

you who made the Americans with Disabilities Act a reality, but how much I owe, as a public servant, to Senator Harkin personally. You know, when we were on the campaign trail together, he made his brother the most famous brother in America in a very beautiful way. And you need to know when he was up here speaking we've been killing time because his brother, Frank, is on the phone, and he doesn't have time to talk to me right now. [Laughter] His line is busy. This is true. His line's busy. We've been trying to call him which is great. It's great. It means that the thing is working. [Laughter] This is—yesterday, I guess, was the effective date when the telephone service had to be provided. So I'm so excited about that.

While we're waiting for the line to clear, let me just—if I might make a few points. First, I want to reaffirm strong support of our administration for implementing and enforcing the act. Yesterday, the Attorney General and a number of other Cabinet members conducted some activities designed to clearly remove any ambiguity about that and to reinforce our commitment on that issue.

The second thing I want to do is to—I know that Roy's already introduced them, but to say a special word of thanks to Americans with disabilities who happen to be part of this administration and to those who will be, including some in this room and some who are not in this room.

Finally, let me say, we need your help because you have become a very powerful force. We need your help to pass this economic plan so we can get on with the rest of the business of the country, and then so we can get on the

health care and try to deal with the issues of long-term care and personal services and empowerment, the kinds of things that are so important to—I heard Tom talking about the inclusion, independence, and empowerment. There are a lot of Americans who need that, not just Americans with disabilities. And we have to go forward.

And I know a lot of people, but none more than you, are eager to see this debate on health care begin. It cannot begin until we have a budget and economic plan in place. And there are many more things that we have to do which are also of interest to you that are especially important. We need a new crime bill. We need a bill that reforms the welfare system. It also works on empowerment. We need a whole series of things that we are eager to get on with doing. But first we have to nail this budgetary issue.

I am especially interested in the health care debate, as you know. And I spoke with the First Lady this morning, as I do on most mornings—[laughter]—and we were reviewing our days, and I told her that Tom and I were going to be here with you today. And she was very interested in, you know, the fact that we were going to do this and asked me to give you her best and to thank those of you who have been involved already with her in the health care task force in trying to work through these issues.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation With Frank Harkin July 27, 1993

The President. Hello?

Operator. Yes, hello. Good afternoon. This is Agent 218 of the Federal Information Relay Service.

The President. May I speak with Frank now?

Operator. Yes, he's on line standing by for your conversation.

The President. Frank, this is Bill Clinton. I'm really glad to be able to talk with you now

that the text telephone system is in place nationwide. And I'm here with your brother, Tom, who just gave a great speech.

If it hadn't been for you, I don't think he would have had all those great speeches. I just told the crowd here that he made you the most famous brother in America last year.

Mr. Harkin. Gee, thanks.

The President. He said, "Gee, thanks."

Mr. Harkin. Thanks for saying that.

The President. "Thanks for saying that."

What we all want to know is whether you are wet or dry.

Mr. Harkin. It is a great moment to talk to you, Mr. President.

The President. Frank, what we all want to know here is whether you are wet or dry. I've been to Iowa twice, and I know how much flooding you've had. So tell us how it is around where you live.

Mr. Harkin. Today it is humid and muggy. I did watch on TV when you were in Iowa.

The President. Well, I just had the Governors of six States, including Iowa, in to see me to talk about how we could help people get over the flood damage, and I certainly hope we can do a good job of that.

Mr. Harkin. Hopefully you will do your best.

The President. I want you to tell all the people here with me how you like this communications system.

Mr. Harkin. It is wonderful—have a TV crew from Des Moines in my house.

The President. Well, now I want you to say a word to your brother. You have proved that you are a person of fewer words than—[laughter]—than the President or your brother. Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:09 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The conversation took place during a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Interview With the Georgia Media

July 27, 1993

The President. Well, first of all, I want to thank you for coming. Welcome. As you probably know, we've been doing a whole series of these press conferences, both when I'm out and when I'm here and also some of it electronically, but as much in person-to-person as possible. And I would like to give as much time as possible to answer your questions.

But I think I should begin with a story that Charles Stenholm told this morning. He's the chairman of the Conservative Caucus in the House who, by the way, thinks we should make some changes in the program during the conference. But he acknowledged today that—he said every time someone calls me criticizing this program, they've normally had their heads filled full of misinformation by people who are criticizing them without telling everything. And every time I talk somebody through it, they wind up thinking it's not so bad.

Last night Leon Panetta went to a Maryland district that's fairly representative of the United States with Congressman Cardin and went through the whole program. And afterward the Congressman asked the people, "Do you want me to vote for this, or do you want me to delay it 60 days more or just let it to go to pieces and see what happens?" And three to one, they wanted him to support it.

Then the Wall Street Journal last week finally began something that has not happened up here. This is not your issue but ours in Washington. They actually went around and started asking people who said they were with small business groups opposed to this plan if they knew what was in it, and it turned out they didn't. And over 90 percent of the small businesses in America will actually be eligible for a tax reduction under this program, because they have no tax increase on the income taxes, and we doubled the expensing provisions for small businesses.

So the program—I just want to emphasize again—is the only program presented that provides \$500 billion of deficit reduction, an equal balance between spending cuts and tax increases. For every \$5 in spending cuts, there are \$5 in tax increases; \$4 of those come from people with incomes in the upper 5 percent of the income brackets; \$1 comes from the middle class. Working families with incomes of under \$30,000—and there are a bunch of them in Georgia—are held harmless in this program. An average family of four with an income of \$50,000, we're looking at a ceiling of about \$50 a year, which is less than a buck a month to get the deficit down and provide some of the