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Introduction: Meet the Press: How Does the Press View the Handling of Canada/U.S. Disputes

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INTRODUCTION: MEET THE PRESS: HOW DOES THE PRESS VIEW THE HANDLING OF CANADA/U.S. DISPUTES?

Katherine Braid

I am delighted to be here. I am Katharine Braid. I am the general counsel of Agra, Inc. in Canada. I have both a Canadian and a U.S. background.

I am particularly flattered to be invited to present the speakers for this panel. This is the first time in the eight years that I have been attending these conferences that I can remember a panel exclusively composed of members of the fifth estate. My only qualification to be on the same side of this desk with them is that I am an avid reader of newspapers. This addiction has been fueled in recent years by the increase in business news that has been on the front pages of the paper.

Peter Morton is a well-known Canadian journalist currently working in Washington as the Washington Bureau Chief of the *National Post*. Before moving to the United States to cover Canadian business and economic issues, he wrote for the *Financial Post* and the *Calgary Herald*. He is the recipient of a number of awards including several national business awards and the Dalton Robertson Award.

Courtney Tower is a freelance journalist and the Canadian correspondent for the *Journal of Commerce*. He has been the Ottawa editor for both *Reader's Digest* and *Time* and has served in the Canadian government as Director of Communications in the Ministry of Urban Affairs as Pierre Elliot Trudeau's assistant press secretary.

It occurs to me that the intermestic nature, as it has been referred to today and last night, of the relationship between Canada and the United States may make being a journalist for a Canadian or American publication in the other country more difficult, rather than easier. The familiarity may give less rather than more access to journalists from Europe or the United Kingdom. I hope our panelists will tell us how the nature of this relationship affects their ability to provide us with timely and accurate news.

Ambassador Blanchard this morning threw down the gauntlet to this panel when he said that, in his opinion, trade disputes were best solved by negotiation as opposed to dispute resolution, but also went on to say that they were best solved without the "interference" of the press. I am sure that both David and Courtney will have views on whether the press interferes or whether it provides news addicts like me with the information that we want.

