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[Press Guidance] - February 5, 1993 [2]

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2

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. pool report	re: February 5 - Newspaper Pool 1; Secret Service (Partial) (1 page)	02/05/1993	b(7)(E)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Press Secretary
Dee Dee Myers
OA/Box Number: 1597

FOLDER TITLE:

[Press Guidance] - February 5, 1993 [2]

2011-0587-F
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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]
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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]
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RESPONSE TO INQUIRES TO KIMBA WOOD

After consultation with the White House, I have decided to withdraw my name from consideration by the President for nomination to the post of Attorney General. The reasons for this decision are as follows:

On January 29, I met with the President at the White House to discuss the possibility of my appointment. In the course of a wide-ranging discussion of policy issues, I was asked if I had a "Zoe Baird" problem. I said I did not, and I do not.

(*)

Since I hired my babysitter in March 1986, I have submitted all required forms and paid all required taxes on her behalf. Second, I complied fully with all immigration laws and made all filings and disclosures that should be made in compliance with the immigration laws. My hiring of my babysitter was legal in March 1986 (prior to the Fall 1986 enactment of the Immigration Reform and Control Act ("IRCA") which rendered hiring illegal aliens unlawful if they were hired after IRCA's passage), and my employment of her continued to be legal after the passage of IRCA, because IRCA explicitly excluded from its provisions employers whose employees were hired prior to its passage.

(1) In March 1986, it was lawful to openly employ aliens who were in the country, like my babysitter, on an expired visa, as long as all required taxes and forms were filed. However, although all of my acts were lawful, my babysitter, like anyone

pursuing legalization, was not legally in this country from 1980 until she obtained legal residency in December 1987 through the IRCA amnesty program.

I maintained and provided seven years of records with respect to my babysitter and other household help. These records included my federal social security, FUTA and W-2 filings and payments, and my State unemployment compensation, disability insurance and workers compensation filing and payments, as well as the files I kept relating to my babysitter's immigration status, including my Application for Labor Certification and her application for federal amnesty pursuant to IRCA.

In sum, I maintained appropriate records and had made all required filings and payments for the seven years that my babysitter has been in my employ.

Thus, I have fulfilled every legal requirement with respect to the employment of our babysitter. Nevertheless, and after further consultations, I have concluded that in the current political environment, proceeding further with the possibility of my nomination would be inappropriate.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 5, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT MEETING WITH MAYORS

State Dining Room

3:26 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Let me say, first of all, welcome to the White House. Mayor Jackson, I saw your brother earlier today at the signing of the Family and Medical Leave Act and he was bragging on you; said you're now as thin as he is. (Laughter.) I assured him I would still be able to recognize you when I saw you. (Laughter.)

This has been a wonderful day here at the White House. Congress adjourned -- (laughter) -- but only after passing the Family and Medical Leave Act; we had a great signing this morning. (Applause.) It was a great bipartisan effort, about a third of the Republicans in the Senate voted for it. And it was a really good way to start the day.

I'm glad you're here. I know you've been meeting with Secretary Cisneros, who's one of your own. There are times when we meet when I can't tell whether he's changed positions or not -- (laughter and applause) -- which I suppose from your point of view is a good thing.

Most of you in this room I know well. I've spent a lot of time in your communities, and you have played a major role in my political education. I assure you that I think every day about many of the places we've been and the things we've seen and the things I have learned from you. I think that the time I spent in our country's cities in this last election that was in many ways the most instructive time that I spent. And one of the things that impressed me so much is that so many things against all the odds are being done that work. And I want you to help me now figure out how to make those things that work the rule rather than the exception in American life.

I told the governors when they came in here and spent some time with me earlier this week on the subject of health care impressed me so much is that so many things against all the odds are being done that work. And I want you to help me now figure out how to make those things that work the rule rather than the exception in American life.

I told the governors when they came in here and spent some time with me earlier this week on the subject of health care that if somebody asked me to name my greatest failing as a governor after 12 years, it was that I never could quite figure out a way to make the exception the rule; to take those things that worked and make them work everywhere.

In that connection, I have been working with Secretary Cisneros and have sent, after working it out with him, a directive to him today to deal with a number of specific things that I know are important to all of you: First, to establish a weekly mechanism for communication with the state and local leaders of our country on issues of housing and urban development. And I hope we'll have a

MORE

chance to talk about both of them because they are related; but they aren't the same.

Second, to try to expedite the programs that are already there now, to unclog some \$6 billion that have been in inexplicably tied up in the pipeline of the federal government that have already been appropriated; to speed up by three to four months the processing of the over \$3 billion in public housing funds that are available and to try to accelerate the real implementation of the home program where there's \$2.5 billion in largely unmoved funds because of the administrative system of this department has been largely paralyzed.

I told Henry when I asked him to take this position that there was some risk because of the pall which had been cast over HUD and the problems of past years and because there had been a lot of rhetoric but not enough action out of the department in recent years. We're going to do what we can to marry rhetoric and action. We don't promise to shut up, but we promise to try to do some things.

I also want to tell you that I'm going to do the best I can in this upcoming stimulus and economic package to do what I said I would do -- to bring down the deficit but to increase investment at the same time in ways that will make available more funds for the cities.

I remember Mayor White, when we were in Cleveland with Congressman Stokes, you said you thought we ought to increase the community development block grant funds because you could move those more quickly to create jobs. And there will be a fairly sizable increase in that in the proposed stimulus package to try to help you create jobs.

Let me just make a couple of general remarks about where we are on this whole economic approach, and then I'd like to hear from you and I'd like to just be as informal in conversation as possible.

The economic news is good but mixed and incomplete. That is, starting in the last quarter we have begun to have two pieces of good economic news: one is that productivity is increasing, and that's good. Companies are making more money, they're figuring out how to compete in a tough international environment. Two is that there's a lot more economic activity around housing as low interest rates finally are letting millions of Americans refinance their home mortgages, others get into buying homes; and that's all been good.

Then since the election, there have been two good pieces of economic news that I think the election can fairly claim some credit for. One is that consumer confidence started going up in November and exploded in December, and it's going to be strong in January. The second is that the financial markets generally are upbeat about the direction that our administration has outlined, which means they take us seriously, that we're going to try to do what many say is impossible, which is to increase investment and reduce the debt at the same time.

So, that's the good news. The bad news is that in this economy, the downsizing of big firms is continuing apace. It started in the 1980s, when every year of the 1980s, the Fortune 500 together reduced employment in the United States by about 400,000 people per year -- big, big reductions in employment.

In most years, that was offset by job increases in small and medium-sized companies. Now, that is not happening, even though this recovery is in place. So you have this strange thing where the economic indicators are going up in the last quarter like crazy, but

the unemployment rate is higher than it was at the depth of the recession. And for 14 months we've had a national unemployment rate over 7 percent. Why is that?

I think there are several reasons, but let me just say there are plainly three. One is that small business cannot afford to hire new workers and make up the slack from big business cuts because of the exploding costs of health care. Two is that small businesses that want to hire workers can't get credit because of the credit crunch, which is more heavily concentrated in some places than others, and particularly in California and southern Florida -- in Texas, but generally across the country. The third is that the defense cutbacks have accelerated the loss of high-wage manufacturing jobs without any offsetting industrial strategy or conversion strategy in America, which has been particularly devastating for Southern California, for Connecticut and for one of two other places, but has been generally felt across the country.

So the first thing I've got to try to figure out how to do is how to keep this economic recovery with all these big numbers going, but to actually help real people out of it. How are we going to generate some more jobs? One way is to put some more money into basic construction, which would affect you. We're going to try to accelerate the funding of ISTEA, which would help you. We're going to try to put some money into this stimulus package. It will be modest, because we don't want to be accused of ignoring the economic indicators, but it will be substantial to several areas.

And the other is to outline a five-year investment plan which will increase our investment in infrastructure, which will have a defense conversion plan and which will attempt to address these very serious problems that are killing small business -- namely controlling health costs and providing basic health care to all Americans and trying to break open the credit crunch.

If you think about it, two best things I could do for you are both indirect. If we could bring health costs in line with inflation and get banks to lending again, economic activity would pick up among people who would then pay taxes to your local government, and you could take that money and do what you need to do.

The best thing I could do for the private sector, if we could bring health costs in line with inflation between now and the year 2000, we would save the private sector two-and-a-half times as much as the public purse creating -- freeing hundreds of billions of dollars a year to be reinvested in the economies of this country.

So, what I'm going to try to do is just that. It's never been done before in this country; having to bring down the deficit and increase investment at the same time. It's going to require some very tough choices. I spent two hours yesterday trying to cut the budget in areas that I thought were inessential in order to free up monies that would be invested; and obviously most of our investment money goes to directly back to state and local government.

I'm sure that a lot of you will wish we were spending more, but let me say that it is critical, I'm convinced, that we show some discipline in bringing down this deficit because at every point we drop long-term interest rates, freeze up \$50 billion for new investment in this economy.

So I'm going to try to spend more in terms of investment and reduce the deficit, which means I'm going to have to cut consumption even more. And we're working on it. And I hope we can work together closely and we can do a very good job together.

One of the things that I've been impressed with -- Secretary Cisneros's work over at the Department -- is he came back

saying what a lot of our secretaries have been saying; he said, this thing's not working very well. We got all this money out there that's not even being spent. We've got \$6 billion in the pipeline. We got \$3.1 billion that's been approved that's going to take four months too long to get out there. We've got this home program -- nobody can access the money because of the administrative problems. So, we can keep you busy for a year or so if we just run the department right.

And we're going to do our best to do that. I think the floor is now yours. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

3:37 P.M. EST

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Feb. 5/ Newspaper Pool 1

At 7:37 a.m., the presidential motorcade - without a decoy limo or ambulance - left the White House via the southwest gate and headed, stopping at most red lights, for Hains Point. Clinton climbed out of his limo at 7:43 a.m. - wearing a full jogging suit of a black & white top featuring pink and gray stripes with matching black bottoms and a blue cap. (b)(7)e [C.V.]

(b)(7)e At the first photo point near the Awakening sculpture, Clinton gave a slight wave. About a half-mile later, he quietly said, "Good morning," to the press corps. There was no other comment. After running three miles in about 27 minutes, Clinton got back in the limo and the motorcade - stopping at all the red lights - got back to the White House at 8:20 a.m.

clifford/ newsday

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 5, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT BILL SIGNING CEREMONY

The Rose Garden

9:22 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Mrs. Yandle, I never had a better introduction. Before we thank anyone else, I think all of us should acknowledge that it was America's families who have beaten the gridlock in Washington to pass family leave -- people like this fine woman all over America who talked to members of Congress, both Democrat and Republican, who laid their plight out, who asked that their voices be heard.

When Senator Gore and I ran in the election last year, we published a book called Putting People First. I'm very proud that the first bill I am to sign as President truly puts people first. (Applause.)

I do want to thank the United States Congress for moving expeditiously on this matter and for doing it before their first recess, so that every member of Congress who voted for this bill can go home and say, we are up there working on your problems and your promise, trying to make a better future for you.

This sends a clearer signal than any words any of us could utter, that we have tried to give this government back to the American people. And I am very appreciative that the Congress has moved so rapidly on this bill.

There are many, many members of Congress here and many others who are not here who played a major role in this legislation. Time does not permit me to mention them all, but I do want to thank the Senate Majority Leader for his heroic efforts in the 11th hour to make sure we pass this bill; Senator Kennedy and Senator Dodd for their passionate and years-long commitment to this effort. (Applause.)

I want to thank the Speaker, Speaker Foley and Congressman Ford, the Chairman of the committee that had jurisdiction over this bill; and Congresswoman Pat Schroeder and all the other Democrats who worked on this bill. (Applause.) But I want to acknowledge, too, consistent with the promise I made in my inaugural -- to reach out to members of both parties who would try to push for progress -- that this bill also had passionate support among Republicans. My old colleague in the Governors Association, Senator Kit Bond from Missouri: I thank you for your leadership. (Applause.) Senator Jeffords and Senator Coats I don't believe are here, but they supported this bill strongly. And Congresswoman Marge Roukema from New Jersey -- (applause) -- her commitment on this was unwavering. Congresswoman Susan Molinari from New York and many other Republicans voted for us, spoke for and worked for this bill. I thank them, the subcommittee chairs who are here and all the other who worked so hard to make this bill a real live promise kept from the Congress to the people of the United States.

Family medical leave has always had the support of a majority of Americans, from every part of the country, from every

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walk of life, from both political parties. But some people opposed it. And they were powerful, and it took eight years and two vetoes to make this legislation the law of the land. Now millions of our people will no longer have to chose between their jobs and their families.

The law guarantees the right of up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave per year when it's urgently needed at home to care for a newborn child, or an ill family member. This bill will strengthen our families and I believe it will strengthen our businesses and our economy as well. (Applause.)

I have spent an enormous amount of time in the last 12 years in the factories and businesses of this country talking to employers and employees; watching the way people work often working with them. And I know that men and women are more productive when they are sure they won't lose their jobs because they're trying to be good parents, good children. Our businesses should not lose the services of these dedicated Americans. And over the long run, the lessons of the most productive companies in the world, here at home and around the world, are that those that put their people first are those who will triumph in the global economy.

The business leaders who have already instituted family and medical leave understand this and I'm very proud of some of the business leaders who are here today who represent not only themselves but others all across America who were ahead of all of up who make laws in doing what is right by our families.

Family and medical leave is a matter of pure common sense and a matter of common decency. It will provide Americans what they need most -- peace of mind. Never again will parents have to fear losing their jobs because of their families.

Just a week ago, I spoke to 10 people in families who had experienced the kinds of problems Mrs. Yandle has talked about today. Vice President Gore and I talked to people all across America who moved us deeply. We were saddened to hear their stories but today all of us can be happy to think of their future.

Now that we have won this difficult battle let me ask all of you to think about what we must do ahead to put the public interest ahead of special interest; to pass a budget which will grow this economy and shrink our deficit; and to go on about the business of putting families first.

There's a lot more we need to do to help people trapped in welfare move to work and independence; to strengthen child support enforcement; to reward those who work 40 hours a week and have children at home with an increase in the earned income tax credit so we can really say we're rewarding work instead of dependence; -- (applause) -- to immunize all the children of this country so more parents won't have to take advantage of family leave because their children will be well and strong and healthy. (Applause.)

Let all of us who care about our families, our people, the strength of our economy, and the future of our nation put our partisan and other interests aside and be inspired by this great victory today to have others when Congress returns to this city and we go on about the people's business. Thank you very much.

END

9:49 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 5, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AND
CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER BRIAN MULRONEY
DURING PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

The Oval Office

11:38 A.M. EST

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Hi, Helen.

Q Hi.

PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY: Hi, Helen. How are you?

Q What's your reaction to the unemployment numbers, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Better, but still too high -- the recession, unemployment was 6.8 percent; lower than it is now. And now we've had 14 months over 7 percent, and I hope it's going down. But until we get it way down, there will still be a lot of unused capacity in the country and a lot of idle people.

Q Are you going to have a statement soon on Bosnia, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, Mr. Christopher is working on it, and we're working on it. I've spent a good deal of time on it in the last two weeks. But I don't have anything to say yet. It's a very difficult problem, I'm very concerned about it, and I have spent a good deal of time on it. When I have something to say, I will.

Q Will that be a topic for this meeting, sir?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: We're going to talk about a lot of things. We don't have a typed agenda.

Q This isn't the first time you've met, is it?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Yes, but we've talked before several times.

Q On the phone, but not --

PRESIDENT CLINTON: This is our first meeting.

PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY: And you were probably mentioned in those conversations. (Laughter.)

* * * * *

Q Prime Minister, will you be seeking some assurances against the winds of protectionism in Congress you mentioned yesterday?

PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY: Yes, I will. I think that any time protectionism takes hold in the United States or Canada or elsewhere it's bad for prosperity. It cripples growth everywhere. And so the President's a free trader and so am I. And so I expect

MORE

that we'll resolve the difficulties that we have -- not at today's meeting, but over a period of time. And so I look forward to the meeting. I have been very encouraged by my earlier telephone conversation with the President in regard to trade and other matters.

Q (Question asked and answered in French.)

Q Mr. President, what do you think about the free trade of Canada? Is it important for U.S., do you think?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I think it's very important for both of us. And I think it will have real benefits over the long run. As a governor, I was one of those who took responsibility for trying to lobby the original agreement through the Congress here. And I hope we can complete the North American Free Trade Agreement, bringing in Mexico, making some changes that I think will be good for the Mexicans and good for the Canadians and the Americans.

But I think that if you look at -- if you just look at the last 50 years, the only way you can have growth within advanced countries over the long run is to have global growth. The only way you can have global growth is to expand trade.

This is a difficult time. Europe is in distress economically. Japan is having some difficulties. And, of course, there will always be discussions among us about whether the rules of trade are fair or not. But our goal must continue to be the opening of trade and the increase in the volume of trade.

Q So do you want to reassure Canadians? Because there's a little fear in Canada about U.S. protectionism.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: No, I think Canada is our most important trading partner. I hope that we can do some things that will improve the economy of Canada. I'm very concerned that -- our economy has started to pick up now. And normally when it does, Canada follows behind just by a few months. I want some of that growth to come back into Canada now.

One of the reasons I want to try to generate more jobs here is I think that would create more jobs in Canada. The more people we have with incomes and the more consumers we will have, the more economic impact we'll be able to have in Canada to bring that unemployment down there.

Q What are the problems, if any, in the relationship?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, I think -- let me say, this is our first conversation face to face. I don't want to dwell on the problems -- the opportunities overwhelm the problems. And I'm sure we'll work through the problems.

PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY: Maybe I could just say, Mr. President, in regard to that, that our total trade, all in, is in Canadian dollars, about \$275 billion. It dwarfs anything that the United States has anywhere in the world. But more importantly, at the end of the year when you factor everything in, from interest payments to dividends. Our trade is in rough balance.

It is extraordinary that the largest trading relationship between two nations in history is in rough balance at the end of the year, which means that with the imperfections that we have, that we've got a pretty good -- pretty good system that is self-governing. And, from time to time, the President and the Prime Minister of Canada have to intervene to make sure that this really remarkably productive relationship with both countries is preserved and strengthened.

And that's what President Clinton did. He was selling the Free Trade Agreement when he was Governor of Arkansas throughout the United States. So I'm very encouraged by his attitudes and his record in regard to developing world trade.

END

11:45 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 5, 1993

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT TO THE CHAIRMEN OF
THE HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES
ON APPROPRIATIONS AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

February 5, 1993

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), I am submitting a list of countries which, as of January 1, 1993, have been determined to be major illicit drug producing and drug transit countries. These countries have been selected on the basis of information from the March 1, 1992, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) and from other U.S. Government sources. The list of countries is identical to the one submitted by the Secretary of State on October 1, 1992, pursuant to the provisions of section 481(k)(3) (now repealed) of the FAA and using the definition of a major illicit drug producing country and a major drug transit country given in sections 481(i)(2) and (5) of the same law.

The International Narcotics Control Act of 1992 (INCA) amended the FAA on November 2, 1992, by changing the reporting date to January 1, 1993, and by suspending the sections 481(i)(2) and (5) definitions for fiscal years 1993 and 1994. In fiscal year 1995 the section 481(i) definitions will again apply. Since the section 481(i) definitions, however, have provided a generally sound and consistent basis for classifying major drug producing and transit countries, we will continue to use them with some practical adjustments to take into account more accurate measurement techniques and the effect on the illicit U.S. drug market. We will not add or remove countries to or from the major drug producers list until we have our own confirmation that conditions in the country so warrant.

We expect to revise the list during 1993 based on information in the next International Narcotics Control Strategy Report and survey information. At this time, there are reports that there may be significant illicit cultivation of opium poppies in Vietnam and in the former Soviet Central Asian republics. When we complete the relevant surveys of these countries, we will decide whether the data justify their inclusion on the list.

The following countries are subject to certification on narcotics cooperation: The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Afghanistan, India, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Burma, China, Hong Kong, Laos, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 5, 1993

The President today designated the following:

James H. Quello as Chair of the Federal Communications Commission on an interim basis. Mr. Quello will serve until a permanent Chair is named by the President. He has served as a Member of the Commission since 1974.

Elizabeth Anne Moler as Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on an interim basis. Ms. Moler will serve until a permanent Chair is named by the President. She has served as a Member of the Commission since 1988.

Gail C. McDonald as Chair of the Interstate Commerce Commission on an interim basis. Ms. McDonald will serve until a permanent Chair is named by the President. She has served as a Member of the Commission since 1990.

John A. Gannon as Acting Chairperson of the National Council on Disability. Mr. Gannon will serve until a permanent Chairperson is named by the President. He has served as a Member of the Council since 1988.

Feb. 5/ Pool 2 (Clinton & Mulroney in the Oval Office)
- The press office is preparing a full transcript of their comments.

Meeting face-to-face for the first time, Clinton and Mulroney were sitting together on two yellow Windsor chairs in front of the Oval Office fireplace. As the four waves of media came into the room, they smiled and chatted with each other when not answering media questions. While talking to together, Clinton leaned toward Mulroney to keep their quiet. But it was barely possible to hear Clinton telling Mulroney about working at night in his upstairs office and something about President Grant once using it for cabinet meetings. At another point, Clinton pointed to the Canadian still photographers and said to Mulroney, "These are your guys?" and went on to say something about "getting used to" - presumably about his "guys." Among the aides in the Oval Office during the photo session was Nancy Soderberg, special assistant to the president for national security. Among the topic Clinton covered in his answers to reporters' questions were the new unemployment figure ("Better, but still too high"), US policy on Bosnia ("I don't have anything to say") and free trade (Talked about backing NAFTA as a governor - "I think it's very important for both of us.../ I hope we can complete the free trade agreement...") and Canada ("Canada's our most important trading partner"/ Said he hopes Canadian recovery will follow US recovery/ "The opportunities overwhelm the problems.") Mulroney made the point that both he and Clinton were "free traders" and that US and Canadian trade was "in rough balance."

At 12:23, Clinton and Mulroney walked through the colonnade - still smiling and chatting - into the old family dining room for lunch. No comment to reporters.

newsday/ clifford

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The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 5, 1993

Statement of the President

I understand and respect Judge Wood's decision not to proceed further with the possibility of being nominated as Attorney General. I was greatly impressed with her as a lawyer, a judge and a person. I respect her legal talents, judicial record and integrity. I wish her well.

WHITE HOUSE COMMENT LINE
11:00 AM Report
Friday, February 5, 1993

Summary:

As of 11:00 am, the total number of calls received
by the Comment/Opinion Line was **1047**.

Hot Issues Today:

* Gays in the Military

Support	149
Oppose	168

* Cut Social Security COLAs

Support	6
Oppose	60

* Family and Medical Leave

Support	22
Oppose	25

* Welfare Reform

Support	14
Oppose	0

* Abortion

Support	11
Oppose	39

* Bosnia

Support	12
Oppose	13

Dee Dee

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

Internal Transcript

February 5, 1993

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT
BY BILL NIGUT,
WSB-ABC; ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The Library

5:50 P.M. EST

Q You're talking in an area that I really wanted to start with, and that was your personal reflections. By many accounts, the first couple of weeks here were rough ones for you. You had great press today. I've looked at all the papers today. It's the first really strong day of press, it seemed to me, that you've had.

What are your personal reflections on what it's been like to suddenly deal with the job of President as opposed to being Governor of a state -- the difference in the pressures and dealing with the kind of media you have to contend with up here.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have to say that the most important difference from the point of view of the public has been -- is the way the press covers the office, because there is so much intense press coverage right here on you, it's like being in a national campaign every day.

And, for example, one of the things that was really frustrating to me was to realize that most Americans thought after I'd been here 10 days that I was spending most of my time on this gays in the military issue, an issue that never commanded more than an hour on any given day, and most days didn't take that. Most days we were spending eight, 10, 12 hours a day on jobs, on health care, on getting the economy moving again, on dealing with this enormous deficit. But those were meetings. And even though they were sprayed by the press, that wasn't the news.

So if there's not a news event like ending the ban on fetal tissue research so we can get back to research on diabetes or Parkinson's or Alzheimer's -- that was a good day, because you got that message out. Or if I were making -- if I made an appointment, that got a message out.

But, I mean, the single most important difference is dealing with that sort of over-arching, pervasive news coverage that almost prevents the kind of day-to-day work that I would do. I mean, I don't think it's too much to ask for a President to have a couple of weeks of work to put a budget together or a program, all that. We're doing it on a much faster track than previous administrations have, given the magnitude of the changes that we're proposing. And that surprised me.

But otherwise, it's been sort of like I expected. And, in spite of the fact that the hours are longer here, I must say living where you work makes it a lot easier. I have a lot of sympathy with commuters, for example, here -- or commuters in any of these big cities. They have to spend so much time going to and from work. It's much easier for me to work a 12-hour day when I can still go home and have dinner with my wife and daughter and work on Chelsea's algebra and talk to Hillary for a while, and then I can go

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back to work. And I just -- it's a two minute walk. It makes it a lot easier.

Q What's your guess as to why you didn't get much of a honeymoon? There's general agreement that you didn't.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think I got -- I've gotten good cooperation from Congress. You know, there were people who wanted -- that the minority in the Senate wanted this whole gays in the military thing to take the place of the economy and family leave and all that, and that's too bad some of them did. But we passed the Family Medical Leave Act in the beginning before Congress went off on their brief recess.

As terms of why the press did it, I don't know. Because I think -- you know, we got all my Cabinet members but one were confirmed the day after I became President. That's the first time in a generation or more that that's occurred. So the evidence was sort of different than the press coverage. And I don't -- I can't answer why that was so. But you'd have to ask them. That's not my problem.

Q Do you sense there's an insider/outsider mentality at work here?

THE PRESIDENT: Could be.

Q Your coming in?

THE PRESIDENT: Could be. And I'm different from a lot of people. I don't -- I really -- you know, I think I got hired to do a job. I get up every day and I try to go to work and put one foot in front of another and work through a lot of these problems. I think we've been successful in a lot of ways. We stemmed off a major exodus of people out of Haiti, and yet we launched a new initiative to try to bring democracy back to Haiti. And we're doing more on there than was done before. In the foreign policy area, we avoided so far a major problem at the United Nations for Israel as we try to get the Middle East peace process back on track. And yet all of that was done while I personally am spending 85 to 90 percent of my time on economic issues -- on the questions that I was elected to address.

So I think the administration has done pretty well the first two weeks. And I've just got to figure out that every day, in terms of the press coverage, is like being in a campaign. Unless we make up -- well, not make up, but give the press something to cover that is consistent with what we're doing, we run the risk of having something else be the story.

Q You talked a minute ago about the minority pushing the gay ban to create difficulties for you. But, of course, it was a Democratic Senator who really focused attention on the issue. Is there some bad blood now between you and Sam Nunn?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q He certainly didn't do you any favors in your first couple of weeks here.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me say -- I disagree with that. Keep in mind what he did. I think he did me a big favor. I just wish it could have been done in a day instead of a week. Senator Nunn does not believe the ban should be lifted, but he agreed to co-sponsor a resolution to do precisely what I wanted to do, which is to put this whole issue off for six months while the Pentagon works on it. Keep in mind, the position of our -- of the administration was the Joint Chiefs of Staff have asked to look at this for six months. Let's put it off for six months. Let's get about the business that we were all elected to deal with -- the

economy and health care and people's problems. Senator Nunn agreed to try to fashion a resolution that would do that, consistent with his own position which was to oppose repealing the ban. And if it had happened in one day, it would have been viewed as a stroke of genius. It took four days to get agreement on the language, so it dragged the subject out. But in the end, we got what we wanted. We put the subject off for six months. Family and medical leave passed. I got to then meet with the Congress on campaign finance reform and lobby reform, and talk about health care a lot, and talk about this economic program.

So I think that any interpretation that there was a problem between me and Sam Nunn would be wrong. I'm frankly quite grateful to him for co-sponsoring with George Mitchell a resolution to put this issue off so we can get back to the economy.

Q Would you have liked to have seen him do it a little more quietly?

THE PRESIDENT: I wish it could have been done in a day instead of four days. He's a very meticulous man. You know how -- I mean, he's a very careful man. Every word matters to him, and he's very -- So it took us longer to reach the agreement than I wish it had. But it is not true that he engineered some problem for me. I asked him to get involved in this, because I knew if he would do it, we could put it off for six months.

Q Can you imagine anything that you'll hear in hearings that would change your mind about lifting the ban?

THE PRESIDENT: Not on the principle. But there are a lot of things that could effect the details of how this is done. You know, what kinds of duty? Or should any duty be off limits and all that sort of stuff. There are a lot of issues here.

The Prime Minister of Canada was here today saying that they had done this six months ago. And he had the man who was his Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman, Colin Powell's counterpart -- they had no difficulties, because all they did was recognize the fact that they had some people in the service who were gay and they didn't kick them out for their status, but they had a very strict code of conduct. We need a strict code of conduct. I can tell you, a lot of women in the armed services -- in the uniform services who are around here that come up to me and reaffirm that -- that they know there's a lot of sexual harassment of women, for example, in the service. They want a stricter code of conduct. So I think that there are a lot of things we can do that might actually tighten the standards of behavior in the service.

Q But given that you might impose some new order in terms of all that, you will lift the ban -- the general ban six months from now?

THE PRESIDENT: That is my intention. I haven't changed my position on that. But it's not the big issue. I didn't get elected to do that. That was something that somebody else put on the plate. My strategy always was to try to put that off for six months, give the Pentagon a chance to have their say, persuade anybody in the world they could that I was wrong. I wanted to put that off down the road, because we got elected to deal with the jobs issue and the economy.

Q If you don't mind, let me ask you about an issue that's important in Georgia right now. And I frankly wouldn't ask you this if you weren't a southerner yourself. You know your good friend, Zell Miller, is in a firestorm over the issue of changing the Georgia flag -- removing the Confederate symbol from the flag. As a southerner, how do you feel about that issue? Is it time for

southern states that have the Confederate flag represented on their state flags today to change and come into the 21st Century?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'll tell you, I think the facts may be different in each case. But let me ask you a question to make sure I know the issue. Isn't it true that the Confederate flag was put on the Georgia flag in the '50s?

Q In 1956.

THE PRESIDENT: So it wasn't something that was there going back to the Confederacy. It was put there in '56 as a symbol of defiance of civil rights and of the integration of the schools. And for that reason, I think Zell is right that it ought to be removed.

Q You don't have anymore general feeling about that particular image?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think that -- frankly, I think the south by and large has made a great deal of progress in race relations. And in many southern cities and states, there's a greater racial harmony and greater participation of blacks and whites together in political life and social life than in many non-southern areas. And I don't think -- the only thing I don't want to happen to Georgia is for anybody to lose sight of all the progress that has been made there.

But I think that -- let me just say on the facts of this case, I think Governor Miller has taken a courageous but correct decision, especially given the historical basis of why that Confederate flag is on the Georgia flag.

Q Let me ask you one last question. I haven't asked you about the economy, because I know that's going to be a subject that we'll discuss in the Town Meeting next Wednesday night. But one question on that. You came into office faced with -- you came into the transition faced with the basic dilemma spend more money to create jobs, or cut the deficit as quickly as possible. You've got a short-term package now. Is it your sense at this point that your focus is going to really be on both putting money into a jobs creation program and finding other ways to cut? Have you come closer to resolving this dilemma?

THE PRESIDENT: I've come closer. But the reason it's a dilemma is that I'm convinced that in order to be a responsible President, I have to do both. I have to invest more money to create jobs and to educate people to do the jobs of the 21st Century -- the higher wage jobs. And I have to bring the debt down.

And let me just put it out on the table here. You know this, but a lot of your viewers might not. After the election, the government published figures saying that the deficit was going to be \$50 billion a year -- a year -- higher in every year starting next year than they had previously said. Now, what does that mean? That means you spend more money -- you borrow more money, you spend more money of tax dollars on deficits, and you lower future living standards by living beyond your means. So we've got to bring this debt down to protect our economic base. It will also help us right now, because if we bring the debt down, we'll keep interest rates low. That means more investments and more jobs today. But we cannot bring the debt down at the expense of investing in new jobs, because while the economists say we're in a big recovery, we're not generating jobs in America.

And so I'm going to propose a short-term stimulus package, then a long-term plan to turn government spending on its head, if you will, to restrict consumption -- to restrict how much

the permanent government spends -- and to increase investment in jobs, and in education and training, and in health care needs of children. And I'm going to propose a reduction in the debt.

Q Have you decided what to do about Social Security? Are you going to freeze the COLAs, or are you going to tax upper income earners who are collecting Social Security -- or upper income retirees?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't want to start specifically telling you about the program, because I've got all the issues on there. But let me tell you what my priorities are. First priority is the government should cut, starting with me. I'm going to announce the first one. I'm going to announce next week a very substantial cut in the White House staff in the executive operation of the President. And we're going to then go through this government with a fine tooth comb and cut.

The second thing we ought to do is to commit ourselves -- the Congress and me -- to passing a health care reform bill this year that will control health care costs and provide basic health care.

The third thing we ought to do is -- I talked about this a lot in the campaign -- is to ask the wealthiest Americans and corporate America, who had their taxes go down and their incomes go up in the '80s, to redress the balance to pay their fair share. I think only after we have explored those alternatives should we even look at what working middle class people, retirees, and the poor should do.

Because I think that there is a chance, if we go at it in that way, that we can put together a tough, bold package that will have the support of the American people. A lot of people say to me, "Tell me the truth. Tell me what you want me to contribute. I'll do it. But be fair, and make the government go first." People are sick and tired of the government taking things away from them without going first and setting an example.

Q Thank you. We look forward to having you answer our audience questions next week.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

END

6:05 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

Internal Transcript

February 5, 1993

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT
BY GARY WALKER, KOMO-ABC; SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The Library

6:08 P.M. EST

Q Mr. President, the E. coli outbreak has created quite a scare in the Pacific Northwest. And it has raised questions about how the government handles its inspection of meat. First of all, what can you say to the victims' families of E. coli? And what do you say to the many, many people in our area right now who are afraid to go out and buy a hamburger?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, let me say I'm very upset about what happened. As you know, it occurred about the time I was taking office. I've asked the Secretary of Agriculture to put a very high priority on it, to look into it, and then to go out to the Northwest, which he has done.

What he tells me about this deadly strand of E. coli which caused the deaths is that if the hamburger meat is cooked at 1200 degrees, it kills the strand. And so -- and that's what the government requirement was. I have asked him to look into whether or not in our meat inspections we can develop some sort of X-ray potential or something that is technically feasible to check -- either to check all carcasses or a statistically relevant sample of carcasses to see whether that is a problem. And as far as I know, those are the only two options we have. I do think as a result of what has happened, the people who are serving hamburgers out here in this country are going to be much more careful to meet the standard and cook up to the temperature.

But we also are looking at what, if anything, we can do to up the regulatory capacity of the Department of Agriculture.

Q At a time when it's so important for the government to downsize to save money, your Agriculture Secretary does say more inspectors are needed, but I can't promise the money. Can you?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me tell you. I'm working with him on his budget. He is also, to be fair to him, trying to downsize the Department of Agriculture in other areas, to cut out things that are not needed. And if we can have enough cuts in other areas, then we might be able to do some more on inspection.

Before I finally answer that question, I think I should tell you that I'm waiting for him to report back to me. I've been very impressed with the way he handled this crisis. He went right out there, he got right on top of it. And I'm going to be heavily influenced by the recommendation he makes.

Q Very quick message to the victims, to the people up in our area who really are afraid to walk into some restaurants and buy fast food.

THE PRESIDENT: I am terribly sorry about what happened. It is a clear warning to the people who run these restaurants that no matter how fast they try to serve customers, you must cook those

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hamburgers at the required temperature. You must do that. That will kill these viruses. In the meanwhile, we're going to do everything we can to see what else we can do to try to protect the public.

Q I've been working on a series of reports: Boeing vs. Airbus is what we've named it. And I know during --

THE PRESIDENT: Good for you.

Q -- your campaign, while you were in our area, you were very much in tune with and trying to get information. What does Boeing need to deal with the billions of dollars in government money that Airbus gets? What do you want to do to help Boeing?

THE PRESIDENT: The short answer is, I want to do whatever it takes to keep America in the forefront of commercial aviation production well into the 21st century. Commercial aviation is one of seven or eight technologies that will shape the future of wealthy countries' job bases. We're going to create jobs that are high-wage jobs. That's one area where we have a lead that we can't afford to lose. And this country has sat by long before I showed up and let the Europeans subsidize Airbus and claimed that it was not economical for Europe. But it's hurting us. And we're paying a terrible price for it.

Let me tell you what I have done. I've instructed my National Economic Policy Advisor, Bob Rubin to organize a little group here to deal with the whole aviation issue. That is, commercial aviation production as well as the commercial airlines.

There is a commission which has been enacted by Congress, but the members haven't been appointed yet. I met with about 100 members of Congress yesterday, and I said we've got to appoint this commission and get of the dime. We have got to develop a policy in this country that deals with the airlines -- both the commercial airlines -- the carriers and the producers.

Boeing is terribly important to you. It is still a very great company, but it's having to downsize. Some of our other producers are on the verge of not being producers anymore. And I am determined to turn this situation around. We may have to consider options in terms of government partnerships that we'd not previously considered. But we cannot allow Airbus, with government subsidies, to bankrupt America's future. It's not just the men and women who are working for Boeing now; this is a big part of our future.

Q Would you consider the possibility of a trade sanction? Possibly an import fee on Airbus planes coming into this country?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I wouldn't rule anything out. I wouldn't rule anything out. We're having some disputes with the Europeans right now over telecommunications equipment and over steel dumping. We -- I don't want there to be a trade war because we've exported a lot more to Europe in the last four to five years, and the trade volume has been growing and because the threat of a worldwide recession is very great, and they could pull us back into it. But we have got to protect this part of our economy.

Q Another one of the promises that you made during the campaign -- and many people in the Northwest are waiting to see if you are going to keep this promise or how you're going to keep the promise -- and that is with a timber summit.

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely.

Q Can you give us a date, a location, and what you hope to accomplish?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can't give you a date and location, although I've been working, as you know, with Vice President Gore on trying to bring this forest summit together. And I can tell you this: We've had three conversations about it already, including one yesterday. We have lunch every Thursday together and talk about our matters of concern.

I spoke with a number of members of Congress from the Pacific Northwest, and one governor asked me about it when the governors were in town. We're going to try to do it in a timely fashion. We're going to do it pretty soon. Let me tell you what we're trying to do: We could have held it the week after the Inauguration. But we wanted to have our act together.

My belief is that the federal government caused a lot of this. I read legal documents involving the controversy over the old growth forests involving not only the Endangered Species Act, but but the Forest Practices Act, in which six different federal agencies under the previous administration had taken a total of five different positions.

So what I'm going to try to do before I call the summit and convene all the parties there is to make sure we have some idea of how we can get all of our folks together to reconcile the conflicts. But it won't be long. I haven't forgotten about it, it is a big issue to me. And mostly what we're trying to do now is to get all of our people in place, get them confirmed, and then develop some approaches that we can present to folks there even as we listen.

Q Mr. President, another town meeting coming up. What is it that you hope to accomplish with this one, and what purpose do they serve for you?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, for me they serve two purposes. They give me a chance to tell the American people what's on my mind and get some feedback about what I say. And then they give me a chance to keep listening to questions that may not have anything to do with what I come to talk about.

In this town meeting, what I want to do is to tell the American people that I'm doing my best to keep the commitments I made in the campaign. That there has been one huge change since the election: The government announced that the deficit is going to be \$50 billion a year bigger than they had said before, and that we're going to have to modify some of the plans, but that the goals, the objectives and most of the details are still the same as they were in the election. I want to tell them what I'm thinking about, give them some options and get their feedback about how they feel about various things that would help us to grow the economy, generate jobs and reduce the debt. That's the main purpose of the town meeting.

Q It sounds like what you are going to have to say, in a way, is, some of those promises I made, I might not be able to keep.

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- what I'm going to have to say is the following: I'm going to have to cut government spending more than I thought I would. And I'm going to set an example. Before I go to the town meeting I will announce a big cut in the White House staff. I'm going to set an example and keep the commitment I made on that, but also cut other spending more.

We are going to have to defer a middle class tax cut because we can't afford it with a deficit \$50 billion greater. But we cannot refuse to invest in our future. That is, we still have to provide more tax incentives to invest, we still have to invest more in jobs and incomes. We cannot delay -- in fact, we have to speed up trying to solve the health care crisis.

One of the things I'm going to try to do is to generate more support for the control of health care costs and covering everybody to try to pass a bill this year. We cannot delay that. And then I want to talk about who is going to pay the bill and how we're going to do it and in what order. Because my concern is still that those who benefitted most from what's happened should pay their fair share before we ask working people and the elderly to pay.

Q Mr. President, one of the keys to your success, obviously, is that many of the people in this country feel like they got to know you, that you're one of them. I think that one thing that might be on their mind right now is, here you are, President, the most powerful leader in the world, in the White House. It's been a couple of weeks. What's it like?

THE PRESIDENT: It's been wonderful so far. But it's a very humbling thing. I mean, every day I just pray for the wisdom to make the right decisions. You can imagine it, but until you feel it, it's hard to know. And I'm trying so hard to not forget where I came from, not get isolated from people, but still realize that I got hired every day to get up and make the best decisions I possibly could. So far, I've enjoyed it very much, but it's an awe-inspiring responsibility.

Q One last question, if I may. There has been some resistance among some Americans to the role that your wife is playing. How do you react to that?

THE PRESIDENT: I'd just ask that we be judged based on whether we are faithful to the oath of office I took. You know, it's true that she wasn't elected, but she was a lot more nearly elected than anybody else, except for Vice President Gore who was actually elected. But I also have a Chief of Staff, I have all these Cabinet members, I have all these other people; they weren't elected, either. She is not practicing law now, for the first time in 20 years she's not working. And she is the best organized person I've ever worked with. She has the best ability to get strong-willed, smart people together in a complicated area, and bring them to a certain and good conclusion, of anybody I've ever seen.

So I ask her to do this because I think she can help us to get a health care agreement, and because I wanted to send a signal to Congress and the American people that I care passionately about this. Those who have reservations, I think when they see her work will feel very glad that she is involved in this.

Q Mr. President, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Glad to see you again.

END

6:20 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

Internal Transcript

February 5, 1993

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT
BY BILL BONDS, WXYZ-ABC; DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The Library

5:37 P.M. EST

Q Mr. President, thank you very much. A pretty good day for you today, you -- on the family leave bill.

THE PRESIDENT: The Family Leave Act was very important me personally; it affects so many Americans who shouldn't lose their job when there's a baby born or a sick child or sick parent. It's a great -- for the country. It really is an example of putting people first. And I hope it will be repeated many times over in the next few months here in the White House.

Since I'm talking to you, I've got to give a special plug to Congressman Bill Ford, who had a great deal to do with the passage of that law.

Q Well, I'll tell you, there were two other guys who were very, very impressed, too: Senator Don Riegle, whom you know, of course, and John Dingell, who is a very powerful -- in the House. They were very, very -- frankly, much more impressed with your first three weeks in office than a lot of people I've talked to. And I'm referring specifically now to -- and I've been in Florida, Texas, California, St. Louis, Michigan and Chicago since you were elected. You know, you've got the old ABC briefcase on and people come up to you and say, if you ever get the chance to talk to the President -- and I said a couple times -- and he said, where's he coming from and where's he going? Is he the same President as he was the candidate?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, but it's mostly because of the press coverage that I couldn't control. I mean, I've been working about 14 hours a day -- at no point have I ever spent more than an hour a day on that gays in the military issue; and very few days did I do that. But if you looked at the news at night, you would think that I wasn't working on the things I promised to work on.

I mean, all I've done since I've been President is basically work on trying to figure out how to get jobs back in this economy; how to restore some investment and income to Americans; how to solve the health care crisis. I've spent countless hours on that already. And how to bring this budget deficit under control. That's what I got elected to do, and that's what I've been doing.

I think today with family and medical leave, maybe we began to sort of turn the corner. But meetings aren't very much news, so what became the news was not at all what I was spending my time on as President. And that's why people got that impression, but it was a total -- in terms of how I was spending my time and what I've been concentrating on, I was -- I'm doing what I got elected to do, but people couldn't tell it from what they saw on the news.

Q Sam Rayburn, a very very prominent Speaker of the House before you born, and he used to say to incoming members of the House to get along, boy, you've got to go along. You campaigned on

MORE

change, and it seems to me that may have been one of the reasons that Sam Nunn -- and a lot of people think that was a very reckless kind of a thing to do, you, your first time out. Do they know that -- do you subscribe to that; to get along you've got to go along with the --

THE PRESIDENT: No, but I disagree that Sam Nunn did a reckless thing. What Sam Nunn, who does not favor changing the policy, did was to pass a bill in the Senate which put this issue off for six months so we could worry about Americans and their jobs. I mean, Sam Nunn's motion in the Senate basically said, let's put this issue of gays in the military off for six months and get back to the business that the American people sent us here to deal with: changing our economic policy, investing in people, doing those things. It took a few days and it got all the press coverage, but that's what he was doing. And meanwhile, we were here working on the economic program and the health care issues, which is what we were elected to do.

So I don't -- again, my impression of it is different from what I think the public spin was. But all he was doing is trying to keep this thing from consuming the Congress. And if he hadn't done it, we wouldn't have passed family and medical leave and the Congress wouldn't be coming back to face some of these other issues that represent real change: motor voter legislation, political reform in campaign finance, Senator Carl Levin's lobbying registration bill, and what I hope will be a very ambitious and bold program to generate jobs and deal with the health care crisis that I'm going to announce on February 17th.

Q Can we talk a little bit about what the real impact of this budget message is going to be? Is there going to be a gasoline tax? Is there going to be a freeze on Social Security benefits? And is there going to be a tax on Social Security benefits if they're increased?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, let's back up and say what the problem is. None of those decisions have been made yet. And everyday we're meeting for hours and hours and hours working on the budget. I want to tell you what the budget deficit means first and then what my priorities are so you can get some feel for where I'm going.

We're spending \$1.20 in the federal government for every dollar we're taking in in taxes. For every dollar we get paid in taxes, 14 cents on that dollar is being paid in interest on the debt now. Soon it'll be up to 17 cents if we don't do something about it. That's because since 1980 we have literally quadrupled the national debt. Now, what does that mean? It means that interest rates are higher than they otherwise would be. And it means that future living standards are going to be lower because we're going to be spending more and more money paying off yesterday's debt.

So what I've got to do to keep my commitments to the American people in the campaign -- and let me say this: After the election, the government said, well, the deficit's going to be \$50 billion bigger next year, and then we said and the next year, and the next year, and the next year. So what I've got to try to do is to figure out a way to increase investment, public sector investment and in the private sector, to generate jobs and incomes and bring that debt down.

Here are my priorities for doing it. The first thing I've got to do is cut the government. I can't ask anybody to pay more money to us until I have showed them that we've shown some discipline. And I'm going to show a very substantial reduction in government spending in many areas, starting with this White House staff. The second thing we've got to do is to get health care costs

under control. We'll never ever solve the budget crisis until we bring health costs under control.

Q Well, didn't you say last week if left unattended, left as it is, this country's going to go bankrupt?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q As a matter of fact, isn't the country already bankrupt?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Technically?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Four trillion dollars in debt?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're \$4 trillion in debt; as a percentage of our overall income, our annual income is about \$6 trillion per year. So our accumulated debt is about two-thirds of our income. At the end of World War II our accumulated debt was even greater than our annual income. It went down until the early '70s. It's been going up ever since, but it has -- it stabilized in the mid-'70s and then just exploded after President Reagan was elected and they cut taxes and increased spending. You can't do that. You can't have -- you can't cut taxes and increase spending on a permanent basis.

Q Yes, but aren't you saying, in fact, that -- increase taxes and cut spending? Isn't that what you're going to have to do? Is there any other way to do it?

THE PRESIDENT: You've got to cut spending. We're going to have to raise some money. But we're also going to increase investment. We have to change the tax system to give people more incentives to invest. I'm for an investment tax credit on new plant equipment. And I'm also going to spend more money investing in new technologies and education and training programs to try to grow jobs in this economy. If you just contract the economy, then you will kill this recovery we're trying to get underway.

Q But the people at home, the people that voted for you in Michigan and the people who voted for you in Chicago, voted for you -- and I talk to them all the time -- he said he was going to cut my taxes and he was going to increase services to us. How do you do that?

THE PRESIDENT: You watch. What I also said -- we were going to raise taxes on people whose taxes were lowered in the '80s and whose incomes went up. We're getting more tax revenue today than we were in 1980 out of the payroll tax, which means working people and small businesses are paying more. We're getting less than we were in the 1980s, in 1980, from the corporate income tax and from incomes on higher individuals.

We are going to find, I'm confident, a way to fairly deal with this. Now, the reason I can't cut taxes on the middle class is because the week after the election or two weeks after the election, the government comes out and says the deficit's \$50 billion bigger every year.

Q So they lied about the numbers --

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know that they lied about it, the numbers, they -- but they certainly --

Q That's what Riegle and --

THE PRESIDENT: They certainly lowballed the numbers. And I can't ignore that. I mean, that's a new fact. I think the -- it would be irresponsible of me not to try to reverse these trends. I don't promise to make the deficit go away in four years; and I can't and I shouldn't, because that would slow the economy down. But I've got to turn it around. We've got to start bringing it down substantially in order to protect interest rates and future living standards.

Let me just give you -- if I could bring interest rates down one point by a responsible deficit reduction plan, that puts another \$50 billion into the private economy.

Q You dazzle me with your numbers, and I'm sure you --

THE PRESIDENT: But that's the job -- this is all about --

Q I know, but keeping track of all this stuff is incredible.

THE PRESIDENT: But it's my job. My job is to find a way to put people back to work. This so-called recovery we've got now is not creating --

Q Nobody's getting hired.

THE PRESIDENT: It's not creating any jobs. What's happened? But let's talk about why. Let's bring it back to the people that voted for me and the people that didn't vote for me, just the people in this country. In the last month, we got this good economic news --

Q The best in 10 years.

THE PRESIDENT: The best in 10 years -- and they're big numbers, but let's look at what the numbers were. They said productivity increases. What does that mean? It means American firms are making more money, but instead of hiring people, they're doing more with less. Some of it's in housing because interest rates are low; some people refinancing their houses. Some of it is a big increase in consumer confidence since the election. The people think, well, we're going to do something. That's good. What's the bad news? No new jobs. Why? In the 1980s in Michigan as the auto companies laid off workers, small businesses hired more workers. For the last two years, small business is not taking up the slack. Why? Two reasons primarily. They can't pay the health care costs and there's a credit crunch. A lot of them can't get credit at the local banks.

Q Well, banks aren't loaning a hell of a lot of money these days, as you well know.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right. So that's another big job we've got. So what we've got to do is control these health care costs, try to bring the credit crunch to an end and get some investment back in this economy.

Q Can I ask you -- just a couple quick, final questions here. Let's assume that if you're going to define a successful American city as an equation, that the essential factor has to be the presence of an economically viable middle class. Agree?

THE PRESIDENT: Agree.

Q Your chart doesn't have one. What does the Clinton administration do about cities like Detroit? How do you create an economically viable middle class where there is none?

THE PRESIDENT: Let's begin with two or three simple things. First of all, you have to give people extra incentives to invest their enterprise zones. Secondly, you have to invest in the education and training of the people who live there. Thirdly, you've got to try to make sure there are financial institutions there that will loan money to create enterprise. And the fourth thing you've got to do is try to make the streets safe enough for people who want to be involved.

Q You can't do that in four years, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: May not, but we can make a good beginning.

Q Is that essential?

THE PRESIDENT: We've been going in the wrong direction. We've got to turn around and go in the right direction.

Q Final question. I want to thank you very much. I was flying down tonight and I saw Hillary Rodham Clinton on the front page of both the New York Times, the Detroit News and a couple of other newspapers, flanked by Bob Dole on one hand and George Mitchell on the other. Has she ever thought about running for president?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Q Do you think she'd be a good one?

THE PRESIDENT: She would be, but she told me she never wanted to run for elected office. From the first day I met her, she always said that that was my ideal not hers. She never wanted to run for elected office. But she'll be very good on this health care thing because she is very well organized and she deals with complicated matters and brings them to a conclusion. By my asking her to do this sends a clear signal to the American people and the Congress that I want action on health care.

Q How much time do you get to spend together if you're working 14 hours a day? Do you ever see her?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes. We have dinner tonight at 7:30 p.m. We go to dinner with Chelsea; and we spend a couple hours with our daughter doing homework, playing games, whatever; I put her to bed. And then normally Hillary goes to bed, and then I go back and work an hour or two. And then we get up and have the mornings together. I get up and go run, and then I come back and we have breakfast, and then we go to work.

Q What time do you get up in the morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Most mornings 6:00 a.m.

Q Well, you look great, Mr. President. And thank you very much for your time.

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks.

Q We're looking forward to having you in Detroit next Wednesday night.

THE PRESIDENT: Me, too.

END

5:49 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Internal Transcript

February 5, 1993

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT
BY DWIGHT LAUDERDALE,
WLPG-ABC-TV; MIAMI, FLORIDA

The Library

5:22 P.M. EST

Q Mr. President, first of all thank you for taking the time to address the needs of South Florida. And South Florida shares your concern as far as job growth. In our community we've lost thousands of good-paying airline jobs, and many of those workers have had to take jobs paying third world wages while, of course, continuing to live at first world prices. What are you doing to ensure that new jobs created under your administration will indeed be quality jobs?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're doing several things to try to make sure we create not only more jobs but more good jobs. First of all, we're going to invest in this stimulus program and some infrastructure -- construction-related jobs that pay good wages and that will help to generate some economic growth in some of the depressed areas around the country.

Secondly, we have a technology policy that I'm very proud of, that people who have created a lot of jobs in the 1980's and the early part of this decade help me put together, that will speed the pace at which we can create jobs in civilian aviation, for example.

The third thing that we're going to do that relates specifically to a lot of the former Eastern and Pan-Am workers in South Florida is to put together a task force here in the White House on aerospace, on the commercial airlines and on the airlines manufacturers, and to work with the Congress in a bipartisan fashion to try to hammer out some policies that will bring back some of these jobs and help us to diversify our economy in the aerospace area. So we are very much committed to doing this.

This recovery we're in now -- it's amazing. We have a big increase in the productivity of American firms, a lot of new home buying because interest rates are down and people are refinancing their homes, but almost no new jobs created. It's a big challenge for the United States and for the rest of the world. And I've got to present an economic program that will be designed to stimulate the economy, invest in new jobs, and bring down the deficit over the next five years substantially. And I think that together those things will do it.

Let me just say one other thing that has a big impact on a lot of Floridians, especially the young families and elderly people, and that is the health care crisis. Perhaps the best thing that we could do here in Washington to stabilize jobs and create more jobs is to control health care costs and provide basic health care to all Americans. If we were to follow all of our competitors and do that, that would free up hundreds of billions of dollars a year within the next few years to invest in new jobs and higher incomes and growth and opportunities for our country.

MORE

So I'm also going to try to persuade this Congress to pass a health care bill this year as part of our efforts to bring the deficit down and to deal with the problems of America.

Q A good number of Floridians depend on Social Security to live. So any talk of freezing of the cost of living increase or any change in benefits literally scares those people. What do you have to say to Social Security recipients?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want them to be scared. And I can tell you what my priorities are. But let me, first of all, tell the Social Security recipients the situation we face. Our government is now spending \$1.20 for every \$1.00 we take in. We are now spending 14 cents of every \$1.00 servicing the debt of yesterday. In the last 12 years we have quadrupled the national debt. Since I was elected, the government came out with estimates that the deficit would be \$50 billion bigger next year and the next and the next and the next than they had originally told us back during the campaign, after revising it upward last August. So we have to do something to bring the debt down.

Now, the people are entitled to know what my priorities are. My first priority is that the government should set an example. Early next week I'm going to announce dramatic cuts in the White House staff to show that I am setting an example. But we're not going to take income away from the American people until we show we can do with less.

Q Wouldn't that result in a loss of even more jobs?

THE PRESIDENT: Not necessarily.

Q And put more people on the streets here in Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not -- we may reduce actual employment by some of it, but a lot of it is we're not filling jobs that were left vacant when the Bush people left. The second thing we're going to do is to reduce other government expenditures. We're going to scale down by attrition federal employment by 100,000 and cut the administrative costs to government by at least three percent a year.

The third thing we're going to do to deal with the deficit is to try to pass a health care program this year. Again, that's where all the money is. Fifty percent of our deficit every year between now and the year 2000 is going to be in health care costs going up at twice the rate of inflation unless we control the costs.

The fourth thing I want to do is ask the people who made a lot of money in the 80's and had their taxes lowered to pay their fair share -- wealthier individuals and corporations.

My last priority is going to be asking the working middle class to pay more and hurting the poor elderly or the working poor. That is way down my list.

Now, it would be unwise for me now to go around saying what I am not going to propose on February 17th because if I take one thing off the table then a lot of other people come along and say, well, don't touch us, don't touch us. But I think the people of Florida will believe when they see my proposal on the 17th that it is tough, that it is bold and that it is fair. And those are my priorities in dealing with this. So I don't think a lot of fear is called for. A lot of this speculation has been unduly fueled, I think.

Q In the wake of Hurricane Andrew a number of jobs were lost at Homestead Air Force Base. During the campaign you promised to rebuild Homestead. Yet five months later the situation basically remains status quo.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, President Bush promised to rebuild it, too, and he was in until two weeks ago, so I just got here.

Q What do you plan to do to fulfill that promise?

THE PRESIDENT: I do believe that there is a mission for Homestead. And I was very careful to say that there is a base closing commission, that I did not know what they would do or -- and that maybe we couldn't have exactly the same mission that was there before. But I would say two things. I think that that base is a valuable asset for South Florida that we'll find some use for.

The second think I want to say is there's a whole lot of money built up in the government pipeline that was supposed to be allocated to people down there that hasn't been spent and invested yet that could be used to rebuild the economy. And I asked the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Henry Cisneros, just today to give me a report and not only on the expenditure of funds allocated through his department, but through the national government, on what has been done, what hasn't been done since the Hurricane Andrew, and what we can do to make sure that we have done everything we can to invest in the economy of South Florida and to get communities going again.

I want us to make sure that we've done everything that is humanly possible. And just today I said I want you to tell me what's been done, how much of that money is still tied up in the pipeline and where do we go from here.

Q Would you ever consider military intervention in either Haiti or Cuba?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I don't think the President should either say yes or no to that question because when you commit the lives of young Americans you shouldn't give advance notice. And when you're trying to put pressure on people to change you shouldn't tell them what you're not going to do.

Let me tell you what my policy is for each one. With regard to Cuba, I support the Cuban Democracy Act. And I did all along and I will do my best to see it implemented and to keep the pressure for democracy on in Cuba. I would love to be the first President in many, many years to visit a free Cuba.

With regard to Haiti, I have been supporting the Caputo mission -- the U.N.-OAS mission. I did a lot of work to try to gear it up, actually. Even during the transition the Bush administration was good enough to basically let us work on putting this initiative together.

I am very disappointed that the government down there in Haiti has not been more forthcoming about letting us in as observers. Aristide is the popularly-elected leader of Haiti. He said some things during this brief period in office which he should not have said. There are people there who are fighting there about his return. But he is still the people's choice.

What I want to do is to have a United Nations-Organization of American States effort that will restore democracy to Haiti and that will provide protection for people on both sides of this battle. It is a relatively small island with a small armed force. We could do that. We can work that out if we can get a little bit of cooperation. Then we could end the embargo, we could

start investing in Haiti again, we could make life better for those who are there now and for those in Florida who might wish to go home if they thought they had any future there.

But the first step has got to be a process to restore democracy in human rights and I'm going to continue to push it. I'm going to continue to push it. I'm going to try this some more and if it doesn't work, I'm going to try something else. But I'm going to keep pushing until we make some progress there.

Q Mr. President, thank you for addressing the needs of South Florida.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Q It's been a pleasure.

END

5:34 P.M. EST