

responded enthusiastically to the PM's overtures and is already putting pressure on the Canadian government to make things move especially in the area of free trade. He says it is Mulroney's task to promote U.S.-Canada harmony, but at the same time to keep himself and Canadian interests from being swept away in the process.

Regina Leader Post Dec. 26/84

(by Richard Gwyn)

Gwyn focuses on Chretien's well-received statements to Canadians in Boston against the Tories' policy of "cosying up to the U.S." and Robert White's declaration of independence from the international UAW, saying they are the first signs that Canadians, while certainly not opposed to Mulroney's policy toward the U.S., are beginning to make up their own minds about whether to line up behind him.

Toronto Star Sept. 15/84

(by Richard Gwyn)

Gwyn quoted at length from an interview with Richard Burt, assistant secretary for European and Canadian Affairs in the State Department. Burt predicted the special relationship between Canada and the U.S. would be restored with the Mulroney government in office -- although he noted these relations had improved in the final two years of the Trudeau government. Burt cautioned, however, that cross-border difficulties would continue despite the better atmosphere. The important thing was not that there would be disagreements but that an effective management system be in place to deal with those disagreements.

Ottawa Citizen Sept. 26/84

(by Charles Lynch)

Lynch suggested that Prime Minister Mulroney, unlike Pierre Trudeau was more tuned in to Americans and the American administration. He said Mulroney conceived of himself as loyal ally of the United States as Britain has been under Margaret Thatcher. Lynch predicted that the laments of Canada's nationalists would not bother him, "reinforced as he is by his convincing mandate and his conviction that Yankee-baiting would not only go against the Canadian mood, but would short-circuit the one best hope for an economic turnaround in Canada."

Ottawa Citizen and Toronto Star Sept. 25/84

(by Richard Gwyn - plus reprint in Montreal Gazette)

Gwyn quoted American economists and political scientists as suggesting Prime Minister Mulroney had an opportunity to strengthen Canada-U.S. ties. There was a change in atmosphere as well as leaders. Gwyn felt that a special relationship was already developing between Reagan and Mulroney unequalled between North American leaders since the tragically brief personal friendship between John Kennedy and Lester Pearson. Gwyn said Mulroney's qualities of toughness wrapped in affability appealed to Americans. Moreover he had used language and made promises about easing irritants to the Americans in FIRA and the National Energy Program. Gwyn cautioned, however that special relations in themselves are nothing more than a means to an end. Canada-U.S. problems would not vanish -- and there was perhaps a two-year period of opportunity before Reagan's power in his second term begins to erode.