

Draft 4/22/00 4pm
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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR HELEN THOMAS
WASHINGTON, DC
May 10, 2000

I am so glad to have this opportunity to join the Jewish Council for the Aging in congratulating Helen Thomas for receiving the Production Aging Award, ~~and in recognizing her lifetime of achievement.~~ *to*

In a place where names and faces never stay the same, Helen Thomas has been a constant. No matter what the day, or the event, Helen is the first one to arrive at the press briefing room, and often the last one to shut the lights. For nearly forty years now, Helen has been a symbol of everything American journalism can and should be: ~~the embodiment~~ *And* of fearless integrity, fierce commitment to accuracy, and the insistence on holding the government accountable to the press and to the American public. She has established herself the old-fashioned way: with first-rate professionalism, tireless energy, and uncommon ability.

~~And~~ *to* she has done so in a profession that has not always welcomed women with open arms. When she first came onto the beat, newswomen weren't even allowed into the National Press Club, no less join its ranks. After World War II, when most of her female colleagues were replaced by men, Helen kept her job by filing local copy for the radio wire on the 5:30am shift. ~~And, at the same time, Thomas began to lobby politicians for what their own profession wouldn't give them: full access.~~

OR / While it hasn't always been an easy path, Helen Thomas has gone on to work her way to the top of her field ~~but~~ *And* to open it to women. After the National Press Club finally opened its doors to women in 1971, Helen went on to become the first ~~woman~~ *female* elected as an officer. She was later named UPI's White House bureau chief – the first woman to hold that job for a wire service. ~~And she is now the longest serving White House Correspondent in history – proving that what defines you is your spirit, your mind and your involvement, not your age. As Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "[We] do not quit playing because [we] grow old; [we] grow old because [we] quit playing."~~ *Helen has never quit playing.* *?*

Helen, congratulations again on this well-deserved honor, and for all you every day to keep the American public informed and aware. ~~But~~ *And* Ms. Thomas, I wouldn't dare abandon the tradition of offering you the final word, and the first question. Helen, the floor is yours...

Q. But the Republican polls now show that your policies are perceived by the public, your environmental policies, as being more favorable to polluters than to the public. Are you going to change any of your environmental policies now that Mrs. Burford has gone?

The President. That's all they've heard, but no one has given any evidence that that is true. I'd like to call your attention to the fact that in 8 years as Governor, California not only led every State in the Union, we led the Federal Government in environmental protection. We were the forerunners of the whole movement. And how this idea has come, I sometimes suspect that the lobbyists for the environmental interests feel they have to keep their constituents stirred up or they might not have jobs anymore.

Q. Well you think the slowness in getting the Superfund into action at a number of sites has contributed to that perception and the fact that you have been quoted in the past as talking about environmental extremism?

The President. Well there is environmental extremism. I don't think they'll be happy until the White House looks like a bird's nest. [Laughter]

Ms. **Thomas**. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. **Helen**, once, may I digress? There was a young lady here who I missed.

Ms. **Thomas**. Of course.

Central America and El Salvador

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Back to El [p.390] Salvador for a minute—the civil war there has been going on for 3 years. With the aid that you're now proposing, do you feel that you have any idea when the conflict will stop, when it will be under control? Or is the United States prepared to make an open-ended commitment?

The President. I can't give you a date when a thing of this kind will end. Every effort is being made, as I say, to persuade them to come in and join in a peaceful solution to the problems.

This is also a regional problem. And the other countries, their neighbors—Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, and others—are holding meetings to see what they, regionally, can do about this. Now, we're not participating in those. We would be an interested observer. We certainly encourage that kind of thing.

But these are other countries that have adopted democracy. Costa Rica. I don't know of any country—they don't even have an army. They are the most democratic country that you can imagine. Honduras has ended a long tradition of military rule and has a democratic form of government. And they all want to help because they recognize that this is an outside threat, really, to the security of the Western Hemisphere.

And I hope that it'll be a short time. I hope that these appeals and offers of amnesty will bring some of those people down from the hills. But I also have to recognize—not be naive—that these people up there in the hills are not just discontented peasants who have managed to get their hands on a military weapon. These are trained and highly equipped military forces—trained and equipped and backed by outsiders by way, mainly, of Cuba, through Nicaragua.

And so I think that we have to stay with this. And I don't see why there is so much opposition to it. We have no intention of sending combat forces, nor have we ever been asked for combat forces. And there's no intention of us sending the adviser teams to be with combat units or anything. We're talking about simply giving their military some of the fundamental training to enable them to do the job.

Soviet Expulsion of U.S. Diplomat

Q. Mr. President, the Soviets have expelled a spy

The President. **Helen** said, "thank you." I've got to—

Q. Can't you just tell us about the Soviets expelling the spy

Deputy Press Secretary Speakes. Lesley [Lesley Stahl, CBS News], no questions. Sorry.

Q.—and was he spying, and what is your reaction?

The President. I don't know anything further than any of you know about that.

Q. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. All right. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:02 a.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Ronald Reagan, 1983 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.387-390

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Q. Mr. President, do you agree with William Bradford Reynolds in the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department that the Weber decision, which allowed firms to conduct voluntary affirmative action, that that decision should be overturned? And if you do agree with him, why do you agree with him?

The President. I have to confess to you, just to throw the thing at me—the Weber decision: I can't bring that to mind as to what it pertains to and what it calls for.

Q. It's a decision ruled on by the Supreme Court, which allows specifically—in that particular case, it was a labor union and a firm which entered into a voluntary agreement to conduct affirmative action programs for training minorities and moving them up in the work force. William Bradford Reynolds, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, said that that decision should be overturned and that he was looking for future Supreme Court cases in which that decision could be overturned. Apparently that was—

The President. Well, if this is something that simply allows the training and the bringing up so there are more opportunities for them, in voluntary agreement between the union and management, I can't see any fault with that. I'm for that.

Q. Mr. President, I want to get back to

[At this point, Ms. **Thomas** signaled the end of the news conference.]

Q.—if I may, **Helen**?

The President. Are you letting him? [Laughter]

Ms. **Thomas**. Yes.

The President. All right. **Helen** says she'll let you. [Laughter]

Budget Deficits and Inefficient Government Programs

Q. I'm sorry. The second part of Tom DeFrank's [Newsweek magazine] question, I don't believe you answered, which had to do with how much of a budget deficit you are willing to swallow. Specifically, are you willing to accept a 1982 deficit of about \$100 billion and perhaps that high in 1983 rather than ask for higher taxes?

The President. I thought I had answered it by saying that I don't believe that in all the figures that are being kicked around, number one, I don't believe that anyone could make a proper estimate of that, but I [p.1170] also don't believe that that is the goal, to simply set a figure and say you try to reach it.

The goal is the one that I outlined in my answer about making progress in the reduction of the rate of increase in government spending and so forth. And we're dedicated to that.

I don't think that there's any way that you could say what you would be satisfied with. The goal has to be this: That you eliminate every bit of unnecessary spending that you can, with an—unnecessary—that you do not, in pursuit, just single-minded pursuit of reducing the deficit, eliminate functions which would find the government being irresponsible and not performing the services that it is supposed to perform for the people. And so this has to be your watchword and, in maintaining those essential services at the same time, that you seek to control the other kind of spending.

And may I point out that with no regard to the budget or budget figures, we have had a commission for 6 months tied in with the Inspectors General, and I believe it was yesterday that I tried to—no, yesterday was social security, and I didn't see much of that, either. You had other things in your mind.

- The Scripture says, it's more blessed to give than to receive
 - "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts, Chapter 20, Verse 35)
- The scripture says, "Greater love hath no man than this: that he lay down his life for his friends." (John, Chapter 15, Verse 13)
- You have fulfilled the admonition of the scripture to be doers of the word and not hearers only.
 - "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James, Chapter 1, Verse 22).
- I found, with the help of some of our people who know I'm interested in Scripture, a verse from Isaiah that I think captures what you've all been through. And I'd like to read it to you in closing. Isaiah 57:10: You were wearied with the length of your way, but you did not say it is hopeless. You find new life for your strength.
 - Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; yet saidst thou not, There is no hope: thou hast found the life of thine hand; therefore thou wast not grieved. (Isiah, Chapter 57, Verse 10).
- Solomon said in 1Kings, "I am only a little child, and I do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among people you have chosen -- a great people -- to numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong, for who is able to govern this great people of yours."
 - "And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? (1 Kings, Chapter 3, Verses 7-9)
- Maybe that's what the Scripture means when it says "your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."
 - "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:" (Acts, Chapter 2, Verse 17)
- In the Book of Isaiah in the Bible there is this chapter -- I'd like to read it to you: "The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones. The sycamores are cut down, but we will change them into cedars."
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And she has done so in a profession that has not always welcomed women with open arms. When she first came onto the beat, newswomen weren't even allowed into the National Press Club, no less in its ranks. After World War II, when most of her female colleagues were replaced by men, Helen kept her job by filing local copy for the radio wire on the 5:30am shift. And, at the same time, Thomas began to lobby politicians for what their own profession wouldn't give them: full access.

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Creative Quotations search results for "Aging"

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1. **A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams.**
John Barrymore (1882-1942) US actor
In "Quotable Business," ed. Louis E. Boone, 1992.
=R Aging /Regrets /Dreams found in: [one/1729.htm](#)
2. **Advice in old age is foolish; for what can be more absurd than to increase our provisions for the road the nearer we approach to our journey's end.**
Marcus Tullius Cicero
In [The Ultimate Success Quotations Library](#), 1997.
=F Age and Aging found in: [two/253-6.htm](#)
3. **Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don't mind it doesn't matter.**
Satchel Paige (1906-1982) US baseball pitcher
In "Webster's Electronic Quotebase," ed. Keith Mohler, 1994.
=K Aging found in: [one/2175a.htm](#)
4. **Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.**
Jack Benny (1894-1974) US comedian
In NY "Times," 15 Feb 1974.
=R Aging found in: [one/970.htm](#)
5. **Aging is not 'lost youth' but a new stage of opportunity and strength.**
Betty Friedan (1921-____) US feminist, activist, writer
In "Parade," 20 Mar 1994.
=K Aging found in: [one/1135.htm](#)
6. **All would live long, but none would be old.**
Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) US statesman, diplomat, inventor, printer
In "Webster's Electronic Quotebase," ed. Keith Mohler, 1994.
=K Aging found in: [two/4-7.htm](#)
7. **An old young man, will be a young old man.**
Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) US statesman, diplomat, inventor, printer
In [The Ultimate Success Quotations Library](#), 1997.
=F Age and Aging found in: [two/4-21.htm](#)
8. **Another belief of mine; that everyone else my age is an adult,**

whereas I am merely in disguise.

Margaret Atwood (1939-____) Canadian novelist, poet

"Cat's Eye."

=R Aging found in: [one/1084.htm](#)

9. **As a white candle/ In a holy place,/ So is the beauty/ Of an aged face.**

Joseph Campbell (1904-1987) US author, editor

The Old Woman."

=K Aging found in: [one/1678.htm](#)

10. **At twenty a man is full of fight and hope. He wants to reform the world. When he is seventy he still wants to reform the world, but he knows he can't.**

Clarence Darrow (1857-1938) US lawyer

In [The Ultimate Success Quotations Library](#), 1997.

=A Age and Aging found in: [one/89.htm](#)

11. **Because of Mozart, it's all over after the age of seven.**

Wendy Wasserstein (1950-____) US playwright

Comment.

=F Aging /Youth found in: [one/1267.htm](#)

12. **By the time you're eighty years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it.**

George Burns (1896-1996) US comedian, actor

In [The Ultimate Success Quotations Library](#), 1997.

=R Age and Aging found in: [one/75.htm](#)

13. **Childhood is not only the childhood we really had but also the impressions we formed of it in our adolescence and maturity. That is why childhood seems so long. Probably every period of life is multiplied by our reflections upon the next.**

Cesare Pavese (1908-1950) Italian poet, critic, novelist, translator

In "The Speaker's Electronic Reference Collection," AAPex Software, 1994.

=F Aging /Memory found in: [one/1845.htm](#)

14. **Childhood is the world of miracle and wonder; as if creation rose, bathed in the light, out of the darkness, utterly new and fresh and astonishing. The end of childhood is when things cease to astonish us.**

Eugene Ionesco (1912-1994) Romanian-French dramatist

In "The Speaker's Electronic Reference Collection," AAPex Software, 1994.

=F Aging /Maturity /Wonder found in: [one/1851.htm](#)

15. **Every stage of human life, except the last, is marked out by certain and defined limits; old age alone has no precise and determinate boundary.**

Marcus Tullius Cicero

In [The Ultimate Success Quotations Library](#), 1997.

=K Age and Aging found in: [two/253-3.htm](#)

16. **Every time I think that I'm getting old, and going to the grave, something else happens.**

Lillian Carter (1898-1983) US nurse, first mother
Ms. Magazine

=K Aging found in: [one/1577.htm](#)

17. **Everyone wants to live long, but no one wants to be called old.**
Icelandic Proverb

=K Aging found in: [proverbs/p032.htm](#)



18. **Gray hair is a sign of age, not of wisdom.**
Greek Proverb

=N Aging /Wisdom found in: [proverbs/p024-3.htm](#)



19. **Growing old's like being increasingly penalized for a crime you haven't committed.**

Anthony Powell (1905-____) English novelist
Dick Umfraville, in "Temporary Kings," ch. 1, 1973.

=K Old Age and Aging found in: [one/1946.htm](#)

20. **Growing older is not upsetting; being perceived as old is.**

Kenny Rogers (1938-____) US singer, actor
In "The Speaker's Electronic Reference Collection," AAPex
Software, 1994.

=K Aging found in: [one/840.htm](#)

21. **How beautifully leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days.**

John Burroughs (1837-1921) US author, naturalist
In The Ultimate Success Quotations Library, 1997.

=K Age and Aging found in: [one/333.htm](#)

22. **I am a frayed and nibbled survivor in a fallen world, and I am getting along. I am aging and eaten and have done my share of eating too.**

Annie Dillard (1945-____) US author
In The Ultimate Success Quotations Library, 1997.

=K Growth found in: [one/259.htm](#)

23. **I don't believe in dying. It's been done. I'm working on a new exit. Besides, I can't die now -- I'm booked.**

George Burns (1896-1996) US comedian, actor
News summaries 20 Jan 87

=A Age and Aging found in: [one/75.htm](#)

24. **I have found it to be true that the older I've become the better my life has become.**

Rush Limbaugh (1951-____) US talk show host, commentator,
author

In The Ultimate Success Quotations Library, 1997.

=K Age and Aging found in: [one/1999.htm](#)

25. **I look forward to growing old and wise and audacious.**
Glenda Jackson (1936-____) US actress
In "Words of Women Quotations for Success," by Power Dynamics Publishing, 1997.
=F Aging found in: [one/1160.htm](#)
26. **I look to the future because that's where I'm going to spend the rest of my life.**
George Burns (1896-1996) US comedian, actor
At age 87; he lived to be 100.
=R Aging /Future found in: [one/75.htm](#)
27. **I shall never be as old as I was between 20 and 30.**
V. S. Pritchett (1900-1997) English novelist, short-story writer, critic
In NY "Times," 16 Dec 1985.
=K Aging /Maturity found in: [one/1931.htm](#)
28. **I think all this talk about age is foolish. Every time I'm one year older, everyone else is too.**
Gloria Swanson (1897-1983) US actor, producer, business executive
"Swanson On Swanson," 1981.
=N Aging found in: [one/1255.htm](#)
29. **I will never give in to old age until I become old. And I'm not old yet!**
Tina Turner (1938-____) US singer
In The Ultimate Success Quotations Library, 1997.
=K Age and Aging found in: [one/1479.htm](#)
30. **I'd like to be a bigger and more knowledgeable person 10 years from now than I am today. I think that, for all of us, as we grow older, we must discipline ourselves to continue expanding, broadening, learning, keeping our minds active and open.**
Clint Eastwood (5/31/30) US actor, director
In "The Speaker's Electronic Reference Collection," AAPex Software, 1994.
=F Aging /Learning /Discipline found in: [one/2005.htm](#)
31. **I'm not interested in age. People who tell me their age are silly. You're as old as you feel.**
Elizabeth Arden (1884-1966) US cosmetics executive
In "Older & Wiser, ed. by G. B. Dianda and B. J. Hofmayer, 1995.
=K Aging found in: [one/1056.htm](#)
32. **I've always believed in the adage that the secret of eternal youth is arrested development.**
Alice Roosevelt Longworth (1884-1980) US author, socialite, celebrity relative
"Conversations with Alive Roosevelt Longworth."
=K Aging /Youth found in: [one/818.htm](#)
33. **If I had any decency, I'd be dead. Most of my friends are.**

42. **Middle age is when you still believe you'll feel better in the morning.**
Bob Hope (1903-____) US comedian, actor
In "Webster's Electronic Quotebase," ed. Keith Mohler, 1994.
=N Aging found in: [one/1314.htm](#)
43. **Minds ripen at very different ages.**
Elizabeth Montagu (1720-1800) English intellectual, conversationalist
Letter to Mrs. William Robinson, her sister-in-law, "The Letters of Mrs. Elizabeth Montagu," 1810-1813 .
=R Age and Aging found in: [one/1619.htm](#)
44. **My voice had a long, nonstop career. It deserves to be put to bed with quiet and dignity, not yanked out every once in a while to see if it can still do what it used to do. It can't.**
Beverly Sills (1929-____) US opera singer
On refusal to sing after her retirement from opera; in "Time," 18 Jul 1983.
=K Aging found in: [one/1242.htm](#)
45. **Nature gives you the face you have at twenty; it is up to you to merit the face you have at fifty.**
Coco Chanel (1883-1971) French fashion designer
Ladies' Home Journal," Sep 56
=K Aging found in: [one/257.htm](#)
46. **Nature is full of freaks, and now puts an old head on young shoulders, and then takes a young heart heating under fourscore winters.**
Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) US philosopher, poet, essayist
In [The Ultimate Success Quotations Library](#), 1997.
=A Age and Aging found in: [two/1-73.htm](#)
47. **None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm**
Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) US essayist, poet, naturalist
In [The Ultimate Success Quotations Library](#), 1997.
=K Age and Aging found in: [two/2-55.htm](#)
48. **Old age is like climbing a mountain. You climb from ledge to ledge. The higher you get, the more tired and breathless you become, but your views become more extensive.**
Ingrid Bergman (1915-1982) Swedish actress
In "The Speaker's Electronic Reference Collection," AAPex Software, 1994.
=K Aging found in: [one/783.htm](#)
49. **Old age is the most unexpected of all the things that can happen to a man.**
Leon Trotsky (1879-1940) Russian communist revolutionary
"Diary in Exile."
=K Age and Aging found in: [one/1881.htm](#)

50. **Old age takes away from us what we have inherited and gives us what we have earned.**
 Gerald Brennan (1894)
 "Thoughts in a Dry Season," 'Life'
 =K Aging found in: [one/1301.htm](#)
51. **Old age, especially an honored old age, has so great authority, that this is of more value than all the pleasures of youth.**
 Marcus Tullius Cicero
 In [The Ultimate Success Quotations Library](#), 1997.
 =K Age and Aging found in: [two/253-12.htm](#)
52. **Old men dream dreams; young men see visions.**
 Melvin Tolson (1900-1966) US poet, educator
 In "Webster's Electronic Quotebase," ed. Keith Mohler, 1994.
 =A Aging /Dreams /Vision found in: [one/2266.htm](#)
53. **Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get.**
 Robert Orben (1927-____) US editor, writer
 In "1,911 Best Things Anybody Ever Said," ed. Robert Byrne, 1988.
 =K Aging found in: [one/197.htm](#)
54. **Old things are always in good reputé, present things in disfavor.**
 Publius Cornelius Tacitus (55-117 AD) Roman historian
 In "Wisdom of the Ages at Your Fingertips," MCR software, 1995.
 =K Age and Aging found in: [one/761.htm](#)
55. **One of the many things nobody ever tells you about middle age is that it's such a nice change from being young.**
 Dorothy Canfield Fisher (1879-1958) US author, essayist
 In "And I Quote," by Ashton Applewhite, 1992.
 =K Age and Aging found in: [one/559.htm](#)
56. **One's age should be tranquil, as childhood should be playful. Hard work at either extremity of life seems out of place. At midday the sun may burn, and men labor under it; but the morning and evening should be alike calm and cheerful.**
 Thomas Arnold (1795-1842) English educator
 In [The Ultimate Success Quotations Library](#), 1997.
 =K Age and Aging found in: [one/1697.htm](#)
57. **Probably the happiest period in life most frequently is in middle age, when the eager passions of youth are cooled, and the infirmities of age not yet begun . . .**
 Thomas Arnold (1795-1842) English educator
 In [The Ultimate Success Quotations Library](#), 1997.
 =N Age and Aging found in: [one/1697.htm](#)
58. **Some people, no matter how old they get, never lose their beauty -- they merely move it from their faces into their hearts.**
 Martin Buxbaum

In "National Enquirer."

=R Aging /Beauty found in: [one/9302.htm](#)

59. **Sure, I'm for helping the elderly. I'm going to be old myself someday.**

Lillian Carter (1898-1983) US nurse, first mother
Remark made in her 80's; In "The Forbes Book of Business Quotations," by Ted Goodman, 1997.

=N Aging found in: [one/1577.htm](#)

60. **The belief that youth is the happiest time of life is founded on a fallacy. The happiest person is the person who thinks the most interesting thoughts, and we grow happier as we grow older.**

William Lyon Phelps (1865-1943) US educator, journalist
In "Pearls of Wisdom," ed. J. Agel and W. Glanze, 1987.

=R Aging found in: [one/1283.htm](#)

61. **The excitement of learning separates youth from old age. As long as you're learning you're not old.**

Rosalyn Sussman Yalow (1921-____) US medical physicist
"Women and the Nobel Prize," by Barbara Shiels, 1985.

=F Aging /Learning found in: [one/1279.htm](#)

62. **The foolishness of old age does not characterize all who are old, but only the foolish.**

Marcus Tullius Cicero
In [The Ultimate Success Quotations Library](#), 1997.

=R Age and Aging found in: [two/253-20.htm](#)

63. **The four stages of a man are infancy, childhood, adolescence and obsolescence.**

Art Linkletter (1912-____) US TV personality
In "Webster's Electronic Quotebase," ed. Keith Mohler, 1994.

=F Aging found in: [one/1321.htm](#)

64. **The man who is too old to learn was probably always too old to learn.**

Henry S. Haskins ()
In "Quotations of Wit and Wisdom," ed. & John W. Garder et al., 1975.

=F Aging /Learning found in: [one/376.htm](#)

65. **The more sand has escaped from the hourglass of our life, the clearer we should see through it.**

Jean Paul (1763-1825) German novelist, humorist
In "The Speaker's Electronic Reference Collection," AAPex Software, 1994.

=K Aging found in: [one/1866.htm](#)

66. **The old age of an eagle is better than the youth of a sparrow.**
Greek Proverb

=N Aging found in: [proverbs/p024-1.htm](#)

84. **While one finds company in himself and his pursuits, he cannot feel old, no matter what his years may be.**
 Amos Bronson Alcott (1799-1888) US teacher, philosopher, reformer
 In The Ultimate Success Quotations Library, 1997.
 =A Age and Aging found in: [one/640.htm](#)
85. **With care, and skill, and cunning art,/ She parried Time's malicious dart,/ And kept the years at bay,/ Till passion entered in her heart/ And aged her in a day!**
 Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919) US writer, poet, journalist
 The Destroyer.
 =N Age and Aging found in: [one/241.htm](#)
86. **Women are not forgiven for aging. Bob Redford's lines of distinction are my old-age wrinkles.**
 Jane Fonda (1937-____) US actress, political activist
 In "Words of Women Quotations for Success," by Power Dynamics Publishing, 1997.
 =K Sexism found in: [one/1133.htm](#)
87. **Wrinkles should only indicate where smiles have been.**
 Ethel Barrymore (1879-1959) US actress
 In "Words of Women Quotations for Success," by Power Dynamics Publishing, 1997.
 =A Aging found in: [one/316.htm](#)
88. **You can live to be 100 if you give up all the things that make you want to live to be 100.**
 Woody Allen (1935-____) US comedian, actor, film director
 Interiors
 =N Aging found in: [one/250.htm](#)
89. **You can only perceive real beauty in a person as they get older.**

 Anouk Aimee (1932-____) French actress
 In "The Guardian" (London), 24 Aug 1988.
 =F Age and Aging found in: [one/2060.htm](#)
90. **You can't help getting older but you don't have to get old.**
 George Burns (1896-1996) US comedian, actor
 In "The Speaker's Electronic Reference Collection," AAPex Software, 1994.
 =F Aging found in: [one/75.htm](#)
91. **You know you're getting older when the candles cost more than the cake.**
 Bob Hope (1903-____) US comedian, actor
 In "The Speaker's Electronic Reference Collection," AAPex Software, 1994.
 =K Aging found in: [one/1314.htm](#)

92. You know you're old when you've lost all your marvels.

Merry Browne

In "The Speaker's Electronic Reference Collection," AAPex Software, 1994.

=F Aging found in: [one/9315.htm](#)**93. You must become an old man in good time if you wish to be an old man long.**

Marcus Tullius Cicero

In The Ultimate Success Quotations Library, 1997.

=N Age and Aging found in: [two/253-18.htm](#)**94. Youth is the time of getting, middle age of improving, and old age of spending.**

Anne Bradstreet (1612?-1672) US poet

In "The Speaker's Electronic Reference Collection," AAPex Software, 1994.

=F Aging found in: [one/1096.htm](#)

94 matches found

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Kerrie's Age Quotation Page

- Lucille Ball
 - The secret to staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.
- Ambrose Bierce
 - Age - that period of life in which we compound for the vices that we still cherish by reviling those that we no longer have the enterprise to commit.
- Maurice Chevalier
 - Old age is not so bad when you consider the alternative.
- Phyllis Diller
 - Old age is when the liver spots show through your gloves.
- Gustave Flaubert
 - I feel very old sometimes...I carry on and would not like to die before having emptied a few more buckets of shit on the heads of my fellow men.
- Ben Franklin
 - At 20 years of age the will reigns; at 30 the wit; at 40 the judgement.
- Bob Hope
 - You know you are getting old when the candles cost more than the cake.
- Thomas Jefferson
 - My only fear is that I may live too long. This would be a subject of dread to me.
- Gypsy Rose Lee
 - I have everything I had twenty years ago - except that it is now all lower.
- Golda Meir
 - Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard there is nothing you can do about it.
- H. L. Mencken
 - The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom.
- Leo Rosenberg
 - First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up, and then you forget to pull your zipper down.
- George Bernard Shaw
 - The longer I live, the more I see that I am never wrong about anything, and that all the pains I have so humbly taken to verify my notions have only wasted my time.
- Muriel Spark
 - Being over seventy is like being engaged in a war. All our friends are going or gone and we survive amongst the dead and dying on a battlefield.

- Unknown
 - When you are young, women tell you, "Look but do not touch." As you get older you hear just the opposite.
 - Gray hairs are death's blossoms.

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Age (1)

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

-- *Les Brown*

It's hard for me to get used to these changing times. I can remember when the air was clean and sex was dirty.

--*George Burns*

If you want to stay young looking, pick your parents very carefully.

--*Dick Clark*

All that I know I learned after I was thirty.

--*Georges Clemenceau*

Old age is not for sissies.

--*Bette Davis*

These times they are a changing.

--*Bob Dylan*

When it comes to age we're all in the same boat, only some of us have been aboard a little longer.

--*Leo Probst*

The illusion that times that were are better than those that are, has probably pervaded all ages.

--Horace Greeley

To be seventy years young is sometimes far more hopeful than to be forty years old.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.

--Thomas Jefferson

Remember that as a teenager you are in the last stage of your life when you will be happy that the phone is for you.

--Fran Lebowitz

It is sobering to consider that when Mozart was my age he had already been dead for a year.

--Tom Lehrer

And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

--Abraham Lincoln

Age doesn't protect you from love. But love, to some extent, protects you from age.

--Jeanne Moreau

Middle age is when you've met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else.

--Ogden Nash

Old people should not eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get.

--Robert Orben

When you are about thirty-five years old, something terrible always happens to music.

--Steve Race

Youth is such a wonderful thing. What a crime to waste it on the young.

--George Bernard Shaw

I'll be eighty this month. Age, if nothing else, entitles me to set the record straight before I dissolve. I've given my memoirs far more thought than any of my marriages. You can't divorce a book.

--Gloria Swanson

Americans are getting stronger. Twenty years ago, it took two people to carry ten dollars worth of groceries. Today, a five-year-old can do it.

---Gloria Swanson

It takes about ten years to get used to how old you are.

-- Unknown

My Heart Leaps Up

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky.
So was it when my life began,
So is it now I am a man;
So be it when I shall grow old,
Or let me die.

--William Wordsworth

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Age

I'm at that age now where just putting my cigar in its holder is a thrill.

-George Burns

Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age eighteen.

-Albert Einstein

A bee is not a busier animal than a blockhead. **-Alexander Pope**

A bird in the hand is dead. **-Rhonda Boozer**

A bird in the hand is safer than two overhead. All courageous animals are carnivorous, and greater courage is to be expected in a people, such as the English, whose food is strong and hearty, than in the half starved commonalty of other countries. **-Sir W. Temple**

By the data to date, there is only one animal in the Galaxy dangerous to man man himself. So he must supply his own indispensable competition. He has no enemy to help him. **-Lazarus Long**

A person over age 65 who drinks says that his doctor recommends it. **-Bob Smith**

Age is a tyrant, who forbids, at the penalty of life, all the pleasures of youth. **-La Rochefoucauld**

Few ever lived to a great age, and fewer still ever became distinguished, who were not in the habit of early rising. **-Todd**

How blest is he who crowns, in shades like these, A youth of labor with an age of ease. **-Oliver Goldsmith**

Youth is a blunder, manhood a struggle, old age a regret. **-Benjamin Disraeli**

The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom. **-H. L. Mencken**

Avarice in old age is foolish; for what can be more absurd than to increase our provisions for the road the nearer we approach to our journey's end. **-Cicero**

Old age is the most unexpected of things that can happen to a man. **-Trotsky**

Any person under the age of thirty, who, having any knowledge of the existing social order, is not a revolutionist, is an inferior. **-George Bernard Shaw**

Age is a high price to pay for maturity.

Age isn't important unless you're a cheese.

Aging is bad, but consider the alternative. **-Anonymous**

I'm now at the age where I've got to prove that I'm just as good as I never was. -**Rex Harrison**

If you live to the age of a hundred, you have it made because very very few people die past the age of a hundred. -**George Burns**

It is sobering to consider that when Mozart was my age he had already been dead for a year. -**Tom Lerer**

Old age is the most unexpected of things that can happen to a man. -**Trotsky**

One should never trust a woman who tells one her real age. A woman who would tell one that, would tell one anything. -**Oscar Wilde**

Only when one has lost all curiosity about the future has one reached the age to write an autobiography. -**Evelyn Waugh**

Remember that as a teenager you are at the last stage in your life when you will be happy to hear that the phone is for you. -**Fran Lebowitz**

Should you be a teenager blessed with uncommon good looks, document this state of affairs by the taking of photographs. It is the only way anyone will ever believe you in years to come. -**Fran Lebowitz**

Show respect for age. Drink good scotch for a change. The old believe everything: the middle-aged suspect everything: the young know everything. -**Oscar Wilde**

There has never been an intelligent person of the age of sixty who would consent to live his life over again. His or anyone else's. -**Mark Twain**

Think before you speak. Read before you think. This will give you something to think about that you didn't make up yourself a wise move at any age, but most especially at seventeen, when you are in the greatest danger of coming to annoying conclusions. -**Fran Leibowitz**

Thirty-five is a very attractive age, London society is full of women of the very highest birth who have, of their own free choice, remained thirty-five for years. -**Oscar Wilde**

Adolescence: a stage between infancy and adultery -**Foolish Dictionary**

Remember that as a teenager you are at thee last stage in your life when you will be happy to hear that the phone is for you. -**Fran Lebowitz**

When I grow up I want to be a little boy. -**Joseph Heller**

The four stages of man are: Infancy, Childhood, Adolescence and obsolescence. -**Art Linkletter**

Old age is life's parody. -**Simone de Beauvoir**

✓ You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake. -**Bob Hope**

A man's only as old as the woman he feels. -**Groucho Marx**

beautiful, then watch it crumble, decay, and rot. -**Clive Barker**

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33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 601

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . : [Presidential Documents](#)Terms: [atl 2 \(helen thomas\)](#) and [date geq \(04/19/1990\)](#) ([Edit Search](#))*Public Papers of the Presidents*

Public Papers of the Presidents

April 26, 1997

CITE: 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 601**LENGTH:** 2153 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner**BODY:**

Thank you very much. Mr. Hunt, thank you so much for reading the notes that I wrote you. [Laughter] Just like every other journalist, make all my memos public. [Laughter] To Larry McQuillan, Arlene Dillon, Jon Stewart, who will make us glad we came in a few moments, to all the distinguished head table guests, and ladies and gentlemen.

I tried to fulfill Terry Hunt's agenda as President. Those are real notes I wrote him. And I will try to fulfill Larry's agenda. I think it's terrible the conditions in which the White House press corps labor. It really is. It reminds me of Nurse Ratchet's office in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." [Laughter] And it's really a tribute to the futility of a politician pandering to the press, because that used to be an indoor swimming pool that brought joy to FDR and JFK and Presidents in between. Richard Nixon gave it to you. [Laughter] And he got such good press in return. [Laughter] Maybe this is his final revenge, the miserable conditions of it. We could uncover it, but let you keep it. [Laughter] I could build a cabana. Well, you think about it.

Before I get into my jokes, I have some important, serious news. [Laughter] Senator Lott and I have broken the gridlock over the budget. A deal now appears imminent. Miraculously, the \$ 56 billion -- [applause] -- thank you -- the \$ 56 billion gap that has separated Democrats and Republicans has been bridged. And ladies and gentlemen, we owe Senator Dole a huge debt of gratitude. [Laughter] And the best part is, we don't have to start paying it back until 2005. [Laughter] And that's outside the budget window. Bigger tax cuts, more money for the Justice Department, whatever -- just sign up, you can have it. [Laughter] You know, if I had known Bob Dole was that generous, I'd have invited him over for coffee. [Laughter]

I want to congratulate awardees tonight: Byron Acohido who has come from so far away and did such good work; and then there are the local winners, Ron Fournier, Mara Liasson, Todd Purdum. Of course, I'm not familiar with any of your work, but I'm sure it's very good. But this Purdum guy's name sounds familiar. Purdum, Purdum -- I think I read it in the engagement announcements recently. Hillary and I congratulate Todd and Dee Dee on their marriage next month.

You know, Dee Dee and I started together on a little plane in New Hampshire, and we made it all the way to the White House. Then she sort of strayed over to your side for a while, and I was kind of disappointed. Now she's getting on a 747 and going to Beverly Hills. They grow up so fast, don't they? [Laughter]

Oh, I got another serious thing I want to talk about. Something that I know -- really, you all are on

me about all the time. Many of you are distressed that you're not notified in a timely fashion about breaking news, like my knee breaking. And that's valid, and I've been doing some work to make sure it never happens again. In fact, in the spirit of reinventing Government that the Vice President has so indoctrinated me with, starting tonight we have decided to give you advance notice of upcoming mishaps. [Laughter]

Mike McCurry has asked me to inform you of the following. While engaging in some volunteer work tomorrow in Philadelphia, I will be on the receiving end of a painful encounter with a ball-peen hammer. [Laughter] And I will do my best to do it before your filing deadline at 5. On May 22d, I will be visiting the home of Tiger Woods to celebrate his recent victory in the Masters. Please be advised: There is a loose brick on the patio. [Laughter] On July 8, during the fifth inning of the All Star game in Cleveland, I will attempt to catch a foul ball from Rafael Palmeiro. Stay tuned. [Laughter] Look, Mark Knoller is running out to call his editor now. [Laughter]

I know we're here to honor you tonight because of the work you do, but this dinner is a pittance compared to the testament to your profession last week which opened its doors, called the Newseum -- the Newseum, the Newseum. What really surprised me, for any event in Washington, this opening actually got a lot of favorable press coverage. [Laughter] Evidently, you journalists have a lot of friends in the media. [Laughter]

But there are a bunch of exhibits I'm dying to see. I want to see the portrait gallery of unnamed sources -- [laughter] -- the Gergen and Shields retrospective -- [laughter] -- the museum's crown jewel, the hall of pundits. [Laughter] Modeled after the Hall of Presidents at Disneyland, it features mechanized mannequins mouthing contentious blather. No wait, that's the McLaughlin Group. [Laughter]

There is also an absolutely amazing collection of historical artifacts: C-SPAN's gavel-to-gavel etchings of the Constitutional Convention; CNN's very first "Crossfire", from the left Alexander Hamilton, from the right Aaron Burr, topic: gun control. [Laughter] There is an actual press corps travel manifest from Stage Coach One. Guess what, the film they showed was "Fargo". [Laughter] The 30 people in the White House press corps are laughing at that. [Laughter]

There are artifacts of contemporary Washington journalism as well. There is the stack of Bibles upon which Joe Klein swore. [Laughter] There is Johnny Apple's expense reports, a transcript of Ann Rice's interview with Bob Novak, the contract where Bob Woodward insists on Robert Redford being cast as him. [Laughter] There is a haunting photograph from the 1961 White House Correspondents' dinner of young Brian Williams shaking hands adoringly with Chet Huntley. [Laughter]

And then there is a whole wing dedicated to historic scoops. For example, did you know that **Helen Thomas** broke the story about the Lincoln Bedroom -- while Lincoln was still sleeping in it. [Laughter]

However, the most important part of the museum is an exhibit which poses an utterly fascinating question, both contemporary and historical: How would current White House correspondents and columnists have covered past Presidential administrations? Have you seen this? I mean, this is an incredible thing. In the exhibit, everyone in the current press corps is making fun of Millard Fillmore's name -- that's everyone except Wolf Blitzer. [Laughter] David Letterman keeps calling William Howard Taft "Tubby" and Teddy Roosevelt "Old Four Eyes." [Laughter] Marureen Dowd writes a column dismissing the first Presidential election as politics as usual. [Laughter] Sam Donaldson makes fun of George Washington's wooden teeth but completely ignores the obvious fact that he's wearing a wig. [Laughter] The New York Times calls for a special counsel to look into George Washington's winning campaign in the Revolutionary War -- because Lafayette was French. And Barbara Walters asks the Father of our Country, "If you could chop down a tree, any tree at all, what kind of tree would it be?" [Laughter]

All right, now we're going to tell some stuff on us. I know you give me grief from time to time, but really we work around the clock trying to help you do your job. I mean, really, what other administration would make thousands and thousands of internal memos and official documents

available for your daily enjoyment? [Laughter]

But you did miss a couple of good stories. Roll it in, boys; come here. Where are they? Where are my documents? [Laughter] Come here! I hope no one is in contempt for ignoring these. This is just a representative sample. You'll have them all tomorrow. [Laughter]

Here's a memo from Harold Ickes to Leona Panetta: "Leon, FYI, Maxwell House coffee is on sale this week for \$ 3.49 a pound." [Laughter] Here's a copy of a check we mistakenly thought was a small campaign contribution from AT&T. It turns out that by cashing it, we authorized a switch in our long distance service. [Laughter] Here's a memo outlining the DNC's high donor program. It's pretty embarrassing -- business class upgrades for Air Force One. Mr. Speaker, it could have been you. [Laughter] And let's see, here's one: For \$ 10,000, you can have a private meeting with Vice President Gore to discuss reinventing Government. And for \$ 20,000, you don't have to go. [Laughter] And this is the most embarrassing one of all, from the White House visitor log last year. I can't believe any of you missed this. It seems that during the period of time when the First Lady was recording her Grammy Award winning album, Milli Vanilli came to the White House 32 times. [Laughter]

Now, I don't know how this got in here. This is a letter of acceptance to Chelsea, saying that she will -- from Chelsea, saying that she will attend -- no, that's privileged. [Laughter] But look, the bad news is, our only child is going off to college. The good news is, it opens up another bedroom. [Laughter]

But now look, you all know I want a bridge to the future, not the past. I'm interested in the future, so I want you to just forget about the documents. [Laughter]

Now, we know how important technology is to our future, and the White House has always been the center of new technological developments, ever since John Adams occupied it. There was the electric lights, the telephone, the telegraph, the tape recorder -- [laughter] -- and the Clapper -- [laughter] -- and, most recently, the computer.

Now, just last week the Vice President and I used a computer in the Oval Office. I felt like a kid who first got to drive; he actually let me do some things on it. [Laughter] And it's clear that we are once again at the threshold of a new era that will forever change the way Presidents conduct matters at home and abroad. As of this week, I have been working around the clock trying to balance the budget with Quicken. [Laughter] And I want you to consider this. In the post-cold-war era, the introduction of the computer has raised a profound question: Whose finger do you want on the control-alt-delete button? [Laughter]

You know what my favorite button is? F2, search and replace. [Laughter] I have enjoyed the daily press clips so much more since I discovered F2. [Laughter] I read them on-line now, and then I search and replace. Thanks for showing me that, Al. I mean, after all -- look, your news reports are just the first rough draft of history anyway, and I'm just doing the F2 thing to do a little editing. Let's take some of the news stories you've written just in the last month: F2, search for "budget standstill"; replace with "prosperity at home and peace abroad." [Laughter] It's better, isn't it? It is. Search for "beleaguered"; replace with "Lincolnesque." [Laughter] Search for "independent counsel"; replace with "the ice cream man." [Laughter]

I'll never forget how I found out about this incredible device, search and replace. I walked into the Vice President's office not very long ago, and he was there working on his computer -- F2, search for Bill Clinton -- [laughter] -- I got there just in time.

James Thurber said that humor is one of our greatest and earliest national resources that has to be preserved at all cost. Well, I hope we've saved a little up tonight and enriched it. I thank you and come here to honor your indispensable part in our lively 225-year-old experiment in democracy. May we work together so that it continues to light and lead the world.

Tomorrow I'm going to Philadelphia, where this great experiment began, to open the Presidents'

Summit for America's Future. We'll gather there to renew the spirit of service that built this country. Each of us must serve; you in your way, me in mine. You can start right now -- by busing your own tables and helping with the dishes. [Laughter] Now, when Jon finishes, I'm going home.

Thanks, and good night. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:05 p.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to White House Correspondents' Association outgoing president Terence Hunt, Associated Press, and incoming president Larry McQuillan, Reuters; Arlene Dillon, CBS News; comedian Jon Stewart; Byron Acohido, Seattle Times; Ron Fournier, Associated Press; Mara Liasson, National Public Radio; Todd Purdum, New York Times; former Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers, Vanity Fair; Mark Knoller, CBS Radio; Joe Klein, author, "Primary Colors"; Johnny Apple, New York Times; author Ann Rice; syndicated columnist Bob Novak; Bob Woodward, Washington Post; actor Robert Redford; Brian Williams, NBC News; **Helen Thomas**, United Press International; Wolf Blitzer, Cable News Network; Sam Donaldson and Barbara Walters, ABC News.

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