

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Speechwriting

Series/Staff Member: Jeff Shesol

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 21461

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Bowen Law School Dedication 4/27/00

Stack:

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91

Section:

6

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10

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3

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	Handwritten. Personal [partial] (1 page)	04/23/2000	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Jeff Shesol
OA/Box Number: 21461

FOLDER TITLE:

Bowen Shool of Law Dedication 4/27/00

2006-0467-F

vz1320

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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.

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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(Baldridge)

~~David M.~~

Julie Speed 501-324-9924
at law school

- Derrick ~~Smith~~ Smith
pres. student
Bowen scholar

most important thing he cd say:
BB enormous left — never wd
not b/c he screams, or is rough —
he's a gentleman — or even give a tough look
but you wd never cross him

"I wonder if you cd help me..."
"What do you think about..."
Army of talent from state
he can man

An idea factory
very powerful in bus + banking

If somebody like BB hadn't been at
the reins,
DC cdnt have made run w/o state
going into nozzedive

- for BB to agree to take helm is
roughly akin to Lee Iacocca
running govt office in MI

BB had supported his candidates
"wears me out" — multi-tasking
mutually reinforcing roles
BB wd take a bullet for DC

THE WHITE HOUSE

70 — Terry
Jeff
NANCY H
STEPHENS
BOB NASH
BRUCE LINDSEY

PD — J. BOOTH KETZ

FYI — Re:
Arkansas trip.
From Skip.

An old-fashioned stump sp where
he reminisces — come back home
— why this day means so much to him
— aside w/ so many people who cant
be improved upon even at nat'l level
intell, grace, humor

marion, Ark.
Derrick Smith — merit scholarship
Hendricks College
— recruited by BB
— ex of repeating greatness of state
— teaching law in Ark. — how far
— what was a modest ut. law prog
has become top-rated law prog
(he taught at the other law sch.)

His library will be vt down st.
 how ~~be~~ their

BB is a symbol of pubs. service - set an ex.

- attached to transcripts - if they do 100 hrs. of pubs service
- put a premium on it
- not many law schs. do
 build uses, reading tutor

Also, focus on alt dispute resolution
 mediation

- Clinic - and b/c it's present, they have it in their consciousness
 peaceful resolution as opposed to argument

CJR
W**Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods
FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

Date: 4/23/00
To: Josh Gattheimer
Number: 202-456-2505
From: Skip Rutherford (501-975-8371, phone)
Number of pages sent including this sheet: 3

If you have any problems receiving this facsimile, please contact Paulette Craig
at (501) 975-7266.

Thank you.

Capitol Center / 303 West Capitol Avenue / Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3593
FAX: (501) 975-6045 or (501) 975-6085

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: The information in this facsimile transmittal is confidential information intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copy of the transmittal is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmittal in error, please immediately notify us by telephone, and return the original to us at the above address via the United States Postal Service. Thank you.

Comments:

April 27 - speech - William H. Bower school of law

Josh,

here are some random thoughts re: remarks for Bill Bowen law school dedication

~~*Bowen served as Governor Clinton's chief of staff during the time Governor Clinton was running for President. D. Bowen gets very high marks for his leadership during this critical time for Governor Clinton..~~

*Bowen continues to be one of the President's strongest supporters...He will stand up for him at any hour of any day

~~*Bowen and Hillary Clinton went to church together at First United Methodist Church in Little Rock. They, too, are good friends.~~

~~*Bowen's wife is named Connie.~~

*Bowen began his professional career as a lawyer, then served as president of a major Arkansas bank (First Commercial) then returned to the legal field, as dean of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock law school--which now will bear his name...~~he has also endowed scholarships at the law school and several "Bowen Scholars" will be in attendance at the ceremony including the president of the student bar association, Derrick Smith, who will introduce the President.~~

* check with the advance team, but I believe the President will make his speech and then ~~conclude by introducing Mr. Bowen~~ who will make short acceptance remarks....after Bowen's remarks are over, the President should step up and join him at the podium. Then the two of them will work a short rope line together before the President departs.

~~*one theme to consider:~~

~~*--public service; Bowen is an example of a successful business and community leader who always gives generously of his time and his resources. The President could point out that the Clinton School--which will be affiliated with the Clinton Library--will have a masters program in public service and students going to the Bowen Law School will be able to get concurrent degrees in law and in public service...No finer tribute could be paid to Bill Bowen....~~

not
police

--
Skip Rutherford

Please join us
to commemorate the naming of the

UALR
William H. Bowen
School of Law

Noon

Thursday, April 27, 2000

1201 McAlmont Street

Salutatory address by
President Bill Clinton

Reception in Coyne Deans' Gallery to follow ceremony

CS
Draft 04/26/00 6:30pm
Jeff Shesol

COPY



418991

20 APR 28 1991

SP1510

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT DEDICATION OF WILLIAM H. BOWEN LAW SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS - LITTLE ROCK
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
April 27, 2000**

Acknowledgments: Mack McLarty, Derrick Smith, Student Bar Association President and Bowen Scholar; Tommy May, Chairman, Board of Trustees, U. of Arkansas Schools; Dr. Charles Hathaway, Chancellor, U. Arkansas-Little Rock; Rodney K. Smith, Dean, Bowen Law School

As you know, I launched my campaign for President here in Little Rock in the fall of 1991. I'd known Bill Bowen for a long time by then. He'd been my adviser, my banker, my supporter, and my friend for about 15 years. From my very first days in office, Bill had helped me out in any and every way he could. I'd been Attorney General all of two months when the Arkansas Jaycees named me one of the Outstanding Young Men of the Year. That was Bill's doing - with a strong assist from my friend Mack, here. I'm still trying to live up to the title.

By 1991, as far as I could count, there was only about one thing that Bill Bowen hadn't already done to help me. He hadn't yet been my chief of staff. When I finally asked him that fall, he took about an hour to agree to take a leave from First Commercial and turn his whole life upside-down. I could not have been more grateful. I knew that all of Arkansas would be the better for Bill's service. Any time I set foot outside the State House, or the state itself, I could rest assured that Bill Bowen had matters well in hand. I could campaign for President with confidence. I could take the ideas we started here and the policies we practiced here and share them with the rest of America. Bill Bowen helped me do that; and Bill, I thank you again.

For a half-century, Bill Bowen has set the standard for public service - here in Arkansas and far beyond our borders. He was a pilot in the Second World War, flying Hellcats and Wildcats, waging freedom's fight. Since then, he has led the fight here at home - for better education, for opportunity, for economic development that spreads to small towns like Altheimer or Hope.

It is fitting that this law school now bears not only the name of Bill Bowen, but the imprint of his fine example, and the legacy of his leadership. Bill has lifted this institution and the people in it. In a few moments Bill Bowen will speak with the grace and humility that we all know and love him for. But I want to say that the real honor today is not Bill's; it's ours - the honor of our association with such a very fine man. For Derrick Smith, and all the other student leaders, there will be few honors in life greater than being known as a "Bowen Scholar."

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honor to introduce my good friend, Bill Bowen.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 4/26/00ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAP

Subject: _____

Remarks Bill Bowen Law School Dedication

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	LOCKHART	☐	☒
PODESTA	☒	☐	LEWIS	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	MARSHALL	☐	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
BAILY	☐	☐	NOLAN	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	REED	☐	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
BRAIN	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
BURSON	☐	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
EDMONDS	☒	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
JOHNSON, B.	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
JOHNSON, J.	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

COMMENTS TO JEFF GHESOL x62796

RESPONSE:

Draft 04/26/00 7:15pm
Jeff Shesol

**TOPPER ON GDP
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
April 27, 2000**

Before I begin, let me say just a few words about the strength of the American economy, and what we must do to make it even stronger. As you know, that was the first thing on my agenda when I left the Old State House for the White House seven years ago. Vice President Gore and I had set a new strategy for a new economy – founded on fiscal discipline, expanded trade, and investment in our people.

Today, our economy is strong, our strategy is sound, and our people are prosperous. America is undergoing the longest economic expansion in history, and it shows no signs of age. Today's economic report indicates that in the first quarter of the 21st Century, growth was [TK] percent. [In the last four quarters, the rate of growth has been the fastest in 16 years.] American businesses are investing more; American workers are more productive. I know we can continue to create prosperity and opportunity for our people – but only if we stick with the strategy that got us here, maintaining our fiscal discipline for the long term and not sacrificing it for risky tax cuts in the short term.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

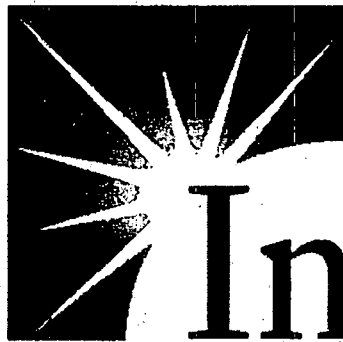
Date: 4/26/00 ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAPSubject: TOPPER ON GDP

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	LOCKHART	☐	☒
PODESTA	☒	☐	LEWIS	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	MARSHALL	☐	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
LEW	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
BAILY	☒	☐	NOLAN	☐	☐
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EDMONDS	☒	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
JOHNSON, B.	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
JOHNSON, J.	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Jeff Shesd x62796

RESPONSE:

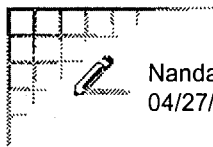


IntroSpect

ORM

SCANNING INSERT SHEET

REMAINDER OF CASE NOT SCANNED



Nanda Chitre
04/27/2000 02:48:20 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: 4/27 Remarks By the President At Bowen Law School Dedication

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Little Rock, Arkansas)

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT WILLIAM H. BOWEN LAW SCHOOL DEDICATION

Bowen Law School
Little Rock, Arkansas

1:03 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Derrick, and thank you for your great speech. Mack, thank you for being here. I must say, when Mack was speaking, he was laying it on so thick, I had to lean over and pinch Bill to make sure he was still breathing. (Laughter.)

I said, Bowen, are you still alive? Is this is a eulogy? And he said, I guess if Mack ever does run for office, I'll have to support him now. (Laughter.) Chairman May, Dr. Sugg, Dr. Hathaway, Dean Smith, thank you for your wonderful comments. To all the elected officials and former officials who are here -- Secretary Slater, Senator Lambert, General Pryor, Senator Bumpers, Congressman Berry, Mayor Dailey. To Bill and Connie and your wonderful family and to all of you here who are responsible for this, I want to thank you on behalf of Hillary and myself for naming this law school for Bill Bowen.

I was looking out in this audience today. There are hundreds of people I know by first name in this audience. I counted over 20 people who were members of one or more of my administrations as governor in some form or another, and many lawyers here whom I have admired since I was a very young man. But as a person who's spent most of his life in politics, it's somehow reassuring to me to know that this law school is being named for a brilliant man who spent the last 30 years trying to avoid practicing law. (Laughter.) And seemed to me to have succeeded in an outstanding fashion. (Laughter.)

Senator and Mrs. Pryor, it's nice to see you. I didn't see you all over there. But I want to say that by the time Bill Bowen agreed basically to make it possible for me to run for president -- and I say that in all sincerity -- I was profoundly concerned about what would happen if I were to undertake a campaign in 1991, and I wanted to know that the office would continue to operate and that things would go well, and

that if I needed to make a decision or come home, somebody with enough sense to know would tell me and get me on a plane forthwith.

I'd known Bill Bowen for a long time by then. By then, for a better part of two decades, he had been a friend of mine, an advisor, a supporter and a banker. I remember, I had been attorney general about two months when the Arkansas Jaycees named me one of the outstanding young men of the year; I knew I didn't deserve it and I found out later that Bill Bowen and Mack McLarty got it done. So I'm still trying to live up to it. And, unfortunately, I outgrew the title before I lived up to it. (Laughter.)

By the time 1991 rolled around, there was only one thing Bill Bowen hadn't done for me: He hadn't actually been a full-time member of our administration. And so I asked him to become the chief of staff, as Mack said. He actually took about an hour to agree, and that's a long time for Bowen. You know how he makes decisions. (Laughter.) But after all, I was asking him to turn his entire life upside down. But he did it. And he performed in an absolutely superb way.

From the time I set foot outside Arkansas to seek the presidency, I knew that the state and the State House would be in good hands. I never worried about whether decisions would be made in a timely fashion, whether anything that should be done was being done, whether there was some problem that should be brought to my attention that wasn't. I never worried about any of that.

And so I can honestly say, my friend, Bill, if it hadn't been for you, I could not have done it. And I hope you're proud of what has happened in America for the last eight years. Because your decision to be a selfless public servant made it all possible, and I thank you for that. (Applause.)

One of the things that bothers me is that people in elected office sometimes get all the credit for what so many people do. So I hope you'll think about that tonight, Bill. More than 21 million people with new jobs, longest economic expansion in history. Today, my staff gave me -- just before I came up here -- today's economic report shows that in the first quarter of the 21st century, our economy grew at a rate of 5.4 percent. That means for the last year, our growth rate has been the highest it's been in over 15 years. And that's an astonishing thing.

And I'd also like to tell you that I think my life with you in Arkansas had something to do with the economic policies we put in place up there. Somebody asked me the other day, when we passed the longest economic expansion in history, and everybody was celebrating, they said, "Well, what was the major contribution you made to the new economic policy, Mr. President?" And I said, "Arithmetic." (Laughter.) I brought arithmetic to Washington.

And you're all laughing, but you're going to be asked to decide this year whether to continue arithmetic, or return to some other theory, and I think we now have evidence with both, and I hope that arithmetic will prevail. (Applause.) And I thank you, Bill Bowen, for what you did to make it possible.

I'd also like to thank you as the President for your service to America in World War II, for flying the Hellcats and Wildcats, for waging freedom's fight. I'd like to thank you as a former Governor, for always being there for the cause of the education of our children, and for the economic development for people and places who were left behind in the 1980s. Places like Althemier and Hope.

And I'd like to thank you, too, for being willing to come back and help out this law school. And for the role you all had in deciding to build this building here around the old university building, to make a contribution at once to tomorrow's lawyers and to historic preservation, and to the character of the McArthur Park Area, which is so important to me and to so many others in this audience.

You could have done something else with the last couple of years of your life. And no one would have been able to criticize you. You could have decided that after succeeding as a lawyer, a banker, a public servant and a public citizen, you didn't need to prove that you could succeed as a law school dean.

But it is true that of all the people I know, no one embodies the continuing energy and imagination for tomorrow any better than you do. So I wasn't surprised when you agreed not to grow old, but to help the young. (Laughter.)

I told somebody one time that Bill Bowen made me look absolutely passive -- (laughter) -- and that I didn't believe anybody could possibly be as aggressive as he was and still be likeable -- (laughter) -- but he managed to do it. And I think today answers the question why. Because I always had the feeling that whatever he was pushing for was something that was going to be good for everybody else, too. And through a long and rich life, it's always been true.

Thank you Connie, for your friendship. I thank all the members of the Bowen family, for loving him and keeping the rough edges sanded, and giving him the anchor that every person needs. But most of all, Bill, I thank you for being my friend, for being a good citizen, for being a good man, and for being a very powerful example.

Ladies and gentlemen, our honoree, Bill Bowen. (Applause.)

END 1:13 P.M. CDT

Message Sent To: _____

Furman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

GDP 1st & 2000

Tax + budget msg.
Tried - shot at risky tax cuts
+ last are
[Fastest growth since 1984 (?) 6-7%]
Fastest & longest expansion

underscore need to maintain course...
fisc. resp.

US grown over 4% for 4 yrs/row - sustained high growth
lowest grown at double-digit rate for 7 yrs.
[Imp. cost index also
- market's extremely sensitive to this]

lead w/ longest expansion
rather than ↓, it gets
stronger all the time

The reason we're seeing
investing more,
am people are more prod.

- 1) imply - big tax cuts → overheat → end exp.
- 2) invest + prod ↑
- so free up capital for private mkt.

Draft 04/26/00 6:30pm
Jeff Shesol

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS – LITTLE ROCK
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
April 27, 2000**

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Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honor to introduce my good friend, Bill Bowen.

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The Washington Times♦ [View Related Topics](#)

June 8, 1992, Monday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part D; LIFE; Pg. D2**LENGTH:** 854 words**HEADLINE:** ARKANSANS WITH EYE TOWARD WHITE HOUSE**BYLINE:** Judith Colp; THE WASHINGTON TIMES**BODY:**

Every new president brings a new team of players to Washington. Former governors like Ronald Reagan or Jimmy Carter bring teams with more of a hometown flavor than do long-time Washington insiders like George Bush or Lyndon Johnson.

Still, Bill Clinton's Washington would not merely echo that of Mr. Carter, a fellow Democrat from the New South, those familiar with the Arkansas governor say. With his cosmopolitan education - Georgetown, Yale and Cambridge - Mr. Clinton likely would cast a wide net among a vast network of friends, they say.

During his first term as governor, he filled several administration slots with outsiders - something that helped cause him to lose re-election. Mr. Clinton didn't make the same mistake again.

The presidency would be different, political observers say.

"You're not going to see an Arkansas mafia," predicts John Brummett, a columnist for the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. "Bill has always gone well beyond Arkansas. You just have to look at his campaign staff, which comes from nationwide."

But besides his state health directory, Joycelyn Elders, several Arkansas folks are expected to make the cut for coveted administration slots, should Mr. Clinton win the election. Among those in the running:

* Bruce Lindsey, 43.

Possible White House post: chief of staff.

Background: Currently Clinton campaign director. He met the governor in 1975, while working for Sen. David Pryor, Arkansas Democrat. He also worked for former Sen. William Fulbright. A graduate of Georgetown **Law School**, he is a partner at Wright, Lindsey & Jennings, a top Little Rock law firm

where Mr. Clinton worked after losing his first re-election bid.

Inside scoop: Mr. Lindsey has buzzed around top Arkansas politicians for years, waiting for one to run for president. Mr. Clinton relies heavily on him.

Also look for Mr. Lindsey's wife, Bev, to snare a White House job. Mrs. Lindsey, 43, is a campaign scheduler. She's also a former director of the State Arts Council and Hands Across America, and served as Mikhail Gorbachev's

press secretary during the Soviet leader's trip to Minnesota in 1990.

* Diane Blair, 53.

Possible White House post: domestic policy director.

Background: An issues adviser for Clinton campaign, she helped write papers on energy and the arts. Undergraduate degree from Cornell, master's from **University of Arkansas** while raising five children. Professor of political science at **University of Arkansas**. Author of book on Arkansas politics. A native of the District of Columbia, she moved to Arkansas in 1963 to marry Jim Blair, chief counsel with Tyson's Foods Inc., the nation's No. 1 producer of poultry and swine.

Inside scoop: Mrs. Blair reminds many political observers of Hillary Clinton, another brainy female and non-native Arkansan. She could be the leading woman - like Elizabeth Dole was to George Bush - in a Clinton administration.

* Webster Hubbell, 44.

Possible White House post: attorney general on the way to a seat on the Supreme Court.

Background: Managing partner in Little Rock's Rose Law Firm, where Mrs. Clinton also practices. Specializes in litigation, emphasis on malpractice and patent cases. Mayor of Little Rock, 1979-81. For four months in 1984, filled temporary vacancy as chief justice on Arkansas Supreme Court. Undergraduate and law degrees from **University of Arkansas**, where he was star lineman on football team. Started at Rose Law Firm in 1974. In first case, recovered 20 pigs for a packing house.

Inside scoop: Close to Mrs. Clinton, considered judgeship a high in his career.

* Thomas F. "Mack" McLarty, 45.

Possible White House post: commerce or transportation secretary.

Background: President, chief executive officer of Arkla Inc., one of nation's top utilities. Also heads McLarty Companies, which owns seven state car dealerships. Childhood friend of Mr. Clinton's from hometown of Hope. Business degree, **University of Arkansas**. State representative at age 23.

Inside scoop: In high school, beat Mr. Clinton for governor of Boys State. As consolation, Mr. Clinton went to Boys Nation - where he met and was inspired by President Kennedy. In Arkansas, one of the two men always was expected to become governor.

* **William Bowen**, 69.

Possible White House post: head of Federal Aviation Administration, or an ambassador.

Background: Mr. Clinton's chief of staff since August. Retired chairman, executive officer of First Commercial Bank in Little Rock. Flew Hellcat and Wildcat fighter planes in World War II. Attended New York University, Stonier Graduate School of Banking, **University of Arkansas Law School**. Former attorney for U.S. Tax Court, Justice Department.

Inside scoop: As governor's chief of staff, helped attract an aerospace firm, Rohr, to establish a plant in Arkadelphia. Proven fund-raiser, collected \$1 million for non-partisan Arkansas think tank that he wants to establish.

GRAPHIC: Photo, Webster Hubbell ; Photo, Diane Blair

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The American Banker

February 25, 1992, Tuesday

SECTION: Pg. 1**LENGTH:** 975 words**HEADLINE:** Clinton's Top Aide: A Banker to Watch**BYLINE:** By ROBERT M. GARSSON**DATELINE:** LITTLE ROCK, Ark.**BODY:**

Retired banker **William Bowen** arrived home from a cruise vacation one day last September to find a message from the governor's mansion. Within an hour, he had agreed to serve as chief of staff to Gov. Bill Clinton.

It was the beginning of a much different life than the one he had known as ~~chairman and chief executive officer of First Commercial Corp.~~, a \$2.3 billion-asset bank holding company here. Part of the Inner Circle

But the 68-year-old banker is adapting so quickly that observers of Arkansas politics say he is an obvious candidate for a Washington post should Mr. Clinton win the presidency in the fall.

Mr. Bowen is hardly the only banker in the state backing Mr. Clinton's presidential bid. After a decade in power, Mr. Clinton has built a sizable among Arkansas business leaders, including top officers at Worthen Trust Co.

~~Mr. Bowen has known the governor since 1974,~~ when he backed Mr. Clinton's unsuccessful bid for Congress. The two men grew close over the years. Mr. Bowen advised the governor on banking issues and raised money for his campaigns.

His retirement from the bank in 1990 came at just the right time for Mr. Clinton, who needed someone to help mind the statehouse while he campaigns.

"He's a businessman, and the governor was anxious to have a businessman in that office," said Lt. Gov. Jim Guy Tucker, a friend of both men. "He's also unquestionably loyal to, and a part of, the Clinton political family."

Mr. Bowen is a gracious and courtly man, with thinning gray hair and flinty blue eyes. Those who know him say ~~he arouses strong feelings in people--not always favorable ones.~~

"People either love him or hate him," said a banker who has known him for years. "He is tenacious, and he can be manipulative." Admiration Is Mutual

"He can be very personable and diplomatic," said Mr. Tucker. "But he can also be mean as a snake. He's a capable trial lawyer and a ferocious competitor."

Friends of the two say the bond between Mr. Bowen and Mr. Clinton is deep. One banker recalls the governor saying he was "crazy" about Mr. Bowen.

Mr. Bowen, in turn, said he was attracted to Mr. Clinton immediately. "His education is uncommon, and he obviously was very bright," he recalled of his first meeting with Mr. Clinton. "I was very pleased for the state that we had that kind of talent interested in public service." 

His admiration for Mr. Clinton increased in 1979 when he was an officer in the state bankers association and Mr. Clinton was a first-term governor. Interest rates had begun to spiral upward, and Arkansas had a provision in its constitution, dating from Reconstruction, that flatly prohibited interest rates above 10%. A federal preemption was in place, but it was due to expire in three years.

An Unpopular Stand

"We were at a state bankers' association convention, and I remember, there was Bill Clinton, bravely out front, endorsing a modification of the state usury ceiling," Mr. Bowen recalled. "That wasn't a very popular thing to do, but it was the fair thing."

Mr. Bowen said he hasn't even begun to think about whether he would go to Washington if Gov. Clinton wins the White House. But he conceded that the idea of retirement doesn't sit well with him.

Mr. Bowen is a political conservative whose party affiliation is more an accident of history than a matter of philosophical conviction.

Confederate Grandfather

"My grandfather was a Confederate soldier," he said, alluding to the fact that the South turned Democratic in the post-Reconstruction era, solely because the North was Republican.

"I'm a conservative Democrat," said Mr. Bowen. "But I've always been a Democrat."

A former fighter pilot who trained in World War II, on the same Navy carrier as President Bush, Mr. Bowen said he is not troubled by Gov. Clinton's efforts to stay out of the military during the Vietnam era.

"I lost a brother in World War II, and all three brothers in my family served in the war," he said. "But the Vietnam war was so tragic. If my son, who is a surgeon now, had been exposed, I would have had the same reservations about him going into that meat grinder that young Bill Clinton expressed."

Stints in Washington

After a tour in the Navy during World War II, Mr. Bowen attended the **University of Arkansas law school**, and spent 21 years in law. He worked in Washington as a adviser to the U.S. tax court and as special assistant to the U.S. attorney general before returning to Arkansas to start private practice.

By 1964, he was general counsel for the Arkansas Bankers Association, a position that put him in touch with bank officers and directors around the state.

"I handled their legislative problems and their litigation," he said. "And during that time, I organized a bank or two, and an S&L or two."

In 1970, First Commercial Bank was looking for a new president. He was offered the job.

Although First Commercial is publicly owned, it is closely held. Mr. Bowen's family owns 5% of the parent company's stock, and officers, directors, and employees hold "something like 40%," of the banking concern.

"I think we reflect a view that might be seen as parochial," he said, expressing a strong skepticism about interstate branching. "But I have difficulty in seeing how you know more in New York City than we do here in Little Rock about what's in our customers' best interests here."

To Mr. Bowen's credit, First Commercial has gained a reputation as a conservative and well-managed institution, profitable year in and year out. The subsidiary banks are permitted to operate autonomously, a style Mr. Bowen compares to that of Banc One Corp. of Columbus, Ohio.

If Gov. Clinton's campaign gains continue, pundits may start wondering aloud what kind of style Mr. Bowen would have as a President's chief of staff.

GRAPHIC: William Bowen, Photo

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Clinton had been in office scarcely two months when he was named one of three Outstanding Young Men of the Year by the Arkansas Jaycees. The judges were three men who would play key roles in Clinton's political success: wealthy Little Rock banker William Bowen, a future chief of staff to Governor Clinton; childhood friend Mack McLarty; and lawyer David L. Hale, later to play a key role in the Whitewater/Madison Guaranty scandal.

The awards ceremony was held at one of several all-white Central Arkansas country clubs that would provide Clinton with all the privileges of membership until 1992, when frequenting such bastions of white supremacy would become politically incorrect for the future president of the United States.

Former Governor Orval E. Faubus fueled Clinton's prospects by declaring in August 1977, "I'll tell you the man you better keep your eye on mighty close if he decides to run—Bill Clinton," adding that the thirty-one-year-old attorney general had matured quickly and demonstrated responsibility in public office.²⁶

Arkansas's seven state officials do not run as a slate; each seeks nomination and election independently, although nomination on the Democratic ticket is tantamount to election. While some competition exists among the lesser offices of lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, and the outmoded position of commissioner of state lands, it is unusual for those holding these offices to effect anything more than a lateral transfer in Arkansas politics. Historically, each finds a niche and retires from it or dies while occupying it.

But in the 1970s the face of the Democratic party in Arkansas was changing. Those who had made a career in statewide offices were aging, the attorney general's office was becoming a stepping stone for ambitious young politicians, and the attributes voters were seeking in elected officials were changing. Baby boomers were steadily infiltrating the county courthouses, the legislature, and the state's constitutional offices. Governor David Pryor, a former congressman who already had his eye on the U.S. Senate because of the rumored retirement of ailing eighty-one-year-old John L. McClellan, recognized that Clinton would be his likely successor and included the dynamic young attorney general in many of his administration strategies.

cases dealing with utility rates, pledged to "clean up and rationalize" property taxes he termed "a raving mess," and filed suit against alleged milk price-fixing, telling one applauding group that "some" big dairy companies "stole from you, just as if they'd broken into your house and taken it." To similar applause he strongly supported the death penalty as "a deterrent to crime," a conclusion for which he had "no statistics," the thirty-year-old Clinton told audiences, but "a gut feeling based on my observations over many years." At one point the new attorney general even ventured into foreign policy and international economics, deploring the "terrible shape" of the entire country as a result of Mideast oil prices and sinister Arab investments in America.

Everywhere he turned, it seemed, the new attorney general was lauded for what he was and would certainly become. Typical of the acclaim was his being named one of the state's "Outstanding Young Men of the Year" by the Arkansas Junior Chamber of Commerce after only two months in office. Yet even such seemingly unqualified honors held unseen irony. The young politician who carried the state's black precincts with overwhelming margins now received his award at the whites-only Little Rock Country Club. The admiring judges who selected him were Bill Bowen, a wealthy local banker and future aide, Clinton's old intimate Thomas J. "Mack" McLarty, and a third political friend whom Clinton would appoint to the bench and who would go on to administer a federal loan program and ultimately testify in a 1995 grand jury against the president of the United States—an enthusiastic Democratic lawyer named David Hale.

Despite her late-summer and fall absence in Indiana, Hillary Rodham was, from the outset, an unusual presence in her husband's tenure as attorney general. Not only standing beside him at the ritual rallies and receptions, she now appeared alone and spoke out herself on various issues, from the handling of evidence in rape cases to the media's deplorable preoccupation with "investigations" rather than with "presenting the news," as she put it to a sympathetic audience. "One of our problems is trying to control a press that is far out of line because of Watergate," she told a Little Rock Rotary Club in 1977. By then she no longer taught or ran legal clinics for the unrepresented, was no longer simply the attorney general's wife, but belonged to one of Arkansas's oldest, most formidable, most fundamentally conservative institutions, the Rose Law Firm.

The ultimate determining decision in her own career was made almost casually, as an extension of her husband's politics and—typi-

Thursday, April 27, 2000

11:50 am

THE PRESIDENT arrives Bowen Law School

Greeters: Bowen Family
Bowen Law School Officials TBD

~~12:10~~
1:10 pm

WILLIAM H. BOWEN LAW SCHOOL DEDICATION

FOYER

Bowen Law School

Remarks: Jeff Shesol

Staff Contact: Bruce Lindsey

Event Coordinator: Julie Eddy

OPEN PRESS

Note: There will be approximately 400-500 guests in attendance.

- Chairman, Board of Trustees, William H. Bowen Law School makes brief welcoming remarks and introduces TBD.
- Chancellor, University of Arkansas-Little Rock, makes brief remarks and introduces Mack McLarty.
- Mack McLarty makes brief remarks and introduces TBD.
- Student Bar Association President makes brief remarks and introduces the President.
- The President makes remarks.
- William Bowen makes remarks.
- The President works a ropeline and departs.

1:10 pm
1:30 pm

HOLD / LUNCH

1:30 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs Bowen Law School via motorcade en route Arts Center
[drive time: tbd minutes]

1:35 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives Arts Center

April 24, 2000 (12:48 PM)

license, not the operator's license. I stood in line at the revenue office on the Capitol grounds for about an hour or so. And the whole time I'm standing there and inching along to the front, I was looking at a color portrait of Bill Clinton smiling. And I thought of all the people who would have to stand in this line looking at that man smiling at them, the man who raised those fees. That's when I had my first inkling because people in line with me were saying, 'That son of a bitch, look at that grin of his.' And they're personalizing it, they're internalizing it. I knew he was in trouble before any expert told me he was in trouble. When Frank White came along with the brilliant one-horse campaign he ran, I knew there was a very good chance that Bill Clinton was going to be beaten."

State legislator John Miller views that portrait differently: "Historically, the governor's photo hangs in the revenue office and most of the time, when the governor has his photo taken, he is smiling. It'd be foolish to send out one of him frowning."

Clinton's aides were more a source of contention than his portrait. About Clinton's aides, Mike Trimble says, "Clinton delegated authority to three men who basically were very smart but they also just had a real good time running the state. John Danner, Rudy Moore, and Steve Smith were sort of the gang of three. They were pretty arrogant, pretty cocky, and they were young. My impression of that first administration is that it was very progressive, very assertive, and it just seemed to piss people off. There were a lot of alligators in the legislature who didn't like to be condescended to by these guys with peach fuzz on their cheeks. These guys had beards and the old guard didn't like beards."

"They also didn't like the fact that Hillary Clinton went around using her own last name. She was not known as Hillary Rodham Clinton even. It was just Hillary Rodham and that pissed them off."

Senate Chief of Staff Bill Lancaster says, "I think, to be quite honest, that there were three or four people who thought they could do anything because they were in the governor's office and their attitudes reflected that. Despite what you think about this legislature, there are many people with vast knowledge here who have been here many years and who knew the governor was committing political suicide but they couldn't get through that layer to tell him. He later came to realize that there are some people here worth listening to."

Bank president Bill Bowen offers his impressions of Clinton's

first term. "I was involved with two aspects of controversy. I was a member of the Arkansas Good Roads Committee that persuaded him to use car tags as a source of revenue for state highways. The other controversy involved Steve Smith who was campaigning that year as a tree hugger against almost any cutting in the national forests. He was trying to ban clear-cutting even on private land. John Ed Anthony called me one day and said, 'Bill, he is offending the entire timber industry.' So I went to see Clinton as his older friend, and I said, 'Bill, these things are hurting you. Believe me, they're hurting you. I don't know what your polls are.' He said, 'You've got to understand that Steve and his associate, Rudy Moore, are like brothers to me and I'm not going to tell them what to say or do.' I said, 'All I can say is it's going to hurt you.' "

Bobby Roberts, formerly a Clinton staff member, recalls, "His administration was one of the first in history to try to really move the state forward. That impressed me. I was unimpressed with his inability to surmount his image problems. This is a conservative state. He had three guys working for him all in their thirties, all with beards, and some people didn't like it. It was killing him politically and I couldn't see why he allowed that to continue. He seemed to still be trying to be a private person instead of a public figure, and you just can't do that.

"Bill is far more sophisticated than most of us. He's far more articulate than most of us. He's far better read than most of us. That would be true in any state but I think in Arkansas there is a populist mentality that is put off by that kind of thing.

"I think Bill needs constant reassurance. He constantly needs to hear from people what he's doing right, what he's doing wrong. You would get that almost ad nauseam, almost to the point where you'd think, 'Let's talk about the football game. Let's talk about something else.' But he would say over and over, 'What do you think happened?' I would say, 'Look, you can blame it on Frank White's ads. You can blame it on the Cubans and the car tags. You can blame it on trying to do too much too fast, but I think the main thing was image. You were going too far too fast. You've got long hair. You've got a wife who doesn't use your name. People perceive you as different from them.' And then he would argue about it. 'No, no. That's not what happened. Here's what happened.' And he'd go through all the statistics and so forth. So we would have some fairly heated arguments about that."

Orval Faubus, former governor of Arkansas, discusses his view of Rudy Moore, John Danner, and Steve Smith. "Their positions

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blishment came in Springdale, a com-th of Fayetteville, where he formed a rogressive state legislator whose law nections to Senator Fulbright. Weeks d met with Moore and told him that a aff was moving to the area to teach at ore "ought to know about each other." to town and they spent hours talking ecalled later, Clinton became absorbed who were rejecting Medicaid patients. program then among Springdale's doc-out of his legislative office to Clinton's ne or two doctors in town who were . In his first political encounter with the here. The Springdale doctors "crawled body to look into" their affairs. Moore before Clinton had rung up one strike

There were no strangers in Fayetteville. Everyone seemed to know everyone else, and often it seemed they were all related and they all had political connections. During the last week in August, Clinton went to lunch at Wyatt's cafeteria with a group of professors and administrators, one of whom happened to be Rudy Moore's brother-in-law, Carl Whillock, a university vice president. Whillock had previously served as the administrative assistant to James W. Trimble, the former Democratic congressman from northwest Arkansas who had been defeated in 1966 by Republican John Paul Hammerschmidt. The talk among the group was almost exclusively about Watergate, the scandal that had become a daily television drama starring Chairman Sam Ervin and his colleagues on the Senate Watergate Committee. In the car on the way to lunch, Whillock, a dignified man who dressed conservatively, seemed unusually quiet. Finally, when they were all seated at the cafeteria, someone asked him what he thought of the scandal. "I think Richard Nixon would cause great bodily harm to close family members if it would help him politically," he said. Clinton was shocked. He had misjudged Whillock because of his appearance and his earlier silence. Now he wanted to know more about him, and the more they talked, the more fascinated Clinton became. If Clinton wanted to get anywhere politically up in these hills, he could not find a steadier guide.

THE University of Arkansas School of Law had never before encountered a faculty member quite like Clinton. With his boyish face and long curly hair, he looked like one of the students and he often acted like one as well. He was a student's law professor rather than a law professor's law professor. In part, his style reflected the contrasting philosophies of the school where he learned the law and the school where he was now teaching it. At Yale, the hard part was getting admitted: once you got in, you were part of an elite club, and it was virtually impossible to flunk out. Arkansas, the only law school in the state, was obliged to open its doors to a majority of applicants, four-fifths of whom came from within the state. The easy part was getting in. It was not unusual for 30 percent of the first-year students to receive failing grades. Several professors took pleasure in terrorizing first-year students. Clinton was the opposite.

Although Clinton wanted to teach the glamorous subjects, criminal law and constitutional law, he told the dean that he would be willing to take on whatever courses needed to be taught. In the fall of his first year that left him with agency and partnership, which he knew little about at the start, and trade regulation, an antitrust course that he had studied at Yale. He searched for ways to relate the material to the more lively world of politics. In the agency and partnership class, for instance, he often brought the class conversation around to Watergate. "We had long discussions

about whether the people involved in Watergate were agents of the president," recalled Moril Harriman, a student in Clinton's first class.

It was difficult to distinguish Clinton's class period from the rest of his day. Before class he could usually be found at the student lounge eating breakfast and "shooting the breeze—about anything," according to another former student, Woody Bassett. If a subject caught his interest in the lounge and it had the vaguest relationship to the law, he might continue the discussion once class started. Clinton worked the aisle during class discussions and displayed an early variation of the town meeting or talk-show-host style he would later use with great effectiveness. Other Arkansas law professors tended to be more deliberate and sharp in their use of the Socratic method. They came in with notes and a set of concepts they wanted to cover. They asked pointed questions and called on students at random. Clinton often spoke without written notes and lectured in a conversational tone. Students were free to enter the discussion when they had something to say. In the end, this pressure-free approach led to lively discussions in which the whole class participated. "There was some grumbling by faculty members about the grades in Bill's courses," according to law professor Rafael Guzman. "There were always an abundance of A's and B's, D's were extremely rare, and I doubt very much that Bill ever gave an F. The inside joke was, 'Bill doesn't give D's and F's because he might someday need those votes.'" As the law school dean, Davis took note of Clinton's grading pattern and considered it "on the high side," but "not enough to take him to lunch about it—he just didn't want to give anybody anything below a C."

As word spread that he was an interesting teacher who gave high grades, his courses became increasingly popular. Even his admiralty class on maritime law, a subject of limited interest to most lawyers in Arkansas, bulged with seventy students. But Clinton's casualness sometimes drove even his students to distraction. He was slow in marking exams and posting final grades. One running story at the law school during Clinton's time there was about two law students catching sight of each other across a golf course fairway in late spring and one yelling across to the other, "Hey, I finally got my grade in Clinton's class"—pause—"from the fall semester!" Once he accidentally left the final exam blue books in his car and they disappeared. It was never clear whether he lost them or they were stolen, though Davis found it "mind-boggling that they could have been stolen." His students were given the option of retaking the exam or getting credit for the course without a grade—an unsatisfactory prospect for most of them since they were counting on Clinton's generosity to raise their grade point averages. Another semester on the morning of exam day, colleagues chortled knowingly at the sight of Clinton in a frenzy because he had

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black students thought

Along came Clinton,
the faculty. He quickly

involved in Watergate were agents of the president, a student in Clinton's first class.

Bill Clinton's class period from the rest of his usually be found at the student lounge eating a breeze—about anything,” according to Andy Bassett. If a subject caught his interest in the relationship to the law, he might continue started. Clinton worked the aisle during class in early variation of the town meeting or talker use with great effectiveness. Other Arkansas more deliberate and sharp in their use of the e in with notes and a set of concepts they d pointed questions and called on students oke without written notes and lectured in a were free to enter the discussion when they end, this pressure-free approach led to lively le class participated. “There was some grumut the grades in Bill's courses,” according to “There were always an abundance of A's and and I doubt very much that Bill ever gave an doesn't give D's and F's because he might As the law school dean, Davis took note of considered it “on the high side,” but “not out it—he just didn't want to give anybody

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waited until the last minute to prepare the exam. Students were answering the first question while Clinton was still writing the next. Clinton always seemed to be juggling too many things at the same time.

Mort Gitelman, as a senior faculty member, was asked to observe Clinton's classroom performance one semester to prepare a report for the tenure committee. Clinton was teaching constitutional law, Gitelman's specialty. His report “wasn't terribly kind to Bill,” Gitelman recalled. “He was very good at engaging the students in the classroom, but a lot of times he was kind of off-the-cuff. I wouldn't say unprepared, but not terribly organized. He was not the kind of person who would prepare a class meticulously.” On the positive side, Gitelman noted that Clinton possessed “qualities that went into the making of a good teacher. He wouldn't try to impose his views on people. He would draw people out.” Had Clinton stayed in legal education, by Gitelman's account, “he would have been okay.”

In the constitutional law class, Clinton devoted two weeks to a discussion of the seminal *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion. According to Woody Bassett, Clinton told the class that he believed *Roe* was “the most difficult of all court decisions” during that era, and that he thought “they made the right decision.” The legal aspect of the case that he emphasized in class was how the Supreme Court devised a way to define a right of privacy not defined in the Constitution. He also spent time dealing with other women's rights issues related to abortion. When one state legislator proposed a measure criminalizing abortion, suggesting that women who had abortions should be prosecuted for murder, Clinton asked the class to consider the possibilities. “What would you do if a woman was sleeping and rolled over and accidentally killed her unborn child—would that be manslaughter?” he asked. “It was an intense discussion about how far it would go,” recalled Jesse Kearney, a student in the class. “Bill was good at posing the questions.”

Clinton reached Fayetteville at a crucial time for black students at the law school. They were part of the first wave of African Americans, ten to fifteen students per class. Many of them were on probation, on the verge of flunking out, and looking for a mentor on the all-white faculty. L. T. Simes, who came out of the Mississippi Delta town of West Helena, Arkansas, and Ouachita Baptist University, arrived at the law school in 1972, one year ahead of Clinton. “The first year we were there was the most difficult of my life,” Simes said later. “Black students in law school were not faring too well as a whole. It was sink or swim.” Among other concerns, many black students thought they were not being graded fairly.

Along came Clinton, who to the blacks seemed different from the rest of the faculty. He quickly became their friend and champion. He was young

The black law students eventually gave Clinton a nickname. They called him "Wonder Boy." "In the South at that time, whites would say one thing, but their deeds and words were often different," Simes said later. "So here comes a person where no matter what your relationship with him was, he was not prejudiced. He did not let race treat you different from anyone else. That's why we called him Wonder Boy. It was a miracle the way he was. He could have shunned black students politically. Fayetteville and northwest Arkansas was a white enclave. Wonder Boy Bill did not waver in respect to his conduct with African Americans."

The careers of Clinton and McLarty were rolling in different directions. McLarty, even more than his ambitious kindergarten mate, carried great expectations with him during his early life. People said that he was destined to be governor. They said it about him when he was the sixteen-year-old governor of Arkansas Boys State, when he was the star quarterback

Not long after the session with the writer, Clinton walked over to the room house in the shadows of Old. He had been a regular visitor at. Whenever he had free time he v

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Remarks on Signing the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994, September 29, 1994

Thank you very much, Dick Kovacevich, for your fine words and your strong support of this endeavor. Thank you, Tom Labrecque, for what you said. Thank you, as always, Secretary Bentsen, for your **remarks** and your stellar leadership. I thank all the Members of Congress for coming and the Members of the House who are out voting; you were all introduced by name in absentia. [Laughter] But I do want to say a special word of thanks to retiring Congressman Steve Neal for his wonderful leadership bill, and I thank him. I thank the Senators, those who are here especially, Senator Dodd, Senator Sarbanes, Senator Bennett, and of course, Senator Riegle. We will miss you, and we thank you for this very important part of your legacy. I thank Chairman Greenspan and Mr. Blinder and Chairman Levitt for coming and for their role in stabilizing and strengthening our economy. I never comment on these things, but I'm awfully glad this bill is taking effect at a time when banks will still be able to make loans at reasonable interest rates. [Laughter] There are a lot of other people here—I'll live to regret—[laughter]—a lot of other people here that could be introduced, but I think I would be remiss if I did not say something about someone who fought for this issue when he was in Congress and is now the distinguished Governor of the State of Connecticut, Lowell Weicker. We're delighted to see you here, sir. Thank you for coming. We're delighted to see Sarge and Eunice Shriver here; thank you for coming.

Now, there are two other people I would be personally remiss if I did not introduce because they had a lot to do with my interest in this issue. The thing that sparked my interest in this issue, first of all, was being Governor of a State when banks were dropping like flies all around the country and we were determined to protect ours. And I began then to seriously think what was structurally wrong with the financial system in this country. There is a gentleman here from my home State who has been my banker, my adviser, my supporter, and was the last person who served as my chief of staff as Governor of Arkansas. I'd like to ask him to stand up, Mr. Bill **Bowen**, former chairman of the Commercial National Bank. [Applause] And the other person here who stayed up with me half the night once. You may think you can't stay up half a night talking about interstate banking. [Laughter] You may think it would put you to sleep even though—but you have never heard Hugh McColl talk about it. Will you please stand up? Thank you so much. [Applause] I figured if he could be rhapsodic about this at 2 a.m., I ought to be for it, strong for it. [Laughter]

You've already heard how important this legislation is and what it will do for the banking industry. I'd like to just take a few moments to describe to you from my point of view as President how this fits into our comprehensive economic strategy. You've already heard people say it will make us stronger economically; it will be better for consumers; it will make us more efficient. It represents another example of our intent to reinvent Government by making it less regulatory and less overreaching and by shrinking it where it ought to be shrunk and reshaping it where it ought to be reshaped.

The people who are here up on this stage with me represent the economic team who worked with me to try to develop a strategy that would put the American people first and enable us to compete and win in the 21st century and enable us to stay together and go forward in spite of all of our differences, to restore prosperity and to renew the American dream.

The economic strategy we have crafted, while it may have critics in every corner from point to point, still should be recognized for what it is: a serious attempt by the national administration to systematically address the problems of the American economy and the opportunities of the American economy that enable us to increase our capacity to work together for opportunity for all.

Secretary Bentsen has been my wise counsel and strong leader. Secretary Brown is with President Yeltsin in Seattle today, probably still trying to make another sale. [Laughter] As all of you know, he's traveled from South America to South Africa to promote American businesses and exports and has been the most active Commerce Secretary certainly in my lifetime. Secretary Reich has been tireless in his advocacy for a skilled work force and for changing our whole unemployment system into a reemployment system. Alice Rivlin and before her Leon Panetta have played a central role in shaping tough and responsible budgets and in giving us 3 years of declining deficits for the first time since Mr. Truman was the President of the United States. Ambassador Kantor has given us more leadership on trade in the last 20 months than in any comparable period in the last 35 years. Erskine Bowles is not here, but the Acting Administrator of SBA is here, Sandra Pulley. And let me say, among other things, they have proved that if you put people in charge of the Small Business Administration whose job it is or has been in the past to create and expand small businesses, it makes a remarkable difference. The agency is less political but more effective than it has ever been. One of the things they did was to take the small business loan form, which was that thick, and cut it to one page and give you a decision in 3 days, yes or no, which is something that interstate banking will probably make possible for every bank in America to do, before you know it. I want to thank Laura Tyson, the Chair of our Council of Economic Advisers, who has done so much to help us analyze the economy and strategize long-term. But most important of all, I want to thank the most self-effacing but talented person I've ever had the privilege to work with in the area of the economy, Bob Rubin, for coordinating this entire team. And I'd like for him to stand up, because he never gets any recognition. [Applause]

Our strategy was pretty simple: Get our fiscal house in order; bring the deficit down; do it and find a way to invest more in the skills of our people, the technologies of the future, defense conversion; expand trade; open markets; be more aggressive in appropriate ways in having a partnership outside our borders between the United States Government and our economic interests; and work to find ways to make the Government more efficient.

We have committed ourselves to that. And among other things, the budget we are about to adopt—we're in the process of adopting now—combined with the budget last year, represent only the first time in 17 years when a President's had two budgets in a row adopted by Congress substantially intact. They will give us 3 years of deficit reduction in a row for the first time since the Truman Presidency. But also somewhat less known, they will over this 6-year period, because we adopt 5-year budgets, reduce the size of the Federal Government by 270,000 to its smallest size since Mr. Kennedy was President. All of that money is being given to the American people in their own communities to fight crime. That's how the crime bill was funded. This is a remarkable change. We have already reduced the size of the Federal Government in 20 months by more than 70,000 people. And so I thank all of them for that.

The result of these comprehensive efforts and our disciplined coordination with other aspects of the public and private sector is that our economy is healthy and growing, inflation is moderate, trade is expanding, the deficit is dropping, and the Government is shrinking. There have been 4.3 million new jobs. And in contrast to the pattern of the eighties, when much of the job growth in times that were slow was in State and local government, 93 percent of the new jobs for the last 20 months have been in the private sector.

According to a recent annual survey by international economists, America has now been ranked the most productive economy in the world for the first time in 9 years. We've also had 8 months in a row of manufacturing job growth, something others had all but given up on for the first time in 10 years.

Our challenge now is to keep moving in the right direction, to keep creating new partnerships between business, Government, and citizens. And this legislation is a good step in that direction.

Under this law, as you've already heard, banks will be able to operate in more States with less trouble. We wipe away obsolete Government-created restrictions, something I'm determined to do in many other areas. And you'd be amazed how many areas these exist in.

Just for example, in the last year and a half, we have given 17 States permission to try new ways to move people from welfare to work. In every case, we had to wipe away Federal restrictions to allow States to do things that nearly 100 percent of the American people without regard to race or income want done to find a way to put people in the work force and take them off the dole. So we are working hard. We know we can save billions of dollars if we do that. Some estimates suggest the efficiencies in this bill alone in reducing paperwork and regulation will save this industry about \$1 billion a year.

We know this bill is good for consumers for reasons that have already been stated. I wish I had thought of Tom's line myself: It's easier for a New York bank to expand in Kuala Lumpur than Jersey City. So, since he's already said that, I won't give you what they wrote for me, which is longer and not nearly as graphic. *[Laughter]*

I also want to thank the Congress for working on this bill in a bipartisan spirit. You know, I get very frustrated, as all of you know, that it takes so long to do big things around here. I went back and read "The Federalist Papers" the other night, I was so frustrated by it. And then, lo and behold, some of our brilliant framers organized this Government to slow things down. Even they couldn't be right about everything, but anyway, we took our time on this bill.

And there are so many things that we've been able to do in the last year and a half that were just sort of hanging around for 6, 7, or 8 years. But when the bill did pass, when we had the confluence of forces and energy and vision to pass it, it passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, which should increase the confidence of the American people that this is a good thing for our country and that it will help all of us to do better.

Let us all acknowledge that this work is far from over. You've already heard the previous speaker say there was more to be done in the banking area, even though we have had a very good year and a half with trade. And NAFTA, by the way, is having a very positive effect on our economy. We've had a 19 percent increase in exports to Mexico, a 600 percent increase in the exports of automobiles and trucks to Mexico since NAFTA passed. Jobs are up to both Canada and Mexico because exports are up. Still, the really important thing to do is to pass the GATT.

I am going in November to Indonesia to meet with the leaders of the big Asian economies. I will then go back to Florida in December to have all the leaders of the democratic governments in the Caribbean and Latin America there at the Summit of the Americas that Mr. McLarty, who is here, is coordinating for us. We need to be able to continue to be the leader in opening up the global economy to efficiency and to competition and to expansion.

This is not a zero-sum game, this economy. But the only way it cannot be that is to keep pushing back the limits of the possible. And the only way you can do that is to have global economic growth. So we will keep hoping and working for GATT. I think we need to create it and pass it as quickly as we can. The American people will be a winner there.

All of you know that every serious economic study of the GATT has estimated that it will create hundreds of thousands of high-paying American jobs over the next decade and ultimately add between \$100 billion and \$200 billion to our GDP every single year. It will cut foreign tariffs by a third. It will provide a global tax cut of \$744 billion. So I hope that the bipartisan support the GATT has will result in the same thing that happened with the banking bill, that we will pass it and pass it in a prompt way.

Yesterday the House Ways and Means Committee approved the GATT by a vote of 35 to 3. This morning the Senate Finance Committee approved it by a vote of 19 to 0. The fact is, these folks have figured out that this is good for our economy, good for our country, good for our global leadership to continue to be pointing the way for other countries, to keep them looking upward and outward and reaching out to each other instead of drawing inward and giving in to the difficult pressures that all of us face.

I want Congress to pass the GATT this year. If it passes the House but not the Senate, I'll urge the Senate to return after the election recess and pass it then. We have come too far on this journey, making our Government more efficient, our economy more productive, and working together, to back off now.

You know, this week I've had the honor to represent you at the U.N. and to meet with President Yeltsin here in Washington and to watch as our courageous soldiers are working to bring democracy back to Haiti in a peaceful fashion. I am reminded that the world, with all of its difficulties, has never really had greater opportunities and that our very existence now is not threatened, as it once was, because of the progress we have made in trying to learn to live together.

People everywhere who yearn for political freedom and for economic opportunity are having more chances to realize both than ever before. We have a chance to help them. Sometimes we are called upon to help them in definite and specific ways, as we were early in the process of Russian reform or as we have been in Haiti. But I always believe that the most powerful way we help is by setting the right example.

We have set a good example today. Passing the GATT is setting a good example. Reaching out to the rest of the world, being unafraid to compete and determined to contact people and to work with them and to keep doing what we do better is the best way to set that kind of example. To me, that's what this bill represents, and I'm honored to be here to sign it today.

Thank you very much.

We don't have enough room on the dais for every Member of Congress who's here, but I would like to ask at least Mr. Neal to come up here. He and Senator Riegle should be in this picture. It may get them so many write-in votes, they won't be able to retire.

Note: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. at the U.S. Treasury Building. In his remarks, he referred to Richard Kovacevich, president and chief executive officer, Norwest Corp. of Minneapolis; Tom Labrecque, chairman and chief executive officer, Chase Manhattan Bank; Alan S. Blinder, member, Council of Economic Advisers; Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr., first director of the Peace Corps; Eunice Shriver, director, Special Olympics; and Hugh McColl, Jr., chairman of the board, NationsBank Corp. H.R. 3841, approved September 29, was assigned Public Law No. 103-328. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Source: United States. Executive Office of the President, Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, Week Ending Friday, September 30, 1994 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1995), vol. 30

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About Us

How much do you know about the UALR School of Law? With a student body limited to about 400, we are able to offer an exceptional student-faculty ratio. In addition to our full-time day program, we offer a part-time evening program for those students who work full-time. Our faculty is an experienced group of caring teachers and scholars. Our low tuition enables graduates to choose among a wide variety of employment opportunities without worrying about paying off an enormous debt.

The UALR School of Law is located in downtown Little Rock, within 5 minutes of most of Arkansas's largest law firms and corporations, the State Capitol, the state and federal courts, and the other attractions of downtown: museums, restaurants, the River Market, and soon the Clinton Presidential Library.

The Arkansas General Assembly established the UALR School of Law in 1975. It is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

The School of Law admits a small entering class of approximately 130 students, of whom roughly one-sixth come from out of state. The entire student body consists of approximately 400 students (350 full-time-equivalent students). Our teaching faculty of 27.5 full-time professors and numerous experienced adjunct professors gives us one of the lowest student/faculty ratios of any law school: 14 to 1.

Small classes, in turn, affect your learning experience. You will interact with your fellow students and the members of the faculty to a degree not possible at many schools. Small classes facilitate discussion and better learning. Your academic experience at the UALR School of Law will be challenging and rigorous, yet supportive.

Our curriculum emphasizes both theory and practice. Like most law schools, UALR requires a basic core of courses but offers numerous electives. The skills that you will use in practice are an important part of our curriculum. For example, some of the required courses focus on writing, research, and trial advocacy. Other skills covered in elective courses include interviewing and counseling, mediation and negotiation, deposition of witnesses, drafting a variety of legal documents, and trying cases in court. We require all students to take trial advocacy, where students argue and examine witnesses before a judge and jury. We also offer a litigation clinic, where students in their last year of school represent actual clients and represent them in court. A second clinical program, our mediation clinic, gives students practical experience at alternative dispute resolution.

Our location, within a five-minute drive from the federal courthouse, the Arkansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, many state offices and agencies, the Pulaski



County Courthouse, the public defender's office, the prosecutor's office, legal aid office, and downtown law firms, guarantees a variety of part-time employment opportunities after your first year in law school. In addition, we have one of the highest placement rates of any law school.

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Message from the Dean

I was honored to be named as Dean of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law in 1997. I accepted the position because the School of Law had a sense of vision that I found to be exciting. As I enter my third year as Dean, I have witnessed many successes and am even more excited about the future at UALR. As you view our web site, you will discover many of the reasons why I have found UALR to be such an invigorating place to be.



The UALR School of Law community is made up of fine students with very diverse backgrounds, an excellent faculty committed to teaching, a competent and helpful staff, and a wonderfully supportive group of graduates and friends who support the School of Law in numerous ways.

The School of Law's vision is unfolding in a number of thrilling ways. We have recently received a major gift that has assisted us in providing both scholarships and an academic environment that are attracting top students from throughout Arkansas and the world. With a student-faculty ratio of approximately 14:1, students have the opportunity to interact with our distinguished faculty both inside and--just as important--outside the classroom. Our faculty members continue to be involved in major scholarly and service activities on a local and global level, providing them with insights that translate effectively into a dynamic classroom setting. Indeed, they have written numerous books and articles, are frequently invited to give lectures throughout the United States and the world, have argued before the United States Supreme Court, and have testified before Congressional committees. Graduates and friends of the School of Law add to our institutional luster in many ways. They serve as adjunct professors, provide exciting employment opportunities for our students, and join with other members of our community to serve the profession and the broader community.

The 1999-2000 academic year will be an exciting one. Our Law Review will be hosting two major inter-disciplinary scholarly symposia. The first symposium will bring distinguished scholars and practitioners from a variety of fields to discuss issues involving the impact of embattled divorce on children. The second symposium, which will be a part of the University's Millennial Series, will focus on media ethics and the law in the technological world of the 21st century. That symposium will feature David Broder and a group of leading scholars and journalists. Our Journal of Appellate Practice and Process will publish its second and third issues this year, building on its growing reputation as a unique faculty-edited journal. Our clinical and skills offerings are increasing, and early this fall the faculty will consider a skills requirement that will put the School of Law at the forefront of the effort to integrate theory with practice.

There is much more that I would like to tell you about the School of Law. I will, however, resist the urge to do so and will simply encourage you to view our web site and, if possible, the School of Law itself. As you learn more about the UALR School of Law, I am confident that you will better understand why I am so honored to be able to serve as Dean.

Rodney K. Smith

Donaghey Dean

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UALR Law School in Brief

History	Founded in 1975
Accreditation	ABA-accredited; AALS member
Divisions	Full-time day (three year program) Part-time evening (four year program)
Tuition and Fees for 15 Hours, One Semester	\$2,530.75 (resident) \$5,530.75 (non-resident)
Student-Faculty Ratio	14 to 1
Enrollment (Approximate)	250 full-time 150 part-time
Faculty	26.5 full-time teaching professors 20 adjunct professors
Degrees	Juris Doctor Juris Doctor/Master of Business Administration Juris Doctor/Master of Public Administration
Clinics	Litigation Mediation
Library	Over 270,000 volumes Two computer labs featuring Internet, LEXIS, LOIS & Westlaw
Placement	Class of 1997: 115 of 116 employed or not seeking employment Class of 1998: 116 of 116 employed or not seeking employment

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The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, March 22, 1995

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Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

~~March 22, 1995~~ Wednesday
CORRECTION APPENDED

SECTION: NEWS ; Pg. 1B

LENGTH: 418 words

HEADLINE: BOWEN TO FILL LAW POSITION FOR UALR

BYLINE: SUSAN ROTH, Democrat-Gazette Education Writer

BODY:

William H. Bowen, a prominent Little Rock businessman and lawyer, will become the dean of the **University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law School**.

University officials announced the appointment Tuesday. Bowen, 71, will take over July 1 and serve two years while the school conducts a national search for a new dean.

Dean Howard B. Eisenberg has resigned to become dean of the **law school** at Marquette University in Wisconsin. He plans to leave June 30.

A university spokesman said it's common for a national dean search to take 18 months to two years, "so this gives us a comfortable period to conduct the search."

"I am very pleased we can turn to a person with Mr. Bowen's experience and background to lead the **law school** for the next two years," said Charles Hathaway, UALR's chancellor. "The **law school** faculty voiced very strong support for his appointment."

Bowen, a native of Altheimer near Pine Bluff, said he was honored to serve as dean. He had been highly recommended for the dean's position when UALR hired Eisenberg in 1991.

Bowen earned his law degree from the **University of Arkansas** at Fayetteville in 1949 after serving as a Navy pilot during World War II. He also left New York University as a master of laws in taxation in 1950.

He worked in Washington four years, including two years as an attorney and adviser for the U.S. Tax Court and two years as a special assistant to the U.S. attorney general. Bowen then returned to Little Rock to become a partner in the Smith, **Williams**, Friday & **Bowen** law firm for 17 years.

In 1971 he became president of Commercial National Bank and later served as its chairman and chief executive officer. After the bank's merger with First National to create First Commercial in 1983, he served as board chairman and CEO until 1991. During that time, First Commercial was the state's largest banking institution.

Bowen became chief of staff for Gov. Bill Clinton in 1991. In 1993 he moved into the medical arena by taking the job of president and CEO of a company operating a new health maintenance organization, Healthsource Arkansas Ventures Inc.

He is a former vice chairman of the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission and serves on the boards of Hendrix College and the Ben J. Alzheimer Foundation. He on sat on UALR's Board of Visitors served a term as chairman.

Last May, Bowen was appointed to the U.S. Small Business Administration's National Advisory Council.

He and his wife, Mary, have three children and several grandchildren.

CORRECTION-DATE: March 29, 1995

CORRECTION:

The wife of **William H. Bowen**, the new dean of the **University of Arkansas** at Little Rock School of Law, is the former Mary Constance Wanasek, who is known as Connie. She was incorrectly identified in an article in the March 22 edition.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 7, 1995

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Los Angeles Times♦ [View Related Topics](#)

February 12, 1997, Wednesday, Home Edition

SECTION: Life & Style; Part E; Page 1; View Desk**LENGTH:** 2334 words**HEADLINE:** THE ULTIMATE SLEEPOVER;
WHETHER A FUND-RAISING BONUS OR SIMPLE HOSPITALITY TO FRIENDS, A NIGHT IN THE WHITE
HOUSE LEAVES EVEN THE MOST WORLDLY OF GUESTS FEELING AWE-STRUCK**BYLINE:** RALPH FRAMMOLINO, TIMES STAFF WRITER**DATeline:** WASHINGTON**BODY:**

The Land Commissioner of the Great State of Texas was buck naked in the White House when the thought hit him. Relaxing upstairs in a warm bath, he suddenly realized he was not unwinding in just any old bathroom. He was soaking in history.

"I remember reading about how Roosevelt rolled his wheelchair into the same bathroom while Churchill was taking a bubble bath and smoking a cigar," said Garry Mauro, citing an occasion more than five decades ago when Winston Churchill visited Franklin D. Roosevelt in the White House during World War II. The two political titans had forged such a close relationship that FDR carried their discussions of the fate of the world right into the prime minister's bath.

"I just happened to be thinking about that when I was taking a bath," Mauro said of his own overnight stay at the White House in 1993. "It was pretty cool."

Cool, nothing.

The White House is more than the ultimate sleepover. It brings out the child and the tourist in even the most worldly of guests. For many, it does even more than that: With every stair step and alcove haunted by the great leaders and great events of the past, spending a night at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. can be a profound experience. Like an odd twist on the Hotel California: You can check out, but it will never leave you.

"You're moved by it," said **University of Arkansas** law professor Richard Atkinson, a close friend of President Clinton.

"In a nice hotel, there's no sense of awe. There might be a sense of 'Gee, it's nice,' " Atkinson said, "but for me there's nothing that stirs you into wanting to think about how can I better participate in

this country's life."

Revelations that Clinton bestowed the favor of a night at the White House on as many as 900 people during his first four years in office--many of them honored for making huge financial contributions to Clinton and the Democratic Party--has led some to question whether the experience has been cheapened. Has a night at the White House been converted into a frequent-donor bonus for party fund-raisers? Grand prize in a campaign raffle?

Political moralists can ponder those questions to their hearts' content. And the American people, who actually hold title to the building, may eventually weigh in. One thing is already clear, however: Among those who have had the experience, very few proclaim themselves anything but awed.

As cynical as people may be about politics or government, few seem able to sustain those negative thoughts when they come face to face with the reality of the White House, such as:

Spending a night in the Queen's Room suite, as Atkinson did, with its echoes of men and decisions that created the "great arsenal of democracy" and sustained Britain in its finest hour.

Sleeping in the Lincoln Bedroom, as others did, knowing it once served as the office and meeting room in which Abraham Lincoln and his advisors plotted strategy and struggled to save the Union.

Turning out the light on a bedside table originally purchased by Andrew Jackson.

Walking through corridors once as familiar as old slippers to Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.

Almost no one is too jaded for that.

"If I were a child, this would have been the greatest field trip of my life," said Brian Greenspun, president of the Las Vegas Sun newspaper, who stayed over for two nights in 1993. "And as an adult, it was still the greatest field trip of my life."

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Clinton aides are understandably a bit sensitive about the subject.

"There is a large number of people staying over for all kinds of purposes," insists White House spokesman Michael McCurry. "The bottom line is the Clintons enjoy opening up the place to different people."

Among them: Bernard Rapoport, a Waco, Texas, insurance executive whose ties to Clinton go back to the 1972 McGovern presidential campaign. He gave this account:

"One of the guys from the White House called up and said, 'The president wanted to know if you'd like to spend the night in the Lincoln Room.'

"I jokingly said, 'Any charge?'

"He said, 'C'mon!'

"So I said, 'Yep, we'll come!' "

For Clinton pal **William Bowen**, 73-year-old **law school** dean at the **University of Arkansas** in Little Rock, a night in the Lincoln Bedroom evoked thoughts of history and more prosaic reactions as well.

Bowen's grandfather and great-grandfather fought in the Civil War--for the South--giving their all to defeat Mr. Lincoln's army. Although it is a heritage of which he's proud, Bowen said he didn't feel strange at all catching some zzzz's where Lincoln toiled for a more perfect Union.

"You know, you long ago come to grips with that part of the history of the United States and the family involvement," he said.

And what came to occupy his mind most of all that night as he lay in the bed used by Woodrow Wilson and Teddy Roosevelt was a feeling more immediate than profound.

"They need a new mattress," he said. "I thought it was awful lumpy."

*

Invitations to enjoy what administration officials call the "second-floor experience" commonly begin with a phone call. Sometimes it carries an invitation for a state dinner as well, or the showing of a movie in the family theater. Or sometimes just to stop over because you'll be in town--a night that may include a late tour with the president himself as wide-eyed guide.

Guests sleep in one of three rooms down the hall from the president's residential quarters. One is the Queen's Bedroom, a bright room with a four-poster bed. The other is unnamed and the third is the Lincoln Bedroom, the only chamber named for a single president.

Some guests arrive by taxi. Others are greeted at the airport by White House transport. One man was picked up at his hotel by a military driver who constantly radioed his progress through D.C. traffic.

Those who drive their own cars up and through the giant gates can expect a White House moment all their own. Instead of bellhops rushing out to grab their luggage, they are greeted by security personnel with dogs that sniff around the vehicle.

As for the accommodations, these Gump-like bystanders to history are so overwhelmed that they scarcely notice the details. Many can't recall whether their beds were turned down at night, whether mints were left on the pillow, or whether the towels bore the presidential seal.

"Honestly, I can't remember," Jim Blair, general counsel for Tyson's Foods in Fayetteville, Ark., said when pressed for particulars.

Little wonder. Blair and his wife, **University of Arkansas** political science professor Diane Blair, stayed in the Lincoln Bedroom, perhaps the most honored place for visitors.

The 16th president never slept there--or in the large bed that now dominates one wall. The bed, with its massive and ornately carved headboard, was part of what Lincoln considered an embarrassingly extravagant decorating spree by his wife. He refused to use it--or to ask Congress for the extra money needed to pay for it.

Still, it is the room in which he had his office, held his Cabinet meetings and signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

A copy of the document, as well as a holograph copy of Lincoln's only handwritten and signed version of the Gettysburg Address, are enshrined in the room. Jim Blair said the documents "really got me. I did make a point of reading them over again and thinking about the country lawyer that . . . is probably our greatest president."

The Blairs' reaction is typical of what many experience. A humbling sense of gratitude, a sort of pride and a Is-This-a-Great-Country-or-What? disbelief.

Las Vegas publisher Greenspun, who stayed in the Lincoln Bedroom with his wife, Myra, said he felt "transported" by his surroundings.

"Remember the old show 'You Are There'? I felt like I was there. I was going back more than 100 years. . . . The room is full of historic documents and artifacts that make you feel like you're there with Abraham Lincoln."

Some claim literally. Both Teddy Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower reportedly sensed the presence of Lincoln in the room, and First Daughter Maureen Reagan swore she once saw an apparition of a red-coated figure standing by the fireplace. Her father's dog, Rex, once led his master to the room, growling and stalking but refusing to go in. Amy Carter held slumber parties with friends who waited up all night for the ghost of Lincoln to appear.

Ann Henry, a longtime Clinton friend who teaches at the **University of Arkansas** business school, said she and her ophthalmologist husband, Morriss, were aware of the talk about Lincoln's ghost when they accepted an invitation from Clinton to stay in the bedroom several years ago.

But it was the scene outside the window that left the biggest mark on her.

"It was a bird's-eye view of what the residents of the White House look out on every day . . . and their existence within a fishbowl," she said. "You can see people lined up outside for public tours. You can see demonstrators across in Lafayette Park. You can see the Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial."

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Even the jaded Hollywood crowd can't help but be affected, said Atkinson, who has slept over at the White House twice. He described the first time in late 1993, when the first family had a screening of the movie "Philadelphia" and threw a dinner for the crew and cast members, including Tom Hanks.

"It was very refreshing because there was no pretense that this was not exciting to them," Atkinson said. "The indifference that sophistication sometimes breeds was stripped away and no one was abashed about having a childlike glee about being there."

As for himself, Atkinson remembers how an obviously excited Clinton led him and others during the evening on an informal tour, which included a stop in the Oval Office.

What came to his mind was "the continuity that democracy has provided, the bloodless transition of the people," he said. "That was an exhilarating feeling."

For Texas Land Commissioner Mauro, it was all of that and something more: a conviction that the night reflected something unique to this particular country.

"If I can end up with a friend in the White House, any American can wind up with a friend in the White House," said Mauro, whose grandparents came from Italy and whose university degree came from an agricultural school.

"What it did was, once again, put into perspective that this is the only country in the world where people who are not born to the right parents and have a lot of money in the bank can spend a night in the White House."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: The Lincoln Sitting Room, above, and the Lincoln Bedroom, once Abraham Lincoln's office, leave most overnight guests awed. PHOTOGRAPHER: Reuter PHOTO: (White House)

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Public Papers of the Presidents

December 10, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2586**LENGTH:** 3200 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at the Earle High **School** Dedication Ceremony in Earle, Arkansas**BODY:**

Thank you very much. Wow! Well, this is a wonderful end to one of the best days I've had in a long, long time. We started out this morning in Little Rock, and I spoke at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet. I talked to them about the library and the public policy center I wanted to build not just for Little Rock but for our entire State. And then I went to West Memphis, to the community college, which I helped to establish, where the enrollment, by the way, has increased by tenfold since I've been President. I'm very proud of them, and I know all of you are.

And I told them that I was going to support the legislation sponsored by Senator Lincoln and Congressman Berry, with \$ 110 million for a Delta commission to invest in the economic future of the Mississippi Delta next year.

Then I got a little barbecue. [Laughter] And sidled up here to Earle. Thank you, Secretary Riley, for making this journey with me and the journey of the last 22 years now. Thank you, Secretary Slater, for coming out of the Arkansas Delta and going all the way to become Secretary of Transportation.

I'm not sure you heard the superintendent when he said this, but Secretary Slater's chief of staff and a longtime supporter of mine is a wonderful attorney named Jerry Malone, who graduated from Earle High School. Jerry, stand up. Where are you? There you go.

I want to thank my friend of 30 years, the Lieutenant Governor, Rockefeller, for making this trip with us today. I thank my longtime friends County Judge Brian Williams and Mayor Sherman Smith. We also have the head of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Bill Ferris, who is from the other side of the Mississippi River in Mississippi, here with us today. I thank him for coming.

And I want to introduce the vice president and foundation executive of MCI, Caleb Schutz, who has decided to help this school -- I'll explain more about why later, but thank you very much. I'd like to thank all the people from the Arkansas Department of Education who are here, Simon and others. Thank you, Principal Nicks and members of the school board. And thank you, Jimmi Lampley; you were terrific.

I have to tell you, when I met President Kennedy in 1963, I didn't give him a library. [Laughter] I didn't even give him one of my Trojan band jackets. [Laughter] Now I've got this football jacket, making me an honorary Bulldog.

You won't believe this, but when we were down in West Memphis, we had this meeting about how we

could train people in the Delta that don't have jobs to get some of these real good jobs in transportation. There are 80,000 jobs driving trucks and working in terminals, for example, vacant today.

So Secretary Slater was working on that, and he invited the man who runs the USA truckline from Fort Smith, but they train all their truck drivers here in West Memphis. So the guy's been my friend forever -- I mean, he's been my friend for 27 years and, coincidentally, runs this truckline, and he trains all his truckers here in West Memphis.

So right before I come up here to get this jacket and become an honorary Bulldog, he whips -- I said, "Have you got any pictures of your wife and daughter?" And he said, "Yes." He takes out this beautiful picture of his wife and his 12-year-old daughter, and they've got a bulldog there. I said, "What's that bulldog's name?" And he smiled, and he said, "Clinton." [Laughter]

So I'm going to have a picture taken in this jacket and send it to him, and he'll have two bulldogs in the house. [Laughter] And we both respond in the same way. It will be great.

Finally, let me say a word about your superintendent. He has been a friend of mine a long time. I have known him probably since before most of the students here were alive. I have eaten his good food in his former life. [Laughter] I have met with his students. I have listened to year after year after year after year of fresh, vigorous ideas and passionate commitment, believing that the children of the Delta were as smart as any kids on Earth and had a right to the best education on Earth and become anything else they wanted to be on Earth.

I've had him sidle up to me with that sort of soft voice -- [laughter] -- you know, the way he kind of does his head like this, you know -- [laughter] -- I know him, man. I know him. I've been there. "Now, Governor, we just need a little money for this little thing here." [Laughter] "Now, you know how you love these kids. You don't want to let them get behind here."

What are you laughing about, Leon? You do the same thing. [Laughter]

So anyway, I was thrilled when he came here. You know, our tenures pretty well coincide. He came here not long after I became President. And I wasn't surprised when you approved that big bond issue, because this guy believes in your kids. He spent a lifetime -- a lifetime that happened to coincide with this dramatic change in the economic and social organization of the Mississippi Delta. He spent a lifetime trying to lift up our kids, and I say thank you, my friend, I appreciate that.

Now, I rode over here with my good friend Ness Sechrest from West Memphis today, and we were thinking about all the trips we've taken to Earle. This sort of was an automatic stop for me. Whenever I'd get in a deep funk, I'd come to Earle and get to feel better -- [laughter] -- when I was Governor. And I miss so much -- I want to say this before I leave Crittenden County -- my man who was always my county coordinator here, Ron Owens, passed away in the last year, and I miss him terribly, and I wish he were making this trip with me today because I loved him like a brother.

But one time we came up here in 1982, and I was trying to get reelected Governor. And we went to the Church of God in Christ, Representative Jones' church. And at the time, Bishop Walker came with me, and at the time, Ron and Carrie Paige were passing the church there, back over there -- and I see Finus Jones -- thank you for coming, Finus. Bless you.

So first, the choir got to singing, and Carrie got to singing. And then the bishop called my opponent "Old Hoghead" on statewide television. [Laughter] And I said to myself, "I'm either in or out after this. I don't know whether I am in or out, but something is going to happen now." There you are. Thank you, Bishop Walker. Thank you.

In the bishop's defense, he only said that after the man I was running against said that African-Americans in Arkansas would vote for a duck if it was on our ticket. So it was a reaction, not an action. And God forgave him for his harshness. And so did the voters, I might add.

Anyway, I've been back to that church many times, and I've been back to this town many times, and I never come here without feeling renewed, because there's so much courage and hope and spirit. And today what I would like to say to you is this: First, thank you. Thank you for all the years we worked together, all the roads we've walked together, all the times you gave me a chance to serve.

I think that because of the times we went through, I was better prepared to deal with America as I found it in January of 1993 -- high unemployment, social decline, political division, discredited government. And now, thanks in no small measure to what I learned working with you, we've got the lowest unemployment and welfare rolls in 30 years and the lowest poverty rates in 20 years. We've got 20 million jobs and the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years. We are on our way to taking this country out of debt in 15 years for the first time since 1835. And along the way, we have immunized 90 percent of our children against serious diseases for the first time, and over 7 million young people have already taken advantage of the HOPE scholarship tax cut to go on to college. I think it's been a good 7 years for our country.

And underneath that, we see the beginnings of equality starting to emerge. Nationwide, we have the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rates ever recorded. We have the lowest female unemployment rate in 40 years. We have the lowest crime rate in 25 years.

This is all good news. But I came here today to ask the people of Arkansas, the people of the Delta, and the people of America one more time, what are we going to do with this prosperity? And one thing that I say over and over again is, countries are like -- no different from people and families and schools and football teams and businesses. It's easy to concentrate when you're in trouble and your back's against the wall.

The great British essayist Samuel Johnson said, "Nothing so concentrates a man's mind as the prospect of his own destruction." But when things are rocking along pretty good, people lose their concentration. And I've been saying to America, look, we've never had a time in our history when the economy was this strong and the society was coming together, and we don't have an internal crisis or an external threat. This is responsibility time. This is a time to look at those big questions that will affect the future of these children here, to take care of the retirement of the baby boomers now, to give all these kids a good education now, to bring economic opportunity to places like the Delta that haven't been part of this prosperity.

Now, if we can't do this now, we will never get around to doing this. Now is the time to be responsible and think about the long-term welfare of our country. And as I said, earlier today I talked about the economic issues, the thing I was going to try to do for east Arkansas, the entire Delta. And I want to give credit again where credit is due. I have been relentlessly pursued to do more and more and more by your Senator and your Congressman. Now, I get lobbied by 435 Members of the House and 100 Senators. Believe it or not, even the Republicans ask me for things from time to time.

[Laughter] There is nobody any better or any more passionate than Senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln and Representative Marion Berry, and you ought to know that. They have taken care of you.

Today I want to talk just a little more about education and what we're trying to do and what we need to try to do to help you reach your full potential. In the last session of Congress, we got funds to double the amount of after-school programs that we have in our schools. That's really important for children everywhere.

I don't believe that we should promote people who don't learn, but I don't think we should punish people that the Senate -- if the system fails them. We need to give the kids extra help, extra help. And the schools that can't afford it ought to have the resources they need to give that kind of extra help, so everybody can learn.

I think it is important -- [applause] -- thank you -- I think it is important that we hook up all of our classrooms to the Internet. First, all our schools, then all our classrooms. When Vice President Gore and I said in 1994 we want to wire all of our schools, including the poorest schools in America, and we're going to get the private sector to help us, and then we're going to make sure we train the teachers because, otherwise, the kids will know more about the computers than the teachers. And

then, we're going to make sure that the poor schools can afford it.

And we passed something called the Telecommunications Act. For the first time in 60 years, we revised our communications laws, and the part of that we said we'll have this E-rate, which will give a discount to schools. Now, here, you connected the computers that you got from our technology literacy challenge grant to the Internet with the help of \$ 100,000 in discounts for the E-rate. That's what it meant to Earle -- \$ 100,000 in discounts so you could afford to be on the Internet just like the wealthiest school districts in the United States of America.

In the budget I signed last month there will be another \$ 60 million in educational investments coming to the Delta, including \$ 7 million to hire 200 more teachers for smaller classes in the early grades, which I think is very important.

Now, to give you an idea -- I'm kind of proud of this, but when we said -- when Al Gore and I started working on this, only 3 percent of the total classrooms in America and 14 percent of the total schools had any Internet hookup. Now, over 50 percent of the classrooms and over 80 percent of the schools in America in just 5 years are hooked up to the Internet and can afford to be, thanks to this E-rate. So you're a part of the future. And I want to thank you for that.

Now, what I'd like to do now is to announce a generous new initiative coming not from the Government but from MCI WorldCom Foundation, to give the teachers at Earle High School and across the Delta region unprecedented access to the kind of world-class educational materials that in the past only the wealthiest school districts could afford. In cooperation with National Geographic and Mr. Ferris' National Endowment for the Humanities, the Foundation -- the MCI WorldCom Foundation -- has developed a wonderful website called MarcoPolo.

It contains lesson plans and resource materials on everything from history to math to art. These lesson plans for teachers have been developed by some of our finest teachers and academics. And now they're available absolutely free over the Internet, thanks to MCI.

Now, to take advantage -- who is here from MCI? Stand up. Everybody from MCI, stand up. Thank you. Give them a hand. [Applause]

Now, so that the teachers can utilize the website, the MarcoPolo foundation will train, free of charge, as many as 4,500 district curriculum specialists throughout the seven-State, Mississippi Delta region. They will then train 100,000-plus teachers on how to use the website.

A teacher in Earle, for example, will learn to go to the website, click on humanities, and be guided to a series of lesson plans on, say, the life of Socrates, developed by the experts at the National Endowment for the Humanities. The lesson plan then links to sites containing Plato's writing on Socrates -- commentary by leading scholars. Then, it would provide questions teachers can ask students, such as imagining whether Socrates would have chosen to die for his ideas if Martin Luther King had been in a jail cell with him. It's a very interesting question. I think the answer to that is, probably. The site then links Dr. King's letter from the Birmingham jail, where King praises Socrates for being, and I quote, "A tension in the mind, so that an individual could rise from the bondage of myths and half-truths." Now, just imagine helping high school students explore the idea of civil disobedience from Socrates to Martin Luther King over a period of 2,500 years, and being able to do it in every single school, no matter how rural, no matter how poor, no matter how distant, anywhere in the United States of America because of the generosity of MCI and this program. We thank them again.

The idea is that you've got to train the teachers, because it is going to be more and more possible every day for every school in America to offer lessons like these, things that would have been undreamed just a couple years ago simply because of technology, if all the teachers can access it and make the most of it and get the students involved in it. The second thing I want to say is we're going to hold two conferences to help rural communities gain access to all the Federal programs that exist today but that are too hard for many small rural towns with part-time mayors and small staffs to keep up with.

On March 9, next year, in Jonesboro, the Department of Education -- thank you, Secretary Riley -- will host a conference to help law enforcement officers and rural educators learn how to apply for school safety and drug prevention grants to develop safer schools. Then the Department will host a conference in Helena to help rural colleges obtain grants and assistance from Federal agencies so that nobody will ever be denied access to college or a good college education because of where they live or what their income is. These things are very, very important.

Now, let me just say this in closing. We can do all this, but the students have to do the most. You've got to believe that just because you live in a part of the country that had a tough time in the last 15 years when the whole economy changed and the world dumped upside down, you've still got to believe that you're just as smart as anybody anywhere. I believe that, and you've got to believe that.

But you also have to believe what that great genius Sigmund Freud said. He said, "Genius is 90 percent effort." Or, you know, I can't remember which great athlete said, "You know, a lot of athletics is luck, and it's amazing; the harder I practice, the luckier I get."

So the students here have to be committed to this. We can give you the tools of the 21st century; we can give you a chance to dramatically leapfrog the economic as well as the educational prospects that might have otherwise been here for you; but you've still got to show up for work every day. You've got to suit up as students the way you suit up in athletics or in band or anything else. You've got to suit up.

Now, it's more fun with the computers; it's more exciting with these modern programs. But I'm telling you, the future of this country, not just the future of this community and this county and this part of our State, the future of this country is riding on whether all of our children, without regard to their race or their background, can make the most of their God-given abilities. And to do it, you've got to be willing to work; and to be willing to work, you've got to believe. Nobody will pay a price for a goal that he or she believes cannot be obtained anyway.

And the thing that I liked the best about this whole day was Jimmi saying when she got to introduce me and shake hands with me and she thought about me meeting President Kennedy, she realized she could do anything. That's true for the rest of you, so go out and do it.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:40 p.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, the President referred to student Jimmi Lampley, who introduced the President, and Ricky Nicks, principal, Earle Senior High School; J. B. Crumpley, superintendent, Earle School District; Leon Phillips, superintendent, Lake View School District; State Representative Steve Jones; Lt. Gov. Winthrop P. Rockefeller of Arkansas; Raymond J. Simon, director, Arkansas Department of Education; Mayor Sherman Smith of Earle; Crittenden County Judge Brian Williams; Robert M. Powell, president and chief executive officer, USA Truck, Inc.; N. S. (Ness) Sechrest, long time friend of the President; Bishop L. T. Walker, Church of God in Christ; and Ron Paige, former minister, Little Rock Church of God in Christ, and his wife, Carrie. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

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31 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 17

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : [Presidential Documents](#)Terms: [headline \(school\)](#) and [date geq \(04/19/1990\)](#) ([Edit Search](#))*Public Papers of the Presidents*

Public Papers of the Presidents

January 4, 1995

CITE: 31 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 17**LENGTH:** 1672 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at the Dedication of William J. Clinton Elementary Magnet **School** in Sherwood**BODY:**

Thank you very much. First of all, I want to thank Mario. He gave a pretty good speech, didn't he? I mean -- [applause] -- give him a hand. He looked fine. He spoke with confidence and strength. And he was brief.

He's going to win a lot more elections if he keeps doing that. [Laughter] Jackye Parker, thank you for making Hillary and me and all of us feel so welcome today. Reddie Ray, thank you for your leadership on the school board and for your comments. To my old friend Bobby Lester, thank you for your heartfelt remarks and for your lifetime of devotion to the children of our State. To the teachers and the parents, the district officials, all of you who are here; to the mayors of Little Rock and North Little Rock, of Jacksonville and Sherwood; to the county officials, I'd like to say a special word of welcome and thanks for their attendance. To Governor and Mrs. Tucker, thank you for being here and for your leadership of our State. I thank my dear stepfather, Dick Kelley, for coming here today. I am glad to have him and the Clinton connection here. And I thank my pastor, Reverend Rex Horn, for coming. Thank you for being here, and many others I probably should introduce.

I just was in the media center named for Hillary, and we met with a representative group of students who asked us questions -- everything from whether Socks really sleeps in the White House to how I handle criticism. So if I forgot to introduce someone, we'll see how I handle criticism when this is over. [Laughter]

This is a wonderful way for us to start the new year. I've had a great stay at home, and this is a great way for me to leave Arkansas to go back to begin work with the new Congress and facing our new future.

You know, I was apprehensive when I heard that you were going to name this school after me. Most people don't have a school named after them until they're not around anymore. [Laughter] And here I am, apparently healthy and able to enjoy it and very, very happy about it and proud of it. I'm proud of it because so much of my work as Governor of this State and so much of my work as President of our country is tied to education and to the absolute necessity for all of our people to be able to learn and learn and learn.

I thank you for making this dedication a family affair, for naming the multipurpose room for my mother, and especially for naming the library and media center for Hillary, because, as Mr. Lester especially knows, she worked very, very hard to take all the districts in our county here out of court and put them back in the business of teaching our children and to help create these magnet schools

which could be a magnet for the imagination and the potential of all the children of this area without regard to their race or their background or their family circumstances.

I thank you for your mission, which is a real picture of America's future, core knowledge, technology with a special emphasis on communications. If you think about it, we all need more core knowledge in a society where success is based on what you know and not just how hard you work. We all need to master technology because our society is changing so fast. When these children are our age, they will be dealing with things in technology that we cannot even imagine now.

And we all need to learn how to communicate with one another better because, while we want to be independent, we know that we are dependent on one another for our common success. And unless we can understand each other and communicate our deepest feelings and values and convictions, we won't be successful.

You know, when I was a Governor here, I had a very clear sense that Arkansas needed to work on two things above all others. One is to create more jobs and to be more competitive in getting jobs into this State. The other was to provide for the education of our children and the training of our adults so that we could compete and win in this tough global economy. It took a long time to do it. I am very proud of the work that Governor Tucker and the others at our State level and all the folks at the local are still doing in that regard.

The day before yesterday I heard something that was music to my ears when one of the Governor's economic development officers told me that the toughest problem they're facing now in recruiting new industry is trying to convince people from other States and other countries that there really will be enough people here to fill those new jobs, because we have the lowest unemployment rate we've had in nearly 20 years. That is a wonderful, wonderful circumstance.

And I want every one of you to know, as I'm sure you do, that that didn't happen overnight. The credit goes to thousands, indeed tens of thousands of people, who worked for years and years and years to turn our State around economically and to build our State up educationally.

If you think about where America is today, poised on the 21st century, that is what we need to be doing in the United States. And we need to understand that just as our State couldn't turn all of its challenges around overnight, neither can the United States. But unless we begin and unless we stick at the task and unless we refuse to be diverted, to be jerked from one end of the spectrum to the other, and keep our eye on the future, we cannot succeed.

These children deserve a future that is worthy of the work being done by the teachers, the parents in this school. That's what they deserve, and we've got to give it to them.

I have worked hard for 2 years to try to clean up some of the problems I found when I became President. We have taken now \$ 11,000 in debt off of the family -- every family in Arkansas by reducing the deficit -- \$ 11,000 off of these children's future. We have expanded the ability of Americans to sell our goods and services to other countries, more than ever before. And we now have more than 5 million new jobs in our country.

But we know that a lot of folks are still struggling with the same problems we dealt with here for so many years: how to get and keep a good job, how to provide health care and education and other necessities for their families, how to make sure their children have a good education. And so, as I leave to go back to Washington, I'm going back to challenge the Congress to do what is necessary to guarantee the future of the next generation of Americans, and this present -- of this generation of Americans as we move into the 21st century. I want them to adopt what I call a middle class bill of rights, to keep the American dream alive by promoting education and strengthening family. And I hope the Congress will adapt and accept that challenge.

You know, anybody can come up and say, "I want to give you a tax cut," and make people happy in the short run. What I want to do is reduce taxes for people to invest in the education of their children and their own training and skills, so we can go forward and grow this economy.

So I say to all of you -- I got a question from one of the students today that I want every grownup here to think about as we think about what we want for our country. One of the students asked me when we were in the other room meeting, he said, "How did you not give up on your dreams of being President?" So I ask all of you, first of all, do you have a dream, and second, how are you going to not give up on it, just like the young student asked me?

My dream for our country is that when we go into this next century we will still be the strongest country in the world, leading the world toward peace and freedom and democracy and prosperity. My dream for America is that the American dream will still be alive, the middle-class dream that if you work hard and obey the law you can make the most of yourself, you can do anything you want to do.

When I was born in this State right after World War II, and nearly everybody in Arkansas was very poor, mothers and fathers were giving their children that dream. And we ought to give it to this generation of children.

So I say to all of you, let's take the lessons of the children. Let's pay attention when people are talking to us. Let's listen to all sides of the argument. Let's be good citizens and discuss the great challenges facing our country. Let's discount all the politics of personal destruction and enhance our ability to think about what is true, what is fair, and what is important. Let us take responsibility for the future of this country and commit ourselves to economic opportunity and to education, and to doing that in a way that strengthens the American community, so that we come together instead of being more and more divided.

To the students, I say, this is a beautiful building. I am honored that my name is on it. I am honored that a room is named for my mother and that a room is named for my wife, who worked so hard for your education. But the really important thing about the building is you. It's what you do here every day. I want you to learn and learn and learn.

I want you to say no to the bad things that will face you. Say no to violence and no to drugs and no to people who want to take your future away from you.

But more importantly, I want you to say yes: Yes, I have a dream for what I can be; yes, I'm going to live out my dream; yes, I'm going to do everything I can in this school to learn and to grow, to be a good person, to have a great life. That's what education is all about. I want you to be good people and have great lives. Then, having my name on this school will be the greatest honor any person could ever have.

Good luck. God bless you, and thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:44 a.m. in the cafeteria. In his remarks, he referred to Mario Hood, president of the student council; Jackye Parker, principal; Reddie Ray, president of the board of education; and Bobby Lester, superintendent of schools.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 2, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THE DEDICATION CEREMONY OF
THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

West Potomac Park

Washington, D.C.

10:50 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Senator Inouye, Senator Hatfield; Your Highness; my longtime friend, David Roosevelt, and the members of the Roosevelt family; Mr. Vice President; to all those who have worked to make this day a reality. Let me begin by saying to Senator Inouye and Senator Hatfield, the United States proudly accepts the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. (Applause.)

Fittingly, this is the first occasion of its kind in more than 50 years. The last time the American people gathered near here was in 1943 when President Franklin Roosevelt dedicated the memorial to Thomas Jefferson.

Today we honor the greatest President of this great American century. As has been said, FDR actually wanted no memorial. For years, none seemed necessary -- for two reasons: First, the America he built was a memorial all around us. From the Golden Gate Bridge to the Grand Coulee Dam; from Social Security to honest financial markets; from an America that has remained the world's indispensable nation to our shared conviction that all Americans must make our journey together, Roosevelt was all around us.

Second, though many of us never lived under his leadership, many who did are still around, and we have all heard about him from our parents or grandparents -- some of us, as we pass WPA or CCC projects along country roads; some of us as we looked at the old radios that our parents and grandparents kept and heard stories about the Fireside Chats and how the people felt. Today he is still very real to millions upon millions of Americans, inspiring us, urging us on. But the world turns and memories fade. And now, more than a half-century after he left us, it is right that we go a little beyond his stated wishes and dedicate this memorial as a tribute to Franklin Roosevelt, to Eleanor, and to the remarkable triumphs of their generation. (Applause.)

President Roosevelt said, "We have faith that future generations will know that here, in the middle of the 20th century, there came a time when men of goodwill found a way to unite and produce and fight to destroy the forces of ignorance and intolerance and slavery and war." This memorial will be the embodiment of FDR's faith, for it will ensure that all future generations will know. It will ensure that they will all see the "happy warrior" keeping America's rendezvous with destiny.

As we stand at the dawn of a bright new century, this memorial will encourage us, reminding us that whenever America acts with

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certainty of purpose and FDR's famous flexibility of mind; we have always been more than equal to whatever challenges we face.

Winston Churchill said that President Roosevelt's life was "one of the commanding events in human history." He came from privilege, but he understood the aspirations of farmers and factory workers and forgotten Americans. He electrified the farms and hollows, but even more important, he electrified the nation, instilling confidence with every tilt of his head and boom of his laugh. His was an open, American spirit with a fine sense for the possible and a keen appreciation of the art of leadership. He was a master politician and a magnificent Commander-in-Chief.

And his partner was also magnificent. Eleanor Roosevelt was his eyes and his ears, going places he could not go to see things he would never see to come back and tell him how things actually were. And her reports were formed as words in his speeches that touched little people all across America who could not imagine that the President of the United States knew how they lived and cared about them. She was his conscience and our nation's conscience. (Applause.)

Franklin Roosevelt's mission was to change America to preserve its ancient virtues in the face of new and unprecedented challenges. That is, after all, America's mission in all times of change and difficulty. The depth and sweep of it was unprecedented when FDR asked a shaken nation to put its confidence in him. But he had no doubt of the outcome.

Listen to what he said in September of 1932, shortly before he was elected for the first time. He proclaimed his faith: "Faith in America, faith in our tradition of personal responsibility, faith in our institutions, faith in ourselves demanded we recognize the new terms of an old social contract. New conditions imposed new requirements upon government and upon those who conduct government." That was his faith. He lived it, and we are here as a result.

With that faith, he forged a strong and unapologetic government, determined to tame the savage cycles of boom and bust, able to meet the national challenges too big for families and individuals to meet on their own. And when he restored dignity to old age, when he helped millions to keep their farms or own their homes, when he provided the simple opportunity to go to work in the morning to millions, he was proving that the American Dream was not a distant glimmer, but something every American could grasp. And then that faith of his infused all of his countrymen.

With that faith he inspired millions of ordinary Americans to take responsibility for one another -- doing their part, in his words, through the National Recovery Administration, reclaiming nature through the Civilian Conservation Corps, gathering scrap, giving up nylons, and eventually storming the beaches at Normandy and Okinawa and Anzio.

With that faith, he committed our nation to lead the world, first as the arsenal of democracy, and then at the head of the great crusade to free the world from tyranny. Before the war began, beyond, the four freedoms set the foundation for the future and made it clear to the whole world that America's goal was not domination, but a dominion of freedom in a world at peace.

With that faith as the war neared an end he would never see, he traced the very architecture of our future, from the G.I. Bill to the United Nations. Faith in the extraordinary potential of ordinary people sparked not only our victory over war, depression and doubt, but it began the opening of doors and the raising of sights for the dispossessed in America that has continued down to the present day. It was that faith in

his own extraordinary potential that enabled him to guide his country from a wheelchair. And from that wheelchair and a few halting steps, leaning on his son's arms or those of trusted aides, he lifted a great people back to their feet and set America to march again toward its destiny.

He said over and over again in different ways that we had only to fear fear itself. We did not have to be afraid of pain or adversity or failure, for all those could be overcome. He knew that, of course, because that is exactly what he did. And with his faith and the power of his example, we did conquer them all -- depression, war and doubt.

Now, we see that faith again alive in America. We are grateful beyond measure for our own unprecedented prosperity. But we must remember the source of that faith. And again, let me say to Senator Inouye and others, by showing President Roosevelt as he was we show the world that we have faith that in America you are measured for what you are and what you have achieved, not for what you have lost. And we encourage all who face their difficulties and overcome them not to give into fear, but to believe in their possibilities. (Applause.)

And now again we need the faith of Franklin Roosevelt, in an entirely different time, but still no ordinary time, for in this time new livelihoods demand new skills. We have to fight against the enormous, destructive influences that still grip the lives of too many of our young people. We must struggle to make our rich racial, ethnic, and religious diversity a source of strength and unity when such differences are the undoing of millions and millions around the world. And we must fight against that nagging old doubt:

It is a strange irony of our time that here, at the moment of our greatest prosperity and progress in so many years -- in 1932, one in four Americans was out of work; this morning we learned that fewer than one in 20 Americans are out of work, for the first time in more than two decades. (Applause.) And at this time, when the pinnacle that Roosevelt hoped America would achieve in our influence and power has come to pass, we still, strangely, fight battles with doubts -- doubts that he would treat with great impatience and disdain; doubts that lead some urge us to pull back from the world at the very first time since Roosevelt's time when we actually can realize his vision of world peace and world prosperity and the dominance of the ideals for which he gave his life.

Let us honor his vision not only with this memorial today, but by acting in the way he would tell us to act if he were standing here, giving this speech, on his braces, looking at us and smiling at us and telling us we know what we have to do. We are Americans. We must have faith. We must not be afraid. And we must lead. (Applause.)

The great legacy of Roosevelt is a vision and a challenge -- not a set of specific programs, but a set of commitments -- the duty we owe to ourselves, to one another, to our beloved nation, and increasingly, to our fellow travelers on this small planet.

Now we are surrounded by the monuments to the leaders who built our democracy -- Washington, who launched our great experiment and created our republic; Jefferson, who enshrined forever our creed that it is self-evident that we are all created equal, with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; Lincoln, who gave his life to preserve Mr. Washington's republic and to make real Mr. Jefferson's words. And now, Franklin Roosevelt, who saved freedom from tyranny, who restored our republic, who defined Mr. Jefferson's creed to include freedom from want and fear. Today, before the pantheon of our democracy, let us resolve to honor them all by shepherding their legacy into a new century, into a new millennium.

Our mission is to prepare America for the time to come, to write a new chapter of our history, inspired always by the greatest source of hope in our history. Thomas Jefferson wrote the words, but Franklin Roosevelt lived them out every day. Today I ask you to remember what he was writing at Warm Springs when he died, that last speech: "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward and active faith."

My fellow Americans, every time you think of Franklin Roosevelt put aside your doubts, become more American, become more like him, be infused with his strong and active faith.

God bless you. God bless America. And may God always bless the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. (Applause.)

END

11:06 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Ottawa, Canada)

For Immediate Release

October 8, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE NEW
UNITED STATES EMBASSY TO CANADA

United States Embassy
Ottawa, Canada

10:00 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, and good morning. Madame Governor General, I congratulate you on your -- you told me the proper word was, installation. I might have said elevation, coronation. (Laughter.) It's a wonderful thing for Canada, and for us as your friends.

Mr. Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet, distinguished justices of the Supreme Court, members of Parliament, Mr. Ambassador, members of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen: I would like to begin by thanking the Canadian and American military bands, and the four young men who sang our national anthems, equally well, I thought.

I also want to thank the Prime Minister for his words and the Prime Minister and Mrs. Chretien for their friendship to us.

You know, having said all these -- you're supposed to only say nice things at an event like this. But I really resent Jean Chretien. (Laughter.) He first came to Ottawa to represent the people of Canada when President Kennedy was in the White House and I was in high school. (Laughter.) Now I have more gray hair than he does. (Laughter.) And he's not even term-limited. (Laughter and applause.)

Your wonderful Ambassador to our country, Raymond Chretien, once joked that the Prime Minister is -- I quote -- "the only leader in the G-7" -- that includes me; therefore, it's a put-down -- "the only leader in the G-7 who could still slalom on water skis with one of his grandchildren on his shoulders." (Laughter.) It is true that even if I had grandchildren, I could not do that. (Laughter.)

Well, Prime Minister, that's not the only way in which you carry the children of this country on your shoulders. And I thank you for being my friend and partner.

I also want to say a special word of appreciation to the men and women who serve in our embassy here, both American and Canadian citizens; and to my good friend, Ambassador Giffin, who gave me an unusually generous introduction, confirming Clinton's Fourth Law of Politics: whenever possible, be introduced by someone you have appointed to high office. (Laughter and applause.)

You know, Gordon's had an unusual life. He grew up in Canada, then moved to Georgia, where he became one of the few people in the South who had ever stood on frozen water. (Laughter.) For years, Atlanta had no hockey team; no one there could even skate. Now they have a hockey team. The NHL announced it was awarding a new team there as soon as he came here. (Laughter.) Instead of divided loyalties, he is for both

the Senators and the Atlanta Thrashers.

We even have two minor league hockey teams in my hometown of Little Rock, now, if you can believe that. The whole American South has gone hockey-mad. And since we're all dealing with global warming, it's becoming increasingly difficult to pursue the sport. (Laughter.)

I just had the honor of touring this new building. It was nice of the Ambassador to mention that the words of four of our Presidents are on this wall -- President Kennedy's very memorable description of our relationship, and wonderful quotes by Presidents Eisenhower and Reagan. And this is the first time I've ever had anything I've said carved in stone. I've had one or two speeches sink like a stone over the years. (Laughter.) I've had several audiences sit like a stone. (Laughter.) I'm glad to be carved in stone.

As was said earlier, I'm not the first member of my family to visit here, nor is this my first visit here. Hillary was here just last week and, among other things, had the opportunity to dedicate the new sculpture out front of the embassy. And I want to thank the renowned artist, Joel Shapiro, for honoring both our countries with such a beautiful piece of his work.

Past / Present anecdote
I have now been here five times. John says I must learn to speak French, so let me say, "Je suis chez moi au Canada." (Applause.) He also says if I come one more time I have to start paying taxes. (Laughter.) I think that's more important than the French to him -- I don't know. (Laughter.)

More than a decade ago I came to Canada with Hillary, our young daughter and my mother-in-law. We celebrated the new year. We had a few wonderful days in Montreal. We drove to Chateau Montebello. In 1990, Hillary and Chelsea and I had a wonderful vacation in the summer in Victoria and Vancouver. And six years ago this month, something that means a great deal to me, my mother, just two months before her death, took one of her last trips to Ottawa, where she spoke to the Ontario Cancer Society.

She, typically, gave a new wrinkle to American relations when she turned down a visit to the Parliament or the Supreme Court so that she could visit something called "Elvis Lives Lane." (Laughter.) My mother was always a great fan of Elvis Presley. She's convinced that he's going to appear at one of my speeches on day. (Laughter.)

Today we add another chapter to the remarkable history of the friendship of our people. It is true, I believe, that in the 223-year history of our country, the President has never left the United States to dedicate an embassy. If that tradition were ever to be abandoned, it would have to be here in Canada. In a world where too many regions are torn by conflicts, and too many nations torn by hatred among people of different racial, ethnic and religious groups, our two nations, the harmony we seek to promote within and the friendship we seek to promote between us, have shown the world a better way and given ourselves a great responsibility for the new millennium.

If we took the border we share and stretched it across Europe, it would reach the combined distance from Lisbon to Moscow, Belfast to Tehran. Across lands scarred by warfare for many centuries. Yet our border has been undefended for 180 years now. It's hard to believe the Rideau Canal, which passes a few blocks from here, originally was built after the War of 1812 to protect Canada from the United States. It's a sign of how far we've come that today the canal isn't a barrier, but the largest outdoor skating rink in the world.

The United States and Canada have benefitted from sharing our

continent. We, in particular, have learned from you -- a parliamentary democracy with two official languages, many distinct cultures, an inspiring commitment to social justice and solidarity. Our culture is richer, much richer, for the writings of Robertson Davies, the photographs of Yousuf Karsh, the magnificent music of Oscar Peterson -- and for those of us who are country music fans, we were thrilled when Shania Twain was named the "Country Music Star of the Year."

And last week, of course, when number 99 was raised to the rafters in Edmonton, most people both sides of our border agreed that Wayne Gretzky is the finest hockey player ever to be seen.

Our two nations have a wonderful tradition of standing together in moments of difficulty and need. During last year's terrible ice storm, I was proud to hear that line crews from Vermont helped restore power to some small towns in Canada. And we in the United States will always be grateful for the way in which the people of Nova Scotia responded to the tragic crash of Swiss Air flight 111.

All of you know well that we share the world's largest trading relationship, with more than a billion dollars a day passing over the border. Our NAFTA partnership, together with Mexico, has resulted in a 100-percent increase in trade within North America in just five years; and the creations of millions of new jobs in both our countries. I know Canada is looking forward to hosting the third Summit of the Americas in Quebec City in early 2001, to talk about ways to strengthen trade within our hemisphere.

We also share a responsibility to help to spread the benefits of freedom and democracy beyond our borders. That's what my quote on the wall is all about inside. It is fitting that the first American Embassy in Ottawa -- the first American Embassy in Ottawa -- was opened the same week that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington.

For in this century, young Americans and young Canadians have fought side by side again and again to turn back tyranny and defend democracy. Together, we stood against mass killing and ethnic hatred in Bosnia, in Kosovo and East Timor. Together, we have worked to build peace and democracy from the Balkans to Haiti. We have stood against aggression in the Persian Gulf. And together we must continue to work for the day when all the world can look to us and see how much stronger the bonds between nations can be when freedom and human rights and the diversity of human beings are all respected; how much richer society can be when we work to build each other up in our common humanity, rather than to acquire political advantage by putting each other down.

It is no surprise that the word "multicultural" actually comes from Canada. For two centuries you have shown the world how people of different cultures can live and work together in peace, prosperity and mutual respect -- in a country where human differences are democratically expressed, not forcefully repressed.

Earlier this year, we in the United States were pleased to see Canada's rich tradition of democracy deepen with the creation of the new territory of Nunavut. We are proud to be your partners and allies. And we deeply value our relationship with a strong, united, democratic Canada.

Of course, as any two nations as complicated as ours are, we have our differences, and we don't always see eye to eye. It's kind of interesting to watch Jean Chretien and me get in an argument. It's kind of like getting in an argument with your brother, you know? You have to do it every now and then just to keep in practice. (Laughter.)

When we do have our differences, we try to approach them in good faith, and directly, as true friends must. And we have shown that when we work together, on nearly every issue we can reach agreement.

I know that there's still one big issue out there that the Canadians are really pretty tense about. But I simply do not have the legal authority to order Doug Flutie to return to Canada. (Laughter.)

Let me say to all of you, in closing, as we move into this new world of the 21st century; as we contemplate whether our children and grandchildren live to be 100 years or more because of the decoding of the human gene; as we imagine whether poor people across the world, from Africa to Latin America to Asia, will be able to skip 50 years of economic development because of the availability of the Internet and the cell phone and the rapid transfer of knowledge; as we imagine all the glories of modern technology in the modern world -- it is well to remember that for all this race to tomorrow in technology, the deepest problem the world faces today is the most primitive problem of human nature -- the fear of the other, people who are different from us.

What have we done, Jean and I, since we've been in our respective positions around the world? We tried to stop people from killing each other in Bosnia and Kosovo because of religious and ethnic differences. I spent an enormous amount of time trying to help the people in the land of my forbears in Northern Ireland get over 600 years of religious fights. And every time they make an agreement to do it, they're like a couple of drunks walking out of the bar for the last time -- when they get to the swinging door they turn around and go back in and say, I just can't quite get there.

It's hard to give up these things. Look at the Middle East -- for all of our progress, it is so hard for them because of millennial differences. Why were all those people slaughtered in Rwanda?

When we have differences here in our homes, in our neighborhoods in Canada and the United States, it is well to remember that the effort we are making to remind our own citizens that our common humanity is always more important than the things which divide us -- they make life more interesting, our differences -- but we must constantly reaffirm that.

Canada and the United States I think have a special responsibility to the new millennium. It would be tragic if all the dreams that we share for our children and our grandchildren's future, if all the potential of the modern world, were to still keep crashing on the rocks of mankind's oldest failing.

Let us show the world we don't need to be afraid of people who are different from us. We can respect them. We can differ honestly. But always -- always -- we must reaffirm our common humanity. That, to me, is the true story of our long friendship, which this magnificent building embodies.

And now, it is with great pride and privilege that I declare this embassy officially open, in service to the people of the United States and in friendship to our greatest neighbor and ally, the people of Canada. May God bless the people of Canada and the United States of America. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

10:20 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT,
FORMER PRESS SECRETARY JAMES BRADY,
MRS. SARAH BRADY,
AND PRESS SECRETARY JOE LOCKHART
AT DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR
THE JAMES S. BRADY PRESS BRIEFING ROOM

The James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

10:40 A.M. EST

MR. LOCKHART: Good morning, everyone. It's a bigger crowd than normal.

Let me first welcome some guests here today, quite distinguished, some former White House Press Secretaries -- Mike McCurry, Larry Speakes, Jerry terHorst, Pierre Salinger. I'd also like to welcome a very special person I think is sitting in the back, Connie Gerard, who worked in the White House Press Office for 25 years. (Applause.) My three years may have felt like 25 years; I can't imagine what it would really be like to go through that -- (laughter) -- but it's something we should honor.

I think, as my colleagues, former Press Secretaries, can attest to, every time you walk up into this room and to the podium, you do it with some fear and some apprehension -- some days with a lot of fear and a lot of apprehension. But I can honestly say today that this is different. It's different because we have someone with us and someone who we're honoring, in the words of Shakespeare, who is "a gentleman of brave mettle."

Two months ago, I was asked in an interview, around the time of the millennium, to say who my hero was. And I thought about it, and I thought of all the great people in America who had done wonderful things, but that I wasn't particularly connected to. And then it hit me that there was someone who had sat in the very office that I was sitting in who fit that.

I think Jim Brady was certainly a role model, thanks to his professionalism, good humor, and everything else he brought to the office. But I think he was much more than a symbol of what it means to be a press secretary or a public servant; he was a powerful symbol of what is best in all of us, the great strength of the human spirit.

The heroism of James Brady derives not from what happened to him, but what he has caused to happen to others. For Jim, adversity was a forge out of which emerged a heroic strength of character and kindness, for which we as a nation all benefit from. We who were witnesses to what Jim endured soon became beneficiaries of what Jim inspired.

It's our hope that today's event will be received and remembered in the same spirit in which it was conceived -- as an act of love and respect for someone who honored this room with his generous soul, and who continues to honor our country with his wit, wisdom, and

selfless determination to better our lives and the lives of our children.

And when the going gets tough here, in now what will be called the James Brady Briefing Room -- which I know it will from time to time -- I hope that people on both sides of this podium will take some inspiration from the man whose name will grace this place.

Now it's my honor to introduce someone who, from the moment he stepped into this building seven years ago, found a powerful partner in Jim Brady; a partner who could help counter the heavy odds that faced him in the great struggle that they both went through together; a partner who helped change the balance, tipped the scales in a direction for more sensible laws to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, out of the hands of kids, and out of harm's way. It's my honor to introduce Jim Brady's partner and Sarah Brady's partner, the President of the United States. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: It's the first time Joe Lockhart's ever introduced me, I think. (Laughter.)

MR. LOCKHART: Probably the last.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought the last phrase was going to be, "and the man who makes my job somewhere between impossible and miserable every day." (Laughter.)

Well, ladies and gentlemen, this is a happy day for all of us, and, I believe, for people throughout the United States. I want to welcome Jim and Sarah, and their son, Scott. I want to welcome Mike and Larry and Jerald and Pierre here, the former White House Press Secretaries. I also want to remember, as I know Jim and Sarah would want me to, Jim's Press Office assistant Sally McElroy, who passed away last summer. Her husband, Robert Evans, is here, and we welcome him.

Today we honor a man whose courage, purpose and humor make him a standout Press Secretary and an outstanding human being. Jim Brady, after all, was the man who convinced the White House Press Corps to abandon decades of tradition and actually raise their hands when they wanted to ask a question. (Laughter.) Jim Brady was the man who changed press conferences forever, one day in the 1970s, when he invited journalists to see a bipartisan group of senators cutting the budget -- with hedge trimmers. Jim Brady was the man who, when members of Congress proposed to give themselves a \$50-a-day tax deduction, responded with a press release that was one word long: Stupid. (Laughter.)

Jim Brady is living proof that you can't kill courage; that it takes more than a cheap handgun to destroy a strong spirit. As he himself once said, "no one can shoot away your sense of humor."

Jim Brady was the man who changed press conferences forever for me on this issue. And I want to thank him and Sarah from the bottom of my heart.

Every time I saw him in the early days of my presidency, and even before, when the Brady Bill was being debated, I realized that his ready smile and sense of humor had to overcome despair that none of us can fully understand, and pain that none of us has ever really experienced. I realized that he could have chosen to live his life out in private regret, but instead he chose a public embrace.

He could have been remembered, no matter what he did, as a good Press Secretary, a committed campaigner, a world-class chili cook. But he instead chose the connection to other human beings, and an eye to

the future. Even when he was still in the hospital and had doubts about his own future, he reached out to his fellow patients, to give them reasons to keep going. And for more than 15 years, now, he has traveled our nation on behalf of the National Head Injury Foundation and other groups, with a simple message: persevere, never give up.

Jim and Sarah have known uncommon perseverance, and they have demonstrated to us what really counts in life. They have built a bipartisan coalition in this country to strengthen our nation's gun laws, to make our children and our future safer. Against tremendous odds, they fought for seven years to pass the Brady Bill. It was my great honor to sign it into law in 1993. In 1994, we passed the Assault Weapons Ban. We then made it illegal for a young person to buy or receive a handgun.

And what has happened? We have seen gun crime fall by more than a third. We have seen the Brady Bill keep guns out of the hands of nearly a half-million felons, fugitives and stalkers. We cannot know how many people are alive and fully strong and healthy today because of the labors of Jim and Sarah Brady.

Sometimes in Washington, it's easy to cover the politics and not the policy. And sometimes it's even more interesting, I'm sure, for all of you to cover the politics and not the policy. But when you see Jim and Sarah -- for many of you not just colleagues, but friends -- you know that what we do here really does make a difference, and they have made a difference.

As we have been painfully reminded here in Washington these past few days, guns still are claiming the lives of too many of our children. There is more work to do, and Jim and Sarah are ready to do it. They have called for extending Brady background checks to sales at gun shows; for mandating child safety locks to be sold with every handgun; for banning the most violent juvenile offenders from ever owning handguns; for ending the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips; and for ensuring that all handgun owners have a state license, showing they've passed a background check and know how to handle a gun safely.

It is truly fitting that this room will be named for Jim Brady, for working here requires tenacity and perseverance, and above all a sense of humor. Joe and I also thought about enacting another one of Jim's ideas that he and President Reagan advocated -- hinging the floor to give deserving reporters immediate, involuntary access to the swimming pool below. (Laughter.) But as much as I admire Jim Brady, I decided that I shouldn't do that. Even though I'm not running for anything, I still need a little bit of press pander from time to time.

Today, we give name to a room. But Jim and Sarah Brady have already given far more to their national crusade. I want to finish my remarks by quoting a higher authority -- Helen Thomas. (Laughter.) A few years ago, Helen said these words to Jim Brady's biographer: "He's like a great tree standing by the river. He's a role model, and that's what life is all about. He realizes life is to be lived, that we should give our all, that we're lucky to be alive."

Jim and Sarah, may we all continue to draw inspiration from your strength and spirit here in the James Brady Briefing Room and all around our nation.

Now, I want to unveil this plaque and read it to you.

(The plaque is unveiled.)

It says, "This room is named in honor of James S. Brady, White

House Press Secretary from January 23, 1981 until January 20, 1989. Mr. Brady served his nation with honor and distinction, strengthening the bond between government and press. May his courage and dedication continue to inspire all who work in this room and beyond."

Congratulations, Jim Brady. (Applause.)

MR. BRADY: Thank you, Mr. President.

Joe, we Press Secretaries don't hear that very often. I wanted to thank you, Mr. President, for this great honor. It's good to be back. When I cut the ribbon for this new room 18 years ago, it was my first visit since the shooting, and I said, I miss you -- well, actually, I also said, I miss some of you. (Laughter.) Today, I still miss some of you. (Laughter.)

Helen, I do miss your tapping on my window every morning. I'm sure you still have no shame. (Laughter.)

This is a real honor. I especially want to share it with my fellow Press Secretaries, for only those who have served in this position know what a tough job it is to serve two masters -- the President of the free world, and you, the White House press corps. It makes being between a rock and a hard place seem like heaven. (Laughter.)

I know this room is built over the old swimming pool. Joe, you must know I always planned to put a trap door so that when President Clinton --

MRS. BRADY: Nooo. (Laughter.)

MR. BRADY: -- or Sam got out of line, I only had to push a button and, splash. (Laughter.) That might be an improvement you can implement this year.

Seriously, I am deeply touched by this honor. Although I actually came before you lions for a little over two months, they were the best two months of my career.

Mr. President, you have been wonderful to my family and to me in so many ways. In fact, you even gave me this tie I'm wearing today. (Laughter.) President Clinton, you and your administration have helped make this country safer through your support for the Brady law and the 1994 crime bill and your persistence in pursuing common-sense laws and strategies to reduce gun violence.

I had hoped to see my friend and old neighbor, Vice President Al Gore, who has always been there for us, as well. He has been out front with you on this important fight. It was a great moment last May when Vice President Gore cast the tie-breaking vote in the Senate to close the gun show loophole. Both Sarah and I are deeply grateful for the leadership you, Mr. President, and Vice President Gore have provided.

This new honor, while deeply personal, I hope will remind all of us who work in this room in the future about the importance of continuing your commitment to public safety.

Thank you. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Great day.

MRS. BRADY: This is Jim's day, and we're very proud of him. I do want to thank -- reiterate what Jim said in thanking

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Highfill, Arkansas)

For Immediate Release

November 6, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT OPENING CEREMONIES OF
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL AIRPORT

Highfill, Arkansas

3:05 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much, Secretary Slater, for your support of this project and your terrific work. Thank you, Administrator Garvey, Senator Hutchinson, Congressman Hutchinson, Senator-elect Blanche Lambert-Lincoln. Now, up here in Northwest Arkansas, from my point of view she's got the best of all worlds. She's a Democrat with a Republican last name. (Laughter.) I want you to get to know her, you'll like her a lot.

Congressman Dickey, Congressman Hammerschmidt. Mr. Green, thank you for your marvelous work here. Mr. Bowler, thank you for bringing American Eagle here. I want to thank the Springdale Band and the Fayetteville Choir. I thought they both did a superb job. (Laughter.)

You know -- I've got all these notes, but I don't really want to use them today. I was flying home today, and I have to begin by bringing you greetings from two people who were with me this morning who, for different reasons, wanted to come and couldn't -- one is the First Lady, Hillary, who wanted me to tell her friends in Northwest Arkansas hello and to say she wished she could be here. (Applause.) And the other is Senator Bumpers, who has a sinus condition and was told by his doctor not to get on the airplane, although I told him I thought it was a pretty nice plane I was trying to bring him down here in -- (laughter) -- and that we were trying to demonstrate that Northwest Arkansas had a world-class airport. But he asked to be remembered to you.

I want to thank my good friend, former Chief of Staff and our Envoy to Latin America, Mack McLarty, for being here. And all of you all out here -- I've been looking out in this crowd at so many people I've known for 25 years, many more -- I've been sort of reliving the last 25 years. I think I should begin by saying that in every project like this, there are always a lot of people who work on it. Rodney mentioned that many years ago, Senator Fulbright, who was my mentor, had the idea of there ought to be an airport here. I know how long Congressman Hammerschmidt has worked on this. This project started in the planning stage under the Bush administration, and we completed it. We had bipartisan support and as Senator Hutchinson said, invoking our friend, Senator McCain, we had bipartisan opposition to it as well. (Laughter.)

And I have found that there is in any project like

this a certain squeaky wheel factor; there are people that just bother you so much that even if you didn't want to do it, you'd go on and do it anyway. And I would like to pay a certain special tribute to the people who were particular squeaky wheels to me -- starting with Alice Walton, who wore me out. (Laughter and applause.) Uvalde and Carol Lindsey, who guilt-peddled me about every campaign they'd ever worked for me in. (Applause.) And Dale Bumpers, who made me re-live every favor he'd ever done for me for 20 years. (Laughter.) Now, there were others as well, but I want to especially thank them.

I want to say to all of you, I'm delighted to see Helen Walton here and members of the Walton family. I, too, wish Sam were here to see this day. I thank J.B. Hunt, who talked to me about this airport. George Billingsly once said, you remember, I gave you the first contribution you ever got in Benton County, now build that airport. (Laughter.) I have a lot of stories about this airport. I want you to understand how high public policy is made in Washington. (Laughter.) And we're all laughing about this, but the truth is, this is a good thing and it needed to be done.

You know, when I was a boy growing up in Arkansas -- Tim talked about how we were all raised to believe you could build a wall around Arkansas -- we thought in the beginning, for a long time that roads would be our salvation. Forty-two years ago President Eisenhower signed the Federal Aid Highway Act into law, a bill sponsored by the Vice President's father, Albert Gore, Sr., in the United States Senate. And it did a lot of good for America and a lot of good for Arkansas -- and a lot of trucking companies in this state did a lot of good with it, and a lot of poultry companies, like Tyson's and others, made the most of those roads.

And then we began to see that air traffic was important as well. And Secretary Slater talked a lot about that. And I got tickled when Senator Hutchinson was talking about transporting apples from Hiwassee by railroad in the '20s. I thought to myself, I wonder if I'm the first President who has ever known how to get to Hiwassee? (Laughter.)

But I got to thinking about that and how now we move from interstates to highways, and the people -- all these people I mentioned today -- Senator Hutchinson, Senator Bumpers, Senator Pryor, certainly Congressman Hammerschmidt and Congressman Hutchinson now, and Secretary Slater, and before him, Secretary Pena, and all the people in Northwest Arkansas and their supporters -- understand today if you can't fly you can't compete. But if you can fly, you can soar to new heights. Today in a sentence, at long last Northwest Arkansas can fly. (Applause.)

And this means a lot to me. When I was landing here, I called all my Secret Service detail leaders together and I said, I want you guys to look out the window. This is where I started my political career. I've been on every one of these roads. And we were sitting here, Congressman Hammerschmidt reached over and he said, "You know, your career, the career that led you to the presidency, really started 24 years ago last Tuesday." What he didn't say was, comma, "when I beat you like a drum up here -- (laughter.)"

But I learned a lot in that race, and ever since, driving into all the little towns and hamlets in this area. Then as governor, flying in and out of Northwest Arkansas and all the

**makes personal connection to his reason for being at the event*

**likes to answer why there is a "need" for the place/thing*

airports that were up here. I have known for a long time that this could bring opportunity and empowerment, access to markets, a boom to tourism --all of this will happen. And what I'd like to ask all of you to think about is to think of this airport -- and it's not just going from here to Chicago, but from here to tomorrow. I am glad to tell you that the FAA will release today a \$5-million letter of intent for continued development of this airport. (Applause.)

I'm glad to say that we have not abandoned our bipartisan commitment -- we Arkansans -- to other kinds of transportation. When the Congress passed with the vote of every member of Congress here present, and I signed the Transportation Equity Act this year, it will mean \$100 million more a year over the next six years to the state of Arkansas alone. And it, too, will do a lot of good to take us to the future. (Applause.)

We are committed also to modernizing the air traffic system. Our air traffic control system, with the new investments we're making in aviation service and infrastructure, will now be able to better handle the -- listen to this -- the 50-percent increase in global air travel we expect in just the next seven years.

Our policy has helped our airlines and aerospace industries return to profitability. Now we're finalizing new means to promote more competition and lower fares at home. We've signed more than 60 agreements to expand air service with other nations, opening skies above as we open markets below.

We're also trying to do more to make sure those skies are safe and secure. Under the Vice President's leadership, with the joint efforts of the FAA and NASA and the airline industry, we're working to convert our air traffic control system to satellite technology, to change the way we inspect older aircraft and, most important over the long run, to combat terrorism with new equipment, new agents, new methods.

In the world of the future we'll need great airports, we'll need wonderful airplanes, we'll need well-trained -- well-trained pilots and people to maintain those airplanes. Our prosperity more and more will depend upon keeping the world's skies safe, secure and open.

I've got to mention one other personal thing. I saw Lt. Governor Rockefeller here, and he probably has to hide it around election time, but when we were younger men we studied in Oxford, England together -- when people typically took a boat. Now, people our age then look at me when I tell them I took six days to get from here to England and they think I need my head examined. We are moving around very fast now.

And the last thing I'd like to ask you to think about is where we are going and how we're going to get there. We'll have better roads, we'll have better airports, we'll have safer air travel. But to me -- as I have seen all the people before me speak, the people that really did the work -- all I had to do as President was to make sure my Budget Office didn't kill these requests and to make sure everybody I knew, knew that I was personally supportive of this. But the members of Congress and the others here present, the citizens, they did all the work.

And all of you who worked on this -- I saw the leaders stand up when their names were called -- to me, this symbolizes America at its best; people working on a common

objective, across party lines, putting people first, thinking about the future. It's a symbol of what I have tried to do in the six years I have been in Washington. And I learned most of what I know driving around on these back roads.

And I just want to tell all of you that I thank you for the role that you have played in helping to bring this country to the point where we not only have a surplus for the first time in 29 years, but the lowest percentage of people on welfare in 29 years, the lowest unemployment in 28 years, the lowest crime rate in 25 years, the highest home ownership in history, with the smallest government in Washington since the last time John Glenn orbited the Earth. And I am proud of that. (Applause.)

And what I ask you to think about is that we are --all of us -- living in a smaller and smaller world, where our independence and our own power depends upon our constructive interdependence with our friends and neighbors beyond our borders --the borders of our region, our state, our nation. If we're going to build a pathway to the future, we have to build it with air travel, we have to build it with the Internet, we have to build it with modern medical and scientific research, and we have to build it by giving every child -- without regard to income, race, region, or background -- a world-class education.

We have to build it by recognizing that -- all the differences that exist in this increasingly diverse country. I know there are churches here in Northwest Arkansas that now have services in Spanish on Sunday, which would have been unthinkable 24 years ago, when I first started traipsing around on these roads. All of that is a great blessing -- if we decide when we soar into the future, we're all going to take the flight together.

You built this airport together. Take it into the future together. Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

3:15 P.M. CST

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

made
McCarthy
822-8182

Nancy + Bob
are on the trip

212-759-7919

* Chief of Staff
how much
mature, sound judgment

* Sunny / pos. mindset
But also realist
Small town values
Altimer (?) E. Ark.

* WWII gen — Navy pilot [pub service]
mm sp. to Hope C of C

* Nat'l Advisory Bd. '80s
PB formed w/ 1st commercial bank
distinguished Ark. — look beyond borders +
Gov + Fc — worried them to the future

* PB fiercely supported him in defeat
