

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	re: personal (8 pages)	10/02/1999	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Josh Gottheimer
OA/Box Number: 18991

FOLDER TITLE:

Angle - Gay/Lesbian

2016-0201-S

rc2156

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]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

**CLINTON BECOMES FIRST PRESIDENT
TO ADDRESS GAY AND LESBIAN CIVIL RIGHTS EVENT**

**Human Rights Campaign's First Annual National Dinner Makes History, Draws
1,500 Attendees**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, Nov. 8, 1997

WASHINGTON --The Human Rights Campaign saluted President Clinton tonight for having the courage to bring his power to bear for an America where gay men and lesbians "will no longer be bashed or banished to the closet, or told to betray their own identity."

"President Clinton, you have done so much to challenge all of that, and you can be certain that we will ask you to do more," said Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director.

Birch's remarks came at the Human Rights Campaign's first National Dinner, where Clinton delivered the keynote speech.

This was the first time a sitting president ever addressed a lesbian and gay civil rights event.

"We anticipated your first term as president with utter hope and joy," Birch said in introducing Clinton to the sold-out crowd of 1,500. "We stood nearly alone against the worst epidemic in this century. ... Through the first decade of AIDS, your predecessors offered only a wall of stony silence as countless died around us."

Acknowledging that the gay and lesbian community has suffered some disappointments under Clinton, Birch said, "I can honestly say: You have played a brave and powerful and indispensable role in the march toward justice for us, and all Americans."

She singled out the president's endorsement of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill that would outlaw job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Also at the dinner, the organization presented its two National Civil Rights Awards to two outstanding leaders in the quest for equality. One went to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), the legislative arm of this country's historic civil rights movement. LCCR Chairperson Dorothy Height accepted the award.

The other HRC National Civil Rights Award went to actress Ellen DeGeneres for her historic and very public coming out last spring. DeGeneres was accompanied by her partner, actress Anne Heche, and her mother, Betty DeGeneres. Betty DeGeneres is HRC's 1997-98 National Coming Out Project spokesperson.

The sold-out national dinner took place at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington and was expected to raise some \$300,000 for HRC's general fund.

Other Washington dignitaries in attendance included: White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles; White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Political Affairs John Podesta; White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry; White House AIDS czar Sandra Thurman; White House Communications Director Ann Lewis; Maria Echaveste, director of the White House Office of Public Liaison; and Richard Socarides, the White House liaison to the gay and lesbian community and a special assistant to the president.

Several members of Congress also attended, including: Reps. Connie Morella, R-Md.; William Coyne, D-Pa.; Diana DeGette, D-Colo.; Juanita Millender-McDonald, D-Calif.; and Bob Filner, D-Calif.

Last year, President Clinton provided a videotaped message to the Human Rights Campaign's OutVote convention during the 1996 campaign. That event was designed to inspire volunteer involvement in political campaigns for state and federal office seekers who are supportive of equal rights for lesbian and gay people.

The National Dinner took place two days before the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, scheduled for Nov. 10. The conference will examine bias-motivated crime and seeks to find solutions to curb this escalating social problem which is one of HRC's highest priorities.

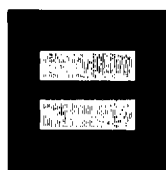
The Dinner Program (Including Remarks and Speeches)

C-SPANonline
Check out the HRC dinner program from
beginning to end!



Here President Clinton's historic speech live!

The Human Rights Campaign
<http://www.hrc.org>



**HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN**

**PRESIDENT CLINTON INCLUDES COMBATING DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST GAY AND LESBIAN AMERICANS AS A PRIORITY IN STATE
OF THE UNION ADDRESS**

**President Clinton Becomes The First President To Address Gay Issues In
State of the Union**

FOR RELEASE

Tuesday, January 19, 1999 -- 9pm

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton made history tonight by becoming the first President to discuss gay and lesbian issues in a State of the Union address. Clinton's inclusive call to end discrimination and violence against gay and lesbian Americans should be applauded and could lend momentum to the passage of gay-supportive legislation in the 106th Congress, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

"President Clinton's call to end violence and discrimination against gay Americans is a testament to his long standing commitment to civil rights and was an act of bold leadership," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "Establishing the passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act as national priorities, reinvigorated momentum for both bills in the 106th Congress."

If passed by Congress, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment. Currently, race, religion, national origin, age, disability and gender are protected categories. In 1996, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act came within one vote of passing the Senate.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), if passed by Congress, would help protect gay and lesbian Americans from bias-motivated attacks. The HCPA would add sexual orientation, as well as gender and disability, to the already protected categories of religion, race, and national origin. The HCPA would allow the Federal Bureau of Investigation to intervene in cases where local law enforcement was either unable or unwilling to solve a crime or protect the victims from further attacks. The HCPA would also expand the circumstances in which the FBI could involve itself in a case.

"We hope to work with Congress to see that this bipartisan legislation, which is popular with the public and backed by the president, can get passed this year," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg.

The Human Rights Campaign
<http://www.hrc.org>

NEWS from the Human

Rights Campaign 919 18th Street NW Washington, DC 20005 email: hrc@hrc.org WWW: <http://www.hrc.org>

FOR

IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, April 6, 1999 HRC HAILS PRESIDENT CLINTON'S

ENDORSEMENT OF HATE CRIMES BILL Hate Crimes Increasingly More Lethal, According To New Statistics Released In Aftermath of Wyoming Shepard Murder Trial WASHINGTON --

Momentum for passing the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) continues to expand, with an endorsement today from President Bill Clinton at a White House press conference. Clinton joins Matthew Shepard's mother, Judy Shepard, in leading the charge to pass legislation that would extend current federal hate crimes protection to cover gender, sexual orientation and disability. According to HRC, new statistics released today by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs showing increased savagery in anti-gay attacks, as well yesterday's sentencing of Russell A. Henderson, one of two men accused of killing Matthew Shepard, punctuates the need for state and federal hate crimes laws. "The President has always understood the importance of sending the message that a hate crime committed against one American is a crime against all Americans and is an assault on our society's core values," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "We hope Congress and lawmakers in all 50 states can match President Clinton's and Judy Shepard's will, determination and commitment to ending hate motivated violence." In announcing his support for the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, President Clinton put hate crimes against gay people in the context of ethnic and religious conflicts in Kosovo, Rwanda, and elsewhere. Clinton called on our nation to be an example for the world in tolerance and diversity. "Our diversity is a godsend for us, and the world of the 21st century," said Clinton at the press conference. "But it also has the potential for the old, haunting demons that are hard to root out of the human spirit. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would be important, substantively and symbolically, to send a message to ourselves and to the world that we are going into the 21st century determined to preach and to practice what is right." Clinton offered several methods to reduce hate crimes in America. The President said he will ask the Justice and Education Departments to provide hate crimes information in their annual report cards on school safety. Clinton will ask the Department of Education to collect data on hate crimes on college campuses. Clinton also announced the formation of "a public-private partnership to help reach middle school students to discuss this whole issue with them and talk about tolerance -- why it is moral, as well as a practical imperative." In a press conference last month, Mrs. Shepard announced her support for the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, as well as passing state hate crimes laws. Mrs. Shepard said hate crimes laws could potentially deter violent acts by sending a clear message to would-be perpetrators that society unequivocally condemns hate motivated violence. "No one will ever know if these laws would have saved...my son's life. But we can begin today by building a safer world for all Americans, including gay and lesbian Americans," said Mrs. Shepard at the press conference. "On behalf of my family, I call on the Congress of the United States to pass the hate Crimes Prevention Act without delay." The need for hate crimes legislation was highlighted by a survey released today by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, which documented 2,552 anti-gay incidents in 1998. The national survey includes reports from 16 coalition members in locations ranging from San Francisco to Cleveland to El Paso, Texas. The survey showed an alarming increase in the brutality of hate crimes, with chilling statistics that communicated the intensity of anti-gay sentiment behind attacks. "What we found most disturbing was the attacks were more severe and much more intense," said Natalie Chin, a spokeswoman from the Community United Against Violence, which gathered statistics for the survey in San Francisco. "Attackers really seem motivated to debase their victims and cause serious injury." According to an article about the survey in the San Francisco Chronicle, the use of weapons grew at an unprecedented pace. Reports of guns used during assaults grew 71 percent; ropes and restraints, 133 percent; vehicles, 150 percent; and the use of blunt objects, clubs, bats in attacks grew by 47 percent. The survey follows murder suspect Russell A. Henderson's guilty plea yesterday in Laramie, Wyo. to felony murder, as well as the robbery and kidnaping of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard. Henderson's plea brought a swift conclusion to a nationally watched trial that may have ended with the death penalty if Henderson was found guilty. District Judge Jeffery A. Donnell sentenced Henderson to serve two consecutive life sentences. According to the Associated Press, defense attorney Wyatt Skaggs said that Henderson simply watched while co-defendant Aaron J. McKinney killed Shepard with the butt of his gun. Skaggs also claimed that the slaying was not premeditated. McKinney will stand trial for first degree murder, aggravated robbery, and kidnaping in

August. If convicted, he could receive the death penalty. Henderson's girlfriend pleaded guilty to accessory after the fact of the murder on Dec.23 and is awaiting sentencing. In May, McKinney's girlfriend goes on trial on an accessory charge, according to the AP report. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) was introduced last month at a press conference on Capitol Hill. A hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on HCPA is scheduled for April 28. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation were up 8 percent in 1997, according to the latest FBI statistics. Sexual orientation was the third highest category of hate crimes behind race and religion and represented 14 percent of all hate crimes reported. Currently, hate crimes monitoring and enforcement consists of a patchwork of laws that offer citizens varying levels of legal protection depending on where they live. Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have hate crimes laws that include sexual orientation. Twenty one states have laws that do not include sexual orientation. Eight states have no hate crimes laws at all. - 30 -

FRIENDS

Steve Afari /
Curtis Sanchez
Chad Allen
Will Arndt
Gwen Baba °
Steven Badeau
Terry Bean
Roberta Bennett °
Steve Bennett
Leslie Belzberg °
Jeremy Bernard °
LuAnn Boylan
Robert Brkikh
Russel Brown Jr.
Allen Carrier
The Coffee Table
Nancy Cohen
Robert Craig
Stuart Dennis
John Duran ° /
Jeff Thomas
Joey Emick
Evolution Film
and Tape

Stephen Fields /
Sims Brannon
Randy Foster
Kevin Friedmann
John Gile
Mickey Guillory
Bob Graney
Don Gray
Herb Hamsher /
Jonathan Stoller
Bill Haworth
Chuck Holmes
Roy Huebner
Human Rights
Campaign/LA
Sky Johnson *
Barry Karas *
Jamie Kershaw /
Danny Avedon
Todd Manion
Patrick Marston
Jeff Marchan /
Jeff Kennedy
Georgia Mercer
Greg Nimer

Steve Nuskiewicz
Cory O'Connor *
Jean O'Leary *
Dan Pallotta
John A. Pérez
Dani Perlman
Mark Perrin
Lisa Phelps
Dean Pitchford /
Michael Meahliffe
Christopher Price *
Steve Roehler
Charlie Rounds
Brian Saltzman
Adam Schmidt
Larry Sprenger
Steve Tyler *
Thomas Watson /
Andrew Klayman
William Waybourn
Dr. Wes Wheadon
Trip Wilnot
Andrew Zuker /
Jack Lorenz

DINNER CO-CHAIRS

Gwen Baba ^o
 Roberta Bennett ^o
 Jeremy Bernard ^o

Scott Hitt ²
Bill Melamed ⁶
David Mixner ⁶

Christopher Price^a
Steve Tyler^a

^c ANGLE member

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is the only national party committee whose principle mission is to elect Democrats to the House of Representatives. The DCCC is committed to recruiting, training and helping to find Democratic Congressional candidates throughout the country.

DESIGN: Hershey Associates
EVENT COORDINATOR:
Levy, Pazanti and Associates

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY:
Amy Shomer

Presented by



A.N.G.L.E.

Access Plan: Mr. G. & Lesman Squash



THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY
INVITES YOU TO A VERY SPECIAL EVENING...



*An Evening to Benefit the Democratic
Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC)
with Honored Guest...*

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON*

SATURDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 2ND, 1999

THE BEVERLY HILTON
9876 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210

Black Tie
Cocktails 5:30 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm

R.S.V.P. Levy, Pazanti and Associates
310 201 5033

*Contributions to the DCCC are not tax-deductible. Paid for by the DCCC.
The DCCC is a multi-candidate Committee, FEC ID: C00000935.*

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Skip Paul

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Jane and Marc Nathanson
Andrew Reyes and Butch Barksdale

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Human Rights Campaign	Jeff Soref
Paul Morabito	Kevin Wendle / Lance Orchid

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Dr. Scott Hitt* / Alex Koleszar	George Harangody /
David Huebner Esq. * /	Laurette Healey* /
Duane E. McWaine M.D.	Lisa Sanderson
Wilkes Kothumaim / John Hallum	Lew Wasserman
Tom Leonhardt / Craig Dougherty	David Wexler / Richard Klug

SPECIAL
GUESTS IN
ATTENDANCE

*Democratic House Leader
Richard A. Gephardt*

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin

Congressman Xavier Becerra

Congressman Howard Berman

Congressman Patrick Kennedy

Congressman Brad Sherman

Congresswoman Maxine Waters

Congressman Henry Waxman

Ellen DeGeneres

Anne Heche

Julia Louis-Dreyfus



DMixner@aol.com
09/26/99 12:55:11 PM

-TAKING
BACK THE MESSAGE.

Record Type: Record

To: Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP, Simeona F. Pasquil/WHO/EOP
cc: Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP
Subject: RE: Presidential Briefing

Dear All:

Here are my thoughts for the President's remarks and so people he should thank.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Besides the obvious there are a couple of people he might want to acknowledge in his speech.

Bill Melamed: Basically the CoChair for the evening and has put in enormous amount of time and energy.

Skip Paul: Is the Honorary CoChair of the evening and has raised over \$100,000 for the event. Crucial in getting the evening off the ground.

Andrew Reyes: Mecklenberg County Chairperson who is Hispanic and openly Gay and contributed personally \$60,000 to the evening.

Scott Hitt: Because of his position in the Presidential AIDS Advisory Panel

Of course, he might want to acknowledge his own openly gay and lesbian appointments who are in the audience. They will have been acknowledged before he speaks.

RS
MINYON
SEAN
HITT H.

KNIGHT INITIATIVE:

The biggest policy question will be if the President states his opposition to the Knight Initiative. Already both Bradley and the Vice President has come out against the Initiative while continuing to state their opposition to gay marriage.

Given the President's signing of DOMA, ironically he would be in a perfect position to oppose this Initiative given his stance of opposing gay marriage.

He could distinguish between his opposition to gay marriage and an initiative that is basically placed on the ballot to divide, create hate, create fear and suspicion and to build a base of power for political demagogues. The initiative is not needed because gay marriage is not legal in California already thus there can be only one purpose for this measure and that is to hurt and divide people. Please feel free to call me if you need to discuss this more.

TOO MUCH
HITMAN

ANGLE/ANNIVERSARY:

It will be almost exactly eight years ago that then Governor and Ms. Clinton made their first appearance before a gay and lesbian group. It was at ANGLE at Scott Hitt's and Alex Koleszar's home. The group became the first Gay and Lesbian group to endorse the President and fanned out across the country to build a base of support for him in the Gay and Lesbian community. It was the group that organized the historic speech on Gay and Lesbian rights that the President gave at the Hollywood Palace in May of 1992.

It would be a wonderful place to have a theme of "coming home" to where his extraordinary partnership with the Gay and Lesbian community began and to report on that journey. He can talk about how proud he is of his accomplishments and that he responded to one of the great civil rights movements of this decade. He can even acknowledge that there had been differences and some rocky moments on this journey but what has been created is an extraordinary record of progress, change and history making.

HATE

This would be the perfect time of him to talk about the need to battle hate crimes in America and what it does to the fabric of a nation. It is the first anniversary of Matthew Shepards death. He can talk about how those voices of political demagogues in the House would use fear of homosexuals to create division and to raise money for their own political power. How important it is to remove the extreme right leadership in the House. How Bob Barr and Tom DeLay should no longer be allowed to hold leadership positions. He can even refer to George W Bush refusing to support and thus killing a hate crimes bill in Texas. A good opportunity to mention the Vice President and contrast him with George W.

Hope this is helpful. Please call if you need more information and assistance with wording. We all are so excited and thrilled about this event. My thanks to each of you.

David

"I HAVE A VERSION, AND
YOU NEED A PART OF
IT"

OUT 6TH
OUT - NOT EXACT
BUT



DMixner@aol.com

09/26/99 03:52:38 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP, Simeona F. Pasquil/WHO/EOP

cc: Richard Socarides/WHO/EOP

Subject: RE: Additional Presidential Thank You...

Dear All:

In my last letter I forgot one group that the President might want to thank in his speech....

The Los Angeles Gay Mens Chorus (about 200 strong) are opening the evening with some patriotic songs. It is the first time in history that a Gay Mens Chorus has performed for the President of the United States.

He might want to acknowledge their music in his opening....it would go over big...

David

Oct 91 - met w/ Clinton - gave presentation of vision
Jay + 12

Speaker spoke to Jay + 12 in a meeting / willing to take up our cause

Set
Speaker

ANGEL - int

Hollywood Bowl

Logistics part Rem noon +

Oct 91 - Angel met

Nov 92 - Hollywood Palace

plus the person who was pre 2
Jay + 12 had a lot of
didn't say much but

"I have a vision + you are
part of it" Nov 92

I said to you years ago: "I"

I said to you you to you ago -
David Nixon prime moving force behind it

David had relationship -

① Anger Army friends @ Microsoft Lab -

8 yrs later - speaks before some group

HIV/AIDS -- Providing National Leadership. In 1996, for the first time in the history of the AIDS epidemic, the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS declined. My Administration has increased funding for AIDS research by over 57 percent; for HIV prevention by 36 percent; and for the Ryan White CARE Act by over 290 percent.

Fighting for Hate Crimes Legislation. Hate crimes motivated by race, religion or sexual orientation tear at the fabric of the American community and at our common values. In 1997 alone, there were more than 8,000 reported hate crimes in our country. That's almost one an hour.

THIS WEEK MARK
Tonight is the First Anniversary of Matthew Shepard's Death. Let us honor his memory by recommitting ourselves to take strong and decisive action to end all hate crimes – and to work with Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. *work done*

a strong story
While we have come a long way on our journey toward tolerance, understanding, and mutual respect, we still have a long way to go. *acceptance*

reconciliation
We cannot achieve true tolerance merely through legislation. (And we certainly do not need legislation whose only purpose is to divide, create hate, fear and suspicion. All of our efforts must be directed toward inspiring greater understanding and tolerance. Our greatest hope for a just society is to teach our children to respect one another, to appreciate our differences, and to recognize the fundamental values that we hold in common. *acceptance*

Tonight, despite all the good feeling in this room, let's not kid ourselves: We've had some wins and we've had some losses. But that is part of the lessons of governing. *However, I build* believe I have remained true to my pledge to you: I still have a vision, and today more than ever you are a part of it.

Since our earliest days a nation, Americans have strived to make real the ideals of equality and freedom so eloquently expressed in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. We now have a rare opportunity to enter a new century and a new millennium as One America – living those principles, recognizing our common values, and building on our shared strengths. Together we will move closer to the day when discrimination and acts of hatred are no longer a stain on our community or our conscience.

I want all of you to keep your faith, keep your strength, maintain your resolve. No matter how difficult the road may be, we must keep our eyes on the prize and not succumb to the sirens of hate. As Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Darkness can not drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate can not drive out hate; only love can do that. ~~Hate multiplies hate. Violence multiplies violence.~~" So as we move forward, let our understanding, our love, and our commitment to justice multiply until it fills every heart and soul in America. Thank you and God bless you.

Arch of Justice
As Tom Goddard

Ending Discrimination Against Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Civilian Workforce. I issued an Executive Order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Federal workforce. This makes the Federal Government the largest employer in the world with a non-discrimination policy covering sexual orientation.

Endorsing Legislation that Outlaws Discrimination in the Workplace. We are continuing our fight for passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which outlaws discrimination in hiring, firing and promotions based on sexual orientation.

HIV/AIDS -- Providing National Leadership. My Administration has increased funding for AIDS research by over 57 percent; for HIV prevention by 36 percent; and for the Ryan White CARE Act by over 290 percent.

- In 1996, for the first time in the history of the AIDS epidemic, the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS declined.

While we have come a long way on our journey toward tolerance, understanding, and mutual respect, we still have a long way to go.

We cannot achieve true tolerance merely through legislation. We must change hearts and minds as well. Our greatest hope for a just society is to teach our children to respect one another, to appreciate our differences, and to recognize the fundamental values that we hold in common.

Tonight, despite all the good feeling in this room, let's not kid ourselves: We've had some wins and we've had some losses. But that is part of the lessons of governing. However, I believe I have remained true to my pledge to you: I still have a vision, and today more than ever you are a part of it.

Since our earliest days a nation, Americans have strived to make real the ideals of equality and freedom so eloquently expressed in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

We now have a rare opportunity to enter a new century and a new millennium as our country living those principles, recognizing our common values, and building on our shared strengths. Together we will move closer to the day when acts of hatred are no longer a stain on our community or our conscience.

discrimination

*don't
And we certainly don't need
divisive legislation
that
is
only*

One America

DRAFT

9-27-99 1:00pm
Terry Edmonds

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RELIGIOUS LEADERS BREAKFAST
THE EAST ROOM
SEPTEMBER 28, 1999**

Acknowledgements: Mrs. Clinton; Members of my Cabinet: Sec. Shalala, Sec. Herman, Sec. Riley, Jack Lew; Rev. Hahn; Sister Sylvester.

Thank you and welcome to the White House. As many of you know, I look forward to this day each year perhaps more than any other. It gives me and all of us servants of faith a chance to talk about how to apply spiritual wisdom to the day -to-day work of healing souls and building a more just and prosperous and peaceful nation.

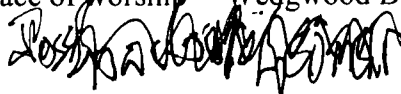
For quite some time now we have been talking about how to make the computer systems that virtually run our lives Y2K ready. ~~But today, I want to say a few words about what we must do to make sure our nation's priorities and our resolve are Y2K ready -- especially as we look for ways to end the epidemic of gun violence that still plagues our nation. It is not enough that we enter the new century the most technologically advanced and economically prosperous nation on earth. As scripture asks, "What does it profit a man to gain the world and lose his soul." I want to make sure we enter the new century with a renewed respect for the life of every human being and especially for the lives of our precious and innocent children. Too many of them are being taken away from us by gun violence.~~

It is true: we have the lowest overall crime rate in 26 years, with violent crime down by 27 percent in the last six years alone. We have the lowest murder rate in 30 years. But we have also seen a recent rash of high-profile mass shootings that have focused the nation's attention. (Without a doubt, the killing of innocent people daily and en masse in America has been the most painful thing that I and the Vice President and our families have had to endure in discharging our responsibilities to the American people: the bombing in Oklahoma City; the terrible school violence at Littleton; the dragging death of James Byrd in Jasper, Texas; the torture death of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming; the murder of Won Joon Yoon outside his church in Bloomington, Indiana on the Fourth of July; the office killings in Atlanta, the shootings at the Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles, the killing of the Filipino postal worker, the recent murderous rampage at a place of worship -- Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Now, some of these crimes were motivated by hate. And there is a consensus emerging across America and in the Congress that we have to do more to prevent and prosecute hate crimes. More and more of our citizens are standing with us to proclaim: No American should be subjected to violence on account of his or her race, color, national. origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender or disability. We have a Hate Crimes bill moving through Congress that would expand protections



Joshua
Gottheimer



and remove barriers to speedy prosecution. The Congress needs to finish its work on this bill and send it for my signature without further delay.

But many of these crimes do not fit into the category of hate crimes. Some have described them as acts of evil. Others have questioned whether mental illness motivated the killers. None of us should seek to make any capital of this, but all of us should seek to make some sense of it. Consider this: It is a fact that America has the highest murder rate in the world. But did you know that the rate of accidental shooting deaths for children under 15 in the United States is nine times higher than the rate for the other 25 industrialized nations combined?

If you believe this is about the human heart, you must believe two things. If the murder rate is higher here, and the accidental death rate is exponentially higher, you must believe that we are both more evil and more stupid than any other country on earth. I know that sounds funny, but I am trying to make a very serious point. The NRA and others have got to stop using arguments like this as an excuse to avoid our shared responsibilities. God calls us to be "...doers of the word, and not just hearers only." (James 1:22). That means taking action collectively to make America a safer place...to make it clear that our children are going to grow up safe and healthy.

So, to those who say this is about evil, I say you're right. It is about evil, the unfathomable darkness within us all that mutates and explodes within the angry, tortured souls of the few. But it is not just about evil, whether reasoned or irrational. This violence has earthly causes and it must have earthly solutions. That calls all of us to rise up as one and let it be known: We're not going to let our children die like this anymore and we are simply not going to live like this anymore.

From the pulpits of your congregations to the bully pulpit in Washington -- all of us have a responsibility to join this effort. Scripture also tells us, "Be not overcome with evil. Overcome evil with good." The killings in Columbine were evil. The shootings in Los Angeles and Atlanta were evil. The rampage in Fort Worth was evil. But praying and working for peace is good. Starting a grassroots campaign against youth violence, as we have done, is good. Putting more uniformed peace-officers in troubled neighborhoods is good. These gun buy back programs that are springing up across the country are good. And passing common sense gun legislation to keep guns out of the hands of evil doers is good.

So, as we enter the new millennium, let us make sure our hearts and minds are Y2K ready. Let us make sure our sense of responsibility to our children and to our nation is ready. Let us make sure the soul of America is ready.

The book of Ecclesiastes also tells us that for everything there is a season. "A time to weep and a time to laugh.... a time to mourn and a time to dance.. a time to keep silence and a time to speak." (Ecclesiastes, 3) Now, I believe it is time to end our weeping and our silence. Now is the time to stand up, speak out and take responsible action to end gun violence in America. Let us put that prayer into action today and everyday. Thank you and God bless you all.

Draft 10/01/99 4:30pm
Josh Gottheimer

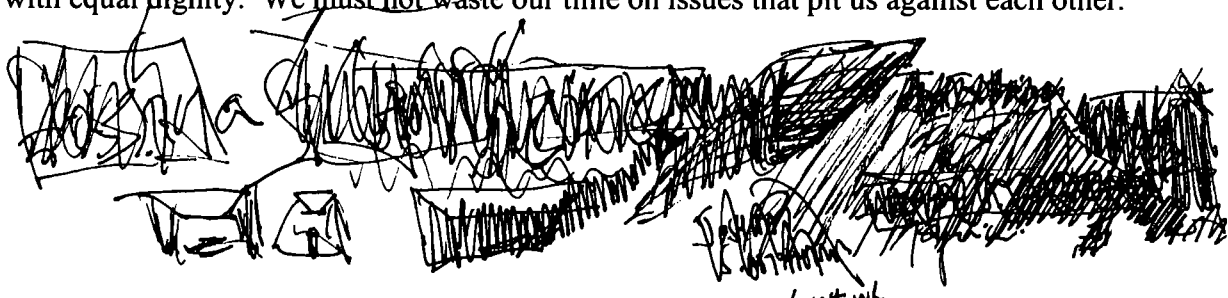
**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS TO ANGLE DINNER
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October 2, 1999**

Ack: Reps. Gephardt, Baldwin, Becerra, Berman, Kennedy, Sherman, Waters, Waxman; David Mixner [clearly tonight not a *Stranger Among Friends* (name of his book)]; Dinner Co-Chairs: Bill Mellamud, Roberta Bennett, Gwynn Babba; Administration: Sean Maloney, Karen Tramontano (two highest ranking openly gay and lesbian appointees); Fred Hochberg (Dep. Admin, SBA). Scott Hitt (Chair AIDS Council); Richard Socarides, Minyon Moore, Marsha Scott; Ellen DeGeneres, Anne Heche, Julia Louis-Dreyfus; Entertainment: Los Angeles Gay Mens Chorus.

Seven years ago, I told you I had a vision and that you were a part of it. That we are all a part of the same community, and that tomorrow would be better than today if we acted together. With your help, we've come a long way. Together we have tried to realize that union



I'm proud that the ^{advised} Democratic Party has stood clearly and unambiguously for the elimination of all forms of discrimination – for the Employment Discrimination Act, for the Hate Crime Prevention Act, for the proposition that every law-abiding citizen in this country ought to be treated with equal dignity. We must ~~not waste our time on issues that pit us against each other.~~



Fighting for Hate Crimes Legislation. America's diversity is our greatest strength. Whiel we have come a long way on our journey toward tolerance, understanding, and mutual respect, we stil have a long way to go in our efforts to end discrimination. ^{way} ~~Tonight is~~ the first anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death. Over this past year, people across our country have been shaken by violent acts that struck at the heart of what it means to be an American and at the values that have always defined us as a nation. In 1997 alone, there were more than 8,000 reported hate crimes in our country. That's almost one an hour. Now is the time for us to take strong and desisvive action end all hate crimes – and to work with Congress to pass the Hate Crime Prevention Act.

Hate crimes, committed solely because the victims have a different skin color, or a different faith, leave deep scars not only on the victims, but on our larger community. They weaken the sense that we are one people with common values and a common future. They tear us apaprt

HIV/AIDS -- Providing National Leadership. My Administration has worked hard to invigorate the response to HIV and AIDS, providing new national leadership, substantially greater resources and a closer working relationship with affected communities.

→ Funding for AIDS research has increased by over 57 percent at HHS; funding for HIV prevention has increased 36 percent; and funding for the Ryan White CARE Act has increased by over 290 percent.

-- In 1996, for the first time in the history of the AIDS epidemic, the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS declined.

I'm proud that my Administration and our party has stood clearly and unambiguously for the elimination of all forms of discrimination – for the Employment Discrimination Act, for the Hate Crime Prevention Act, for the proposition that every law-abiding citizen in this country ought to be treated with equal dignity. But while we have come a long way on our journey toward tolerance, understanding, and mutual respect, we still have a long way to go in our efforts to end discrimination.

inspiration
We cannot achieve true tolerance merely through legislation. We must change hearts and minds as well. Our greatest hope for a just society is to teach our children to respect one another, to appreciate our differences, and to recognize the fundamental values that we hold in common. We must never relinquish the fight to move forward in the continuing struggle for human rights.

Tonight, despite all the good feeling in this room, let's not kid ourselves: we've had some wins and we've had some losses. But that is part of the lessons of governing. However, I believe I have remained true to my pledge to you: I still have a vision, and today more than ever you are ~~still~~ a part of it.

Fifty years ago, President Harry Truman stood at a new frontier in our defining struggle on civil rights. Standing before the Lincoln Memorial he said, "it is more important today than ever to ensure that all Americans enjoy the rights of freedom and equality. When I say all Americans, I mean all Americans."

Harry Truman's words ring true today. All Americans still means all Americans. And our diversity is still our greatest strength. We all know that if we are ever going to build one American, then all Americans have to be a part of it.

Since our earliest days a nation, Americans have strived to make real the ideals of equality and freedom so eloquently expressed in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. We now have a rare opportunity to enter a new century and a new millennium as our country, living those principles, recognizing our common values, and building on our shared strengths. Together we will move closer to the day when acts of hatred are no longer a stain on our community or our conscience.

when we should be moving closer together. R They are acts of violence against America itself – and can do enormous damage to our efforts to bind together our increasingly diverse society into one nation realizing its full promise.

I'd like to repeat my support for two top legislative priorities – an employment nondiscrimination act that would ban discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace, and a hate crimes prevention act.

Creating an Administration that is Highly Talented and the Most Inclusive in History.

Appointed the First-ever Openly Gay United States Ambassador. Named over 150 openly gay and lesbian appointees.

Ending Discrimination Against Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Civilian Workforce.

Issued an Executive Order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Federal workforce. This makes the Federal Government the largest employer in the world with a non-discrimination policy covering sexual orientation.

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-- In 1996, for the first time in the history of the AIDS epidemic, the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS declined.

And tonight, despite all the good feeling in this room, let's not kid ourselves: in addition to all the good things we have been able to get done, there have also been disappointments for you – and for me. To be sure, not everything has turned out as we planned it. I have learned that this too is part of the challenge of governing.

Fifty years ago, President Harry Truman stood at a new frontier in our defining struggle on civil rights. Standing before the Lincoln Memorial he said, "it is more important today than ever to ensure that all Americans enjoy the rights of freedom and equality. When I say all Americans, I mean all Americans." Harry Truman's words ring true today. All Americans still means all Americans. We all know that it is an ideal and not perfectly real now. We all know that there is continuing discrimination against gays and lesbians. But we also know that if we are ever going to build one American, then all Americans have to be a part of it. All Americans are entitled to the same respect and legal protection, no matter their race, their gender, their sexual orientation.

Prescription Drugs. Cost can be crushing--not just to lower-income seniors. 75% older Americans lack decent, dependable private sector coverage.

Pay Down Debt- elim. pub held debt by 2015

Targeted Tax Cuts- Long term, child care, new mkts

USA Accounts- incl automatic tax cred/matching tax cred; pro-savings tax cut

Republican Phony Ad Campaign.

Meet 21st Century Challenges:

- **Strengthen Families**

Child care; PBOR; FMLA -- extend 10M; Equal Pay for Equal Work

- **21st Century Economy**

New Markets--invest. rural/inner-city

Expand Trade -- freer & fairer trade

- **21st Century Schools**

Class Size--100K new tchrs. School modernization. Computers in Classrooms.

Now, Education Accountability Act: Social Promotion/after school (3x); turn around failing schools; trained teachers; discipline; parent accountability

- **21st Century Crime Bill**

Guns: Brady ⇒ juveniles; restore 5day wait

50K+ police; drug testing prisoners/parolees

- **Enviro** livability/lands legacy

- **One America-** AmeriCorps, Race Init., Hate Crimes/ENDA.

None of this will matter unless we come together as One America in the 21st Century. Not only respecting, but celebrating our great diversity. That's why we've been fighting so hard to pass strong hate crimes legislation, to end discrimination in the work force, and invest in research, prevention, and treatment for HIV/AIDS:

Fighting for Hate Crimes Legislation. Hate crimes motivated by race, religion or sexual orientation tear at the fabric of the American community and at our common values. In 1997 alone, there were more than 8,000 reported hate crimes in our country. That's almost one an hour.

- Tonight is the first anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death. Let us honor his memory by recommitting ourselves to take strong and decisive action to end all hate crimes – and to work with Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Creating an Administration that is Highly Talented and the Most Inclusive in History. I appointed the first-ever openly gay United States Ambassador – James Hormel and named over 150 openly gay and lesbian appointees.

Draft 10/01/99 4:30pm
Josh Gottheimer

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My Administration is ~~also~~ fighting to build on our prosperity and bring opportunity to every American as we head toward the 21st Century.

Friday -- Commerce Dept released Income Poverty Reports:

- *Household income* ↑ 3.5% '97-'98.
- *Family income* ↑ more than \$5K since '93.
- Income ↑ for rich & poor.
- *Poverty rate* lowest on record for Af Am.
- *EITC*—4.3M out of poverty '98. 2X '97. Under Republican attack.
- **Last week I vetoed tax bill.** Force drastic cuts in education, health care, etc. Cripple our ability to pay down the debt, save Soc Sec, secure/ modern Medicare.
- **1992⇒Strengthen Am 21st C⇒ opportunity, responsibility, community**
1)Aging Am; 2)Bal Work/Fam; 3)Leave No One Behind; 4)Evn/Econ 5)Unity/Diversity
- **Results:** \$290B def⇒\$115B surp. \$1T non-soc sec surplus over 10 yrs. Debt Elimin 2015. Peacetime Unempl lwst/1957 (7.3%⇒4.2%). 30 yr crime, 30-Welf (cut in ½); 30- Core Infl; College opp: HOPE, Pell, work-study. Child health: 5M, highest immun

Critical Choice: continue fiscal discipline or return to risk-taking that got us recessions & deficits. Invest surplus in long-term or squander in short-term.

• My Balance Budget Meets National Priorities. Puts First Things First.

Save Soc Sec -- 1st Priority- Bal the Bud w/o using any SS\$; extend solvency for 50 yrs.

Modernize Medicare ⇒ My plan will contain costs, improve services, moderates the bal budget act provider cuts, extend the life of the trust fund for ¼ of a century.

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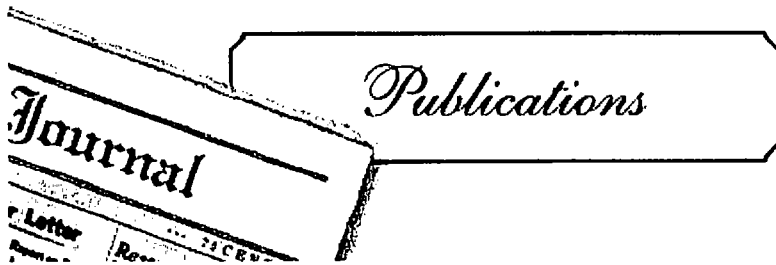
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Endorsing Legislation that Outlaws Discrimination in the Workplace. We need to continue our fight for passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, outlawing discrimination in hiring, firing and promotions based on sexual orientation.

invest in fighting

Crimes of violence motivated by race, religion or sexual orientation
Let us honor his memory and educate
at the fabric of what we mean
to



White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 10, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT HUMAN **RIGHTS** DAY PRESENTATION
OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HUMAN **RIGHTS** AWARD

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

10:39 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I want to welcome all of you here, the members of Congress, the members of our foreign policy team who have worked on this -- National Security Advisor Berger, Under Secretary Loy, Assistant Secretary Koh. I welcome Ambassador Nancy Rubin, the Ambassador of the U.N. Commission on Human **Rights**; Theresa Loar, the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues; members of the Roosevelt family and other distinguished guests.

I would like to say also before getting into my prepared remarks that someday when I write the memoirs of these last several years, one of the proudest moments of our administration for me will be the work the First Lady has done to advance the cause of human **rights**. (Applause.) I remember the speech she gave in Beijing on a rainy day, when people were struggling through the mud to get into that remote facility; the talk she gave just a few days ago at Gaston Hall at Georgetown University about Eleanor Roosevelt, I think one of the finest speeches she ever gave. But more important, the concrete work, the Vital Voices work in Northern Ireland and Latin America, and all the little villages she visited in Latin America and Africa and Asia, on the Indian Subcontinent to try to advance the condition of women and children, experience young girls.

And I think that every person who has ever been the parent of a

Middle East, where I will go in two days, Palestinian and Israelis are struggling to bridge mutual distrust to implement the Wye Accords. In Kosovo, a serious humanitarian crisis has been averted, and the process toward reconciliation continues in Bosnia. All these breakthroughs were triumphs for human **rights**.

Today we commit ourselves to the ideas of the Universal Declaration, to keep moving toward the promise outlined in Paris 50 years ago.

First, we're taking steps to respond quickly to genocidal conditions, through the International Coalition Against Genocide I announced during my visit to Africa, and a new genocide early warning center sponsored by the Department of State and the CIA. We will provide additional support to the U.N. Torture Victims Fund and genocide survivors in Bosnia, Rwanda and Cambodia. We will continue assistance to women suffering under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. And USAID will provide up to \$8 million to NGOs to enhance their ability to respond more rapidly to human **rights** emergencies.

Second, we must do more for children who have always been especially vulnerable to human **rights** violations. This year I sought, and Congress provided, dramatic new support for the fight against child labor with a tenfold increase in United States assistance to the International Labor Organization. Today, the Immigration and Naturalization Service is issuing new guidelines for the evaluation of asylum claims by children, making the process better serve our youngest and most vulnerable asylum seekers.

Third, we must practice at home what we preach abroad. Just this morning I signed an executive order that strengthens our ability to implement human **rights** treaties and creates an interagency group to hold us accountable for progress in honoring those commitments.

Fourth, I am concerned about aliens who suffer abuses at the hands of smugglers and sweatshop owners. These victims actually have a built-in disincentive -- their unlawful status here -- that discourages them from complaining to U.S. authorities. So I'm asking the Department of Justice to provide legislative options to address this problem. And I know the Deputy Attorney General, Eric Holder, and the Deputy Secretary of Labor, Kitty Higgins, are here, and I trust they will work on this because I know they care as much about it as I do.

Finally, I'd like to repeat my support for two top legislative priorities -- an employment nondiscrimination act that would ban discrimination against **gays** and lesbians in the workplace, and a hate crimes prevention act. Last year, the entire nation was outraged by the brutal killings of Matthew Shepard, a young **gay** student in Wyoming; and James Byrd, and African American in Texas. All Americans are entitled to the same respect and legal protection, no matter their race, their gender, their sexual orientation. I agree with something President Truman once said, "When I say Americans, I mean all Americans."

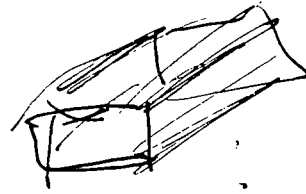
We will never relinquish the fight to move forward in the continuing struggle for human **rights**. I am aware that much of the best work in human **rights** has been done by those outside government -- students and activists, NGOs, brave religious leaders -- people from all backgrounds who simply want a better, safer world for their children. Many have done so in the face of great adversity -- the imprisoned members of the Internal Dissidents Working Group in Cuba, the political prisoners of the National League for Democracy in Burma, the imprisoned dissidents in China. We make common cause with them all.

B



YUCCA

shot sunset → talked to local
part. ⑦



34TH STORY of Focus printed in FULL format.

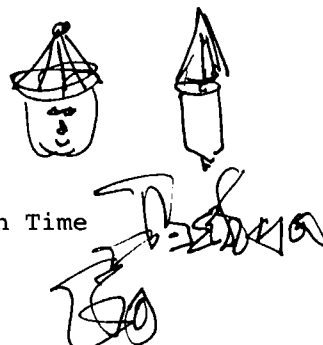
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CNN

SHOW:  12:00 am ET

June 7, 1997; Saturday 12:02 am Eastern Time

Transcript # 97060701V11



TYPE: LIVE REPORT

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 827 words

HEADLINE: President Clinton Attacks Crime; Pentagon Addresses Sex Scandals

BYLINE: Kathleen Kennedy, Carl Rochelle

HIGHLIGHT:

President Clinton announced his plans to combat bigotry and intolerance in America by convening a conference on hate crimes at the White House in November. It is expected that three panels will be established to address sex and gender related issues at the Pentagon.

BODY:

KATHLEEN KENNEDY, CNN ANCHOR: President Clinton says he wants to launch an "all-out assault" on hate crimes. The president announced his plans to combat bigotry and intolerance in America, during his weekly radio address. For details, we turn now to CNN's Carl Rochelle, live from the White House -- Carl?

CARL ROCHELLE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Kathleen, the president is focus his attention on hate crimes. In that weekly radio address, he talked of this African-American couple who, when they moved into a suburb of Atlanta last month was greeted with racial epithets and a week later had their home sprayed with gunfire. Mr. Clinton talked of the effect such hate crimes can have on the country.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, PRESIDENT, UNITED STATES: Hate crimes, committed solely because the victims have a different skin color, or a different faith or are gays or lesbians, leave deep scars not only on the victims, but on our

larger community. They weaken the sense that we are one people with common values and a common future. They tear us apart when we should be moving closer together. They are acts of violence against America itself, and even a small number of Americans, who harbor and act upon hatred and intolerance, can do enormous damage to our efforts to bind together our increasingly diverse society into one nation realizing its full promise.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ROCHELLE: Mr. Clinton announced that he will convene a conference on hate crimes here at the White House in November. That conference will bring families of hate crimes and hate crime victims together to try to achieve more understanding. The president plans to bring, as well, law enforcement experts and leading officials from both Congress and the Justice Department to take them talk about the laws; how they can be beefed up and how they can be better enforced.

He also intends, Kathleen, to bring in officials from communities to see how they can better handle and respond to this particular kind of situation -- Kathleen?

KENNEDY: Carl, is there any word today on how Washington plans to handle military sex scandals?

ROCHELLE: Indeed, the Pentagon is moving on this. It is an issue that, of course, has involved a lot of the Pentagon's time lately. And yesterday, Defense Secretary William Cohen was meeting with advisers on it. And they came together with some plans and

expect some of them to be announced later on this afternoon. And the way it will take place, is we expect three panels -- at least 3 panels to be announced, and they will review, among other things -- one panel will examine the issues that have caused massive problems including adultery, gender-related training, fraternization policies, and other gender related matters.

An independent panel will look into the matter of gender- integrated training in the services. A head of that panel could be named today. And another task force made up of defense department personnel, military and civilian will conduct policy review of a fraternization regulations in each of the different services and they do vary from service to service, to try to make sure that they are more evenly administered -- that it is fair for each side. There are two -- at least two, perhaps three panels, that will be announced today to do this.

The actual roles of each one are still being worked out. It is something that occupied a lot of Secretary Cohen's time yesterday -- still occupying some of it today, but we do hope to get more details of that later this afternoon, but they will be announced then -- Kathleen?

KENNEDY: All right, Carl Rochelle at the White House, thanks a lot.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Handwritten note:
OK to use
let work
1st conf

DATE: SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

CLIENT: NEWS
LIBRARY: EXEC
FILE: SCRIPT

YOUR SEARCH REQUEST IS:

CLINTON AND GAY! AND LESBIAN! AND DATE AFT 1/97

YOUR FOCUS SEARCH REQUEST IS:

CLINTON AND GAY! AND LESBIAN! AND HATE CRIME! AND DATE AFT 1/97

NUMBER OF STORIES FOUND WITH YOUR FOCUS REQUEST:

36

Cog read

- acknowledged this group of people here at the beginning →
✓ you, my mother + Helen, Robert I could get elected —
✓ vision + you are a part of it
+ I still have a vision → + you

① Kate (Cristina)
This morning

ACT 6 — Matt Shepard 1 yr anniversary —

② Knight Init —
or opt it

new 2000 primary ballot, CA voters to decide
only margins between men + women will be
valid + recog in CA as if required in other state

(3) BTW

dim w/ super, Brady + Gore on Knight Initiative.

We ought not be waiting five ^{on initiation} minutes just
put us against each other
prop like knight init take us down road

P.O. — work
politics

EMMA

Safe roads, HIV

Take back copies →

opportunities, EMMA
AIDS, Howell

visibly — historic
unprecedented

opportunities —
position of significance
integrated —
open.

1st Exp ④

Max: Heron took as camp

Ando - Great Matt

Fury ~~rest~~ Inc.

Bob Mattoi

- 1st camp note

Ask Boney Frank →
role

Gay stick

Take back house —

moving forward:

✓ verge of healthy gay / skin issue

transitional + transitional
set stage for papers →

raise issue →

not solved problems —
new part of conversation

✓ e.o. orientation → sexual contact

Gay pride production — 1st time ever done

Gay issue → Gay



STRANGER AMONG FRIENDS

DAVID MIXNER



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admit it, the organization was also effective in forcing reluctant politicians to come to terms with AIDS.) Under its direction, the crowds grew nightly, until anywhere from five to ten thousand people were participating. United in their sense of betrayal, every conceivable element in the community demonstrated as one, from wealthy donors to the hardened street activists of Act Up. In a final protest on the weekend before ANGLE was to meet with Clinton, thousands of us marched in Sacramento to protest the veto. This was the climate that was waiting for Clinton when he arrived.

OCT '91

When I drove up Doheny Drive to Scott and Alex's house on October 14, I was wiped out from two weeks of unceasing demonstrations. I was also nervous and scared. I was in a strange situation. To have a personal friend be a serious contender for the presidency of the United States was still hard to grasp. I didn't quite know the rules. And if Clinton and the ANGLE participants failed to connect, I knew I wouldn't be able to support his bid. It would be awkward and painful for me personally, but I hadn't the slightest doubt that my vision and my dreams were with my friends from the gay and lesbian movement.

As I saw it and hoped, the friendship between Bill, Hillary, and me could serve as a dramatic building block for ushering the Clintons into the White House and the gay and lesbian community into a society of freedom. If we were able to convey to Bill and Hillary the story of our struggle and our pain, a true alliance could develop. After watching Bill Clinton over the years, I knew that with his intelligence, charisma, and will, he could win. This meeting could be crucial to the community's taking a huge step toward its inclusion in the fabric of American life.

Bill, Hillary, and Mickey Kantor arrived around noon. They mixed easily with the twenty or so people there and Bill showed them the famous Clinton charm by smiling, touching, and listening intently. Then he and I walked out to the pool and I briefed him once again on the issues the group would raise. He looked reflectively out at the ocean and said, "It's sort of strange, isn't it, David? Here are two friends, standing in this beautiful setting, one running for president and the other a freedom fighter. We both need each other. Did you ever think years ago that we would end up here?"

"No, I didn't. In fact, I wouldn't have predicted most of my life. You know, this is a day I really miss Peter. He would have loved this meeting."

Clinton seemed caught off guard by the intimacy of my mentioning Peter, but he looked at me gently and said, "We will make Peter proud today."

"Bill, so many of us in that room inside have lost so many of our friends. Please be there for us."

"I wouldn't be here if I didn't care," he told me. "You won't be disappointed."

The group sat in a semicircle in the living room facing Bill and Hillary seated in front of the fireplace. Each of us shared our personal stories and what we had experienced as gays and lesbians over the years. Roberta and Diane spoke of their fear in the early years of their relationship of the courts taking away their children. Scott spoke of the enormous numbers of people he was treating with HIV and AIDS. Alex spoke of suicide among the young. Executives Bill Melamed and Leslie Belzberg shared what it was like to be gay and lesbian in the entertainment industry. Former banker Ed Gould talked of his career as a banking executive and his HIV status. Activist John Duran outlined the issues around the massive demonstrations of the past two weeks. David Wexler shared the problems that he was facing as chairman of AIDS Project-Los Angeles and how it was barely able to meet the rising caseload. Richard Colbert talked of the battles he faced as a gay Republican. Businesswoman Chris Hershey discussed her lover and their child. I noted that if he was elected and should want me to serve, by law there were a number of positions I couldn't be appointed to. As we spoke of the discrimination we faced, about the death of hundreds of friends and of the systematic exclusion we faced in virtually every aspect of our lives, we could see by the tears that glistened in his eyes how moved he was. We were reaching him.

Hillary spoke first. My relationship with her over the years had been mostly through Bill, but I had come to know and admire her for her strong convictions, her sense of self, and her impressive intellect. She was calm, pleasant, and articulate in her speech, and there wasn't a person in the room who wasn't impressed with her intelligence, her grasp of health care issues, and her understanding of the epidemic. Then it was Bill's turn. He told us how touched he was by our sharing. He assured us that he and Hillary would be our allies in the struggle for freedom. Without prompting, he volunteered his determination to issue an executive order banning discrimination against gays and lesbians in the military. He said that if he were governor of California he would have signed the legislation that Wilson had vetoed. Finally, he talked with passion about his commitment to find a cure for AIDS and to end the

horrible "cycle of death" that we had been experiencing for the last decade.

There was a lot of dialogue between Clinton and the group when he was done and I could see that he was connecting with them. The one issue where differences surfaced was the national gay and lesbian civil rights legislation. He was concerned about the content, and wanted to be certain that it protected religious liberty and would not have provisions imposing quotas.

Then Diane Abbitt spoke up: "Governor Clinton, for the last two weeks we have been marching in the streets because of the blatant betrayal by a man who made similar promises to this community in private. How do we know that we can trust you? What makes you different from all the rest?"

He answered her forthrightly. "You don't know if you can trust me. You'll have to watch my actions but you won't be disappointed. I won't be in the closet on this issue. I promise you that."

With that, we all sat down to lunch. I was very proud of my friends from Arkansas. Not only had the Clintons taken the right stands; they had shown an enormous compassion for us. They seemed to have felt our pain. My friends in this room had seen what I admired in them. Now it would not just be me alone talking about them in the community. ANGLE moved from leaning toward Tsongas to leaning toward Clinton.

The next day we woke up to an unanticipated headline in *The Los Angeles Times*: "Clinton Opposes Thomas, Backs Gay Rights Bill." "Thomas" was Clarence Thomas, George Bush's nominee for the Supreme Court. The article said:

On the gay rights question, Clinton said in an interview that he told a group of gay activists at a private luncheon that he considered the controversial state legislation prohibiting occupational discrimination against homosexuals "an appropriate thing to do."

Mickey Kantor said to me later that Clinton had left our meeting and made a special point of telling Ron Brownstein of the *Times* that he would have signed the gay rights legislation. That gesture did more to solidify ANGLE's support than anything else that had happened. He had gone on record publicly with what he had said to us in private.

On Saturday the Italian news crew called to ask whether I would serve as a commentator for their broadcast. We drove around the city filming the devastation. National Guard troops stood on every corner. Then, as the day went on, we witnessed an astonishing sight. Black, white, Asian, people of every race were appearing on the streets holding shovels and brooms to clean up the debris. Against the massive destruction looming around us those small brooms looked so futile at first. But they came to symbolize the future. The citizens of Los Angeles weren't going to be defeated by the violence. We were all on the same course. We could only be as free as our neighbors.

MAY '92

When the riots were over, I went back to work on the campaign. When Jeremy and I were in New York for Clinton, we had a meeting with Rahm Emanuel. From that very first day at the National Executive Committee meeting, Rahm had recognized the fund-raising potential for Clinton in the gay and lesbian community. The two of us worked closely to develop fund-raising contacts in different cities around the country. In New York we came up with the idea of a "million-dollar" fund-raising evening in the gay and lesbian community. Clinton would be at a location in Los Angeles, and his speech would be broadcast by satellite to dozens of other cities holding simultaneous fund-raisers. Hillary would anchor the New York dinner. Our goal was to raise a million dollars in a single night for the campaign.

Jeremy and I briefed ANGLE on the concept and it was greeted with enthusiasm. Scott Hitt, Diane Abbitt, Roberta Bennett, and I called around the country to explore the possibilities. A week or so later, Rahm called back to say the costs would be prohibitive and the technology too difficult. I had doubts about his analysis and I suspected that the campaign's inner circle wanted to avoid so public a gay and lesbian event. I did some quick calling around and I was right on both counts. But I had to be realistic. We were making great progress in this campaign and this was not the place or the issue on which to do battle with the staff. It was important that from time to time we be seen to yield to some of their concerns and to save the battles for when there could be no compromise.

Rahm proposed that, instead, ANGLE host a major event for Clinton on May 18 in Los Angeles. We agreed, with the stipulation that it be opened to the press. The Los Angeles community went all out. A pre-speech reception would be held for the major donors and a massive rally would follow where Clinton would give a major policy address on gay and lesbian rights and AIDS. Hollywood producer Art Arellanas agreed

to produce the rally and had some of the best sound, light, and staging technicians in Los Angeles donate their services. Everyone was pushing ticket sales so that the room would be full and we would meet our goal of one hundred thousand dollars. For the first two weeks of May, no one talked to anybody in the Los Angeles community without selling them tickets.

The advance team arrived and started making the changes required for a presidential candidate's visit—moving the press stands, checking the exits, and testing the sound and lighting. They were amused at the specific instructions they had received from national headquarters to not deny access to the press. Head advance man John Tooley was laughing when he told me how many times he had been warned about the press issue. "David," he said, "I think they got the message!"

On May 18 I went to the Van Nuys airport to meet Clinton and escort him to the Hollywood Palace Theater for his speech. Earlier, I had faxed a draft of a proposed speech to the plane. As usual, Clinton was running an hour and a half late. Inside the campaign we joked about buying watches that ran on "Clinton time." We had to cancel his appearance at the private reception. Mickey Kantor spoke to the major donors and briefed them on the campaign, and then they went downstairs to join the hundreds packed into the main room waiting patiently for Clinton's arrival.

While this was going on I sat in the Van Nuys airport and was a nervous wreck. I kept calling Scott Hitt on the advance staff phones to check on the crowd size at the Palace and to update him on the latest arrival time. Scott assured me that several hundred people were packed into the main room and it looked impressive. This evening was important. My head kept circling around all the things that could go wrong: Would Clinton give a tough speech? Would he move the community? Would the crowd be big enough?

The advance staff watched me pacing back and forth on the tarmac and laughed at my nervousness. I couldn't help wondering what advice Clinton was getting on the plane. Was the staff toning down his speech? And when I wasn't worrying about Clinton, I'd switch back to the Palace and dwell on how the community was going to respond. I began to feel whiplashed.

The plane landed at last and the motorcade pulled up to the ramp. The advance team placed me in Clinton's car and the Highway Patrol motorcycle cops pulled in front to lead the procession to the Palace. It was at that moment that I realized that the world that Bill Clinton and I

had known together had vanished. No more intimate talks, casual walks along a beach, confidences exchanged. My friend was running for President of the United States.

Bill came down the ramp and entered the car. He looked over at me, grinned, and said, "You're scared to death, aren't you?" I wasn't sure how to relate to him now. I laughed nervously and acknowledged my fear. He gave me a pat on the leg and said, "Don't worry. Not one person in that room is going to be disappointed. I know what this means to you and I am not going to let any of you down." The motorcade proceeded out of the airport and onto the freeway. All traffic was stopped and people waved from the sidewalks. I couldn't help myself. As Bill worked on his speech, I waved at the crowds.

Every once in a while he would look up and ask a question, then start writing again. Finally, he stopped and looked over at me. "You know," he said, "I just got off a plane where no one wants me to give this speech and I am going into a room where no one believes I will give it." I knew then that the speech was going to be a special one. The long motorcade pulled in front of the Palace. Just before we got out, I received one more reassuring pat, a thumbs-up sign, and a "Let's go get them, David." We headed down the side of the building and through the stage door.

The ANGLE gang was there to greet us. We all posed for pictures and Clinton started going over his speech one more time. A giant screen came down over the stage and a film was shown on Clinton. Then Diane, Roberta, Scott, Bob Sertner, Roberta Achtenberg, and I walked out on the stage to cheers. There were the usual preliminaries of introducing dignitaries, an appeal for more checks, and a plea for the crowd to understand the historic significance of the evening.

Diane and Scott gave me a generous introduction and I proceeded to the microphone. I had to take a deep breath:

My brothers and sisters. We have all come a long way to this place. No one handed us this event. No one has done us a favor. We have earned this evening inch by inch, step by step, moment by moment, and it is ours. . . . The last twelve years, especially for this community, have been a long, hard, and difficult road. . . . We have buried thousands of our dead. We have cared for tens of thousands of our sick. . . . We have done it with anger. We have done it because we had to. But don't forget, most of all, we have done it as a community together, with dignity, nobility, and we have every reason to be very, very proud tonight. . . . I didn't think I could allow myself to dream any-

more. . . . I am allowing myself to dream again. I am allowing myself to believe again. And it is because of this man.

This man comes here tonight to share his vision of how we belong in his America. It is this man who will be our Harry Truman and sign that executive order. It is this man who will be our John Kennedy and include us in the vision of a greater America. It is this man who will be our Lyndon Johnson and fight like hell and effectively work to get a cure for AIDS out of the Congress of the United States. . . . My brothers and sisters, the next President of the United States, my friend Bill Clinton.

Bill came out from the side of the stage and the crowd roared its approval. He stepped to the podium and began his extraordinary speech to our community and to the country:

You know that I have said many times that a campaign for president has two purposes. One is for the country to get to know the candidate, and the other is for the candidate to get to know the country. If the candidate does not grow and deepen in understanding and compassion and feeling, then the race itself is already half lost.

There are people in this room today to whom I owe a great debt of gratitude, for you have helped me to get to know my country better than I did when I began. . . .

Tonight, I want to talk to you about how we can be one people again . . . without regard to race or gender or sexual orientation or age or region or income, how we can become one again.

This country has often been divided, especially at election time. The pollsters and the political consultants tell people all the time how to cut the electorate up in just "this little slice and that little slice" so that we cannot be one again. Yet it is against all our natures, against our basic values, against the statements of all our basic laws, and still we do it, over and over again. . . .

And the great passion of my life has been education and telling people we don't have a person to waste. The great heartbreak is seeing people wasted. . . . And those of you here tonight, you represent a community of our nation's gifted people whom we have been willing to squander. We can't afford to waste the capacities, the contributions, the hearts, the souls, the minds of the gay and lesbian Americans. . . . For every day that we discriminate, that we hate, that we refuse to avail

ourselves of the potential of any group of Americans, we are all less than we ought to be. . . .

Regarding the military, Clinton said:

. . . [a study] said that there was no basis in national security for discriminating based on sexual orientation of Americans who wish to serve in the military. I said I would act on that study. It seemed to me elementary that if a person, man or woman, wanted to serve their country, they ought to be able to do it. . . .

. . . The Secretary of Defense himself, obviously personally very uncomfortable at not changing the rules, said it was a "quaint little rule." Well, my fellow Americans, we have too much to do to endure "quaint little rules" . . .

I want people like David Mixner and Roberta Achtenberg, Dr. Scott Hitt, some of you in this audience, to be a part of a Clinton administration, not because of or in spite of your sexual orientation, but because America needs you. And if I become the President of the United States, I owe it to my country to find the best and most gifted and most knowledgeable people in the United States of America to solve the problems and embrace the challenges of this time. . . .

Bill outlined his commitment to battle AIDS, including the pledges that he had made in the New York hotel room to the AIDS activists. Then, movingly, he thanked the community:

And now, before I leave, I want to say something which is not part of a political program. I just want to thank the gay and lesbian community for your courage and your commitment and your service in face of the terror of AIDS. When no one was offering a helping hand, and when it was dark and lonely, you did not withdraw, but instead you reached out to others. And this whole nation has benefited already in ways most people cannot even imagine from the courage and commitment and sense of community which you practice. . . .

The nation owes you thanks for that. I want to give you my thanks and respect for that struggle today. . . .

From the stage, as I looked at the crowd of my friends, I saw tears streaming down their faces. For the first time a potential president had

acknowledged their pain, their journey and struggle. Then Clinton, his own eyes moist, moved toward an emotional close.

Finally, let me say again, this is not an election, or it should not be, about race or gender or being gay or straight or religion or age or region or income. What kills the country is not the problems it faces. . . . What kills the country is to proceed day in and day out with no vision, with no sense that tomorrow can be better than today, with no sense of shared community.

What I came here today to tell you in simple terms is: I have a vision and you are part of it.

His voice cracking, Clinton finished:

If I could, if I could wave my arm for those of you that are HIV-positive and make it go away tomorrow, I would do it—so help me God, I would. If I gave up my race for the White House and everything else, I would do that . . .

The crowd roared its approval and surged forward to touch his hand. Those of us on the stage hugged, almost unbelieving at the power of what we had heard. Those in the audience who were skeptical became true believers. As I wiped tears from my eyes, Clinton gave me a great big bear hug and disappeared into the night. He was off to his next engagement.

The effect of the speech flashed across the nation. Alex Koleszar had the wisdom to have the speech videotaped, and we found ourselves overwhelmed with requests for copies. Alex organized the duplicating and sent them out as fast as he could. All around the country people arranged parties in their living rooms so they could watch it with their friends. People who received the tapes made their own copies and sent them on to others. Then Alex did a three-minute version to be played in gay and lesbian video bars until election day in November. He made a list of every single one of these bars in the major industrial states and got help calling them to tell them to play the tape over and over until victory. Alex reached one bar owner in Dayton, Ohio, and said, "We are asking bars to play a three-minute clip of the Clinton Palace speech on gay and lesbian rights. Can we send you a copy, and would you be willing to play it to your patrons?"

"Nope," said the bar owner. "We don't need the three-minute tape."

Alex gently tried to persuade him to change his mind. The man laughed. "Nope. We don't need the three-minute tape. We've already been playing over and over the thirty-minute version. Keep up the good work!"

The *Washington Post* carried the Clinton speech on its front page on May 20. The headline read, "Clinton Finds New Voice of Emotion" and the article said:

The moment [Palace event] was historic in its own right: the largest fund-raiser ever held openly by the gay community for a candidate for President. It raised an estimated \$100,000. But for Clinton, the beneficiary of the event here Monday night, it could mark a turning point in his campaign, a point where it seemed that his political and emotional sides converged to give his voice a deeper sense of conviction.

The next month Clinton won the California primary and became the surefire nominee at the Democratic convention in New York in July. With the help of California campaign chair Bill Wardlaw and campaign manager John Emerson, ANGLE members Scott Hitt, Diane Abbitt, Roberta Bennett, Chris Hershey, and I became Clinton delegates to what promised to be a momentous convention for our community.

On Gay Pride Day at the end of June, not long before we were to leave, a major earthquake struck southern California. We took to calling it the "Queer Quake." In some ways it was an omen of what was to come.