

Gordon Sinclair

"The Americans (A Canadian's Opinion)"

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The United States dollar took another pounding on
German, French, and
British exchanges this morning, hitting the lowest point
ever known in
West Germany.
It has declined there by 41 since 1971, and this
Canadian
Thinks it's time to speak up for the Americans as the
most generous and
Possibly the least appreciated people in all the world.
As long as sixty
Years ago, when I first started to read newspapers, I
read of floods on
The Yellow River and the Yangtze.
Well, who rushed in with men and money
To help?
The Americans did, that's who.
They have helped control floods
On the Nile, the Amazon, the Ganges, and the Niger.
Today, the rich bottom land of the Mississippi is
underwater, and no foreign land has sent
A dollar to help.
Germany, Japan, and to a lesser extent Britain and
Italy, were lifted out of the debris of war by the
Americans who poured in
Billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts.
None of those countries is today paying even the
interest on it's remaining debts to the
United States.
When the franc was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it
was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward
was to be insulted and
Swindled on the streets of Paris--and I was there, I saw
that.
When distant cities are hit by earthquake, it's the
United States that hurries
In to help; Managua, Nicaragua is one of the most
recent examples.
So far this spring, 59 American communities have been
flattened by
Tornadoes--nobody has helped.
The Marshall Plan, the Truman Policy--all

Pumped billions upon billions of dollars into
discouraged countries, and
Now newspapers in those countries are writing about
the decadent, war-mongering Americans. Now, I'd like
to see just one of those countries
That is gloating over the erosion of the United States
dollar build it's own airplanes.
Come on, now you--lets hear it!
Does any country in the world have a plane to equal the
Boeing jumbo jet, the Lockheed Tristar, or the Douglas
Ten.
If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all
International lines except Russia fly American planes?
Why does no other land on earth even consider putting
a man or a woman on the moon? You
Talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios.
You talk about German technocracy, and you get
automobiles.
You talk about American technocracy, and you find
men on the moon, not once, but several times, and
safely home again.
You talk about scandals, and the Americans put
Theirs right in the store window for everybody to look
at.
Even the draft dodgers are not pursued and hounded.
They're right here on our streets in Toronto. Most of
them, unless they're breaking Canadian laws, are
getting American dollars from ma and pa at home to
spend up here.
When the Americans get out of this bind, as they will,
who could blame
Them if they said to hell with the rest of the world.
Let somebody else buy the bonds.
Let somebody else build or repair foreign dams, or
design foreign buildings that wont shake apart in
earthquakes.
When the railways of France and Germany and India
were breaking down through age,
It was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the
Pennsylvania Railroad and
The New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them
an old caboose.
Both of them are still broke.
I can name to you five thousand times when the
Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble.
Can you name to me even one time when someone
raced to the help of the Americans in
Trouble?
I don't think there was outside help even during the San
Francisco earthquake.
Our neighbors have faced it alone.

And I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing
them kicked around.
They'll come out of this thing with their flag high, and
when they do, they're entitled
To thumb their noses at the lands that are gloating
over their present trouble.
I hope Canada is not one of these.
But there are many smug, self-righteous Canadians.
And finally, the American Red Cross was told at
It's 48th annual meeting in New Orleans this morning
that it was broke.
This years disasters, with the year less than half over,
have taken it
All, and nobody, but nobody, has helped. --

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