow in the years to come, "What in the world am I doing here?". They will find the answer only in the role which destiny has called their country to play in this century.

There will be one other new circumstance in life as you will live it in your generation. People in other lands will not only be aware of this nation's new responsibilities, but they will constantly be asking themselves and others how well it may be expected to fill its new role. They will ask it, of course, about your country as a whole, but they will formulate their answer often in terms of the way in which they think you, as an individual, are measuring up to their expectation. It will be a new experience for Americans to find that any question might be raised about their very presence might create even a suspicion of fear in the minds of people abroad. It is, however, an inevitable consequence of the power which you will inherit that people will wonder, sometimes with apprehension, whether or not you will wield this power with restraint, with wisdom, and with a high sense of obligation and responsibility. They will know that unless you exercise these qualities your power will in the long run betray you and destroy you, as it has others in the past who have not known how to use it. They will know also that it is within your power to control and release forces, both political and physical, which must have for them far reaching consequences for good or ill.

Only time can tell and only history can record whether or not the United States will meet the full measure of responsibility which has been laid upon it. As one whose job is in part to observe the conduct of foreign policy, and who has had long and happy contacts with your country, I venture to make a prophecy. I believe that the American people, both as a nation and as individuals, will meet the challenge which these times present them, with honour and honesty, and that they will fulfil the world's hopes of them. This prophecy will be fulfilled, however, only if certain important characteristics or tendencies which have already established themselves in the policy of this country are nurtured and permitted to grow. I am sure that the result will make you proud.

One reason for my confidence is drawn from the good relationship which exists between your country and mine. This provides a fine illustration of how a relatively small country - in power and population - can live along side a great one without any sense of fear; can conduct its relations with that country without any sense of inferiority; can work closely with it in general international matters without any feeling of being led by the nose. This relationship is almost unique in its intimacy and its day by day friendly exchanges. In an uneasy and distressing world it is a steady beacon of hope.

Of course, we in Canada have our complaints about the United States, one of which is that, for some unaccountable reason, you have attracted so many of our best people that by now there must be hundreds of thousands of Canadians in California alone, where they seem to prosper rapidly and assimilate easily, and, so far as I can gather, become without great difficulty movie stars, bank presidents and university heads (I put these occupations in inverse order of repute!)