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Introduction: The Press Looks at the Political Future of Canada and the United States in the 21st Century--Where Do We Stand, and Where Are We Headed

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INTRODUCTION

THE PRESS LOOKS AT THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES IN THE 21ST CENTURY – WHERE DO WE STAND, AND WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

Henry T. King, Jr.

I am pleased to preside at this final evening session. We have a session tomorrow morning at 8:30. I want to remind you that you are all invited. We hope you will be here. We will be looking at the food safety regulations and their cross-border implications in the Canada/U.S. context. Are food safety regulations being used to create trade barriers between Canada and the United States?

Our session tonight deals with the way the press looks at the political future of Canada and the United States in the 21st Century. I have always had a friendly view of the press because I worked as a reporter at one time. I had hoped once to be a newspaper man, but my father dissuaded me from doing it because the earning power of press people is much less than lawyers. I had been admitted to Harvard and Yale Law Schools.

Anyway, our first speaker is Howard Schneider. He joined the Foreign Staff of *The Washington Post* in 1996 and moved to Toronto for a three-year assignment. He first joined the staff of *The Washington Post* in 1988 as a reporter at the paper's Annapolis bureau and was responsible for covering the Maryland state government. He later joined the *Post's* Metro investigation team. He assisted in the paper's investigation of President Clinton's finances, and also wrote extensively about the financial affairs of the District of Columbia. Mr. Schneider holds a degree in economics from the University of Maryland. In July, he is moving to Cairo to be the *Post's* Middle East correspondent.

Our next speaker, Giles Gherson, is the National Economics columnist for Southam News Service, the largest publication syndicate in Canada. His career as an economic and political journalist began at Toronto's *The Financial Post*, where he eventually became Washington Bureau Chief.

Mr. Gherson also held the position of Ottawa Bureau Chief for the *Financial Times* of Canada. His journalism work has centered not only on regional issues, but on national affairs, including the National Energy Program

and NAFTA, and his work has earned him several national journalism awards.

More recently, Mr. Gherson served for a year as the National Political Correspondent for *The Globe and Mail*, and undertook the strategic management of Canada's social security reform under the Minister of Human Resources Development.

Mr. Gherson's expertise has led to his appearance as a commentator on numerous radio and television programs, including CBS's *Prime Time News* and PBS's *Washington Week*. He also serves as a regular weekly business panelist for CBC Radio's *Morningside*. Educated in England, Mr. Gherson earned his B.A. from Queen's University.