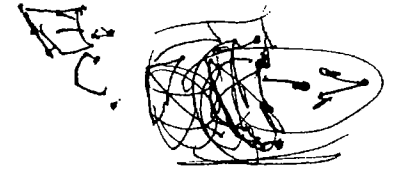


~~SECRET~~ Alzheimers



BLIND WORK
ASSOCIATION, INC.
BINGHAMTON
NEW YORK
SINCE 1955

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Schedule Proposal

Date: February 15, 2000

✓ ACCEPT 00 FEB 16 P 6:23 REGRET PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President and Director of Scheduling

FROM: Mary Beth Cahill

REQUEST: For the President to tape a video to be shown at the Alzheimer's Association's 12th Public Policy Forum, Washington, D.C., March 19-21, 2000, before 500 business, caregivers and community leaders from all 50 states.

PURPOSE: To provide opportunity for the President to highlight the Medicare and prescription drug benefit.

BACKGROUND: The Alzheimer's Association represents 4 million people with Alzheimer's disease, their 19 million family caregivers, and their 200 local chapters. This group is unique in they are non-partisan and driven by an aggressive agenda, particularly the President's and Vice President's mission for long term care issues. *+ met to President.*

Since 1992, for now, you have been a valuable partner in our efforts.
you had
In 1992, they were aggressive in health care and long term care agenda and voted for the long-term care sticker. In 1994, they were key actors in health care reform and were part of the bus tour of the First Lady. They have fought the hardest and have been the most visible on our long-term care proposals. This group has never wavered on long term care issues. *long term care.*

DATE AND TIME: Sunday-Tuesday, March 19-21, 2000.

DURATION: 1 minute.

LOCATION: Capitol Hilton Hotel.

PAST PARTICIPATION: The First Lady participated in 1994 during Health Care Reform.

RECOMMENDED BY: Mary Beth Cahill.

CONTACT: Judy Riggs, Alzheimer's Association, 202-393-7737
Barbara Woolley, x62155

I will use tape and you have to do to report on

57116

ATTACHMENT:

Video Script.
Original Request.

②

Drugs that treat Alzheimer's disease are beginning to appear on the market, and more are in the pipeline - the direct result of the increased investment in Alzheimer research at NIH over the past 10 years.

① Talk to ~~the~~ orthen ~~drugs~~ ⑥

We haven't found the way to slow the process of Alzheimer's yet. But these drugs, tacrine and donepezil and some of the newer antipsychotics, are making a real difference in the day to day lives of people with dementia.

at the hands of this absolutely terrible disease.

③ They are providing some relief to the cognitive symptoms - and even more importantly, they are helping with the behaviors that often provide the biggest challenges for the caregiver. ~~They are~~

We are absolutely committed to getting help for caregivers this year - through tax credits, funding for caregiver support programs, and prescription drug coverage so families can pay for the drugs that make the challenge of Alzheimer's just a little bit easier to meet. ⑦

Not why ~~we~~ we're worried or ~~pay for~~ ^{curb} Alzheimer's tech.

I know, because I lost
an uncle to it

Final 02/17/00 11am
Gottheimer/ Silver

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
[LOCATION TBD]
[DATE TBD]

I am glad to have this opportunity to welcome you to the Alzheimer's Association's 12th Public Policy Forum – and to thank you for the work you do on behalf of the four million Americans, and the nineteen million family caregivers, who COPE DAILY WITH this debilitating disease.

As many of you know, I've seen first-hand the devastating impact of this disease. I lost both an aunt and an uncle to Alzheimer's, and watched as it, slowly and painfully, took away their memory, personality and self-awareness. That is why, for seven years now, our administration has worked to increase investment in Alzheimer's research; to enact and expand family support programs; and to strengthen and expand Medicare. Since 1992, with your organization as a valuable partner, we have increased funding for Alzheimer's research at NIH by nearly 65 percent – from \$278 million to \$466 million this year alone.

With the increased funding, NIH has launched the Alzheimer's Prevention Initiative which, I am confident, will help save 14 million from this awful disease. Thanks to the efforts of the NIH, there are also new drugs appearing on the market THAT are making a real difference in the day-to-day lives of people with Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's is just one of the challenges we face with the aging of America. The number of Americans over 65 will double between now and the year 2030, and they will have a life expectancy of nearly 82 years. For seven years, our Administration has worked to honor our obligation to older Americans. That fundamental responsibility is why we have worked to save the ~~for~~ Social Security SURPLUS. It's why we are working to strengthen and modernize Medicare to include long overdue voluntary prescription drug benefitS. It's why we must also pass a strong, enforceable<WW – TRY ENACTABLE, APPLICABLE> patients' bill of rights to ensure critical protections for Americans in managed care.

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. It's a loving choice, but often a very expensive one. That's why last year, I proposed a \$1000 tax credit for long-term care. And why, in my State of the Union address, I asked Congress to triple it, to \$3,000. It's why I signed the Family Medical Leave Act in 1993 – giving more than 20 million Americans the chance to care for a sick relative or loved one without the fear of losing their job. And why we need to expand family care to employees of smaller companies so that we can reach another 10 million American families.

President Roosevelt once said, "No single agency ... can cope individually with this great problem. We can do it only by joining our efforts." Working together, we can keep building momentum – until every older American OF THE 21ST CENTURY has the health care they need and deserve ~~in the 21st Century~~. Thank you and God bless you.

Health Care Quotes

No single agency, ~~whether it be the doctor, the hospital or the research laboratory,~~ can cope ^{Next why ~~not~~ if it's so important} individually with this great problem; we can do it only by joining our efforts."

-FDR , Address by Radio for the Third Birthday Ball for the Benefit of Cripple Children, January 30, 1936.

Finally, a strong American cannot neglect the aspirations of its citizens—the welfare of the needy, the health care of the elderly, the education of the young. For we are not developing the Nation's wealth for its own sake. Wealth is the means—and people are the ends. All our material riches will avail us little if we do not use them to expand the opportunities of our people.

-JFK, The State of the Union Address, January 11, 1962

For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other.

-Millard Fuller

The health of nations is more important than the wealth of nations.

-Will Durant

Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.

-Anthony J. D'Angelo, The College Blue Book

Suggested Remarks for President Clinton
To the
Alzheimer's Association – 12th Annual Public Policy Forum
March 19, 2000

It is a disappointment that I cannot be with you personally to welcome you to this 12th annual Public Policy Forum, and to express my admiration and appreciation for the great work you do as advocates for the 4 million Americans who have Alzheimer's disease, and for their families. *we care for them*

help me
~~The Clinton-Gore~~ administration has been proud to work with the Alzheimer's Association over the past eight years – to advance your public policy agenda.

help me
~~Together, and with the help of congress.~~ We have increased funding for Alzheimer research at NIH by nearly 65% -- from \$278 million to \$466 million this year. With that money, NIH has launched the Alzheimer Prevention Initiative which, I am confident, will bring us the discoveries that will save 14 million babyboomers from this awful disease.

We have protected Medicaid long term care and accelerated the expansion of home and community based care – the care that we all want for our parents, our spouses, and some day – if we need it, for ourselves.

We have focused national attention on the critical role that family caregivers play – as the invisible part of our health care system.

Our work is not over – we still have a lot that we can and must do this year. We truly are in a race against time. And we cannot win that race, unless we persuade Congress:

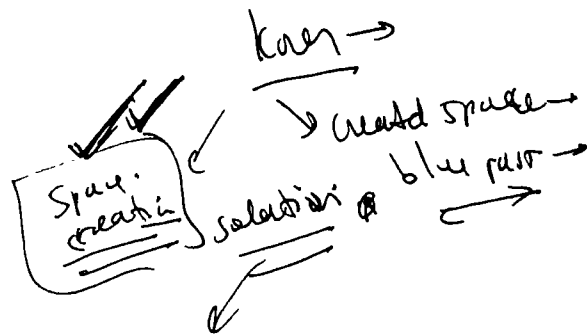
To increase the investment in Alzheimer research

To enact the family caregiver support program, and the caregiver tax credit

To protect Medicare for the future, and to provide prescription drug coverage for every one of our senior citizens, and every person with Alzheimer's disease.

That is why it is so important that you are here in Washington this week. No one can explain to Congress better than you why they must act now.

Congratulations to Elyse Perweiler (e-lease purr-wiler) for organizing the biggest and most important Public Policy Forum in the proud history of the Alzheimer's Association. And thanks to each of you – for the important work you are doing, not just here in Washington this week, but every day – in your family and in your community.



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Terms: **atleast5 (alzheimers) w/2 association** ([Edit Search](#))*Newsweek, June 15, 1998*Copyright 1998 Newsweek
Newsweek

June 15, 1998, U.S. Edition

Alzheimers

SECTION: LIFESTYLE; The Cover; Pg. 52**LENGTH:** 763 words**HEADLINE:** Alzheimer's: Losing More Than Memory**BYLINE:** KAREN SPRINGEN and ADAM ROGERS with THOMAS HAYDEN**HIGHLIGHT:**

Researchers have no good weapons against this devastating disease -- but there is hope

BODY:

CAR KEYS ARE MISPLACED, A NAME resists moving past the tip of the tongue. Often, we respond with humor: "I must be getting Alzheimer's." But the memory loss that age can bring differs greatly from the dementia of Alzheimer's. Slowly, fatally, Alzheimer's erodes memory, personality and self-awareness. As many as 4 million Americans have it -- one in 10 people over 65 and half of those over 85.

It has no cure, and few effective treatments. But in the last decade scientists have started to understand the biochemistry behind Alzheimer's. Today at least 17 drugs are in development. "We don't have the penicillin for Alzheimer's yet," says Roger Rosenberg, director of the Alzheimer's Disease Center at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. "But it's coming." And some of what researchers learn about how this illness rots memory might even help those folks who mislaid their keys.

Today's treatments only ease symptoms. One of Alzheimer's main effects is the destruction of brain cells that produce the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, a chemical essential to learning and memory. Neither of the drugs used most widely for Alzheimer's, Cognex and Aricept, slow the death of those cells. Instead, the drugs slow the deterioration by inhibiting the action of acetylcholinesterase, an enzyme that breaks acetylcholine down. "[The drugs] help make the best use of what you have left," says Rudy Tanzi, a neurogeneticist at Harvard. Yet the drugs have limitations: Cognex only works for a few patients and can cause liver problems. Aricept spares the liver, but its benefits are modest. At least three improved acetylcholinesterase inhibitors are on deck; the first could be out by fall.

Future treatments will have to attack the disease more directly. Scientists hope to control the physical changes in the brain that cause the dementia, such as plaques made of a protein called beta amyloid that gum up neurons. Amyloid is found throughout the body but has an abnormal form toxic to neurons in the brain. For reasons no one is sure of, an enzyme can divide a larger protein improperly, creating the dangerous amyloid beta. Some chemicals appear to block the cleaving enzyme; they may someday lead to new usable drugs.

The body's defense against plaques may make matters worse. The rogue form of amyloid beta

triggers an immune response, leading to inflammation that cuts off nutrients and oxygen and further damages the Alzheimer's brain. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, such as aspirin and ibuprofen, may protect against Alzheimer's, and a 1997 study suggested the drugs also slowed the disease's progress. Other anti-inflammatories called cyclooxygenase (COX-2) inhibitors, developed to treat arthritis, are in clinical trials for use in Alzheimer's patients. And a new class of anti-inflammatories that targets the brain, without harming the stomach, liver and kidneys like current NSAIDS, could be only two years away.

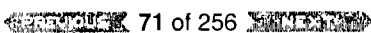
The hormone estrogen might also help. Several studies have suggested that post menopausal women on hormone replacement therapy (HRT) were less likely to get Alzheimer's. Pharmaceutical giant Wyeth-Ayerst is now testing HRT on 8,000 healthy women and will monitor them for Alzheimer's. In women who don't have dementia, the hormone seems to enhance memory, and it may prevent damage to cells in the brain. Alzheimer's experts would love to have a drug that acts like estrogen in the brain, but not in the breasts or uterus, where it may cause cancer. The current danger "is that people will go and self-medicate because of early positive reports," says Zaven Khachaturian, director of the Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute of the **Alzheimer's Association**.

Other long-shot approaches could have even bigger payoffs. Last week three labs identified the gene responsible for the formation of the abnormal protein tau, the main component of tangled neurons in the Alzheimer's brain. Suppressing "apoptosis," the process by which the body kills its own cells, including neurons damaged by Alzheimer's, might work -- if it doesn't spark tumors kept in check by apoptotic machinery. And a company called Neo Therapeutics is touting AIT-082, a chemical it says induces brain cells to reproduce and grow new neurons. Meanwhile, non prescription remedies like ginkgo biloba or vitamin E might one day be shown to help Alzheimer's, as well as normal memory loss. We may always try to laugh off our fears of the disease, but as research continues, humor need no longer be the best medicine.

GRAPHIC: Picture, no caption

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 19, 1998

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Mara A. Silver
02/29/2000 12:15:14 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Mara A. Silver/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: reagan

The President. I didn't know. I don't know that I know the difference between the manifestations of Alzheimer's for someone who's 80 and just not remembering things as well. But he and I have always had a very cordial personal relationship. When I was a Governor, I supported and worked with the White House when we got the first big welfare reform legislation through back in '88. And even though we've had our differences, I always liked the fact that he was positive about America, that he was an upbeat person, that he -- at moments he was capable of going beyond partisanship, as he has since he's left office. You know, he supported NAFTA and the Brady bill and the crime bill with the assault weapons ban in it, because, I think, of the experience he had with Jim Brady and the terrible scars it left on everyone.

So I just -- I wanted to say that. I was probably in the most Democratic congressional district in America yesterday. And when I asked them, they all just applauded and they gave him a big cheer.

Mr. King. Do you think it will help focus emphasis on Alzheimer's? Do you think he was right to do it, to make the announcement?

The President. First of all, I think he was very right to do it. I think it was a brave thing to do. And he sat down and wrote the letter himself --

Mr. King. I know.

The President. -- in his own words. And it was vintage Ronald Reagan. I think it will help to focus attention on Alzheimer's. I personally appreciated it, because I lost both an uncle and an aunt to Alzheimer's. And so I think it's one more thing that the American people have to be appreciative to him about.

*I've seen
what Alzheimer is do
to a family -- ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~loss~~ ^{loss}
an aunt + uncle of my mother
from Alzheimer,*



Someone to Stand by You

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the 4 million people in the United States with Alzheimer's disease, their 19 million family caregivers, and our 200 local chapters, I am honored to invite you to address the Alzheimer's Association's 12th Public Policy Forum in Washington on Sunday, March 19, 2000. We hope that you can address the opening session that morning, but we would accommodate you at any point on Sunday or Monday, the 20th.

The Forum is the premier advocacy event for the Association's nationwide grassroots network. Over 400 leaders come to Washington at their own expense to learn more about key issues, to sharpen their advocacy skills, and to talk to Congress about Alzheimer's disease and our policy priorities. Most of our advocates have been politicized by their personal experience with Alzheimer's disease.

One of our key messages to Congress next year will be the urgent need for action on prescription drugs. We appreciate the strong support in Congress for biomedical research that has us on the brink of treatments and possible prevention of Alzheimer's disease. But that investment will not mean a lot to millions of older Americans if they cannot pay for the drugs that result from that research. We will go to Congress to urge a continued commitment to Alzheimer research, but we will combine that message with a demand for action on prescription drugs.

Your leadership on prescription drugs, as well as family caregiver support, has put these issues on the political agenda. We want to work with you to see them enacted in 2000. Nothing would more motivate our advocates to that end than your appearance at the Forum. We realize it is too soon for you to make a firm commitment for March but we hope you will put us on your schedule for consideration. Judy Riggs, Director for Federal Policy in our Washington, DC office, will be in touch with your staff. She can answer questions and make the necessary arrangements for your appearance.

Thank you for considering our invitation and for your persistent leadership on behalf of older persons in general and people with Alzheimer's disease in particular.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Truschke, President

Hotel Capitol Hill
post participation

500

Mon ~~20~~, 21

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328
Alzheimers
GSSA request

~~Miss. Gore~~

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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
[LOCATION TBD]
[DATE TBD]

I am glad to have this opportunity to welcome you to the Alzheimer's Association's 12th Public Policy Forum – and to thank you for the work you do on behalf of the four million Americans, and the nineteen million family caregivers, who cope daily with this debilitating disease.

As many of you know, I've seen first-hand the devastating impact of this disease. I lost both an aunt and an uncle to Alzheimer's, and watched as it, slowly and painfully, took away their memory, personality and self-awareness. That is why, for seven years now, our administration has worked to increase investment in Alzheimer's research; to enact and expand family support programs; and to strengthen and expand Medicare. Since 1992, with your organization as a valuable partner, we have increased funding for Alzheimer's research at NIH by nearly 65 percent – from \$278 million to \$466 million this year alone.

With the increased funding, NIH ^{people} has launched the Alzheimer's Prevention Initiative which, I am confident, will help save 14 million from this awful disease. Thanks to the efforts of ~~the~~ NIH, there are also new drugs appearing on the market that are making a real difference in the day-to-day lives of people with Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's is just one of the challenges we face with the aging of America. The number of Americans over 65 will double between now and the year 2030, and they will have a life expectancy of nearly 82 years. For seven years, our Administration has worked to honor our obligation to older Americans. That ~~fundamental responsibility is why we have worked to~~ ^{is what's behind our efforts to} ~~save the Social Security surplus.~~ ^{provide better services with a long} ~~It's why we are working to strengthen and modernize Medicare, to include long overdue voluntary prescription drug benefits.~~ ^{And} ~~It's why we must also pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights to ensure critical protections for Americans in managed care.~~

^{many of them need help.} Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. It's a loving choice, but often a very expensive one. That's why last year, I proposed a \$1000 tax credit for long-term care. And why, in my State of the Union address, I asked Congress to triple it, to \$3,000. It's why I signed the Family Medical Leave Act in 1993 – giving more than 20 million Americans the chance to care for a sick relative or loved one without the fear of losing their job. And why we need to expand family care to employees of smaller companies so that we can reach another 10 million American families.

^{I'm talking about disability} President Roosevelt once said, "No single agency ... can cope individually with ~~this great problem~~ ^{what great problem?} We can do it only by joining our efforts." Working together, we can keep building momentum – until every older American of the 21st Century has the health care they need and deserve. Thank you and God bless you.



Devorah R. Adler
03/09/2000 09:22:05 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: karin kullman/opd/eop@eop, Jeanne Lambrew/OPD/EOP@EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re: DRAFT--Alzheimer's Video.Comments pls to Gottheimer ASAP 62554.

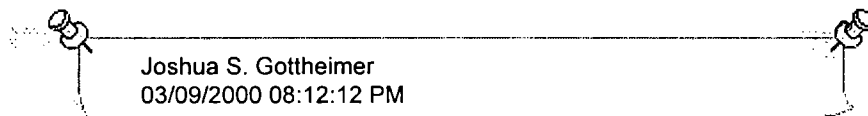
Hello --

I think that Jeanne is uncomfortable with the stats in the first paragraph. Can you change the language to the bolded phrase below?

Let me know if this is a problem.

Thanks, Devorah

Joshua S. Gottheimer



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject: DRAFT--Alzheimer's Video.Comments pls to Gottheimer ASAP 62554.

Draft 03/09/00 8pm
Gottheimer/ Silver

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
[LOCATION TBD]
[DATE TBD]**

I am glad to have this opportunity to welcome you to the Alzheimer's Association's 12th Public Policy Forum – and to thank you for the work you do on behalf of the **millions of Americans and their caregivers**, who cope daily with this debilitating disease.

As many of you know, I've seen first-hand the devastating impact of this disease. I lost both an aunt and an uncle to Alzheimer's, and watched as it, slowly and painfully, took away their memory, personality and self-awareness. That is why, for seven years now, our administration has worked to increase investment in Alzheimer's research; to enact and expand family support programs; and to strengthen and expand Medicare. Since 1992, with your organization as a valuable partner, we have increased funding for Alzheimer's research at NIH by nearly 65 percent – from \$278 million to \$466 million this year alone.

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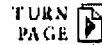
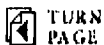
Alzheimer's is just one of the challenges we face with the aging of America. The number of Americans over 65 will double between now and the year 2030, and they will have a life expectancy of nearly 82 years. For seven years, our Administration has worked to honor our obligation to older Americans. That's what's behind our efforts to save Social Security ... to strengthen and modernize Medicare ... and to provide seniors with a long overdue voluntary prescription drug benefit. And it's why we must also pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights to ensure critical protections for Americans in managed care.

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. It's a loving choice, but often a very expensive one many of them need help. That's why last year, I proposed a \$1000 tax credit for long-term care. And why, in my State of the Union address, I asked Congress to triple it, to \$3,000. It's why I signed the Family Medical Leave Act in 1993 – giving more than 20 million Americans the chance to care for a sick relative or loved one without the fear of losing their job. And why we need to expand family care to employees of smaller companies so that we can reach another 10 million American families.

In talking about disability, President Roosevelt once said, "No single agency ... can cope individually with this great problem. We can do it only by joining our efforts." Working together, we can keep building momentum – until every older American has the health care they need and deserve. Thank you and God bless you.

Message Sent To: _____

Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP
Devorah R. Adler/OPD/EOP@EOP
Christopher C. Jennings/OPD/EOP@EOP
Melissa G. Green/OPD/EOP@EOP
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Lindsay R. Drewel/WHO/EOP@EOP
Loretta M. Ucelli/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joel Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP
Michele Ballantyne/WHO/EOP@EOP
Leslie Bernstein/WHO/EOP@EOP



Alzheimer's

Interview With Larry King in Seattle, Washington,
November 6, 1994

Mr. King. Welcome to a special Sunday night edition of "Larry King Live." Our special guest is the President of the United States. A beautiful day here in Seattle; it rained earlier this morning, but there's no city like this. You seemed revved up here today.

The President. It's a wonderful city. They've been very good to me. But it's just an exciting place. It's a real future-oriented place with a lot of different kinds of folks. They get together. They work together. It's a real upbeat, positive city.

Midterm Elections

Mr. King. Do you like campaigning again?

The President. I do.

Mr. King. It seemed like you were just campaigning.

The President. I know.

Mr. King. Do you like this?

The President. I do like it. In large measure I like it because it's one of the few times I get to really go out and put out our record, my message. And I also just like to see the American people. You know, I like to see them excited and energized again.

Mr. King. I remember when you were running. We were in Ocala, and you said to me, "God, I love this."

The President. It was wonderful. Remember that we were in that rodeo arena? Remember that?

Mr. King. Where Elvis Presley once sang.

The President. Yes, that's right.

Mr. King. You were revved up, and you seem the same way now. It would seem that after this time you've been President for 2 years that it's old hat by now.

The President. But these are the people I work for. And perhaps the most frustrating part of being President is how hard it is to stay in touch with them, to stay connected to them, for them to really know what you do on a daily basis. And so to be able to come back out here with someone like Ron Simms, whom I admire so much, that represents what's best in this country, that's cutting against all this cynicism and negativism that is blanketing the airwaves, it's really just a great thing to do.

Negativism in Politics

Mr. King. What do you make of that? We'll start there. And there's lots of bases we're going to cover, of these—lots of radio talk shows, other areas of negativism, that's more than just criticism. It's anger. What do you make of it?

The President. Well, it's almost like an institutionalized approach to life, you know, that everything is given the most negative possible spin, information is presented in attack mode. The American people hate it, but they react to it.

Mr. King. But portions of them listen to it.

The President. Portions of them listen to it, of course. And even if they listen for entertainment, the surveys show in these elections that they react to it, which is, of course, why the politicians do it.

Mr. King. So what does it mean to you when you see it, hear it, about you, about people you like, about anyone?

The President. Well, it—what I think is it's not very good for America. It's not good for our people. It makes it harder for people to take a deep breath and face their problems and seize their opportunities and move forward.

I mean, this is a very, very great country. And as I have a chance, for example, to go to the Middle East to participate in that peace signing, other leaders are bewildered at the negative attitudes in America. They say, "Gosh, you know, your economy is coming back; your deficit's going down; things are happening in your country. You're leading the way to peace around the world. Why would the American people be in a negative frame of mind?" And I always say, well, first of all, a lot of Americans have personal insecurity in their lives. I mean, let's face it, there's some reality out there. There are a lot of people who are afraid they're going to lose their jobs. They haven't gotten a raise in a long time. They may lose their health care or their retirement. They're living in a neighborhood where they feel personally insecure. They see things like these children killing children. It violates their sense of——

Mr. King. So they have a right to that feeling?

The President. Well, no, there's some insecurity there. In other words, the picture is not all positive. But I think the direction is positive, and the future is more positive than negative. But I think the other thing is, the overwhelming way that most Americans get their information tends to be both negative and combative and assaultive, almost. And what I tried to do in the Presidential campaign in '92 with all those town meetings, starting way back in '91, where I listened to people and they talked to me, with insisting on three debates and having one debate with the public there asking questions of the candidates for President, with the bus tours we did was all designed to get people involved, let them vent their frustrations, and then focus on what we were going to do.

And that's very important. And that's the thing that has been missing too much in this election. And of course, the Republicans like that because if people are mad, then they think the Democrats don't vote and the extremists on the right in their party do vote, they get a big advantage and it helps them get into power. But it doesn't do anything to help America solve their problems.

Mr. King. How do you deal with it personally, I mean, the carping, the anger, the up and down in the polls, personally?

The President. Well, on the up and down in the polls, I basically try to ignore it.

Mr. King. Ignore it?

The President. Not because—I care what people think about the issues, but I knew when I started this job that while everybody said they wanted us to change, if it were easy to do it, someone else would have done it. So to get the deficit down, we had to make some tough decisions.

If you're going to make college loans more affordable to Americans within the budgetary constraints we had, we had to make some tough decisions, take on some interest groups. If you want to pass the Brady bill and the crime bill, you've got to make some tough decisions. The NRA got real mad at us, and now they're trying to take it out on every candidate in the country that stood up for safer streets.

So anybody who ever fights for change is going to have to be willing to risk going down in the polls some. What bothers me more is the general atmosphere where people tend to believe the worst about people in public life, rather than the best, and tend to have a negative view, generally. Because the truth is that this country is in better shape than it was 21 months ago. Unemployment is down. Jobs are up. The deficit's down. The Government is smaller, but it's doing more for ordinary working people. The streets are going to be safer because of the crime bill. And we're a lot closer toward having a safer, more democratic, more free world. The Russian missiles aren't pointing at us. The North Korean nuclear agreement means they won't present a threat to us in terms of nuclear weapons, if we go through with that. We have the progress in Haiti and in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East and Northern Ireland. We are moving in the right direction at home and abroad. We have a lot of problems, but we're moving in the right direction.

And for people to be kept in a constant turmoil all the time, where they don't listen to one another, they don't talk to one another, they just are bombarded by these negative ads on television, I think is not good for our democracy. And it is, frankly, not realistic. If you could see the way other people look at us, they know this is a very great country. And we should feel that way, too.

Mr. King. When there's extreme negativism, do you condemn it on both sides?

The President. Sure.

Mr. King. When Democrats do it and Republicans do it?

The President. Absolutely. Particularly if it is unrelated to the work of the job, you know. But let's be realistic, now. This whole thing started from the get-go with the determination of the congressional leadership in the Republican Party not to work with us on the economic program.

Mr. King. Deliberate?

The President. Oh, absolutely. They were very forthright about it: You're not going to get any votes out of us no matter how you change this program. That's how it started.

[At this point, the stations took a commercial break.]

Tragedy in Union, SC

The President. —were abducted. And there was this little town in South Carolina where there apparently had been maybe some division or something in the past, but they were all coming together. You saw those gripping pictures of the school children praying. You saw blacks and whites going out together to look for the kids. People really were trying to do their best to do a good and noble thing.

And then they found out that the mother had done it. And unlike previous cases—we've had some other cases, horrible cases, where parents kill their children. But this was—it stood in such stark contrast to those people praying, working, desperately trying to find those children. I think they had a sense of betrayal, of outrage, of bewilderment, of pain. And I think the experience the people in the community felt riveted all across our country, indeed, across the world. I think every parent was just sickened by it.

Racial Issues

Mr. King. The fact that—and remember the case in Boston with the call to 911—that she drew the picture of a black man tells us what about racism in America?

The President. I think it tells us that we have at least some assumptions about race that still color our thinking, our talking, sometimes our voting. The people in that community, without regard to race, were out there looking for those boys. And most African-Americans in this country get up every day and go to work, work their hearts out, pay their taxes, raise their kids, obey the law. And while the crime rate is higher among African-Americans, they're also more likely to be victims of crime. And it's all really—it's a complicated thing, but it's plainly related to the combined impact of the breakdown of family and community and the loss of economic opportunity working together.

I saw a poll in the Wall Street Journal the other day, a fascinating poll, which said that both African-Americans and white Americans agreed that this breakdown of social order in the family, the community, the rise of crime, violence, drugs and gangs and guns was the biggest problem in our country. They agreed with that. They all supported welfare reform—I mean, not all, 85 percent of both races. But there was a huge difference in attitude between blacks and the whites about what caused it, where the whites were more likely to say it's just all personal misconduct, and the blacks were more likely to say it was the breakdown of economic order and opportunity that holds families together and gives people——

Mr. King. The classic American clash.

The President. Yes. And the truth is, in my judgment, they're both right, and they're both wrong. That is, you need a combined approach to it. We have to rebuild these communities. It's hard to have an orderly society without work. It's hard to have a coherent family without work. It's hard for parents to have all the self-respect they want if they know they'll never have a chance to go to work.

But on the other hand, we simply cannot tolerate the behavior that has become all too commonplace. I mean, what is it that turns the heart of a 10-year-old to stone in Chicago and makes it possible for them to let go of a 5-year-old boy? These are big, deep questions. And again I say, the thing that is so wrong about so much of the political dialog in this election or political ads, is there's no dialog. There's no honest talk. People aren't reaching out across racial lines and trying to figure out how to affirm what is best in this country, how to support the lives and the futures of these kids.

Mr. King. Are you saying they're playing to the worst in us, the racist in us?

The President. I think they're playing to the—they're playing to the lowest common denominator, to the fear, to the division, to the anxiety. I believe that it's better to play to the best in us, to address fear, to address anxiety, to admit it, to say it's legitimate, say, okay, what are you going to do about it?

Midterm Elections

Mr. King. Is this the ugliest off-year elections, politically advertising-wise you've seen?

The President. Well, certainly the most expensive and probably the most negative certainly in a very long time. And it's very troubling. You know, I tried to get this campaign finance bill passed. And it was delayed to death at the end of the session by our opponents, like a lot of other bills were. But we don't need that. We need to reform the campaign finance system.

In every one of these races of major importance, there ought to be two or three debates. There ought to be town hall meetings. There ought to be things that involve people, that let them express their anger and frustration and then say, "Okay, now, what are you going to do about it?" Because what we run the risk of doing in this election—which is why I've been out here working like crazy since I got home from the Middle East—is we run the risk of seeing people vote for candidates whose platforms and positions they absolutely disagree with just because they say, "I'm out; put me in. I'm mad, too."

Mr. King. "Throw the rascals out."

The President. "Government's bad; put me in." Yes.

O.J. Simpson Trial

Mr. King. I haven't seen you quoted on it, and every American has talked about it and they all want to know what their President thinks. You were an attorney general in your State, a prosecutor, so it's a twofold question: Can there be a fair trial in the O.J. Simpson case? And two, should television cameras be allowed?

The President. Well, the answer to the first question is, I think there can be a fair trial, but it is much more difficult to empanel a jury that has no opinion.

Mr. King. There's never been anything like this.

The President. No, there has never been anything like it. Secondly, I'm not so troubled about the trial itself being televised. What bothers me is that all the previous proceedings have been televised, all the preliminary things, all the back-and-forth arguments. And I know there are arguments pro and con. But on balance, I think it would have been better if they hadn't been, because I think it would have been easier to empanel a jury that had no fixed views, no—at least predisposition to believe it. Now, what these folks have to say and what they had to convince the judge of was that whatever they had heard in the past, they could put aside and be fair.

But I just think all of us, we can't help being affected by the things we know. And the wrenching pretrial publicity I think is more damaging than whatever publicity might have come in the trial itself.

Mr. King. Are you impressed with Judge Ito?

The President. Very much.

Mr. King. And the prosecution and defense?

The President. They all strike me as competent and committed. And the judge strikes me as someone who has been firm and fair. He's trying very hard, and he has an enormously difficult task.

Mr. King. Is this the kind of case, when you were prosecuting, you would have liked to prosecute or not like to prosecute?

The President. Well, of course, any—I think most prosecutors would, at a kind of a personal, professional level, welcome the chance to be in a big case like this. But it's a very sad case. It's the sort of thing that brings great pain to a country.

Mr. King. No winners.

The President. No. I mean, there are—people are dead. The feelings that we all had about O.J. Simpson and everything—it's a very sad case. So it's not something I can say I would relish doing because the whole thing is enormously tragic.

Mr. King. We'll be back with the President of the United States. We'll get into issues and some thoughts on the elections Tuesday right after this.

[At this point, the stations took a commercial break.]

Midterm Elections

Mr. King. Beautiful downtown Seattle on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in the American-Pacific Northwest with President Bill Clinton, 2 days away from the election. Friday night on this program, Bob Dole said that on Tuesday night, when the Republicans take the Senate—if they take the Senate and the House, the first person he calls will be you. He will ask to meet with you Wednesday morning. Win or lose, whatever happens, they're ready to cooperate. Comment.

The President. I don't think they're going to win the House and the Senate. But whatever happens, I hope he'll call me Tuesday night, and I hope he'll be willing to cooperate.

Mr. King. Hope, but don't think?

The President. Well, I don't know yet. All I can tell you is that we had bipartisan support for that crime bill, and it turned into naked politics. And the Republicans that did stick with us were lacerated by their leadership.

I hope they don't really, seriously believe that we can go back and do what they did in the eighties and have all these massive tax cuts for upper-income people and pay for big defense increases and bring back Star Wars and balance the budget in 5 years and not tell anybody how to do it. There is no way to do it without massive, massive cuts in Social Security, Medicare, college loans. If you take Social Security off, you have to cut everything else in the budget 30 percent.

So all I'm saying is, I want to cooperate. I always wanted to cooperate. My door has always been open. I tried to cooperate in the health care debate. When we started the health care debate——

Mr. King. They said you didn't. They said it was secretive.

The President. No, that's not true. We met with them in advance. We even offered to work with them on drafting a bill. We were told, "No, you go ahead and put your bill in; then we'll put our bill in and then we'll work." They announced an approach where more than half the Republican Senators supported universal coverage. The bill never came. By the time it came to talk about the bill, there were zero Senators from the Republican Party on that.

So—and by the way, then they released the memo of their strategist, Bill Kristol, who wasn't even ashamed to release the memo and say, "You must not cooperate on health care because if the middle class ever gets security about health care, they'll probably support the Democrats again. Whereas, if we keep them all torn up and upset and angry, we can either keep them home or get them to vote for us."

So I want—let me just say this—I want more than anything to have a bipartisan effort. I want more than anything to move this country forward, not see it go back. But I have not obstructed that bipartisan effort. My door has been open. I have wanted to work together. And I have seen a level of intense obstructionism that I never thought I'd ever see.

So what the American people have to say is—first of all, I think we're going to do better than everybody thinks because jobs are up, unemployment is down, the deficit is down, the Government is smaller, all these things are different from the way it was before. We are doing things for ordinary Americans like middle class college loans, national service, tax cuts for low-income working people, the Family and Medical Leave Act. When people know this, I think we're going to do much better than the experts think, because I think people want to keep going forward, they don't want to go back.

But whatever happens, I hope we talk. I have always wanted to talk; I have always been willing to meet. And I hope we work together.

Mr. King. Worse-case scenario—they take the House. Could you work with Newt Gingrich?

The President. I can work with anybody who will work with me. But I do not believe the American people really want us to go back——

Mr. King. I meant worst-case scenario for you. I'm not taking a stand. For you, worst-case scenario.

The President. I can work—the American people are the bosses of this country. They run this country. They decide who's in the Congress, and they decide who's President.

Mr. King. You work for them.

The President. I work for them. And so does the Congress. So we will do what we are told to do by the American people. They are the bosses. But I will say again, I have worked very hard to get this economy going, to bring the deficit down, to get investment back in education and training, to pass that crime bill—and now we have to implement it so we make our streets safer—to make our country stronger. What I think is going to happen is the American people are going to think about, in the next couple of days, do we want to keep going forward, or do we really want to go back to trickle-down economics? Do we want to go back to exploding the deficit, shipping the jobs overseas, causing the country trouble, or do we want to keep working forward?

A lot of Republicans did work with me. But without exception, when they work with me on anything tough, except for the trade bill, except for NAFTA, and except for some education legislation, in a lot of these other areas, they were subject to withering, withering pressure and attack from the leaders of their own party. So I want to work with them, however these elections come out. I think we'll probably see the Democrats keep control of the Senate and the House because we are changing things for the better, and the American people now are seeing what the record is.

Mr. King. But you'll take that call, and you'll meet with whoever it is you have to meet with?

The President. Absolutely. That's right. You bet I would. I would have always taken it. I want it to be that way. When I ran for President, I ran as a former Governor—I was a Governor. I never shut the Republicans out of my office. I always thought my job was to work with anybody the people elected. That's the right thing to do.

Mr. King. I've got to get a break. We'll be right back with President Clinton. Don't go away.

[At this point, the stations took a commercial break.]

Mr. King. Sunday evening in Seattle with the President of the United States Bill Clinton. A lot of bases to touch. And later we'll get some predictions on some individual races that the President is very aware of.

A couple of other things in the news. Johnny Apple today in the New York Times says that the administration is starting to take on a Truman-esque approach already: They're the bad guys. And that's the way Harry Truman won in '48 by knocking the no-good, do-nothing Congress. Are we adopting that mode?

The President. No. For one thing, I don't believe we're going to lose the Congress if the American people know what has been done.

Mr. King. So you'll have no Congress to knock in '96.

The President. There is—well, whether the Democrats or the Republicans are in the majority, a minority can frustrate the will of the majority just with the filibuster in the Senate, if for nothing else, which killed the campaign finance reform, lobby reform, environmental reform, and a number of other things last year.

My instinct is to get something done. But this Congress that we just finished was only the third one since World War II that cooperated with the President in over 80 percent of the President's initiatives in both years. That only happened three times since World War II, once for President Eisenhower, once for President Johnson, and then this one.

Mr. King. So there's no Truman plan.

The President. No. I'll say again, it depends on who the American people send to Congress and what their attitude is. I will work with anybody who will work with me to move the country forward. When I ran for President in '92, I said I thought the Democratic Party had to change. We had to do something about getting the economy going again, bringing the deficit down, shrinking the Government, being tougher on crime, all things the Republicans had previously said they were for, although the deficit went up, the economy was in trouble, and they just talked about crime for 6 years.

All right, now we have reduced the deficit, reduced the size of the Government, passed a good crime bill, which now will have to be implemented at the grassroots level. Even as we speak, we've got police officers being hired all over the country because of this crime bill.

What are we going to do? My door is open. My hand is outstretched. I am a builder, not a blamer. I'm not like that.

Mr. King. This ain't going to be a Truman "give 'em-hell, Bill," campaign?

The President. It depends on what they do. It depends on what they do. If they want to work with me, then we will work together. I do believe that we're going to—that the people who gum up the works need to be held more accountable.

Mr. King. You're optimistic.

The President. I am optimistic.

Administration Accomplishments

Mr. King. Reports in recent books of disorganization in the Presidency, 2 years of unwieldiness, I'm sure you've heard about this, if you haven't read the books. Comment?

The President. Well, my comment is, if we were all that disorganized, how do we have the third most successful record in success with Congress, one of only three with over 80 percent of our initiatives passing, including major advances in bringing the deficit down, education reform, trade expansion, crime, and a number of other things, first of all? Secondly, we've done pretty well in foreign policy: no Russian missiles pointed at the United States, North Korea, Haiti, Northern Ireland, the Persian Gulf, the Middle East.

Mr. King. Are you saying we're looking at the process, not the result?

The President. But I'm saying the process is more open than perhaps in previous administrations because we are going through a period of historic change. And when—for example, when I tried to get my economic program together, after I was elected, but before I took office, we all agreed we had to bring the deficit down; we still had to invest more in education and defense conversion and new technologies. And we had to do things that would expand the economy. We wanted to help low-income working families. And we wanted some other incentives to spur economic growth that cost money, some tax incentives. But there were all kinds of differences on the details.

So we got a lot of people in from different points of view, and we talked it through. And it was a lively process. Now some people wanted to have the image that somebody brings a President a little one-page memo with two options, and you just check off and say that's the way it is, and it's all neat. This is a complicated world with a lot of variables.

Mr. King. Is yours too open?

The President. I don't think so. It may be unsettling to people that we have honest debates in the White House. But you know, when I think about some of the major mistakes that my predecessors have made, I think the absence of honest debate may have caused some of that.

So, can we get the process better? Can we get better organized? I think so. I think that the White House today is much better organized than it was 30 days after I took office. I think it's more orderly; it's running more smoothly, decisions are made in a more disciplined fashion. I think a lot of people have learned to do their jobs better and better and better.

But again, I say the—a lot of the best companies I know of in America have very lively, open discussions on important issues. They take real time on important issues because then that shapes what the future is. And so far, I say, if you judge us on our results, we're making pretty good decisions.

Health Care Reform

Mr. King. Critics have said now that you fired your wife from health care. I haven't seen you comment. What caused this change, and who's running the health care battle?

The President. Oh, I didn't do that.

Mr. King. She has not been fired?

The President. No. But she was never hired. She was a volunteer.

Mr. King. I know, but critics are saying—what happened in that change?

The President. For one thing, there's no process to manage now. She never did—she never signed on to, agreed to, or was willing to manage the congressional process. What she did——

Mr. King. She took the ball, though.

The President. She took the ball, but what she did was to put hundreds and hundreds of people together to go out and consult all the Members of Congress, to run a 2-day seminar on health care for Republicans and Democrats in Congress, and to try to get the work product up and then be the spokesperson. Now whatever we wind up doing on health care, she will be still speaking out on that and doing a number of other things.

Mr. King. Then what was the announcement?

The President. But the—what we were saying is that she wouldn't have primary responsibility for actually deciding what move next to make in Congress and lobbying that. That's not a good thing for the First Lady to have to do and not anything she signed on to do the first time around.

Mr. King. Did she dislike doing it?

The President. No, I think she liked it, but she didn't want to be in a position where that's all she would do. And that's the only issue she could be involved in, and she didn't want to be in a position where—she got caught up——

Mr. King. She became the focus.

The President. It's where she got caught up in the process of—the lobbying of the Congress process. She wants to be a spokesperson for health care, for solving a problem, not the person who has to manage the process in Congress. And I don't think she should be.

Mr. King. So we will be hearing a lot from Hillary in the next 2 years.

The President. Yes, she—you know, she's invested a lot in this. She's done a wonderful job. And she's—what we think about the health care deal is that, first of all, keep in mind how long it takes to get things done in Washington. Family leave took 7 years. The Brady bill took 7 years. The crime bill took 6 years. Banking reform took 7 years. I mean, we've gotten things done that took years that other people couldn't do. But it was probably unrealistic to think you could get health care reform in a year and a half, given the fact that it's bigger than all those other things.

Mr. King. When we come back, we'll talk about some individual races and the President's thoughts, as we converge on Tuesday. Don't go away.

[At this point, the stations took a commercial break.]

California Senatorial Campaign

Mr. King. —on this beautiful Sunday in Seattle. A little off-the-cuff joke there, folks, best left unsaid. With the President of the United States, Bill Clinton. By the way, this is the President's seventh appearance, all together, running and as President, on this program. It's always great to have him with us. We're touching a lot of bases. Now some election bases. Going to win the Senate in California?

The President. I think Senator Feinstein will win. If there was a ever a case for campaign finance reform, it's this. The Republican candidate moves to California in '91 from Texas, essentially buys a Congress race, announces 8 months later for the Senate, loses his own congressional district in the Republican Senate campaign but spends, it looks like, \$35 million or something, some enormous amount of money, just to run negative ads against Feinstein.

She, by contrast, in only 2 years, passes the assault weapons ban, a law that requires zero tolerance for handgun possessions in schools by students, and the biggest protection act, natural protection act in history, the California desert bill.

Mr. King. It's his money, though.

The President. It's his money, but it shows you why we need some sort of campaign finance reform. No Senator in my lifetime has gotten as much done in as short a period of time as Dianne Feinstein. And those three things may not be popular everywhere, but they are supported by a majority of the people of California.

Seattle Congressional Campaign

Mr. King. Three hundred miles from here, over the hills in Spokane—Mr. Foley, Speaker of the House—what's going to happen there?

The President. Well, you know, he was way behind. He's fought himself back to where he's even, some say a little ahead. I think the people of every—every time there's a Speaker who comes from a rural district, there's always the problem of the people in the district thinking that the Speaker is more interested in the national job than the grassroots job.

All I can say is that of all the leaders of Congress I've ever known in both Houses and in both parties, Tom Foley is the one who speaks most often about his constituency and is most in contact with what he thinks they're thinking about. He's the one who talks to me all the time. It's amazing. And I think that if—my feeling is that the people have seen him back there working, defending his positions, defending his record, defending his service for the district. If it's just a question of who can do more for the people of that district to build their economic future and to meet their needs, I don't think there's much question. I think he wins in a walk, but it's a tough race.

Ross Perot and the 1996 Campaign

Mr. King. Our old friend Ross Perot's entrance into the race, endorsing some Republicans, some Democrats, Independents and calling for basically a Republican victory.

The President. Well, it's curious to me because if you look at what I've done as compared with what Ross Perot advocated, I disagree with him on GATT and NAFTA, but so does the Republican congressional leadership. So both sides disagree with him on trade. So what else was his campaign about? It was about reducing the deficit, reducing regulation of the size of Government, and getting political reform, campaign finance reform, lobby reform, line-item veto.

Okay, we reduced the deficit without any Republican votes. We reduced the size of Government without any Republican support. We've deregulated the—in banking and trucking. We deregulated a lot of the Federal rules on welfare reform, giving 20 States the right to move people from welfare to work. We've done things that he said he was for.

I supported and most Democrats supported, most Democrats supported, campaign finance reform, lobby reform, a bill to make Congress live under the same laws it imposes on private business. These are things we did. Their leadership opposed it. So what we are doing and where we stand and what we want to do in the future is much more consistent with what Ross Perot said he wanted to do if he were President.

Mr. King. Then what do you make of this?

The President. I don't know. I'll leave that to you to make of it. All I can tell you is, we have really faithfully pursued the reform agenda that he and I shared in common when we both ran for President. So the truth is, he'd come a lot nearer getting what he said he wanted done in '92 in fact done in '95 if we kept the Democrats in the Congress who are committed to change.

Mr. King. Do you expect him to run again?

The President. I don't have any idea.

Mr. King. Do you expect Democrats to oppose you?

The President. I don't have any idea.

Mr. King. Do you have a Republican favorite you'd like to run against?

The President. No, I'm going to leave that up to them. I'll say this, sooner or later, we'll have a debate and a discussion in this country about what, in fact, has been done and what has not been done.

Mr. King. And it will have to be one person.

The President. We'll have to get over being mad and being negative and talk about what we're going to do to build this country. We cannot for long afford to give in to the blamers instead of the builders. I mean, this is a country—you look—we've got a lot of challenges we have to work through to get this country into the 21st century as the strongest country in the world, with the American dream alive and well.

Right now, we are strongest militarily. We're strongest again economically, according to the annual vote of international economists, for the first time in 9 years. We're outselling all other auto companies, Americans are for the first time in 15 years. We are moving in the right direction.

At some point, people who tempt our anger and our frustration but promise to reverse the progress we have made and put us back in the economic trouble we were in just a couple of years ago, are going to have to be held accountable. That's what this election ought to be about. And if it is, the Democrats who represent hope, the future, and the progress that's been made in the last 21 months ought to have a chance. Why should we give up the progress of the last 21 months and not give me a chance to finish and go back to what failed us for 12 years?

Mr. King. But can we also say, therefore, can I trace in what you said in the beginning that if you do run for reelection, you will debate your opponent or opponents?

The President. Yes.

Mr. King. There will be no backing off debates.

The President. No, not once, but several times.

Mr. King. We'll be right back with President Bill Clinton. Don't go away.

[At this point, the stations took a commercial break.]

Legal Defense Fund

Mr. King. We're back with President Bill Clinton, touching a lot of bases. The legal defense fund, are there any second thoughts about that, or was it necessary or—do you have second thoughts?

The President. No. I think with a strict limit on contributions, there's no possibility of any conflict of interest there. And, you know, I have the lowest net worth, I guess, of any person to be President in a very long time. And all these things are—like the Whitewater thing, it's—these things come up. If we're going to——

Mr. King. They have been embarrassing, though.

The President. If we're going to make Presidents a subject for the first time in history—this has never been done to anybody before—to things like special counsels looking into things that happened long before the President became President, that were fully aired in the Presidential campaign—I don't think Presidents should make money being President, but I don't think they should be bankrupt when they leave because of legal fees. Nor do I think that Presidents should expect lawyers to work for nothing.

So, once again, we're in a situation here where—do you really want to say that unless you're fabulously wealthy you shouldn't be able to be President? You shouldn't be able to run for an office because you can't buy enough negative television ads to trash your opponent? I think what we did was appropriate, legal, proper, and restrained.

Former President Ronald Reagan

Mr. King. A couple of other things. Ronald Reagan's announcement, and I know you commented that you'd——

The President. I did.

Mr. King. ——spoken to him awhile back and that he, in the middle of a sentence, got angry that he had forgotten what he had been talking about.

The President. Yes, he just said once, he said, "I forgot." He said, "I lost my memory on that, and it really makes me mad."

Mr. King. Did you then think that this might have been **Alzheimer's**, a common thing to think in people over 80? Did you think it?

The President. I didn't know. I don't know that I know the difference between the manifestations of **Alzheimer's** for someone who's 80 and just not remembering things as well. But he and I have always had a very cordial personal relationship. When I was a Governor, I supported and worked with the White House when we got the first big welfare reform legislation through back in '88. And even though we've had our differences, I always liked the fact that he was positive about America, that he was an upbeat person, that he—at moments he was capable of going beyond partisanship, as he has since he's left office. You know, he supported NAFTA and the Brady bill and the crime bill with the assault weapons ban in it, because, I think, of the experience he had with Jim Brady and the terrible scars it left on everyone.

So I just—I wanted to say that. I was probably in the most Democratic congressional district in America yesterday. And when I asked them, they all just applauded and they gave him a big cheer.

Mr. King. Do you think it will help focus emphasis on **Alzheimer's**? Do you think he was right to do it, to make the announcement?

The President. First of all, I think he was very right to do it. I think it was a brave thing to do. And he sat down and wrote the letter himself——

Mr. King. I know.

The President. ——in his own words. And it was vintage Ronald Reagan. I think it will help to focus attention on **Alzheimer's**. I personally appreciated it, because I lost both an uncle and an aunt to **Alzheimer's**. And so I think it's one more thing that the American people have to be appreciative to him about.

Mr. King. We'll be back with our remaining moments on this special Sunday night edition of "Larry King Live" with President Bill Clinton. Don't go away.

[At this point, the stations took a commercial break.]

Secretary of State Warren Christopher

Mr. King. We're back with Bill Clinton. Our remaining moments, some other quick bases to cover—Senator Dole the other night said he likes Warren Christopher, thinks he's done a great job. Is Warren Christopher staying at State?

The President. He's done a good job, and as far as I'm concerned, he's the Secretary of State.

Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers

Mr. King. Dee Dee Myers is sitting here, looks very strong, very active.

The President. She looks pretty good, doesn't she?

Mr. King. There was rumors that she was going to be leaving that post, and she seemed to have strengthened it. Is she here?

The President. She's doing a good job.

Mr. King. Will she be here through the next 2 years?

The President. She hasn't told me yet.

Mr. King. Do you want her to stay?

The President. She looks pretty good.

Mr. King. Yes, she does. Do you want her to stay?

The President. She's doing a good job, and she's going to stay as long as we decide she's going to stay, she and I together.

Mr. King. First time the whole night you've been a little——

The President. I've been a little evasive on all personnel questions.

Mr. King. You don't want to discuss personnel?

The President. I think Presidents should always be slightly evasive on personnel questions unless there's some great policy issue involved.

Heavyweight Champion George Foreman

Mr. King. George Foreman. Comment.

The President. George Foreman, I like because I identify with him. He's not as young as he used to be, not as fast as he used to be, not as thin as he used to be. He's still got a terrific punch. I'd like to think that there are a lot of us who could identify with that.

And he doesn't quit. You know what he said yesterday? He said he was really grateful to America for giving him the chance to fight. That's the way I feel. I'm grateful to America for giving me the chance to fight.

Mr. King. So you felt an **association** with him. You're only a little older than he is.

The President. Yes, I know.

Mr. King. You have the same kind of midriff, and he eats like you, fast foods.

The President. He does. I don't really eat fast foods anymore. That's a big myth.

Mr. King. Well, you don't?

The President. No. It's part of Dee Dee's counseling to me. *[Laughter]* She won't let me—no, we don't do that much anymore.

Midterm Elections

Mr. King. We're under a minute. Virginia—Senate.

The President. Senator Robb's doing well there.

Mr. King. Cuomo in New York.

The President. He's come back; he's been heroic.

Mr. King. Senate in—Governorship, Texas.

The President. Well, I haven't been there, but Ann Richards is supported in her job by over 60 percent of the people. So if they support the work she's done for Texas, you would think they would renew her contract.

Mr. King. Were you asked to go there at all?

The President. No.

Mr. King. And——

The President. Oh, I was at the beginning. I was asked to go, actually, to El Paso, but we couldn't do it.

Mr. King. We're out of time. Thanks.

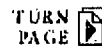
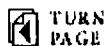
The President. Thank you. You've been great.

Mr. King. Are you predicting victory in the Senate and the House? You will retain control of both?

The President. I think we're moving in the right direction, and I think we'll have them both on Wednesday morning when we wake up, because I think the American people want to keep going forward, not going back.

Note: The interview was recorded at 3:30 p.m. at the Columbia DuBrin Realty Advisors Building for broadcast at 9 p.m.

Source: United States. Executive Office of the President, Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, Week Ending Friday, November 11, 1994 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1995), vol. 30





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I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is not a "brief candle" to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

George Bernard Shaw

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The butterfly counts not months but moments and has time enough.

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Anyone who does not believe in miracles is not a realist.

David Ben Gurion

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There are two ways to look at life. Either everything is a miracle or nothing is a miracle.

Albert Einstein

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You can't change the direction of the wind, but you can adjust the sails.

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When one is faced with one's mortality, one has to re-evaluate how one is going to live.

An Aids Patient

Human beings are born broken, they live by mending, and the grade of God is the glue.

Eugene O'Neill

Faith is the mental activity that draws God into our minds and imagination until a passion begins to influence our wills, motivating our action.

Unknown

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Time

November 8, 1999

SECTION: VISIONS 21/HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT; Pg. 76**LENGTH:** 412 words**HEADLINE:** Can We Forget About Alzheimer's?;
Maybe not now, but the future is looking brighter**BYLINE:** J. Madeleine Nash**BODY:**

Will we still worry about Alzheimer's disease in the next century? What a question! With the population of elderly expected to double by 2025, we'll be beside ourselves with worry--unless, of course, doctors figure out how to treat Alzheimer's or, better yet, prevent it. A quarter-century from now, the number of people suffering from dementia in the U.S. alone is projected to rise from 4 million to at least 8 million. "That will bankrupt our medical system financially and emotionally," says Bill Thies, head of medical and scientific affairs at the **Alzheimer's Association**. "Our only alternative is to develop effective therapies."

That could happen. Over the past two decades, Alzheimer's research has exploded to such an extent that a revolution in treatment seems likely. "We now have almost an embarrassment of riches," says Dr. Kenneth Kosik, a professor of neurology at the Harvard Medical School. "Not only do we have a profound knowledge of the biology of the disease but we also have multiple targets around which drugs can be designed."

One target is a rogue protein known as beta amyloid, which forms the plaques that fill the brain's memory centers; just two weeks ago scientists identified one of the enzymes that are key to its formation. Another is an abnormal variant of the tau protein, which is thought to clutter the interiors of nerve cells with threadlike tangles. Over the coming years, as a new generation of Alzheimer's drugs enters the clinical pipeline, the arguments that rage today over which is more important, beta amyloid or tau, may be resolved. Kosik suspects that both may be critical.

Initially, advances in treatment will probably result in only modest gains. Clinicians will be able to delay onset by several years and lessen the severity of symptoms. But by 2025, control could come to resemble a cure. For Alzheimer's has something in common with other brain disorders such as Parkinson's, Huntington's and mad-cow disease. Like them, it appears to be caused by misfolded proteins--in this case, beta amyloid and tau. And so one day in the 21st century it may become possible to vanquish Alzheimer's with a vaccine that targets these miscreants, or a new class of drugs that prevents them from forming. Kosik even has a name for these drugs--"broad-spectrum anti-aggregates," he calls them, after the broad-spectrum antibiotics that played such an important role in 20th century medicine.

--By J. Madeleine Nash

GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO: ALFRED PASIEKA--PHOTORESEARCHERS, BRAIN SCAN A patient with Alzheimer's, left, and one without

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Newsweek

January 31, 2000, U.S. Edition

SECTION: Pg. 55**LENGTH:** 1406 words**HEADLINE:** My Father's Battle With Alzheimer's**BYLINE:** By Maureen Reagan**HIGHLIGHT:**

You start with a 600-acre ranch and wind up in the den. What I've learned from his struggle.

BODY:

No actor ever forgets a role, so I should have realized something was wrong. It was late in 1993 and we were having dinner with my father. We were discussing a 1950s film he made, Prisoner of War. For years he had told me about the gruesome tortures inflicted on American prisoners by the North Koreans. But now he seemed to be hearing me tell the stories for the first time. Finally he looked at me and said, Mermie, I have no recollection of making that movie.

That was my click of awareness. Another six months went by before Dad complained to his doctor of feeling disoriented in unfamiliar surroundings, like hotel rooms. It was in the fall of 1994, at the Mayo Clinic, that my father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

The click of awareness. A woman drives to the supermarket and sits in the car for 30 minutes because she can't remember how to open the car door. An engineer stays home from work because he can't remember how to tie his necktie. My father's experience was much like theirs. One, they forget something very familiar; two, they display no other major symptoms for several months, and three, they are diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Though the symptoms are different for every person, it is our responsibility to be aware of the early warning signs. We begin using tests at the age of 40 for all sorts of things that kill us--mammograms, prostate exams, colonoscopies. Well, Alzheimer's can kill us, too. It's not just about forgetting your wedding day. The brain tells the body what to do: to stand up, to walk, to swallow and to breathe. At some point these things will break down and you will die. So part of our protection should be minimal cognitive testing to provide a benchmark that will alert doctors down the road to changes that require further examination. In that way, a doctor could intervene, instead of putting the burden on family members to recognize the disease and then battle to get a loved one to medical evaluation. There are therapies today that were not available for my father. They won't cure the disease, but they may buy time.

When people ask me how my dad is doing, my response is not so good. But it is hard to say that because he makes it so easy for us. In other words, he's still him. But his motor skills are going. I thank God for Nancy and the wonderful care she gives him and then I thank God again for sending

Diane, a nurse extraordinaire. They are quite a team and he couldn't be better cared for. They, like millions of caregivers, make sure his days are as stimulating and fun as possible.

I try to visit every couple of weeks and we've found he likes my bright red fingernails. Since neither Nancy nor Diane wears bright polish they always say, Oh, Maureen, you sit over there, and he looks at those nails and we get a big smile. Earlier in the disease we did jigsaw puzzles, usually animal scenes: a farmyard, horses in a meadow, a jungle scene. We started with 300-piece puzzles and worked our way down to 100. Unfortunately, he can't do that anymore. It was great fun and he had a tremendous sense of accomplishment. There was a time when he enjoyed the pictures in an art book and would read out loud. He could recognize the words even after aphasia had robbed him of his ability to put his thoughts into words. My father has always been my hero, but never more than when he wrote his final letter to the American people. He made it all right to talk about the disease. Whether it afflicts a neighbor who quietly fades behind the upstairs curtains, a relative who no longer comes to visit during the holidays or a former president, the effects of Alzheimer's disease are drawing closer to each of us every day. We must be the last generation to face this disease without hope.

The **Alzheimer's Association** was started by family members who had no place to turn. Our chapters are constantly gathering information, which is shared through support groups. These caregivers do not sit around feeling sorry for themselves. They share their experiences. One woman told me that when her husband was finally bedridden she would bring home helium balloons. He loved the bright colors and how they moved across the ceiling. We promote a safe return bracelet registered with the local police. Alzheimer's patients tend to wander.

We who work in public policy at the association are always pushing for attention from Congress. This spring, our family members will be calling for more research funding. Every fall we sponsor Memory Walks across the country to provide funding for local chapter programs. There is a great deal of work to do and we need your help. We are in a race against time for all of us. Contact the **Alzheimer's Association** at 800-272-3900 or at alz.org and tell them Ronald Reagan said to call. I'll say it for him: Thank you, and God bless you.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Great Communicators: Maureen and Ronald Reagan in 1986

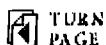
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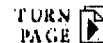
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Alzheimer's



Teleconference on Health Care With Family Caregivers,
March 2, 1994

The President. I want to thank you all for joining me today and for setting aside some time so that we can speak together and that together we can speak to the country about the long-term care problems in America. As we just heard, we have people from California to New York on the line, people for whom long-term care is not just a health reform issue but a real job.

One of the most important things that our health care plan is attempting to do is to make your job easier by creating a new home- and community-based long-term care program that gives people in need of assistance new choices and gives more options for long-term care, doesn't automatically push people into nursing homes to get some public assistance, and encourages people who are trying to take care of their family members to do it by giving them some help to do it. If this portion of the plan passes, for the first time we'll have a nationwide program that will give Americans, regardless of their income, some long-term care services tailored to their needs and provided in the place that they want to be most, in their own homes.

But the main purpose of this conversation today is not for me to talk but to hear from you, the people who are real experts, to understand how the approach we're taking here in Washington will affect homes and communities like yours around the country. I think it's very important that people in the Congress and the decisionmakers understand just how many Americans there are who are in the situation that you're in.

And so, let's start with Eve Lefkowitz in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Eve is a visiting nurse who provides care for both her parents. Eve, why don't you talk to us a little bit about——

[At this point, Ms. Lefkowitz discussed her parents' health problems, her desire to keep them at home, and the cost for both in-home care and ongoing medical treatment.]

The President. Thanks, Eve. Before I respond, let me say, can all of you still hear me?

Q. Yes.

The President. One of you has been talking to somebody else while Eve was talking. You may not be able to hear her talk, but we can hear you. So if you talk while someone else is talking, then we won't be able to hear the person who is talking. So please be careful about that.

Let me say, the situation that you have outlined is one that a lot of American families are struggling with. They want to keep their parents in the home. They want to keep them around the grandkids. But they have huge out-of-pocket costs. They know if the parents go to a nursing home, especially if they just spend their resources and go to a nursing home, they can get some help.

Now, under our plan, your parents would be able to stay in your home and get many of the services that they now have to pay for themselves, including adult daycare, some help with home health services, and medications. People would have to make a contribution, all right, based on their ability to pay. So it's not free for everybody regardless of their income, but there would be a support program. In almost every case, this would be cheaper for the Government than providing nursing home care. But it will give people who have certain health problems and disabilities much greater choices about how and where they get the care. And it would enable families like you, yours, that are really close-knit, where you've tried to keep your family together, to be able to do that and succeed.

So we are going to do our best to help you. And I must say, I really admire you for doing this.

Ms. Lefkowitz. Thanks.

The President. Beth and James Crampton, are you all there from Omaha?

Beth Crampton. Yes, we're here.

The President. Beth is a 23-year-old recent college graduate who, along with her father, takes care of her mother. Why don't you talk a little about your situation?

*[Ms. Crampton explained that her mother has **Alzheimer's** disease and discussed the family's efforts to care for her at home.]*

The President. Let me ask you something. You said your father was able to attend your graduation. Did someone come in and care for your mother during that time?

Ms. Crampton. We did. The senior companion program here in Omaha has allowed us to have a volunteer who comes in and is familiar with my mother and can help care for her. So she made special plans and came in that morning so that he could come; otherwise there would have been no way he would have seen that graduation.

The President. I really identify with this. I've had an uncle and an aunt with **Alzheimer's**, and I've seen what it can do to a family. And I admire you so much for staying committed, you and your father, to taking care of your mother.

One of the things that I think is important to point out, that you have just illustrated with the story that you had, particularly for families where maybe there's only one person who is caring for an **Alzheimer's** victim, is that there needs to be some respite care for family caregivers, so people like you and your father can at least take a break and know that you can have a lot of confidence in people who are with your mother. And our plan would provide some help to do that, would make it possible for people who are caring for family members with **Alzheimer's** to have people come in on a regular basis, like the person who came in for you, all across the country to provide respite care so that you would never have to fear at least having some basic normalcy in your life, that you were hurting your mother.

There are people, as you know, all across the country who are doing this now, and **Alzheimer's** is an issue we have to confront head-on in other ways. We also, in our health care plan, invest more than \$20 billion more into preventing and combating diseases that disable older Americans, including **Alzheimer's** along with breast cancer and heart disease.

So I hope that all these things will be helpful to you. And again, I want to thank you for the example you've set. I really appreciate it.

Is Goldia Kendall there?

Goldia Kendall. Yes, I'm here.

The President. From Jonesboro?

Ms. Kendall. Yes.

The President. My home State. Well, it's nice to hear your voice.

Ms. Kendall. It's good to hear you, too.

The President. Are you really 85 years old?

Ms. Kendall. I'm 85. I'll soon be 86. My husband is 89.

The President. And she's worked all her life as a cook and a nurse, and her husband is a retired factory worker and a carpenter. And he had a stroke a few years ago.

Why don't you tell us about your situation, Ms. Kendall?

*[Ms. Kendall explained that her husband also has **Alzheimer's** disease and described her efforts to care for him by herself.]*

The President. Yes, what we want to do is to basically reward people like you who have the courage to do what you're doing. I mean, to take your husband out of a nursing home and start caring for him all by yourself at your age is an astonishing thing. And when I was Governor of our State, I worked to try to help give people more choices in long-term care. But with the way the Federal programs work today, there is a limit on what you can do. So our plan would give people like you a chance to get some help from nurses and other assistants who could give personal care to your husband in your home while you go out and run errands and get a little break from time to time. And again, it would be helping you, but it's also less expensive for us than if your husband were in a nursing home.

Ms. Kendall. Well, yes.

The President. So, I sure admire you. I hope that I'm in half the shape that you are if I get to be 85. I really think it's very impressive that you're doing this, and it's a real tribute to your commitment to your husband. I appreciate you so much.

Ms. Kendall. Well, I'm proud of you, too. He's helpless, completely. He has a feeding tube in his stomach. I have to take care of him. He has a motor to keep air in his mattress; the doctor wanted him on an air mattress. And he's been taken care of real good. The nurse comes every week, and the aide comes 5 days a week, and Doctor Owens watches over him very close. And they all are very pleased of me and my work, the way I take care of him.

The President. The hospital has good outpatient services there. I know about that, and that's good.

Ms. Kendall. Yes.

The President. Well, thank you very much, ma'am.

Ms. Kendall. Well, it's good to talk to you.

The President. Thank you.

Ms. Kendall. Thank you. I voted for you.

The President. Well, thank you, I appreciate it.

Ms. Kendall. I watched you on the television, every program I can.

The President. Thank you so much. It's nice to hear your voice, and good luck to you.

Ms. Kendall. May God bless you in your work.

The President. Thank you.

Is Gene Hayes there, from Fresno?

Gene Hayes. Good morning, Mr. President.

The President. Good morning, Gene. Gene is a victim of Parkinson's disease who's caring for his wife who suffered a heart attack. And I think you also are caring for your father.

Mr. Hayes. That's right.

The President. Why don't you tell us a little about that? How old is your father?

Mr. Hayes. He's 93. He'll be 94 come May.

The President. Well, tell us a little about your situation.

Wait a minute. Ms. Kendall, hold on one moment. We hear somebody talking on the line here. Everybody, please be quiet.

Okay, Gene, go ahead.

No, we can hear you talking, Ms. Kendall. Be real quiet, so I can hear Mr. Hayes.

Ms. Kendall. Oh, I see. Oh, thank you.

The President. Bless you, that's all right.

Go ahead, Gene.

[Mr. Hayes described efforts to care for his wife after a stroke that left her comatose.]

The President. Do you have out-of-pocket expenses for help that you have to pay?

Mr. Hayes. Yes, I sure do. I have to have help around the clock, and there's 10 hours that we take care of her solely by ourself. But other than that, I have a day person and a night person, and then I have a relief person that kind of helps.

The President. And you have to pay for them out of your own pocket?

Mr. Hayes. Yes, I do.

The President. You don't have any health insurance that covers that?

Mr. Hayes. No. When this happened, she was 61, and we didn't have no Medicare. We wasn't eligible for it; we was too young. And insurance, I just dropped it 6 months before; we had no insurance. So we kind of sifted right through the cracks at that point. And we've been having our retirement savings put up, and we've been using that, but it's begun to kind of dwindle away. And we had to sell several things, like our motor home and things like that. But we just take it one day at a time and just trust this will be the day that she'll get better.

The President. And you've got your father there with you too, right?

Mr. Hayes. Yes. Dad's 93, and he has heart problems. We have to give him medicine a couple times a day, and we help him with his bath. I've got to help him with his bath, and at times we help him with his clothing. But Dad's a big help, too. He sits in his wheelchair, and he watches her all the time. He never lets us forget when it's time for her medicine or it's time to turn her. He's always there to say, hey, it's a certain time. And I don't know what we would do without Dad, because he helps us, too. But the three of us just make out fine because we have a lot of help, and it seems like things have been going real well.

The President. Good for you.

Mr. Hayes. I'm thinking about a little later on, it might come to mortgaging; but we're going to take that one day at a time.

The President. I wish you would. I wish you'd come see us. Take care of yourself, sir. And thank you for your example.

Mr. Hayes. Thank you.

The President. Is Mary Hammer there from Blacksburg, Virginia?

[Ms. Hammer, who lost both her legs in an accident 20 years ago, explained that following a recent stroke she was placed in a nursing home which she did not like, and that assistance from church members and social service agencies has enabled her instead to be cared for at home.]

The President. Thank you. You know, we wanted you to be on this call today because the local department of social services where you live has done a good job in providing the kind of personal care and companion services that you have. And I appreciate you saying such good things about them.

Mary Hammer. They're wonderful.

The President. Because what we're trying to do is to make sure all the people in the country, especially elderly people or people with children with disabilities, have access to that kind of help. We don't propose to create a whole new program or a whole new system but to build on the good things that are out there, these adult daycare services, the senior center program, the home health services, the personal care services, all these things that are working out there in the country. What we're going to try to do is to make sure that each person who needs the help can have whichever of these services they need and that they know they will be able to get the help if they need it. And you're an example of how someone can live independently, even with some significant difficulties, if that kind of help is there. And I think the kind of thing you've described ought to be available to every American citizen.

Ms. Hammer. I sure do agree with that. I've been listening to all these calls, and I'm telling you, I agree with what you're trying to do. And I just pray that this funding will keep on coming so we can keep getting this kind of help.

The President. Thank you. Well, we're going to do our best, and thanks for talking to us today. You really made a great statement, and we appreciate you.

Ms. Hammer. It's been a real pleasure. I feel honored for you to call me, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you. Well, the honor was ours today. Thanks.

Is Donna Lyttle there?

Donna Lyttle. Yes, I'm here.

The President. From South Ozone Park, New York?

Ms. Lyttle. Yes, that's correct.

The President. Thank you. Bye, Mary.

Donna, tell us a little about your situation. I think you care for your mother, who has **Alzheimer's**, and you work at Harlem Hospital. Is that right?

[Ms. Lyttle explained that she is the primary caretaker for her dependent mother because she can only afford limited in-home assistance and respite care.]

The President. So you have a lot of personal expenses that you just have to pay for to keep her there?

Ms. Lyttle. Yes, because the transportation back and forth to the center is a cab service that I pay for for her to go twice a week. And you have to pay for her to be taken and to be picked up.

The President. Anything else?

Ms. Lyttle. Well, I'm paying for the home attendants to come in to take care of my mother, and any other expenses that she needs are definitely coming out of pocket. Her medical expenses are definitely coming out of pocket also. But it's only through the **Alzheimer's Association** that I found out about the respite center. They've really been a Godsend for me.

The President. And how much do they come in and help you? Because otherwise you just put your life on hold, I guess.

Ms. Lyttle. Yes, well, my life is completely on hold. The **Alzheimer's Association** has been a resource for me in terms of finding channels that I need for assistance. It was through them that I found the lady that takes care of my mother during the day and about the daycare center for her. But they are——

The President. But you're paying for that.

Ms. Lyttle. Yes, I'm paying for all of it.

The President. Well, under our program, you'd have access to this kind of respite care, and you'd have a chance to at least have more of a life while keeping your mother, and the Government would provide some help based on your income. I just think that we have so many people—you've heard these other people's stories—we have so many people out here in this country who are doing their best to take care of their family members with **Alzheimer's**. And I think it's—clearly, with the fastest growing group of Americans being people over 80, the number of problems that elderly people have is just going to explode in this country. And we, I don't think, can afford to have everybody institutionalized. And when people want to support their families and keep them together, I think we ought to be providing some help for it.

Ms. Lyttle. Yes, I agree. It's also pretty frightening for me because I have two additional family members that have **Alzheimer's**. My mother's sister was diagnosed in Barbados with **Alzheimer's**, but she has been placed in a nursing home. And my mother's uncle just passed in March after being home for, I believe, it's been about 15 years with his wife taking care of him and paying out-of-pocket expenses for all of his care.

The President. And you're a nurse at Harlem Hospital?

Ms. Lyttle. No, I'm executive assistant.

The President. Is that where you work, there?

Ms. Lyttle. Yes, I work at Harlem hospital.

The President. I've been there.

Ms. Lyttle. Oh, yes, I've seen the picture.

The President. I enjoyed my trip there.

Ms. Lyttle. Oh, I hope you come back.

The President. If we pass this health care plan, we're also going to make your life simpler there, less paperwork, more care.

Ms. Lyttle. That's great.

The President. Thank you very much.

Ms. Lyttle. You're quite welcome.

The President. Vera Teske, from Wheaton, Kansas, are you there?

Vera Teske. Yes, I'm here, Mr. President.

The President. And you care for your husband, and I think he has **Alzheimer's** also.

Ms. Teske. That's right.

The President. And you live on your family farm?

Ms. Teske. Yes, we do.

The President. Tell us a little about your situation.

*[Ms. Teske discussed the problems of coping with a potentially violent **Alzheimer's** patient and the prohibitive expense of in-home care for someone with a long-term illness.]*

The President. I appreciate your statement. I don't think I can add much to it except to point out that it's an even bigger issue for people like you, a farm family in a rural area. We have really worked hard in designing this approach to make sure we're taking care of providing care in rural areas as well as more urban ones, because you've made a statement about why we need it as eloquently as anyone could.

I think—I'd just like to emphasize one more time—at a time in America when we're so worried about our young people and we say we've got to rebuild the American family and strengthen the American family, you've got all these dedicated family members who are out there who could have walked away from their family members and didn't. And it seems to me that given the fact that we're going to have more of these kind of problems as we all live longer, that we ought to be out here supporting family members and helping them to succeed and have a life not have to give up their whole life while they take care of the folks that they love. I really respect what you've done, and we're going to do our best to provide some help in this health care plan.

Ms. Teske. I appreciate my family members. They help a lot.

The President. Yes, I know you've got kids and grandkids, and that must help some. But it's still—if you're out on the farm, you need somebody to come in and give you some consistent help, too.

And you made a great statement. I wish you'd been giving it to a congressional committee. It was terrific. Send us a copy of it, will you? We took a copy of it. I'm going to send it up to the Hill. It's great.

Ms. Teske. Thank you.

The President. Is Marge Garrison there from Houston?

Marge Garrison. I'm here, Mr. President.

The President. You and your husband, I think, are caring for your daughter. Is that right?

Ms. Garrison. Yes, we are.

The President. Why don't you tell us a little about that.

[Ms. Garrison discussed the problems of raising an autistic child.]

The President. Well, I appreciate your just sharing your circumstances with us. And I appreciate the fact you've kept your child. And what you've done, I know it's been an enormous burden. You shouldn't feel bad about saying you need help. And we shouldn't have an all-or-nothing situation. I mean, it seems to me that the people this country ought to be rewarding are people that are willing to take this level of responsibility, willing to pay something according to their ability to pay, but just shouldn't be asked to bankrupt themselves on the one hand or on the other hand just give up their entire lives. I really, really appreciate what you said. And more importantly, I appreciate what you've done.

Ms. Garrison. It may be difficult for you—you need to come spend a couple days in our home, Mr. President, and you can really see what it's like living in the house with the type disabilities that our child has.

The President. I wish I could.

Ms. Garrison. I wish you could, too. Thanks for having us today.

The President. Thank you. I want to thank all of you, Eve and Beth and James and Goldia and Gene and Mary Hammer and Donna Lyttle and Vera Teske and you, Marge. I thank you all.

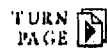
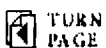
In a lot of ways you're truly heroic people because you've lived by your values of hard work and commitment to your families. And I hope that your stories as they go out across the country will help us to pass a health care reform bill that will build on a lot of the good services you talked about today, those of you who have them, but make sure there aren't the waiting lists that Marge talked about and make sure that we can actually give some help to people who are trying to help themselves and their loved ones.

We can begin to do this. It will take some time to get it exactly right in America, but we've got to begin now. And that's what our plan does. And you have inspired me to keep fighting for it. I'll guarantee you, this has been a wonderful day. I thank you very much. I wish you well. And we're all in your debt.

Thank you, and goodbye.

Note: The teleconference began at 10:36 a.m. The President spoke from the Oval Office at the White House.

Source: United States. Executive Office of the President, Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, Week Ending Friday, March 4, 1994 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1995), vol. 30



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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON, DC
March 19, 2000

I am glad to have this opportunity to welcome you to the Alzheimer's Association's 12th Public Policy Forum – and to thank you for the work you do on behalf of the millions of Americans and their caregivers, who cope daily with this debilitating disease.

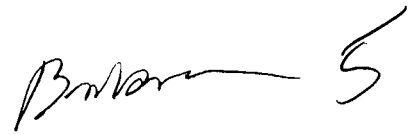
As many of you know, I've seen first-hand the devastating impact of this disease. I lost both an aunt and an uncle to Alzheimer's, and watched as it slowly and painfully took away their memory, personality and self-awareness. That is why, for seven years now, our administration has worked to increase investment in Alzheimer's research; to enact and expand family support programs; and to strengthen and expand Medicare. Since 1992, with your organization as a valuable partner, we have increased funding for Alzheimer's research at NIH by nearly 65 percent – from \$278 million to \$466 million this year alone.

With the increased funding, NIH has launched the Alzheimer's Prevention Initiative which, I am confident, will help save 14 million people from this awful disease. Thanks to the efforts of NIH, there are also new drugs appearing on the market that are making a real difference in the day-to-day lives of people with Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's is just one of the challenges we face with the aging of America. The number of Americans over 65 will double between now and the year 2030, and they will have a life expectancy of nearly 82 years. For seven years, our Administration has worked to honor our obligation to older Americans. That's what's behind our efforts to save Social Security ... to strengthen and modernize Medicare ... and to provide seniors with a long overdue voluntary prescription drug benefit. And it's why we must also pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights to ensure critical protections for Americans in managed care.

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. It's a loving choice, but often a very expensive one, many of them need help. That's why last year, I proposed a \$1000 tax credit for long-term care. And why, in my State of the Union address, I asked Congress to triple it, to \$3,000. It's why I signed the Family Medical Leave Act in 1993 – giving more than 20 million Americans the chance to care for a sick relative or loved one without the fear of losing their job. And why we need to expand family care to employees of smaller companies so that we can reach another 10 million American families.

In talking about disability, President Roosevelt once said, "No single agency ... can cope individually with this great problem. We can do it only by joining our efforts." Working together, we can keep building momentum – until every older American has the health care they need and deserve. Thank you and God bless you.



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