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Ottawa, June 15th, 1959.

The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen,  
57 Castle Frank Crescent,  
Toronto, Ontario.

*Dear Mr. Meighen :-*

I should like to extend my very hearty congratulations to you on your eighty-fifth birthday tomorrow. I join all your friends in hailing your attainment of this milestone in your life. I wish that it were possible for me to be present at the reception which is being tendered in your honour tomorrow afternoon by His Honour The Lieutenant-Governor, but my duties in the House at this very busy stage of the Session will, I regret to say, not permit of my being absent.

I look back with joy on two of your birthdays when I have had the privilege of conveying congratulations and good wishes in person. First I recall your eightieth birthday when you came to Ottawa to attend the dinner tendered in your honour by the Conservative caucus. We were not so numerous in those days, and Room 16 accommodated us all. Your speech on that occasion, while brief, was in the true Meighen tradition -- crystal clear, a masterpiece of logic and a literary gem.

The other anniversary occasion was two years ago when we were guests together of Mr. and Mrs. Keiller Mackay at the dinner party they gave in honour of the occasion. It was six days after the election victory of June 10th, 1957, and the night before I left for Ottawa on Mr. Diefenbaker's request to receive the next morning his invitation to be a Minister in the Government which he was forming.

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