

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. remarks	re: personal (1 page)	03/21/1996	b(6)
002. memo	From: Laura Schwartz re: POTUS videos tomorrow [partial] (1 page)	03/20/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Elizabeth Drye
OA/Box Number: 10449

FOLDER TITLE:

NREC [National Rural Electric Cooperative] Video

2014-0046-S

rc1453

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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IM/WH

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

KR

Elizabeth -

I realized I
hadn't given you
a final draft -

Gabrielle

286 -

Kusom

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS
UAW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONFERENCE
TAPED ON: 3/21/96 FOR USE ON: 4/1/96

Thank you President Yokich. I am sorry that I could not join you in person, but I am happy to have the opportunity to speak to you about the issues you and I care about so very deeply.

The UAW's collective bargaining convention is one of labor's great democratic institutions, and I salute you for it. Collective bargaining built the middle class and brought higher wages and better working conditions to generations of Americans. And because so many U.S. workers depend on a robust auto industry, all Americans benefit from your dedication to making the collective bargaining process work for your members and their families.

I also want to thank you and the leadership of your great union for all you are doing to improve the lives of your members and of working men and women all across this country. For over half a century the UAW has been at the forefront of economic and social progress for our nation. From civil rights to Medicare to the minimum wage, the UAW has always been there, fighting for America's working men and women, for the elderly, and the disadvantaged.

A little more than three years ago we began a journey together -- a journey to restore for America's working families the sense of economic security and well-being that was being lost. We called our agenda "putting people first" -- something the labor movement has always done.

We wanted to put government back on the side of ordinary Americans. In this era of momentous economic change, we wanted to ensure that the American Dream of opportunity would continue to be available to all who are willing to work for it.

We have sought to make government reflect the values for which working people have struggled over the course of this century -- values that your movement continues to represent at the dawn of a new century. Opportunity. Responsibility. Fair treatment on the job. The chance to make a decent living, support your families and build your communities.

You sent me to Washington to generate jobs, increase incomes, shrink the underclass and grow the middle class. We have made a good start.

In the past three years, 8.4 million new jobs have been created. Unemployment has stayed below 6% for more than 17 months. We've managed to keep inflation and interest rates low. And we've halted the long decline in median wages. But we have to do more. We must continue to focus on the concerns working Americans have about their own economic security at a time when the country is undergoing an economic transformation every bit as momentous as the exodus from farms to factories a century ago.

All of you know as well as anyone that we have a lot more to do to make sure America keeps working for, and not against, working families. That's why I fought for passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act. That's why we expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit and gave a tax cut to 14 million working families with incomes under \$28,000. That's why I support an increase in the minimum wage.

That's why I'm fighting to make sure that if you lose or change your job, or if someone gets sick, you won't lose your health insurance. I'm working to make sure you can keep your pension, even if you change jobs. That's why I am fighting for a new GI Bill for workers, so if you do lose your job, you get a voucher to pay for a training program to give you a new skill.

Right after I took office, I got rid of my predecessor's anti-worker, anti-union executive orders. Last spring, I signed an Executive Order which said, in no uncertain terms, that we won't allow companies that do business with the government to permanently replace striking workers. And I have directed the Justice Department to take all appropriate steps to overturn a recent court decision blocking that Executive Order.

My administration is pro-family, pro-worker, and pro-union. Unfortunately, for the past year you and I have been fighting a defensive battle in Congress. But we have more than held our own.

Thanks to the grass-roots efforts of the UAW and others, we have managed to stall or defeat practically every major attack on America's working families and on the unions that represent them.

I will veto any effort to weaken Section 8(a)2 of the National Labor Relations Act. And I'm fighting to preserve working people's hard-earned wage protections. The Davis-Bacon Act and the Service Contract Act are the foundations for decent living standards for many, many Americans. Some want to take them away, but I believe our country can't afford to support policies which increase the inequality that has grown so much over the years, and threaten the standard of living you have fought so hard to maintain.

Some people in Congress have decided that worker safety and health are fringe benefits that our people don't need. They introduced legislation that would effectively take away an employer's duty to provide a safe work place, and cut OSHA's budget in half. American workers shouldn't have to put their health and safety in jeopardy just to feed their families. It is not right.

You and your families, and the millions and millions of working families like you -- you are the heart and soul of the American dream. We have to keep working together, not just to preserve what's been won, but to continue the fight for better jobs, stronger unions, higher wages, and more justice.

The 21st century can be the next American century. Our children and our grandchildren can enjoy more freedom and more opportunity than ever before -- if we do what is right.

If we stand up to those who would take this country backward -- if we stand up to those who would keep working people down -- we can expand hope and opportunity in this country and thereby rebuild America's faith in the future.

**REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
TO MARK THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING
MARCH 21, 1996**

Vice President Gore, Governor Keating, Mayor Norick and citizens of Oklahoma City...Hillary and I regret that we could not be with you in person today due to our travels to Japan and Moscow. We both want to again express our deepest sympathies to the families of the victims of the horrific bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building one year ago today. We will forever remember the 169 men, women and innocent children who were lost, simply for carrying on their daily business or serving the citizens of this great country. And we will forever honor the brave and caring citizens of Oklahoma City and the volunteers and rescue workers from all parts of this country who came together to help you in your hour of great need. Every American was touched by this tragedy and inspired by your courage.

Earlier today, by proclamation, I urged the country to observe a moment of silence to mark this somber anniversary. But this is not only a day of mourning -- it is a day of healing and new hope. During the Memorial Service last April the 23rd at the Oklahoma State Fair Arena, Rev. Billy Graham delivered a prayer that touched the hearts of all those who heard him. In it he said, "A tragedy like this could have torn this city apart, but instead it has united this city, and you have become a family." You also drew us closer together as an American family and you reminded us that when we pull together we are never defeated.. From the early rescue efforts to the scholarship funds for surviving children to the current outpouring of support that will allow families to travel to Denver for the trial, you have inspired thousands of citizens to love their neighbors as themselves.

We are now almost one full month into Spring. The tiny dogwood tree that Hillary and I planted on the South Lawn of the White House last year -- and the hundreds of trees that were planted across this country in memory of the children of the Oklahoma City bombing -- are now beginning to bloom. Let us all be inspired by nature's eternal cycle of rebirth to continue to rebuild our families, our communities, our spirits and our dreams. Let us never forget, as scripture teaches us: "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Thank you and God bless you all.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS
ARAB COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES
TAPED ON: 3/21/96 FOR USE ON: 3/30/96

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to speak to you as you celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services.

Congratulations -- you have much to be proud of. What began in 1971 as a small program to meet the needs of Arabic-speaking families has become a cornerstone of the Arab American community. Each day, tens of thousands of people are served by the 42 programs of ACCESS -- and each day, we are reminded of the contributions ethnic institutions make to our country. In the range of programs, from health clinics to cultural arts projects, employment training to immigration and legal services, your staff and volunteers have made a difference in the lives of those in need.

This century, as thousands of Arabs have immigrated to America, they have brought with them untold talent, industry, and cultural riches. Our nation has benefitted by your contributions in every profession and in every community.

I realize it has not always been an easy road -- many of you have too often been victims of prejudice and intolerance. But Americans of Arab descent defeat these prejudices by excelling in all areas of our nation's professional and civic life. I am committed to fighting intolerance of any kind, and I am proud to have many Arab Americans in my administration. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala and Vice President Gore's Domestic Policy Advisor, Greg Simon are among the many who bring their talent and energy to government service. And I am proud to have Senator George Mitchell as my Special Advisor on economic initiatives for Northern Ireland.

I know that facts often become distorted in the heated debate over what immigration means to our country. Too many people forget that American values have been shaped by our immigrant history, and our vigor as a diverse society will be an enormous strength for our country in the 21st century. I am deeply committed to the continuation of fair and generous levels of legal immigration that keep families and provide refuge when it is most needed.

Tonight's celebration is a clear tribute to what an immigrant community's spirit of ingenuity and compassion can accomplish.

I'd like to close this evening with the words of Gibran Kahlil Gibran [JI-bran ka-LEEL JI-bran] the beloved poet and artist whose American centennial you've just honored: "I believe that you have inherited from your forefathers an ancient dream, a song, a prophecy, which you can proudly lay as gift of gratitude upon the lap of America. . . I believe you can say to the founders of this great nation. . . I am deeply rooted here and I would be fruitful." I wish the ACCESS family many years of continued success. Mabruk [ma-BRUK] and God bless you.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS
NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
TAPED ON: 3/21/96 FOR USE ON:**

Greetings to my friends in the National Rural Electric Cooperative family. I value the long-time personal friendships that I have with many of you. I know from first-hand experience the role that you have played in making our rural communities stronger, more vibrant places to live and work.

Your efforts in communities across this country improve lives of 25 million rural Americans. When President Franklin Roosevelt gave our nation The Rural Electrification Act in 1935, he set in motion dramatic changes that created some 10,000 private/federal partnerships to electrify rural America. We know that this transformed the lives of millions of farm families, and enabled them to live out the American dream. As your cooperatives have grown and prospered you have provided the critical infrastructure that has made economic opportunity and job creation possible in rural communities. Today, access to quality education and health care for rural citizens is improving because of your efforts.

We are now in times of similar dramatic change. On February 8, I signed into law a landmark Telecommunications Act that will change the way we live, do business, and educate ourselves and our children. I am particularly pleased that it will guarantee the access of all rural Americans to high quality telecommunications services. We insisted that the legislation require that telecommunications services be provided at a discounted rate to every hospital, library, and classroom in this country, so rural America doesn't get left out. That will help us meet the challenge I presented in my State of the Union address to connect every classroom, library, and hospital to the Information Superhighway by the end of the decade.

To meet all the challenges of our era, we must increase our investment in rural development. That's why I have strongly supported the Fund for Rural America in the Farm Bill -- it will help reinvigorate our research and rural development efforts. I have also proposed an increase of two billion dollars for rural economic and community development in the 1997 budget I just sent to the Congress.

And in this changing environment, it will be important for you to keep me informed of your views of what is right for rural America. You should know that my 1997 budget requests funds for continued, normal operation of the power marketing authorities so they can continue to supply low cost power to your systems and other rural customers.

As your President, I pledge to you my continuing support for quality infrastructure programs in rural America. Our job is far from done. I thank you for your friendship and leadership over the years and call on your continued leadership in developing rural America into the 21st Century.

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED MESSAGE
HONORING JIM BLAIR
TAPED ON: 3/21/96 FOR USE ON: 4/13/96**

Hillary joins me in extending our greetings to all of our good friends who are attending the Chancellor's Society Dinner tonight, and especially to Jim and Diane Blair. We are truly sorry we couldn't be there in person to see Jim recognized for his years of work on behalf of the University of Arkansas.

The Chancellor's medal is an honor reserved for individuals who have shown outstanding contributions to the community, dedication to the University of Arkansas, and for noteworthy accomplishments in their profession -- I can't think of anyone that describes better than Jim Blair.

From his days here as an undergraduate and law student to the work he is currently doing, no one has done more, worked harder, or given more of themselves to the University of Arkansas than Jim. I am proud to say that in 1985, I appointed him to the Board of Trustees. His work on the Board, his efforts to bring a National Public Radio affiliate to campus and his private fundraising have had immeasurable impact on the University and the state.

Jim's dedication to the community, and his support for education make him the natural choice for the Chancellor's Award. Jim, thank you for making Arkansas a better place for all to live and to learn.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

25-Mar-1996 11:32am

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Elizabeth E. Drye
Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Farm Bill Signing Message Mtg.

We expect the Congress to pass the Farm Bill this week and the President to sign it early next week. As you know, there's good and bad news in the bill. DPC/USDA are pulling together a meeting Tuesday a.m. -- at 10:00 or 11:00 -- to have an initial discussion about the appropriate message for the bill signing. Please let me know if you or someone from your staff can attend at either of these times. Are there others we should bring in?

Rm
- (180) -
Distribution:

TO: Dorothy Robyn + *Dan Heath*
TO: T J Glauthier *Mord Weatherly*
TO: Bob J. Nash *Barbara Woolley* *Lucia Wynn*
TO: Marilyn Yager
TO: Michael Waldman
TO: Victoria L. Radd *Vicki Radd - Angela King*

- *Los Balderston* -

6-70

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

20-Mar-1996 10:05am

TO: Elizabeth E. Drye
FROM: Jeremy D. Benami
Domestic Policy Council
CC: Carol H. Rasco
SUBJECT: RE: Farm Bill signing / message

- Media Affairs
- Scheduling

I assume others from Ag would be involved? They would be key.

Also, I would include someone from Communications/Speechwriting - maybe ask Vicki Radd or Michael Waldman who should come.

Substantively, no others come to mind who would be helpful.

- TJ
- NEC - Daniel Heath
- Vicki Radd
- Michael Waldman / Gabrielle
- Public Liaison - Marilyn / Barbara Woolley
- Bob Nash
- Richard Rominger
- Charlie Rawls / Carl Stadler - drafts? Underscore

- Rose Gordon 170

Leg Affairs
Anne

10-11.

Tom ~~Benami~~
- Dand - political -

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

20-Mar-1996 10:53am

TO: Elizabeth E. Drye

FROM: Carol H. Rasco
 Domestic Policy Council

CC: Jeremy D. Benami

SUBJECT: RE: Farm Bill signing / message

Bob Nash should be involved, not because of his Personnel connection but his longstanding involvement in rural development and previous service at Ag. I think the brainstorming idea is a terrific one. I'll let you know if I think of anyone else.

Anna —

Paschle, Heinrich, Conrad, Dargatz —

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

14-Mar-1996 12:42pm

TO: Russell W. Horwitz
FROM: Julie E. Demeo
 Domestic Policy Council
CC: Elizabeth E. Drye
SUBJECT: RE: Clinton Accomplishments

Office of Chief of Staff

Elizabeth Drye on our staff (DPC's new chief of staff) will get you the updated Ag section by Friday. Her number is x65573.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Outline of Key Points

\$2 Billion ~~increase~~ increase in outly authority

- housing loans to individuals
- electrification and telecommunications loans ~~at~~
- water and waste disposal loans and grants
- community facility loans
- financial and other assistance to rural businesses.

History

- First Clinton budget (FY93) proposed to cut back subsidies to REC's
- Out of That - 1993 National Rural Electric Loan Restructuring Act
↓ loan subsidies

95' - \$61 million in loans ~ \$100 million including Admin expense
96' \$100 "

97 \$43 million in ~~loan~~ ~~with~~ subsidies -
actually an T in loan authority.

- 1996 - Propose sale of PMA's

Power Marketing Agencies (PMA's)

- Federally-owned power generators
- mostly hydroelectric power below cost
- Four
 - Bonneville Power Marketing Admin (NW)
 - Southeastern " " "
 - Southwestern " " "
 - Western Area " " "

(Alaska we are privatizing - 2 PMA's)

- 96 budget - Rivling Greg Simon, V.P. —
proposed to sell PMA's
to current customers —
largely REC's.
(right to power, transmission
lines, but not actual plants)

Reviewers - T.J.

Greg Simon

Bob Nash

USDA

Other OMB - Stephen Friedrichs

Gary Bennetum

PMA's (cont.)
- Reactions

Investor-owned utilities v. upset
public power companies / not happy w/ sale price
- ~~RECS~~ } some
- Public Utilities }
- Munis. }

Didn't go anywhere politically.

97 Budget - OMB made decision v. early not to
take this on again.



**Arkansas Electric
Cooperatives, Inc.**

P. O. Box 194208
Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-4208
(501) 570-2200

CL:Rascw

MAR 19 1996

March 15, 1996

**The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500-2000**

Dear Mr. President:

It is my understanding that Secretary Glickman of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has requested that you make a video tape for presentation to the 10,000 or so delegates of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in Houston the last week of March. I support very heartily his request and hope you can make the tape.

It is my information that Secretary Glickman has prepared a draft for you to consider for your remarks. I believe that draft contains no reference to the sale of power marketing agencies. If you can make a statement to the effect that you are not requesting that these be sold, you will make a big hit with this group.

I would suggest a statement along this line: In the 1997 fiscal year budget I am submitting to Congress I do not recommend the sale of the power marketing agencies.

I hope you can include a statement along this line in your video.

Sincerely,

**Carl S. Whillock
President/CEO**

CSW/ss

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS
NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
TAPED ON: 3/21/96 FOR USE ON:**

Greetings to my friends in the National Rural Electric Cooperative family. I value the long-time personal friendships that I have with many of you. I know from first-hand experience the role that you have played in making our rural communities stronger, more vibrant places to live and work.

Your efforts in communities across this country improve lives of ^{one thousand} 25 million rural Americans. When President Franklin Roosevelt gave our nation The Rural Electrification Act in 1935, he set in motion dramatic changes that created some ~~10,000~~ private/federal partnerships to electrify rural America. We know that this transformed the lives of millions of farm families, and enabled them to live out the American dream. As your cooperatives have grown and prospered you have provided the critical infrastructure that has made economic opportunity and job creation possible in rural communities. Today, access to quality education and health care for rural citizens is improving because of your efforts.

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As your President, I pledge to you my continuing support for quality infrastructure programs in rural America. Our job is far from done. I thank you for your friendship and leadership over the years and call on your continued leadership in developing rural America into the 21st Century.

Office of the Press Secretary
(Mason City, Iowa)

For Immediate Release

February 10, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO RURAL COMMUNITY

North Iowa Area Community College
Mason City, Iowa

5:25 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you for that wonderful, wonderful welcome. I do feel that I have a home in the Heartland, and if I hadn't felt it before I got here tonight, I sure do now. I thank you for your warmth and your enthusiasm.

Thank you, Dr. Buettner. Thank you, Deo Koenigs. Thank you, Ruth Harkin, for doing such a wonderful job in helping to create opportunities for our businesses and for our working people through the Overseas Private Investment Cooperation. And thank you, Senator Tom Harkin, for continuing to have a heart and continuing to have the stomach and the will to stand up and fight for the interests of ordinary Americans when so many others have backed away. (Applause.)

I have had a wonderful time here already. I landed the airplane just in time to catch the snow and the wind coming back. (Laughter.) Impeccable timing. And then I went over to Clear Lake to the Farm Coop. And we had a wonderful -- (applause.) And I had a great time there with all the folks who worked there. And we brought in a truckload of corn, and I said to myself, if corn stays above \$3, I ought to do all right in Iowa. (Applause.)

And believe it or not, there were even rail cars there to take it away. I saw that. (Laughter.)

SOMEONE IN THE AUDIENCE: (Inaudible.) (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're working on it. (Laughter.) And then, of course, I came here. And I've been hearing all about the

advertising in Iowa, all these ads, you know. You know. (Laughter.) So I want you to know I listen to the ads, and I want to show you how in touch I am with where I am tonight based on advertising. Of all the places I could have been tonight, I chose NIACC first. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

Let me say that it is true I always feel at home in Iowa. I'm always glad to be back here. We have had the opportunity, Hillary and I and our administration officials, to be here many times. I do think it's fitting that I'm here tonight, just as it was fitting that a major portion of our first bus tour went through Iowa. I still have vivid memories of the people I met along the way. I still have rich recollections of the conversations I had with elected officials like your Agriculture Secretary, and conversations I had with people I just stopped the bus alongside of the road and got off the bus and spoke with. And I've always tried, in the last three years, to get up every day and go to work and try to work for you and people like you all over this country. (Applause.)

So before I say anything else I want to just thank you for the opportunity that I have had to serve as your President for the last three years. I also want to say that being here at this North Iowa Area Community College is a fitting place for this event tonight because, as you will see as I get into my remarks, the community college in some ways is a symbol for what I think we ought to be doing in America. It is community-based, nonbureaucratic, sensitive to the needs of its customers, the students. It's a place where everybody can come. It's changing all the time as the economy changes and as the needs of the community and the students change. And it doesn't run on hot air and rhetoric, it runs on partnership, cooperation, people reaching across the lines that divide them in a society to come together, to build a community institution that will take not only the student, but the community, into the future.

That is what we need to do as a country. That is the central message I bring to you tonight. We have got to go forward together. We've got to put behind us the petty divisions and the easy cheap shots and the wedge issues that tear the heart out of American civic life, and get back together to face the challenges we have and to make the future what it ought to be for all the American people. (Applause.)

All of you know that Iowa has an extra responsibility in the political process. In an age where national

politics tends to be dominated more and more by glib sound bites, people are expected to come to Iowa to look at their constituents face to face, to listen to their concerns and listen to their babies cry. (Laughter.) We're not expected to have these set, pat, controlled events and just communicate with folks through paid ads -- and I like it.

And I hope every one of you will take the time to show up on caucus night and make your voices heard. Even if I don't have a named opponent, I hope you'll show up for me. (Applause.) For another reason -- thanks to the wonderful man who introduced me, it was impossible for me to get any votes in Iowa four years ago in the caucus. And I would hate to retire from politics never having done well in the Iowa caucuses -- (laughter) -- so, for purely selfish reasons, I hope you will go on Monday night. (Applause.)

I want to talk to you tonight about the challenges facing our country from the perspective of rural communities. I'm fairly sure that I am the last American President who will ever be elected who once lived in a home in the country without indoor plumbing. I know how far this country has come in the last 50 years. I'm not ashamed of it, and I survived it, and it makes a good story now. (Laughter.) Especially when I tell wide-eyed kids about the snakes that used to get in the outhouse. (Laughter.) But -- oh, there was somebody getting the chills over there. (Laughter.)

I have seen what this country can do in rural America when we pull together and work together. Just before I came here -- keep in mind, I lived when I was a young man for a year or so, maybe nearly two, in a home in the country that didn't have indoor plumbing. I just came from a demonstration at this community college of a computer program using satellite information that tells farmers the difference in their soil composition, their average yield, and gives them all kinds of information that they can access that they never could have gotten before. That is how far we have come in 50 years.

And what I want to say to you tonight is that our real obligation to work together is to find a way to take these phenomenal changes that are going on now, the biggest in a hundred years -- in the way we work, in the way our workplace is organized, and the way we communicate with one another, in the markets to which we sell, and in the way, therefore, we relate to each other -- the biggest changes in a hundred years -- the challenge for our country is to harness those things in a way that opens opportunity for all Americans and does it consistent with the values of rural America -- with family and work and community. I believe we can do it.

We live in an age of incredible possibility. It is

literally true that the young people here in this room tonight will have available to them more options for living out their dreams than any generation of people who have ever lived on the face of the Earth. It is literally true, as all of you know, that technology and information, the digital chip is transforming everything, including agriculture, as I just said. It is also true that this opportunity also carries with it, as every change does, a lot of challenge.

If you go back in history to the last period that was more or less like this, you have to go back 100 years, to the time when most Americans stopped living in the country and started living in towns and cities, and farmers got productive enough and factories became available enough that most people stopped working on the farm and began to work in factories or in activities that supported them.

You have to go back that far to see a change this great. And in many ways, this will be greater. But if you study the history of that era you will see the same thing happen then that's happening now: Enormous opportunities opening up for people; vast fortunes being made by people who had nothing, but a great uprooting that put new pressures on families, on communities and called in to question whether the American Dream could really be available to everybody who was willing to work for it. And if you fast-forward that to today you see what this election should really be all about.

It shouldn't be about all the process and political things people talk about. It ought to be about you -- your families, your work, your community and your future. That's what it ought to be about. (Applause.)

Now, let's just look at for a moment where we are, and what's good and what's still to be done. In a sentence I would tell you that we're better off as a nation than we were three years ago, but we've still got some strong challenges we have to face. Begin with the economy. Now we have the lowest unemployment and inflation rates combined we've had in 27 years. We have almost 8 million new jobs. Here in Iowa, unemployment has dropped to 3.2 percent. Across our country, homeownership is at a 15-year high. Exports of our products and services are at an all-time high. Agricultural exports hit record levels in 1995, over \$54 billion, \$10 billion more than when I took office.

We still need to do better for the livestock industry, as the people in my home state always remind me. But in agriculture you know we have a huge positive trade

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balance. And that's one of the reasons for the corn and the wheat and the soy bean prices that our farmers are enjoying today.

Now, that's the good news. But we also know that in this remarkable economy that for three years in a row has produced a record number of new small businesses starting up, and a record number of self-made millionaires -- not people that had it given to them, people that went out and by their wits and hard work and made it themselves -- most Americans have not gotten a raise. Most Americans, when you look at the purchasing power of their income, are working for about what they were 10, 15, 18 years ago. And many Americans have been victims, if you will, of this changing economy because they worked for big companies that downsized or that were bought out or whatever.

Many Americans have been on the receiving end of a great company announcing they're going to lay 10,000 people off. Their stock price goes up, but the price of dignity and the price of supporting one's children if you happen to be one of those 10,000 goes down.

So we have to think about how can we take all of this dynamism, this wonderful, churning age of possibility, and make it available again to every American who's willing to work for it? That's our first challenge.

If you look at our role in the world, we see America a positive force for peace and freedom from Haiti to Northern Ireland, to the Middle East, to Bosnia -- all over the world. We also know from the terrible bombing in London yesterday to the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister, to the terrorist acts from blowing up the World Trade Center to opening up that poison gas in Tokyo, this is still a dangerous world. And so we still have challenges we have to face. And much as we liked to say, well, the Cold War is over and the Soviet Union is not threatening us anymore, we'd like to fold up our tent, come home and just worry about what's in front of us, we can't do that either.

And people in farming communities ought to know that better than anybody else. If you want to sell to the rest of the world, you have to be a good neighbor and a solid partner, and you've got to stand up for peace and freedom, and try to remove the threats to decent people living good lives in every part of the world, because that affects us as well.

If you look at the most important thing to me, how are we doing in dealing with all this change in preserving and reinforcing our basic values -- advancing the cause of family and work, of opportunity and responsibility, of people working together -- I think you'd have to say the news is encouraging. In the country as a whole for three years, the crime rate is down, the welfare rolls are down, the poverty rolls are down, the teen

pregnancy rate is down. That is good news. But if you flip it over, you'd have to say, are you satisfied with any of those conditions. And to be honest, the answer is, no. So it's good that we're coming together again around our basic values. It's good that we're kind of getting our act together as a country. But we have work to do. And I'll just give you one example.

We all know there will always be crime in any society. You can't transform human nature. There will always be some level of violence. So people often ask me, "Mr. President, how would you declare success in the war on crime?" And I have a simple, one-sentence answer: When people like you hear about a crime and you're surprised again. When crime is the exception rather than the rule again. And it can be in America, and we ought to keep working at it until that's exactly what happens. (Applause.)

Obviously, if the nature of work changes, the nature of the workplace changes, the nature of communications changes, and the nature of markets that we sell our goods and services change, it's going to change your life and it's got to change government. So how should you change and what you should do and what should you expect your President to do for the next four years?

You have to begin by asking, what kind of country do you want to live in? What is your vision of what America should be? My vision is of a country where every person, without regard to their station in life or where they live has a chance to have the American Dream if they are willing to work for it and do what it takes to achieve it. Every person has a chance. (Applause.)

My vision is of a country where people work together in communities as they do in community colleges -- to help each other make the most of their own lives and seize their opportunities and face their challenges, where we are not constantly looking for ways to look down on our neighbors and be divided from them, but we define objectives we can reach in common -- and in a spirit of honorable compromise that has kept this country going for nearly 220 years we get after working together to make America a better place community by community. That is my vision. (Applause.)

If you say to me, well, what does that mean about the government, Mr. President, it would be the following -- government's got to be like all these other organizations. We don't need a big, centralized, top-down bureaucracy anymore. The technology revolution has rendered that irrelevant. If people are

working in smaller and smaller work units, if you don't need a lot of folks in the middle to pass information down and orders up or the reverse, we can do better with a smaller, less bureaucratic government, one that costs less and does better.

But if our mission is to help people make the most of their own lives and to help people work together to make the most of their situation, then we do not need a weak government. When Iowa was flooded out with that 500-year flood, you did not want a weak FEMA. You liked it that you had a strong one. (Applause.)

If you want corn over \$3 and soybeans at \$7, you don't need a weak Trade Ambassador. You need somebody who's strong who can guarantee a fair deal for America's products in the global market. You need someone who's strong. (Applause.)

If you believe as I do that every single high school graduate needs at least two years of post-high school education, and the ability to come back to school for a lifetime, you don't need a weak college loan program and a weak Pell Grant program. You need a strong, strong emphasis on education. (Applause.)

If you want to reinforce family values, and it makes you sick to know that there are thousands upon thousands of mothers and their children on welfare solely because the absent fathers don't pay their child support, and your heart jumps for joy when I tell you that in the last three years, each year we have broken records for collecting more and more and more child support across state lines, you don't want a weak program. You want a strong program that can do the job for America's families. (Applause.)

If more and more of our businesses are being created in smaller units, and more and more new jobs are coming through small business, we don't need a weak Small Business Administration. We've got an SBA that's cut its budget by 40 percent and doubled its loan volume, that's cut its regulation in half and cut its application to two pages, but they're out there making loans. And the consequence of that? Let me just give you one. In the last three years, businesses owned by women alone -- just by women -- have created more new jobs than the Fortune 500 have laid off. That's what we need to be a strong, effective partnership. (Applause.)

So we need a government that is leaner, that is more creative, that is less bureaucratic, that does fewer dumb things. But we don't need somebody that's in the government and we don't need a government that is so weak it can't help fulfill the mission -- to help people make the most of their own lives and help people work together at the grass-roots level to advance our country's cause and to keep our country the world's strongest force for peace and freedom. (Applause.)

Now, it's in that framework that I would like to ask you all to look at this great debate that's been going on in the last year about balancing the budget. First of all, we ought to balance the budget. This country never had -- never had -- a commitment to running permanent big deficits year in and year out until 1981. Never. It's very important that you understand that. (Applause.)

In the whole history of America, from the time we started until 1981, we had a trillion-dollar debt, which was a very small percentage of our overall income, our earning capacity. And we borrowed money when we were in wartime, when we had to mobilize the country in a hurry, when we were in a Depression and we had to put people to work in a hurry, or when we were in a recession and we wanted the government to spend some money to help people who were genuinely in distress and to keep the economy from going downhill further. We never had a permanent deficit until the 12 years before I showed up in Washington.

Now, in that time we quadrupled the national debt because people kept insisting we could spend more money year in and year out than we were taking in, and somehow it would all add up. It violated arithmetic. And we're paying the price for it today. And a lot of progressives like Senator Harkin and me are agreeing to cut some things we wish we wouldn't have to cut out of that budget so we can end this. We have cut this deficit in half in three years. And we need to finish the job. We need to finish the job. (Applause.)

But remember what our mission is: to provide opportunity, to help people make the most of their own lives, to help people solve their problems together. That means we have to balance the budget in a way that is consistent with our mission and our values.

You know, you hear these words roll around -- Medicare and Medicaid and all that. Let me just tell you a few facts. The budget I have proposed -- the budget I have proposed would hold Medicare spending below the projected rate of private health care increases. But it protects people on Medicare with the quality of their program and the cost they can afford to pay.

If you'd go to Washington you would swear that everybody on Medicare was a millionaire making out like a bandit. (Laughter.) Well, I've got news for you. Seventy percent of the people on Medicare are living on less than \$25,000, and people on Medicare are paying the same percentage of their income out-of-pocket for health care they were paying 30 years ago, before there was a Medicare.

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So I say we ought to save some money. We have to have some savings to get the Medicare Trust Fund back in order. We should encourage people to save money by going into managed care plans. But we have no business doing something that will undermine the economic stability or the health care of senior citizens in the United States of America. (Applause.)

I feel the same way about the Medicaid program. It's not so famous because it's more complex. It's a program where the states and the federal government contribute to help elderly people in nursing homes, most of them from middle-class families, who could never afford the over \$30,000 a year it costs, on average, for people who have to go to nursing homes. It helps pregnant women and little children who are either at or just barely above the poverty line. And it helps families, including a lot of middle-class families who have people with disabilities in their family.

Now, we all know that Senator Harkin is the father of the Americans With Disabilities Act, and we're proud of that. (Applause.) But he would be the first to tell you that if we really want people with disabilities and their families to have a decent, dignified life, and have the opportunity to live up to the fullest of their potential, we have got to keep Medicaid there to keep middle-class families doing the best they can to take care of their children and their siblings and their parents from going broke. It is a very important thing. (Applause.)

The man with the red ribbon back there -- let's talk about that. There's all kinds of people in this country that are HIV positive that are able to work, pay taxes, contribute because they have access to Medicaid. If you take Medicaid away from them, they will get sicker sooner and cost you more money.

People, you know -- again, you hear people talk about it, you think this Medicaid program was some colossal rip-off. Now, let me tell you, in the last two years the inflation rate in Medicaid has been way below the average inflation rate in the private insurance premiums that most of you pay. And we know we can hold it down.

We know we ought to have more poor people in managed care programs. But don't be fooled -- two-thirds and more of the Medicaid budget goes to benefit working families who have parents in nursing homes, have people with disabilities in their families; and the other third goes to pregnant women and their little children. And they're our little children, too, and we better give them decent health care and give them a chance to get off to a good start in life. (Applause.)

I feel the same way about investments in education and the environment. If you know that these are critical

to your future, why in the world would you cut them, especially if you don't have to?

So let me say this: In spite of all the back and forth you've heard, I have spent 50 hours working in good faith with the Republican leaders and the Democratic leaders of the Congress. And in our private meetings we have discussed things openly, honestly and in good faith. We have identified over \$700 billion -- where I come from that's still money -- (laughter) --over \$700 billion of savings that are common to both plans that we could put in, have a balanced budget plan, protect Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment, protect our fundamental obligations to our rural communities and our other fundamental obligations and even have some left over for a modest tax cut, and still balance a budget in seven years according to the way Congress scores the budget. They get to keep the books. We can do that. So why shouldn't we do that instead of continuing endlessly to fight over issues that divide us that will undermine our security? (Applause.)

Let me say this -- I think there's a good chance there will be a budget agreement. But even if there isn't, this deficit will keep going down because the American people, without regard to party, have figured out we can't keep doing this. We can't keep spending ourselves in a hole every year when we don't borrow the money to invest it in something that will grow the economy -- just spending, deficit year after year after year. It is going to go down. We are going to make that yesterday's legacy.

I want to ask you just for a few minutes before I close to think about what tomorrow's legacy is going to be. That's what I talked about in the State of the Union -- the seven great challenges I think that are facing us all. And I just want to mention them quickly and ask you to think about what you expect me to do and what you should be doing about each of these.

The first of these challenges, clearly, is to do more to strengthen our families and to give childhood back to all American children. Too many of them have been robbed on it. (Applause.) You know as well as I do that if every child in this country had the benefit of a stable home full of life and discipline, where they were encouraged to live up to the fullest of their capacities and protected from life's cruelest developments, that we'd have about half the problems we've got on the social front. We all know that. (Applause.)

The question is, what are we going to do about it?

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I've told you we've done what we could to make sure we collect more child support than we ever have. I have taken on this issue of teen smoking. No one ever wanted to take the tobacco companies on, but there's something wrong with every state in the country saying that smoking's illegal and smoking's going up among children. And we know 3,000 kids a day start smoking and 1,000 of them will die sooner because of it. I can't stand it anymore. I want to do something about it, and I want you to help. I want you to help. (Applause.)

We know -- just last week there was another survey, a national study saying that if you permit young children to grow up spending hour after hour after hour for year after year after year watching gratuitous, mindless, senseless violence on television that they will become desensitized to violence. They will come to see it as normal, as the rule, rather than the exception. And it will mess up the way they look at the world, and the chances are greater that it will mess up the way they behave. Now, I say the time has come to do something about that. (Applause.)

One of the things that I was really proud of the last week, one of the best things that's happened since I've been President is that I was able to sign into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996. (Applause.) A lot of you may not know about it -- I hope you have seen that. (Applause.) Let me tell you what it will do. It also, like this community college, is a symbol of what we ought to be doing. It will create tens of thousands of high-wage jobs. It will give people in rural areas more access to information, more access to learning, and more access to entertainment.

But it will protect the right of little telephone companies providing long distance service, for example, and smaller cable television companies, and little guys who own radio stations to at least have a chance to compete in this brave new world and not be wiped out from the get-go. And it will, among other things, require that we provide telecommunications services at a discount rate to every hospital and library and classroom in this country, so rural America doesn't get left out. (Applause.)

And it passed almost unanimously, with all the Republicans and Democrats finally giving up and voting for it because we worked out all the problems in the American way. But the pro-family issue I want you to be aware of is it also will require all new television sets to contain a V-chip which will permit parents to decide if they don't want their young children to watch programs on television that are too violent or have other inappropriate conduct. And it's a good thing. (Applause.)

Our second challenge is to renew our schools and to provide educational opportunity for every American.

That means, among other things, in our schools we have to connect every classroom -- every classroom in the smallest rural hamlet in rural Arkansas, or rural Iowa, rural Maine, Northern California -- everyone to the Internet by the year 2000, so that all of our children, wherever they live, will have a world, literally a world of information at their fingertips. And we have to make sure the kids have the ability to access that. (Applause.)

Our public schools should be the province of folks at the grass-roots local level. That's why yours work as well as they do. But we ought to have national standards and national means of measuring achievement so that every child has a chance to be in the kind of system that have given Iowa such a low dropout rate and a high student achievement rate. There's no reason everybody in America can't achieve those same standards if we had a system to provide it. And I am committed to that. (Applause.)

And I will say again, we ought to open the doors of college wider, not have them shut. We need to maintain the direct loan program. We need to maintain the AmeriCorps program that allows young people to earn money by serving in their communities and then use it for college. We need to expand the Pell Grant program. And I proposed in the State of the Union -- I want to reiterate it here -- that we give \$1,000 merit scholarship to every student in the top five percent of every high school graduating class in the United States of America. (Applause.)

I believe -- I want us to extend the work-study program so that a million young people can work their way through college on work-study. And if we're going to cut taxes, we ought to cut taxes in the best way we can, to grow the American economy and bring the American people together. We ought to make college tuition tax-deductible. (Applause.)

Our third challenge is to provide economic security for every American willing to work for it. I don't mean a guarantee, I mean a safety net, a sense of framework that will permit people to succeed. The first thing we have to do is to keep doing what we're doing right. We need to keep creating more jobs at high wages. That's what the Telecommunications Act does. We need to keep exporting American products.

But we also need to do some other things. Just before I came to Iowa today I signed the Farm Credit Regulatory Relief Act, which provided better credit opportunities to farmers and ranchers. And, again, it

shows what we can do when we cross party lines to work together. There's another important thing we could do for the farmers, with spring planting on us -- we could pass a farm bill. It should have been passed a long time ago and we ought to pass a good one. (Applause.)

Now, the Senate passed a bill this week that has some very good provisions in it, but I have some problems with it. Let me tell you what I like about it; then I'll tell you what I don't like about it. And then afterwards, maybe you can write and tell me what you like about it and don't like about it.

I like the fact that it gives farmers some more flexibility to plant to the market and not just to the programs. I like the fact that the Senate bill, unlike the House bill, included the Conservation Reserve and the wetlands preservation programs. (Applause.) I like the fact that it included the nutrition programs and protected them, which we have to do -- the WIC programs and the other nutrition programs. (Applause.)

And I like the fact that the Senate bill took an amendment which embodied one of the central recommendations I got at the Rural Development Conference at Ames, that we held for all of rural America not very long ago here in Iowa at Ames -- it creates a rural development fund to help diversify the economies of the rural parts of our country. I like those things about that bill and that is good. (Applause.) The fund for rural America would invest \$300 million to fund development and research programs to help us remain competitive. I like that. That's all good for America's farmers.

But what I have real questions about is the way the so-called freedom to farm law actually works in practice. They proposed to have a seven-year period when everybody gets a check every year in the same price, no matter what the crop price is. So this year you've got -- I mean, today I think corn was \$3.30 and Iowa soybeans were somewhere between \$6.80 and \$7.05, depending on where it was. That's about the range that it was today. And people are still going to get a check. Under this bill if you don't plant anything you get a check.

It used to be nearly everybody thought you ought to have to farm to get a farm payment. (Laughter and applause.) So I'm worried about that. You know, farmers have never wanted to be -- and I have fought this battle for years against urban journalists -- farmer have never wanted to be seen as being on welfare. We had farm support programs for two reasons only -- one is to help us compete with people who were subsidizing their farmers a lot more than we were; and, second, to get family farmers through rough years because they couldn't finance their own bad years. That's why we had those programs. (Applause.)

So I'm worried about that. I'm also worried that in the bad years there won't be near enough money in this program to have a genuine safety net. I mean, it sounds great. We're going to give you a check every year for seven years whether you need it or not. That's a pretty good deal. Well, this year it sounds great because people don't need it -- the prices are high, and maybe we can keep them high for a long time. There's a fair chance we can because of the growing wealth of Asia and the growing population there and because of the changes in their production capacity. There's a fair chance that we're in for a few years of high farm prices -- but we may not be. We may have weather that will have high prices and no crop to sell. We've all been there before.

So I tell you, I will work to get a good farm bill. I will do it as quickly as I can. And I just wanted to come here tonight and tell you honestly how I feel. There's a lot of things in this Senate bill I like, and we do need to let farmers plant more for the market than the programs. But I think we have to really think about whether it is reasonable to say that we're going to have this flat payment and you get it whether you plant or not, you get it no matter how high the crops are. And then when the crops go to the bottom you won't have enough to help you and keep you out of bankruptcy.

I think we have reached a point with the world markets when we could actually see young people coming back into farming, when we could actually see in America the number of family farmers growing again for the first time in forever just because of changes in the market. And I think we have to be very careful with this farm bill to meet our vision, which is to give everybody who can do it and is competitive a chance to be treated fairly and to succeed. That is my only goal.
(Applause.)

I do believe there are two or three other things we ought to do to give people economic security. One of them would directly affect this institution. We built up over the years a whole lot of different training programs in the government -- 70, 80, I don't know -- a whole bunch of training programs. Every one of them was passed with the best of intentions to try to solve some little problem in the economy as it came up. The truth is now the work force is just turning over a lot, and nearly everybody will have to go back for further education and training.

So I have suggested that we take 70 of these training programs and create what I call a G.I. Bill for America's workers, put them in a big fund. And if

somebody up here in this part of the country loses their job we ought to just send them a voucher and let them bring it here to the community college to decide what they need for themselves in the form of education and training. I think it's one of the best things we could do to get adults back into education and training, to increase their earnings and get them through the times when they lose their jobs.
(Applause.)

One of the number one priorities, one of the top three, I think, priorities of the White House Conference on Small Business was to make it easier and cheaper for self-employed people, for small business people and for farmers to take out pension plans for themselves and their employees. We have an item in this budget, this balanced budget plan that would do that. And as far as I know, there's no opposition to it. We ought to do that. It should be easier. And then people ought to know that their pensions are going to be protected. We shouldn't go back to raiding pension plans like we did in the '80s, and we ought to find a way for people who have to change jobs to take their pension around with them so that we will all know that no matter what happens to us in life, as long as we're working we'll be able to have a decent retirement when the time comes. (Applause.)

And, lastly, on this issue, middle-class people, if we're going to continue to be the only advanced country in the world where people under 65 don't have a guarantee of health insurance, then at least we ought to have a guarantee that people have access to affordable health insurance that they don't lose when they change jobs or when someone in the family gets sick. That's simple enough, and we ought to do it.
(Applause.)

I want everyone of you to know this because I want you to ask everyone in your congressional delegation to support it. There is a bipartisan bill in the United States Senate sponsored by the Republican Senator from Kansas, Senator Kassebaum, and Senator Kennedy from Massachusetts, with 45 sponsors which simply says you cannot lose your health insurance just because you changed jobs, or just because you or somebody in your family gets sick. And if you're in a small work unit you ought to be able to get into a big pool at your option to buy health insurance more cheaply, the way government employees or people working for big businesses do.

The National Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, all the consumer groups have endorsed this bill. It has been voted out of the committee unanimously, and we cannot get it scheduled for a vote because the health insurance companies are lobbying against it. It is wrong. We've got everybody for it. It ought to pass. It will help farmers. It will help small business people. Ask people to vote

for it in the Iowa congressional delegation.
(Applause.)

I thank you for standing up. I hope the message will go out across the country. This is what the election is about. It's about you. It's not about tactics and politicians and ads. It's about you and your future. And I'm going to try from now until November, whatever judgment you make on the election, to keep giving it back to you so you can use this opportunity to shape your future.

Let me just make a couple of brief remarks about the remaining challenges. If you want economic security, how can we justify a minimum wage that's at a 40-year low in purchasing power? That's where we are now. (Applause.) You know, in Washington, there's a lot of talk about family values. Well, I'll tell you one thing, it's pretty hard to raise a family on \$4.25 an hour. But there are millions of people out there trying to do it. And they're heroes to me.

When I think of the people that get up every day, knowing they could take a powder and go on welfare and get health care for their kids, and they still show up for work and they do their 40 hours and sometimes they do a lot more, and they do it for the minimum wage because they believe in the dignity of work and they want to set a good example for their children, and I can't get anybody to schedule for a vote raising the minimum wage to take it from \$4.25 just to \$5.15 an hour and get out of a 40-year low in earning power -- that's not my idea of the high-tech economy. I think the American people believe we can do better than that. And I believe if we're going to honor work and family, we ought to do better than that. And I hope you will support it. (Applause.)

The fourth thing we've got to do is continue the crime fight. We talked about that earlier. I just ask you to remember, when you see the things that we're doing and they're debated, we shouldn't stop our program to put 100,000 more police on the street; we shouldn't weaken the program that your former Attorney General Bonnie Campbell now heads to try to reduce domestic violence and violence against women. We shouldn't -- we shouldn't -- back up from the clear truth.

We've now been through a bunch of hunting seasons. We've been through deer season and duck season, at least in my home, and just about everything else we hunt. Every hunter in my state now knows that the people who told them back in 1994 they were going to lose their guns did not tell them the truth. We killed a bunch of ducks with the same guns we were using two

years ago in Arkansas this year. (Applause.)

But, I'll tell you one thing, over 40,000 criminals did not get to buy their handguns because of the Brady Bill. We were right about that, and we should stay with it. (Applause.)

The fifth thing we have got to do is to rid ourselves of this notion that we can advance our economy at the expense of our environment. For the next 20 years, we will be growing jobs by protecting the environment. That's why I supported ethanol and why I still do. That's why I supported natural gas-powered vehicles. That's why I supported electric-powered vehicles. That's why I supported the "Big Three" in Detroit with our clean car initiative. That's why I am against these attempts to weaken the enforcement powers of the EPA, or to weaken our commitment to safe food, clear air, and clean water. We have to grow this economy while protecting the environment of the United States for our children. (Applause.)

As I said before, and I will say it again just briefly, we cannot do this if we divorce ourselves from the world. I intend to continue and I ask you to support me, to try to keep this country on the forefront of the work for peace and freedom.

We have a chance this year to get a comprehensive test ban treaty so that there will be no more nuclear testing. That will dramatically reduce the chance that any kind of nuclear weapon will ever be used against anybody in the entire world again. The United States will have to lead that fight if it's going to get done. That's one example. (Applause.)

And the last challenge we face is to make our government inspire more trust and work better. We're going to continue this reinventing government move that the Vice President has led so brilliantly. We are going to continue to downsize the government. It's already the smallest it's been in 30 years. But we're going to try to keep it strong.

I read today something that my friend, James Carville, wrote in his new book, which will be coming out pretty soon -- he said, you know, people always say the government can't do anything right. He said, well, for 30 years we spent half your money -- half your money for 30 years -- on just three things: defense, Social Security, and Medicare. You be the judge. We won the Cold War. We cut the poverty rate among seniors in half. And if you get to be a senior citizen in America today because of Medicare, you have a higher life expectancy than any group of elderly people anywhere in the world. I think we got our money's worth, and I think we have to continue to give the American people their money's worth for what we do in public life. (Applause.)

We do have more to do. I hope the Congress will finally give me that line-item veto they've been promising in their Contract. That's one thing in there I like. (Applause.) And I hope they will finally pass a genuine bipartisan campaign finance reform bill to give even more power back to the American people. (Applause.)

I want to leave you with this. I want you to think about it Monday, when you try to figure out whether you want to go to the trouble or not. We can pass campaign finance reform. We can pass all kinds of reforms. But whether this country really works depends upon you, what's in your mind and what's in your heart.

There is no call for the cynicism which exists in America today. This country is doing some things that are very important better than any other country in the world. This country has problems. As long as people exist on the face of the Earth, there will be problems. Cynicism is a cheap and poor excuse for inaction and the evasion of personal responsibility. As long as you're cynical about somebody else, you don't have to pick up your own shovel and start digging. And it's wrong. It's wrong. (Applause.)

So I say to you, for the United States of America, the best is yet to come. For the children in this audience, the age of possibility will give them more chances to live out their dreams than any generation of Americans has ever had. But it won't work unless we make sure everybody has got a chance at that dream, unless we give our people the power to make the most of their own lives, and unless we remember that we cannot afford cynicism, and we have to go forward together.

It's the most important lesson I have learned again and again and again in three years as your President. I will never knowingly do anything to see the American people divided again, or to coddle the cynics again. We need to stand up, rear back, and seize our future.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

6:20 P.M. CST

MORE

MORE

Helen Howell

MEMORANDUM TO SENIOR STAFF

FROM: ERSKINE BOWLES
DON BAER
MIKE McCURRY
TODD STERN
STEPHANIE STREETT
ANNE WALLEY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VIDEO REQUESTS

As part of our continuing effort to make the best use of the President's time, the Scheduling Office is instituting a new process for the submission of video requests. Effective immediately, all staff must provide the following:

- 1) Complete all the information on the attached scheduling form including whether the organization has agreed to pay for the video. (The White House does not have a budget for this service.)
- 2) Attach a proposed script that has been reviewed by White House staff for appropriate content.
- 3) Designate a staff contact to write and submit a clear and concise briefing memo to the Staff Secretary. If the video is accepted, the briefing memo should include:
 - a. The organization or person requesting the video.
 - b. The basis for deciding to do the video.
 - c. Appropriate background so that the President is well-informed about the organization and event.

The staff contact will also be required to brief the President before the video.

Video proposals must be received in the Scheduling Office at least two weeks in advance of the date requested. Staff members who wish to request a video message for an event that was regretted by the Scheduling Office must submit a new proposal with the above information attached. Any requests sent to the Media Affairs Office directly will be returned to you. There will be no exceptions to these procedures.

If you have any questions, please contact Margo Spiritus at 6-2823. Thank you for your cooperation.



VIDEO FOR (name of organization or person)

This attachment should include the following information. It may be laid out in this order, but that isn't required:

***The organization or person that the video is for.**

***The purpose for doing the video.** Why have we decided to do it? In what way is doing it beneficial to the President's objectives?

***Background information about the organization and event.**

Tell the President what he needs to know to be properly informed, but be concise.

[This attachment will be appended to an event memo prepared by Media Affairs that will list all the videos the President is doing on a given day. This attachment should in no event exceed one page.]

Once your video has been accepted, please return this portion of the memo to the Staff Secretary's office.

VIDEO REQUEST PROPOSAL

TODAY'S DATE

___/___/___

ACCEPT

REGRET

PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett
Deputy Assistant to the President &
Director of Scheduling

Anne Walley
Deputy Assistant to the President &
Director of Scheduling

FROM: Assistant to the President

REQUEST: Video for which group or individual?

PURPOSE: Reason why the President should honor request?
What is the desired outcome?

DATE AND TIME: Drop dead date by which the video is needed?
Date the video will be shown?

SOURCE OF PAYMENT: Has the group agreed to pay for the video?

BACKGROUND: * How big is the viewing audience?
* Where will the video be shown (city/state)?
* Will the video be used anywhere else?

DURATION: How many minutes should the video be?

REMARKS ATTACHED: Is the script attached to the request? (If it is not
it will be automatically returned to you.)

STAFF CONTACT: White House contact responsible for the video
and their phone number.

ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL: Invitation or White House staff generated?

1/2/24

N T
N T

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDE

20-Mar-1996 03:58pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Laura D. Schwartz
Office of the Press Secretary

SUBJECT: POTUS VIDEOS TOMORROW -- BRIEFING REMINDERS --THANK
SUBJECT: _____

Tomorrow, Thursday (3/21) will be our March video session. Since this is the first time for some of you under the relatively new system for videos - I wanted to remind all of you what was outlined in the Baer/ McCurry/ Stern/ Streett/ Walley memo distributed before Christmas last year.

*Under the new system each video will have a one page memo to POTUS from the staff contact that outlines the organization, purpose and background etc. that needs to be delivered to Staff Secretary from your office for the briefing.

*Secondly, I wanted to remind you that also under the new system, the staff contact or someone representing the staff contact is required to be present to brief POTUS - if needed - during the video session. Thursday's session is 5:05-5:45pm in the OEOB studio room 459. Since the President is due to arrive at 5:05pm - please have your representative outside the studio about 10 minutes before - then if during the session POTUS needs additional information you will be asked to step in and provide it.

** If the staff contact or their representative is not present to brief POTUS, the video will NOT be taped - no exceptions.

The list of videos and staff contacts are listed below. Please e-mail or call me if their is a staff contact other than the one listed for your video.

Bargaining Convention

Jennifer O'Connor

2. First Anniversary of Oklahoma City

Bombing

Marcia Hale/Megan Williams

3. 25th Annual Dinner for the Arab Community
Center for Economic and Social Services

Alexis Herman/ Marilyn DiGiacobbe

4. 54th Annual Meeting of the National Rural
Electric Cooperative Association

Carol Rasco/Elizabeth Drye

(LarryElworth-USDA)

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. memo	From: Laura Schwartz re: POTUS videos tomorrow [partial] (1 page)	03/20/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Elizabeth Drye
OA/Box Number: 10449

FOLDER TITLE:

NREC [National Rural Electric Cooperative] Video

2014-0046-S

rc1453

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

5.

(b)(6)

[002]

Rebecca Cameron

6. University of Arkansas Chancellor's Medal
Recipient, Jim Blair
Rebecca Cameron

Please call or page me with any questions -
x65655.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Laura

Distribution:

TO: Jennifer M. O'Connor
TO: Megan B. Williams
TO: Marcia L. Hale
TO: Marilyn DiGiacobbe
TO: Elizabeth E. Drye
TO: Rebecca A. Cameron
TO: Carol H. Rasco

CC: Helen P. Howell
CC: Phillip M. Caplan
CC: Stephanie Streett
CC: Anne Walley
CC: Margo L. Spiritus
CC: Lorraine McHugh
CC: Gabrielle M. Bushman
CC: Michael Waldman

**Arkansas Electric
Cooperatives, Inc.**

P. O. Box 194208
Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-4208
(501) 570-2200

CC: Rascw

MAR 19 1996

March 15, 1996

**The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500-2000**

Dear Mr. President:

It is my understanding that Secretary Glickman of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has requested that you make a video tape for presentation to the 10,000 or so delegates of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in Houston the last week of March. I support very heartily his request and hope you can make the tape.

It is my information that Secretary Glickman has prepared a draft for you to consider for your remarks. I believe that draft contains no reference to the sale of power marketing agencies. If you can make a statement to the effect that you are not requesting that these be sold, you will make a big hit with this group.

I would suggest a statement along this line: In the 1997 fiscal year budget I am submitting to Congress I do not recommend the sale of the power marketing agencies.

I hope you can include a statement along this line in your video.

Sincerely,



**Carl S. Whillock
President/CEO**

CSW/ss

MISSION*To: ELIZABETH DME*

The Department administers a broad range of programs that provide loan, grant, and technical assistance to improve the quality of life for rural residents. Some programs provide assistance to individual rural residents. For example, the single-family housing program provides low-interest loans and loan guarantees for the purchase and repair of modest housing units. Other programs provide assistance for facilities that serve rural residents. Examples include rural electrification and telecommunications loans, water and waste disposal loans and grants, and community facility loans -- each of which helps in the financing of facilities that provide services to rural residents. Still other programs, primarily those that provide financial and other assistance to rural businesses, are intended to serve rural residents by saving and creating jobs for their economic livelihood.

There are three agencies in this mission area: the Rural Housing Service (RHS), the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS).

RECD delivers programs at the local level through an extensive network of county and district offices which, under the Department's streamlining effort, are being co-located within USDA Service Centers. RECD State Directors are responsible for the full range of RECD programs and resources within their state. Support services are administered primarily through the RHS for the entire mission area.

RURAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (RECD)

Program Level (P.L.) and Budget Authority (B.A.)
(Dollars in Millions)

Program	1995		1996		1997	
	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Cur. Est.</u>		<u>Budget</u>	
	P.L.	B.A.	P.L.	B.A.	P.L.	B.A.
Rural Utilities Service	\$2,926	\$786	\$2,673	\$696	\$3,403	\$797
Rural Housing Service	3,480	1,428	4,254	1,335	5,439	1,318
Rural Business-Cooperative Service	629	140	852	112	997	130
Total, RECD	<u>\$7,035</u>	<u>\$2,354</u>	<u>\$7,779</u>	<u>\$2,143</u>	<u>\$9,839</u>	<u>\$2,245</u>

For loan programs, the budget reflects both an estimated loan level, which is also the program level, and the budget authority necessary to cover the interest subsidy and other costs over the lifetime of the loans.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

20-Mar-1996 07:26pm

TO: Gabrielle M. Bushman 196
TO: T J Glauthier 246
TO: Bob J. Nash 159

FROM: Elizabeth E. Drye
Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Video script attached.

Attached is the revised video script for NRECA video. I'll drop a hard copy by your office momentarily. Bob and TJ, please get any comments to Gabrielle directly. I'll be unreachable for most of next 3 hours but you can try to page me or can leave a message for me at 543-8258. Thanks for your help and patience.

Comments by
President William Jefferson Clinton
to the
National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association

Greetings to my friends in the National Rural Electric Cooperative family. I value the long-time personal friendships that I have with many of you. I know from first-hand experience the role that you have played in making our rural communities stronger, more vibrant places to live and work.

Your efforts in communities across this country have improved the quality of life for 25 million rural Americans. As your cooperatives have grown and prospered you have provided the critical infrastructure that has made economic opportunity and job creation possible in rural communities. Today, access to quality education and health care for rural citizens is improving because of your efforts.

When President Franklin Roosevelt gave our nation The Rural Electrification Act in 1935, he set in motion dramatic changes that created some 10,000 private/federal partnerships to electrify rural America. Those partnerships made investments that have returned great dividends to our nation. We see those dividends in our electric and telephone infrastructure, and we see those dividends in human terms.

We are now in times of similar dramatic change. On February 8, I signed into law a

landmark Telecommunications Act that will have an impact not only on the telecommunications industry but on all of our lives. The Telecommunications Act will change the way we live, do business, and educate ourselves and our children. I am particularly pleased that it will guarantee the access of all rural Americans to high quality telecommunications services. The legislation requires, among other things, that we provide telecommunications services at a discount rate to every hospital, library, and classroom in this country, so rural America doesn't get left out. (last sentence verbatim from Iowa speech).

As rural America faces important changes in everything from telecommunications to farm programs, we will be presented with both opportunities and challenges. To meet these challenges, we must increase our investment in the infrastructure and productive capacities of rural communities. That's why I have strongly supported the Fund for Rural America in the Farm Bill -- it will help reinvigorate our research and rural development efforts. I have also proposed an increase of two billion dollars for rural economic and community development in the 1997 budget I just sent to the Congress.

And in this changing environment, it will be important for you to keep me informed of your views of what is right for rural America. When my Administration proposed in our 1996 budget to transfer ownership of the power marketing authorities (PMAs) to their current customers, we heard your concerns. My 1997 budget does not take that approach. Instead, the new budget requests funds for continued, normal operation of the PMAs so they can continue to supply low cost power to your systems and other rural customers.

As your President, I pledge to you my continuing support for quality infrastructure programs in rural America. Our jobs are far from done. I thank you for your friendship and leadership over the years and call on your continued leadership in developing rural America into the 21st Century.



**Arkansas Electric
Cooperatives, Inc.**

P. O. Box 194208
Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-4208
(501) 570-2200

CC: Rascw

MAR 19 1996

March 15, 1996

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1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
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President/CEO**

CSW/ss

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Program Level (P.L.) and Budget Authority (B.A.)
(Dollars in Millions)

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ROUTING SLIP

DATE: 3/15/96

FROM: Stephanie Streett and Anne Walley
Deputy Assistants to the President and Directors of Scheduling

SUBJECT: Video for 54th Annual Mtg. of the Nat. Rural Electric Cooperative Assoc.

Don Baer ✓ Mack McLarty

Peg Cusack Leon Panetta

Rahm Emanuel Jack Quinn

Jack Gibbons Carol Rasco ✓

Laura Graham ✓ Paige Reffe

Marcia Hale Patti Solis

Alexis Herman Doug Sosnik

Nancy Hernreich ✓ G. Stephanopoulos

Kitty Higgins Todd Stern

John Hilley Ann Stock

Harold Ickes Kim Tilley

Jennifer Jose ✓ Jodie Torkelson

Ron Klain Laura Tyson

Anthony Lake Melanne Verveer

Evelyn Lieberman Michael Waldman ✓

Bruce Lindsey Maggie Williams

Mike McCurry ✓ Laura Schwartz ✓

FILE: Accept 3/21/96 Gabriel Bushman ✓

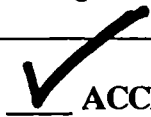
COMMENTS: Per SS and AW on 3/15/96

also cc: Elizabeth

Jeremy Benami ✓

VIDEO REQUEST PROPOSAL

Date: 03/13/96



ACCEPT

REJECT

PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett
Deputy Assistant to the President &
Director of Scheduling

Anne Walley
Deputy Assistant to the President &
Director of Scheduling

FROM: Carol H. Rasco,  Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

REQUEST: Video address at the 54th Annual Meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperation Association (NRECA).

PURPOSE: The President has asked to address the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association through a video message at the NRECA 54th Annual Meeting.

DATE AND TIME: The NRECA Annual Meeting runs from March 25 - 27, 1996.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT: The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

BACKGROUND: More than 10,000 representatives of the nation's electric cooperatives are expected to attend this Annual Meeting in Houston, TX. This Annual Meeting is one of the largest gatherings of electric utility and rural leaders in the United States. Delegates represent 1,000 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric systems serving nearly 30 million people in 46 states. The President spoke at NRECA's 47th Annual Meeting (1987).

DURATION: Two to three minutes.

REMARKS ATTACHED: Script attached. Correspondence also attached, along with the invitation and the President's note suggesting a video message.

STAFF CONTACT: Elizabeth Drye, 65573

ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL: Origin by invitation, sponsored by Office of Domestic Policy

VIDEO FOR THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Video sponsor

- This video will be used to address participants of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 54th Annual Meeting.

Video decision

- The President asked to address participants of the NRECA Annual Meeting through a video message. The President spoke at NRECA's Annual Meeting in 1987.

Background information

- The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is made up of representatives of the nation's electric cooperatives. More than 10,000 of these representatives are expected to attend this Annual Meeting in Houston, TX. The Annual Meeting is one of the largest gatherings of electric utility and rural leaders in the United States. Delegates represent 1,000 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric systems serving nearly 30 million people in 46 states. The administration's budget proposals and policies have been favorably received by NRECA.

DRAFT--DRAFT--

Comments by

President William Jefferson Clinton
to the
National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association

Greetings to my friends in the National Rural Electric Cooperative family. I value the long-time personal friendship that I have with many of you. I know from first-hand experience the role that you have played in making our rural communities stronger, more vibrant places to live and work.

In 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt gave our nation the The Rural Electrification Act. This was a visionary initiative that created some 1,000 private/Federal partnerships that electrified rural America. That partnership has made investments that have returned great dividends to our nation --- both in as far as electric and then telephone infrastructure, and in human terms.

I was pleased, on February 8, when I signed into law what I view as a landmark legislation --- the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It is a historic

law that will have an impact, not only on the telecommunications industry, but on all our lives. Just as the initial Rural Electrification Act made a significant difference in peoples' lives, so will the Telecommunications Act. It will change the way we live, do business, and educate ourselves and our children. This bill, along with the protections to ensure that rural America has access to technologies, will allow us to grow as a nation -- and to grow as a nation in the global economy.

I want rural Americans to be full partners in the future. And I assure you, that if I have anything to say about it --- and I tend to have some influence --- any changes that occur during my watch will ensure that rural America is treated fairly.

I challenge you to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves. Machines will not do the job by themselves. Your competitive edge is in service you provide to the people in your communities. I know the people in the small towns where I was raised. Their roots are the same as mine. I have faith in their ability, in their heart and in their spirit.

Americans have always welcomed new challenges. I encourage you to meet these challenges head on by developing, maintaining, and upgrading our rural infrastructure. It is as critical now and into the future as it was 60 years ago.

As your President, I pledge to you my continuing support for quality infrastructure programs in rural America. Our jobs are far from done. I thank you for your friendship and leadership over the years and call on your continued leadership in developing rural America into the 21st century.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2-29-96

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
2/29/96

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Servicio / Schedule

Glenn Englin
invited me to address REA
Coop 3/22-23 —

12,000 people in Houston

and we consider going?
and we at least do
consider? —

BZ



National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

4301 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22203-1860
Telephone: (703) 907-5500
TT- (703) 907-5942

140210

November 2, 1995

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you an invitation to speak at the 54th Annual Meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. More than 10,000 representatives of the nation's electric cooperatives are expected to attend this meeting in Houston, Texas, March 25-27, 1996.

NRECA was privileged to have you speak at its Annual Meeting in 1987, and would be most honored if you would again address one of the largest annual gatherings of electric utility and rural leaders in the United States. Delegates represent 1,000 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric systems serving nearly 30 million people in 46 states.

We hope that your schedule will allow you to join us and speak at one of our three General Sessions, the morning of either March 25, 26 or 27.

We would be most honored if you could find it possible to accept this invitation.

Sincerely,

Glenn English
Executive Vice President

GE:jmg



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 3, 1996

The Honorable Glenn English
Executive Vice President
National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association
4301 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22203-1860

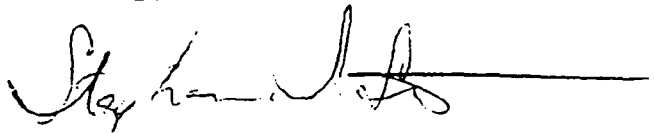
Dear Mr. English:

Thank you for inviting President Clinton to speak at the 54th Annual Meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The President has asked us to convey his appreciation for your kind offer.

Unfortunately, the President's schedule does not give him the opportunity to accept as many invitations as he would like. He regrets that he will be unable to speak at this event.

On behalf of the President, thank you again for your thoughtful invitation. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if we can provide you with any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Stephanie S. Streett
Director of Scheduling



Anne Walley
Director of Scheduling

Over - En

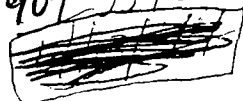
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Thank

you

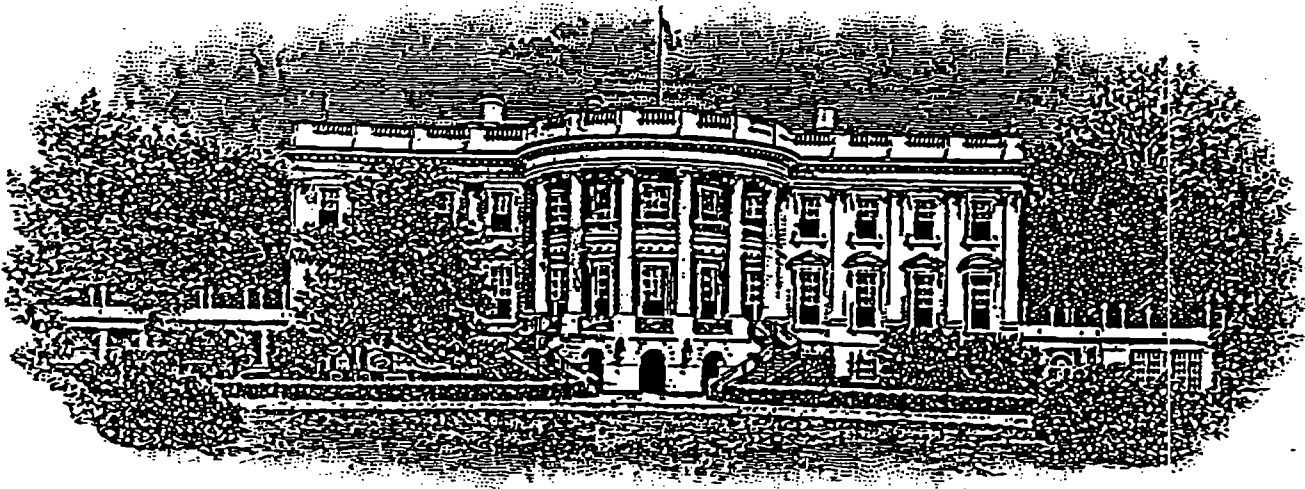
Glenn English
703 907-3540


*** ACTIVITY REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO. 5979
CONNECTION TEL 54941
CONNECTION ID
START TIME 03/20 15:31
USAGE TIME 03'36
PAGES 5
RESULT OK

The White House



DOMESTIC POLICY

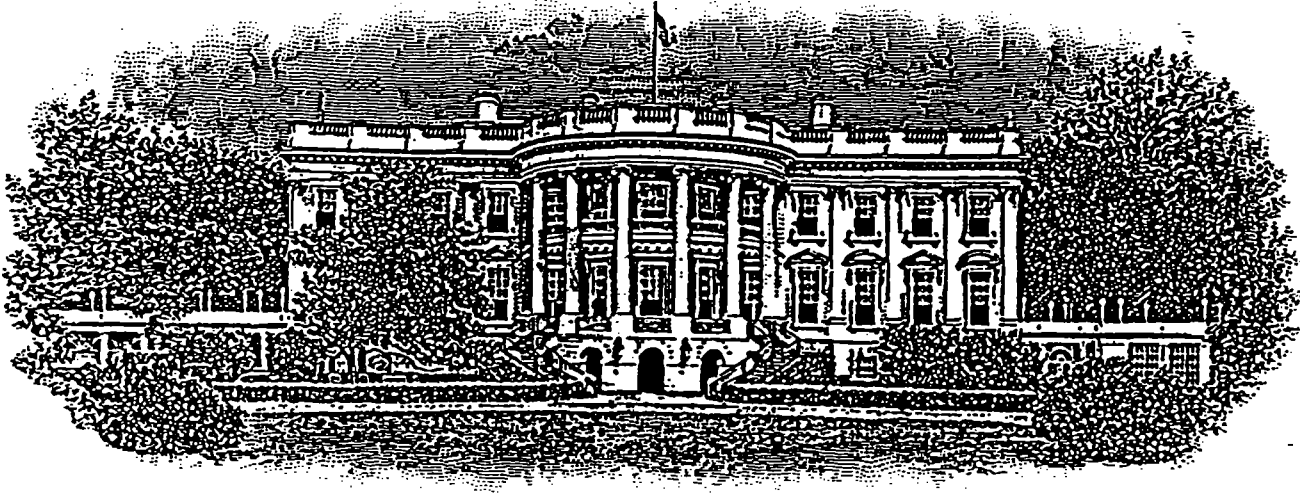
FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: Stephen FrerichsFAX NUMBER: 5-1067, 5-4941

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

FROM: Elizabeth DyeTELEPHONE NUMBER: 6-5572

The White House



DOMESTIC POLICY

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: Stephen Frerichs

FAX NUMBER: 5-1067, 5-4941

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

FROM: Elizabeth Dye

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 6-5573

PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 5

COMMENTS: Thanks for checking on \$2B number for '97
also.

VIDEO REQUEST PROPOSAL**Date: 03/12/96**

___ ACCEPT**___ REJECT****___ PENDING**

TO: Stephanie Streett
Deputy Assistant to the President &
Director of Scheduling

Anne Walley
Deputy Assistant to the President &
Director of Scheduling

FROM: Carol H. Rasco, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

REQUEST: Video address to the 54th Annual Meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperation Association (NRECA).

PURPOSE: The NRECA has asked that the President address its annual conference. The President suggested he address the group through a video message (see attached notes).

DATE AND TIME: The NRECA Annual Meeting runs from March 25 – 27, 1996.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT: The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

BACKGROUND: More than 10,000 representatives of the nation's electric cooperatives are expected to attend this Annual Meeting in Houston, TX. This Annual Meeting is one of the largest gatherings of electric utility and rural leaders in the United States. Delegates represent 1,000 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric systems serving nearly 30 million people in 46 states. The President spoke at NRECA's 47th Annual Meeting (1987). The Administration's budget proposals and policies have been favorably received by NRECA.

DURATION: Two to three minutes.

REMARKS ATTACHED: Script attached. Correspondence also attached, including the invitation and the President's note suggesting a video message.

STAFF CONTACT: Elizabeth Drye, 6-5573.

ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL: Origin by invitation, sponsored by Office of Domestic Policy.

VIDEO FOR THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Video sponsor

- This video will be used to address participants of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 54th Annual Meeting.

Video decision

- The NRECA has asked that the President address its annual conference. The President suggested addressing the participants of the NRECA Annual Meeting through a video message. The President spoke at NRECA's Annual Meeting in 1987.

Background information

- The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is made up of representatives of the nation's electric cooperatives. More than 10,000 of these representatives are expected to attend this Annual Meeting in Houston, TX. The Annual Meeting is one of the largest gatherings of electric utility and rural leaders in the United States. Delegates represent 1,000 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric systems serving nearly 30 million people in 46 states. The Administration's budget proposals and policies have been favorably received by NRECA.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

20-Mar-1996 07:26pm

TO: Gabrielle M. Bushman 196
TO: T J Glauthier 246
TO: Bob J. Nash 159

FROM: Elizabeth E. Drye
Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Video script attached.

Attached is the revised video script for NRECA video. I'll drop a hard copy by your office momentarily. Bob and TJ, please get any comments to Gabrielle directly. I'll be unreachable for most of next 3 hours but you can try to page me or can leave a message for me at 543-8258. Thanks for your help and patience.

Greg - Bob Nash and TJ have o.k'd.
Communications would like your quick review.
This taping is this afternoon. I'm
at 6-5573 if you have questions
- Elizabeth



**Arkansas Electric
Cooperatives, Inc.**

P. O. Box 194208
Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-4208
(501) 570-2200

CC: Rascw

MAR 19 1996

March 15, 1996

**The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500-2000**

Dear Mr. President:

It is my understanding that Secretary Glickman of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has requested that you make a video tape for presentation to the 10,000 or so delegates of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in Houston the last week of March. I support very heartily his request and hope you can make the tape.

It is my information that Secretary Glickman has prepared a draft for you to consider for your remarks. I believe that draft contains no reference to the sale of power marketing agencies. If you can make a statement to the effect that you are not requesting that these be sold, you will make a big hit with this group.

I would suggest a statement along this line: In the 1997 fiscal year budget I am submitting to Congress I do not recommend the sale of the power marketing agencies.

I hope you can include a statement along this line in your video.

Sincerely,

**Carl S. Whillock
President/CEO**

CSW/ss

Statement on Signing the Rural Electrification Loan Restructuring Act of 1993

November 1, 1993

I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 3123, the "Rural Electrification Loan Restructuring Act of 1993." This Act modifies the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) direct loan programs for rural electric and telephone cooperatives. It represents the culmination of many months of long, hard work by the Congress and the Administration in our commitment to revitalize the infrastructure of rural America.

Earlier this year in my State of the Union Address, I announced my intent to reform the REA. H.R. 3123 does just that. It represents an important first step towards reforming the REA loan programs and is a good example of the Government doing more with less. This legislation will enhance our ability to provide affordable electric and telephone services in rural areas and to ensure access to the emerging telecommunications technologies that are essential for the economic strength of rural areas and the Nation as a whole. It also allows the REA for the first time to make loans for energy conservation purposes.

This Act makes much needed program adjustments to minimize budget expenditures and save over \$100 million in 1994 alone. Despite this reduction in Federal assistance, rural electric and telephone consumer bills should not change substantially. By using means tests to target Federal funds and raising the maximum interest rate, H.R. 3123 allows the REA to use scarce resources more effectively. We should no longer hear about wealthy electric and telephone borrowers that receive Government loans at extremely low interest rates.

Although H.R. 3123 clearly represents a major improvement over current law, I have one concern with it. The Act places a 7 percent interest rate cap on certain REA loans, including those refinanced through the Department of the Treasury's Federal Financing Bank. Experience with Federal credit programs indicates that such statutorily fixed

interest rate ceilings produce unpredictable and unintended results, including (1) inequities among borrowers using the program at different times; (2) extraordinary demands for loans when market interest rates are high; and (3) increased budget deficits. The "open-ended" character of subsidies resulting from the interest rate cap is inconsistent with the Administration's objective of managing Federal subsidies more effectively. Accordingly, my Administration will work with the Congress to remove this provision.

Nevertheless, H.R. 3123 is, overall, a solid step forward. Today I wish to congratulate the Members of Congress and friends of rural America that helped to enact this first major reform of the REA loan programs.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 3123, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 103-129.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Phase Out Wool and Mohair Subsidies

November 1, 1993

Today, in signing S. 1548, something unusual will happen: a Federal program is being abolished so that more than a half billion dollars can be saved. This is a departure from business-as-usual in Washington, where programs seem destined to live forever, and Federal dollars raised from average Americans are treated as if they were meant to be spent or squandered instead of saved. But to accomplish the change my Administration is seeking, for the economy and for our country, it is no longer adequate to conduct the business of Government bound by the old arrangements. The legislation, which phases out the wool and mohair program, eliminates an outdated program, reduces the deficit, and affirms for the American people our commitment to change.

William J. Clinton

House,
1993.

the Office of the Federal Register,
November 2, 1993]

Executive order was published in the
on November 4.

Call Grumbly

4:45

4:50

5:00 Briefing

Laura Schuster +2

~~6:15~~ 6:20 B 5:15

4:59

- Communications -

Adrienne Ehrbach
OMB

Bob Nash =

Ernst - V.P.'s
Office

T.J. Glavin -

Michael Waldman → Counsel w/ Greg Siro

(NEC)

Tom Kalil
- Adam -

- Provision in
Telecom helpful for
rural America in at
large -

Summary of Bill - Consumers in rural and high costs areas at
rates that are

Congress set out principles at
and FCC (states must meet them

Leave

- Infrastructure sharing - rural telephone co.'s can get together to help common network
- proposals for rural health centers in the 411

-233-

Stephen Friedrichs ^{Faxes} 5-1067
5-4941 OMB

We were in their face in the v. first Clinton budget - proposed to cut back on subsidies to REC's we make through direct low-interest rate loans.

Executive
Jerk
6-2226

Out of that 1993 National Rural Electric Loan Restructuring Act - should be a signing ^{smf} of that. Compromise b/w Congress and Admin - loan subsidies were reduced.

Subsequent to that oppords. Committee cut funding for loans slightly. We had

(e.g. '95 - \$61 million in program + Admin costs.
\$100 m.

'96 \$100 m for loan programs

'97 asking for \$43 million in subsidies (but more loan authorized)

2

- Ind. utilities would buy them...

- 5-1067

- Adam
Colladon

- as most other regional co's are set

- FY96 we proposed - Ruling VP, Greg Simon

Last year we reported to sell PMA's to current customers - sell for NPV of current debt of PMA.

(Alaska we are mirroring 2 -

Bonneville Power Marketing Action 50% NW
Southeastern " " " " " " " "
Southwestern " " " " " " " "
Western Area " " " " " " " "

last year we proposed to sell Assets - Transmission
lines, right to power - to current gov't
(not done)

we have been working on this for a long time
and we have been working on it for a long time
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(3)

Investors owned utilities got v. upset —
public power companies — not happy w/ sale price ...
- NREC — } public power companies —
- Public Utilities — } not enthusiastic —
- Muni's — } all

Didn't go anywhere politically —

OMB made decision v. early not to get into that

- ~~we learned~~

- Have President say something like —

We heard of on last year —

- Ruth

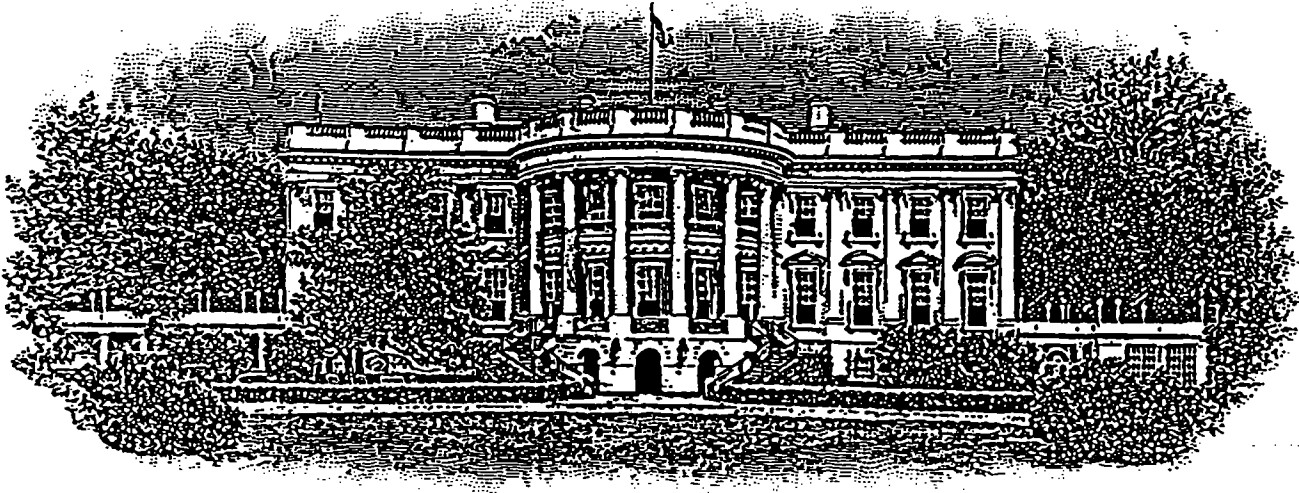
Bethesda Engravers
6405 Beckley Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21224
(410) 633-1891

March 19, 1996

Elizabeth Drye
Chief of Staff
Domestic Policy Council

ORDER NO.		AMOUNT
	Engraved plate	\$37.50
	250 business cards engraved black ink with gold seal	<u>37.25</u>
		\$74.75
	PAID IN FULL	
	A service charge of 1½% per month (18% per annum) will be charged on all invoices thirty days after date of invoice.	

The White House



DOMESTIC POLICY

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: Barbara Woolley

FAX NUMBER: 6-6682

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 6-2155

FROM: Elizabeth Diye

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 7

COMMENTS: NRSCA video request, script,
and correspondence.

Final Draft to
Speechwriting
3/21

Comments by

President William Jefferson Clinton

to the

National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association

Greetings to my friends in the National Rural Electric Cooperative family. I value the long-time personal friendships that I have with many of you. I know from first-hand experience the role that you have played in making our rural communities stronger, more vibrant places to live and work.

Your efforts in communities across this country have improved the quality of life for 25 million rural Americans. As your cooperatives have grown and prospered you have provided the critical infrastructure that has made economic opportunity and job creation possible in rural communities. Today, access to quality education and health care for rural citizens is improving because of your efforts.

When President Franklin Roosevelt gave our nation The Rural Electrification Act in 1935, he set in motion dramatic changes that created some 10,000 private/federal partnerships to electrify rural America. Those partnerships made investments that have returned great dividends to our nation. We see those dividends in our electric and telephone infrastructure, and we see those dividends in human terms.

We are now in times of similar dramatic change. On February 8, I signed into law a

landmark Telecommunications Act that will have an impact not only on the telecommunications industry but on all of our lives. The Telecommunications Act will change the way we live, do business, and educate ourselves and our children. I am particularly pleased that it will guarantee the access of all rural Americans to high quality telecommunications services. The legislation requires, among other things, that we provide telecommunications services at a discounted rate to every hospital, library, and classroom in this country, so rural America doesn't get left out. That will help us meet the challenge I presented in my State of the Union address to connect every classroom, library, and hospital to the Information Superhighway by the end of the decade.

As rural America faces important changes in everything from telecommunications to farm programs, we will be presented with both opportunities and challenges. To meet these challenges, we must increase our investment in the infrastructure and productive capacities of rural communities. That's why I have strongly supported the Fund for Rural America in the Farm Bill -- it will help reinvigorate our research and rural development efforts. I have also proposed an increase of two billion dollars for rural economic and community development in the 1997 budget I just sent to the Congress.

And in this changing environment, it will be important for you to keep me informed of your views of what is right for rural America. When my Administration proposed in our 1996 budget to transfer ownership of the power marketing authorities (PMAs) to their current customers, we heard your concerns. My 1997 budget does not take that approach. Instead, the new budget requests funds for continued, normal operation of the PMAs so they can

continue to supply low cost power to your systems and other rural customers.

As your President, I pledge to you my continuing support for quality infrastructure programs in rural America. Our jobs are far from done. I thank you for your friendship and leadership over the years and call on your continued leadership in developing rural America into the 21st Century.