

**AIMS 10TH Anniversary Banquet
November 9th, 2004
Casino Nova Scotia Hotel, Halifax (NS)**

**Transcript of Remarks by the
Honourable John Crosbie**

Premier Hamm, Prime Minister Mulroney, Senator Cohen, former colleagues and ladies and gentlemen. It's a great pleasure to be asked to thank these two speakers.

I knew I was going to hear one smooth tongued orator tonight, in the person of course, of Brian. But I didn't realize that in Senator Cohen that we had another ...very smooth tongued orator. I remember reading Ambrose Brice who said "the Senate is a body of elderly gentlemen charged with high crimes and misdemeanors." And ... Senator Cohen certainly doesn't give any sign of fitting what, what was said by Brice.

I can't resist, Senator, I'm very partial to Americans myself. Not because of the fear of them, or any particular deference but because I have never seen an American I couldn't beat if necessary. Just because I like them, and I like their spirit and I realize how lucky we are to live next door to you. So it is a great pleasure to hear you speak tonight so eloquently.

I want to tell you just one Newfoundland story about an American who visited Newfoundland a few years ago. And he came to the city of St. John's first and he spent a week looking at all the sights. It takes a week to see most of the sights of St. John's. And then he wanted to see some of our out ports. So he left St. John's and he went up the southern shore, to Ferryland. The first night he went down to the wharf to meet the local people and talk with them. And this American was a loquacious American, which is not



John Crosbie speaks to AIMS President Brian Lee Crowley during reception after the anniversary dinner.

unusual of course. And he told them about the American space program; and did they know that the Americans not only put one man on the moon but they put two men on the moon and brought them back to earth again. So the Newfoundlanders were very pleased to hear this and delighted that they'd gotten back safely, with the exception of one fellow. And he said "Here boy," he said "look here boy," he said "don't you know that we're putting a man up on the sun?" Now the American hadn't heard of the Newfoundland space program. As you know, the Americans are very insular, they don't know what the hell's going on outside the United States. And so this American said "Look here, my good man," he said "don't you realize you can't send a man to the surface of the sun. The temperature of the surface of the sun is 98 million degrees fahrenheit." Oh, this was just before the metric, 98 million degrees fahrenheit. "And he'd be burnt to a crisp before he hits the surface of the sun." "Ah, don't be so foolish, boy," the Newfoundlander said, "we're sending him up after dark."

It's the wisdom of the common people that we have to listen to. Now you're Secretary of Defence, and you're the first one I've met that actually expanded defense spending according to the notes I read. Here it's all the other way normally in the defense field. And I'm a great one for greater defense spending, etcetera. But I came across a Hindu proverb which I use to chastise our government with. It's not hard to chastise them believe me. This Hindu proverb says "a man without a stick will be bitten even by a sheep." And I personally have no desire to be gummmed to death by a sheep. So I, I certainly approve of your effort in the defense area, Senator.

Now, our own former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, I served in his government for nine years with him; and I was for several years a Minister of International Trade. That was the fun time when you could travel around the world and be completely irresponsible. But after, ...and I met Carla Hills of course, she was your trade representative, a wonderful women, and she and I were down in conference in Mexico when the NAFTA agreement was being discussed. And I wanted to reassure the Mexicans that they had nothing to fear with respect to entering into a trade agreement with the United States. And they didn't fear us of course, but they were a bit worried about the US. So I said "Look, you have nothing to worry about. Lying between your

great county and ours is nothing but Hills and Bush." And this seemed to do the trick. And the Mexicans accepted the NAFTA agreement as well.

Well we've had ... excellent speeches by two very fine speakers with tremendous experience and of course I listened to Brian for nine years and I still can't get enough of him. I'm even now looking forward to getting some appointment for something though I can't think of anything that Brian can appoint me to.

But it's great to be here on this occasion and you're both here speaking on behalf of AIMS, which I'm very supportive of. This is our one and only think tank in Atlantic Canada. We don't have too many think tanks ... we don't have a helleva lot of thinking. So it's tremendous that you're here; you and Brian are here to support. Of course, Brian is tremendously interested in trying to help our area of Canada move forward and I won't go into the details of that. But he was a great friend of Atlantic Canada, and of course you're a great friend of the New England states, Maine. And it's great to have you both here. So on behalf of the audience I'd like to thank you both very much for your most interesting and entertaining speeches.

If Brian Mulroney would come forward. This is the only time I've been ever able to give him anything in public. Senator Cohen, it's great to have you here and we're very pleased to have you come.