January 2004


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MULTIPLE ISSUES, MULTIPLE ACTORS – THE PLAYERS IN CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS: AN OVERVIEW

Henry T. King, Jr.
Introduction

Our first speaker is Gordon Giffin, who served as the 19th U.S. Ambassador to Canada with a tour of duty from 1997 to 2001.

Gordon Giffin is Co-Chair of the Public Policy and Regulatory Practice of the Atlanta based law firm of McKenna, Long and Aldridge and maintains offices in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, Georgia. His practice is focused on international transactions and trade matters, government procurement, and state regulatory matters and public policy.

He served from 1997 to 2001 as U.S. Ambassador to Canada. His chief mission was at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa and we managed U.S. interests in the world’s largest bilateral trading relationship in the context of the North American Free Trade Agreement, as well as U.S. collaboration with Canada and global issues in the international forum.

In addition to the Department of State in complimenting Canada, more than 900 personnel from 21 Federal departments and agencies along with six consulates reported to the Ambassador.

Prior to that, he was in practice in Atlanta specializing in energy, telecommunications, cable television, pharmaceuticals, and health care areas.

From 1975 to 1979, he was Legislative Director and Chief Council to U.S. Senator Sam Nunn in Washington. He also held the position of Adjunct Professor of Law at Emory University.

Gordon Giffin is a Director of many U.S. and Canadian companies. He also serves in the public sector on a number of pro bono operations; and I am honored to present him here today.

He will be followed by Bob Rae. He is a partner in the Goodmans’ law firm. His clients include companies, trade unions, charitable nongovernmental organizations and governments themselves.

He has extensive experience in negotiations, mediations and arbitration and counsels widely on issues of public policy both in Canada and worldwide. He served as Ontario’s 21st Premier, and was elected eight times to the Federal and Provincial Parliaments before his retirement from politics in 1996.

He has a B.A. and L.L.B. from the University of Toronto. He is also a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford.
He has a degree from Oxford University. He was named Queen's Counsel in 1984. He received Honorary Doctorates from the Law Society of Upper Canada, and University of Toronto and Assumption University. He has a tremendous record of accomplishment in serving charitable and public-spirited organizations.

Additionally, he seems to have a good balance in his life. He has written books from *Protest to Power*¹ and *Three Questions*.² Further, he enjoys skiing, tennis, golf, hockey and fishing and he plays the piano and the guitar.