MEMBER OF THE PRESS: When you say a "good start",

Sir; it has been going on for a long time.

(with)

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: Not/the Carter Administration.

MEMBER OF THE PRESS: Is it going to be a lot warmer, and closer, under the Carter Administration than it has been?

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: Well, I was never of the theory that it has not been warm and close. It has certainly been close; and it has been effective.

I repeated to President Carter yesterday that, from the Canada/U.S. point of view, we had found that Presidents Ford and Nixon -- to mention only those who were there in my time -- had been very fair-minded and equitable in their dealings with Canada; and there has been a real desire on the part of those two previous Administrations to have friendly relations with Canada.

That is one of the reasons why, in my meeting with President Carter, we did not have a whole backlog of difficult questions to solve. We had a couple of difficult ones which had only arisen in very recent times.

If things had been so close and distant, as your question seems to imply, it would have been likely that, yesterday, we would have spent all of our time trying to solve these questions—which we did not: