

O'CANADA - THANKS

ON THE UNIVERSITY RIGHT

by Joseph M.J. Sanlei

Today, if you are reading this article on Thursday the 22nd of November, is Thanksgiving Day in the United States. I feel that this year, as I did last, I have something for which to give thanks that most of my countrymen take entirely for granted. Canada! Yes, Canada, this magnificent realm of Free People; this majestic geographic domain; this tribute to the highest aspirations, realized and as of yet unfulfilled, of humankind; this Northern "friend" who has grown-up with my country, and who together with the American States has, unlike the corrupt Old World from which our people fled, established upon this continent a man-made international cathedral of itself, dedicated to the proposition that men and women of different nations can break together the bread of peace and drink together of the cup of prosperity. In the words of the late John Diefenbaker, "Our peoples are North Americans. We are children of our geography; products of the same hopes, faith, and dreams."

Together our peoples claimed the wilderness and

tamed a frontier; together, carrying Bibles and dreams, we North Americans, moved by our common pioneer spirit, farmed land never before tilled, built our cities, and created a truly New World upon this continent and dedicated it to human freedom. Today we are the targets of corporations, as well as individuals, who would rob from us our Sacred Liberty. The greatest weapon of those whose only motivation is selfish greed is the division of the Canadian and American people by exploitation of lies and misconceptions. The contemporary struggle is one no less difficult or dangerous than the struggles of our pioneer ancestors. We must remember to face the difficulties of our age together, for only with the historical unity of the Canadian and American peoples can we fight against the foe who would drive a wedge between us to divide us for the conquest. Bitterness and hatred must find no lodging in the hearts of North Americans upon whose heads peace and unity have placed the crowning glory of the greatest civilization in the history of the world. We have never shed each others blood; let us forever

harbor nothing but respect for each other. In the tragic wars of this most violent century, which the old and violent world had foisted upon us, we joined forces to crush the barbarous enemy. Fields throughout the world shall forever be consecrated with Canadian and American blood, spilled in a common cause and eternally giving testimony to the abiding unity of our two noble peoples. In struggle and adversity against nature and human foe alike, we have forged a bond unique in all the world. Let us not, now in peace and prosperity, destroy through self-righteousness and bigotry what came at so high a price to those who have gone before. There is a sign which greets many a traveller between the Yukon Territory and Alaska that can say better than what, in my writing, I am attempting to express: "This unfortified boundary, between the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America, should quicken the remembrance of the more than a century old friendship between these countries - A lesson of peace to all nations."

Today, November 22nd, marks another event, one in which 16 years ago

Canadians joined with their American brothers and sisters in mourning a horrible act of treason and terrorism. While riding in an open car through the streets of Dallas, Texas, on this date in 1963, America's young president, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, was murdered by an assassin's bullet. It is, thus, fitting indeed that in this article I include the words of the slain president, spoken on this very topic, so many years ago in Ottawa. He said, "Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends."

We are not foreigners to each other, but friends.

We are not strangers in each others lands, but can be as at home as if we never ventured from home at all, and perhaps those of us who traverse the 49th parallel never really did travel from home - for this continent is our home, and as Diefenbaker had said, we are its children. So thank you, Canada. This is one American who, this Thanksgiving Day, will give thanks for his Northern cousins. Long live the friendship and unity of our people! Together our destiny is certain. Together no force on earth can long stand against us.

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ATOLLAH HOMEINI

NO, NO, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!! ALL I SAID WAS "PSHAW"!!

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