

If it weren't for this hospital and others like it, I don't know what families like that would do. We can do better.

In addition to guaranteed private insurance, we want the freedom for all Americans to make choices in the American tradition, guaranteeing the right to choose a doctor and an insurance plan. We trust the American people with the freedom to choose every year rather than leaving that choice to an employer or an insurance company.

Third, health reform in our plan is about fairness, correcting abuses in the insurance practices today. No more denying people insurance because they are sick, no more lifetime limits that cut off coverage when you need it the most, no more higher rates for the elderly or for small employers or self-employed people and farmers. These things aren't fair, and Americans deserve fairness.

Fourth, health care reform is about keeping faith with those who came before us. We preserve and protect Medicare without reservation or exception. Older Americans simply must be able to continue to rely on Medicare and to choose their own doctor. We do want to cover prescription drugs under Medicare for the first time and provide the elderly and chronically ill children or disabled Americans of all ages the chance to get some long-term care in their home or in their community if they need it.

Finally, health care is about responsibility, about rewarding those who work. Under our approach, you get your insurance through work. Most jobs already have health care; why shouldn't all of them? Eight out of ten Americans without insurance belong to working families. We should always reward work in America, and the right to health care should be part of

that reward. Opportunity, freedom, and fairness, honoring the senior citizens and those who take responsibility, these are the values that have helped to build America, and they are at the heart of our health care proposal.

This weekend marks the arrival of Palm Sunday and Passover. It's a special week of reflection for everyone of the Jewish and Christian faiths, a time when we step back from the concerns of daily life and think more deeply about our religious traditions and the values they teach us.

Sitting in this wonderful hospital for children, I'm reminded that providing health care and the peace of mind that comes with it is also a practical expression of our deepest faith and ideals. The wonderful doctors and nurses and volunteers here at Scottish Rite Hospital for Children take in every child. No family has been charged. They live our best values. But they'd be the first to tell you that more than 9 million American children have no health insurance and most don't have access to a hospital like this.

That's not right, and health care reform is about doing what's right, about having compassion and bestowing dignity on each of us as God's children. These are enduring values, the source of the moral authority that has made our Nation great. And they are the lessons each of us, in our own way, can take from Easter and Passover. With these values to guide us, I know we'll succeed.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:06 a.m. at the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas. In his address, he referred to Dr. Tony Herring, chief of staff, Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

Interview With Jim Nantz of CBS Sports in Dallas

March 27, 1994

NCAA Basketball Tournament

Mr. Nantz. We're here with President Bill Clinton. It looks like you're having a great time. What do you think of the game so far?

The President. Great game, and our kids are playing well. But Michigan is playing a terrific game. They've done a great job defending our

big guys in the middle. And we've had the 3-point shot, so we're a little ahead. But this is a good game.

Mr. Nantz. We saw you really excited after some Arkansas baskets, but we also want to show you a couple of other times where it didn't

go so well for the Hogs, and here's how you reacted. Tell us about it.

The President. They were missing layups. We missed about five layups there, four in the beginning.

Mr. Nantz. We need a little more coaching here, Mr. President.

The President. We missed another layup.

Mr. Nantz. Well, Chelsea's been calling the Hogs a few times. I haven't seen you up doing that quite yet.

The President. I haven't done it. I'll get into it as we go along. I really get into the game. I'm impressed, though. It's a good, good basketball game.

Mr. Nantz. You're going to talk to both teams after the game, I understand.

The President. I'd like to do that if we—

Mr. Nantz. What are you going to tell them?

The President. That they've got a lot to be proud of. Both these teams have got a lot to be proud of. And this Michigan team—of course, they have these four guys that have been to the last game twice—without an enormous amount of depth, they are playing incredible defense, and they're doing very well. So we'll just see. I hope we win, but it's going to be a tight game.

Mr. Nantz. How much have you been able to watch the Razorbacks so far in the tournament, up until today?

The President. I've watched all the games. I watch them all. And I've watched a lot of the other games, too.

Mr. Nantz. Do you have any words for Nolan Richardson? Have you had a chance to send a little tip in to the team? He doesn't need it, though, right?

The President. I'm trying to learn about basketball from him, not the other way around. I just sit and watch and learn.

Mr. Nantz. If Arkansas holds on and wins this game, are you going to Charlotte? Are you going to go with them?

The President. Oh, yes, I'll go.

Mr. Nantz. Both semifinals and possibly championship game, too?

The President. We've tried to work it out so that I can go to both games. I'm going to try.

NOTE: The interview began at 4 p.m. in Reunion Arena. Nolan Richardson was the University of Arkansas Razorbacks basketball coach. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Statement on Tornado Destruction in the South

March 28, 1994

I was deeply saddened to learn of the severe losses incurred by people and communities across the South as a result of the tornadoes which swept the region this weekend. Hillary and I want to express our sympathy and offer our prayers for all of those affected by the storm's devastating power, particularly those

families who have lost someone to the destruction.

I spoke to James Lee Witt, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, yesterday to get an update on the situation. I instructed him to report back to me after working with the affected States to assess the damage and evaluate appropriate actions.

Statement on the Violence in South Africa

March 28, 1994

We condemn the violence that took place in the streets of Johannesburg and elsewhere in South Africa in recent days. The United States

calls on all South African parties to reject violence and intimidation and to work towards a peaceful transition to a nonracial democracy.