

FOIA MARKER

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Series/Staff Member: Jeff Shesol

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19942

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Folder Title:
Gridiron 3/21/98

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. draft	Remarks for the Gridiron Dinner, Washington, DC. [partial] (1 page)	03/19/1998	P5
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Jeff Shesol
OA/Box Number: 19942

FOLDER TITLE:

Gridiron 3/21/98

2006-0467-F

vz1283

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)]

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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR GRIDIRON DINNER

WASHINGTON, DC

March 21, 1998

Good evening Mr. Speaker, Erskine, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen of the Gridiron.

So. How was your week?

For 113 years, the Gridiron Club has honored its one defining rule: "Gridiron humor sings but never burns." You have always maintained that code -- and I've got the singe marks to prove it. But tonight, given Washington's current political climate, I'd like to request that the people in this room honor a second rule. And that is: kindly withhold your subpoenas until all the jokes have been told.

This is an ... unusual time in Washington. Our version of "March Madness." So my preparation for this Gridiron speech was a little different than in years past.

In fact, I wasn't even sure if I was going to come tonight. My political team told me I had to. My legal team advised me not to. My national security team suggested I hold a Gridiron town meeting.

By the way, Albright, Cohen and Berger may have to leave early. The NATO Expansion Bus Trip leaves first thing in the morning.

So I went to my trusted press secretary Mike
McCurry for his advice. And here's the speech he helped
me write.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the Gridiron. I
have nothing further for you on that. Thank you and
good night.

And, no Helen, I will not parse "good evening" for
you.

I am honored as always for this opportunity to share a
few laughs off-the-record -- or as we now say, under seal.

But if anyone has to leave to use the washroom, don't worry about missing any of this speech. I'm sure you'll be able to read the transcript on somebody's web page later tonight.

... And then you can read the retraction tomorrow.

But this year I offer my remarks with this caveat: they were a lot funnier before the lawyers got their hands on them.

... Oh wait, they told me I couldn't tell that joke.

This may be the only speech in the long history of this club that has ever been redacted.

Imagine. A humor speech from the deft pen of Bob Bennett. If only Bob were as lighthearted and subtle as his brother.

.... the Brothers Bennett: the Cain and Abel of K Street.

But the counsel's office did send over some material they deemed funny.

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Res ipsa loquitur.

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Asked and answered.

A lawyer and his client walk into a bar. The client turns to his lawyer and says -- No wait. That's privileged.

And here's my favorite:

Knock! Knock!

Don't answer that!

And they also sent along this list of topics I should feel completely free to discuss -- like critical infrastructure, the Africa trip, the Millennium Project.

Socks.

Buddy. [*thoughtful pause -- then shake head and scratch it out.*]

Lawyers whose name I can mention: Daniel Webster, Clarence Darrow, Ally McBeal.

Recent court cases I can mention: The Beef Industry vs. Oprah.

Independent prosecutors whose names I can mention

... Lawrence Walsh.

People named Starr I can mention: Brenda. Bart.

Ringo.

The lawyers also told me that this year, I can tell as many Lincoln Bedroom jokes as I want.

....And I just did.

What a difference a year makes. Last year, I threw myself down a flight of stairs to avoid coming to the Gridiron. This year, it's worse. I've come to the Gridiron to avoid going to the movies.

Now, I know some have said that the character of the southern governor in a recently released movie was "softened." I don't know about that. But I am proud to announce that the National Museum of Scientology will be opening on the Mall this October.

By the way, you may not know this, but this is not the first time people have said John Travolta modeled a character on me. [*Strike famous disco pose from "Saturday Night Fever."*]

Yup. That's my theme song. "Stayin' Alive."

... Novak -- I'll explain that to you later.

Before I continue, I want congratulate you, Erskine, on a very funny speech. But I had no idea you were so anxious to leave the White House and return home. If only you had said something to me.

Erskine was right. There was some concern that a North Carolina millionaire businessman as our Chief-of-Staff might be unpopular within some segments of the Democratic party. So we did what we could to improve Erskine Bowles' ^{image} reception. His name used to be Erskine Golfs.

It's true that Erskine actually lives by that check list of his. On occasion, I use one too. In fact, I typed one up for our meeting last January. It read: "Get Erskine to stay."

Check ... mate.

I see my friend John Glenn sitting over there.

Washing down his tube of dessert with a glass of Tang.

As many of you know, later this year he will be

conducting an experiment in aging -- not unlike the one

I've ^{been conducting} ~~conducted~~ recently.

John, I am proud of you. But I want you to know: If it were up to me to compile a list of senators to send into outer space, you, my friend, would be way down on the list.

I enjoyed your speech, too, Mr. Speaker. It was very funny. It really made me miss the Contract with America.

In fact, I can hardly wait to read your next manifesto, the Contract with New Hampshire.

You know, Newt, I've been accused of co-opting Republican ideas and making them my own. Now you're taking a page out of my book -- but I think you got a little mixed up. When I ran, I said we'd put 100,000 cops on the street and now we want to put 100,000 teachers in the classroom. The way I hear it, you want to put 100,000 cops in the classroom and 100,000 teachers on the street.

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There's so little going on in Congress:

....Quorum Calls go directly to voice mail.

....when the bell rings for a vote, members hit the snooze button.

....C-SPAN viewers are anxiously awaiting Al Gore's 24-hour all-earth channel.

Mr. Speaker, my suggestion was "Social Security First," not "Social Security Only."

^g But I am proud that working together with Speaker Gingrich, we've hammered out a truly historic balanced budget agreement. ^{But} The fact is, we had no choice but to submit a balanced budget by 1999 -- because the OMB computers crashed every time we tried to go to the year 2000.

I don't want to alarm anyone, but this "millennium bug" is a very big deal.

As you know, at midnight on New Year's Eve in 1999, millions of computers will suddenly revert to the Year 1900 ... And millions of televisions will suddenly switch to "Dick Clark's Ragtime New Year's Eve."

So it's time to act. It is time for the American people to build that bridge ... to the 20th Century.

A world where every 8 year old can churn butter -- where every 12 year old can work in a mine -- where every 18 year old can support a family of four.

An exciting new era propelled by the infinite and powerful promise of steam.

...when the abacus will get smaller and more powerful.

...when the Gold Standard will be a bad new idea.

[*Turn to Bob Novak.*] Sorry, Bob.

And I challenge America, before the end of this century, to send a man to the South Pole -- and return him safely home.

Now, it's not going to be easy for all of us to get used to the challenges of this new era.

We must prepare for a New Economy, based on electricity.

Our children lag behind those of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Ottoman Empire. Siam. If we are to compete in the international economy, our children must be fluent in Morse Code.

And we must steel ourselves for an era of "yellow journalism." ... Nah. That'll never happen.

✓
McC: "That's my
favourite line in the
speech."

As long as we're harking back to the turn of the *unpolitical news* century, let's not forget another important development of that time: the earliest years of the Gridiron Club. The Gridiron has really seen a lot of history since then. And it certainly has come a long way since that fateful night in 1906, when Teddy Roosevelt became enraged by a cartoon in the evening's program which referred to a political flap about which he was particularly sensitive ... so enraged, in fact, that he and a fellow guest, Senator Joseph Foraker, his chief critic in Congress, nearly came to blows -- and stopped the dinner cold before the soup was served.

So no matter how pointed some of the jokes may seem now, the truth is, we all come away from the Gridiron dinners a little lighter in spirit -- and a little heavier in body.

... Because as long as I'm President, at the very least, we'll get to eat dessert.

Thank you and good night.

Draft 3/19/98 5:00pm

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REMARKS FOR GRIDIRON DINNER
WASHINGTON, DC
March 21, 1998**

Good evening Mr. Speaker, Erskine, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen of the Gridiron.

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And, no Helen, I will not parse "good evening" for you.

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And read the retraction tomorrow.

But this year I offer my remarks with this caveat: they were a lot funnier before the lawyers got their hands on them.

... Oh wait, they told me I couldn't tell that joke.

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Imagine. A humor speech from the deft pen of Bob Bennett. If only Bob were as lighthearted and subtle as his brother.

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But the counsel's office did send over some material that they deemed funny.

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Res ipsa loquitur

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-- No wait. That's privileged.

And here's my favorite:

Knock! Knock!

Don't answer that!

And they also sent along this list of topics I should feel completely free to discuss -- like critical infrastructure, the Africa trip, the Millennium Project.

Socks.

Buddy. [*thoughtful pause -- then shake head and scratch it out.*]

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Recent court cases I can mention: The Beef Industry vs. Oprah.

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People named Starr I can mention: Brenda. Bart. Ringo.

The lawyers also told me that this year, I can tell as many Lincoln Bedroom jokes as I want.

....And I just did.

What a difference a year makes. Last year, I threw myself down a flight of stairs to avoid going to the Gridiron. This year, it's worse. I've come to the Gridiron to avoid going to the movies.

Now, I know some have said that the character of the southern governor was "softened" in a recently released movie. I don't know about that. But I am proud to announce that the Museum of Scientology will be opening on the Mall this October.

By the way, you may not know this, but this is not the first time John Travolta modeled a character on me. [*President strikes famous disco pose from "Saturday Night Fever."*]

Yup. That's my theme song. "Stayin' Alive."

....Novak -- I'll explain that to you later.

Erskine

Before I continue, I want to congratulate you, Erskine, on a very funny speech. But I had no idea you were so anxious to leave the White House and return home. If only you had said something to me.

Erskine was right. There was some concern that a North Carolina millionaire businessman as our Chief-of-Staff might be unpopular within some segments of the Democratic party. We did what we could to improve ^{the} ~~his~~ reception. His name used to be Erskine Golfs.
for Erskine Bowles.

It's true that Erskine actually lives by that check list of his. On occasion, I use one too. In fact, I typed one up for our meeting last January. It read: "Get Erskine to stay."

Check mate.

John Glenn

I see my friend John Glenn sitting over there. Washing down his tube of dessert with a glass of Tang. As many of you know, later this year he will be conducting an experiment in aging -- not unlike the one I've conducted recently.

John, I am proud of you. But I want you to know: If I could compile a list of senators to send into outer space, you, my friend, would be far down on the list.

Newt

I enjoyed your speech too, Mr. Speaker. It was very funny. It really made me miss the Contract with America.

In fact, I can hardly wait to read your next manifesto, the Contract with New Hampshire.

You know, Newt, the voters there really crave substance. When I ran, I said we'd put 100,000 cops on the street and ^{now - continuing to put} another 100,000 teachers in the classroom. I'm not sure how your plan will go over, however ... put 100,000 cops in the classroom and 100,000 teachers on the street.

I look around the room and see a number of your potential rivals for your party's nomination: Mr. Forbes, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Buchanan, and Governor Pataki. By the way gentlemen, Al Gore sends his regards. He couldn't be here because tonight he is attending the Dixville Notch Gridiron Dinner.

But Newt and the Republicans set a legislative agenda and a legislative calendar that gives him plenty of free time to spend in New Hampshire. As of tonight, the 105th Congress has only [60] more working days left. Newt, does that mean you're reconsidering your position on health benefits for part-time workers?

This is a Congress with nothing to do -- and no time to do it.

There's so little going on in Congress:

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Millennium bug

But I am proud that working together with Speaker Gingrich, we've hammered out a truly historic balanced budget agreement. The fact is, we had no choice but to submit a balanced budget by 1999. Because the OMB computers crashed every time we tried to set up spread sheets that went beyond the year 2000.

I don't want to alarm anyone, but the "millennium bug" is a very big deal. As you know, at midnight on New Year's Eve, millions of computers will suddenly revert to the Year 1900. And millions of televisions will suddenly switch to "Dick Clark's Ragtime New Year's Eve."

So it's time to act. It is time for the American people to meet the challenges ... of the 20th Century.

A world where every 8 year old can churn butter -- where every 12 year old can work in a mine -- where every 18 year old can support a family of four.

An exciting new era propelled by the infinite and powerful promise of steam.

~~A time when flying machines will link mankind across borders and vast expanses -- the age of dirigibles and balloons.~~

A time when the abacus will get smaller and more powerful. . .

~~A time when advances in refrigeration allow food leftover at dinner to be enjoyed the next day at lunch.~~

~~A time when the Gold Standard will be a bad new idea.~~ [Turns to Bob Novak.]
Sorry, Bob.

~~And~~ I challenge America before this century is out, to send a man to the South Pole -- and return him safely to his wife and kids.

Now, it's not going to be easy for all of us to get used to the challenges of that time.

We must prepare for a New Economy, based on electricity.

Our children lag behind those of the Austro-Hungarians. The Ottoman Empire. Siam. If we are to compete in the international economy, our children must be fluent in Morse Code.

And we must steel ourselves for an era of "yellow journalism."

Nah. That's too hard to imagine.

Conclusion

has seen a lot of history ... + has certainly...
You know, the Gridiron really has come a long way since it began over a hundred years ago. And it certainly has come a long way since one fateful night in 1906, when Teddy Roosevelt became enraged by a cartoon in the evening's program which referred to a political flap about which he was particularly sensitive ... so enraged, in fact, that he and a fellow guest, Senator Joseph Foraker, his chief critic in the ~~flap~~, nearly came to blows -- and stopped the dinner cold before the soup was served. *Congress*

So no matter how pointed some of the jokes tonight may have seemed, no matter how contentious some of the background material may well be, the truth is, we all come away a little lighter in spirit, knowing that we can still come together and laugh about our political differences -- not slug them out.

And as long as I'm President, at the very least, we'll get to eat dessert.

Draft 3/19/98 4:00pm

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WASHINGTON, DC
March 21, 1998**

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A time when advances in refrigeration allow food leftover at dinner to be enjoyed the next day at lunch.

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Conclusion

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Draft 3/18/98 2:00pm

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In fact, I wasn't even sure if I was going to come here tonight. My political team told me I had to. My legal team ~~begged~~ ^{advised} me not to. My national security team told me to do a town meeting.

By the way, Albright, Cohen and Berger may have to leave early. The NATO Expansion Bus Trip leaves first thing in the morning.

So I went to my trusted press secretary Mike McCurry for his advice. And here's the speech he helped me write.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the Gridiron. *I have nothing further for you on that.*
Thank you and good night.

^{Helen}
And, no ~~Sam~~, I will not parse "good evening" for you.

I am honored as always for this opportunity to share a few laughs off-the-record -- or as we say, under seal. But if anyone has to leave to use the washroom, don't worry about missing any of this speech. I'm sure you'll be able to read the transcript in Monday's Washington Post *on the web tonight.*

But this year I offer my remarks with this caveat: they were a lot funnier before the

*Did - put in
a no-comment zone*

- 1 -

*And you
can read the
retraction
tomorrow
in the
morning*

He's the bunny rabbit to come out of the hat after all

*referred to as today
of the situation*

lawyers got their hands on them.

.....Oh wait, they told me I couldn't tell that joke.

This may be the only speech in the long history of this club that has ever been redacted.

Imagine. A humor speech from the deft pen of Bob Bennett. If only Bob were as lighthearted and subtle as his brother.

.... the Brothers Bennett: the Cain and Abel of K Street.

But the counsel's office did send over some material that they deemed funny.

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Res ipsa loquitur

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Asked and answered.

A lawyer and his client walk into a bar. The client turns  to his lawyer and says -- No wait. That's privileged.

Knock! Knock!

Don't answer that!

And they also sent along this list of topics I should feel completely free to discuss -- like critical infrastructure, the Africa trip, the Millennium Project.

Socks.

Buddy. [*thoughtful pause -- then shake head and scratch it out.*]

Lawyers whose name I can mention: Janet Reno, Clarence Darrow, Ally McBeal.

Independent prosecutors whose names I can mention: Lawrence Walsh.

Recent court cases I can mention by name: Oprah vs. The Beef Industry

The lawyers also told me that this year, I can tell as many Lincoln Bedroom jokes as I want.

....And I just did.

What a difference a year makes. Last year, I threw myself down a flight of stairs to avoid going to the Gridiron. This year, it's worse. I've come to the Gridiron to avoid going to the movies.

*We're not having him fixed --
we're reinventing him for the
new C.*

Now, some have said that the character of the southern governor has been "softened" in this movie. I don't know about that. But I am proud to announce that the Museum of Scientology will be opening on the Mall this October.

[By the way, you may not know this, but this is not the first time John Travolta modeled a character on me. *President strikes famous disco pose from "Saturday Night Fever."*]

Erskine

Congratulations, Erskine, on a very funny speech. But I had no idea you are anxious to leave the White House and return home. I only wish you had said something to me.

As Erskine said, there was some concern that a North Carolina millionaire businessman as our Chief-of-Staff might be unpopular within some segments of the Democratic party. We did what we could to improve the reception. His name used to be Erskine Golfs.

John Glenn

I see my friend John Glenn sitting over there. Washing down his tube of dessert with a glass of Tang. As many of you know, later this year he will be conducting an experiment in aging -- not unlike the one I've conducted recently. John, I am proud of you. But I want you to know: If I could compile a list of senators to send into outer space, you, my friend, would be far down on the list.

Newt

I enjoyed your speech too, Mr. Speaker. It was very funny. It really made me miss the Contract with America.

In fact, I can hardly wait to read your next manifesto, the Contract with New Hampshire.

You know, the voters there really crave substance. When I ran, I said we'd put 100,000 cops on the street and another 100,000 teachers in the classroom. I'm not sure how your plan will go over, however ... put 100,000 cops in the classroom and 100,000 teachers on the street.

I look around the room and see a number of your potential rivals for your party's nomination: Mr. Forbes, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Buchanan, and Governor Pataki. The last time the Speaker was in a room with so many people who want to defeat him, he was in the House Republican caucus.

But Newt and the Republicans set a legislative agenda and a legislative calendar that gives him plenty of free time to spend in New Hampshire. As of tonight, they are only in session

- Fri 10:00 review
- Fri 5:00 1st prep
- Sat final prep

Gore-Didsville North
Chamber of Commerce

misaudience
is very short
get humor out
Huey 'n' me in the bag

Where do you think he got this?

[strikes pose]

Newt will need Norval.
Norval is a good foil for him.

for 60 more days. Newt, does that mean you're reconsidering your position on health benefits for part-time workers?

This is a Congress with nothing to do -- and no time to do it.

← *diff set up?*

There's so little going in Congress,

....Quorum Calls go directly to voice mail.

....when the bell for a vote rings, members hit the snooze button.

....C-SPAN viewers are anxiously awaiting Al Gore's 24-hour all-earth channel.

Mr. Speaker, my suggestion was "Social Security First," not "Social Security Only."

Millennium bug

We had no choice but to submit a balanced budget by 1999. Because the OMB computers crashed every time we tried to set up spread sheets that went beyond the year 2000.

I don't want to alarm anyone, but the "millennium bug" is a very big deal. As you know, at midnight on New Year's Eve, millions of computers will suddenly revert to the Year 1900. And millions of televisions will suddenly switch to "Dick Clark's Ragtime New Year's Eve."

So it's time to act. It is time for the American people to meet the challenges ... of the 20th Century.

A world where every 8 year old can churn butter -- where every 12 year old can work in a mine -- where every 18 year old can support a family of four.

A time when flying machines will link mankind across borders and vast expanses -- the age of dirigibles and balloons.

A time when the abacus will get smaller and more powerful.

When unsinkable luxury liners will ~~criss-cross~~ *steam across* the ocean.

A time when the Gold Standard will be a bad new idea. [*Turns to Bob Novak.*]
Sorry, Bob.

Now, it's not going to be easy for all of us to get used to the challenges of that time.

We must prepare for a New Economy, based on electricity.

Our children lag behind those of the Austro Hungarians, The Ottoman Empire, ~~even~~ *over* Siam.

"Moms"

If we are to compete in the international economy, our children must be fluent in Morse Code.

And we must steel ourselves for an era of "yellow journalism."

Nah. That's too hard to imagine.

Conclusion

FTR quote — reference to Novali
###

Fun having dinner w/ Novali, who is
his own vast right-wing conspiracy.

There is going to be much nervousness
when the pres gets up there, that
there'll be such relief —

Nothing on G. — Why do a family fight —

He's very old school.
He'll go down you to
wants to know. But
if you leak something
to him he'll appear
on you the next day.
He was a proleptic —
tricked no sex —
yet even so personally

He does better when he
doesn't do words at all —
when he does historical,
gentle —

POTUS GRIDIRON DRAFT

3/17

Good evening Mr. Speaker, Erskine, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen of the Gridiron.

So. How was your week?

I know that for 113 years, the Gridiron Club has honored its one defining rule: "Gridiron humor sings but never burns." You have always maintained that code -- and I've got the singe marks to prove it. But tonight, given Washington's current political climate, I'd like to request that the people in this room honor a second rule. And that is: kindly withhold your subpoenas until all the jokes have been told.

is an unusual *— our own version of March Madness — so*
This ~~being~~ ^{is} time in Washington, ~~unlike any other~~, my preparation for this speech to the Gridiron Club was different than in years past. I went to my trusted press secretary Mike McCurry for his advice. And here's the speech he helped me write.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the Gridiron.
Thank you and good night.

And, no Sam, I will not parse "good evening" for you.

I am honored as always to address the Gridiron Club, because I appreciate this opportunity to share a few laughs off-the-record -- or as we say, under seal. But if anyone has to leave to use the washroom, don't worry about missing any of this speech. I'm sure you'll be able to read the transcript in Monday's Washington Post.

But this year I offer my remarks with this caveat: they were a lot funnier before the lawyers got their hands on them.

.....Oh wait, they told me I couldn't tell that joke.

This may be the only speech in the long history of this club that has ever been redacted.

Imagine. A humor speech from the deft pen of Bob Bennett. If only Bob were as lighthearted and subtle as his brother.

[Bennett brothers joke TK]
Cain and Abel of K Street.

But the counsel's office did send over some material that they deemed appropriate and funny.

Why did the chicken cross the road?
Res ipsa loquitur

Why did the chicken cross the road?
Asked and answered.

A lawyer and his client walk into a bar. The client turns to his lawyer and says -- No wait. That's privileged.

Knock! Knock!
Don't answer that!

But they did send along this list of topics I should feel completely free to discuss:

NATO expansion.
The Africa trip.
The Millennium Project.
The front half of Buddy.
All of Socks.
Lawyers whose name I can mention: Janet Reno, Clarence Darrow, Ally McBeal.
Independent prosecutors whose names I can mention: Lawrence Walsh.
Recent court cases I can mention by name: Oprah vs. The Beef Industry
Paula Abdul.
Monica Seles.
Kathleen Hall Jamison.
Bart Starr
The weather. Global Warming. El Nino
The NCAA's.
And, of course, Bob Novak.

The lawyers also told me that this year, I can tell as many Lincoln Bedroom jokes as I want.

....And I just did.

What a difference a year makes. Last year, I threw myself down a flight of stairs to avoid going to the Gridiron. This year, it's worse. I've come to the Gridiron to avoid going to the movies.

Now, some have said that the character of the southern governor has been "softened" in this movie. I don't know about that. But I am proud to announce that the Museum of Scientology will be opening on the Mall this October.

And I assure you, there is no connection to the recent shortening of the name of the White House Office of Science and Technology.

[By the way, you may not know this, but this is not the first time John Travolta modeled a character on me.]

[President strikes famous disco pose from "Saturday Night Fever."]

Erskine

Congratulations Erskine on a very funny speech. But I had no idea you are anxious to leave the White House and return home. I only wish you had said something to me.

There was some concern that a North Carolina millionaire businessman as our Chief-of-Staff might be unpopular within some segments of the Democratic party. We did what we could to improve his reception. His name used to be Erskine Golfs.

John Glenn

I see my friend John Glenn sitting over there. Washing down his tube of dessert with a glass of Tang. John, I am proud of the mission you will take this year but I want you to know: If I could compile a list of senators to send into outer space, you, my friend, would be far down on the list. *experiment in aging*

Newt

I enjoyed your speech too, Mr. Speaker. It was very funny. It's a harder really made me miss the Contract with America. *act to follow than the contract w/ America.*

In fact, I can hardly wait to read your next manifesto, the Contract with New Hampshire.

I look around the room and see a number of your potential rivals for your party's nomination: Mr. Forbes, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Buchanan, and Governor Pataki. The last time the Speaker was in a room with so many people who want to defeat him, he was in the House Republican caucus.

But Newt and the Republicans set a legislative agenda and a legislative calendar that gives him plenty of free time to spend in New Hampshire. As of tonight, they are 60 days left in session for the rest of the year. Newt, does that make you reconsider your position on extending health benefits to part-time workers? [?]

That's why the top of their agenda

This is a Congress with nothing to do -- and no time to do it.

There's so little going in Congress,

....Quorum Calls go directly to voice mail.

....when the bell for a vote rings, members hit the snooze button.

....C-SPAN viewers are anxiously awaiting Al Gore's 24-hour all-earth channel.

Mr. Speaker, my suggestion was "Social Security First," not "Social Security Only."

This Congress is a hotbed of political rest.

Platform for NH **stray joke**

We've put 100,000 cops on the street and now we've proposed to put another 100,000 teachers in the classrooms. Not to be confused with the Speaker's plan to put 100,000 cops in the classroom and 100,000 teachers on the streets.

Budget surplus

We had no choice but to submit a balanced budget by 1999.

Because the OMB computers crashed every time we tried to set up spread sheets that went beyond the year 2000.

Before we decided to apply our budget surplus to saving Social Security, we considered a number of ideas. Some better than others:

We looked into purchasing the rights to broadcast NFL football games on C-SPAN.

Have a really big NCAA pool.

Stock up on \$900 hammers.

Someone -- I can't remember who -- suggested we just split it evenly between Iowa and New Hampshire.

Use it to offset revenue losses in case the Republicans pass a flat tax.

One plan proposed we build an actual bridge to the 21st Century.

But the plan we nearly went with was using the entire \$200 billion to pay for one more year of "Seinfeld."

Buddy

Mr. Safire, we are not giving back that dog!

Cabinet commercial endorsements

Ever since my secretary of Health & Human appeared in an ad for the milk council, I've been getting requests from other members of my administration to do more things in public.

Janet Reno is eager appear in ads for fledgling software developers.

CNN wants Madeline Albright, Sandy Berger and Bill Cohen to host a weekly showon MSNBC.

Here's a script Bill Cohen submitted for approval: "Take it from the Secretary of Defense. Use The Club."

And Bob Rubin was approached about putting his signature on Mexican currency.

Dick Riley wants to do a PSA: 'Say No to Cliff Notes'

millennium bug

(words of advice for those preparing for the 1900's.)

In the past year, I've been talking a lot about building a bridge to the 21st centuries and the marvels and challenges that wait for us there. But there is also another threshold we face as a nation. The millenium bug. As has been widely reported, many of our older computers have only two digits for the date and will revert back to 1900.

Some Americans -- and perhaps some of you here tonight -- will have to prepare for the twentieth century. You will have to learn to ride a horse, use a washboard or write with a fountain pen. And you'll have to learn to make Jell-O from scratch. There were no instant pudding mixes back in 1900.

In the twentieth century, abacuses will continue to get smaller and more powerful.

We have to adjust to an economy based on electricity.

If we are to compete in the international economy, our students must be fluent in Morse Code.

More like this

###

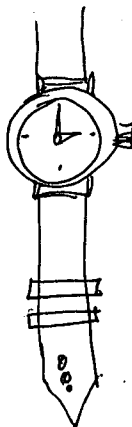


Balloons
steam trains
steamboats

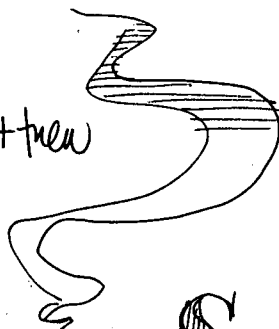


even 12 yr old
even 15

can support a family of 4.
pilot a steamboat



Quesada & then will do it then



Commuter*
Dirigibles
will carry
business travelers.
~~commuters~~
~~from~~

How's the real world?
I'm missing an info
It's totally surreal.
cause most of the time
it's not terrible. But
~~then again~~ it's actually
pretty bad.

Jordan Tamagni

03/11/98 09:09:29 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Lowell A. Weiss/WHO/EOP, Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Erskine's Gridiron first draft

More to come.

----- Forwarded by Jordan Tamagni/WHO/EOP on 03/11/98 09:09 AM -----



Mark Katz <markatz@IDT.NET>
03/10/98 02:25:40 PM

Please respond to markatz@IDT.NET

Record Type: Record

To: Jordan Tamagni/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: first draft

Erskine Bowles Gridiron outline
March 10, 1998

I. Intro & biographical topics:

Good evening Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, distinguished guests, members of the Gridiron Club, ladies and gentlemen of the Grand Jury.

Thank you for the honor of addressing the Gridiron Club. This annual evening of humor is a much-needed respite from the current contentiousness in Washington. And so I d like to make a special request: please refrain from issuing subpoenas until all the jokes have been told.

You know, if you stay in Washington long enough, eventually you will say something that you will come to regret. For me, those words are:
Well, if you can t find anyone else, I suppose I can do it.

In January, I said those words to the President of the United States.....And about a [week] later, I said them again to the president of the Gridiron Club.

And so here I stand, a man with a job from which he could not escape

giving a speech he could not get out of. Mr. President, Mr. Novak, if either of you have found someone else, won't you please let me know right now!

[looks to both, then says meekly]

Well, since neither of you can find someone else, I suppose I can do it.

Mr. President, I thought you over-reacted at the time but I have to admit: this week even I thought about throwing myself down a flight of stairs to get out of giving this speech.

I shouldn't complain. Things could be worse. Yes, this is uncomfortable -- but at least it's off-the-record. Sandy, Madeline and Bill were live on CNN!

I know I can rely on the well-regarded journalists in this room to honor the sacred pact of off-the-record and never leak a word of this speech. Or even reveal the fact that I spoke at all.

It's no secret I am looking forward to returning home to North Carolina. But it doesn't look like I'm going anywhere soon. In the last six months, only one White House insider with close ties to the president has managed to leave. And next time I see Chelsea, I'm going to ask her how she did it.

And your invitation to speak here tonight is ample evidence that I've been in Washington too long. When people in this town first heard the name Erskine Bowles, not only did they not know who I was, they did not even know that Erskine Bowles was a name!

I come from a family of odd names. My parents named me Erskine, my wife's name is Crandall, my father's name was Hargrove, and my mother's name is Jessamine. Which is why we named our kids Sam, Ann, and Bill. And our dog, Spot.

[jokes about personal wealth to come]

Before I came to Washington, people served coffee to me!

My first job in this town was as the director of Small Business Administration. And I'm proud to say that small businesses have thrived in the Clinton administration. The Rutherford Institute, for example.

II Erskine's To-Do lists

But when I came over to the White House, I had a specific agenda. In fact, I employed a management technique that served me well in the private sector: To-Do lists.

[pulls list from his jacket pocket]

Let me read you a few:

- * Balance the budget. Check.
- * Make the White House operate more efficiently. Check.
- * Use the proposed Fast Track Treaty to unify Democrats on Capitol Hill. Check.

- * Help the president win re-election. Check.
- * Check checks. Check.
- * Come up with something -- anything -- to get the so-called fundraising scandal off the front page. Check.

III White House & Balanced budget

The Chief-of-Staff job is not as glamorous as you might think. You may remember Don Regan got himself in some trouble by describing his job as the man who sweeps up after a parade once the elephants passed. Of course, he was speaking metaphorically. I, on the other hand, work for a president who is housebreaking a puppy.

But I am proud to serve as President Clinton's chief of staff and proud to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors in this job.

Mack set a standard for electricity and excitement for the office that I strive to meet every day.

And if not for the work of Leon Panetta, I never would have had the opportunity to improve the White House's relationship with the Republicans on Capitol Hill.

Before he left this job, Leon and I cut a deal. I would get to be chief of staff and he would still do the Sunday talk shows.

.....I understand someone else holds the record for appearances on the Sunday shows in a single day but Leon just might be the man to break it.

And of course, I am most proud of my role in assisting the President with a balanced budget deal. I have long felt Washington -- Democrats and Republicans alike -- suffered from a form of Deficit Attention Disorder.

We good Democrats at the White House fought the good fight. Every day, my proletariat brothers-in-arms -- Bob Rubin, Franklin Raines and I -- fight the good fight against Country Club Republicans like Dick Armey and Tom Delay.

.....White House workers of the world unite. We have nothing to lose but our capital gains.

Together, we represent a new wing of the Democratic party. Yellow dogs. Blue dogs. And now, blue bloods.

IV Newt

Congratulations on a very funny speech, Mr. Speaker. It really makes me miss the Contract with America.

I remember when Newt was just an obscure Congressman from Georgia. I remember hearing his name for the first time and thinking Even I thought: Newt Gingrich? What kind of a silly name is that?

I also want to congratulate the Speaker, who -- as of a month ago -- no longer has the lowest approval ratings of anyone in Washington.

I heard of a lot of people say Newt is difficult to deal with, he is not to be trusted. But the Republican leadership on the Hill was wrong.

V High-minded blather

TBD

VI Conclusion

Well, I think I've covered everything I set out to do.

Let's see: [consults list]

Greeting and salutations. Check.

Get Bob Novak to crack a smile. Check.

Stay awake through the Gridiron skits. Check.

Make fun of my To-Do list. Check.

Get off stage without permanently damaging my reputation. Check

(Hopefully.)

Get on the next plane to North Carolina. Ah, a chief of staff's work is never done.

Thank you and good night.

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