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Henry T. King Jr.

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EMERGING ISSUES IN THE CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIP

Session Chair – Dr. Henry T. King, Jr.
Speaker – Governor James J. Blanchard

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Henry T. King, Jr.

DR. KING: We are going to move ahead with our evening session. And we are honored to have Jim Blanchard, who is the former Governor of Michigan and also former U.S. Ambassador to Canada. He is now with a law firm DLA Piper, Rudnick, Gray and Carey, and in all these jobs, he has served with great distinction.

He served four terms in Congress. That's eight years. He served eight years as Governor of Michigan, three years as U.S. Ambassador to Canada; now as ambassador to Canada, which is relevant here tonight. He was the guy who brought about the Open Skies Agreement between Canada and the United States.

He supported NAFTA critically at critical times. That's very, very important, and when he was Governor of Michigan, Michigan was in a terrible financial state.¹ He balanced that budget, and he attracted industry to Michigan.

It was quite a remarkable feat because Michigan was down so far and to pick it up.

When he was in Congress, he was one of those who wanted to preserve the Chrysler Corporation, and he had distinguished service in that regard and also on the house finance committee. He has had a brilliant career. He is still active in Democratic politics in Michigan.

I think he has had an opportunity to make some observations, which you are going to hear tonight, which no doubt will be very, very wise. So it is with great pleasure that I introduce to you Governor James Blanchard.

Jim?

¹ Iver Peterson, *Michigan Governor Sworn; Says State is in 'Depression'*, N.Y. TIMES, Jan. 2, 1983, available at <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?sec=health&res=9F04E7D81538F931A35752C0A965948260>.