

Rwanda

Q. [Inaudible]—help Rwanda?

The President. Well, I think—yesterday I think we answered that. The United States has provided 40 percent of the total aid to Rwanda to date. And we have been working on this for 2 months, and we are doing the best we can. But we're going to do more.

I think if you look at the record, I think it's very difficult to point the finger at anyone. It's a very tragic thing which has happened there. The previous government slaughtered large numbers of people, and so those who survived fled. And now the war is over in Rwanda, and the present winners of that conflict are trying to persuade the Rwandans to return. That is the ultimate answer.

But this is a horrible humanitarian tragedy of massive proportions. And I think now is the time, again, to concentrate on those people there and what we as Americans and as citizens of the world can do to keep as many of them alive as possible and to get them to come home under safe conditions.

And when that is over, when the crisis has passed, there will be plenty of time for the critics to point the finger and time for rational assessment if something more could have been done at some different date. But I'm confident. We've been working since May, and I have done all I knew to do. When the crisis has passed and somebody thinks there is something else I should have done, there will be time then to assess that.

Arkansas Gubernatorial Race

Q. Any words for Governor Tucker against your old nemesis, Sheffield Nelson, in the Governor's race this year?

The President. Well, I think he's done a very good job as Governor. And I think the people of Arkansas know that. And they don't need my help to figure out what to do. You know, I vote here in this State, and I'm a citizen of this State, and I certainly intend to vote for him. But I think—I don't need to get involved in that. He knows what to do. He's done a good job as Governor, he's doing a good job as a candidate, and I think he'll do just fine.

Hillary and Chelsea Clinton

Q. How's Chelsea doing?

The President. She's doing very well, thank you. She's had a good year in school; she had a wonderful summer with us. She went to Europe with us on this last trip, and it was quite wonderful for her. And so I'm really happy.

Like me, she misses her friends here. She just got home last night. She and her grandmother went to Europe together, and they're coming home to Arkansas next week. So Chelsea is going to have a chance to spend some time here, too, and she's real happy about that.

Q. What about Hillary? Is she with you this weekend?

The President. No, because she's out pushing health care. And Chelsea's been gone for a couple of weeks, so we try never to be gone at the same time, you know, so one of us is always there with her. So I stayed last night to see Chelsea come home from Europe, and we stayed up real late last night talking about her trip. And then Hillary's coming home today so she can be with Chelsea this weekend while I'm here, and Chelsea will be here next week.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:15 a.m. at Memorial Field. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters in Hot Springs
July 23, 1994

President's High School Reunion

Q. What are your thoughts as you return to the State, Mr. President?

The President. I'm very happy to be—I'm gratified that I can be here. So many of my classmates and I have survived these last 30

years in reasonably good shape. We're here together; we're having a wonderful time. We just did a lot of reminiscing. I got to go through the high school and see some of the wonderful new things that are being done at the technology

center here. But mostly it's just a time for getting together with family and friends.

Q. What did you do inside at the ceremony?

The President. We listened to one of our classmates who is a minister compare our class to a family and talk about family reunions and what family values are really about, about our shared stories and experiences. It was a wonderful thing. We remembered the classmates that we had who are no longer with us. And we sang a lot of old songs.

Q. Mr. President—spotlight on your reunion this year—[inaudible]

The President. Well, I hope most of them don't mind, you know. I just want them all to have a good time and be relaxed and have a wonderful time. It's really been, I think, a good thing for all of us. I've never missed any of my reunions. When I was Governor we always had a gathering on Saturday night, and then Sunday afternoon after church I would have everybody over at the Governor's mansion. So they may be regretting that I'm not Governor so we can't go to the Governor's mansion.

Q. What are you going to be doing the rest of the weekend, Mr. President?

The President. I'm just going to be here with my family and friends. And you know, tonight we have an event, and tomorrow I'm not sure. I have to go back a little earlier than I wanted because on Monday we're having Prime Minister Rabin and King Hussein at the White House. It's a very big day—

Q. Mr. President, what's your fondest memory of high school?

The President. All my friends, no question about it. We had a—you know, it was a different time, I think, although I think kids today are trying to get back to it. We were basically a close class, and we believed in our country, and we believed in our future, and we were kind of, I think, rosy in our outlook, not necessarily unrealistic. And my memories of those days are deeply personal, almost like family; just like the minister said today, it's almost like a family.

Q. Mr. President, what kind of person were you in high school? Were you a jock, a—[inaudible]—or a nerd?

The President. Well, I wasn't a jock. I was probably—a lot of people probably would have said I was a nerd. But I liked my friends, I liked music, I liked the activities, but I liked to study, too. I had a normal childhood.

Whitewater Hearings

Q. Mr. President, I know it's a weekend of reflection for you, but Whitewater hearings are getting ready to come up. What concerns do you have there, because there's a lot of people in Arkansas that are paying close attention to it?

The President. Well, I think they should know that we'll do just what we've been doing all along. What I said is that we've been fully cooperative, and we will be. And the only thing I ask of the Congress, the only thing I've ever asked of them, is not to let any of this stuff interfere with the business of the people.

We're up there to do the people's business, and we've turned this economy around, we've got the deficit cut in half, we've got 3 years of deficit reduction for the first time since Truman because we're working on those things. We've got unprecedented expansion of trade and new training opportunities.

So now, we've got to face our challenges. We've got a crime bill to pass, we've got a big trade bill to pass, and we've got a health care reform, an issue that's been on the floor of the Congress in both Houses, for the first time in the history of America we've ever considered it. So we've got big work to do, and my only concern is let's just keep putting the people of this country first. And I'll be cooperative; we'll see what happens.

Health Care Reform

Q. Are you confident with the health care compromise?

The President. Well, we're working on it, you know. It's no accident that seven Presidents of both parties in 60 years have not been able to figure out how to cover all Americans. But it's important to know that Hawaii has—and in Hawaii small businesses pay 30 percent lower rates, and they cover everybody. So we can do it. We can do it, and I think we will.

Rwanda

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Well, let us just say one word about that. I think, at the moment, rather than characterize that effort I would say that there are a lot of countries who wish to participate in a Rwanda peacekeeping force who may not have the capacity to do so. And one of the things that we, those of us with a lot of capacity, need to examine is whether there's something—

this is over the long run—whether there's something we can do to help countries who want to give men and women to these kinds of projects have the training, have the support, have the things they need.

I think the whole world is now focused on Rwanda; I think the hearts of the world are with these people who have suffered. I think that we're moving very quickly to try to save lives from the cholera outbreak, and I think

we'll have progress there. I think that a lot of these African countries will do the very best they can. And if they're trying to do something that they can't do, then the rest of us need to help them develop the capacity to do it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:59 p.m. at Hot Springs High School. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks Welcoming King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel

July 25, 1994

History is made when brave leaders find the power to escape the past and create a new future. Today two such leaders come together, as we welcome King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin to the White House on this extraordinary occasion.

On this morning of promise, these visionary statesmen from ancient lands have chosen to heal the rift that for too long has divided their peoples. They have seen the outlines of a better day where others have seen darkness. They have sought peace in place of violence.

On both sides of the River Jordan there have lived generations of people who thought this day would never come. King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin have reached out to each other

across the river, to build a future where hatred gives way to hope.

The Koran instructs us, "Requite evil with good, and he who is your enemy will become your dearest friend." And the Talmud teaches, "That man is a hero that can make a friend out of a foe." Before us today stand friends and heroes.

King Hussein, Prime Minister Rabin, all Americans welcome your presence here today. You give us great hope that this house, our people's house, will be a constant witness to a lasting peace that spreads forth to embrace your region.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks at the Signing Ceremony for the Israel-Jordan Washington Declaration

July 25, 1994

Your Majesties, Prime Minister and Mrs. Rabin, distinguished guests: Today we gather to bear witness to history. As this century draws to a close, a new era of peace opens before us in ancient lands as brave men choose reconciliation over conflict. Today our faith is renewed.

As we write a new chapter in the march of hope over despair on these grounds and at this historic table, we remember the courage of

Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin and the leadership of President Carter at Camp David 15 years ago, the efforts of President Bush to bring Israel and her neighbors together in Madrid 2 years ago, and that shining September day last year when Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat declared that their two peoples would fight no more.

Today, in that same spirit, King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin will sign the Washington