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466 Kenwood Ave., Ottawa,  
October 23, 1952

The Right Hon. Arthur Meighen,  
Castle Frank Crescent,  
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Meighen:

Last June I celebrated my forty-eighth natal day, and received as a gift from my brother an autographed copy of *Unrevised and Unrepented*. While I appreciated his thoughtfulness in remembering my birthday, I have derived greatest pleasure from the knowledge that not only have I a record of your thoughts but, also, in your signature on the flyleaf, a little bit of you.

While for a few years our service in Ottawa was contemporaneous, albeit in different capacities, my duties in the Commons permitted my hearing you speak only once, and that the occasion of a pre-prorogation rush, when the government of the day followed the time-dishonoured custom of thrusting mountains of legislation before the upper house, with no possible opportunity for consideration by that chamber. You expressed yourself appropriately but, I fear, without effect: the practice continues.

Perhaps you would not consider me impertinent if I were to make some brief comment upon your book. You will know, of course, that at least part of it is required reading in the Ontario high schools. I happen to have a son attending one of the Ottawa high schools and, upon looking through *English Prose*, one of his textbooks, I came across a speech you delivered in Toronto, in which you indicated your choice for the greatest Englishman of history, and offered some very convincing proof. While I cannot hold myself out as a Shakespearean student, I can say that I read his works with enjoyment. Your treatment of the subject encourages me to examine them with greater care, and to try, even at this late date, to repair this gap in my English training.

However, while I would not dispute your choice of Englishman, I would call in question the choice of the Board of Education when they were casting about for a worthy example of your art. While it may not stand as high from a literary standpoint -- and of this I am not competent to judge -- certainly from the practical point of view your speech delivered at Vancouver on the subject of socialism merits consideration by all. This chapter in your book had for me the greatest appeal, because it seems to point up so much that is either ignored or has been forgotten by governments. I would venture the hope that leaders of our political parties, before committing themselves unalterably to the spending orgy of a health insurance

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