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Bellingham, WA
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25 May '90

Dear Brian,

~~ANSW~~
Congratulations to you & C-SPAN for the program on Meech Lake yesterday. After asking for more Canadian content in several letters to you & others there - thanks.

I wasn't in the least surprised, nor were your journalists from the Globe & Mail & the CBC-Fr.ed., about the depth of ignorance about Canada that required explanation. I wasn't surprised either that you got no Canadian phone calls, even though we both know you have Canadian listeners. I think the reason you got no calls from Canada is that the 'average citizen' there has been saturated by Meech for several months & esp. in the last 2 weeks. I get CBC, CTV (Victoria and Vancouver), & too many FM & AM radio stations to mention: (meaning = I don't know their call-letters)

I had lunch ^{yesterday} with a retired shipwright from White Rock (in B.C. on the border with Blaine, USA) & he refused to discuss Meech Lake.

I predict the following: (first, Mulroney today is calling in the Premiers to talk to individually). I predict he will then call the First Ministers Conference (all the Premiers) & settle this matter before the June 23 deadline. I don't trust Wells (Premier of Nfld) or Bourassa (Quebec). Wells is young & a recently elected Premier who enjoys the TV limelight his Province seldom gets. Bourassa is a wily, prof. politician who has to be watched.

The night of the 23rd (Wed) the CBC had a 2-hour TV

Special hosted by Peter Mansbridge & Barbara Frum.
For the most part it was well done. It was not
mentioned by either correspondent on your program the
next day.

It's an interesting government to follow. Where else
can the resignation of the Minister of Environment (cabinet) &
his departure from the P.C. caucus to become an independent
cause the following:

- 1) lowering of CDN dollar to nearly \$.82 U.S. until
popped up to .85 by Bank of Canada
- 2) increase in interest rates to over 14%
- 3) nervousness on Toronto Stock Ex.
- 4) resignation of several other P.C. members
- 5) precipitated a crisis atmosphere among Premiers &
Prime Minister. He cannot resign - he'd lose an election,
& dare not allow a no-confidence vote to occur.

I'll follow this & hope C SPAN does too. Next time, it
might be good to get journalists who are not posted to
Wash. D.C., but to Ottawa.

Thank you.