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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. memo	Richard Tubb, MD to Ginny Terzano; RE: Vice President Gore's annual medical exam (4 pages)	09/13/1996	b(6)
001b. memo	Sushil K. Jain, O.D., M.S. to Director, White House Medical Unit; RE: Vice President Gore's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)
001c. memo	Staff Dermatologist to Director, White House Medical Unit; RE: Vice President Gore's annual medical exam (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)
001d. memo	Head, Gastroenterology, National Naval Medical Center to Captain E.C. Mariano; RE: Vice President Gore's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)
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001g. memo	CDR Scott Haney, DC, USN to Director, White House Medical Unit; RE: Vice President Gore's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)
002a. memo	E. Connie Mariano, MD to Mike McCurry; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (4 pages)	09/13/1996	b(6)
002b. memo	Sushil K. Jain, O.D., M.S. to Director, White House Medical Unit; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)
002c. letter	Talal M. Nsouli, M.D. to E. Connie Mariano, M.D.; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)
002d. memo	Chief Cardiology, National Naval Medical Center to Captain E.C. Mariano; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)

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2011-0586-F

db4234

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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002g. memo	Chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery to Director, White House Medical Unit; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)
002h. memo	Commander Scott Haney, DC, USN to Director, White House Medical Unit; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)
002i. letter	James Y. Suen, M.D. to Whom It May Concern; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 24, 1

PRESS BRIEFING
BY MIKE MCCURRY

The Briefing Room

1:50 P.M. EDT

MR. MCCURRY: All right, ladies and gentlemen, it's Friday. Happy Memorial Day Weekend. I can do whatever you would like to do. I can kind of run through anything, take questions. I can do questions on the President's exam or run through some notes, tell you about the President's reaction to the tests -- whatever you'd prefer. Whatever you all prefer.

The President was more enthusiastic than he needed to be about his exam because he was surprised, as I think some of us were, that overall some of his test results improved somewhat from last year, because based on his gastronomic performance of yesterday and other days we thought the results might have been somewhat different. But his general -- the President's general reaction to his physical exam today, he felt that he was in a little better shape than last year. He was disappointed that he had not had quite as much weight loss as he had hoped for.

He pointed out that had it not been for yesterday, he might very well have been weighed in at somewhat less than last year's figure.

Q Like 15 pounds?

MR. MCCURRY: And he vows to be lighter at this time next year when he takes his tests.

Q Is that a campaign promise?

MR. MCCURRY: Let me run through a couple of other things about his tests that the statement doesn't cover in detail. He was examined by some sports medicine specialists. They looked at two things in particular. He's had a little bit of stiffness in his left hand, so they examined that and X-rayed it to make sure there hadn't been any damage to any of the bone structure there. They concluded, but after looking at it carefully, it was probably a muscle pull and probably associated with his golf -- not an uncommon golf injury. But there was no indication of any type of stress fracture.

He also -- the President from time to time complains about lower back pain, and he has some back stiffness. So they looked at that, determined that the joints were fine, that probably that was the wear and tear of his jogging, which he does on a regular basis.

Q Has he been encouraged, as so many other joggers who have experienced that have, to use some other form of aerobic exercise?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know the answer to that, Brit. I know Dr. Mariano said that he will -- that one of the specialists that examined him today will probably come out and job with him at

some point just to look at his technique as he runs, and to see if there is anything about his running that he might do differently given some of the lower back pain that he experienced. They also recommended some better stretching for him. So he is going to do a different kind of warmup and do some stretch exercises before he goes out.

Q But he has not been discouraged from running and to change to a lower impact --

MR. MCCURRY: No, I think overall, the doctors, as you see from the statement, recommend that he continue his exercise regimen because it has had some positive effect on his cholesterol and his overall cardiovascular health.

Q Mike, does the President take any medications regularly, and if so what are they?

MR. MCCURRY: He does. The President has for some time suffered from what's known as reflux disease. The exact name is gastroesophagal reflux disease, which is essentially stomach acid that can come up and irritate the vocal chords and the upper chest area. That can be aggravated by allergies, which the President suffers from. It also can be aggravated by extensive use of the vocal chords. For that they have prescribed the prescription drug Prilosec, which is basically a strong anti-acid, kind of an acid blocker.

Q How long has he had that, Mike?

MR. MCCURRY: He has been on that -- I don't know when he began it -- probably about a year.

Q Previous to that, what's it known as?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know the trade name of it. I'm not going to use --

Q It's called Big Mac Counterattack. (Laughter.)

MR. MCCURRY: In describing -- it is probably safe to say it's a strong form of Xantac would be one way of describing it, extra strong form of Maalox.

Q When was the onset of this reflux, does he know? I don't remember this being --

MR. MCCURRY: He's had that for some time and has been treated with it for a year. That is -- as we've indicated in the past, likely source of the irritation that he suffered for his vocal chords. Now, they did examine his vocal chords and given that they will get an extensive workout this year, they are described as being in good shape.

Rita, back to your question on drugs, medications. In addition to Prilosec, which he takes for reflux, the President also is treated for allergies. He's been diagnosed as having some common allergies to things that are in the local environment here in Washington. (Laughter.) Air pollution -- airwaves pollution -- no, principally weed and grass pollen, and things like that, that he suffers from. He gets an allergy shot once every seven to ten days, a specially designed serum similar to the way most allergy patients are treated.

Q Broadly speaking, is this hay fever?

MR. MCCURRY: No, it wouldn't be accurate to say that. He's just got a combination of allergies from everything from

household dust to weed and grass pollen. They are aggravated, the President says, in the fall and sometimes around the holiday seas when there are a lot of evergreen cuttings in the White House. They tend to be worse in the fall than they are in the summer, which is not dissimilar from some of the people who suffer from allergies.

But for allergies he takes a prescription antihistamine called Claritin D, which is a prescription antihistamine, but not sedative.

Q Does he take it regularly, Mike, or just when he has an attack?

MR. MCCURRY: He takes that, I think, regularly, in addition to his shots. And then he also takes some regular OTC multivitamins. That's it as far as drugs. Nothing about the test indicated any additional prescriptions or any additional tests.

Q He doesn't take a routine aspirin?

Q What about the keratosis?

MR. MCCURRY: He had an actinic keratosis on the tip of his nose, which is basically a pre-cancerous skin lesion. Many people who have been out in the sun for a long time are familiar with that. They are treated by touching them with liquid nitrogen and freezing them. So you'll likely see kind of a -- some type of scab area develop on the President's nose in the next couple of days.

He also, in his dermatological exam, they found on his neck area -- you're going to get more than you wanted to know. I'm sorry. They found an inclusion cyst.

Q A what?

MR. MCCURRY: An inclusion cyst on his neck, which he'll probably elect to have excised at a future date. So you'll notice that sometime in the future that he will have a little cyst cut out.

Q Mike, is the keratosis the same as last year?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, no, it's not --

Q Exactly the same?

MR. MCCURRY: Not the same one. In fact, the dermatologist checked the areas that he had spotted and treated last year, and there hadn't been a recurrence in those areas. This one was more on the tip of his nose.

Q But it was precisely the pre-cancerous lesion as the one from last year?

MR. MCCURRY: Same kind of thing. Sun damage that accumulates over years. They are pre-cancerous. There is no indication of melanoma or basal cell carcinoma in any of the indications.

Q Was he encouraged to wear hats or sun block?

MR. MCCURRY: He takes -- uses SPF-36 sun block, Brit, when he is out there swinging at the golf ball.

Q Mike, the President's skin is occasionally uneven in its color. He is redder in one area. Is that diagnosed as any kind of a condition, or is that a result of allergies, or what's the deal there?

MR. MCCURRY: He has sensitive skin. It can be the result of many things. For example, the exam today by the dermatologist looked at him and said, have you been out in the wind recently. And the President said, yes, I was jogging on Lake Michigan yesterday when I was in Milwaukee. He said, well, you're wind-burned. So he'll sometimes get blotchiness related to windburn. He sometimes -- I think, if I'm not mistaken, it could also be associated with allergies sometimes, too.

Q Is the reflux a result of stress, and does he take that Prilosec every day or is it something that comes and goes?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know, I didn't ask about dosage. But that is -- it essentially can be aggravated by allergies, I'm told. It can be affected by stress. It can also be affected by other things that are not indicated in the President's own -- some people suffer from this as a result of alcohol use. That's not indicated, obviously, in the President's lifestyle -- or sometimes tobacco use. So there are a number of things that can cause that. But it can be associated with stress or with diet or with eating lots of Miss Katie's chicken wings.

Q Mike, is this keratosis something that would be biopsied or is it something the dermatologists can just look at and say it's pre-cancerous?

MR. MCCURRY: No, no, it's more commonly known as a pimple. How much more excruciating detail would you like?

Q Is it pre-cancerous?

MR. MCCURRY: Oh, I'm sorry, I thought you meant the cyst on the neck. No, no, it's a skin lesion and it's not -- if you want to see what happens when it really gets bad, look right here under this eye and you'll see what happens when you have to have one carved out. But it's a very common form of skin abrasion that comes from over-exposure to the sun over a long period of time.

Q On the back problem, does he wear any kind of a brace? Some of us have noticed that in the back of the limousine there's a -- he's taken to using some sort of a cushion or a metal-type back brace.

MR. MCCURRY: Because he has some discomfort there from time to time, I think he props himself up with a pillow sometimes in the limo. Not the most comfortable car in the world to ride in, I might say.

Q Trade Wire 2 for it. (Laughter.)

Q New subject?

MR. MCCURRY: Let me see if there's any -- I mean, in general, nothing -- as you can tell from the readout I'm giving you, nothing that is surprising. There were not any special concerns they had about any of the test results. There are some tests that, for time, they didn't do today. They might do a hearing test in the future. He didn't do any extensive tests on allergies because he sees an allergist on a regular basis. They did not do a dental exam today. They do that from time to time here at the White House. The President had his teeth cleaned and examined several months ago, so that's why there's no indication of a dental exam here.

The White House considers, obviously, the treadmill test to be the most significant because that is an indicator of overall cardiovascular health. And the doctors were very well satisfied with the test and the results very closely matched last year. One of the reasons why Dr. Mariano recommends this test is because you can look

for any subtle differences year to year in the performance on the treadmill test, and then that can indicate if there's any further areas that need to be examined. They didn't notice anything of the note.

Obviously, the pulse rate is low. The overall total cholesterol is down and the good cholesterol was up and the bad cholesterol was down and the total cholesterol was down. So that good news I'm told.

Q New subject? The RNC has got an ad coming out to be aired over the weekend or Memorial Day attacking this soldier-airman issue raised by the President's lawyers in the Jones' case. Can you respond to the ad and explain the President's position on that?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, I'll just repeat what, Mr. Bennett the President's attorney, has said. This ad distorts the truth and is an attempt to politically embarrass the President. It is consistent with repeated efforts by the Republican Party to attack the President in a very personal and very negative way. They know, and Mr. Bennett has made clear for several days now, the President does not rely on the 1940 act as a basis for requesting relief. The same provision has been in briefs filed in the lower court prior to the filing in the Supreme Court, and the appearance of this ad on Memorial Day Weekend serves the obvious political purposes the Republicans have in mind. In short, it's a cheap shot.

Q Nevertheless, Bennett's filing says that the President would be entitled to that protection. He may not be claiming it in that brief, but his brief says that the President is entitled as commander-in-chief to this protection.

MR. MCCURRY: As Mr. Bennett says, and you can read it for yourself, he cites it as one of five illustrative examples of the types of stays that can temporarily defer lawsuits in occasions, and the President does not rely on the act as a basis for his request for relief.

Q Why cite it then, Michael --

Q But he goes on to say --

MR. MCCURRY: I'm not a lawyer, Ann, so I can't tell you why Mr. Bennett cited it, but he is more than willing to answer that and has been answering it for several days.

Q But doesn't it seem somewhat disingenuous to say it's there, but we don't mean it?

MR. MCCURRY: You can ask Mr. Bennett why, legally, his expert judgment was that it should be cited in the brief.

Q What has the President said to you about this? He knows this has been kicking around for a couple of days. He must have noticed, he must have said something.

MR. MCCURRY: I mean, just pretty much what I have told you. I mean, it's clear that this is a political attack by the Republicans that coordinates with a very aggressive strategy they have developed from the Speaker to Senator Dole to governors around the country to the RNC and Mr. Barbour to personally attack the President and to question his character.

Q Well, I understand that, Mike. But still, it wouldn't be -- obviously they wouldn't be -- you would be saying something different about it if he had not made this representation

to the court. So what you're saying is it's an attack. I think it's clear the it's an attack. But what's the answer to the attack?

MR. MCCURRY: The answer to the attack is that they are deliberately distorting the truth of what's in the brief.

Q How so?

MR. MCCURRY: By mischaracterizing what Mr. Bennett has stated in the brief and misstating the case upon -- or the basis upon which the President seeks relief.

Q Mike, the members who wrote the letter asked that the President withdraw any use of this act even as it is used in the briefing. I think you can have very different interpretations of that. Does the President feel comfortable with how Mr. Bennett used this law in his brief, and does he have any intention of withdrawing the use of this act in his legal brief to the Supreme Court?

MR. MCCURRY: The President is comfortable with the legal representation he is getting from Mr. Bennett and the arguments made by Mr. Bennett, he is very well qualified and willing to answer to.

Q And does he have any intention of doing what the members who are signing this letter have asked him to do, and that is, withdraw this portion of his argument?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't believe that Mr. -- I don't believe the President has paid a great deal of attention to things that Mr. Dornan says.

Q There are 220 people who signed this. It's not just Mr. Dornan.

Q How does he feel -- even if it's not the basis for his claim, does he feel comfortable with saying that he is entitled to this kind of relief?

MR. MCCURRY: He does not make a claim that he is entitled to this relief.

Q He says that he is --

Q That's simply not so.

MR. MCCURRY: Mr. Bennett says --

Q He flat states that this is a --

MR. MCCURRY: Mr. Bennett says that the President has not intention of relying upon this act as a basis for requesting relief in this case, as you know from his statement yesterday.

Q Mike, he says he's entitled to that.

Q But the brief says that it's relief to which he would be entitled as commander-in-chief.

MR. MCCURRY: It says that -- it is cited as an example of the types of stays that can temporarily defer lawsuits. That's correct.

Q Would you at least acknowledge that while this may have been an effective legal argument, that when arguments that are made on behalf of the President of the United States, they occur in a legal context, but also in a political and policy context; and that while this may have been an effective an appropriate argument in a

legal context, in a policy and political context it may not have the greatest thing that ever happened?

MR. MCCURRY: You're exactly right that this brief could be misused by the President's political opponents.

Q Is that what I said? (Laughter.)

Q -- major veterans groups are now also misusing the brief? It says three of the largest have --

MR. MCCURRY: I believe they -- the VFW, the American Legion and others have put out statements that set forth their views.

Q Do you think --

MR. MCCURRY: You're correct, they put out statements that set forth their views. You can interpret --

Q Are they misusing this?

MR. MCCURRY: No, you can interpret it for yourself. What they say is considerably different from what some of these Republican opponents of the President have said, if you read their statements carefully.

Q But does the President think he is or is not entitled to this relief, regardless of whether he's claiming it for the purposes of --

MR. MCCURRY: The President believes that this case, or this act was cited properly as an example in the brief. The President, frankly, did not pay a lot of attention to this particular citation and a fairly long brief cited along with other examples.

Q He didn't read it before it was filed?

MR. MCCURRY: No, he did not.

Q How will he counter this ad, then? Because they are going to play it all over the place over the weekend.

MR. MCCURRY: Look, we'll see whether they do or not. They have a tendency of saying that they're going to run a lot of ads, and then they mostly put them around places to get you interested and then they go on.

Q Are you likely to get the CNO nomination today?

MR. MCCURRY: Not that I've heard. Have we heard anything? Not as near as I can tell.

Q Talking about things that are being put out to get your attention, the DNC has also put out some stuff that's -- complaining about a Republican --

MR. MCCURRY: That's on welfare reform, in which the Republicans have just lied about the President's position. The Republicans, the RNC has got another ad that says Clinton still supports giving welfare benefits to illegal immigrants. He doesn't. He never has. And it's already against the law.

Q Well, that letter from the general counsel particularly cites -- quotes references to the Federal Communications Commission and licenses and that sort of thing. Is this -- in asking stations not to air this ad. Is this some sort of subtle warning?

MR. MCCURRY: You'll have to ask the DNC that. I'm not familiar with the letter that they've sent.

Q Where does minimum wage stand now?

MR. MCCURRY: Minimum wage is closer to being a reality for the American people. And the President will continue to fight for it and we hope that, as the President said yesterday, that Senator Dole will bring it up for a vote and do it quickly in the Senate.

Q Well, what is your feel on it?

MR. MCCURRY: The President believes there's very strong bipartisan support in both the Senate -- or in the Senate, clearly in the House, as reflected in the vote in the House, to raise the minimum wage. And he believes it can be done quickly. And he believes it should be done free of other amendments that might make the measure controversial. We hope that they will take a clean up or down vote for an increase and do it soon after the Memorial Day break.

Q Have you got any kind of a promise on that?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, Senator Dole has indicated today he wants to bring it up rather quickly and he has indicated to the President on prior occasions that he would like to do that prior to his retirement.

Q Senator Dole was on the floor just a minute ago trying to bring up his welfare reform bill. If the Senator's bill and the House Republican plan comes to the President without the Medicaid provision will he sign it, or does he have other problems?

MR. MCCURRY: The President wants them to have a good debate in the Senate on welfare reform. The President, as he said yesterday, likes some of the approaches taken in the Breaux-Chafee measure, but if they pass a welfare reform bill that matches what Senator Dole talked about on Tuesday -- now, this is opposed to what the House Republicans have been doing -- but if they bring up a bill that does those things that the President described for you yesterday, the President, as he indicated yesterday, would sign it.

It's not clear at all we're going to get that kind of measure. It looks like we're going to get one that might be encumbered with poison pills such as the guarantee of health care under Medicaid. The way to avoid that is to just go back to where the consensus is now on welfare reform, and that lies in the President's view in the proposal that has developed in the Senate by Senators Breaux and Chafee. And we hope that Democrats and moderate Republicans in the Senate will be successful bringing that measure up for discussion when they get into the welfare reform debate.

Q Yesterday he said Senator Dole's plan and the new House Republican plan are a lot closer to Breaux and Chafee, and if that's the new plan, send it to me without a poison pill and I'll sign it. What I'm asking is, if he gets this bill and it doesn't have Medicaid on it, will he sign it, or are there other poison pills that he hasn't elaborated on?

MR. MCCURRY: If he gets it -- the principal poison pill is Medicaid. Our other concerns are about food stamps and some other things. But if he gets that bill that matches that formula he described yesterday, the President is inclined to do it. And we think we're close. We believe it can get done.

Q Does that bill contain the child care and health care provisions that the President wants in welfare reform?

MR. MCCURRY: It does not -- it doesn't match precisely what we find encouraging about the Wisconsin plan, which is the commitment by the state to increase funding for child care and health care. But it does have some commitments on maintenance of effort things that would guarantee that the safety net for kids won't be taken out from underneath kids as you move welfare dependents from welfare to work, through the work requirement.

Q Is he going to Camp David?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't think so. I think his plans are to enjoy a quiet weekend here and then he's got public events on Monday.

Q How full a day does he have on Monday? Does he have the afternoon open for himself?

MR. MCCURRY: He's got -- let's see. He's got a breakfast here in the morning. He lays the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 11:00 a.m., and then an address in the amphitheater. I don't show anything on the public calendar in the afternoon, as far as I know.

Q What does that mean, that nodding?

MR. MCCURRY: Don't have anything. I think he's got the rest of the day off.

Q Is that yes, there is something, or no, there's nothing?

Q What's the radio address about?

MR. MCCURRY: The radio address for the weekend will be appropriate, given the Memorial Day Weekend.

Q He's not going to do a CNO this weekend some time?

MR. MCCURRY: You keep asking me that. Why do you keep asking me this?

Q Well, I'm asking because my desk is on me.
(Laughter.) But it seems kind of a likely time, given that you said it would be soon.

MR. MCCURRY: David just said, well, not sure if it's likely, wouldn't exclude it, which means we don't know.

Q Press conference scheduled?

MR. MCCURRY: Nothing is scheduled.

Q Is it going to be taped?

Q Mike, earlier today you made several references in the morning briefing session to a vicious personal attacks on the President. Why are you characterizing these things this way and why shouldn't they simply be regarded as the normal rough and tumble of the political campaign?

MR. MCCURRY: Because I detect in some of the statements that have been made by the Speaker, Mr. Gingrich, unfortunately, by Mr. Dole, by Mr. Barber, to be sure, certainly by Mr. Armey, to be sure, a level of escalation in this type of attack that does go beyond what you normally see in May of an election year.

This would be bad enough if it was in October. But it's May, and this is going to be a pretty awful campaign if the rhetoric on the other side goes at this rate all the way through to November. You know, I suppose -- oh, I don't know. I can't speak to their motive. They are looking for some way, absent any substantive ideas that are exciting to the American people, they're looking at some way of provoking the American people or dividing the American people and they're choosing this route.

Q But, Mike, if the President puts out an ad that's -- excuse me, the Democrats put out an ad that says that essentially Bob Dole is a quitter, that he ran away from the Senate and didn't try to get anything through, isn't your side playing in this equally?

MR. MCCURRY: Look, I think, in the face of the type of personal attacks that the President has taken on from a variety of Republican sources and what seems a very coordinated attempt to disparage his character, to point out that Bob Dole had a choice between staying in the Senate and working with the President and getting some of this work done, or leaving to go to the campaign trail so he could continue this pattern of negative personal attacks is a fair point to make. He had a choice. He could have stayed here in the Senate. He could have stayed here to work with the President to pass some of this legislation in a bipartisan fashion. The President repeatedly said to Mr. Dole, let's come down here, let's get the work of balancing the budget done. Let's expand health care. Let's raise the minimum wage. Let's reform welfare. Let's get some things done before this campaign begins. And Bob Dole took a hike.

Q So it's okay then?

MR. MCCURRY: So pointing that out to me is fair, particularly if you consider the type of vicious personal assault that has come from the other side.

Q So when you criticize them it's a fair point, but when they criticize you it's vicious?

MR. MCCURRY: I'm sorry, I'll come back to you.

Q Can you give us an example of a couple of the specific attacks that you're talking about?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, the Speaker of the House has all but called the President of the United States a liar, for one.

Q Wait a minute. Aren't you all saying that the Republicans are lying about the President's position on welfare?

MR. MCCURRY: Yes. And I just substantiated it.

Q Then you're calling him a liar.

MR. MCCURRY: No, I said that they got a -- I just cited to you one line in an ad that they have on the air that is a lie. Okay? Now that's factual. (Laughter.)

Q The China munitions* thing. Is the administration attempting to see how far up in the Chinese government goes this with two officials arrested being -- two people arrested being officials of a state run munitions concern and the evidence indicating that they knew the guns were allegedly destined for street gangs?

MR. MCCURRY: My understanding is, the State Department indicated yesterday that we have initiated discussions in Beijing with appropriate representatives of the People's Republic on those types of issues. As to what the evidence indicates, I will refrain

from any comment on that, because I don't want to jeopardize any investigation or a possible prosecution.

Q Those types of issues involved, meaning this case as well as others?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, the nature of the PRC's knowledge of this type of activity.

Q Can you comment on recent developments regarding lawsuits filed against big tobacco, what some people might characterize as setbacks for the plaintiffs in these cases?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know that we have looked at that. I haven't looked at that issue myself. You might want to try the FBI or the Justice Department, see if either one has looked at those cases in particular. To my knowledge, just based on what we've seen so far, they don't have a direct effect on the President's initiative related to tobacco use among minors; these are separate cases that arise under liability claims. Our interest is in pursuing measures that would curb tobacco use among young people.

I don't think there's any direct effect on that very important initiative that the President has launched.

Q Mike, as long as we're doing fact checks, is the President going to stop saying that he's put 43,000 cops on the street --

MR. MCCURRY: Yes. We're going to say that we have got 17,000 trained people on the street and funding for 43,000 positions in fulfilling the President's commitment of getting 100,000 cops on the street.

Q So the answer is yes, no, what? Sort of?

MR. MCCURRY: The answer is, we're going to make sure that 43,000 -- we've funded 43,000 positions now -- that we want these community cops to go through training and to be equipped to go out and help communities protect themselves against crime, to help keep people in neighborhoods safe. And one of the good things, encouraging things about community policing is, people go through some training so that they work with the community and they can work with neighborhood groups and do a good job.

This program, in the 17 months or so that it has been up and running, a lot of these slots that we have now funded are for people who are getting the right kind of training so they can be effective in fighting crime in the neighborhood. And there are 17,000 out on the street now. There will be 43,000 as a result of the position we've funded, and the President is determined to get to 100,000 as part of the COPS program.

Q And just to be clear, you're not suggesting that the issue of character is anything that should not be raised?

MR. MCCURRY: Character is something the American people judge for themselves. You know, what I'm talking about is spitball politics and the kind of smudge that they put on the air. That's a different thing.

Stop it, Brit.

Q Mike, how can I keep a straight face when you can't?

MR. MCCURRY: What else do you want for the weekend?

Q Golf. Lid? Can we put on a lid now?

MS. GLYNN: There's a piece of paper coming out.

MR. MCCURRY: Do we have one piece of paper, and can someone go tell me we won't appoint a CNO, and so we can put a lid on?

MR. JOHNSON: Don't think we're going to do that today.

MR. MCCURRY: Don't think we're going to do that today.

Q Is he going golfing?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't think so.

Q Are you going to free up food reserves to replenish the loss Wisconsin suffered yesterday? (Laughter.)

MR. MCCURRY: I think Governor Thompson pronounced himself well satisfied to the gain that the state had received as a part of that impressive summit meeting yesterday. The economy was helped.

Thank you and have a good Memorial Day Weekend. See you Tuesday.

END

2:23 P.M. EDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 13, 1996

PRESS BRIEFING
BY MIKE MCCURRY

The Briefing Room

8:03 P.M. EDT

MR. MCCURRY: Good evening. I think you have all had a chance to look at the material that Dr. Mariano has prepared for my use. Let me do a couple -- just one or two addendums to this because there is some other information that she elected not to put into her own report of the President's physical exam and some of the reports on his medical history.

Remember, back on August 21st I was asked by the Dole-Kemp campaign a couple of questions about the President's blood count results. If you look on page 3 of the document that Dr. Mariano prepared, she says that the complete blood count, normal -- and some of the other things. But she indicates that.

But let me give some specific test results on that because the Dole-Kemp campaign had raised that as an issue, and at that time I provided some specific numbers. I just want to reiterate those for the record. They asked, what is the President's hemoglobin count? The answer is 16.1, which was in the parameter of normal, which is a range of 14 to 18. What is the President's white blood cell count? The answer was 5.8, which is within the realm of normal. Four to 11 is the normal range. What is the President's platelet count? The answer is 250,000, which is in the range of normal -- 150,000 to 450,000 is the normal range for a patient in the President's age bracket. And what is the President's AGT reading, which is a liver function reading? The answer was 42.

Q Was that AGT?

MR. MCCURRY: AGT(SGOT). I have no idea what that stands for. The answer was 42, which was in the normal range of 17 to 49. Those are additional test results that we had made public in the past that are not reflected here. It's reflected in Dr. Mariano's statement that he had a normal blood workup when he did his exam.

Any other questions about some of this material?

Q What about this material was embarrassing -- you talked about "embarrassing" the other day -- that you didn't want to release before.

MR. MCCURRY: Well, I'll just cite one example of the kind of thing that I was talking about. If you look on her summary of medical history, item number three, which is recurrent episodes of voice hoarseness due to a combination of the reflux syndrome the

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President has, which I reported on May 24th, his allergies, and overuse of his voice, they have actually got pictures of the President's inflamed vocal chords, which are part of his medical records. I don't know what useful purpose it would serve to make available a picture of the President's inflamed vocal chords. We've told you that from time to time he has inflammation in his vocal chords and he is being treated for that as indicated in item number three. And that's the kind of thing that I think, in preserving the dignity of the office, we elect not to provide.

At the same time, we recognize the responsibility to provide the comprehensive type of information here that allows you to evaluate the President's overall health condition and confirm the judgment of his doctors that he is in overall excellent health.

Q On page 2 on the past medical history, which says, no history of hypertension, diabetes, tuberculosis, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera -- now, is that based on Dr. Connie's examination of his past records or is that --

MR. MCCURRY: It is based on the examination -- her examination of his past records, the personal conversations she's had with him that are subject to the normal doctor-patient confidentiality that applies to any human being, and also the indicators from the clinical exams that have been conducted during the time he has been President.

Q Do you all feel like you've caved in to the Dole campaign? Certainly there has been a lot of controversy around this issue, even with Lawrence Altman requesting an interview with Clinton and Mariano.

MR. MCCURRY: Sure, probably. I mean, what we've done is we reported to you on May 24th that the President was in excellent overall health. There has been a concerted effort on the part of the Republican campaign to raise questions about that evaluation by the doctors, physicians. Many of you in this room and your news organizations have posed questions now that we felt had to be answered satisfactorily, and so we have provided this information.

Q And it's still the White House contention that it's not necessary -- or will you release the actual medical records?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, these are medical records. This is part of the President's permanent medical file that is maintained by his doctor. So these are medical records. They are being released to you. You could look at the electronic evaluation of some of these lab and test results. They would have to be explained to you. They would be explained to you in the fashion that Dr. Mariano has done here.

Q Well, you made the example -- you cited the example a moment ago of his inflamed vocal chords. So there are some of his records which you think are not appropriate to be released?

MR. MCCURRY: Any patient's records include those things that they have done for diagnostic purposes, including in this case pictures of those inflamed vocal chords, and I don't see the useful purpose to release those pictures, because we've released to you here the information that describes the physician's evaluation of what that's all about.

Now, be careful on that. We have got one doctor's statement that is still outstanding, which is from Dr. Sen (phonetic) down in Little Rock. He was in surgery all day today, and so he is

racing around Little Rock, Arkansas, right now and putting together a statement similar to the ones that we received from the other seven attending physicians --

Q Did he perform that surgery for sinusitis?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know the answer to that. That procedure was covered in the release of the materials that then Governor Clinton made in 1992.

Q Mike, nobody asked for a picture of the President's vocal chords --

MR. MCCURRY: No, that's not was I --

Q And there's nothing in here that is remotely embarrassing. Why wasn't this released earlier?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, most of the information here in Dr. Mariano's summary is information that was available to me looking at my notes on Mary 24th when I briefed on the President's physical. And I was prepared to go at any great length into any question that anyone had at that time. But I held forth on those subjects and I would have answered in this kind of detail any of the questions if they had been posed at that point.

Q Was this President Clinton's directive personally that you release these? How did he feel about you all giving out this information, considering some organizations are saying that he is setting a dangerous precedent by releasing all these records?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, the President is very conscious of the fact that many in the health care profession are concerned about preserving the fundamental importance of the doctor-patient confidential relationship. At the same time, the President understands that in seeking the office of President of the United States, he has an obligation to inform the public about his health status that goes beyond that of an average American citizen. We would hope that nothing about the release of these records and these test results and this medical history would lead others to assume that this is a requirement that would apply to all Americans. We're aware of the statements that have been made by various organizations that they were expressing concern about that. But we just think that is a unique situation when an individual American citizen seeks the Presidency. There is an obligation to the public to provide the kind of detailed information provided here.

Q But did the President say, oh, let's just release this stuff, let's get this over with?

MR. MCCURRY: I think a number of us who know that the President is in excellent overall health wanted to put an end to any questions that suggested otherwise.

Q But did -- the question is, did the President --

MR. MCCURRY: Of course the President is fully supportive of this. The President -- Dr. Mariano was very appropriately prudent about providing information unless she had the specific release of her patient.

Q When did the President sign off on this?

MR. MCCURRY: The President has for several days said, just tell them what they need to know about my health condition so that we will not have any further questions posed --

Q Mike, did I understand you to say that there is really nothing in this four-page summary that was not provided to you at the time you were prepared to brief on this exam?

MR. MCCURRY: That's -- well, let me amend that. There is information in this report related to the President's medical history. I was prepared to brief on May 24th about the results of his exam. The information here that relates to the examination performed on May 24th I had ample detail about and was prepared to brief on. But we provided additional information here so that you can get a complete record that includes his medical history.

Q Do you consider this a closed case now? Do you think that you have provided all of the relevant information? I mean, can you give some assurance that no relevant information is being withheld and as far as you're concerned this is everything that the public needs to know?

MR. MCCURRY: I personally felt we had already met that test. I think we've taken this additional step in light of the questions that some news organizations have posed, based, no doubt, on some of the prompting that has been raised by Senator Dole's operatives and others who have been attempting to raise questions.

Q Mike, let me take another stab at this question, maybe from the other end. Forgetting about the campaign and Senator Dole for a minute, given the history of Presidents and their health, Presidents have covered up having heart disease, Addison's disease, cancer. These are things that happened. This sentence here, no history of hypertension, diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer -- these things -- don't you think the public has a right to know that?

MR. MCCURRY: I acknowledge the public has a right to know about the President's health status, which is why when then Governor Clinton sought the office in 1992 he released detailed information about his medical history and why we have provided information at the time of his annual physical exam that keeps that information current and updated for the American public.

At the same time -- and by the way, in checking with previous Presidents we have gone much, much farther in providing this type of medical information than have previous Presidents, including the President's two immediate predecessors. But there is a public right to know. There are also important principles about physician-patient confidentiality. Those are addressed, by the way, in a variety of ways.

There is an excellent article in the New England Journal of Medicine, October 5, 1995, edition, by Dr. George Annis (phonetic), which is about the health of the President and Presidential candidates and how you balance those needs with the public's right to know. Dr. Mariano drew that article to my attention, and it's well worth reading because it raises the question, how do you preserve and protect the dignity of the office, the importance of the confidential relationship that must exist between any doctor and the doctor's patient, and balance that against what is a legitimate public interest in the health status of a candidate or President.

Q You were quoted in a report this evening as saying the President did undergo a test for HIV. Can you confirm that?

MR. MCCURRY: That's confirmed in the material we provided in 1990 in connection with an insurance -- reevaluation of insurance coverage for the President. He was tested, and tested negative for HIV in 1990.

Q It was a mandatory test?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know the terms of the insurance policy, but it was conducted in connection with the renewal of an insurance policy.

Q You said that Dr. Mariano was appropriately prudent in choosing what should or should not be released. Did she actually sit down with -- how did that work, Mike? Did she actually sit down with the President and go over a list, and they say, here's what I'm going to release, and the President said, okay, okay, okay, okay? And did either one of them decide that something shouldn't have been released?

MR. MCCURRY: She is a very competent board-certified physician who attends to the President. And that's a distinction that in her profession carries a great deal of weight. She prepared this material looking at the scope of things that are available publicly about the candidates for President, specifically Mr. Dole, in the desire to provide additional information and more detailed information than has been presented by even Mr. Dole himself, consistent with her obligation to protect the confidentiality of her own relationship with her patient.

She prepared these materials, sought the statements from the attending physicians who supervised the President's physical exam, and then reviewed that material with the President to seek his consent to release it. She was very keen on the fact that -- as she says right at the very top, with President Clinton's consent, I release the following medical information regarding his health. She would not have felt it proper or within the boundaries of her own profession to have released this information unless she had the President's specific consent.

Q And did either one of them delete something from the medical --

MR. MCCURRY: No.

Q Okay.

MR. MCCURRY: The President reviewed the material that you have been given and told her it was perfectly fine to release that.

Q Mike, it's a pretty safe bet that the Dole campaign is going to say this is not a complete medical history because it's still a summarized record. It doesn't include actual lab reports, EKG strips, et cetera, et cetera.

MR. MCCURRY: Well, it gives all the results of the lab tests covered in this statement. And in Dr. Mariano's view it is beyond the information that Mr. Dole has provided about his own health status. And I'll leave you to judge that.

Q Just a couple of things. On the second page, just to make sure that I understand, the past medical history, the no history of, and the list of things there -- is it Dr. Mariano's

statement that there is no evidence of any of these things currently in the President as well?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, you can see from the statements of each of the physicians who conducted tests that there is ample evidence from their examination currently that there is no evidence of that. And she is not aware of any medical history that suggests otherwise.

Q Okay, just two other things. Do you have a reason for the President's high frequency hearing loss?

MR. MCCURRY: The President and Dr. Mariano both believe that is a combination of many factors. It's not unusual in adult males age 50 to experience some high frequency hearing loss. It is most likely associated, in the doctor's opinion and in the President's opinion, with two factors. One is his experiences as a young boy hunting, the sound of gunshot explosions. And also because he played in a band and listened to loud music.

Q What did you say, Mike?

Q What? (Laughter.)

MR. MCCURRY: I think I got the same problem.
(Laughter.)

Q Just one other thing, Mike --

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, and to describe this in lay terms, it means -- it's not infrequent with many people age 50 that high frequency decibel loss or audio-sensory loss comes from -- it means that in crowded rooms you sometimes don't hear conversations that are occurring nearby. As the report indicates, there is no loss of ability to hear speech -- normal speech. It's not indicated that there is any debilitating factor.

Q Okay. One last thing. It was suggested to me earlier today by one of my colleagues who felt that members of the military were required to have HIV tests annually. And the question earlier was whether the President, as Commander-in-Chief, is also required to undergo such testing.

MR. MCCURRY: Not required. The tests suggested are those that are clinically suggested. Dr. Mariano has, in observing her patient, determined those tests that are clinically suggested. We have an HIV negative test in 1990, and in the doctor's opinion there was no clinical reason to retest that indicator.

Q Okay, so he has not undergone such a test since then.

MR. MCCURRY: This is only recent test that he had, and the doctor says that it was not clinically suggested that there should be another test of that factor.

Q On the insurance plan, in that regard, was that a routine thing that other people would also normally --

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know the terms of the policy. I just know it was done in connection with an insurance policy, and I believe it was an insurance policy renewal. But, I don't know the terms of the policy.

Q Mike, when you say that you have gone much, much farther than previous Presidents have gone, does that mean that with this release, would it be safe to say that the public knows more about the particulars of this President's health than any previous President.

MR. MCCURRY: Well, there was a question earlier about instances in which some information had not been forthcoming from previous White Houses about the medical condition of Presidents. This White House takes very seriously the obligation to keep the public informed about the health status of the President. We've attempted to do that even when there are routine minor procedures involving the President's health. We attempt to keep informed about that. We did that just last week, as a matter of fact.

But I do believe, based on what I have been told by the doctor based on the doctor's consultations with previous White House physicians, that this is a more extensive release of medical information about the President's health status than has routinely been the case here at the White House.

Q Mike, after all of this has been done, would it be a good idea for the medical community to get together, perhaps recommend some markers to lay down, parameters, that would protect the public's right to know and the dignity of the office?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, the President is currently absorbed with the question of whether he would have the opportunity to serve in that capacity. (Laughter.) But I think there are good questions arising about health information about the President. There is one question in particular that the academic community has looked at carefully, and that's the application of the 25th Amendment. There have been serious academic discussions on that question, involving people ranging from former White House physicians to current people in our medical unit here at the White House to White House Legal Counsel representatives and people who are known specialists in Constitutional law.

Those are good, serious discussions about how do you balance patient confidentiality with the public's right to know, and it may very well be that we could have a group of outside experts examine that type of question so that we take this out of the realm of partisanship and into the realm of what is -- what protects the public's legitimate right to know information about the health status of the President and at the same time preserving the dignity of the office itself.

Q Mike, if I could --

MR. MCCURRY: That's not -- by the way, I won't -- I'll say that's not a question we're dealing with. That was basically getting through this day. I apologize, by the way, I know the hour is very late now to be releasing this information but we obviously made a fairly strenuous effort today to contact each and every one of the physicians who attended to the President's annual physical so that we could make this information available. Some of these statements that you have now received didn't come from the Bethesda Naval Medical Center until quite late this evening.

Q Is some of that urgent?

Q Mike, there's a question. Wait. There's a question here.

Q Let me just -- I just want to go back over one thing with you. When you were asked whether there was anything that either he or the doctor decided not to release, you said she was a very competent board-certified physician. And you also said that she put out material that you all thought was putting out more publicly than Mr. Dole. But that still doesn't answer the question. There are things that you're not releasing publicly?

MR. MCCURRY: No, no. The doctor prepared this report. She intended it to be a thorough report on the President's medical history and an evaluation of his most recent physical examination. The President, nor anyone at the White House, made any changes in that report as she prepared it.

Q But did she specifically delete --

Q Right.)

Q You were relying on her expertise to determine what should or should not be released, and you even cited -- she made that comparison to what Bob Dole has released. Did she on her own decide that something should or should not be released?

MR. MCCURRY: She drew up this report and I think gave a very comprehensive report on the tests that the President underwent in May and summarized them. And obviously there are electronic readings and graphs and things like that are a part of the President's volume of files available. And she summarized that so that it would be comprehensible to the American people.

Q Let me just try again. Can you give us an assurance here tonight that nothing of importance was left out of this report?

MR. MCCURRY: I can assure you here tonight that the White House has an obligation to report on the President's medical condition. The President's physician has said he is in excellent overall health. We have provided all the information necessary for anyone to make a fair judgment about the veracity of that statement. Nothing that would indicate a contrary evaluation of the President's health has been withheld from this report.

Q Now that you have released so much detail about his platelet count and everything else, is this the way you're going to do every exam he has?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, that goes back to the previous question, but I think maybe there are -- I again would cite at least the one article, one academic article I've seen. It might be a good case where a panel of experts can evaluate the information that should properly be in the public domain and establish some type of parameters about how this question gets addressed since it has become an issue in this campaign.

That's not for us -- at this time we are satisfying what we think are our obligations to inform the American public, to respond to questions that have come from your news organizations, however motivated those questions arose, and to answer these questions to the satisfaction of the public.

Q You think the motivation was less than professional?

MR. MCCURRY: I think that it's very clear that Republican campaign and Mr. Dole in particular and his operatives

have tried to make this an issue. So we are trying to lay to rest that issue by providing the detailed information we have now provided.

Q Did the President himself, Mike, resist doing this? And did he have to be convinced by his staff? How did the --

MR. MCCURRY: To the contrary, he kept saying, we should just give them what they need to say that I'm in good health.

Q Then why -- what was the barrier?

MR. MCCURRY: I thought that's what I had done. I gave you a very detailed briefing May 24th. We have provided you updates. I was frankly surprised that there continued to be questions. But there were questions. You posed them in Fresno. And this was the best course of action for the White House to lay to rest any doubt or questions or mystery, as I heard Mr. Warfield describe it.

Q Let me shift gears to Iraq. We have seen that 5,000 troops are now being deployed to Kuwait. When did the President make that decision? I assume he did. Was that a product of this morning's meeting?

MR. MCCURRY: There have been a variety of discussions under way, and there is one under way at this very moment. Is that correct, Mr. Johnson?

MR. JOHNSON: That's correct.

MR. MCCURRY: In the Oval Office, at this very moment. Is that correct, Mr. Johnson?

MR. JOHNSON: That's correct, Mr. McCurry.

MR. MCCURRY: Mr. Johnson is going to go get a report on that meeting and make it available to those of you who are interested.

Q Can we expect further deployments? I mean, we've had a whole series of individual actions over the last couple days.

MR. MCCURRY: You should expect that any actions that we take that are prudent to report upon we will report.

Q On this particular action, this was a decision made by the President? And was the President aware that the decision had been implemented?

MR. MCCURRY: My understanding, if I'm not mistaken, is that this was a previously scheduled training exercise that is occurring in Kuwait involving U.S. army units that are taking some of the --

Q They all are.

MR. MCCURRY: -- pre-position supplies that we have in Kuwait and doing an exercise there. Obviously it sends whatever signal is interpreted in Baghdad and elsewhere.

Q So the President did specifically -- had to sit down and sign off on this specifically troop movement?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, this was previously approved, but the President was aware of it.

Q The President was aware of it?

MR. MCCURRY: He was aware of it.

Q Did he have to sign off on it?

MR. MCCURRY: He's the Commander-in-Chief.

Q Is this the meeting the President was having on Iraq tonight, is that over or is it still ongoing?

MR. MCCURRY: It's ongoing now. The President's national policy advisers met earlier in the day. They have had some discussion on and off during the day. The President has had one or two updates during the day, but he wanted to have the opportunity to have a lengthier session this evening, and that's what's going on now.

Q And who is in the meeting?

MR. MCCURRY: Secretary Christopher, Secretary Perry --

MR. JOHNSON: I have not been in the room. I don't know exactly.

MR. MCCURRY: We can double-check, but we believe Secretary Christopher, Perry, DCIA John Deutch, General Shalikashvili, Ambassador Albright. And I reserve the right to amend and adjust that list once we check out the room.

Q Revise and extend.

MR. MCCURRY: All those same people participated in the session this morning.

Q Is Perry in fact going to the Middle East? Is that done?

MR. MCCURRY: If we have anything to say about that, we would probably say it after the meeting that's going on now.

Q On the health records again, can you say why, if the doctor decided to leave something out, why she would have made that decision, because it seems clear that --

MR. MCCURRY: Look, I didn't say the doctor left anything out. I said the doctor provided you a comprehensive report on the President's medical history and the tests performed on him at the time of his examination on May 24th.

Q Comprehensive but not complete necessarily?

MR. MCCURRY: I think this is as complete as it gets. I can't imagine anything that would be more complete than this. We have given you just about every major indicator of health that any doctor would ask of a patient. We have summarized test results and given you statements from everyone from the President's dentist to his allergist -- well, we're waiting for -- no, his allergist to his ENT specialist. I mean, if this don't do it, I can't imagine what else --

Q It doesn't say anything about hypertension, though, Mike?

MR. MCCURRY: There is no indication he has been treated --

Q I was joking.

Q Were you all putting this together before your grilling in Fresno, or was it the issues that were raised in that briefing that triggered this?

MR. MCCURRY: Frankly, no. I mean, we have been looking to lay this issue to rest once and for all, and as I say, most of the information available here I was prepared to brief to on May 24th. I thought I had satisfied everyone's questions then, but apparently that was incorrect. This information was available -- some of this information was available then. And our judgment, based on the questions that were posed to me in Fresno, was that we should go the extra mile and provide additional detail. And this is what we've done.

Q You said that you feel as though the statements are objective and Dr. Mariano's summary, if you will, is objective. But they are statements and they are done under her discretion. And wouldn't the records be objective and quell every other question that would erupt?

MR. MCCURRY: There are significant concerns about -- you know, records are things that doctors look at, and then doctors interpret for patients, and in this case interpret for the public. I have looked at some of the these records. I wouldn't be able to make head or tail of them. And so the best thing to do is to take qualified physicians who know how to explain these things to patients and to the public in this case and have them explain the test results -- provide the test results and explain the test results so that people understand what they mean.

Q What about a second opinion?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, you can look through the list of the people whose statements are covered here. And I would suggest you all check around in the medical community about some of the individuals who have now reported to you on the President's health. You'll find that they are among the most distinguished people in their fields and I can't imagine that there is anyone in the medical community at least that would question the judgment of the physicians who have provided these statements.

Q Let me pose a serious question. Suppose the Dole campaign -- (laughter) -- as opposed to my usual -- but suppose the Dole campaign comes back at you and says, Senator Dole submitted his health records to a third-party physician, namely Dr. Altman, who writes for the New York Times, and subjected them to the scrutiny of an outsider, whereas the President has subjected his records to the scrutiny of his personal physician, who may have some interest --

MR. MCCURRY: Well, you asked about Dr. Altman. Dr. Altman, on the day of the President's physical, we made available Dr. Mariano. He had an extensive interview with Dr. Mariano. And for reasons that the New York Times would have to explain to you and not me, they elected not to write about the results of that interview. But he was in a position to ask detailed questions of the President's physician. We would be happy to have him ask questions of the President if that's what is suggested here.

There have been other news organizations that have suggested that Dr. Altman, who is -- I've never seen competing news organizations so fond of one of their rivals, but if that's --

Q We have Art Ulene. I would be willing to have him.
(Laughter.)

MR. MCCURRY: What about the foot guy? Who is the foot guy? Gabe Merkin. Who's got Gabe Merkin?

Q Local radio.

MR. MCCURRY: We would -- that's certainly an interview --

Q As the interested party here, so you're saying that if Altman wants to interview the President on his health, he can? I think that's what he said.

Q That's what I heard, Allison.

Q But would he be able to see the records? Would the White House lay out the records?

MR. MCCURRY: He has already had -- and my understanding is -- a fairly substantive and detailed conversation with Dr. Mariano. And we always consider interview requests from news organizations. But given everyone's fondness for Dr. Altman and their desire to nominate him as the appropriate third-party official adjudicator, maybe we'll give that one a higher priority.

Q If we don't end this, we won't be able to get our cars out of the parking lots.

Q Can we get the foot doctor to interview Dick Morris? Would that be -- (laughter).

MR. MCCURRY: You're a bad boy.

Listen, one other thing. Nobody asked this question but let me volunteer it. The Vice President obviously, consistent with the President's decision on this, will be making available records that are very similar to these. He's going to do much the same thing, provide an overall statement from his physicians.

Q When?

MR. MCCURRY: Tonight.

Q Tonight?

MR. MCCURRY: It will be available very shortly. We're doing much the same thing that the President has done.

Q You mean, shortly, tonight?

END

8:36 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 24, 1996

Statement by the Press Secretary

President Clinton underwent his third **annual physical** examination today at Bethesda Naval Hospital. His routine evaluation was conducted by a team of military and civilian physicians, headed by his physician, Dr. E. Connie Mariano, a Navy internist.

"We are very satisfied with the results of this year's **physical** examination. The **President** is in excellent overall health. We recommend he continue to watch his diet and follow his exercise regimen," said Dr. Mariano.

The **President** was evaluated by a team of specialists which included sports medicine, podiatry, ear, nose and throat, and dermatology. He received a liquid nitrogen treatment to an actinic keratosis found on the tip of his nose. In addition, he underwent an eye examination, a urology check-up, and an exercise treadmill test. On his **annual** treadmill test, the **President** exceeded his performance from last year completing more than 15 minutes on the treadmill and reaching a speed of 5.5 m.p.h. at a 20% grade (Bruce Protocol).

The **President**, who will turn 50 in August, weighed in at the same weight of 216 lbs. on his 6' 2" frame. His total cholesterol dropped from 203 last year to 191 this year. His pulse was recorded at 55 with a blood pressure of 126/70.

-30



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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002a. memo	E. Connie Mariano, MD to Mike McCurry; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (4 pages)	09/13/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Press Secretary
Mike McCurry
OA/Box Number: 11102

FOLDER TITLE:

Medical

2011-0586-F
db4234

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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002b. memo	Sushil K. Jain, O.D., M.S. to Director, White House Medical Unit; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Press Secretary
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002c. letter	Talal M. Nsouli, M.D. to E. Connie Mariano, M.D.; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Press Secretary
Mike McCurry
OA/Box Number: 11102

FOLDER TITLE:

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002d. memo	Chief Cardiology, National Naval Medical Center to Captain E.C. Mariano; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Press Secretary
Mike McCurry
OA/Box Number: 11102

FOLDER TITLE:

Medical

2011-0586-F
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002e. memo	Staff Dermatologist to Director, White House Medical Unit; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Press Secretary
Mike McCurry
OA/Box Number: 11102

FOLDER TITLE:

Medical

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002f. memo	Deputy Commander, National Naval Medical Center to Captain E.C. Mariano; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Press Secretary
Mike McCurry
OA/Box Number: 11102

FOLDER TITLE:

Medical

2011-0586-F
db4234

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002g. memo	Chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery to Director, White House Medical Unit; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Press Secretary
Mike McCurry
OA/Box Number: 11102

FOLDER TITLE:

Medical

2011-0586-F
db4234

RESTRICTION CODES

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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002h. memo	Commander Scott Haney, DC, USN to Director, White House Medical Unit; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Press Secretary
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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002i. letter	James Y. Suen, M.D. to Whom It May Concern; RE: President Clinton's annual medical exam (1 page)	09/13/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Press Secretary
Mike McCurry
OA/Box Number: 11102

FOLDER TITLE:

Medical

2011-0586-F
db4234

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 24, 1996

Statement by the Press Secretary

President Clinton underwent his third annual physical examination today at Bethesda Naval Hospital. His routine evaluation was conducted by a team of military and civilian physicians, headed by his physician, Dr. E. Connie Mariano, a Navy internist.

"We are very satisfied with the results of this year's physical examination. The President is in excellent overall health. We recommend he continue to watch his diet and follow his exercise regimen," said Dr. Mariano.

The President was evaluated by a team of specialists which included sports medicine, podiatry, ear, nose and throat, and dermatology. He received a liquid nitrogen treatment to an actinic keratosis found on the tip of his nose. In addition, he underwent an eye examination, a urology check-up, and an exercise treadmill test. On his annual treadmill test, the President exceeded his performance from last year completing more than 15 minutes on the treadmill and reaching a speed of 5.5 m.p.h. at a 20% grade (Bruce Protocol).

The President, who will turn 50 in August, weighed in at the same weight of 216 lbs. on his 6' 2" frame. His total cholesterol dropped from 203 last year to 191 this year. His pulse was recorded at 55 with a blood pressure of 126/70.

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