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Questions for Hillary Rodham Clinton

- Many Americans think your interest in politics is a dramatic new development, though First Ladies have been active political partners and advisors since Abigail Adams. Were you aware of that history when you came to Washington? If so, did you draw on history for guidance? Would you describe your relationship with Bill Clinton as a professional/political partnership as well as a personal relationship?
- How did your interest in children's rights and health care develop? What things have you been able to do as First Lady that have moved your causes along?
- You were well known for campaigning on a bus. Did you think of earlier whistle stop style campaigns when you were planning it? How did the idea come about? Where did you go? Can you tell us about a typical day? Could you tell us a little bit about the miniature bus and Clinton/Gore '92 T-shirt in the exhibition?
- When you arrived at the White House, you decided to hire a new chef and to highlight American, rather than Continental, cuisine. What has the reaction been?
- What has been the public response to your sponsorship and showcasing of the outstanding American crafts displayed first in the White House, and now on display at the National Museum of American Art? How did you choose this genre? What has the reaction been to the juxtaposition of the contemporary crafts with the very traditional first floor of the White House?
- How did you choose your Inaugural gown? Tell us about your favorite moment from that evening. What was the most exciting?

Questions for Hillary Rodham Clinton

- If you were to write a job description for the First Lady, what would it say? Would you describe your relationship with Bill Clinton as a professional/political partnership as well as a personal relationship?
- Many Americans think your interest in politics is a dramatic new development, though First Ladies have been active political partners and advisors since Abigail Adams. Were you aware of that history when you came to Washington? If so, did you draw on history for guidance?
- How did your interest in children's rights and health care develop? Was being First Lady a help or hindrance in your efforts at health-care reform? In what way? What things have you been able to do as First Lady that have moved your causes along?
- You were well known for campaigning on a bus. Did you think of earlier whistle stop style campaigns when you were planning it? How did the idea come about? Where did you go? Can you tell us about a typical day? Could you tell us a little bit about the miniature bus and Clinton/Gore '92 T-shirt in the exhibition?
- Where do you have intimate family dinners? Do you ever get to cook together? Tell us about informal entertaining that you have done with friends and family at the White House?
- When you arrived at the White House, you decided to hire a new chef and to highlight American, rather than Continental, cuisine. What has the reaction been?
- What has been the public response to your sponsorship and showcasing of the outstanding American crafts displayed first in the White House, and now on display at the National Museum of American Art? How did you choose this genre? What has the reaction been to the juxtaposition of the contemporary crafts with the very traditional first floor of the White House?
- Why do you think you have been so viciously attacked by the religious right in this country? Do you think it is your particular political philosophy that evokes this response, or would it happen to any strong First Lady because of the fear of power in the hands of women? How do you handle this?

- How did you choose your Inaugural gown?
- What would you like to achieve in your remaining time as First Lady?
- What is a typical day like in the White House?

Burlington Iowa

42nd president

TALKING POINTS/OUTLINE FOR SMITHSONIAN AUDIO INTERVIEW

The Interview format is similar to that of the Living White House. Below is an outline of the subject matters that Nancy Raff from Interactives will follow. After meeting with her we feel assured that she will stick to the format. She is mainly looking for anecdotes and colorful stories. Keep in mind several things:

1. This is an audio interview so adjectives and your inflection will be very important.
2. You can stop the interview at anytime to rephrase an answer or to collect your thoughts. (Marvin Krislov has established first review by our office of the tape prior to release.)
3. And as always- please feel free to go off the outline.

I. POLITICAL PARTNER:

Q. Mrs. Clinton's role as First Lady -

Interest in politics as compared to prior First Ladies:
Draw on history for guidance:

Description of relationship with the President -
personal and political partner?

A 1. Read biographies of former First ladies and other books, so was familiar with the history. Examples of the roles each woman played in their husband's administration.

- Mrs. Truman editing President Truman's Speeches
- Mrs. Roosevelt helping her husband after he was afflicted with polio.

Each woman who has been in this position has brought her own talents and gifts to the role and has had to figure out what was for her the best way to serve her country, help her husband and family.

Draw on the example of these women as a resource. Have conversations with Eleanor Roosevelt sometimes.

2. Our marriage is a **friendship and a partnership**. I try to do what I can to help my husband do what he thinks is right for the country. Also a unique opportunity to work on causes that I care about and have worked on for over 25 years, (children and families).

Long Ford story

Summer
Chick
in a park
13 yrs.

Adopted
as a
college
student
- kids.

Project
1973 how many
kids not in
school at
ODP

homeless
woman living
in bathroom
of the bus

- * Also view role as being supportive as I can of the President because there isn't a more difficult or lonely job in the world. We spend a lot of time together, talking about matters that are on his mind and then also just having fun playing cards or whatever. We really value the time we get to spend together as a family.
- * In some ways being here is like living over the store. Since the Oval office is not far from here, the President can come home for lunch, Chelsea can wander over in the afternoon when she gets home from school, and we actually eat dinner together more often than we used to.
- * Anecdote - Chelsea being sick, Chelsea's bunking parties, movie night with the family

II. ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL CAUSES

Q. Development of interest in children's rights and healthcare.

Strides made as First Lady to move causes along.

A 1. Interest developed as a young girl. My mother was always very socially conscious, also my minister, Don Jones, encouraged me to be involved. At Wellesley and Yale continued to develop....

****THEY WANT TO HIT ON THIS BIG TIME - TO KNOW THAT YOUR CAUSES HAVE DEVELOPED FROM THE EARLIEST PART OF YOUR LIFE - NOT AS PORTRAYED - THROUGH THE REVOLUTION OF THE 60'S AND THE MEDIA.

* Then when we moved to Arkansas - Children's Hospital, HIPPY, ARK Advocates for Youth and Families.

* It's a unique opportunity to bring attention to these issues that I have worked on for over 25 years. I have also been able to learn more and to help get the word out. For example:

health care reform, which taught me about how the medicare benefit that pays for regular mammogram screenings is terribly underutilized by women who are eligible for this benefit. Led me to work with HHS Secretary Donna Shalala to launch mammography awareness campaign.

* As First Lady the advances made with children's issues: Elie Wiesel conference feed, Conferences on Children and Violence, PBS event, hosted Summit on Children of the Americas, book.

* MAY BE AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO SET FORTH THE RECORD - YOU ARE AN ADVOCATE FOR HEALTHCARE FOR ALL- WILL CONTINUE TO BE - THIS WAS NOT A PERIOD IN YOUR LIFE BUT A CONTINUING PURSUIT

***** Beijing a continuing voice for women and children

Touching others and being touched by others
in South America, South Asia, New York,
Detroit

Uniting women around the globe.

THIS ANSWER IS YOURS TO GO WITH!

"Women's rights are human rights..."

III. POLITICAL CAMPAIGNER

Q. Campaigning on the Bus _ (NOTE: They have the model bus of the President's on loan at the Smithsonian with a bus T-shirt from Texas).

General Answer:

Bus trips were very special.

Enjoyed meeting all the people.

Great opportunity to see the country.

The spontaneity of it all was the best.

My husband would literally hang out the door of the bus and wave to the people who had gathered on the side of the road.

OR If he saw a sign or a group that he just couldn't drive by, he would yell, "STOP THE BUS!" And everyone would pile off - no matter what the weather was or time of the day or night.

Specific Answer:

PLANNING THE BUS TRIPS:

DE-EMPHASIZE THIS AREA. (They think that the campaign thought the bus idea up from prior campaign stunts - not an original thought.)

It was great fun to plan the bus trips - decisions were made as a group various stops all over the country. Yet - tried to restrict the trips to certain geographic region so that we could meet as many people as we were able.

Typical Day:

5 AM rise and moving - Board the bus
Possibly do an interview with a morning show or local newspaper.
Grab a bagel and coffee or stop at a diner for breakfast and spend time with the people there.

Then get back on the bus and we'd drive along,
before the next event - we might have stopped 4 or 5 times to meet various groups along the road.
Sometimes they would line the streets in lounge chairs and picnic lunches just waiting for the bus to pass by.
We would Hear STOP THE BUS!

Each town that we stopped at would provide an entirely new experience - a candlelight vigil in Vidalia, Illinois; a potluck dinner at steel workers' union hall in Coatsville, PA; an electricity plant visit in Camden, New Jersey.

We would keep going until well into the wee hours of the morning. Sleep a couple of hours and start all over again.

Exciting road stories:

During the Iowa bus trip, we were in ~~Des Moines~~ and it had been raining quite hard. There was just an enormous crowd - off in the distance was a group of young men who held high a sign that said, "Hillary is a Babe!" Well, my husband just had to meet these guys.

Urbana, Ohio - we expected to meet 500 people from the town at a farmhouse. When we arrived almost 10,000 people from around the country were there to meet the buses.

Or when we were driving through Youngstown, Ohio an entire wedding party came out to meet the bus caravan just after exchanging vows.

Hung on overpasses were huge signs wishing the bus travelers well. We went to carnivals, block parties, personal homes, town meetings and we invited folks to get on board and travel to the next town. The whole experience was infectious and seemed to grow with each stop we made.

THE MINIATURE BUS AND T-SHIRT:

The t-shirt was from our trip through Texas - I believe I received it while shaking hand with people for about 2 miles through the town of Corsicana. I was also given rose colored texas shaped sunglasses and a stetson. We had cherry cokes at their diner.

The miniature bus

A gift from a bus fan during the North Carolina bus tour.

IV. SOCIAL HOSTESS:

Q. Mrs. Clinton's entertaining style and showcase of Sculpture/ American crafts:

- * general entertaining style "The best of America"
- * hired a new chef who highlights American cuisine - reaction to this?
- * Sculpture garden development
- * Showcase of American Crafts
- * Christmas at the White House

A 1. **Your entertaining style** - is one that attempts to highlight "the best of America, what does that mean?

- * The White House is the people's house, when people visit here, whether it's on a tour, or for an official event they should see and experience the very best of what America has to offer.
- * So we've tried to showcase America to those who visit. Through the places of dinner and entertainment, the menus, the Sculpture Exhibit in the First Ladies' Garden, the White House Craft Collection and Christmas.

VARIOUS USES OF THE HOUSE:

We've tried to do a lot of different, new things when entertaining guests - while keeping with the traditions of this great house.

For example, the first State dinner honoring the

Dinner **Emperor and Empress of Japan**, we had the ~~entertainment portion~~ ^{mainly in state}, usually in the East Room, ^{Dining Room} in the Rose Garden. It was a wonderful evening.

and entertained in the ← The Marine Band strolling strings played along the driveway and there were white twinkily lights in the bushes, it was just magical.

Or for the State Dinner honoring **Nelson Mandela**, we had dinner in the East Room, to experiment with different uses of the house.

We have also had movie and dinner nights - with dinner in the booksellers area -we enjoyed transforming the area into an outside garden.

We have extended dinners outside to the Truman balcony. or after dinner drinks on the blue room balcony.

MENUS:

Chef Scheib, Ann Stock and myself work to develop menus that are lower in fat, and that draw on regional cuisines that reflect the diversity in American cooking.

ENTERTAINERS:

We've also had just a stunning variety of America's most wonderful and talented artists, Kathleen Battle, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Whitney Houston, Itzak Perlman and Tony Bennett.

We have also have re-instated the PBS series, "In Performance at the White House", which has featured people like Aretha Franklin, Herbie Hancock, Dixie Carter, Kathy Mattea.

THE SCULPTURE GARDEN

The President and I have always loved sculpture, in fact, our first date was to the Yale Art museum to see a sculpture exhibit.

I thought it would be wonderful if we could have a sculpture exhibit at the White House to show off the talents of American sculptors.

Working with the other members of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, the Association of Art Museum Directors, and the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation, we were able to open the first exhibit of 20th Century American Sculpture to the White House in the fall of '94

Featured 12 pieces from Midwestern art museums.

The second exhibit was installed in the Spring of '95, featuring 12 pieces from southeastern art collection.

The third exhibit was installed earlier this month from southwestern museums.

CHRISTMAS:

Each holiday season is given a theme and each year we have invited different groups from around the country to contribute to theme with certain decorations.

For example, our first christmas, we asked **quilting societies** from each state and territory to make a section representing their state that would be used for the tree skirt.

We also have each of the **Blue Ribbon Schools** make an ornament and then we use these ornaments on a special children's tree in the East Colonnade.

Also, **tole painters, craft artists and design schools** from around the country have contributed ornaments for the tree. And the result is just magical.

Sometimes during christmas the President and Chelsea and I sneak down to the Blue Room to look at the tree, it's really wonderful.

THE CRAFT COLLECTION

The Craft Collection again allows us to **DISPLAY** the best of America.

Response to WH display was so overwhelmingly positive and that I wanted to make it possible for the greatest number of people to see the collection and I wanted to ensure that at any point in the future the collection could be loaned to a museum and be well preserved.

We decided to make the exhibit available to be loaned to any museum in the country. It was on display at the Smithsonian Museum's National Museum of American Art from April 28, 1995- September 4, 1995. The exhibit will open in New York in early December. From there it will go to Springfield, MA and Los Angeles, CA.

Background:

1993 was the "Year of the American Craft: A celebration of the Creative Work of the hand, **"to encourage broad based appreciation of crafts.**

We invited crafts artists from around the country to donate pieces in one of **five medium, glass, wood, clay, fiber and metal.**

The **72 pieces in this remarkable collection** illustrate skill, imagination, and vitality characteristic of American crafts in the 1990's.

The collection **celebrates the inventiveness and creative spirit** of American crafts people and represents the richness and diversity of our country's longstanding craft heritage.

The craft collection beautifully **complimented the historic rooms of the WH.** The pieces were on display throughout the public and private rooms of the WH before becoming the permanent collection.

V. THE INAUGURAL GOWN

Q The choosing of the Inaugural gown.
Highlights from the Inaugural evening

A 1. Process:

Immediately after the election designers flooded the Governor's mansion with sketches. It was exciting to look through the sketches that were sent in from all over, we spread them out on a long table and would glance over the various ideas. Most were quite interesting.

A friend highly recommended Sarah Phillips who was a new and innovative young American woman designer. She then sent in a sketch of a lovely ~~sapphire~~ blue beaded, lace gown. ~~purple~~ → violet

I then met with the Ms. Phillips and the beadier, Barbara Matera in Little Rock. She brought with her a muslim mock up and it was wonderful. My mother also happened to be in town that weekend - it was almost like prom night - We were all giggling and just getting so excited, it gave me goosebumps.

I was so proud to learn that 50 women and men each requested to somehow be a part of the gown - even if it meant sewing one bead on the bodice.

2. The evening:

Any anecdotes from the evening???

Can lead into the night with stories of the entire week.

The stop at Monticello
The bus ride into town
Diana Ross and the Gala
The Various dinners
Blair House

The night:
Danced all night .
The President played the saxophone
Various entertainers sang and danced at the balls

Woke again early the next morning for an open house -
thousands of people flooded through

OTHER ITEMS ON DISPLAY AT THE SMITHSONIAN

1. Ballet Point Shoes:

Chelsea's ballet shoes - ballet has been apart of Chelsea's and our lives for 12 years .

The President and I love watching her dance.

~~A favorite of our family's is the Nutcracker. Chelsea danced the in the Nutcracker in these toe shoes.~~

It was so special two christmases ago, going to see her dance in the Nutcracker with the Washington Ballet School. It was the last Christmas that my mother-in-law was with us, and it just meant so much for us all to be there together.

2. The President's watch

It is a Timex Ironman watch.

He has always liked a simple watch that he could use to run with. He really enjoys the time he spends running, not just for the exercise, but because it is an opportunity to get out and see people in an informal setting.

He wanted to give something of his that would say something about him. Most of the items displayed in the cabinet are of a very personal nature to each president...you learn a bit more about them.