

March 10, 1981

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND
GOVERNOR GENERAL SCHREYER

Ballroom, Rideau Hall,
Ottawa, Canada

10:48 P.M. EST

GOVERNOR GENERAL SCHREYER: Mr. President, when such close neighbors as your charming wife and yourself come to visit I've found that the planned protocol gives way, at least in part, to a natural hospitality. Only recently you and I both would probably have used the expression, "good old western hospitality", but in current circumstances for you and me perhaps some other term is to be found. In any case, it is the rapport that exists between the entirety of our two nations that matters and which obviously has motivated you to make such an early visit to Canada. For this we are greatly appreciative in all parts of the country, and that you have chosen to do so within the first two months of your new administration is something which compounds our feeling.

In addition to your discussions on specific items, there is, I suggest, a very powerful and positive symbolic purpose in this visit as well. For the past seven decades or more, which happens to coincide with the creation by your country and ours of the international joint commission, the relationship between our two countries has been a model for others. Despite occasional differences the overwhelming momentum in all this time has been always towards positive, productive friendship.

In the past 60 years or so every president of the United States, with only one or two rather circumstantial exceptions, has visited here, and may I say, obviously and hopefully for the future, with honourable and good mutual result. You are continuing in that tradition which I believe has produced a bond which was unique and still is almost unique among sovereign states everywhere.

We on both sides of the border, I think, often refer to the 4,000 miles and more of virtually unpatrolled border, to the kindred cultures and affinities, to the scientific and technical cooperation, as in the space shuttle, to mention just one example, to our political systems which, despite interesting and intriguing and subtle differences, produce an impressively similar stability for fundamental freedoms and due process and equality before the law. Ironically, visits by their