

WINNIPEG, CANADA

To you, Bill, for your kind words in presenting me I say "merci". And to you Rotary Anns, "mercy".

To be here tonight is to me a personal delight. Your fellowship is so warm and true and your hospitality so generous that you make things most agreeable indeed, and I wish to thank you all for your so cordial reception.

It was with a certain sense of humility that I accepted the invitation to speak at this international good-will meeting. This grand, annual event has become an established institution in Rotary and, therefore, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to bring to you the greetings and the best wishes of the entire Rotary world.

On the other hand, I could not help but feel a national pride in the realization that it was here in Winnipeg the Rotary started its long, historic journey which, in the span of only forty-six years, has carried a message of hope to the far corners of the world. In one respect, at least, the story of Winnipeg parallels that of Rotary. In about the same period of time, Winnipeg was transformed from a small, frontier trading post to the thriving

To the Rotary governor of this district and to the other district governors who are here this evening I want to pay special tribute for the splendid work they are doing this year for Rotary. I am indeed grateful for their help and cooperation.

I include in this tribute the past district governors who gave so generously of themselves during their administration and still continue year after year to contribute to the advancement of Rotary. Their accumulated wisdom and experience is an invaluable asset to Rotary, and Rotary International appreciates them.

The very existence of this goodwill meeting -- held here on the borders of two great countries -- is an illustration of that principle. Here we have a great dividing line which stretches from one side of the continent to the other -- but it unites rather than divides. Here we have two great sovereign peoples who could be subject to envy, jealousy, hate and all the other human frailties, but who live side by side in peace and amity. Here we have a complete absence of all those bristling armaments which all too often mark the boundary lines between countries. Here we have two ~~peoples~~ ^{nations} who have learned the secret which the United Nations is struggling so hard to find.

metropolis which is now a great railroad center and one of the largest grain markets in the world. It was no accident of fate, however, which caused both Winnipeg and Rotary to make such remarkable progress in less than half a century. Both had something to offer to a restless, expanding world which the people of that world needed -- and both had the courage and the vision to make that something available. May Winnipeg and Rotary march along together to new and even greater accomplishments in the future!

I am happy to be here this evening for still another reason. It gives me an opportunity to pay a public compliment to a man whom I have learned to love in the last six months. I am thinking, of course, of your own Bill Macarthur. Bill, in his quiet but genial way has endeared himself to all of us on the board this year and we have all learned to have the highest respect for the practical, down-to-earth, good judgment which he has contributed to our deliberations.

FOR USE WHERE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PAST DISTRICT GOVERNORS PRESENT:

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to see so many past district governors here today. Rotary owes more to these men than it will ever be able to repay. Not only did they give generously of themselves during their year as governor, but, almost without exception, that ever-growing body of past officers has continued to make a year by year contribution to the advancement of Rotary. It is to them that we look for the accumulated wisdom and experience of Rotary. It is of them that we will expect that this accumulated wisdom and experience will be put to a practical and helpful use in the future.