

PRIME MINISTER'S

SUBJECT OF MASTER
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PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. TS1:190

PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Mulroney telephoned me this afternoon and asked me to give you the following message.

At the meeting of his Parliamentary party on Wednesday he had mentioned your current political difficulties and said that he was absolutely sure you would be re-elected in a year or two's time with a strong majority. This had produced the longest, strongest, standing ovation which the Parliamentary party had accorded to anything for several years. It was entirely spontaneous and a recognition of the enormous respect for you in Canada.

Mr. Mulroney also asked me to tell you that if you think you are currently unpopular, you should take a look at his position. He is down to 20 per cent in the polls, largely because of his attempt to introduce a goods and services tax. He had had to put up with every sort of insult and violent protest, but was just beginning to see the first glimmers of understanding. It seemed to him there were some parallels with our difficulties over community charge, and he just wanted you to know that he was going through the same thing.

I said it was very generous of him to telephone and I knew you would appreciate it very much. You would be entirely confident that he would overcome his difficulties and come out on top once more. I added that I knew you were very grateful for his advice about handling television in the House, and had been guided by it. He said that he had seen a great deal of you on Canadian television and that you were "right on the money". You just had to hang in there and you would win without doubt.

You might like to send a message back. I attach a draft - although if you had time to do it out in your own hand I am sure it would be much appreciated.

C. D. P.

(C. D. POWELL)

9 March 1990

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