

life. I know now how she must have felt. On my way in this morning I paused to look at the decoration of your distinctive Capitol Building and I was delighted to find there designs representing our common heritage, Magna Carta, and Milton defending free speech, take their place alongside your own Declaration of Independence and your Constitution. You and we had, if I recall rightly, a little local difficulty in, was it 1776, but now with the benefit of a longer historical perspective we can all celebrate the common values of liberty under the law which we share for 1985 is the 200th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. Let me remind you what that much maligned monarch, George III, said to the newly arrived American Minister to the Court of St. James, John Adams. I quote: He said, "I was the last to consent to the separation, but the separation having been made, I have always said and I say now that I would be the first to meet the friendship of the United States as an independent power." That was George III. Maybe he was not such a bad guy after all. Maybe 200 years from now a future British Ambassador will be quoting George III to your successors as evidence of the strength and durability of the Anglo-American relationship. Mr. Speaker, sir, my Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, in the recent speech to the Conservative Party in Britain said, "We are parts of the free world, we must act with the free world and that means, first and foremost, that we should work with our great ally across the Atlantic, the United States. I believe profoundly that the alliance between Europe and the United States is vital to the defense of the free world." So in reflecting how to use the privilege you have extended to me without abusing it, I recalled that Nebraska is both the headquarters of Strategic Air Command and one of the main farm states in America. So I thought I might give you a British and European view of two of the important subjects which form the day to day business of my Embassy back in Washington, defense and free trade. The first thing that I should say is that we in Britain take defense very seriously indeed. We spend more on defense as a proportion of GDP or on a per capita basis than any other European member of the alliance. We have met the NATO target of a 3 percent increase in real terms in defense expending and the level of our defense spending is now about 25 percent above what it was when Margaret Thatcher came Prime Minister in 1979 and we intend to maintain strong defenses. But I would not like to give you the impression that there are no differences at