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Introduction Session 6: The Media's Approach to Canada-U.S Trade Issues

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SESSION 6: THE MEDIA'S APPROACH TO CANADA-U.S. TRADE ISSUES.

INTRODUCTION

David Crane

So let me welcome everyone to tonight's after dinner session. These after dinner sessions tend to be a little different than the pre-dinner sessions in some respect, but in any event, this has been a very full day. I think some of us were allowed to get outside, Henry, for five minutes.

DR. KING: Really? You should be penalized.

(Laughter.)

MR. CRANE: No, seriously, we have had a very full day, and I would like to congratulate Henry once again for all he has done to deliver a very rich conference and – but to also point out that we come here every year not only for the intellectual fare that you deliver, Henry, but also for the camaraderie and for the chance for the Americans in our group to realize that they are more like Canadians than they realize.

(Laughter.)

And, Henry, the other point I wanted to say to you is, I know you have worked very hard on this conference, but you really let a lot of people down last November when Ohio failed to come through as you had predicted and may even have hoped, and as a result of this, we have quite a different political configuration than we might have had if you had spent less time organizing this conference and more time engaged in your political activities.

DR. KING: I agree with you.

(Laughter.)

MR. CRANE: Anyway I am just teasing. See, we are already getting more people in. This evening we are going to have a discussion of how these issues that we have been discussing all day are approached through the media, and we are very lucky. We have two outstanding individuals who will discuss how the media deals with trade issues. I am particularly pleased to see Barrie here because I had recommended that Henry invite him, and he is a very talented Canadian journalist who writes with depth and balance and insight on trade policy issues out of Washington.

Jack I didn't know before tonight, but we had a nice discussion at dinner, and I think we are politically and socially on similar wavelengths, and he has written for every publication in the United States according his bio –

MR. LESSENBERRY: Only the boring ones.

MR. CRANE: – from Vanity Fair, which tends to deal with certain types of issues, to the New York Times and Esquire – is now at the faculty of journalism at Wayne State University, which is in, I think, downtown Detroit.

MR. LESSENBERRY: Pretty much.

MR. CRANE: Do you go through a war zone every night?

MR. LESSENBERRY: George Costaris marks out a path for me every night.

MR. CRANE: In any event, I am going to invite Barrie to speak first. He has some interesting things to say. We talked for a few minutes earlier this evening, and I think you will be quite interested in his presentation, and then Jack will speak, and then I hope we will have a fairly lively question and answer session reaction session following that.

So, Barrie, why don't you start?