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it's a responsibility

Not only...

Draft 02/08/00 9pm
Gottheimer/Silver

more on
responsibility?

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
ROCK THE VOTE - 10TH ANNIVERSARY
LOCATION TBD
DATE TBD**

I am honored to be a part of Rock the Vote's 10th anniversary celebration. It is with great pride and appreciation that I accept this year's Rock the Vote Award.

From our first days a nation, the right to vote meant the right to participate. Although it's often taken for granted, we must not forget that generations of Americans before us had to fight to gain that right. When blacks and women won the right to vote ... when we outlawed the poll tax and literacy tests in the South ... when the voting age was lowered to 18 ... and when we finally recognized the rights of the disabled, more Americans had the opportunity to realize what Lyndon Johnson once told us: "voting is the first duty of democracy."

hooray

That's why Rock the Vote was founded -- and why you are all here today: To help more young Americans fulfill that right -- and to recognize the power and the impact of their vote. Your dedication to protecting freedom of speech, educating people about the issues that affect them, and motivating them to register and vote, has ~~given a voice to~~ ^{helped} countless young people ~~across our country.~~ ^{to find their voice, + to exercise their rights + responsibilities as voters.}

With your help, we've ^{transformed} ~~translated~~ those voices into action. Year after year, starting with the Motor Voter bill, if you've worked with our administration to make sure that young people get involved -- and stay involved. Now, as we approach the first election of the 21st Century, it's more than ever that young people get out and vote.

important

AND TO REMIND THEM THAT VOTING IS NOT

Congratulations again on your tenth anniversary. And thank you for the work you do every day in helping young people to build the more perfect union of our founders dreams. Good night and God bless you.

only A RIGHT ...

IT'S A RESPONSIBILITY

Final 02/10/00 4:30pm
Gottheimer/Silver

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR ROCK THE VOTE – 10TH ANNIVERSARY
[LOCATION TBD]
[DATE TBD]

I am honored to be a part of Rock the Vote's 10th anniversary celebration. It is with great pride and appreciation that I accept this year's Rock the Vote Award.

From our first days ^{as} a nation, the right to vote meant the right to participate. Although it's often taken for granted, we must not forget that generations of Americans before us had to fight to gain that right. When blacks and women won the right to vote ... when we outlawed the poll tax and literacy tests in the South ... when the voting age was lowered to 18 ... and when we finally recognized the voting rights of the disabled, more Americans had the opportunity to realize what Lyndon Johnson once told us: "Voting is the first duty of democracy."

That's why Rock the Vote was founded -- and why you are all here today: To help more young Americans fulfill that right -- and to recognize the power and the impact of their vote. Your dedication to protecting freedom of speech, educating people about the issues that affect them, and motivating them to register and vote, has helped countless young people across our country.

With your help, we've transformed ^{your} voices into action. Year after year, starting with the Motor Voter bill, you've worked with our administration to make sure that young people get involved -- and stay involved. And to remind them that voting is not only a right -- it's a responsibility. Now, as we approach the first election of the 21st Century, it's more important than ever that young people get out and vote.

Congratulations to all of tonight's award recipients, and to Rock the Vote on its tenth anniversary. And thank you for the work you do every day in helping young people to build the more perfect union of our founders dreams. Good night and God bless you.

5767

● Laura K. Demeo

02/08/2000 09:58:06 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP, Heather M. Riley/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: change in videos

We are going to do two video taping sessions since we have nine videos this time. **We will tape the following 5 videos on 2/10 from 6:05pm - 6:30pm:**

1. ~~La Roche College~~
2. Hank Barnette (CAhill)
3. Claude & Addie Wyatt (Moore)
4. Anne Wexler (Ricchetti)
5. Rock the Vote (CAhill)

by Good Future 7 - 2/20/00

We will tape the remaining 4 videos on another day next week. They are as follows:

1. Duke University Symposuim (Melanne)
2. National Farmers Union (CAhill)
3. Financial Aid (Marshall, Jr.)
4. Danny Abraham (CAhill)

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO MORE VIDEOS WILL BE ADDED FOR FEBRUARY, WE ARE WELL PAST OUR LIMIT.

Message Copied To:

Christine A. Stanek/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura A. Graham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Vincent Fry/WHO/EOP@EOP
Rebecca L. Walldorff/WHO/EOP@EOP
William T. Glunz/WHO/EOP@EOP
Katharine Button/WHO/EOP@EOP



Minyon Moore
02/08/2000 12:26:39 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Elizabeth J. Potter/WHO/EOP@EOP, Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Mary E. Cahill/WHO/EOP@EOP, Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP, Ann Marie Wallace/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: prop 22: POTUS remarks

Julian can you get with Ann Marie -- She is our new Western Desk Political Director and work out a strategy. Terry Edmonds and Josh usually do our political remarks.

----- Forwarded by Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP on 02/08/2000 12:24 PM -----



Elizabeth J. Potter
02/08/2000 12:24:03 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Mary E. Cahill/WHO/EOP@EOP, Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: prop 22: POTUS remarks

This is a follow-up to the phone call I had last week with Supervisor Leno in SF.

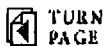
Prop 22: Knight Initiative: All of the Democratic Presidential candidates and statewide office holders have spoken out against this Initiative which appears on the March 7th ballot. POTUS is scheduled to be in California March 3-4th. I think he could use this trip as an opportunity to provide leadership in addressing this divisive wedge issue. Apparently, there is some precedent, President Carter spoke out in the 1970's against the Briggs Initiative which would have barred gays from teaching in public schools.

I understand there are DNC and DSCC events scheduled in SF and LA. I think that it would be a good idea to include "No on Knight" in the remarks for SF and LA. **How should we proceed?**

A great
deal. Go
for it.

- LW

1



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Remarks at a Ceremony Marking the Issuance of the "Register and Vote" Stamp. *August 11, 1964*

Chairman Bailey and Chairman Burch, ladies and gentlemen:

I welcome you to this house which is your house. We come together at a time when we are preparing to test our differences. But on some things Americans have no disagreement. You have come, not because you are Republicans, not because you are Democrats, but because you are citizens deeply conscious of your civic responsibilities.

During the recent days we have been very attentive to the preservation of peace and the preservation of freedom in far-off countries. Yet we all know that we cannot be less attentive to the freedom that we cherish here in our own country. We preach the [p.948] virtues of democracy abroad. We must practice its duties here at home.

Voting is the first duty of democracy. Yet, in our Nation too many citizens too often disregard their duty. Almost 40 million eligible men and women are not registered to vote, as we meet here today. In the last national elections when there was a record turnout, almost 35 percent of the electorate failed to vote.

I think that these are shocking statistics. They measure the magnitude of the job that is before us. Some countries make it a crime not to vote. But the answer does not lie in herding people to the polls. A free democracy can no more order a citizen to vote than it can tell him how to vote. Yet democracy must never neglect its obligation to provide every encouragement to every citizen to exercise his right to vote.

And that is why we work to remove the barriers which limit a man's franchise, because of the color of his skin. That is why we need a voluntary citizens movement to make certain that no one fails to register and fails to vote, because he failed to understand.

It is this unfinished business on the agenda of democracy that brings you patriotic men and women here today. The mandate of November's election must be by vote of the people; never by default of the people. As representatives of the two great parties in America, we come here today to renew our common faith that **voting** itself is more important than the way people vote.

The time has come, the time is here, the time is now to make a concerted effort to reduce the no-shows on election day. So, as President of all Americans, I call on your help to go out and register more Americans than have ever been registered before and to work to get more Americans to the polls this November than have ever gone before.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure and pride to be joined by a great President, Dwight Eisenhower, in commending the American Heritage Foundation for its leading role in democracy's great drama. This is a non-partisan enterprise and, as such, you men have worked tirelessly to give vitality to our electoral system.

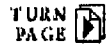
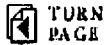
This year you have joined as partners with the Advertising Council and nearly 100 national organizations to carry your campaign through the mass media out to the grass roots. This campaign deserves the wholehearted support of every living American. Much more is at stake than the coming election.

As more and more Americans come of **voting** age, you are helping get them ready to share in what has been called, "Democracy's ceremonial, its feast, its great function." You could have no more important mission to perform. How well you perform it may well determine how well your descendants live.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke shortly after noon in the East Room at the White House at the launching of a bipartisan campaign, sponsored by the American Heritage Foundation and the Advertising Council, to encourage more Americans to register and vote. His opening words referred to John M. Bailey, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and Dean Burch, Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963-1964 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.947-948



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Terms: **addie wyatt** ([Edit Search](#))*The Ethnic NewsWatch, March 27, 1996*Copyright 1996 SOFTLINE INFORMATION, INC.
The Ethnic NewsWatch
New York Beacon, The

March 27, 1996

SECTION: Vol. 3; No. 11; Pg. 22**LENGTH:** 400 words**HEADLINE:** Coming On The Tube: Reverend **Addie Wyatt****BYLINE:** Smith, Hazel**BODY:**Coming On The Tube: Reverend **Addie Wyatt**.

Born in 1924 in Brookhaven, Mississippi, **Addie Wyatt** first began public speaking at the age of three, when she gave a recitation at her local church. The mother of two sons, she is currently co-pastor, with her husband Claude, of the Vernon Park Church of God in Chicago.

The first African-American elected as president of her local union, Wyatt was hired as an International Representative of the United Packinghouse Food and Allied Workers Union in 1954. She served as Vice President, Director of the Civil Rights and women's Department, and then, was the first woman International Vice President of the Akamgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen.

Upon her retirement in September 1984, as International Vice President of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, the largest union in the AFL-CIO, she had invested 30 years of fulltime service as a leader and officer in the labor movement.

Addie Wyatt was founding member of the National Organization for Women in 1966 and the Coalition of Labor Union Women in 1974. she appeared on the cover of Time magazine as one of ten "Women of the Year" in 1975. She was honored as one of "The 100 Most Influential Black Americans" by Ebony magazine for each year from 1980-1984.

Addie Wyatt will be profiled along with three other remarkable women of the 1950s who set their own course - women who refused to let the era define their lives and aspirations on "Paving The Way", a one-hour special presented nationally on PBS by Thirteen/WNET on Friday, April 5 at 9 p.m.

Other women included are: Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the second woman to be appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court; Major General Jeanne Holm, U.S. Air Force, Ret., the first woman to achieve the rank of Major General in the U.S. Air Force and Congresswoman Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii), the first Asian-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress and recently re-elected to her ninth term.

Narrated by actress Barbara Fenton, "Paving the Way" explores the private, often difficult choices made by women who believed in themselves in an era when the single message to them was that the most important degree they could get was not a B.A., but a MRS. degree. The program also explores the ways in which each had a unique style, a particular historical role and how each of their journeys was surprisingly different.

ETHNIC-GROUP: African/Caribbean

LANGUAGE: English

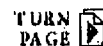
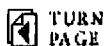
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Statement by the President Urging Citizens To Vote on Election Day.

November 3, 1962

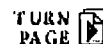
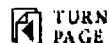
My fellow citizens:

In these difficult days, in the life of our country, I know that every American asks what he can do. All of us cannot serve in our Armed Forces or in the Government, but there is one thing that each of us can do, and that is to take part in our democracy, to participate in it, and we can do that on Tuesday, November 6th, which is Election Day.

People all over the world who desire freedom look to the United States. The best evidence that we can give of how strongly we believe in freedom is by **voting** on Tuesday, November 6th, for the candidate and the party of our choice. This is the way that we can show how strongly we believe in our country, how strongly we work for it, how strong we want it to be—by **voting** on Tuesday, November 6th.

NOTE: The statement was recorded for broadcast over radio and television under the auspices of the American Heritage Foundation.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, John F. Kennedy, 1962 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), p.821



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Power's something we all have.

It's the ability to use our voices, to make things happen. Imagine what would happen if we used our power. We could stop the violence, erase the hatred, improve our schools. We could change our world. Change starts with one simple action. Change starts with you. You can cast your ballot on Election Day, but to create change in your community you've got to Rock the Vote EVERY day. Rock the Vote is dedicated to protecting freedom of expression and helping young people realize and utilize their ability to affect change in the civic and political lives of their communities.

Rock the Vote Timeline

1990

Rock the Vote is founded by members of the recording industry in response to a wave of attacks on freedom of speech and artistic expression.

Censorship is UnAmerican, the first Rock the Vote campaign, debuts. The first in a series of public service announcements (PSAs) featuring Iggy Pop, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Woody Harrelson airs nationally.

1991

Rock the Vote expands its focus to the political empowerment of young Americans.

Rock the Vote supports the National Voter Registration Reform Act (NVRA), popularly known as the Motor Voter Bill. Rock the Vote efforts, including artist PSAs and "Dear Senator" postcards on the now-defunct CD longboxes, contribute to Congress passing the NVRA. The bill is vetoed by President Bush (but will later be signed by President Clinton in 1993).

1992

Rock the Vote continues to encourage young people to exercise their power by exercising their right to vote, and develops PSAs with a diverse array of artists including R.E.M., En Vogue, Aerosmith, Queen Latifah and Eddie Vedder. The PSAs air on networks such as MTV, VH-1, BET and Fox. Rock the Vote also partners with the National Association of Secretaries of State to produce additional PSAs for local television broadcast.

Fox Television broadcasts a one-hour Rock the Vote special hosted by Queen Latifah and featuring Michael Douglas, Robin Williams, Ben Stiller, Tom Cruise, Whoopi Goldberg and others.

Rock the Vote and its partner organizations register 350,000 new young voters and help lead over 2 million new young voters to the polls. On Election Day, young people reverse a 20-year cycle of declining participation with a 20 percent increase in youth turnout compared to the previous presidential election.

1993

On May 20, 1993, President Bill Clinton signs the Motor Voter Bill into law, highlighting Rock the Vote's role in the bill's passage during the White House bill-signing ceremony.

Rock the Vote partners with activist groups to lobby for the National and Community Service Trust Act. President Clinton signs the bill into law on September 21, 1993.

1994

Rock the Vote creates and distributes over one million free copies of Rock the System: A Guide to Health Care for Young Americans.

First annual Rock the Vote Patrick Lippert Awards held in memory of Rock the Vote's founding executive director, Patrick Lippert, who died of AIDS-related pneumonia in 1993. R.E.M. accepts the inaugural award, honoring recording artists making a significant contribution to our common future through extraordinary achievements in empowering young people.

1995

The second annual Rock the Vote Patrick Lippert Awards honor Pearl Jam and Queen Latifah.

Rock the Vote produces the Peabody Award-winning Out of Order: Rock the Vote Targets Health, a series of short dramatic films focusing on health care issues.

1996

Rock the Vote debuts the first program to register voters by phone, 1-800-REGISTER. Closer to the election, Rock the Vote converts the number into 1-800-ROCK VOTE to give callers the number of their local elections office to request absentee ballots or locate their polling place.

Chuck D of Public Enemy and Hootie & the Blowfish are honored at Rock the Vote's third annual Patrick Lippert Awards.

Working with MCI, Rock the Vote comes on-line with the first web site to offer on-line voter registration, dubbed NetVote 96.

Radio Rocks the Vote, a program intended to engage youth in the presidential election, is launched. The Ford Foundation awards Rock the Vote a grant to evaluate expanding the program into non-presidential election years.

Rock the Vote registers over 500,000 new voters through radio partners, volunteers, concert tours, the MTV Choose or Lose bus, 1-800-REGISTER, and NetVote 96.

Rock the Vote and MTV publish 200,000 copies of a non-partisan voter guide, educating young people about the issues and candidates in the 1996 election.

1997

Rock the Vote fights anti-First Amendment legislation in communities nationwide, working with a national network of volunteers to educate youth on the issue and to mobilize them to voice their concerns.

Rock the Vote's fourth annual Patrick Lippert Awards honor Sheryl Crow, LL Cool J, radio stations Q101/Chicago and Jam'n 94.5/Boston, and Steve Young and the NFL Quarterback Club.

Rock the Vote receives the Computerworld Smithsonian Award for Innovation in Technology in recognition of its 1996 telephone and Internet voter registration programs.

1998

Rock the Vote expands both its focus and organization and rewrites its mission statement accordingly, dedicating itself to protecting freedom of expression, and helping young people realize and utilize their power to affect change in the civic and political lives of their communities.

Beastie Boys and Salt-N-Pepa accept Patrick Lippert Awards at the fifth annual benefit.

Together with MCI and the AARP, Rock the Vote launches NetVote 98, a voter registration and information website designed to register and get Americans of all ages to participate in the political process.

Rock the Vote Every Day, a public education campaign designed to empower young people to change their communities through civic participation funded by a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts, kicks off.

Together with its partner organizations, volunteers and radio partners, Rock the Vote helps register over 250,000 new voters during the 1998 Congressional election season.

1999

Neil Young, Wyclef Jean, KROQ - Los Angeles and KKBT The Beat - Los Angeles are awarded Patrick Lippert Awards at Rock the Vote's sixth annual benefit. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is honored with the first Rock the Nation Award for her dedication and commitment to young people and communities around the world.

Through the Rock the Vote Every Day campaign, Rock the Vote conducts community forums in Denver, Kansas City (MO), Charlotte (NC), Oakland, and Seattle to bring young people together to mobilize around issues affecting them in their communities.

Rock the Vote's "I'm a Politician" campaign (part of Rock the Vote Every Day) is seen in publications ranging from Rolling Stone to Vibe to Thrasher to Teen People to Sports Illustrated.

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Statement on the Death of Patrick Lippert

July 14, 1993

I am deeply saddened by the untimely death of one of America's brightest young leaders, Patrick Lippert. An activist for many years, most recently Patrick launched Rock the Vote, an organization that reinvigorated an entire generation's interest in our democratic process by rallying them to vote in the past election, many for the first time. Rock the Vote will continue to serve as a political forum for countless new generations of young Americans to come, thanks in large part to Patrick.

Many remarkable Americans have accomplished far less than Patrick did in his 35 years. As executive director of Rock the Vote, he helped to conceive of and then to pass the motor voter bill, which will make registering to vote much easier for millions of Americans. I was honored to have Patrick at my side 6 weeks ago as I signed the bill into law.

Patrick's friends knew him as a tireless and selfless fighter for the rights of people he never even knew. His concern for people and for his country was profound. He will be sorely missed by all of us who were inspired by his relentless fight for change. His passing should serve as a reminder that we must rededicate ourselves to the ideals he stood for.

Source: Federal Register Division, National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, William J. Clinton, 1993 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), p.1083

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33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1835Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : [Presidential Documents](#)
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Public Papers of the Presidents

November 16, 1997

CITE: 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1835**LENGTH:** 2149 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at a **Rock the Vote** Reception in Beverly Hills, California**BODY:**

Thank you very much. I love **Rock the Vote**. [Laughter] I liked it the first time I heard about it. I pledged to support the motor voter bill when I ran for President in 1992, and I was thrilled when it passed. And we had a great signing ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House, a real tribute to the efforts of all those who started **Rock the Vote** and were so involved in it.

And I want to thank Dan for those fine remarks. I want to thank Dan and Jenna and Jeff and Hilary and my great friend Ricki Seidman, for all the work they've done for **Rock the Vote** over the years. Good luck, Donna. You gave a good speech up here; that's a good start.

Let me say that -- oh, I also want to thank Wolfgang and Barbara for having us here at this wonderful place. We should probably be sitting down and eating instead of standing up and talking, but I'm delighted to be here.

Let me say to all of you, when I ran for President, I did so out of an urge, a compassion, almost a compulsion to try to change this country, to give it back to the people and to make it work again, to basically reclaim the future for your generation and for the young children who are here. And I've tried to continue to always think every day about how whatever I do will affect not just the moment, not just a month or a year from now, but what will be the impact 10 or 20 or 30 years from now.

Most of what we do today will become only clear in its impact when I'm long out of the White House. Part of that is a function of the time in which we're living when things are changing so dramatically. But I've tried to stay in touch with young people and their concerns throughout my Presidency. As a matter of fact, the last meeting I had before I left for the west coast, at the White House, was one of my regular roundtables. We don't call them coffees anymore -- [laughter] -- although we can -- now I insist that we have a reporter in every one; I wish we'd had one in all the others -- but anyway, with a lot of young people. And these young people came, and they talked to me about a number of different things. And then a young man who used to work for me -- now works for MTV -- reported on a survey that had been done by MTV about the attitudes of young people and how basically optimistic they were about their prospects and how well things were going in the country. And they had some concerns, and they were the ones you would expect.

But there was one sort of dark spot in this survey I want to bring up, because it seems to me to undercut everything that **Rock the Vote** stands for, and I say it to throw it down as a challenge tonight and to thank the people who have organized this event and to thank all of you who have

come here. Basically, young people were upbeat about the country, skeptical about the political system, skeptical about whether it was really working for them, skeptical about whether they could make a difference. And what I would like to say to you is, no serious student of the last 5 years could possibly believe that. Therefore, we have a lot of work to do if you expect your generation to completely fulfill its promise and if you expect to have this democracy work for you.

Just consider where we started in '92. I said that I wanted to be President because I wanted to reverse trickle-down economics; it wasn't working for America. I wanted to go to a strategy I called invest-and-grow. I said that I wanted to replace welfare dependency with a system that emphasized work and childrearing. I said that I wanted to change our crime policies away from hot air and tough talk toward a strategy based on police, prevention, and punishment. I said that I wanted to try to find a way so that we could support families both in raising their children and in succeeding at work, because nearly every family I know, even upper income people, find conflicts repeatedly between their obligations they feel to their children and the obligations they feel at work.

I said that we ought to have a world-class education system for all Americans; we ought to reform health care to expand coverage and quality, to control costs. I said that we had to do more for poor people in isolated communities in our urban and rural areas. I said that I thought we had to build one America out of all of our diversity, across the racial and religious, the gender, the sexual orientation, even the political divides. We had to find some way to define ourselves by what we had in common, because we were growing ever more diverse, and if we didn't find a way to do that, then our efforts would be undermined. And finally, I said, I thought it was terribly important that America not withdraw from the world at the end of the cold war. We had to continue to push for the world to enjoy more peace and prosperity and freedom.

Now, some people said, including me on occasion, that that was a new Democratic approach. For me, it was our oldest ideals with new ideas for a new era. But you be the judge. Is it different now than it was 5 years ago? We have the best economy in a generation. We have the lowest crime rate in 24 years. We have the biggest drop in welfare rolls in history. We have cleaner air, cleaner water, fewer toxic waste dumps, and safer food. All of that has happened, and it is directly related to the work the American people have done, most of all, but also to the changed direction of this country in the last 5 years. And it happened because people participated in the political process and it got a result they were seeking and the result changed the lives and the framework within which we live in America. That is terribly important.

We have the family leave law. We have the law that says you can't lose your health insurance if you change jobs or somebody in your family gets sick. We're about to cover 5 million more children in poor working families who don't have health insurance today. We passed tax credits to open the doors of college to all Americans and to give families credits for their kids and credits when they adopt children who need homes. This has made a difference. And I believe we're moving closer to one America.

In 1994, we had an election, and the Republicans won the majority in Congress, and they had a contract on America and that election had consequences, too. We know it was a very low turnout election, and we know that more than anything else, it was younger voters and single women workers who stayed home. And I spent a year contrasting my vision of America with theirs and telling them that if we could work together for positive change, but that I was determined to beat back a vision of this country that said that Government is always the problem, there were no responsibilities we had in common, and who cares if we became more unequal and more unfair. And I'm proud that we defeated that vision. And that, too, had consequences as a direct result of the electoral process, and I think you have to acknowledge that.

Now, more importantly, there are a lot of things to do. Can we grow the economy and clean up the environment? Can we meet America's responsibilities to avoid global warming and reduce greenhouse gas emissions? I think we can. How are we going to continue to create this vision of one America? We still have problems. A distinguished Chinese-American who grew up in New York

City can't get voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee because he believes in what his President believes in on affirmative action, even though he has promised to faithfully enforce the law, whatever it is -- in the Civil Rights Division. Bill Lee ought to be confirmed. That is wrong. That is wrong.

But how did it happen? A whole bunch of people voted and a whole bunch of other people stayed home and certain people got elected. There are consequences to active citizenship and consequences to sitting on the sidelines. That's why I love **Rock the Vote**. Yes, it's been fun. Yes, the events are exuberant. Yes, they feature young people. But I think the work of citizenship can be fun, too.

We have 800 colleges, tens of thousands of young college students going all across America today, every week, going into inner-city schools to teach children to read, to give them a chance because that was one of the things that I promised in the campaign of '96, and that's one of the things that we started since then in 1997. These efforts have consequences. Citizens matter.

And I just want you to think about that. Whatever the headlines in the daily paper are -- "The President is Trying to Contain the Spread of Biological and Chemical Weapons Today" -- a very important issue -- whatever the consequences are, remember, in a democracy the people making the decisions were elected by people who voted and by people who stayed home. That's why **Rock the Vote** is important. Remember, almost everybody in this room has a lot more future ahead of you than I do. Most of what we're doing, you will live with the consequences of; you will reap the benefits of; you will bear the burdens of.

And this country is in good shape today, in no small measure, because our Constitution has permitted us to recreate America based on our oldest values in every new time of challenge and change. That's what we're doing now. You should be glad you're alive now. If we do it right, the next 50 years will be the most exciting and yet peaceful time in all human history if we do it right. But it requires that people neither be lackadaisical or cynical.

If you believe, as I do, that every person can make a difference and that every person is obliged to make a difference, then it necessarily follows that anyone who doesn't try is shirking his or her duty as a citizen. That's really what **Rock the Vote** is all about.

I'll just close with -- I had an interesting meeting at the White House with Senator Dole after that election. And we were sitting around, relaxing, talking like old friends, forgetting about all the things that were said that probably shouldn't have been. [Laughter] And I said, "You know, you've been in Washington a lot longer than I have." He said, "That's what I tried to convince the voters of at the election." [Laughter] And I said, "Now, do you think that public life is more honest or less honest today than it was 30 years ago or 35 years ago." He said, "It's not even close, not even remotely close. It is much, much more honest today than 30 or 35 years ago."

Now, if young Americans don't believe that, if they don't believe that their vote makes a difference, and if they don't believe there are consequences to what they do after the titanic struggles of the last 2 years, we have, all of us who believe that, have somehow failed in our responsibilities as citizens, and we have to redouble our effort to do better. That's why I always try to do a lot of town meetings. That's why I've insisted in the two Presidential elections that we have one debate each election that involved ordinary citizens who could ask the candidates directly what their concerns are.

But we have to do more. There is more for **Rock the Vote** to do. There is more to do to involve ordinary citizens. We have now tried for 5 years in a row, so far unsuccessfully, to reform the campaign finance laws. But I will remind you, we have not only to control the cost of campaigns, we have to increase the access of the people to the candidates through free or reduced air time so that we can have more positive, constructive interactions so that people will get excited by the debates at election and participate.

But whether that happens or not, no one has an excuse to sit on the sidelines. You have only to look at the differences in America now compared to 5 years ago to say, yes, it makes a difference. Yes, we made a difference in **Rock the Vote**. Yes, motor voter made a difference. Yes, every time we tell young people they have to take some time to be good citizens, it make a difference.

I will always try to be here for **Rock the Vote**, even when I am in a rocking chair and out of office. [Laughter] But I want you to remember that. And those of us who have done well in this country and in our lives have a special responsibility to reach out to try to help those who have not done so well and to tell them that at election time their vote counts just as much as ours and can make the kind of America we want to leave to our children.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. at Spago's Restaurant. In his remarks, he referred to the following **Rock the Vote** officials: Dan Adler, chairperson and reception host, and his wife, Jenna; Jeff Ayeroff, founder; Hilary Rosen, board member; Ricki Seidman, former executive director; and Donna Frisbee, acting executive director. He also referred to Wolfgang and Barbara Puck, owners of the restaurant.

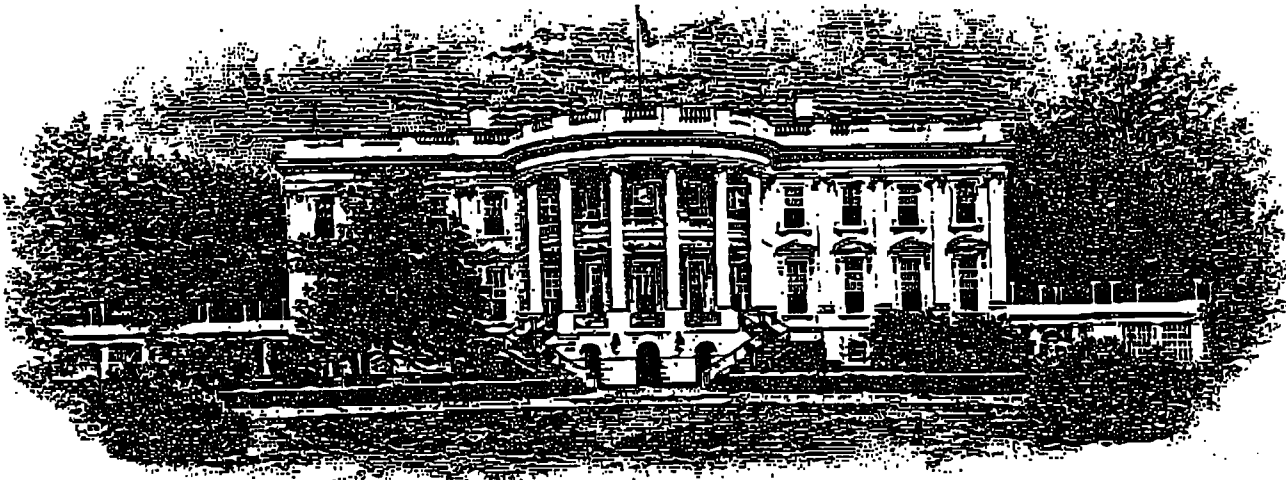
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE:

TO:

Josh Gottheimer

FROM:

Christine Stanek

Special Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

Office of Public Liaison

(202)456-2930 fax: (202)456-6218

RE:

Video ① - Rock the Vote

FAX NUMBER:

6-2505

8/2/00 SBIDMAN T

If you do not receive 4 pages including the cover page, please call (202)456-2930.

Attached is proposed script for 45577
"Rock the Vote" video. Also, included
is the original letter requesting POTUS
participation in the event. Let me know
if you need additional information.

FEB-04-2000 03:13

Good evening.

I wish that I could be with all of you tonight to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Rock the Vote, an organization that I admire tremendously for the work that they have done to engage the young people of our nation in our democracy.

On this evening, as we celebrate Rock the Vote, remember Patrick Lippert, and honor those who embody his spirit of positive change, it is imperative that we all make the commitment to continue to invest in our nation's young people and provide them with the resources that they need to achieve their, and our country's, potential.

I want to thank Rock the Vote for recognizing me with the Rock the Nation award this year for my efforts to give young people a voice in their future. *Could we have a few lines here about policy related to young people that the President has implemented while in office?*

Finally, my congratulations go out to Sting, Bono, and Hilary Rosen for the recognition they are receiving this evening. They, in their diverse ways, have achieved a great deal in making our country—and our world—a better place for generations to come.

Enjoy your evening. And to the staff and board of Rock the Vote, I wish you many years of continued success.

01/25/00 TUE 14:36 FAX 3018267189

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P.02

**ROCK
THE
VOTE.**

12/1/99

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Yes ☒no ☐To scheduling ☒

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President William Jefferson Clinton
c/o Ann McCoy
314 East Wing
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
via facsimile & U.S. Mail

November 29, 1999

Dear Mr. President:

Per our conversation at Camp David regarding Rock the Vote, for each of the past six years on the eve of the Grammy's we have honored those making extraordinary contributions to the empowerment of young people and the communities in which they live. Today we ask you to allow us to honor you as the Man of Century by renaming the Rock the Nation Award - the Inaugural of which was given to Mrs. Clinton last year - the William Jefferson Clinton Rock the Nation Award.

Our greatest hope is that you will be able to join us and MTV, on February 22, 2000 in Los Angeles, to accept this award. We have also asked Bono and Rage Against the Machine to accept this year's Patrick Lippert Awards.

As you know, Patrick Lippert was Rock the Vote's first Executive Director. Though Patrick died in July of 1993, his legacy and his work live on; continuing to inspire and inform both those who knew him and those who never will. The Rock the Nation Award, and the award named in Patrick's honor recognize those who have made a significant contribution to our common future through extraordinary achievements in empowering young people, one person and one community at a time. The awards recognize in others the spirit which was Patrick's greatest gift: the belief that each of us can use our talents, our skills, and our whole being to reach out to each other, and in so doing forge a better future for our country and the world.

Patrick believed in and fought for the notion that every positive change in society must be founded on democracy, and that young people are the future of democracy. He spent a lifetime working for great causes. At Rock the Vote he helped build a future for them all.

Previous recipients of the Patrick Lippert Award include: R.E.M. (1994), Pearl Jam and Queen Latifah (1995), Chuck D and Hoodie and the Blowfish (1996), Sheryl Crow, LL Cool J, and Steve Young of the San Francisco 49'ers (1997), Beastie Boys and Salt-N-Pepa (1998), Neil and Peggy Young and Wyclef Jean (1999).

POLITICALLY INC3

President William Jefferson Clinton
November 29, 1999
Page 2

Rock The Vote (RTV) was founded in 1990 by members of the recording industry in response to a wave of political attacks on freedom of speech and artistic expression. Recognizing that attacks on youth culture would continue until young people asserted themselves as active participants in the democratic process, Rock the Vote focused on registering young voters and encouraging them to participate in the democratic process.

However, we've broadened our First Amendment focus from protecting freedom of speech to protecting freedom of expression at large. So too have we evolved beyond - without leaving behind - our singular focus on the electoral process.

We realize that fundamentally we have always been about helping young people help themselves, and helping young people affect pro-social change. And we realize that those seeking change have two principal tools at their disposal, their vote and their actions. This said our new mission is:

To protect freedom of expression, and help young people realize and utilize their power to affect change in the civic and political lives of their communities

The year 2000 will be the tenth anniversary of Rock the Vote. Without your support and your willingness to reach out to young people, in their own language, this organization would never have been able to engage a whole new generation.

On behalf of all people that Rock the Vote works to serve, and the communities of which they and we are a part, we truly hope that you will join us in this special evening. It will be our privilege to be able to honor such a deserving man.

I look forward to hearing back from your staff and hope that we can count on your support. In the mean time, if you have any thoughts or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know. I can be reached directly at 323-575-4528.

Warmest regards,

Ann Edlberg
Ann Edlberg

She was going
to see POTUS
tonight in LA

Contact:

Allison Byrne Fields
O: 310. 234. 0668



**What can you do to influence the lawmakers?
To save the planet? To solve the AIDS crisis? To make a
difference?**

You can register and you can vote. Young people can make a difference in this country and in our own lives if and when we vote.

Rock The Vote is dedicated to:
protecting freedom of speech,
educating young people about issues that affect us
and **motivating** young people to participate by registering, voting and speaking out.

1996 is the 25th Anniversary of the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed 18 year olds the right to vote. After 25 years of decreasing participation, it's time to seize the opportunity to influence lawmakers and make a real difference in the government and in our lives. Nothing changes overnight, but things won't ever change if we wait for someone else to do something about the issues that affect us.

ARE YOU READY TO ROCK THE VOTE?

Rock The Vote believes the empowerment of young people is critical to having a government that acts in the interests of all people. The first step to changing the system is exercising the right to vote. Our vote is our voice. Let the politicians know that we want to be heard.

If you want more information about how you can support Rock The Vote or if you want to volunteer, write to:

**Rock The Vote
10573 West Pico Boulevard, Box 171
Los Angeles, CA 90064
or fax to: (310) 441-2454.**

7/7/16

Rock The Vote is a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)3 organization.



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[Press Releases](#) | [Events](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Volunteer](#) | [Mission Statement and Timeline](#) | [Contact RTV](#)



There are as many ways to get involved as there are reasons to. Some are quick and easy, some are less so. Whatever you choose, choose to participate.



"PARTICIPATION IS POWER"



Volunteer. Your help is needed. There's work to be done. Check out [Youth Service America's](#) Volunteer Now box at <http://www.serve.net.org>, the paper, or volunteer centers for opportunities. Organize your co-workers, classmates or neighbors to volunteer as a group.

Join. Participating can be as easy as joining local or national organizations. And sometimes working together can be more effective than going it alone. If there's somebody doing good work, see how you can strengthen their efforts.

Petition. You already know it—there's strength in numbers. By signing—or starting—a petition you're showing that there are others who feel like you do. Gather signatures in the streets or do it on-line and then get the names you've gathered to the people or groups that you're trying to influence.

Show up. Sometimes being there is half the battle. Attending community meetings to represent your views—and hear others'—is a first step towards finding solutions to common problems. Local weeklies are a good place to check for announcements.

Give. Donate what you can—money, time, clothes, ideas—whatever you've got that others need. \$10 to the right group could feed a child for a month. Call your local emergency food bank.

Organize. If you think it's not getting done (whatever it is) or that it can be done better, organize your own group or help to create a coalition of like-minded groups. Bring folks together to fix what's wrong or create something that's right.

Protest. Let policy makers know where you stand and what you won't stand for. Getting out on the street will generate public awareness and support for an issue. Pick your issue and pick up your sign. There are as many ways to get involved as there are reasons to. Some are quick and easy, some are less so. Whatever you choose, choose to participate.

- **The Co/Motion Guide to Youth-Led Social Change** from the Alliance for Justice is a great resource for organizing and protesting tactics. Check it out at www.afi.org/comotion.html
- Participate in acts of non-violent civil disobedience. "Nonviolence demands that the means we use must be as pure as the ends we seek." (Martin Luther King, Jr.) Civil disobedience is the act of breaking a law to protest the law itself

or other government policies. **The Youth Education Life Line (YELL)** in New York www.actupny.org, has disrupted meetings of the Board of Education to bring attention to the need for condom distribution and AIDS education in schools.

Lobby. Let policy makers know what you think and how you want them to act on a specific issue. Find out what motivates them—and motivate them. Persuade them to change, create, or reject legislation. The New Jersey Higher Education Alliance—led by 20 year-old college students Jonathan Rosen and Travis Linderman—saw that college tuition was getting out of hand and school was becoming unaffordable for more and more people. They successfully lobbied for a \$550 million bond for higher education. For more information on how to lobby, check out "Youth!: The 26% Solution" from the [Activism 2000 Project](#).

Testify. Let your legislators, the city council, the school board, know what's up and what's going on. If it's a public meeting, it's your right to take the floor. Skaters in Santa Cruz, California were tired of getting fined for skateboarding on the streets so they brought their case to the city council. If they were being kicked off the streets, where were they meant to go? Their testimony convinced the council of the need to build a skate park and the need for the council to pay for it—\$70,000.

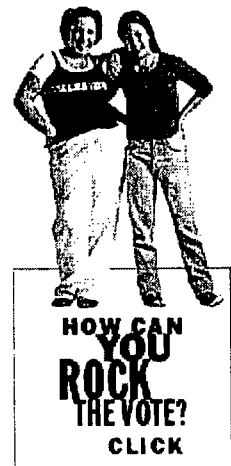
Write a bill. If you think a law is what you need to make something happen, write one yourself. Arrange to meet with legislators and do your research to find out if something like it has been proposed in the past. Go to your state legislature's web site (Or call them—find them in the government pages of the phone book.) to see copies of bills and for guidelines on how to write a bill.

Campaign. If you're not running yourself, support a candidate if you believe they'll back up campaign promises with actions. Find out where they stand and then call the campaign office (Just dial 411.) to offer your help.

Register to vote. Participate in the electoral process. In most states you can't vote on Election Day if you're not registered. Find out the deadline for registering from the Secretary of State's office so you don't miss your chance. (It varies from state to state.) Register yourself, and register others. You can get a copy of the registration form at the post office, the library, DMV, or the local board of elections. You can also [register to vote right here](#).

Vote. Your vote is your voice. Use it. One vote can make the difference. Your vote can influence decisions at the local, state, and national level. If you don't vote, it's just like voting for the winner.

Run for office. Yes you. If there's no one out there that represents you, represent yourself. Marcus Molinara was elected mayor of Tivoli, New York when he was 19. Harold Ford, Jr. of Tennessee was only 26 when he was elected to the US House of Representatives. The International Student Activism Alliance has succeeded in getting high school students elected to states' boards of education. The process and requirements differ from state to state and city to city, so call your local registrar to get the details.



Have you participated? Do you have stories, advice, recommendations?
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK **[Post your thoughts on our message boards](#)**

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Remarks Upon Witnessing the Certification of the 24th Amendment to the Constitution.

February 4, 1964

TODAY, the United States witnesses the triumph of liberty over restriction. Today, the people of this land have abolished the poll tax as a condition to **voting**. By this act they have reaffirmed the simple but unbreakable theme of this Republic. Nothing is so valuable as liberty, and nothing is so necessary to liberty as the freedom to vote without bans or barriers.

Our Constitution in its 175-year lifetime has been amended but 14 times following the ratification of the Bill of Rights. A change in our Constitution is a serious event. The beneficiaries of this amendment are the people of this land.

There can now be no one too poor to vote. There is no longer a tax on his rights. The only enemy to **voting** that we face today is indifference. Too many of our citizens treat casually what other people in other lands are ready to die for.

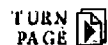
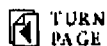
Less than two-thirds of our eligible population [p.261] cast ballots in the 1960 presidential election. Perhaps this specific act of firm resolve will turn negligence into interest. I pray that this is so.

I will not let this historic event pass on without paying special tribute to my old and dear friend and former colleague Senator Spessard Holland of Florida. He led this fight from the beginning. He was in the forefront in the winning.

I salute the States of South Dakota and Georgia. They raced to the wire to be the 38th and necessary State for ratification. South Dakota won that race but we are all victors. This is the first time an amendment to the Constitution has been certified in the presence of the President of the United States. I am proud that I am here. I am prouder still to place my name on this certificate.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House after witnessing the certification of the amendment by Bernard L. Boutin, Administrator of General Services.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963-1964 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.260-261



THE WHITE HOUSE

Stewart

1-12-2000

Doing Rock?
The vote?
John

A. we were
forward on the
Rock the Vote award
to be named for
President Clinton,
Mendelsohn Cohen in the
Council's Office should
probably be involved.
Charles
Bene

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323 575 4296

P.02

**ROCK
THE
VOTE**

12/1/99

Send to Burkhardt?

Yes ☒no ☐To scheduling ☒

99 DEC 1 PM 4:27

President William Jefferson Clinton
 c/o Ann McCoy
 214 East Wing
 The White House
 Washington, DC 20500
 via facsimile & U.S. Mail

November 29, 1999

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POLITICALLY INC3

President William Jefferson Clinton
November 29, 1999
page 2

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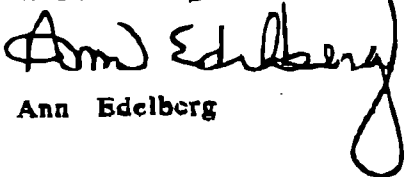
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I look forward to hearing back from your staff and hope that we can count on your support. In the mean time, if you have any thoughts or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know. I can be reached directly at 323-575-4528.

Warmest regards,


Ann Edelberg

She was going
to see POTUS
tonight in LA

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Terms: [rock the vote](#) ([Edit Search](#))*Public Papers of the Presidents, May 20, 1993*

Public Papers of the Presidents

May 20, 1993

CITE: 29 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 914**LENGTH:** 1396 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on Signing the National Voter Registration Act of 1993**BODY:**

Thank you very much. Joel, thank you for the T-shirt. In a few moments I'll give out bill-signing pens, but I'd rather have the T-shirt. [*Laughter*]

Getting to know the young people across this country, beginning in New Hampshire, who pushed the motor voter bill, was one of the most rewarding parts of the 1992 campaign. But the effort that we come here to celebrate today has a long and venerable heritage.

A few months ago, you heard the voice of President Johnson crossing the chasm of time back to 1965 as he signed the Voting Rights Act into law. As a southerner and as President, his words have special significance to me. During my childhood, no family's dinner table, no church congregation, no community, and no place of work was immune from the searing struggle for civil rights. To hear Johnson's voice is to make vivid for me once again those difficult, yet glorious years of struggle, difficult and terrible because so many people gave their lives moving the stone of freedom up the side of a mountain, glorious because the years of contention eventually gave way to an overdue season of reconciliation and renewal, and gave our region and our country a second chance to fulfill our promise.

The victory we celebrate today is but the most recent chapter in the overlapping struggles of our Nation's history to enfranchise women and minorities, the disabled, and the young with the power to affect their own destiny and our common destiny by participating fully in our democracy. When blacks and women won the right to vote, when we outlawed the poll tax and literacy test, when the voting age was lowered to 18, and when finally we recognized the rights of disabled Americans, it was because the forces of change overcame the indifference of the majority and the resistance by the guardians of the status quo. And who prevailed? Brave people working at the grassroots, impatient with an always imperfect democracy and dedicated to widening the circle of liberty to encompass more and more of our fellow citizens.

I have said many times in many places that in this country we don't have a person to waste. Surely the beginning of honoring that pledge is making sure the franchise is extended to and used by every eligible American. Today we celebrate our noble tradition by signing into law our newest civil rights law, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, which all of us know and love as "motor voter."

An extraordinary coalition of organizations, many of whom played historic roles in our expanding democratic rights, joined many years ago with the hope that they would see this day come. I'm

honored to share this podium with representatives with three fighters for freedom: the NAACP, the League of Women Voters, and Human Serve. I want to pay special tribute to Disabled and Able To Vote, to Project Vote, and to **Rock the Vote**, and literally, the scores of other groups for whom the goal of full voter participation has been a durable and lasting dream. I want to pay special tribute to the young people who lobbied me personally for motor voter and who voted with renewed energy and conviction for their own futures in the election last November.

They all labored hard because this bill was necessary. As many as 35 percent of otherwise eligible voters in our Nation are not registered, and the failure to register is the primary reason given by eligible citizens for their not voting. The principle behind this legislation is clear: Voting should be about discerning the will of the majority, not about testing the administrative capacity of a citizen.

The State of Washington instituted a similar measure during the 1992 election, and their motor voter program registered in that State alone an additional 186,000 people. Motor voter works at registering voters and people who register vote.

With this law and its appropriate implementation by States, voters can register by applying for a driver's license, through uniform mail application, or by applying in person at various agencies designated by the States. As a result, registration for Federal election will become as accessible as possible, while the integrity of the electoral process is clearly preserved.

As I said, I have long supported the idea of motor voter. More than a year ago, I promised as President that I would sign H. R. 2 and fight for its passage. I'm pleased to be able to keep the promise today that I made on this **Rock the Vote** card which still has my signature back in New Hampshire.

I also want to point out that all the President does is lobby for and sign laws. If the Congress doesn't pass them, they don't get passed. The **Rock the vote** card that I signed here says, "Why don't politicians want you to vote?" Well, there are a lot of Members of the Congress here from both parties who do want you to vote, and I want to thank not only those on the platform here but all of those out in the audience who, after all, passed this bill into law. It was their votes that made this day possible.

This bill in its enactment is a sign of a new vibrancy in our democracy. With all the challenges and difficulties, with the years of accumulated economic problems we face, with all the divisions among our people, there is a new determination to make progress. You can see it in many ways: Voter participation was up in November, and after the election it didn't stop. Here at the White House, mail has climbed to unprecedented levels. After I had been in office 14 weeks, the White House had received more mail than was received in all of 1992. We have had the switchboards jammed, the E-mail system full. And if you haven't gotten an answer to your letter, we're working on it. *[Laughter]*

This country is pulsing with the power of individual citizens' ideas in their determination to get something done. The legislators who worked so hard to adopt this bill, the organizations that gave themselves so completely to its endeavor, the young people, the activists, MTV, all of them tapped a powerful current of energy that is still flowing in this country.

The Congress has responded in other ways: the United States Senate passing just a few days ago a lobbying bill requiring registration by all lobbyists and requiring the disclosure of lobbyists' spending on Members of Congress is an example of that. The campaign finance reform which has been presented, dramatically trying to lower the costs of campaigns and reduce the influence of special interest groups, is an example of that.

The current of reform is moving in this country. And those of you who helped to bring this bill to pass can take a large share of credit not only for this bill but for the general movement and energy and involvement and determination of all of our fellow citizens. It was never right to sit on the sidelines of our democracy. And now with motor voter, there will be fewer and fewer excuses for

anyone to do so.

Let us remember this in closing: Voting is an empty promise unless people vote. Now there is no longer the excuse of the difficulty of registration. It is the right of every American to vote. It is also the responsibility of every American to vote. We have taken an important step this morning to protect that right. And I wanted to challenge Joel and all the young people who did so much to register voters for the last election, and all of you who did so much to bring this voting rights bill to law and all the ones that preceded it, to make sure now that we keep the rights alive by making sure that the responsibility to exercise it is exercised by every eligible American.

When we leave here today, we ought to say: This voting rights bill and the others will not be in vain. Every year from now on, we're going to have more registered voters and more people voting. We're going to make the system work. The law empowers us to do it. It's now up to us to assume the responsibility to see that it gets done.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:32 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Joel Shulkin, University of New Hampshire junior who was instrumental in achieving reform of the State's voter registration laws and who introduced the President. H.R. 2, approved May 20, was assigned Public law No. 103-31.

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