

June 7 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

We wish to be partners with you in the common struggles of the 21st century. The fact that we have sometimes a difficult partnership makes it all the more interesting and also makes some things in life less necessary.

Our wonderful Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin, once said, "Our enemies are our friends, for they show us our faults." Sometimes with the French and the Americans we no longer need enemies. [*Laughter*] But it is always in the spirit of goodwill and brotherhood.

I can honestly say that with every passing day of my Presidency I come to appreciate France more, the strength, the will, the vision, the possibilities of genuine partnership. I think it is our common destiny, as you alluded, Mr. President, to see that our countries remain forever young, forever restless, forever questing, forever looking for new hills to climb, new challenges to meet, new problems to solve.

As I was preparing for this visit, I was given something by another of America's greatest admirers of your nation, our Ambassador, Mrs. Harriman. She sent me a poem composed in memory of the gallant soldiers who died on D-Day, from the members of the Allied effort to

storm the beaches of Normandy to the shadow warriors of the French Resistance and the Free French army, without whom Europe would not be free today. Here it is:

Went the day well.
We died and never knew.
But well or ill,
Freedom, we died for you.

Mr. President, the United States and France are destined forever to be the beacons of freedom for the entire world. Please join me now in a toast to the democratic spirit of our beloved nations, to the heroes of D-Day whose sacrifices we came to honor, and to the proposition that the spirit of liberty should burn forever brightly in the hearts of all the people of France and the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:19 p.m. in the Salle des Fetes at the Elysee Palace. In his remarks, he referred to Danielle Mitterrand, wife of President Mitterrand; Marie Joseph Balladur, wife of Prime Minister Balladur; and Pamela Harriman, U.S. Ambassador to France.

Statement on Assistance to California *June 7, 1994*

Californians have been working extraordinarily hard to get their homes, their businesses, and their lives back to normal. This is creating unexpected and unprecedented need for assistance from the Federal Government. This recommendation should assure the people of southern California that our commitment to help

them get back on their feet remains strong and unwavering.

NOTE: The statement was included in a statement by the Press Secretary on the President's request to Congress for additional funds to assist the State of California in the wake of the earthquake earlier this year.

Remarks on Receiving a Doctorate in Civil Law From Oxford University in Oxford, United Kingdom *June 8, 1994*

Thank you very much, Chancellor, distinguished members of the university community. I must say that it was quite easy for me to take the chancellor's gentle ribbing about the

Presidency, since he is probably the only chancellor of this great university ever to have written a biography of an American President. I thank you for your biography of President Tru-