

Final 03/03/99 9:30am
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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR THE FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION
CAMPAIGN TO STOP GENDER APARTHEID IN AFGHANISTAN
MARCH 3, 1999**

Good Evening. When the First Lady told the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing that "women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights," we all knew that she was speaking the plain truth. But tragically, this truth is mostly ignored by those who control much of Afghanistan today.

As you know, the stories coming out of this war-torn nation are horrifying. The Taliban have sought to deprive millions of women in Afghanistan of their most basic human rights, imposing rigid and inhumane policies to render them silent and invisible, uneducated and unemployed. Women who were once lawyers and judges can no longer practice, women who were once teachers and professors can no longer teach, ~~doctors and nurses face restrictions on their efforts to heal the sick, young girls are barred from attending school.~~ Women have become prisoners in their own homes -- alienated from so many of the basic freedoms that are the birthright of all people.

Let me be very clear about the position of the United States: The denial of basic human rights in Afghanistan or anywhere else is simply unacceptable. If the leaders of the Taliban or any faction in Afghanistan's bitter civil war want international acceptance, they must respect the rights of all their people. They must treat women as human beings. I know that many American Muslims -- and Muslim friends of America around the world -- strongly share this view.

Through organizations such as Save the Children, the International Rescue Committee, and Church World Service, America will continue to provide health and education assistance to Afghan women and children who have escaped to refugee camps in nearby Pakistan. We look forward to the day when Aghans themselves can run similar programs for women and children at home.

I want to thank the Feminist Majority Foundation for leading this campaign on behalf of the women of Afghanistan. I want to thank all of you who have come here tonight, as women and men, mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and concerned citizens of the world, to stand with the women and girls of Afghanistan. We must not rest until every woman and every girl around the world can fulfill her greatest God-given potential -- in a world at peace.

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR THE CHARTER SCHOOLS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
DENVER, COLORADO
March 15-17, 1999**

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak with you today at ^{our} ~~the~~ second ~~annual~~ Charter Schools National Conference. Your efforts are adding energy and opportunity to public education across this nation. I salute your work and thank you for your leadership on behalf of our nation's children.

It is no secret that I believe that charter schools play a vital role in renewing American education. Charter schools offer choice, promote competition, and foster the excellence all our children will need to succeed in the new economy of the 21st Century. They create hope and opportunities for students to achieve high standards, for teachers to find new ways of working together, and for communities to play a direct role in shaping how their schools are run. With your leadership and hard work, charter schools are becoming powerful examples of how communities can use greater freedom and accountability to create public schools that improve education for all children -- regardless of their background or ability.

Through two decades of personal experience -- as Governor of Arkansas and now as President -- I became an early champion of the charter schools movement. In 1993, research made clear what many of you know -- lack of access to start-up funding has been the number-one obstacle to launching new charter schools. That's why since 1994 we have invested nearly a quarter of a billion dollars for starting up and running charter schools.

When I was first elected President, there was only one charter school in the country. Last fall, there were over 1,000 charter schools, serving more than 200,000 children. We are well on our way to meeting our goal of 3,000 such schools by early next century. This year, I am calling for another major increase in federal start-up funding for charter schools, funding new partnerships to help you share your best ideas with other public schools across the nation -- and taking steps to make sure that you get your fair share of other federal education funds.

Across the country, there are waiting lists to get into charter schools. And there's a simple reason for that: parents know what works. Communities and school systems are taking notice -- and I'm confident that they will continue to respond in constructive ways. Thank you again for your innovation, your dedication, and your leadership.

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Final 03/03/99 11:50am
Josh Gottheimer

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' CONVENTION
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
March 20, 1999

I am pleased to greet you as you open your 78th annual meeting today. Every great school I've ever visited has had a great principal. *to recognize the*

Today, I want to talk with you about ways we can work together to strengthen our schools for the 21st Century. As principals, you provide the leadership that is crucial to help all our children meet high academic standards. And you know better than anyone the challenges our schools face. There are more students in our nation's schools today from more diverse backgrounds than ever before. Too many of our schools are overcrowded and in need of repair. And there's a growing need for well-prepared teachers. *every 1 school of San Saug*

I am proud of the progress we have made together so far. Math scores have risen in nearly all grades nationwide. Reading scores are up. But there's a problem. While our 4th graders outperform their peers in other countries in math and science, our 8th graders are around average and our 12th graders rank near the bottom. *And*

We must do better. That's why the budget I sent Congress last month calls for \$1.4 billion to help local communities hire new, better-trained teachers. That's a 17% increase over the amount in the balanced budget I signed last fall, and moves us closer to our goal of hiring 100,000 new teachers over seven years. My new budget also calls on Congress to build or modernize up to 6,000 schools. And it triples our funding for after school and summer school programs -- enough to keep over a million children off the streets during the hours when parents work and juvenile crime soars. *And*

While we invest more in what works, we must stop investing in what doesn't. That is the idea behind my Education Accountability Act. It says that every state and school district accepting federal money must do five things: end social promotion... turn around failing schools... ensure teachers know the subjects they are teaching... set reasonable discipline codes... and empower parents with report cards on their schools. These are ideas that work -- you have proven that -- and we as a nation must commit ourselves to raising standards for all our schools.

Working together in every community, and at every level of government, we can give America's children the education they will need to succeed in the new millennium. Principals are the key to strong schools -- and strong schools are the key to a strong nation. Thank you again for your service.

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Final 03/03/99 10:00am
Jeff Shesol



PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF C-SPAN
WASHINGTON, DC
March 25, 1999

I want to extend my best wishes and congratulations to Brian Lamb, to the Board of Directors, and to all of you at C-SPAN on twenty remarkable years. I wish I could join you in person, but I want you to know that Hillary and I are thinking of you on your anniversary -- and, even more important, that we'll keep watching you in the years ahead.

Brian, you're right to call C-SPAN "America's electronic town hall." Ever since C-SPAN first went on the air, in 1979, the network has brought Americans closer to their elected representatives. For those of us who have been sent to Washington, and for every citizen of our democracy, C-SPAN is a powerful, vital connection. In the vast world of television, you're unique. And you're uniquely important.

Your programming is also -- how should I put it? -- well, it's also unique. Where else but C-SPAN can we join a raging debate about debt reduction. . . at 3:00 am? Where else can we watch gavel-to-gavel coverage of the House Subcommittee on Really Obscure Agricultural Programs? Where else can we find public officials speaking not in soundbites but for hours and hours and hours?

I say this not just to poke a little fun, because it's exactly what I -- and millions of other Americans -- love about C-SPAN. You never promised to entertain us 24 hours a day. You promised to inform us, to educate us, to link us to one another. That is exactly what you have done for twenty years. And from TV to radio, from political conventions to press conferences, and from "Washington Journal" to "Booknotes," C-SPAN has still got it covered.

Again, my congratulations to all of you who continue to make C-SPAN so successful. Happy anniversary. . . and my best wishes for the next twenty years.

Final 03/03/99 11:30pm
Josh Gottheimer

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR BOSTON'S
FIFTH ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT
BOSTON, MA
March 27, 1999**

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Good Morning. I am pleased to greet you for the opening of Boston's Fifth Annual Mayor's Youth Summit.

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I remember meeting with a group of Boston's young people four years ago to plan for the first Youth Summit. I was so impressed by your energy and enthusiasm. I know that you are as energetic today as you were then -- and every bit as committed to serving your city and community.

This year's theme, "Health, Fitness & Wellness," is important for all of us. Especially for young people. Today, you will learn new ways to make healthy choices in your lives -- to eat a balanced diet, get the appropriate health care, or learn the study skills that are so important to achieving your future goals. The decisions you make now about your health, safety and education will shape the rest of your lives.

Through your hard work, determination and enthusiasm, you are showing your peers and fellow citizens that it is crucial to take an active role in shaping your future and the well-being of your community. You are paving the way for a brighter future for young people not only in Boston, but throughout America.

President Kennedy once told a group of young volunteers just like yourselves, "I hope you will regard this as the first installment in a long life of service." I wish the same for you. America depends on active citizens like yourselves -- keep up the good work. Thank you and God bless you.

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3/1/99 5:45 pm
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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS ON
PRESENTATION OF IRISH-AMERICAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
TO GEORGE MITCHELL
MARCH 3, 1999**

[To be played March 15 at awards event at the Plaza Hotel, New York]

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to congratulate Senator George Mitchell on being named Irish American of the year by Irish America magazine. I was proud to receive this award three years ago. A pair of siblings I know well have won it -- Ted Kennedy in 1997 and Jean Kennedy Smith in 1995. But I believe George is the first recipient of this award whose 100-percent Irish-American father grew up speaking Arabic.

It is fair to say that this is not the first honor George has received lately. He was knighted by the Queen of England. He received an honorary degree from Trinity College in Dublin. Prime Minister Ahern has called him, "a hero of modern Ireland." His picture hangs in a place of honor in pubs from Belfast to Boston.

George Mitchell deserves every one of these honors and more. No one did more than he to bring about the Good Friday Accord that at last gives Northern Ireland's children the chance for a just and lasting peace. In building common ground among long-time adversaries, he was a patient listener when he had to be, a tough chairman when he needed to be. The parties knew he was, above all, a fair man, and he built the trust that was essential to reaching an agreement.

Through more than a hundred trips across the Atlantic, through the loss of his brother ... and the joyous arrival of his son, George refused to quit until his work was done. And now, it is up to all the parties to complete the work for peace, acting in a spirit of compromise -- and with the kind of determination that George has always shown.

I wish all of you my very best. And I want to thank George Mitchell for all he has done and all he has meant to the people of the island of Ireland -- and to the people of America.

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