

GIRVRETZ, M.P.
ERIE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
OTTAWA, CANADA
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OTTAWA
Aug. 10. 1988

Dear Madame Prime Minister,

Thank you so much for your letter and
autographed copy of your speech.

It was a delight to have Mr. Wenban-Smith,
the Acting High Commissioner to Canada,
hand deliver the package to me. I feel
honoured by your thoughtfulness.

Thank you, and God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

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see 16/8 at map

Girve Fretz, M.P.
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The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AA
ENGLAND

Pratt's visit to

Econ Summit

July 87

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 July 1988

Dear Mr. Fretz,

Thank you for your very kind letter of 27 June about my address to the Joint Session of Parliament. It is very good of you also to have circulated my speech to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. I very much enjoyed my visit to Canada. It was an opportunity to admire the tremendous advances Canada has made in recent years.

With warm good wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mr. Girve Fretz, M.P.

WPO/
GTS

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 July 1988

Dear Mrs. McGibbon,

Thank you for writing so warmly about my address to the Canadian Parliament. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to meet you, even though only briefly.

And thank you for your kind comments
With best wishes,

Sincerely Yours

Margaret Thatcher

The Honorable Pauline M. McGibbon

889



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

28 June 1988

Dear Squadron Leader Knapp.

Once again, the Prime Minister and her party received a marvellous and efficient service from you and your crew, and this letter is to thank you most warmly for the way in which we were looked after. The flights to Toronto and Ottawa were as usual very smooth and the cabin service superb. Thank you again.

Yours sincerely
C. D. Powell

(C. D. POWELL)

Squadron Leader J. Knapp

*OC 10 Squadron
RAF Brize Norton
Oxfordshire*

OX8 3ZX



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

28 June 1988

Sir Squadron Leader Wolley.

Once again, the Prime Minister and her party received a marvellous and efficient service from you and your crew, and this letter is to thank you most warmly for the way in which we were looked after. The flight from Ottawa to London was as usual very smooth and the cabin service superb. Thank you again.

*Yours sincerely
C. D. Powell*

(C. D. POWELL)

Squadron Leader J. Wolley

*OC 10 Squadron
RAF Brize Norton
Oxfordshire
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OTTAWA
June 27, 1988

67/7

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AA
ENGLAND

Dear Madame Prime Minister:

What a delight to have you address the joint session of Parliament, June 22nd. Thank you for taking the time out of an extremely busy schedule to meet with us. The Conservative Caucus is grateful to you and proud of you.

The enclosed copy of your speech to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, appeared in the Ottawa Citizen, June 14, 1988. It is an address which I am circulating to many people. I wish you continued success and the continued expression of your convictions.

Also enclosed, please find a copy of your speech in Hansard, dated June 22, 1988. It will be sincerely appreciated if you could autograph it and return it to me. //

Thank you, and God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

Girve Fretz, M.P.

Thatcher: I thoughts on being a Christian

Ottawa Citizen, June 14, 1988

The following is the text of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's address to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh recently. Her forthright statement of her Christian beliefs has produced considerable comment, pro and con, in the United Kingdom.

Perhaps it would be best if I began by speaking personally as a Christian, as well as a politician, about the way I see things.

Reading recently, I came across the starkly simple phrase: 'Christianity is about spiritual redemption, not social reform.'

Sometimes the debate on these matters has become too polarised and given the impression that the two are quite separate.

Most Christians would regard it as their personal Christian duty to help their fellow men and women. They would regard the lives of children as a precious trust.

These duties come not from any secular legislation passed by Parliament, but from being a Christian.

But there are a number of people who are not Christians who would also accept those responsibilities.

What then are the distinctive marks of Christianity?

They stem not from the social but from the spiritual side of our lives. I would identify three beliefs in particular.

First, that from the beginning, man has been endowed by God with the fundamental right to choose between good and evil.

Second, that we were made in God's own image and therefore we are expected to use all our own power of thought and judgment in exercising that choice; and further, if we open our hearts to God, he has promised to work within us.

And third, that Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, when faced with his terrible choice and lonely vigil, chose to lay down his life that our sins may be forgiven. I remember very well a sermon on an Armistice Sunday when our preacher said: 'No one took away the life of Jesus, he chose to lay it down.'

I think back to many discussions in my early life when we all agreed that if you try to take the fruits of Christianity without its roots, the fruits will wither. And they will not come again unless you nurture the roots.

But we must not profess the Christian faith and go to Church simply because we want social reforms and benefits or a better standard of behaviour — but because we accept the sanctity of life, the responsibility that comes with freedom and the su-

preme sacrifice of Christ expressed so well in the hymn:

"When I survey the wondrous Cross

On which the Prince of glory died

My richest gain I count but loss

And pour contempt on all my pride."

May I also say a few words about my personal belief in the relevance of Christianity to public policy — to the things that are Caesar's?

The Old Testament lays down in Exodus the Ten Commandments as given to Moses, the injunction in Leviticus to love our neighbor as ourselves and generally the importance of observing a strict code of law.

The New Testament is a record of the Incarnation, the teachings of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom of God. Again we have the emphasis on loving our neighbour as ourselves and to 'Do-as-you-would-be-done-by'.

I believe that by taking together these key elements from the Old and New Testaments, we gain a view of the universe, a proper attitude to work and principles to shape economic and social life.

We are told we must work and use our talents to create wealth. "If a man will not work he shall not eat", wrote St. Paul to the Thessalonians. Indeed, abundance rather than poverty has a legitimacy which derives from the very nature of Creation.

Nevertheless, the Tenth Commandment — Thou shalt not covet — recognizes that making money and owning things could become selfish activities. But it is not the creation of wealth that is wrong, but love of money for its own sake.

The spiritual dimension comes in deciding what one does with the wealth. How could we respond to the many calls for help, or invest for the future, or support the wonderful artists and craftsmen whose work also glorifies God, unless we had first worked hard and used our talents to create the necessary wealth? And remember the woman with the alabaster jar of ointment.

I confess that I always had difficulty with interpreting the Biblical precept to love our neighbours 'as ourselves' until I read some of the words of C.S. Lewis. He pointed out that we don't exactly love ourselves when we fall below the standards and beliefs we have accepted. Indeed we might even hate ourselves for some unworthy deed.

None of this, of course, tells us exactly what kind of political and social institutions we should



“ We are all responsible for our own actions. We cannot blame society if we disobey the law. We simply cannot delegate the exercise of mercy and generosity to others. ”

— Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

have.

On this point, Christians will very often genuinely disagree, though it is a mark of Christian manners that they will do so with courtesy and mutual respect.

What is certain, however, is that any set of social and economic arrangements which is not founded on the acceptance of individual responsibility will do nothing but harm.

We are all responsible for our own actions. We cannot blame society if we disobey the law. We simply cannot delegate the exercise of mercy and generosity to others.

The politicians and other secu-

care.

You recall that Timothy was warned by St. Paul that anyone who neglects to provide for his own house (meaning his own family) has disowned the faith and is 'worse than an infidel'.

We must recognize that modern society is infinitely more complex than that of Biblical times and of course new occasions teach new duties.

In our generation, the only way we can ensure that no one is left without sustenance, help or opportunity, is to have laws to provide for health and education, pensions for the elderly, succour for the sick and disabled.

But intervention by the state must never become so great that it effectively removes personal responsibility. The same applies to taxation, for while you and I would work extremely hard whatever the circumstances, there are undoubtedly some who would not unless the incentive was there. And we need their efforts too.

Recently there have been great debates about religious education. I believe politicians must see that religious education has a proper place in the school curriculum.

The Christian religion — which, of course, embodies many of the great spiritual and moral truths of Judaism — is a fundamental part of our national heritage. For centuries it has been our very lifeblood.

Indeed, we are a nation whose ideals are founded on the Bible.

Also, it is quite impossible to understand our history or literature without grasping this fact.

That is the strong practical case for ensuring that children at school are given adequate instruction in the part which the Judaic-Christian tradition has played in moulding our laws, manners and institutions.

How can you make sense of Shakespeare and Sir Walter Scott or of the constitutional conflicts of the seventeenth century in both Scotland and England, without some such knowledge?

But I go further than this. The truths of the Judaic-Christian tradition are infinitely precious, not only as I believe, because they are true, but also because they provide the moral impulse which alone can lead to that peace, in the true meaning of the word, for which we all long.

To assert absolute moral values is not to claim perfection for ourselves. No true Christian could do that. What is more, one of the great principles of our Judaic-Christian inheritance is tolerance.

People with other faiths and cultures have always been welcomed in our land, assured of

equality under the law, of proper respect and of open friends.

There is absolutely nothing incompatible between this and our desire to maintain the essence of our own identity. There is no place for racial or religious intolerance in our creed.

When Abraham Lincoln spoke in his famous Gettysburg speech of 1863 of 'government of the people, by the people, and for the people', he gave the world a neat definition of democracy which has since been widely and enthusiastically adopted.

But what he enunciated as a form of government was not in itself especially Christian, for nowhere in the Bible is the word democracy mentioned.

Ideally, when Christians meet, as Christians, to take counsel together their purpose is not (or should not be) to ascertain what is the mind of the majority but what is the mind of the Holy Spirit — something which may be quite different.

Nevertheless I am an enthusiast for democracy. And I take that position, not because I believe majority opinion is inevitably right or true, indeed no majority can take away God-given human rights.

But because I believe it most effectively safeguards the value of the individual, and, more than any other system, restrains the abuse of power by the few. And that is a Christian concept.

But there is little hope for democracy if the hearts of men and women in democratic societies cannot be touched by a call to something greater than themselves.

Political structures, state institutions, collective ideals are not enough.

We parliamentarians can legislate for the rule of law. You the Church can teach the life of faith.

When all is said and done, a politician's role is a humble one. I always think that the whole debate about the Church and the State has never yielded anything comparable in insight to that beautiful hymn "I vow to thee my country."

It begins with a triumphant assertion of what might be described as secular patriotism, a noble thing indeed in a country like ours: "I vow to thee my country all earthly things above, entire, whole and perfect the service of my love."

It goes on to speak of "another country I heard of long ago" whose King cannot be seen and whose armies cannot be counted "but soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase."

Not group by group or party by party or even church by church — but soul by soul — and each one counts.



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 June 1988

Dear Charles,

I should like you to know how splendidly comfortable I was made during my stay at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto for the recent Economic Summit. The main suite is magnificent and we all received every possible help and support from Mr. Batt and his staff. You must be very proud to have such an outstanding hotel and such helpful and devoted staff.

Yours ever

Raymond

—

The Lord Forte

EL



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 June 1988

Dear Mr. Bailey,

I should just like to thank you for once again being my efficient guide and companion at the Economic Summit. All the arrangements worked very well indeed and I am most grateful to you for steering me through them in such a courteous and friendly way. I hope you had time for a few days rest before returning to London.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mr. Glen Bailey.

DAS/EL



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 June 1988

Dear Mr. Speaker.

It was a great honour to be invited to address the Canadian Parliament for a second time during my recent visit to Ottawa. May I, through you, thank all the members of the House for giving me this opportunity as well as for their generous welcome. May I also thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your kind words after my speech.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Hon. John Fraser

DS/A



file A

CCFCO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 June 1988

Dear High Commissioner,

Thank you very much for your help over my visit to Ottawa - and indeed for your support in Toronto during the Economic Summit. I think it was very successful and my speech to the Parliament seems at the least to have stirred up a certain amount of interest. I was very grateful for the opportunity to meet so many Canadians at the reception at your house: what a very nice atmosphere you have created there.

Please pass on my gratitude to all your staff.

With best wishes to you and your wife,

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Sir Alan Urwick, K.C.V.O., C.M.G.

Dts/a



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cc/CO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 June 1988

Dear Mr. Arcand,

I should like to thank you and all your staff most warmly for the arrangements made for my visit to Ottawa which were admirable in every respect and allowed me the most enjoyable and interesting visit. It was particularly good of you to accompany me personally throughout my time in Ottawa. I was especially grateful for the hospitality of No.7 Rideau Gate and would be grateful if my appreciation could be passed on to Mrs. Sheila Watson.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mr. Théodore Arcand

MS/EL



Lia E

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 June 1988

Dear Mr. Batt:

May I thank you most warmly for looking after me so well during the Toronto Economic Summit. You could not have made us feel more comfortable or welcome and I should be grateful if you would pass on to all the members of the hotel staff my gratitude and appreciation for all their help.

I am of course also writing to Lord Forte to tell him of the outstanding hospitality we received.

With best wishes to you and your wife.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mr. James Batt

DS/a



file A

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 June 1988

Dear Mrs. Legge.

May I thank you and the Benchers of the Law Society of Upper Canada most warmly for your great kindness in electing me an Honorary Bencher, and also for the ceremony in Osgoode Hall at which the election took place. I was particularly pleased to have the opportunity afterwards to meet so many Benchers of the Society and their guests as well as to see more of your historic building.

I hope that you will let me know when you come to London so that we can arrange for you to come to visit No.10 Downing Street.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Raymond Lister

Mrs. Laura Legge

DL/A



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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 June 1988

Dear Mayor

I should like to record my thanks and appreciation to you and to the City of Toronto for the tremendous hospitality you extended to those of us attending the recent Economic Summit. It was a superbly organised occasion and a great credit to Toronto. I fear that it must have meant considerable disruption to people's lives but they put up with this with great patience and courtesy.

May I also say how very impressed I was by the way in which Toronto has developed. I took the opportunity of telling the British people something of the City's achievements in my television interviews to get across the story of your success.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

—

QTS/a

The Mayor of Toronto.



File UPO

CCFCO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 June 1988

Dear Mr. Black,

It was very good of you to entertain me so splendidly at the Hollinger Dinner while I was in Toronto last week. I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet so many of the people who have made Canada such a success story as well as some old friends like Henry Kissinger. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. I fear my remarks after dinner may have come out disjointedly but I daresay the message emerged, as I hope it did also in the Canadian Parliament the next day. I am sorry my voice faded towards the end, but the combination of a lot of talking at the Economic Summit and a very hot evening took their toll.

I hope to see you in London and meanwhile send you warm regards.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

DS/a

Mr. Conrad M. Black.