

Electronic Mail Message to Prime Minister Carl Bildt of Sweden February 5, 1994

Dear Carl:

I appreciate your support for my decision to end the trade embargo on Vietnam and thank you for all that Sweden has done on the question of the POW/MIA's.

I share your enthusiasm for the potential of emerging communications technologies. This demonstration of electronic communications is an important step toward building a global information superhighway.

Sincerely,

BILL

NOTE: The message was transmitted on February 5 and released on February 16 as part of a statement by the Press Secretary announcing the first Presidential electronic mail correspondence with a foreign head of state. The release also included

the text of Prime Minister Bildt's message to the President as follows:

Dear Bill,

Apart from testing this connection on the global Internet system, I want to congratulate you on your decision to end the trade embargo on Vietnam. I am planning to go to Vietnam in April and will certainly use the occasion to take up the question of the MIA's. From the Swedish side we have tried to be helpful on this issue in the past, and we will continue to use the contacts we might have.

Sweden is—as you know—one of the leading countries in the world in the field of telecommunications, and it is only appropriate that we should be among the first to use the Internet also for political contacts and communications around the globe.

Yours,

CARL

Interview With Don Imus of WFAN Radio, New York City February 17, 1994

Mr. Imus. Here now, on the "Imus in the Morning" program, the President of the United States, Bill Clinton. Good morning, Mr. President.

Health Care Reform

The President. Good morning, Don, how are you?

Mr. Imus. Well, I'm not that great, because your wife was here in New York 2 or 3 months ago to do that "Sesame Street," and it is broadcast from the same studio complex we are. So she sent down the Secret Service to get me. And of course, when they showed I didn't know what they were here for. It made me kind of nervous.

But anyway, I was talking to her, and I told her that since I had last talked to you I had had major lung surgery, and I have health insurance. And out of my pocket, though, even with health insurance, it cost me \$20,000. So I'm

for any health care plan—[laughter]—including yours.

The President. Well, that's good. I hope the surgery worked well. Your lungs seem to be in good order as nearly as I can tell. [Laughter]

Mr. Imus. Well, I feel pretty good. She was astonished that it cost that much. I explained that I was in a private room and stuff like that. But still, there was a lot of expense. And I—just curious to me how ordinary people, the median wage in this country being around \$19,000 a year, how they could pay for that stuff.

The President. Well, it's really tough. She was in Maine last week and talking to a woman that broke her wrist and was charged \$40 for sitting on a cot in a hospital in an emergency room for 30 minutes, charged for an Ace bandage she didn't use and things like that. There are a lot of problems in the health care system, mostly related to the way we finance it. The