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UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
REGINA, SASK.

Roche's Point,
Lake Simcoe, Ont.,
August 13, 1955.

Right Hon. Arthur Meighen,
Canadian General Securities Ltd.,
50 King St. W.,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Mr. Meighen:

I have read with the greatest interest your letter of August 11th. Was awfully sorry to have to spoil the trip to Kincardine but with a drive to Regina looming up on top of all that has transpired during this summer, I seem to lack the heart for any more trips. I do hope you understand.

As for "Meighen in Debate," I honestly do not think that it contains anything unfair to you. What it was intended to do in a very modest way was to characterize and describe a superb parliamentarian in action, and was based in the main on my own careful reading of Hansard, though in part as well on opinions given me in interviews with various persons. I want to emphasize that I personally would not criticize or take exception to anything you said or did in the House of Commons, though there may have been times when no harm would have been done had you been able to suffer the fools more gladly. However, the indisputable fact is that you got the backs of your opponents up in a way that no other Conservative ever did. In my view this was mainly because they could not cope with you on your own terms of reasoned debate and their exasperation drove them to the kind of absurd outburst such as Thomas Vien's quoted in the article. All this I tried to make clear in "Meighen in Debate." I may have failed to do so but that was certainly my intention. Nothing was further from my intention than to criticize you in any way and I really do not think that anyone reading that article would get the impression that it was critical of you. I remember Michael Clark coming to your defence on the occasion you refer to, in connection with the famous soldiers' votes telegram matter raised by D.D. McKenzie. Of course he was absolutely right in saying that you had never hit below the belt, which was more than could be said of many others. Clark, I suppose, was a gentleman in the best sense of the term and he came to your defence because he knew that some of those around him had it in for you, as they most certainly did. Why did they? I think the answer to that question is in "Meighen in Debate."

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