

Harper Quotes

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
During the 2001 Alberta election, the NCC ran an ad campaign that turned up the heat on the Alberta agenda.	"Its mandate will be to push the Alberta agenda ... and to get the province moving ahead in that direction."	12/2001	Alberta Agenda	Edmonton Sun - "Send Message to Ottawa: Coalition"
The Leader's thoughts on the decision of the Supreme Court to uphold election spending limits.	"It displays a prejudicial bias .. It calls into question (the Supreme Court's neutrality and open-mindedness."	1/2000	Campaign Finance	Calgary Sun - "Outrageous Court Ruling"

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
	<p>"Isn't it time taxpayers has a say in MPs' pay? Mps recently rammmed a report through the House of Commons that boosted their pay, doubled their expense allowance and sweetened their severance package and pension options. MPs say they needed the money, but shouldn't Canadian taxpayers have the final word on this matter? After all, MPs are supposed to work for us. Isn't it the taxpayers whop pay them? Certainly MPs has a perfect opportunity to raise the compension issue during the last election. But they didn't. Not a single party mentioned any form of compensation increase in its platform in the last election - just one year ago. They just begged us for their jobs back. And why wouldn't they? MPs earn about \$106,000 a year in salaries and allowances and can look forward to collecting a super-rich pension or a generous severance package, among other employment benefits. Mps were in a conflict-of-interest situation. Any increase in compensation should not have been implemented until the next Parliament, after MPs have sought re-election on the new rules. We taxpayers</p>	16/1998 MP Pay	Edmonton Sun - "Letter to the Editor"

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
	can't give ourselves a raise and neither should MPs."			
	The following is a quotation from an article on the United Alternative: "He [the Leader] credits Manning for at least calling for a united alternative but notes the option is 'seriously flawed' because it is essentially a Reform ploy to take over the Conservative Party."	14/1998	Canadian Alliance	Ottawa Sun - "Get it together"

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>Considering the Leader's past comments on MP pay and pensions, this could prove to be quite troublesome.</p>	<p>The following is a excerpt from a Edmonton Sun article: "The former Reform MP now seeking the leadership of Reform's political successor, the Canadian Alliance, last night told an Edmonton crowd of about 250 supporters that he'd accept the MP's pension and take up residence in the Opposition leader's mansion in Ottawa. Both the pension and the official residence are issues on which the Alliance members have flip-flopped in the past, earning themselves a lot of derision. 'That was never a policy of the party,' Harper said of the position initially taken by movement founder Preston Manning, who publicly scoffed at the home called Stornoway, suggesting it would be better used as a bingo palace than a taxpayer-supported residence. Later, when Manning became leader of the Opposition, he moved into Stornoway, which was assessed at \$2 million in 1997. The party's initial rejection of MP pension was 'a mistake,' Harper told the supportive crowd. Reformer vowed to refuse the lucrative MP pension payment plan because they believed the move would shame Liberal MPs into dumping it as well,</p>	<p>2/2001 MP Pensions (amongst other things)</p>	<p>Edmonton Sun - "Harper has eyes on Stornoway"</p>

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
	he said. Instead, it focused attention on themselves, and chose them support when members eventually bought back into a revised retirement plan."			
The Leader responds to Martin's promise to end western alienation.	"The fundamental strategy of the Liberal party for the last 30 years remains screw the West, get the rest."	06/2003	Liberals	Vancouver Province - "West will roast Martin if he calls early election."
The Leader response to a question as to how many Canadians actually support the United States' position on Iraq.	"It's a little harder to read you know, we have kind of all Liberal media sponsored polls here."	03/2003	Iraq	Fox News Sunday
This article appeared during the time of speculation that the Leader would run for the PC leadership.	"The PC Party, in the past, has been successful at pulling together coalitions of different conservatives. That's the real challenge."	03/1998	Unite the right	Toronto Sun - "Harper eyed for Tony Job"

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
The Leader comments of the end of a recent postal strike.	"The federal government's legislated end to the postal strike is only a hollow victory for Canadian consumers. True, Canadians will get their mail service back but they will still be forced to put up with an archaic postal monopoly. Back-to-work legislation only treats a symptom and not the real problem with postal service in Canada. The real problem is the double monopoly in postal service. The government gives post office management a monopoly over Canadians' mail, and then Canada Post gives CUPW union bosses the labor monopoly power to shut the service down. That threat still hangs over the heads of all Canadian families and businesses. It's time to end the double monopoly and to give Canadian consumers a choice when it comes to mail service. Only ending the monopoly will ensure that Canadians are never held hostage by another postal strike."	2/1997 Canada Post	Ottawa Sun - "Letter to the Editor"

Harper Quotes 2

Date Key Issue	Quote	Source	Context
3/03/1995 Defence	<p>"I want to spend my time mainly on the issue of the infrastructure rationalization and Calgary's role in that. I doing so I do not intend to dispute in any way the need for defence cuts and the need for government spending cuts in general. All parties in the House have recognized that, although the Bloc Quebecois is very open to defence cuts as long as not a penny of it is in Quebec. I do not share that view. I do not share a not in my backyard approach to government spending reductions."</p>	Hansard - March 23, 1995	<p>Part of the Leader's speech responding to a supply day motion put forth by Reform MP Jack Frazer that called for more accountability among senior officials at the DND. On May 2, 2003, Geoff Regan took a third of one of these sentences and commented during his S.O. 31, "In case there is any doubt, I want to quote what the current Leader of the Opposition said at the time: "I do not intend to dispute in any way the need for defence cuts". So, I am somewhat puzzled today when the Alliance members suddenly pretend to be the champions of the Canadian military."</p>
1/05/2003 BSE Crisis	<p>"You have to wonder, why was this brain sitting some place for over three months"?</p>	The Calgary Sun - "Quotable"	<p>The Leader did not make this comment. This was incorrectly attributed to the Leader is QuickScan, as the his name appeared above the quotation (his real quotation appeared above his name).</p>
2/03/2003 Defence	<p>"Now we're pulling it off the table ... It points out how decayed the state of our military really is."</p>	The Calgary Sun - "Woe Canada! We Stand for Nothing ..."	<p>These comments concern how the Sea King crash on the Iroquois - which resulted in a delay in Canadian deployment to Afghanistan - unfortunately reflected the sorry state of Canada's military.</p>
1/01/2003 Campaign Finance Reform	<p>The following passage is from an Edmonton Sun article:</p> <p>"Alliance Leader Stephen Harper also expressed concerns yesterday, saying donations shouldn't have such a high limit that they cause 'undue influence.'"</p>	The Edmonton Sun - "Political Financing Law Panned"	<p>The Leader comments on C-24, and how individual may make donations of up to \$10,000. Who knows, perhaps this comment could be misconstrued to show the Leader agreeing with the Liberal's bill.</p>

<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Context</i>
8/01/2003 Jack Layton	"... obviously Mr. Layton's leadership poses some interesting dynamics for the federal political scene."	The Edmonton Sun - "Jack Plans Attack ..."	The Leader offers Layton some praise after slamming the NDP chances of making inroads with Alliance voters in the West.
6/01/2003 MP Perks	"I would like to know how a minister of the Crown can claim \$180,000 in expenses without providing a single shred of evidence other than a self-serving statement that these expenses had been made on government business. If ministers of the Crown spend our tax dollars, then Canadians have a right to know exactly how their dollars are spent."	The Calgary Sun - "What's to Hide ..."	An excerpt from a letter written in response to the fact that Sheila Copps cashed almost \$180,000 in expense cheques over two years without submitting receipts.
1/05/2000 Progressive Conservative Party	"For years, they have despised and mocked everything Reform and its supporters have stood for and they can't understand why these people won't come back."	The Toronto Star - "Why the Tory defectors pin hopes on Alliance"	The Leader slugs the Tories.
9/03/2000 Social Conservatism	"There are lots of people in Ontario who would support certain of those views .. I don't think having a view that is different than the population would automatically cause the population to vote against you. But if they believe you and impose those views in the face of strong public opposition, that would be a significant problem."	The Toronto Star - "Alliance contest gives new hope to pro-life camp"	The Leader discusses the strategic advantage of Stockwell Day's socially conservative views.
6/01/2000 Unite the right	"[The Environics poll] confirms that the Reform-UA has become a house divided against itself. It would be tragic if a process designed to bring conservatives together ended up dividing them instead. Both sides have to make efforts at reconciliation ... otherwise the next election will be devastating for small-c conservatives."	The Toronto Star - "Reformers divided on UA"	The Leader pessimistic take on the chance of electoral success for the UA. The poll mentioned above suggested that die-hard Reformers and Tories would remain loyal to their respective parties.

<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Context</i>
3/02/1999	Untie the right "If you like the policy in a party that was heavy with policy and now you're left with something that has very little policy, you're going to be concerned."	The Toronto Star - "New party faces a race against time"	The Leader's pessimistic take on the JA's potential appeal to Reformers.
4/08/1998	MP Pensions The following is an excerpt from a Toronto Star article:	The Toronto Star - "Manning pressed to stand down"	The Leader comments on Reform MPs' about-face on the issue of pensions.
	"Former Mp Stephen Harper, frequently cited as Manning's heir apparent, issued a statement last week calling the pension issue 'a defining moment for the party.' Opting out of the pension was 'a huge issue for both the party and its incumbents in the last election' and Reform will have zero credibility on everything else if it backs down, said Harper, now president of the right-wing National Citizens Coalition. Mps who opt back in should be expelled from the caucus, he said."		



Date Key Issue

9/01/1998 MP Pay

Quote

Your Dec. 30 editorial, Time to give MPs a good pay raise, failed to answer one important question.

If MPs, as The Star argues, are underpaid and overworked, why is it none of them asked for a pay raise when they ran for re-election less than one year ago? Instead, MPs begged and pleaded with voters to give them their jobs back.

That surely suggests MPs must be content with their current remuneration. And why not?

When you include their tax-free allowances and Cadillac benefit plans, MPs are paid well over \$100,000 a year, which puts their salaries in the top 10 per cent of households in the country.

True, executives in the private sector may have higher salaries than MPs, but unlike most MPs, executives are paid to make decisions and then to take responsibility for those decisions. The majority of MPs, by contrast, simply do not perform an executive function.

In fact, most MPs are bit players in today's parliamentary system, with the average backbencher merely acting as an ombudsman for constituents on non-partisan issues and as a local sales representative for his/her political party on the big issues.

That's why we believe that before MPs demand more money, they should reform the system and give themselves a role that's deserving of more money.

Source

The Toronto Star - "Change MPs' role before giving them more money"

Context

A letter to editor by the Leader in which he suggests MPs are undeserving of a pay raise.

Date Key Issue

Quote

Source

Context

And that's why, instead of pleading on behalf of MPs, The Star should try speaking out for those who truly need help - overburdened taxpayers.

Stephen Harper

The National Citizens'

Coalition

Toronto

1/08/1997 Reform Party

"Reform spent a lot of time during the election attacking the Liberals for spending cuts, which was a big shift ... They went from being the party of fiscal responsibility to one that was much more ambivalent. It will be interesting to see where Reform positions itself now."

The Toronto Star - "Manning's fall job jar to the Reform party leader"

The Leader on the apparently changing priorities of Reform.

7/06/1997 Unite the right

"The gulf there is unbridgeable."

The Toronto Star - Untitled

The Leader on the prospect of cooperation between Reform and the Tories after Jean Charest called the former bigoted because of its infamous "No more politicians from Quebec" ad campaign.

6/04/1997 Social Conservatism

"It's the most dangerous road (for conservatism) ... A Buchananist becomes a non-socialist critic of the system, of certain aspects of the market economy .. It's hard to know know where Manning stands. Like all politicians, he's able to do opposite things at the same time. But my sense is that the party is heading towards Buchananism, although the party platform isn't that way."

The Toronto Star - Untitled

The Leader expresses concern over the direction that the Reform is taking on social issues.

4/12/2001 Health

"The federal government doesn't run the health-care system, it didn't create it and it's not going to fix it."

The Toronto Star - "Harper to woo Ontario"

The Leader supports Klein and Harris' effort to take on the federal government over its lack of funding for the public health-care system.

Date Key Issue

0/02/2001 Alberta Agenda

Quote

The following is an excerpt from a Toronto Star article:

Others, including National Citizens Coalition chief Stephen Harper, say the answer is not outright separation but a Quebec-style intransigence.

Solution to what? Answer to what? I phoned Harper in Calgary to find out what exactly the problem is he's trying to solve.

His answer was that Ottawa extracts too much of Alberta's money to subsidize poorer provinces. By this, Harper is referring to Canada's elaborate tax and transfer system in which money from the three richest provinces Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia flows to the other seven.

I've never understood why Albertans begrudge helping out their less fortunate neighbours in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and elsewhere. But they do. When federal money flows into, say a canoe museum in Prime Minister Jean Chretien's riding of Shawinigan, Albertans really get hot under the collar.

Ontarians don't to the same extent. Yet Ontario remains the biggest contributor to national transfer programs.

Harper says Ontario doesn't mind because the money flows back. A newly employed Shawinigan canoe museum worker, for example, might

Source

The Toronto Star - "What is it that Alberta really wants"?

Context

Although the Leader isn't directly quoted in this article, I thought it would be wise to include it nonetheless.

take out a mortgage. But the mortgage would be held by a bank centred in Toronto.

Alberta and B.C., he points out, don't have bank headquarters (True. But when Alberta money helps an unemployed Manitoba labourer pay his heating bill, guess where the oil comes from?)

Anyway, Harper goes on, Albertans wouldn't mind as much if they were guaranteed a spot in the central government. But they're not. Compared with Ontario and Quebec, Alberta doesn't have many voters. In this sense, the province finds the democratic principle of one-person-one-vote inconvenient.

The solution that Harper, former Reform guru Tom Flanagan and others propose is to have Alberta's provincial government take control of all of programs it is constitutionally entitled to operate.

That would include opting out of the Canada Pension Plan to set up Alberta's own, replacing the RCMP with a provincial police force, collecting the province's income taxes.

How does that stop Ottawa from spending Alberta's money on those undeserving Manitobans? Harper acknowledges it doesn't, although he says that opting out of the Canada Pension Plan could cause the federal government so much trouble it would be forced to pay more attention to Alberta.

<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Context</i>
0/01/2001 Alberta	"The last election made it perfectly clear that we have no voice within the current political framework, and we are frustrated with the situation. Albertans should decide that it is time to seek a new relationship with Canada."	The Toronto Star - "View from the West"	This quotation, in which the Leader expresses frustration with the outcome of the 2000 election, stems from an article on Alberta separatism.
0/12/2000 Alberta	"We have deep cultural divisions in this country and the Liberal campaign deliberately emphasized those divisions in order to win. That will have consequences."	The Toronto Star - "Liberals recognize need to woo Westerns"	The Leader on the Liberals' "Bash the West" campaign strategy.
2/03/2002 Canadian Alliance	"We're still a long way from power if we're honest, but we're not close to death. We're a permanent political institution."	The Toronto Star - Will all policy and no play make Stephen Harper a good leader"	The Leader's take on the CA's health at the time of the leadership campaign.
7/02/2003 Health	"Provinces will always say it is not enough but frankly ... the provinces signed an agreement, they agreed to the amount of money involved and now it is incumbent upon them .. To sit down and make this agreement work."	The Ottawa Sun - "Premiers snub health deal"	The Leader offers the Liberals some faint praise its \$17.3 health deal with the provinces. The above quotation could be seen as belittling the provinces concerns.
0/01/2003 Campaign Finance Reform	"Our view is that this solution is the worse than the problem."	The Globe & Mail - "PM's donation ban to cost \$110-million"	The Leader comments on Bill C-24.
8/01/2003 Iraq	"We should not rule out any options. The Prime Minister's position today seems to be exactly our position."	The Globe & Mail - "Iraq: The Weapons Report ..."	The Leader commenting on Chretien then stated position that he was keeping his options open (i.e. He wouldn't rule out military intervention without the UN's approval).

Date Key Issue

Health

Quote

The following excerpt is from an article in The Toronto Star:

"I don't view the Romanow commission as a particularly promising vehicle of reform," he said.

Harper said he believes Ottawa has two functions in the health care system - to provide adequate long-term funding, "which it has failed to do repeatedly over a very long period of time" - and to work with the provinces on reform of the system.

Harper's views are consistent with positions taken in his caucus and with the separatist Parti Québécois government, which is boycotting the Romanow commission while the former Saskatchewan premier is in Quebec, dismissing his hearings as a waste of time and money.

Provincial Liberal Leader Jean Charest did testify, but he echoed the PQ position.

"It's not up to the federal government to tell the Quebec national assembly how to organize its health system," Charest said.

Harper is an advocate of more autonomy for the provinces - a position that led him to join other prominent Albertans in calling for a "firewall" around the province following the last federal election.

Source

The Toronto Star - "New Alliance leader rips health care ..."

Context

The Leader's take on the yet to be released report from the Romanow commission.

Date Key Issue

Quote

Source

Context

"Doctor-patient care, hospitals, these are the day-to-day responsibilities of the provincial government," he said.

Until the federal Liberals are prepared to seriously ask the provinces what they need in health care funding and work with them to create a framework for care "we're not going to get on with fixing this problem," he said.

"Part of my skepticism with the Romanow commission," he said, "is the idea that you can somehow just do a study and consult a lot of people.

"Ultimately, there is going to have to be experimentation and working with some solutions to find out whether they pan out or not."

<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Context</i>
5/10/2000	Gag Laws	<p>The following is an excerpt from a Toronto Star article:</p> <p>At the same time as he granted the injunction against the government, Cairns warned his final judgment may not find the law unconstitutional. But coalition president Stephen Harper is confident the gag law will ultimately be judged an unreasonable breach of free speech.</p> <p>Harper doesn't swallow the argument ads exert undue influence on voters.</p> <p>"Nothing in this legislative scheme prevents you from buying a politician, it prevents you from buying an ad to express your own views," said Harper in an interview from Calgary.</p> <p>"Studies have shown over and over again that people can hear political ads in all kinds of volume and make up their own mind.</p> <p>"This whole idea that the voters can't decide, and the voters might vote wrong is a fundamentally undemocratic notion." The spending limits were part of a package of reforms to the Canada Elections Act that were passed in May and took effect Sept. 1.</p> <p>"Do they really want to work in a coalition with David Orchard, Maude Barlow and that gang of socialists"?</p>	The Toronto Star - "Ottawa wants spending limits back"	This article appeared just prior to when an Alberta appeals court was to hear the federal government's as to why spending should once again be imposed on third parties (an Alberta court had recently found "gag laws" to be unconstitutional).
4/06/2003	Progressive Conservative Party		The Canadian Press - "Tories get first look at backroom deal"	The Leader's initial take on the Mackay-Orchard deal.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Context</i>
6/05/2003	Western Alienation	"[Premiers] are always in their rights to try to defend a province's interests ... The prime minister's reaction explains why there's western alienation. Premier Klein raises valid areas of provincial jurisdiction and the interests of Albertans, and he's simply dismissed in Ottawa."	CanWest News Services - "Butt out, PM tells Klein"	Klein had accused Ottawa of "messaging" around in provincial affairs, and the PM responded as he typically does (ie. shove it). The above are the Leader's thoughts on this spat.
0/04/2003	Anne McLellan	"Brutally incompetent (McLellan) misled the House and she should resign over her handling of this."	The Calgary Sun - "McLellan Lashed for Crisis Action"	Some (Susan O' Reilly at least) accused the Leader of going over the top with this comment.

<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Context</i>
2/05/2003 Alberta Agenda	<p>The following is an article by Preston Manning criticizing the Leader's Alberta agenda:</p> <p>SOME time ago, a group of Western Canadian academics published an open letter to Alberta's Premier Klein calling upon him to "build firewalls" to insulate the province from the pernicious effects of ineffective and misguided federal programs and policies.</p> <p>In particular, they proposed that Alberta collect its own income taxes and establish its own health care, pension and police services rather than relying on Revenue Canada, the Canada Health Act, the Canada Pension Plan and the RCMP for such purposes.</p> <p>These proposals are yet another expression of Western alienation from the federal system -- a sentiment which will continue to grow unless specifically and positively addressed.</p> <p>Attractive as the "firewall strategy" may appear to some Westerners, there are two major reasons why I believe it would be unwise to pursue it. The first is that "building firewalls" will ultimately divide rather than unite the West itself.</p> <p>While there is significant interest and support for "firewall building" in southern Alberta, there is much less support for it in Edmonton and the northern part of the province. And Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia are simply not in a financial</p>	Winnipeg Free Press - "Should the West build firewalls of bridges"?	Mike Donison asked me to include this as it might provide ammo to the Liberals and the press during the election.

position to contemplate, let alone pursue, such a strategy.

If the aim is to secure public policies which strengthen the West rather than weaken or frustrate it, there is a better alternative than building firewalls. That alternative is to "build bridges" -- positive links and alliances among potential allies across the West and in the other regions of the country to obtain national policies which are in the best interests of both the West and the country as a whole.

A united West will be more effective in changing national policies than a divided West, and uniting the West requires increased attention to forging stronger links among the Western provinces themselves.

For example, strengthening electricity transmission links between Alberta and British Columbia, and among the Prairie provinces, would enable us to get a better balance between the hydro power resources of B.C. and Manitoba, and the thermal power resources of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Not only would this enable us to offer more competitive power rates to our own people and industries, but it would also enhance our capacity to increase power exports to the vast and lucrative U.S. market.

The time has also come for the four Western provinces to get serious about "one system planning" of Western highway infrastructure, and new approaches to financing such infrastructure development, including the twinning of the TransCanada and

Yellowhead highways.

The New West of the 21st century must also build new bridges between itself and the provinces of Atlantic and Central Canada.

The West and Atlantic Canada have always had at least one thing in common: the feeling that Ottawa and Central Canada are often ignorant of and indifferent to the concerns and aspirations of the "outer regions." But instead of perpetually lamenting this state of affairs, are there not some concrete things that the West and Atlantic Canada can do together to improve their status and influence?

For example, now that there is a growing East Coast oil patch as well as a western one, cannot the western and Atlantic provinces work more effectively together to advance a national energy strategy which is in the interests of all of Canada, and to promote reform of the way in which the federal provincial equalization formula treats provincial petroleum revenues?

For many years the West and Quebec have had a major constitutional interest in common, namely greater decentralization of the federation. As long as Quebec had a sovereignist government, it was difficult for western leaders to pursue this common interest without appearing to support separatism. But now that Quebec has a new provincial government whose leader, Jean Charest, has expressed an explicit interest in rebuilding links with the rest of the country, there is a new opportunity for the West and Quebec to make common cause to reform

Canadian federalism.

In building bridges on this front, the premiers of the western provinces and Quebec might benefit from the experience of the Reform party in campaigning nationally for the reform of federalism in the 1990s. We found significant support for decentralization in the West and in Quebec, but not in Ontario and Atlantic Canada where it was feared that decentralization would mean a weakening of the national government.

We therefore broadened our approach to call for a "rebalancing of the powers" between the federal and provincial governments -- a strengthening of the provinces in their primary areas of jurisdiction like health care, education, social assistance and control of natural resources, and a strengthening of the federal government in such areas as defence, foreign relations, international trade and justice.

This approach produces a consistent message on "reforming federalism" which can be vigorously promoted by both the West and Quebec, but which will also resonate well in all regions of the country.

Finally, the West must find some key issues on which it can make common cause with Ontario. Manitobans, living in the keystone province which links the West to Ontario, might give particular attention to this challenge.

For example, the West and Ontario are the two regions which will be most heavily damaged by any disruption or diminution of Canada-U.S. trade. Both,

Date Key Issue

Quote

Source

Context

therefore, have a vested interest in working more closely together to overcome the damage created by the Chr tien government's mismanagement of Canada-U.S. relations.

And environmental issues might provide another opportunity for fruitful cooperation. It is in the interests of Canada's biggest hydrocarbon-consuming province (Ontario) and the country's biggest hydrocarbon-producing province (Alberta) to come up with some constructive alternative to the federal government's flawed approach to implementing the Kyoto Accord.

Western Canadians need to think hard about whether the best approach to building a strong and vibrant West is through building firewalls or building bridges. Personally, I'm for strengthening the West by building bridges to better link the New West to itself and the rest of the country.

"Many Progressive Conservatives have long hoped to rebuild their venerable political organization into the kind of party it once was. The events of recent weeks make it obvious that that is not going to happen. Should the PC party be rebuilt at all, it will be a very different kind of institution. The status quo, even in its most desirable form, has been obliterated. The PC party will be a new kind of coalition. Either it will be a coalition with David Orchard or it will be a coalition with the Canadian Alliance."

6/06/2003 Progressive Conservative Party

CanWest News Service - "Canadian Alliance leader woos Tories"

The Leader argues the Tories are at an important crossroad.

<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Context</i>
1/06/2003 Social Conservatism	"... we need to rediscover Burkean or social conservatism because a growing body of evidence points to the damage the welfare state is having on your most important institutions, particularly the family. Conservatives have to gove much higher place to confronting threats posed by modern liberals to this building block of our society."	Citizens Centre Report - "Rediscovering the Right in Canada"	The above is an excerpt of the speech the Leader gave at Civitas. In this section he discusses how social conservative values are necessary for a health society.
3/05/2003 Unite the Right	"We're certainly willing to discuss it with the future leaders ... I'm encouraged that Brian Mulroney would see it that way and would certainly encourage him to persuade Peter Mackay - whi I think is the key actor here - to get on that bandwagon ... We'll see what Mr. MacKay thinks about this and what tact he's prepared to take once he's elected ... The bottom line is that we want to see a single slate of candidates. There's not time to have a full merger of the parties, that is not possible between now and the next election."	The Toronto Sun - "Harper Set to Unite Willing to Work With Mr. Boss ^{Mr. Mackay} "	Harper response to Mulroney's suggestion that whoever the Tory leader is should make uniting the right his top priority.

<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Context</i>
1/05/2003 BSE Crisis	"I would understand that their [the United States] priority should be the same as ours, which to put the health of consumers first. But I think that the initial indication is that there's no evidence that anything has entered into the marketed product, and to the best of our knowledge, governments have this under control ... The government of Canada took the initiative to notify people, notify our trading partners about this, so I don't think they can be accused to this point of withholding any information. What I see at the moment is that we have a good safety and inspection system, and that they are doing what is necessary, but I think the situation requires our vigilance and attention. Obviously, all questions have to be answered not only for our own market, but for the American and other markets."	The Toronto Star - "Beef Ban Could Wreak Havoc ..."	The Leader's initial reaction to the BSE outbreak. It can be seen to be a positive assessment of the federal government's handling of the situation in its initial stages.

Harper Quotes

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
The Leader's response to a question concerning a poll conducted by Ipsos-Reid, which found that only 15% of Canadians thought that Canada should contribute troops to a unilateral attack on Iraq.	"I don't give a damn about the polls."	14/2003	Iraq	Ottawa Citizen
This quotation is the Leader's response to Manley's accusation that it was the Alliance and its fixation with anti-American comments that were really damaging Canadian-US relations.	"The Canadian Alliance is the one party in this country that has stood by our American friends through all of this, at every moment, what John Manley is doing is kind of like the information minister of the government of Iraq. They slander our American friends. They refuse to apologize for it. They say it is free speech, and then they try and blame their internal opposition for the problem. I mean, this is a communications tactic worthy of Saddam Hussein."	14/2003	Iraq	CanWest News Service

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
The Leader expresses his opinion on Canada's diplomatic efforts at the UN.	"I think it was an interesting PR stunt, but I think effectively put itself outside of the coalition of the willing. And frankly, outside the coalition of the recalcitrant around France and just ended up in this middle path that ultimately is not going anywhere and ultimately led to the muddled position we had during the war."	14/2003	Iraq (Canadian Compromise)	Politics with Don Newman
The Leader's response to the following question from Newman (not verbatim): What happens if the US doesn't want to use the UN in the future. Because of our [Canada's] special relationship with the US, should we follow suit?	"I think the UN Security Council, the role that some had hoped it would play post-Cold War is dead. Not just because of this but because of Kosovo. NATO's role is also in doubt."	14/2004	Iraq (UN)	Politics with Don Newman
This was a joke told by the Leader was on the campaign trail during the leadership race. Some may consider it to be in poor taste.	"You all saw that video that came out, a little bit controversial. Stockwell Day, I wasn't listening carefully, he was talking about the caucus, he was talking about walking amid the destruction and the devastation and the wreckage. Then I realized that was actually the World Trade Centre."	2/2001	Miscellaneous Gaffes	Excerpted on CBC Radio's The House

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
A oft reported incident in which the Leader used "immoderate" language. A day later it was reported in The Toronto Star that the Leader had called Chretien a coward.	"It was probably not an appropriate term [the Leader was heard calling McCallum an idiot during QP], but we support the war effort and believe we should be supporting our troops and our allies and be there with them doing everything necessary to win. And then this clown [McCallum] gets up and makes these ridiculous defences about how you can have troops in the field and somehow they're not your responsibility and somehow you're not part of the war. Quite frankly, any minister who has any integrity would resign from his position if he was forced to parrot lines that stupid in front of the Canadian public."	14/2003	Iraq (John McCallum and Jean Chretien)	The Daily News (Halifax)
The above quotation stems from comments made by the Leader during his stopover in Langley on April 11.	Harper accused Chretien's Liberals 'and frankly some elements of our national broadcasting corporation' of apparently wanting to prove that 'the America of George Bush is not better than the Iraq of Saddam Hussein.'"	14/2003	Iraq (CBC)	AdvanceNews (Langley)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>This quotation stems from the Leader's response to the supply motion put forth by the Bloc on the topic of military intervention in Iraq. It may be seen as being anti-French.</p>	<p>"In recent months this party, the Canadian Alliance, has been strongly supportive of these diplomatic efforts. However, it is clear now that in some cases Saddam Hussein has guessed right. For example, Jacques Chirac and the Gaullists of France have once again been preoccupied more with agendas targeted on the Anglo-American world [sic ?] than on the regime of Saddam Hussein."</p>	<p>13/2003</p>	<p>Iraq (France)</p>	<p>Hansard</p>

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>The Leader's response to Blaikie's rebuke of the Leader's argument regarding the CCF/NDP's history of pacifism (i.e., The CCF caucus (minus its leader) supported intervention in 1939 and in Korea. This quotation stems from the Leader's response to the Bloc's supply motion on military intervention in Iraq.</p>	<p>"Mr. Speaker, I will not debate every historical point. I will just point out that the NDP's tradition of pacifism has a tendency to go much farther than that. The NDP missed Saddam Hussein in 1991, just as it is missing him today. We all remember that. For much of the cold war, that party missed or downplayed the evil represented by the Soviet empire. As the member concedes, the NDP leader of the day did miss the threat posed by Adolf Hitler. I would concede the CCF voted for the war at the very end. I do not know what it did during the 1930s, but I do remember well my father and grandfather and relatives telling me how during the 1930s people of that persuasion ignored the evils of Adolf Hitler and told them that Adolf Hitler was just helping the German working man and this kind of thing.</p> <p>And it is even today. The NDP has a history of this. At these kinds of moments, it not only has a history of being on the wrong side of the issue, but as it has done in the House today, it targets all its criticisms at the good guys and all its criticisms at what they may do. I urge the NDP to</p>	03/2003	Iraq (NDP)	Hansard

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
	reconsider, to consider how serious the threat of Saddam Hussein is for the world and for Iraq and to stand by the removal of that regime."			
The Leader's opening line of a question regarding the Liberal's insistence on tying foreign policy to the UN.	"Mr. Speaker, we do not believe in sacrificing our friends and our interests to a veto of Jacques Chirac."	13/2003	Iraq (France)	Hansard

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
Part of the Leader's speech on the Alliance's supply motion. Some of the comments, IF taken out of context, COULD prove to be problematic (i.e., Americans are overbearing and Canadian are a little under whelming).	"The other source of anti-Americanism, I believe, is more psychological. The fact is that we are different and our differences sometimes have irritated and, yes, sometimes even frightened others. When we go to the United States, even as English speaking Canadians, as much as many of us love the United States, have friends, acquaintances and even close relations there, we know Americans are different. We know Americans can sometimes be, if I can be honest, loud, boastful, aggressive, maybe overbearing and certainly overwhelming, but we also know they have hearts as big as this planet.	14/2003 Iraq	Hansard
	What other great power has ever rebuilt the enemies it has defeated? Even with the trade difficulties we have, what other great and huge country throws open its market in a way similar to what the United States does? What other dominant force has ever so clearly stood for the hopes, the dreams and the common good of ordinary people everywhere?		
	However if the Americans can occasionally be overbearing and		

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
	<p>overwhelming, we in this country, if we want to be frank, can sometimes be a little underwhelming.</p> <p>Let me frank about this, in reference to something my office has prepared. This multiple page document is a litany of anti-American comments emanating from government benches in only the past few weeks and only over this particular conflict. I could add much more outside of that context. This litany of insults and outrageous abuse of our American friends contains quotes that range from the incredibly stupid to the truly vile. That is the only way I can put it. This is not a testament to our independence. It is a testament to a streak of immaturity and irresponsibility that this party does not share and will never embrace."</p>			
<p>The Leader explains Quebec's pacifist history to an American audience, and suggests that the feelings of other Canadians shouldn't be extrapolated from this fact.</p>	<p>"It's clear that in Quebec, it's probably a different matter. Quebec has a long history of different views of these kinds of issues, a part of this tradition. I think outside of Quebec, I really believe very strongly that the silent majority of Canadians is strongly supportive of our American and British allies."</p>	04/2003	Iraq (Quebec)	Fox News (this clip was repeated on Global News the next day)

Harper Quotes

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
The above quotation could be construed to be an example of the Leader bashing Canada.	"...we [Alberta] are the only province in Canada keeping pace with the top tier countries in the world. Now we must show that we will not stand for a second-tier country run by a third-world leader with fourth-class values."	12/2001	Canada	NCC Fundraising Letter

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>This letter is in support of the Harris Tories plan for school tax credits.</p>	<p>"Yet predictably, education bureaucrats, teacher union bosses, the opposition parties and the liberal media oppose giving parents more choice and freedom. The Left is pulling out all the stops to quash the conservative plan ... The Left doesn't want school reform, they simply want control - at our children's expense. When Harris tried to overhaul the existing public school system, we all know union, liberal media and educators fought him all the way then. These vested interests resisted any attempt to change a flawed system. Now, thankfully, the Conservatives will forge ahead with a different approach. Our campaign will rally support for this policy among the majority of Ontarians who are not represented by the anti-choice views of the Left and the union/bureaucratic establishment. With your help, we'll push for more freedom in Ontario's classrooms ... It's time to give public school unions competition and give parents the freedom of educational choice for their children."</p>	<p>16/2001 Education</p>	<p>NCC Fundraising Letter</p>

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
The letter solicited funds to aid in the defense of British Columbian Paul Bryan who posted election results from Eastern Canada in real time (this is illegal under the Canada Elections Act) on his personal web site.	"The jackasses at Elections Canada are out of control! Please excuse my language, but when I learned Election Canada's bureaucrats have pressed charges against a Canadian citizen, I just blew my cool. That is the exact language I used ... This is not the first attack on freedom by Elections Canada. Its heavy-handed chief, Jean-Pierre Kingsley, has been an advocate of the most minute of controls and regulations - and stiff punishments - on every aspect of 'free' elections."	18/2001	Elections Canada	NCC Fundraising Letter
This letter solicited funds to aid in the defense of British Columbian Paul Bryan who posted election results from Eastern Canada in real time (this is illegal under the Canada Elections Act) on his personal web site.	"Of course, the attitude of Kingsley shouldn't surprise us. After all, he's the chief backer of Bill C-2 - that other election gag law - which makes it a crime for citizens to spend their own money to promote their own views during federal elections. That too is another example of Kingsley trying to control information. Simply put, Kingsley is a dangerous man. It is appropriate that journalists have dubbed him Canada's 'Chief Electoral Idelogue,' and 'Chief Electoral Nanny.'"	18/2001	Jean-Pierre Kingsley	NCC Fundraising Letter

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
The sentence that preceded this quotation was as follows: "Mr. Harper believes the traditional parliamentary system does not help the situation. Great stress is put on the caucus cohesion, forcing all MPs (in the same party) to sing the same tune, as if they could sublimate their personal beliefs."	"There's tremendous pressure, there's a need for the team to appear to be speaking the same message and that leads to all kinds of contortions."	15/1997	Parliamentary System	Globe & Mail - "Election Agenda"
The Leader on the boondoggle potential on Paul Martin's suggested reforms of the CPP.	"Take all the federal economic boondoggles that have ever happened and multiply them 100-fold and you've got the CPP investment board .. To these guys, Cape Breton heavy-water projects will look like a sound investment ... But if it succeeds in operating 'just like the private sector,' then there's no real reason for government to run it at all."	12/1998	Canada Pension Plan	Globe & Mail - "The Provinces Prairies Suspicions about the new CPP"
The Leader on politicians like Chretien and Martin who ditch their Catholic beliefs the moment they become inconvenient.	"Don't go around saying you're Catholic if you don't believe in it."	18/2003	Religion	Kingston Whig - Standard - "Same-sex unions 'a moral decision': Harper
The Leader on the latest EKOS poll that has the CA at between 9-11% support.	"They're [EKOS] are the single pollsters, I believe, for the Liberal government ... I think it reflects what the Liberals want the Tories to believe - that they don't need to work with the Canadian Alliance ... It's all Liberal propaganda."	17/2003	EKOS	Red Deer Express - "Poll is 'propaganda' Alliance leader says"

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
The Leader on what should guide our decision-making in the arena of foreign affairs and defense.	"We should not be guided by international consensus, but by our own moral values."	08/2003	Iraq	National Post - "Harper Valley GTA"
The Leader on the then-nascent United Alternative project.	"To propose right from the outset that a united alternative can be achieved simply by mobilizing the Reform organization, policies, name and leadership - and needs little more from the Tories than their votes - is to label it a 'takeover' and to doom it to rejection and failure."	04/1998	Unite the right	Globe & Mail - "Harper rejects run at Tory leadership"
The Leader on Reform losing its seat in the 1998 by-election in Port Moody-Coquitlam. Considering possible parallels that could be drawn to Perth-Middlesex, I thought it would be wise to include it.	"This is the wrong time for Reform to lose a seat in its own base ... People who would be (thinking of) going Reform are looking at whether it's got a shot at challenging for government. The by-election would indicate precisely the opposite." <i>related to 2003 by-election</i>	04/1998	Reform	Globe & Mail - "Reform stalls drive to unite right after B.C. federal by-election"
The Leader referring to Reform MPs who opted back into the pension plan.	"That's the most disappointing part of this. Not only are these people prepared to abuse the public trough, but they're also prepared to abuse the public trust."	01/1999	MP Pensions	Globe & Mail - "MPs join ranks of those eligible for pensions"
This quote is from an unnamed source who attributes it to the Leader. In it the Leader is making light of the view that he hopes to influence policy rather than govern.	"When I was an MP, I was thoughtful moderate. Now I'm a radical ideologue who wants to retreat into a right-wing NDP."	09/2001	Canadian Alliance	Globe & Mail - "Harper in Ottawa to test water for leadership bid"

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
The Leader, quoted from an NCC fundraising letter, on the benefits of Harris controversial school tax-credit.	"The plan will save money ... Premier Harris suggested the government will save about \$7,000 for each student who does not attend a union-run public school."	16/2001 Education	Globe & Mail - "School tax-credit plan hailed as a money saver"
The Leader's pessimistic assessment of the CA's (prior to its leadership election) chances of forming government. The Leader is indirectly quoted as saying that the CA would probably do better under Day than under Manning, but he still holds reservations about Day as he is untested on the federal stage.	"If the goal of the Reform Alliance is to form a national government ... it seems to be difficult to make the argument that he can achieve that ... It's virtually impossible."	13/2000 Canadian Alliance	Globe & Mail - "Day can win Alliance leadership"
The mentality to which the Leader refers is that of fully bilingual separatists like Bouchard and Parizeau who believed that English-language rights must be restricted whenever possible.	"But why has this mentality ruled Quebec year after year unopposed? Because no political party has had the backbone to stand up against a few ethnic nationalists."	1/1999 Quebec Issues	NCC Fundraising Letter
This quotation stems from a membership renewal letter. The term "Soviet-style" may be considered to be immoderate.	"On the prairies, we [NCC] demand marketing freedom for farmers. The Soviet-styled Canadian Wheat Board [CWB] monopoly has suppressed free enterprise and value-added production for too long ... Let's unshackle western farmers from the CWB. That's the only real 'Farm Crisis' solution."	12/2000 Canadian Wheat Board	NCC Fundraising Letter

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
This fundraising letter argues for the need to defeat gag laws.	"You, like many Canadians, were probably very disturbed by the tone of that election campaign. Frankly, the personal attacks, unsubstantiated slanders, and left-wing media fear-mongering reduced the exercise to the level of farce."	11/2001	2000 Election	NCC Fundraising Letter
This letter deal with the NCC's fight to overturn the federal election gag law. The preceding part of the sentence is as follows: "We never wavered, even after receiving a thinly veiled "scare" letter from ..."	"... that most biased of government agencies, Elections Canada."	11/2001	Elections Canada	NCC Fundraising Letter
The purpose of this letter was to solicit funds for the Alberta Agenda (aka Firewall Letter). This quotation could be seen to be too pre-Western in tone (i.e. Those buggers in the East just don't get it). The mention of Atlantic Canadian and Quebec voters being bought with transfer payment dollars could also prove problematic.	"On November 27, voters in central and eastern Canada gave Jean Chretien's Liberals a massive majority blind eye to the scandals, abuses of power, and misuse of tax dollars that, in the eyes of most Westerners, make the Liberal Party a corrupt and unacceptable option. They rewarded a Prime Minister whose campaign featured vote-buying orgies in transfer-dependent provinces, media reports of Shawinigan slush funds, vicious attacks against any kind of democratic reform, and the ridicule of any sense of morality of politics."	12/2001	2000 Election	NCC Fundraising Letter

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
From a letter promoting the Alberta Agenda. Who knows, this quotation may be seen as being too Alberta-centric.	"...looking at Alberta's strong economy and budget, he [Chretien] claims that our wealth has actually been created by the federal government. In other words, he believes Alberta's wealth belongs to Ottawa."	18/2001 Alberta	NCC Fundraising Letter

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>This quotation stems from a letter soliciting funds for the Alberta Agenda. Implying Albertans to vote for a party exposing a message of separatism over the more federally minded Liberals could prove to be problematic. In fairness to the Leader, he goes on to state that the Alberta Agenda has nothing to do with separation.</p>	<p>"Our first opportunity to take a stand will be in the upcoming provincial [Alberta] campaign. In this election, it is our intention to go across the province on radio, television, and newspaper to ask Albertans to send a blunt warning to Jean Chretien and the Liberal Party: all things Liberal are unacceptable in this responsible, freedom-loving province. We are asking all Albertans to vote for Alberta. What does that mean? For those who support the government, clearly that means backing Premier Ralph Klein. For those who oppose the government, that means supporting the Alberta alternatives to that government - parties like the Social Credit Party, the Alberta First Party, of the Alberta Independence Party. But under no circumstances should Albertans support the Liberals - a party that stands four-square against everything positive that Alberta represents."</p>	18/2001 Alberta Agenda	NCC Fundraising Letter

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
This quotation stems from a fundraising letter soliciting for money for Montreal lawyer Brent Tyler's case against Bill 101.	"The Parti Quebecois designed this law [Bill 101] to suppress the basic freedoms of English-speaking Quebecers and to ghettoize the French-speaking majority into an ethnic state."	1/1999	Parti Quebecois	NCC Fundraising Letter

Harper Quotes

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
During the 2001 Alberta election, the NCC ran an ad campaign that turned up the heat on the Alberta agenda.	"Its mandate will be to push the Alberta agenda ... and to get the province moving ahead in that direction."	12/2001	Alberta Agenda	Edmonton Sun - "Send Message to Ottawa: Coalition"
The Leader's thoughts on the decision of the Supreme Court to uphold election spending limits.	"It displays a prejudicial bias .. It calls into question (the Supreme Court's neutrality and open-mindedness."	1/2000	Campaign Finance	Calgary Sun - "Outrageous Court Ruling"

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
	<p>"Isn't it time taxpayers has a say in MPs' pay? Mps recently rammmed a report through the House of Commons that boosted their pay, doubled their expense allowance and sweetened their severance package and pension options. MPs say they needed the money, but shouldn't Canadian taxpayers have the final word on this matter? After all, MPs are supposed to work for us. Isn't it the taxpayers whop pay them? Certainly MPs has a perfect opportunity to raise the compension issue during the last election. But they didn't. Not a single party mentioned any form of compensation increase in its platform in the last election - just one year ago. They just begged us for their jobs back. And why wouldn't they? MPs earn about \$106,000 a year in salaries and allowances and can look forward to collecting a super-rich pension or a generous severance package, among other employment benefits. Mps were in a conflict-of-interest situation. Any increase in compensation should not have been implemented until the next Parliament, after MPs have sought re-election on the new rules. We taxpayers</p>	16/1998 MP Pay	Edmonton Sun - "Letter to the Editor"

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
	can't give ourselves a raise and neither should MPs."			
	The following is a quotation from an article on the United Alternative: "He [the Leader] credits Manning for at least calling for a united alternative but notes the option is 'seriously flawed' because it is essentially a Reform ploy to take over the Conservative Party."	14/1998	Canadian Alliance	Ottawa Sun - "Get it together"

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>Considering the Leader's past comments on MP pay and pensions, this could prove to be quite troublesome.</p>	<p>The following is a excerpt from a Edmonton Sun article: "The former Reform MP now seeking the leadership of Reform's political successor, the Canadian Alliance, last night told an Edmonton crowd of about 250 supporters that he'd accept the MP's pension and take up residence in the Opposition leader's mansion in Ottawa. Both the pension and the official residence are issues on which the Alliance members have flip-flopped in the past, earning themselves a lot of derision. That was never a policy of the party," Harper said of the position initially taken by movement founder Preston Manning, who publicly scoffed at the home called Stormoway, suggesting it would be better used as a bingo palace than a taxpayer-supported residence. Later, when Manning became leader of the Opposition, he moved into Stormoway, which was assessed at \$2 million in 1997. The party's initial rejection of MP pension was 'a mistake,' Harper told the supportive crowd. Reformer vowed to refuse the lucrative MP pension payment plan because they believed the move would shame Liberal MPs into dumping it as well,</p>	2/2001	MP Pensions (amongst other things)	Edmonton Sun - "Harper has eyes on Stormoway"

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
	he said. Instead, it focused attention on themselves, and chose them support when members eventually bought back into a revised retirement plan."			
The Leader responds to Martin's promise to end western alienation.	"The fundamental strategy of the Liberal party for the last 30 years remains screw the West, get the rest."	06/2003	Liberals	Vancouver Province - "West will roast Martin if he calls early election."
The Leader response to a question as to how many Canadians actually support the United States' position on Iraq.	"It's a little harder to read you know, we have kind of all Liberal media sponsored polls here."	03/2003	Iraq	Fox News Sunday
This article appeared during the time of speculation that the Leader would run for the PC leadership.	"The PC Party, in the past, has been successful at pulling together coalitions of different conservatives. That's the real challenge."	03/1998	Unite the right	Toronto Sun - "Harper eyed for Tory Job"

<i>Context</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Date Key Issue</i>	<i>Source</i>
The Leader comments of the end of a recent postal strike.	"The federal government's legislated end to the postal strike is only a hollow victory for Canadian consumers. True, Canadians will get their mail service back but they will still be forced to put up with an archaic postal monopoly. Back-to-work legislation only treats a symptom and not the real problem with postal service in Canada. The real problem is the double monopoly in postal service. The government gives post office management a monopoly over Canadians' mail, and then Canada Post gives CUPW union bosses the labor monopoly power to shut the service down. That threat still hangs over the heads of all Canadian families and businesses. It's time to end the double monopoly and to give Canadian consumers a choice when it comes to mail service. Only ending the monopoly will ensure that Canadians are never held hostage by another postal strike."	2/1997 Canada Post	Ottawa Sun - "Letter to the Editor"