

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Speechwriting

Series/Staff Member: Terry Edmonds

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 10987

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Radio Address/ABC Radio Town Hall

Stack:

S

Row:

0

Section:

0

Shelf:

0

Position:

0

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. speech	Page 2 of Radio Address (handwritten note, partial) (1 page)	03/27/97	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Terry Edmonds
OA/Box Number: 10987

FOLDER TITLE:

Radio Address/ABC Radio Town Hall

2006-0462-F

ry672

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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]

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]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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.

3/27/97 8:15pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

MARCH 29, 1997 (TAPED MARCH 28, 1997)

Good morning. Spring is a celebration of renewal, not just of the world around us, but of the ideals inside us -- the ideals that bind us together as a people. Millions of families will come together to celebrate Easter this weekend and Passover in the coming weeks, to reaffirm their faith in God and commitment to our sacred values. And in this season of renewal, I ask all Americans to reaffirm their commitment to this central ideal -- that we are many people, but one nation, bound together by shared values and a common dream to build the best possible future for our children.

The divide of race has been America's constant curse. And the struggle to overcome it has been a defining part of our history. Though we have come closer to our goal, we are far from home. The bitter fruit of division can still be found all around us. Fear still too often turns to hatred, and hatred to violence -- and the tragic result becomes another story on the evening news.

Just last week in Chicago, a 13 year old boy, riding his bike home from a basketball game, was brutally attacked and beaten near to death -- apparently for no other reason but the color of his skin. Lenard Clark is black; the young men accused of attacking him are white. And he lies in a coma today.

There is never an excuse for violence against innocent citizens. But this kind of savage, senseless assault, driven by nothing but hate, strikes at the very heart of America's ideals -- and threatens the promise of our future. [Whether it is an attack by whites against blacks, blacks against Asians, or Christians against Jews,] we must stand together as a nation against all crimes of hate, and say: This is wrong. We must speak out, we must condemn hate crimes when they happen, and we must commit ourselves to prevent them from happening again.

But let's be honest with ourselves: racism in America is not confined to acts of physical violence.

Every day, African-Americans and other minorities are forced to endure quiet acts of racism -- bigoted remarks, housing and job discrimination. Even many people who think they are not being racist, still hold to negative stereotypes, and sometimes act on them. These acts may not harm the body, but when a mother and her child go to the grocery store and are followed around by a suspicious clerk, it does violence to their souls.

We must stand against such quiet hatred just as surely as we condemn acts of physical violence, like that against Lenard Clark.

At the same time, black Americans must not look at the faces of Lenard Clark's attackers and see the face of white America. If it is wrong to stereotype blacks, it is just as wrong to stereotype whites. The acts of a few evil people in Chicago must never become an excuse for blanket condemnation or blind rage.

Instead, we must all struggle to see through stereotypes and overcome our fears, to reach the land of new promise the future holds for us. The holidays of this season teach us that hope can spring forth even from the darkest times.

And in Chicago we saw leaders of different races and political philosophies come together to decry the crime against Lenard Clark. That too is reason for hope.

So as families come together to celebrate Easter and Passover; as parents reunite with their children, brothers with sisters, and friends with each other, let us all take some time to search our souls. Let us find the strength to reach across the lines that divide us on the surface, and touch the common spirit that resides in every human heart.

In this season of reflection, we must look inside to find kinship in our common dreams.

In this season of renewal, we must renew our pledge to make America one nation, under God. In this season of redemption, we must all rise up, above our differences, to walk forward together on common ground.

Thanks for listening.

DRAFT

37-9211-5140

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
OPENING STATEMENT
ABC RADIO TOWN HALL MEETING
THE WHITE HOUSE
MARCH 12, 1997**

I first want to thank Peter Jennings and ABC^R for coming up with the idea for this event. This is a great opportunity to talk directly with parents, kids and the American people about the problem of drugs in our society. The young people who are here with us today are coming of age at the moment of greatest opportunity in all of American history. This is a time where young people who are prepared for it will have more options to live out their dreams than any previous generation. But this tremendous opportunity can be quickly shut off when drugs enter the picture.

Over the last decade we have made considerable progress in reducing overall casual drug use. At the same time, we have seen a rising trend of drug use by young people. We can and we must do something about this. That is why the number one goal of my national anti-drug strategy is to motivate America's youth to reject illegal drugs. Government cannot do this alone. Every person in every sector of our society must get involved -- from parents to the media to young people themselves. That is why this forum is so important. I am pleased that we are joined here today by Olympic gold medalist, Dominique Dawes. As a national spokesperson for our new "Girl Power" campaign, she has just taped a series of radio and television spots, urging young girls to go for the gold and stay away from drugs. Dominique...

expand Head Start to 1 million children. And yesterday, the First Lady and I announced that we will host the first White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. We also must open more charter schools that stay open as long as they meet high standards. We must make the 13th and 14th years of schooling as universal as high school is today.

But all this progress is at risk if our children are asked to learn in a landscape that is littered with peeling paint and broken glass, if we continue to pack more and more students into overcrowded classrooms, if our teachers are asked to build up children in buildings that are literally falling down.

We shouldn't ask

That is why I am here today. I just took a tour of this school -- and I saw a lot that was good. Students who are dedicated to learning and teachers who are committed to teaching. But I also saw some things that were not so good. I visited a classroom of 29 3rd graders, and believe me the teacher in that room had her hands full. Learning suffers when our teachers are too busy with crowd control to give young students the individual attention they need.

This is a growing problem across this nation. With student population at an all-time high, our nation's schools are increasingly rundown, overcrowded and technologically ill-equipped. One third of our schools need major repair or outright replacement; 60 percent need major building repair to fix a sagging roof, a cracked foundation; 46 percent even lack the basic electrical wiring to support computers, modems, and modern communications technology. And from Los Angeles to Atlanta to Palm Beach County, Florida -- the portable classroom is becoming a common sight in school yards. Right behind me here, where these temporary classroom buildings are, there used to be a playground. But, because of overcrowding here, the children no longer have a place to play. The student population in Florida is growing at the third fastest rate of any state in the nation. School construction and repair are just not keeping up.

That is why, last July at the White House, I announced our proposal that the federal government, for the first time, join with states and communities to modernize and renovate our public schools. Since then, the Department of Education has solicited ideas from hundreds of people across the country who are responsible for school financing. Those discussions have resulted in our decision to give more flexibility to states in their financing arrangements.

Natural response

Today, I am sending new legislation to the Congress to provide federal assistance to help local communities and states rebuild the nation's schools. The Partnership to Rebuild America's Schools Act will provide \$5 billion over the next five years to help with ~~both~~ upgrading ^{old schools and build} and new school construction. Together with investments by states and localities, this would spur \$20 billion in new resources for school modernization. That is a 25 percent increase over the next five years. And it means providing \$60 billion for Florida and \$10 billion for Palm Beach County so we don't have to turn playgrounds into portables, and you will have enough schools in good repair to meet the demands of your growing student population.

M

Last Congress we should act on this - let us agree - we cannot build our teachers up in buildings that are falling down

*Technology Literacy Challenge Grant
Our Schools
Count*

The schools of the future should be safe and spacious, and good places to learn. And they should also be equipped with computers, new media and state of the art science labs. **I am also pleased to announce today that the Department of Education is awarding a \$7.9 million Technology Literacy Challenge Grant to help bring Florida's schools into the 21st century.**

We expect a lot of our schools, our students and our teachers -- and we should. There is a lot riding on their success. But we cannot expect our children and our teachers to build strong futures on a crumbling foundation. ~~The~~ ^{for the} steps we have taken today, we can be assured that the future of our schools and our students stands on solid ground.

Thank you and God bless you all.



SUNTUM M @ A1
01/17/97 03:25:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: EMBARGOED TRANSCRIPT: Radio Address 1/18/97

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Embargoed For Release
Until 10:06 A.M. EST
Saturday, January 18, 1997

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Today I want to talk with you about the progress we have made in response to last year's disturbing rash of arsons and other destructive acts directed at houses of worship throughout our country. But before I do, I want to condemn another act of violent terror, the recent bombing of the women's health center in Atlanta. That, too, is wrong, and we also must stop it.

Now, in the aftermath of these terrible crimes against the houses of worship, many of us asked ourselves, why? Were these fires fueled by a sudden upsurge in racial and religious hostility? Were they set for personal gain or revenge? Or were they merely random acts of violence? Whatever the causes of the crimes, they offended every citizen who cherishes America's proud heritage of religious and ethnic diversity, every citizen who remembers that religious freedom, justice and equality are the founding principles of our great democracy.

As one who was raised in the church and who continues to be guided by the enduring lessons I learned there, I joined with all Americans of conscience in demanding swift action to combat these crimes, to help the churches rebuild and to prevent anymore fires.

Seven months ago I established the National Church Arson Task Force to coordinate the efforts of more than 200 FBI and ATF agents deployed to work with local and state law enforcement agencies, churches and citizens to catch and prosecute those responsible for these crimes. This week, the task force released its first interim report. The report shows that we have been remarkably successful in solving the crimes. Since January 1995, 143 suspects have been arrested in connection with 107 fires at churches and other houses of worship. This rate of arrest is double the general arrest rate for arsons -- and three-quarters of these arrests occurred during the seven months following the formation of the task force. So far, 48 defendants have been convicted on federal and state charges in connection with 43 fires.

This work has been supported by \$3 million in Justice Department grants to help local communities intensify their enforcement and surveillance efforts. In addition, Congress authorized the Department of Housing to administer a \$10-million loan guarantee program to assist with the rebuilding of churches. And the Federal Emergency Management Agency continues to work with communities to increase awareness and help build local arson prevention coalitions. This federal effort must continue until all those responsible are brought to justice and no more fires burn.

But even more impressive than our government effort has been the tremendous outpouring of assistance that has flowed from every corner of our country in response to these crimes. People have crossed lines of faith and race and region to link arms in a united effort to rebuild and protect our houses of worship. And by doing

so, they have shown us that America is still a country that cares about its neighbors -- a country that comes together in the face of common threats to defend the common ground of our values. I am reminded of what Joseph said in Genesis when he met up with the brothers who sold him into slavery: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good."

I saw this up close this past August when Hillary and I, along with the Vice President and Tipper Gore, picked up paint brushes and hammers to help rebuild Salem Baptist Church in Fruitland, Tennessee. One of the earliest supporters of the rebuilding of this tiny black church was the congregation of a white church three miles down the road that also had suffered a suspicious fire.

On a national level, we saw groups like the National Council of Churches, the Anti-Defamation League, the Southern Christian Leadership Council, the National Association of Evangelicals, and the NAACP come together as one to tackle this problem. And we received strong bipartisan support from Congress for our work. The insurance industry, at the urging of the Vice President, also became a partner in the rebuilding effort. These

groups, and others of goodwill all over America, stepped forward to live out the lesson of the man whose birthday celebration this year coincides with my second inauguration on Monday.

Thirty-four years ago in his famous speech on the Mall in Washington, Dr. Martin Luther King recognized the need for biracial cooperation. In talking of his fellow Americans who stood with him in the civil rights struggle, he said, "Their destiny is tied up with our destiny, and they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone."

My fellow citizens, we must not walk alone into the 21st century. This next week, as we focus on the inauguration and the future of our great country, my greatest hope is that we as Americans will continue to find strength in our diversity, that the world will always look to us as a champion of racial and religious liberty, that we will have the wisdom to heal our divisions and walk together into a bright new day.

Thanks for listening.

END

Message Sent To: _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 8, 1996

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

10:06 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This morning I want to talk with you about a recent and disturbing rash of crimes that harkens back to a dark era in our nation's history. Just two days ago, when the Matthews-Murkland Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, was burned to the ground, it became at least the 30th African American church destroyed or damaged by suspicious fire in the South in the past 18 months. And over the past few months, Vice President Gore has talked with me about the pain and anguish these fires in his home state of Tennessee have caused. Tennessee, sadly, has experienced more of them than any other state in the country.

We do not now have evidence of a national conspiracy, but it is clear that racial hostility is the driving force behind a number of these incidents. This must stop.

It's hard to think of a more depraved act of violence than the destruction of a place of worship. In our country, during the 50s and 60s, black churches were burned to intimidate civil rights workers. I have vivid and painful memories of black churches being burned in my own state when I was a child. In 1963 all Americans were outraged by the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, that took the lives of four precious young children. We must never allow that to happen again.

Every family has a right to expect that when they walk into a church or synagogue or mosque each week they will find a house of worship, not the charred remnants of a hateful act done by cowards in the night. We must rise up as a national community to safeguard the right of every citizen to worship in safety. That is what America stands for.

As President, I am determined to do everything in my power to get to the bottom of these church burnings as quickly as possible. And no matter how long it takes, no matter where the

leads take us, we will devote whatever resources are necessary to solve these crimes. Today more than 200 federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the FBI are working with state and local authorities to solve these cases. Fire investigators, national response teams, polygraph examiners, and forensic chemists are combing through fire sites, interviewing witnesses, and following leads. A task force chaired by our Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Deval Patrick, and our Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement, James Johnson, is coordinating these efforts. FBI Director Louis Freeh and ATF Director John Magaw are also serving on the task force. To date there have been a number of arrests. Two of those in custody are known members of the Ku Klux Klan. So we are making progress, but we must do more.

That is why today I am announcing four steps we are taking to fight back. First, I have asked the task force to report back on their progress and to let me know if there are other actions the federal government can take beyond those underway to stop these crimes.

Second, I have instructed the ATF to inform churches of any steps they can take to protect themselves from arsonists. Churches throughout the South will be visited by ATF special agents to answer any questions church leaders and parishioners may have. We are also making this information available to national church organizations for distribution to their members.

Third, I am announcing my support for the bipartisan legislation introduced by Congressmen John Conyers and Henry Hyde to make it easier to bring federal prosecutions against those who attack houses of worship. I look forward to working with Congress to make it even stronger.

And, finally, I'm announcing that we are establishing a new toll-free number that is now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have information about who is responsible for these church fires, please call it. It's 1-888-ATF-FIRE. That's 1-888-ATF-FIRE.

In the end, we must all face up to the responsibility to end this violence. We must say to those who would feed their neighbors what Martin Luther King called, "the stale bread of hatred and spoiled meat of racism" -- that is not America; that is not our way. We must come together, black and white alike, to smother the fires of hatred that fuel this violence.

I am pleased that the National Council of Churches of Christ, one of the largest inter-faith groups in the country, has spoken out against these crimes and is mobilizing to assist in the rebuilding of damaged churches. I encourage communities everywhere where churches have been burned to roll up their sleeves and help the folks there to rebuild their churches.

Religious freedom is one of the founding principles of our democracy, and the black church has historically been the center of worship, self-help and community life for millions of families in our country.

That's why it was so hard for Reverend Terrence Mackey to break the news to his daughter last June when they woke to find an ash-scarred field in the spot where only the day before stood their church home, Mt. Zion AME Church in Greeleyville, South Carolina. Reverend Mackey reassured his daughter with these words: He told her, "They didn't burn down the church. They burned down the building in which we hold church. The church is still inside all of us."

On June 15, Reverend Mackey, his daughter and his congregation will march from the site of the old church to a brand new building. And all Americans will march with them in spirit.

We must all do our part to end this rash of violence. America is a great country because for more than 200 years we have strived to honor the religious convictions, the freedom, the extraordinary religious diversity of our people. The only way we can succeed in the 21st century is if we unleash the full power of those convictions in that diversity and refuse to let anything divide or defeat us.

Thanks for listening.

END

10:12 A.M. EDT

DRAFT

**VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE
RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION
MARCH 15, 1997**

Good morning. The President asked me to fill-in for him this morning as he recovers from yesterday's successful operation to repair a torn tendon in his knee. He is resting comfortably and asked me to thank all of you who have expressed your concern through your calls and letters.

Today, I want to talk with you about how we can build our children's futures by rebuilding our schools. Since we have been in office, the President and I have visited dozens of schools to see the real face of American education. We have seen much that is good -- most students are dedicated to learning and most teachers are committed to teaching. But we have also seen some things that are not so good -- schools that are dilapidated and unsafe, classrooms that are overcrowded, and buildings that are not equipped for the kind of technology-based learning that will be so essential to our success in the 21st century. We have seen schools where the spirit was strong, but the buildings were weak. Our children deserve better than this.

Over the last four years, America has made important investments to make our future as bright as the present. We have produced nearly 12 million new jobs. Family incomes are going up and the poverty rate is going down. Unemployment and inflation remain low. And we've had the biggest drop in the welfare rolls in our nation's history. But, we face new challenges of a competitive global economy. And the one thing that will most determine our success or failure is the quality of the education we give to all of our children.

That is why the President has made education his number one priority for the next four years. And in recent days, he and I have traveled the country to stress the importance of all Americans working together to make American public education the best in the world. Here's our goal: by the Year 2000, every 8 year old can read; every 12 year old can log onto the Internet; every 18 year old can go to college; and every American can keep learning for a lifetime.

We have proposed a ten-point plan of action to improve American education. The cornerstone of this plan is raising standards for both teachers and students so we make sure our children master the basics. We have challenged every state to adopt high national academic standards and by 1999, to test 4th graders in reading and 8th graders in math, so that all of our children, no matter where they live or what their backgrounds, will have the same chance to make the most of their lives and their futures.

We must start by focusing on our youngest children. The President's balanced budget plan will expand Head Start to 1 million children. And this week, the President and the First Lady announced that they will host the first White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. We also must open more charter schools that stay open as long as they meet high standards. And we must make the 13th and 14th years of schooling as universal as high school is today.

But all this progress is at risk if our children are asked to learn in a landscape that is littered with peeling paint and broken glass, if we ask our children to stretch their minds in classrooms that are so crowded they can barely stretch their arms.

This is a growing problem across this nation. With student population at an all-time high, our nation's schools are increasingly rundown, overcrowded and technologically ill-equipped. One third of our schools need major repair or outright replacement; 60 percent need major building repairs to fix sagging roofs, or repair cracked foundations; 46 percent even lack the basic electrical wiring to support computers, modems, and modern communications technology. And from Los Angeles to Atlanta to Palm Beach County, Florida -- the portable classroom is becoming a common sight in school yards.

This has become a national problem, and it demands national action. That is why, last July at the White House, the President announced our proposal that the federal government, for the first time, join with states and communities to modernize and renovate our public schools. Since then, the Department of Education has solicited ideas from hundreds of people across the country who are responsible for school financing. Those discussions have resulted in our decision to give even more flexibility to states to develop innovative financing -- and to target half the money to school districts that need it the most.

Yesterday, the President sent new legislation to the Congress to provide federal assistance to help local communities and states rebuild the nation's schools. The Partnership to Rebuild America's Schools Act will provide \$5 billion over the next four years to help upgrade old schools and build new schools. This will spur \$20 billion in investments for school modernization by states, localities and the private sector. We urge Congress and communities to step up to this challenge. We simply cannot ask our teachers to build up children in buildings that are literally falling down.

We expect a lot of our schools, our students and our teachers -- and we should. There is a lot riding on their success. But we have a moral responsibility to make sure our schools are safe, spacious, and good places to learn. With the school construction legislation we introduced this week, we can be assured that the future of our schools and our students stands on solid ground.

Thanks for listening.

DRAFT

**VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE
RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION
MARCH 15, 1997**

Good morning. The President asked me to fill-in for him this morning as he recovers from yesterday's successful operation to repair a torn tendon in his knee. He is resting comfortably and asked me to thank all of you who have expressed your concern through your calls and letters.

Today, I want to talk with you about how we can build our children's futures by rebuilding our schools. Since we have been in office, the President and I have visited dozens of schools to see the real face of American education. We have seen much that is good -- most students are dedicated to learning and most teachers are committed to teaching. But we have also seen some things that are not so good -- schools that are dilapidated and unsafe, classrooms that are overcrowded, and buildings that are not equipped for the kind of technology-based learning that will be so essential to our success in the 21st century. We have seen schools where the spirit was strong, but the buildings were weak. Our children deserve better than this.

Over the last four years, America has made important investments to make our future as bright as the present. We have produced nearly 12 million new jobs. Family incomes are going up and the poverty rate is going down. Unemployment and inflation remain low. And we've had the biggest drop in the welfare rolls in our nation's history. But, we face new challenges of a competitive global economy. And the one thing that will most determine our success or failure is the quality of the education we give to all of our children.

That is why the President has made education his number one priority for the next four years. And in recent days, he and I have traveled the country to stress the importance of all Americans working together to make American public education the best in the world. Here's our goal: by the Year 2000, every 8 year old can read; every 12 year old can log onto the Internet; every 18 year old can go to college; and every American can keep learning for a lifetime.

We have proposed a ten-point plan of action to improve American education. The cornerstone of this plan is raising standards for both teachers and students so we make sure our children master the basics. We have challenged every state to adopt high national academic standards and by 1999, to test 4th graders in reading and 8th graders in math, so that all of our children, no matter where they live or what their backgrounds, will have the same chance to make the most of their lives and their futures.

We must start by focusing on our youngest children. The President's balanced budget plan will expand Head Start to 1 million children. And this week, the President and the First Lady announced that they will host the first White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. We also must open more charter schools that stay open as long as they meet high standards. And we must make the 13th and 14th years of schooling as universal as high school is today.

But all this progress is at risk if our children are asked to learn in a landscape that is littered with peeling paint and broken glass, if we ask our children to stretch their minds in classrooms that are so crowded they can barely stretch their arms.

This is a growing problem across this nation. With student population at an all-time high, our nation's schools are increasingly rundown, overcrowded and technologically ill-equipped. One third of our schools need major repair or outright replacement; 60 percent need major building repairs to fix sagging roofs, or repair cracked foundations; 46 percent even lack the basic electrical wiring to support computers, modems, and modern communications technology. And from Los Angeles to Atlanta to Palm Beach County, Florida -- the portable classroom is becoming a common sight in school yards.

This has become a national problem, and it demands national action. That is why, last July at the White House, the President announced our proposal that the federal government, for the first time, join with states and communities to modernize and renovate our public schools. Since then, the Department of Education has solicited ideas from hundreds of people across the country who are responsible for school financing. Those discussions have resulted in our decision to give even more flexibility to states to develop innovative financing -- and to target half the money to school districts that need it the most.

Yesterday, the President sent new legislation to the Congress to provide federal assistance to help local communities and states rebuild the nation's schools. The Partnership to Rebuild America's Schools Act will provide \$5 billion over the next four years to help upgrade old schools and build new schools. This will spur \$20 billion in investments for school modernization by states, localities and the private sector. We urge Congress and communities to step up to this challenge. We simply cannot ask our teachers to build up children in buildings that are literally falling down.

We expect a lot of our schools, our students and our teachers -- and we should. There is a lot riding on their success. But we have a moral responsibility to make sure our schools are safe, spacious, and good places to learn. With the school construction legislation we introduced this week, we can be assured that the future of our schools and our students stands on solid ground.

Thanks for listening.

3/27/97 8:15pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION
THE WHITE HOUSE
MARCH 29, 1997 (TAPED MARCH 28, 1997)**

Good morning. Spring is a celebration of renewal, not just of the world around us, but of the ideals inside us-- the ideals that bind us together as a people. Millions of families will come together to celebrate Easter this weekend and Passover in the coming weeks, to reaffirm their faith in God and commitment to our sacred values. And in this season of renewal, I ask all Americans to reaffirm their commitment to this central ideal -- that we are many people, but one nation, bound together by shared values and a common dream to build the best possible future for our children.

The divide of race has been America's constant curse. And the struggle to overcome it has been a defining part of our history. Though we have come closer to our goal, we are far from home. The bitter fruit of division can still be found all around us. Fear still too often turns to hatred, and hatred to violence -- and the tragic result becomes another story on the evening news.

Just last week in Chicago, a 13 year old boy, riding his bike home from a basketball game, was brutally attacked and beaten near to death -- apparently for no other reason but the color of his skin. Lenard Clark is black; the young men accused of attacking him are white. ~~And he lies in a coma today.~~ *hope all Americans join Hilberg and me in a prayer for his family.*

There is never an excuse for violence against innocent citizens. But this kind of savage, senseless assault, driven by nothing but hate, strikes at the very heart of America's ideals -- and threatens the promise of our future. [Whether it is an attack by whites against blacks, blacks against Asians, or Christians against Jews,] we must stand together as a nation against all crimes of hate, and say: This is wrong. We must speak out, we must condemn hate crimes when they happen, and we must commit ourselves to prevent them from happening again.

But let's be honest with ourselves: racism in America is not confined to acts of physical violence. Every day, African-Americans and other minorities are forced to endure quiet acts of racism -- bigoted remarks, housing and job discrimination. Even many people who think they are not being racist, still hold to negative stereotypes, and sometimes act on them. These acts may not harm the body, but when a mother and her child go to the grocery store and are followed around by a suspicious clerk, it does violence to their souls.

We must stand against such quiet hatred just as surely as we condemn acts of physical violence, like that against Lenard Clark.

At the same time, black Americans must not look at the faces of Lenard Clark's attackers and see the face of white America. If it is wrong to stereotype blacks, it is just as wrong to

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. speech	Page 2 of Radio Address (handwritten note, partial) (1 page)	03/27/97	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Terry Edmonds
OA/Box Number: 10987

FOLDER TITLE:

Radio Address/ABC Radio Town Hall

2006-0462-F
ry672

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]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

stereotype whites. The acts of a few evil people in Chicago must never become an excuse for blanket condemnation or blind rage.

Instead, we must all struggle to see through stereotypes and overcome our fears, to reach the land of new promise the future holds for us. The holidays of this season teach us that hope can spring forth even from the darkest times. And in Chicago we saw leaders of different races and political philosophies come together to decry the crime against Lenard Clark. That too is reason for hope.

So as families come together to celebrate Easter and Passover; as parents reunite with their children, brothers with sisters, and friends with each other, let us all take some time to search our souls. Let us find the strength to reach across the lines that divide us on the surface, and touch the common spirit that resides in every human heart. *Let each one of us reach out to the American and we must reach out to ~~them~~ feel isolated from all of us - sometimes with fragile - our prayers must be with them soon.*

In this season of reflection, we must look inside to find kinship in our common dreams. In this season of renewal, we must renew our pledge to make America one nation, under God. In this season of redemption, we must all rise up, above our differences, to walk forward together on common ground.

Thanks for listening.

event
~~*fragile*~~

973-8195

Alena Berg
219-82330

(b)(6) - home

UFO Thing
Season
Time where when what happens in CA makes us wonder about the isolation
begin or end
young people

[001]

Milestones
1st
end

**ABC Radio Town Hall Meeting with President Clinton
March 12, 1997**

Statement

65368
Dennis
Burke
Telegraphing
ABC

I want to welcome all of you to the White House. I want to thank ABC for proposing this event and its format. This is a great opportunity to focus on one of the most critical problems facing the youth of today.

The young people in this room today are coming of age at the moment of greatest possibility in all of American history, where young people who are prepared for it will be able to have more options to live out the future of their dreams than any previous generation.

But these options can be quickly shut off when drugs enter the picture.

Over the last decade, we have made considerable progress in reducing overall casual drug use. Our success demonstrates that drug abuse is not an incurable social ill.

Nonetheless, we as a society -- and as parents -- should be deeply concerned about the rising trend of drug use by young Americans. That is why the number one goal of my National anti-drug strategy is to motivate America's youth to reject illegal drugs and substance abuse.

We each have a role to play in helping to turn these trends back around -- government, the media, schools, communities, parents and you. And all of us must recognize that we can make a difference in our communities -- both through individual action and by joining with others in comprehensive, collaborative initiatives.

My Administration is trying to do its part -- we are working to provide the Nation's youth the support they need to make a safe passage from childhood to adulthood and to strengthen America's families so they can help steer youth away from drugs and violence and toward healthful activities and positive futures.

Our strategy contains programs that will help youth to recognize the terrible risks associated with the use of illegal substances. The cornerstone of this effort will be our national media campaign that will target our youth with a consistent anti-drug message. But government cannot do this job alone. That is why we are challenging the national media and entertainment industry to join us -- by renouncing the glamorization of drug abuse and realistically portraying its consequences.

We know that children who learn about the dangers of drugs from their parents are much less likely to use them as children whose parents say nothing. So please, talk to your kids about drugs. Tell them that drugs are wrong, drugs are

illegal, and drugs can kill you.

We must renew our commitment to the drug prevention strategies that deter first-time drug use and halt the progression from alcohol and tobacco use to illicit drugs.

I am deeply committed to continuing our progress in reducing drug use and to reversing the trend among youth. So I look forward to exchanging ideas and thought with both parents and children this morning.

It is hard to be a parent today; but it is even harder to be a kid. All of us - our businesses, our parents, our media, our schools, our teachers, our communities, and government -- have a responsibility to help children make it.

DRAFT

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
OPENING STATEMENT
ABC RADIO TOWN HALL MEETING
THE WHITE HOUSE
MARCH 12, 1997**

I first want to thank Peter Jennings and ABC for coming up with the idea for this event. This is a great opportunity to talk directly with parents, kids and the American people about the problem of drugs in our society. The young people who are here with us today are coming of age at the moment of greatest opportunity in all of American history. This is a time where young people who are prepared for it will have more options to live out their dreams than any previous generation. But this tremendous opportunity can be quickly shut off when drugs enter the picture.

Over the last decade we have made considerable progress in reducing overall casual drug use. At the same time, we have seen a rising trend of drug use by young people. We can and we must do something about this. That is why the number one goal of my national anti-drug strategy is to motivate America's youth to reject illegal drugs. Government cannot do this alone. Every person in every sector of our society must get involved -- from parents to the media to young people themselves. That is why this forum is so important. I am pleased that we are joined here today by Olympic gold medalist, Dominique Dawes. As a national spokesperson for our new "Girl Power" campaign, she has just taped a series of radio and television spots, urging young girls to go for the gold and stay away from drugs. Dominique...

ABC
is doing
a very
good
Parent
talk
to
kids -
this
is
part -
all
adults
need
to
talk
to all
kids

**ABC Radio Town Hall Meeting with President Clinton
March 12, 1997**

Questions and Answers

Areas of Potential Questions:

1. Declining Age of First time users
2. Medical Effects of Drugs
3. Gateway Drugs
4. Responding to Peer Pressure
5. Parents who once used drugs and their strategy for talking to children
6. Approaching Parents for Advice
7. Media Messages on Drugs
8. Programs that work and information and resources available

Declining Age of First Time Users

Q. In the last few years, more and more young people are trying drugs and at younger and younger ages. How can we reverse this trend?

A. This is a very serious problem. And it is reflected in a change in our youth's attitudes towards the dangers of drugs. Kids have not been getting a consistent anti-drug message through the media. That is why the number one goal of my drug strategy has been to educate and motivate youth to reject illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco. We know that if you can change youth's attitudes about drug use we can lower youth drug use.

We know that if you can change youth's attitudes about drug use we can lower youth drug use. That is why my National Drug Control Strategy provides \$175 for a national media campaign targeting illegal drug consumption by youth. This initiative would rely on high-impact, anti-drug television advertisements aired during prime-time to educate and inform the public about the dangers of illegal drug use.

Medical Effects of Drugs

Q. Recently some states have passed medical marijuana initiatives so that terminally ill patients can use marijuana for their pain. Do you support these initiatives? What kind of message does this send our children about marijuana?

A. I believe that we need to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and effective medicine. However, these two propositions contradict Federal law and complicate the National Drug Control Strategy by sending the wrong message to children and undermining the concerted

efforts of parents, educators, businesses, elected leaders, community groups and others to achieve a healthy, drug-free society. It is critical to send a clear message to the legalization movement that his Administration will continue to enforce Federal law and work to prevent similar propositions from passing in other states.

Gateway Drugs

Q. Many of my friends smoke cigarettes and drink occasionally but they do not do drugs.

This we know --- a young man or a young woman who reaches age 21 without smoking, without abusing alcohol and without using illegal drugs is virtually certain never to do so for the rest of their life.

That is why we must renew our commitment to the drug prevention strategies that deter first-time drug use and halt the progression from alcohol and tobacco use to illicit drugs.

Last year, at the White House Leadership Conference on Youth, Drug Use and Violence, Joe Califano, the former Secretary for Health, Education, and Welfare, spoke about some of the research findings of the Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, which he now heads. The Center has found a powerful statistical relationship between adolescent use of nicotine, alcohol, and marijuana and the use of drugs like cocaine and heroin.

A 12 to 17 year old who smokes cigarettes is 19 times likelier than one who doesn't to use cocaine. A 12 to 17 year old who drinks alcohol is 50 times likelier than one who doesn't to use cocaine. And one who smokes pot is 85 times likelier than one who doesn't use cocaine. The earlier and more frequently a child uses any of these substances, the likelier that child is to go to cocaine or heroin.

Responding to Peer Pressure

Q. It is very difficult for young people to reject drugs when so many of their friends are using them and it is considered "cool." What advice do you have for young people to fight off peer pressure to use drugs?

A. It is not easy being a kid. Peer pressure can be overwhelming. So many young people use drugs simply because their friends do.

We have an obligation to give kids something to say yes to. That is why my Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Bill contains an After schools initiatives so that kids are learning about life in the classroom and not on the streets.

In some communities drug testing is working for kids -- not so much the test itself but it gives kids a reason to fight off peer pressure. And frankly, quite often that is all our kids are asking for.

Parents who once used drugs and their strategy for talking to children

Q. How do you talk to Chelsea about drugs?

A. We know that many children abstain from using illegal drugs because an adult they respect -- usually a parent but often a teacher, coach, religious or community leader -- convinced them that using drugs was dangerous. Both Hillary and I have discussed drugs with Chelsea. She has very strong negative feelings about cigarettes, liquor and illicit drugs. She has dealt with this issue in a very mature way and she is committed to trying to help other young people stay out of trouble or help them if they think they are in trouble.

Approaching Parents for Advice

Q. Has Chelsea ever approached you for advice?

Media Messages on Drugs

Q. Many of the songs that we listened to and the shows we watch glamorize drug use. And there are not many anti-drug songs, shows or ads these days. How can you help to counter this?

A. All too often we see signs of complacency about the dangers of drug use -- diminished attention to the drug problem by the national media; the glamorization and legitimization of drug use in the entertainment industry; the coddling of professional athletes who are habitual drug users.

We have reduced overall drug use by 50% over the last 15 years. But unfortunately, beginning as early as 1989, youth attitudes about drugs began to change -- and as a result youth drug use began to rise in the early 1990s. This has been well documented by one of the most reputable surveys in the country, the University of Michigan's "Monitoring the Future." In addition, Since 1990, the number of anti-drug PSA's have dropped by 30%. Kids have not been getting a consistent anti-drug message through the media.

We know that if you can change youth's attitudes about drug use we can lower youth drug use. That is why my National Drug Control Strategy provides \$175 for a national media campaign targeting illegal drug consumption by youth. This initiative would rely on high-impact, anti-drug television advertisements aired during prime-time to educate and inform the public about the dangers of illegal drug use.

Programs that work and information and resources available

Q. Many of my friends who have tried drugs do so because they are bored and they don't about the dangers of drugs. We need more education about the danger of drugs. What can you do to educate kids so that they know about the dangers of drugs?

Parents must have the confidence that when they send their kids off to schools, they will be receiving the same anti-drug message that they receive at home.

Over the last four years, we have worked very hard to make our schools safer and to insure that kids are being taught drug prevention.

Other Potential questions:

Q. Where I live, drugs are all around me. Our school is 500 yards from an area where drugs deals gone on all day. How can you help keep drugs off of our streets and away from our schools?

Drug Fact Sheet

Overall Drug Use

An estimated 12.8 million Americans -- about 6% of the household population aged 12 and older -- use illegal drugs on a current basis (within the past 30 days). That is a 50% reduction from the 1979 peak of 25 million. Despite the dramatic drop, more than 1/3 of all Americans -- 12 and older -- have tried an illicit drug. Ninety percent of those used marijuana or hashish.

Trends in Youth Drug Use

This year at least 2.4 million young Americans will use illicit drugs. Illicit drug use among 8th graders is up 150% over the past five years. While alarmingly high, the prevalence of drug use among today's youth has not returned to near-epidemic levels of the late 1970s. In 1995, 10.9% of all youngsters between the ages 12-17 used illicit drugs on a "past-month" basis -- a doubling from the historic low in 1992 of 5.3% but still well below the 1979 peak of 16.3%.

Alcohol Use Among Youth. Alcohol is the drug most often used by young people. Approximately 1/4 10th grade students and 1/3 of 12th graders report having have 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion within two weeks of the survey

Tobacco Use Among Youth. Despite a decline in adult smoking, American youth continue to use tobacco products at rising rates. In 1996, more than a third of high school seniors smoked cigarettes, and more than 1 in 5 did so daily. These percentages are greater than at any time since the 1970s. Every day, 3000 children begin smoking cigarettes regularly. As a result, according to one study, a third of these youngsters will have their lives shortened.

Marijuana Use Among Youth. Almost 1 in 4 high school seniors used marijuana on a "past-month" basis in 1996. Within the past year, nearly twice as many seniors used marijuana as any other illicit drug. Marijuana also accounts for most of the increase in illicit drug use among youths aged 12 to 17. Between 1994 and 1995, the rate of marijuana use among this age-group increased by 37 percent (from 6% to 8.2%). Adolescents are also beginning to smoke marijuana at a younger age. The mean age of first use dropped from 17.8 years in 1987 to 16.3 years in 1994. According to one study, children who smoke marijuana are 85 times more likely to use cocaine than peers who never tried marijuana.

Cocaine Use Among Youth. Cocaine use is not prevalent among young people. In 1996, approximately 2% of 12th graders were current cocaine users. While this figure was up from a low of 1.4% in 1992, it was still 70% lower than the 6.7% high in 1985.

Other Illicit Drug Use Among Youth. After marijuana, stimulants (including methamphetamine) are the second-most commonly used illicit drug among young people. About 5% of high school students use stimulants on a monthly basis, and 10% have done so within the past year. Encouragingly, the use of inhalants -- the third most common illicit substance -- declined among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in 1996. LSD however was used by 8.8% of 12th graders drug the past year.

Clinton Anti-Drug Accomplishments for our Youth March 1997

President Clinton..... The number one goal of the President's National Drug Control Strategy is to motivate America's youth to reject illegal drugs and substance abuse.

National Anti-drug Media Campaign.

Working to end teen tobacco use. President Clinton has proposed restricting youth access to tobacco products, and reducing the advertising and promotional activities that make these products appealing to young people.

Zero-tolerance on underage drinking.

Drug Testing.

Drivers License

Safe and Drug Free Schools.

Emerging Drugs.

Methamphetamine Strategy
Rohypnol

White House Conference on Youth, Drug Use, and Violence.

Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy

After schools Initiatives.

Youth Drug Courts.