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NAFTA Vis a Vis the E.U.—Similarities and Differences and Their Effects on Member Countries

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INTRODUCTION

NAFTA VIS À VIS THE E.U. - SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON MEMBER COUNTRIES

J. Michael Gerhardt*

I want to welcome everyone here, especially our speaker. Even before I became Dean, I heard a lot about the Canada/U.S. Law Institute Conference. I am glad to see all of you are here today. I am glad that we have been able to sponsor it in the law school. I hope or trust that the law school has been accommodating and this has been a good place for your conference.

I know we have many distinguished people here, and I know that makes this a wonderful opportunity for a very important dialogue to take place. I want to thank Henry King and a lot of other people for organizing the conference. And, again, this is a great event for not just the Institute, but a great event for the law school. We are proud to be a part of it and proud to be a sponsor of it.

My primary task, and one that I welcome a great deal, is to introduce our speaker, Wayne Graham. I suspect that many of you may already know a lot about him, but he is nevertheless a very distinguished speaker, and one whom I am proud to introduce.

To remind you of his many great achievements, he was elected to Parliament in October 1993, and is currently the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Foreign Affairs in International Trade. As Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, he is overseeing a study of the reform of international financial institutions, which was conducted in preparation for the G-7 Summit in Halifax in June 1995. He recently directed a committee study on small and medium-size businesses and their access to foreign markets, and is currently conducting a committee study on circumpolar affairs.

Prior to being elected to Parliament, he was, I am very proud to say, a professor of law, which is what we should all aspire to be, and at

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a good university, at that. He was at the University of Toronto, where he taught international trade law, public international law, and the law of the European Community. He has also been a visiting lecturer of these subjects at McGill University and the University of Montreal.

From 1986 to 1988, he was the Director of the Centre of International Studies at the University of Toronto.

He holds a BA and LL.B degrees from the University of Toronto, and a Doctorate from the Université de Paris.

Prior to being a law professor, he had another life. From 1967 to 1980 he was a partner with the law firm of Fasken & Calvin in Toronto, where he specialized in the areas of civil litigation and international business transactions. He also has acted as an arbitrator in various domestic and international commercial disputes.

For fifteen years, he was a Director of Scott’s Hospitality, Incorporated, and presently serves as a Director of Credite Lyonnaise Canada, Limited, and several other companies in the resource energy fields in Canada and the United States. From 1979 to 1987, he was President of the Alliance Français in Toronto. In April of 1995 he was made a Chevalier de Legion d’Honneur de la France in recognition of his work in encouraging the use of the French language in Ontario. I want to welcome our speaker and thank him for his participation today, and I hope he accepts my apology. Thank you very much.