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**KINSMEN DINNER**

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UNIDENTIFIED: ...Great One Wayne Gretzky, and the Right Honorable Stephen Harper, the Prime Minister of Canada.

[Hockey Night in Canada Theme]

[applause, cheers]

STEPHEN HARPER: Wow. Well thank you very much everybody for that wonderful Saskatoon welcome. I think this is guy's night out here, Wayne, I don't see too many gals in the crowd, but there are a few. Can we hear from them?

[cheers]

There we are. That's great. Well first of all let me just thank Mark on his introduction and just acknowledge why we're here. This is the 50th annual Kinsmen's Sports Celebrity Dinner. As many of you know this organization does great things for the city, has for a long time. The Kinsmen Inner-City Hockey League, the special-needs shopping night, the children's day at the zoo, all kinds of activity to help the underprivileged in the city.

You know, organizations like this, the dedication, the teamwork involved, are a lot like sports teams. It's about working with the team, it's about putting someone other than yourself first. Kinsmen does a great job of that, particularly the club here, so we want to... Wayne and I want to congratulate all of you Kinsmen for the great work you're doing in Saskatoon.

[applause]

Now ladies and gentlemen, one of the great things about being Prime Minister of Canada is that in this country if you become prime minister you're almost important enough to share the stage with Wayne Gretzky.

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[laughter, applause]

Wayne and I have a few things in common. Some of you may have seen the National Post today. We were both hockey players.

[laughter]

In fact I can tell you Wayne -- and here's a stat that will take a moment to digest -- not much is known about my hockey career but I can tell you that in my entire career I scored almost as many goals as you did in your first game.

[laughter]

WAYNE GRETZKY: (laughs) Okay.

HARPER: We do have a few things in common, we...

GRETZKY: Are you sure?

HARPER: Wayne's... I was telling you backstage, Wayne's uncle Al has been a great longtime supporter of mine in the London area, a great guy, done a lot of work for us. And actually we both moved to Edmonton... the great city of Edmonton late in 1978 at about the same time. I actually saw you play a game in the WHA, in the old Northlands Coliseum. And I just want to say this Wayne -- and I know I speak for everybody here -- I watched your career from those early days. I never saw you not show up for a game. I never saw you not put all out on even a single shift in your entire career. And...

[applause]

And I just want to say this, because you don't get many opportunities like this in life. I watched your career for all those years. I mean all the thrills you gave us. You played the game with such passion, with such skill, with such artistry and I just want to tell you, I just want to thank you

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from the bottom of my heart for all the great enjoyment you've given hockey fans, like all of us, all those years. We really appreciate it.

GRETZKY: Thank you. Thank you very much.

[applause]

HARPER: So I'm going to ask Wayne a few questions today. We'll start with, I know the question that's on everybody's mind, and that's the Olympics. What do you think of our team's chances? Who is the biggest threat? Any advice for the players or the coach?

GRETZKY: Well first of all it's a pleasure to be here. We've been here for 24 hours and had a wonderful time. The hospitality has been outstanding, and how great is it that the Prime Minister of Canada takes time out to come to Saskatoon and be part of this event?

[applause]

It's a great country and we're all very proud Canadians and for him to come here for this evening is really special. But, you know, going in the Olympic Games, as I tell people when I was part of the Olympics, it comes down to a couple things. One, goaltending. I always told Marty Brodeur, you don't like hearing this Marty but the pressure's on you. And he would always tell me, I know. And secondly if your best players play the caliber that they are capable of playing at under high scrutiny then they'll be fine. And I think their leadership with guys like Niedermayer and Crosby, Getslav, Iginla, the players they have and the goaltending they have with Brodeur and Luongo, obviously I think that we are a favorite team to win a gold medal. Unfortunately for us we play against some great teams. The Russians are good, the Czechs are good, the Swedes are good. The US team is going to be a very good team. And I always tell my friend Yuri Kuri, he

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somehow finds a way to put together a good Finland team. So competition is going to be great and I think it's going to be exciting and I think it's going to be great for the country and hopefully we're in that gold medal game and get a chance to win gold again.

HARPER: Absolutely.

[applause]

HARPER: Now Wayne, maybe let me follow this up with a broader question. This is our game. We invented it. We perfected it. We took it around the world. But I think if you look just at hockey, and even in our lifetimes, what we see is other guys, other countries, are doing it better and better and it's tougher and tougher for us to stay on top. What do we have to do against this... you know, these bigger countries, the Russians, the Americans, that are getting better and better. What do we have to do in the years to come to stay on top... at the top of this sport internationally?

GRETZKY: Well I think a couple things. Number one, first of all... first and foremost is we should be proud of what we've done with our game. We've expanded it into places like the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, and now the United States. More and more kids are coming out of the United States of America. And to me that is something we should be proud of. We've sold our game around the world. As far as keeping up with all these people we should keep doing the things we're doing. I think Hockey Canada does an outstanding job in youth hockey, girl's hockey, boy's hockey and we just continue to grow. And it's the passion of the game itself and the sport of hockey that entices kids to play at a young age, to dream of playing for the Toronto Maple Leafs or the Edmonton Oilers, to put on a Team Canada jersey and play for Canada in the Olympic Games. And those are the

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things that are going to keep selling our sport. And the other side of it is coaching. You know, we need volunteers across the country, minor hockey, girl's hockey, youth hockey. To continue to grow our sport we still need and can always use the help of the volunteers from coast to coast.

[applause]

HARPER: Wayne I gather ... This is a bit of a full circle for you. There's so many people, I know in this audience, so many kids out there who look to you as a hockey hero. Of course we all know that when you were little you had a hockey hero too and your hockey hero was Gordie Howe. And I understand you first met Gordie at a Kinsmen dinner in Brantford when you're 10 years old. Is that right?

GRETZKY: Yeah. It's... it's full circle. I was 10 years old and that year I scored 400 goals...

[laughter, applause]

I was playing defense, so...

[laughter]

But I had an advantage. It was the 5<sup>th</sup> year I was on that team. I started on that team when I was six and I tried out for the team and I made the team. I scored one goal the first year. So I played five years on the team. And that year a really good friend of mine, a classmate, his father was president of the Kinsmen in my hometown, in Brantford, and they had all these speakers coming to speak at their dinner and one of the speakers was my idol, Gordie Howe. And I'd read every Gordie Howe book and I knew probably more about Gordie Howe for his own kids knew about Gordie Howe. And so they asked me to speak at the dinner. And part of the thing was I got to go down there and get to meet Gordie Howe before hand and get a picture

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taken with him, get an autograph. And a lot of times when you meet your idol, you know, I know kids go away a little disappointed or a little bit upset, and when I met Gordie Howe he was bigger and better than I could ever have imagined. And so here we were when I got asked to come up to Saskatoon, Gordie's hometown, and Gordie was in Brantford my hometown I said, you know, the Prime Minister is going to be there, this will be a great night, and I phoned Gordie and I said, Gordie, why don't you come to Saskatoon? So the greatest player that ever lived, Gordie Howe, is here tonight and he's going to come on stage with us.

[cheers, applause]

[Hockey Night in Canada Theme]

HARPER: We should stand together, give them all a shot.

GRETZKY: Okay.

HARPER: Have your seats.

GRETZKY: So anyway, I said... from Saskatoon and he came to my hometown and I said, I'm going to his hometown. I said Gordie you got to come up here. So Gordie was a nice surprise. And as I said, when I met Gordie I was 10 years old and we developed a friendship and I played with his son when I was 15, Murray, who's now a doctor in Detroit. And then Gordie and I played in the WHA All-Star series in 1978 and I didn't ... I didn't think I was even going to play...

GORDIE HOWE: And you won.

GRETZKY: Yeah, and we won.

[laughter]

I was 17 years old and I was tying my skates and I turned to Gordie and I said, Gordie, I'm so nervous. Because Jacques Demers was

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coaching and he said you're going to center Gordie and Mark and I went, oh my goodness, Gordie and Mark? And I looked at Gordie and I said, Gordie I'm so nervous, and he was sleeping...

[laughter]

His eyes were closed, and he goes, so am I.

[laughter]

So we get out in the warm-up. We come off after warm-up and he said, just win the draw, dump it in my corner and go in front of the net. And, true story, seven seconds I scored a goal. I said, wow, it can't get any better than this can it?

[applause]

So that was a fun time.

HARPER: Well, here we have it, the Great One and Mister Hockey. I don't think it gets better than this, does it?

[cheers, applause]

Now Gordie, Wayne and I were talking about you a little bit earlier today and...

HOWE: No swearing?

[laughter]

HARPER: No, I was on my best behavior. We... We were talking about, you know, all your great attributes as a player, but the one that I think stands out in everybody's mind is the longevity. Playing in the NHL and getting 20 goals at 50-some years of age. 40 years old, I think you were third in NHL scoring, at 40 years of age. Just an unbelievable record.

[applause]

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In a contact sport. So I guess the question is, what's the secret to longevity? Maybe I'm asking it personally. How do you stick around for a while?

[laughter]

HOWE: Wayne, I should tell them who you contact first.

GRETZKY: That's why he's the Prime Minister, he knew to to ask.

[laughter]

HOWE: No, as a matter fact if I may get on the same line is that young man there. I was fooling around with a young fellow by the name of Bobby Hull and... who had the shot but he didn't have the total package. So when we met... I talked to his old man – a nice man -- but he ... I just told him, I said I ... if just keeps it up... keep him happy because God he's got every trick in the book and how I judge it is when he's going down the, the man he plays to properly, not to the man that's going to get hit, to the man who wants the puck. So it's... Somebody asked me and I said, when he has puck control I have no problem whatsoever, so... because we teach, there is a right wing and a left wing and then Wayne in the center. Now if he wants to throw it in he'd just give me a look and throw in that side. Now that means the left-winger has to go in front of the net. I liked that.

[laughter]

But we had a great time and the European hockey style, I think they taught us a little, but I think we taught them a lot. So it's... I just...

[applause]

HARPER: Maybe it's a question I can ask both of you. Gordie, before you came out we were talking a bit about the Olympics and the

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international competition we face. You look back over your career, the same with you Wayne, how has the game changed today and what changes would you like to see as we move forward?

GRETZKY: Well I think that from the player's point of view, the kids are bigger and stronger and faster. The equipment is much better than what we wore. I mean Gordie and I played, even Gordie before I did, the equipment was nothing. The technology of the equipment now from the skates to the sweaters to the helmets, the hockey sticks. I'd like to see them all go back to wooden hockey sticks because I don't think anybody can make or take a pass. The shafts bend and...

[applause]

... and who cares if you can shoot 100 miles an hour if you don't know where it's going. But the athletes themselves are so... so... It's every sport; you just progress. And our sport would be at a standstill if it didn't. The game itself, I like the game, I love the fact that they've tried to open up the game and make it a little bit more offense. I really, as Gordie would tell you, winning championships is really hard and the physical part of the game is a big part of winning championships. And somehow we've got to combine that physical presence with the offensive strategy that they're trying to implement into the game and I think that will take our game to the next level.

HOWE: I often wonder why... you know, the young man, when he... when I was watching him as a youngster and then all of a sudden I'm playing against him. And I said to myself, I said there's too much friendship here to do with anything with old family, so when I got near him, well here I'd yell, look out.

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[laughter]

GRETZKY: Oh you looked out.

HOWE: Then it's a push again, so a touch, and.... He liked it, and I liked it

GRETZKY: (laughs) Yeah.

HOWE: The defensemen got in the way and then we'd start bumping into one another to get rid of the dumb defensemen. We don't want...

[laughter]

But we had... playing them... And it's funny, I can tell him now, I'd say with... of the 18, 19 players sitting on the bench watching, I was playing out there and I said, watch him when he does a certain thing. That certain thing became a habit with the Red Wings when I played with ... with Omaha and everything else, but the game, I felt the very same way as Wayne did. It's... That's the cutest woman I've had on the ice just seeing the hockey players ready to... That part did not bother me. I thought it was part of the game until I had a wonderful guy by the name of Sid Able come up and he said, you're going to go nowhere with your fists. He said, that Wayne Gretzky, have him show you how to handle a puck and never get hit. So, I said, that's no fun...

[laughter]

But it was true. I think Wayne is very polite about it but I think he taught I betcha at least 45, 50 percent of the players certain legal points wouldn't... won't work. And when that happens just throw the puck in and have your partner go after it. The dummy has to play right or left wing...

[laughter]

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... I'll stand out in front. But... I think... When we played against the Russians there was some pretty talented youngsters out there but I think they were matched to about three or four of the ones that... and Wayne was the leader, so I would... I have never said this in public, but I said, the only difference between greatness and Wayne is not the hockey, it's the man himself. And I... I've said it before and I'll say it again, I said, I'm a very proud man to call him my friend and I hope he feels the same way.

[applause]

HARPER: I actually... Actually Wayne I should ask you that question. Gordie kind of alluded to it. Some years ago I saw footage of an NHL game between the Boston Bruins and the Detroit wide range. This was reputed to be the first time that an 18-year-old Bobby Orr had been on the same ice with you Gordie, and you lined up with him and all of a sudden there was a flash of the elbow and Orr went sprawling on his back. That's all I remember. Did you ever do that to Wayne, or did you let him off easy?

HOWE: No, you had to take a man out; that's your job, but you....

[laughter]

GRETZKY: No, I'll tell you what happened, okay?

HARPER: I try and say the same thing by the way.

GRETZKY: No, no. I'll tell you what happened. The first game we played, I was 17 years old. I remember skating around in the warm up thinking my goodness, I'm playing against Gordie Howe. So Gordie was over there and he was looking at me and he was winking to me, and he's telling me, all right, good luck. So the first shift I go down and I lifted his stick up and I got the puck and I'm going back the other way and he came down the

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ice and he gave me whack on the hand and I went, oh my goodness, and he got the puck and he went back the other way. I said I'm never taking the puck from him again.

[laughter]

That was it.

HOWE: A very proud hockey... No, on the contrary to what a lot of people believe, you know, yes we were taking one another out and yes we'd run them into the boards, but there's conversation sometimes if you've got friends like Wayne. And I would say about half the guys in the NHL have friendships, so they don't worry about... They just yell, look out. And I got him so he might have... release it so nobody gets hurt. And that's ... That was the change because Ted Lindsay was the meanest young man in the world and...

[laughter]

... in practice he cut guys, so...

[laughter]

... so the first game I played against him I got him for seven.

[laughter]

Because he cut my eye for about 11 stitches, and almost took it with it. And I told him, I said I'll get even with you for that... the eye. I'll be looking for you. So I let about five games go by and then he forgot.

[laughter]

Took that little bull-head head off...

[applause, laughter]

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HARPER: So let me ask both of you another question. You had such outstanding careers, and we can all think of highlights from both of your careers. But let me ask each one of you, and you probably know what the question that's coming next, but the first question is, what was your best single moment in hockey? What was your... your greatest moment, your best moment from your personal perspective looking back at your career? Yeah, sure, Gordie.

HOWE: When I met Colleen.

[applause, cheers]

I choke on... That's not something I just... I've lost her.

HARPER: Well I think we... All of us, you know, I think all of us look back at our lives regardless of what occupation we're in, or sports, those things are...

GRETZKY: Family is the most important.

HARPER:... our marriage, our wives, our kids. Somebody told me a long time ago, it was way back when I was an aspiring politician, not elected to anything, he said to me, at the end of it all, no matter how far you go or you don't go, if you look back... if you don't have your family, you don't have anything. And that was the best advice I ever got in life.

[applause]

Yeah. Best moment Wayne.

GRETZKY: My best moment was two, from a personal point of view. The very first game I played in the NHL, to play in my first game. We played in Chicago Stadium. The first shift I played against was against Stan Mikita and I thought, oh my goodness, this is something really special. And then obviously there was nothing like lifting the Stanley Cup for

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the first time. It's something you dream about as kids in your backyard and on ponds and playing ball hockey and road hockey. So the first Stanley Cup and lifting that in Edmonton was obviously the greatest thrill of my career

[applause]

HARPER: I could almost tell you Wayne that I know how that feels.

[laughter]

GRETZKY: Well if you were in Edmonton then, everybody in town lifted it.

[laughter]

HARPER: After I became Prime Minister in 2006, you remember the Oilers nearly took the Stanley Cup? I was at the game in Edmonton, game 6, and the NHL... Bettman asked me to come backstage between periods and lo and behold I get in the room and I'm all alone there with Bettman and the Stanley Cup. So I picked it up and lifted it over my head.

[laughter]

Let me ask you the tougher question. Long careers. We all have our ups and downs. What was the... What was your worst or your toughest moment in your hockey ... in your hockey career when you look back?

HOWE: Too many of them.

GRETZKY: Yeah. That's the thing about hockey -- the highs are high and the lows are low. For me losing the finals of Montreal-LA. We were... The teams that we played on in Edmonton were supposed to win championships. They were good teams. The team then went to the Stanley Cup

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finals that year was just a hard-working group of guys and our goaltender, Kelly Hrudy, played extremely well. To get ... To beat Toronto in game seven, which was an emotional series. It was a tough series, good hockey.

[applause]

And then to go into Montreal and win game one. To lose that series was so hard because we were so close. It was the greatest thrill... one of the greatest thrills I had yet one of the biggest letdowns I had.

HARPER: Gordie?

HOWE: My first punch on Rocket's nose.

[laughter]

No, not really. Now I... I think Rocket was mad at me. I beat him in golf and... and then we got together and went... on the situation of hockey and he was in Detroit and for some reason he speared me. That's not a good thing to do so...

[laughter]

When he's skating, you know, you met the strides and I hate to... this next, the girls, pretend you didn't hear me... but they are striding so I got behind him and I go ... pop ....

[laughter]

... and I'm laughing like crazy. And Bobby... Bobby Hull had just got it before me from Rocket. So I learned fast and that's it. So I look at Bobby and he's just roaring laughing and they're going to give me a penalty to go. And I'm seeing him laughing and he said, face off over here.

[laughter]

So... but the... No, I... I think some of your most pleasant times can be very difficult and that's have a friend on a team for some reason

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traded. And I said you can take all the goals you want and everything but don't take a friend away. That's... that's BS as far as I'm concerned and they ... and they ... it's too bad that, like Sid, and Tommy Ivan, are the only two coaches I can remember that come in and personally ask you a question about a trade, and the player had an opportunity to say yes or no. And sometimes it's hard to do but if you've got three good left-wingers and only one right one, you better make... you better bolster the one and they had to send ... send somebody there and they said, well, just give us some time to look. I said I'll go scouting if you want. But I just... Don't trade the other man. He means too much for the city of Detroit. It's like Wayne. What's he mean about Edmonton? I guess everything. But it's a situation which you become very attached with the fans, and when they trade you it's more than just going somewhere; it's losing thousands of people. You'll come back and you'll hear them, but they're not like that when... So I would say the most hurting part is to leave the city where you've built your name and met a lot of people.

[applause]

HARPER: You talked about trades and looking for people, Gordie, and trading for... I think you mentioned specifically trading for some left-wingers. I don't know, you can look for a lot of those. I've had trouble finding a good one.

[laughter, applause]

HOWE: That's why you asked me that question.

HARPER: Gordie you were... you were Wayne's hockey hero. Who was your hockey hero growing up?

HOWE: Sid Howe.

HARPER: Sid Howe.

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HOWE: I could spell his name.

[laughter]

HARPER: A great hockey player, but not related.

HOWE: Not related. No.

HARPER: But you did have a brother, Vic.

HOWE: Vic.

HARPER: Vic Howe played for the New York Rangers.

HOWE: Yeah. I was... As a matter of fact ... Little known, but they were after a Howe because when I was 17, like Wayne, I got some notice from New York that in Winnipeg they were having their camp and they'd like to see me in there. So when I first got in there they had me signing something so if I got hurt they could take care of me. That might've been a lie because it didn't work, but I had a situation where I had left there and they... every time you wanted to do something, you can't do this, you can't do that, and then you have to ... And they were mean to about three of us rookies. I said, I don't know about you but I said as soon as they say goodbye I'm gone. That's exactly what happened, an argument and... And I did say something nasty about the coaching. I can't say it here, okay?

[laughter]

But it was a situation where I just said, you know, I'll give the game up if I have to come back here. And then I got a call from the Red Wings and boy did they treat me nice. And they... All the way through the whole game and it was more or less my idea to give it up so I could get into a game where I could play with Marty and Mark. They didn't know that but that's... that's why I quit the Red Wings. It wasn't because of anything else; it

was just a point that Marty and Mark were ready, the two boys, and I wanted to get a couple of seasons with them. Only got seven.

HARPER: Besides being... Besides being one of the greatest players of all-time, you're the greatest hockey dad of all time.

[applause]

UNIDENTIFIED: We only have... I think we have time for one more question.

HARPER: I could go on all night.

[cheers]

What I want to ask these guys, you know, Wayne, played on four cup winners in Edmonton, fire wagon hockey where... four in Detroit with the... you know, the highly disciplined style of the old six team league. I ... My next question would be, if I had time, is I wonder how those teams would do today. But let me ... Since they're pulling the collar on me, we'll save that for some other time.

[boos]

Let me ask a question... Aw, go ahead, answer it.

[cheers]

How would those teams do today? Would they be Stanley Cup teams? And then I've got one more after that.

[applause]

HOWE: Today... The only thing I can say... I like that part where they pay you.

[laughter]

GRETZKY: I got to go one... I like the way they pay them now.

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HOWE: Yeah. Yeah I got... I thought I'd hit the jackpot when I got 5000 for the first year.

[laughter]

I never had enough money to buy a car, so I thought... But I was happy, happier than hell when I wore that Red Wing uniform on like any other body would wear their home team's. It's... It's a pride factor and ... and then we got... the management of the team thought well we needed more younger fans so we would go out, 15,000 people would show up and we'd play in front of them and then we'd have two or three of the kids enter into the lineup and play with them. And those three kids we ended in were ... they made it to professional hockey. It just put the love, like Wayne, you could see it ... automatically if he missed a shot he'd take 100 shots from that same area. That's dedication and love of the game and that's... if the kids looked at him and all they had to do is read that part of it they'd be a much better hockey player.

[cheers, applause]

GRETZKY: You're putting me on the spot, aren't you? Well it was a completely different game, the equipment, the sticks. I mean, my goodness, when Gordie played -- and I'm not trying to date Gordie -- but they didn't even have the glass on the boards. Probably... What year did they bring glass on the boards, about 1958? Yeah. So... Curved sticks. The goaltenders didn't wear masks. I mean the skates we wear today compared to what they wore are so completely different. So if you were able to take that group of players from his team when they won the cup in Detroit that last year and put them in the equipment the players are playing in today, it would be a pretty good hockey game. I'm sure with Gordie Howe out there and Ted Lindsay and

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Sid Abel and Terry Sawchuk, it would be a pretty good hockey game. It would be fun to watch, wouldn't it?

HOWE: That's four broken sticks.

GRETZKY: Yeah.

[applause]

I just think it would be... I often wonder about it. It would be fun to watch. I don't know, I guess we'll never be able to do that but it would be fun to watch.

HARPER: Well I think a great... a great player would be a great player in any era. I am reminded ... I'm reminded of a story I read some years ago about hockey's first superstar, some of you may know, Cyclone Taylor, 100 years ago. And when he was a very elderly gentleman he was seen one day skating on the ice at the Pacific Coliseum by a couple of reporters. And one sports reporter asked another, he said, how many goals do you think a guy like that would get scoring... you know, get playing in the NHL these days? And the other reporter said -- and I forget their names, one was Frank Orr, I think, I forget who the other guy was -- and he says, oh I think Cyclone Taylor would get 15 or 16 goals. And the guy said, really? A superstar like that only get 15 or 16 goals? And he said, yeah, but he is 85 years old.

[laughter]

HARPER: One last question Mark, and then we'll let people have something to eat. And that's a question I know that's on everybody's mind in places like Saskatoon. We had some rumors when you were in St. Louis. I go to Winnipeg, I go to Québec City, I go to Hamilton. You've all heard the rumors, and particularly you Wayne. In the last few years

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you've been on the business side of the game. What do you think the chances are we'll see some more NHL teams based in Canada in years to come?

[cheers, applause]

HOWE: That's one vote.

GRETZKY: Yeah. I... I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that my... our really good friend Bill Hunter was a big catalyst ...

[applause]

You know... I know he was one of the guys who was instrumental in getting Gordie to come back to the WHA back in 74, and obviously instrumental in Edmonton. I know he worked diligently to try to get a franchise here in Saskatoon. But as I've said over the last six months, and I continue to say it, listen, hockey is Canada, Canada is hockey. If we can find a way to put a franchise in Nova Scotia, one in Québec City, one in southern Ontario and one in Saskatoon, one in Winnipeg, and it would work, then it'd be great for hockey. It is our game. It's our country. This'll be the one place in the world that come February 28th will shut down for the afternoon so everybody can watch a hockey game. And you just don't get that in any other country.

[cheers, applause]

HARPER: Ladies and gentlemen, the Great One and Mister Hockey. Let's give them all a big hand.

[cheers, applause]

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