

Remarks at the White House Easter Egg Roll April 4, 1994

The President. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. I am so glad to see all of you here. I woke up before dawn this morning, and when I got out just at dawn I already saw the Easter Bunnies out here walking around, plotting their strategies for the day and getting ready.

I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard on this and all the people who helped to sponsor it. But mostly, I just want to welcome all the boys and girls here, all the families here, and to thank all of you for being a part of this wonderful American tradition. I hope you have a terrific time today. I assure you that we're having a terrific time having you here. And I think we ought to start. Are you ready to start?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Now we've got to get everybody lined up. Line them up for the first roll.

Now everybody, let me just say, everybody who is here, all the children who are here, not every adult, all the children who are here will get a souvenir egg. Okay? And some of them were signed not just by the First Lady and me, some were signed by Socks. They're more valuable.

Are we ready?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. All right, when I blow the whistle, we're all going to start. Okay? So when I blow the whistle, all of you cheer the kids on who are over there in the roll. Have we got a deal?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. All right, let's go. One, two, three, go!

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:45 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. He was introduced by Hillary Clinton.

Exchange With Reporters in Cleveland, Ohio April 4, 1994

Bosnia

Q. Do the Serbs have a green light in—

The President. I don't think they have a green light. We're looking at what our options are there. But it really depends upon in part what the U.N. mission wants to do there. We are committed to provide air support to troops if they go in. And whether we can recreate the conditions of Sarajevo anywhere else depends in part on the facts of each specific case.

I would discourage any of them for doing anything just for negotiating purposes. They ought to go ahead and negotiate a peace and get it over with, is what I hope they will. It's not going to change their options—

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 1 p.m. at Jacobs Field. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters in Cleveland April 4, 1994

Stock Market

Q. Mr. President, does this roller coaster stock market have you worried, sir?

The President. No. I mean, people have been predicting for months that there would be some sort of correction in the stock market, that it got too high, too quick. And I think when the

Federal Reserve decided to raise the interest rates a little bit short-term, that happened. When people take their money out of the stock market, if they put their money in Government securities, that would raise interest rates, long-term interest rates in those securities. On the other hand, there's no inflation in the economy. We had 458,000 new jobs last month. That's the most in over 6 years. So that could have something to do, too, with a little increase in the interest rates.

Fundamentally, I still would just point people to the fact that we're creating jobs at a very rapid pace and without inflation, which means there's good growth. And I think the most important thing is that—we listened to the experts. The experts are telling us that there's some institutional investors and when they move around, that could aggravate trends both up and down in the stock market. But fundamentally it's a solid stock market and a very solid economy. And I think that's what should guide people in their long-term investment decisions. We have a solid economy, growth on the horizon. And none of us should do anything which would derail that. We should keep steadily moving forward.

Q. But can the market talk the economy into a slowdown?

The President. Well, I don't think so. No one expects that we can continue to grow at 7 percent a year. That's what we had in the last quarter of last year. That was the most we had in a decade. And you can't sustain that. But I think we can sustain very good and steady growth, and that's my goal. My goal is to have a steadily growing economy, where we're creating jobs and we're doing it in a way that doesn't run the risk of a big spurt and then going back into a deep recession. So that's why I'm hoping that no one will overreact to this. After all, if we have no inflation and we have job growth, those are the two most important

things to ordinary Americans: no inflation and job growth.

So we'll get through this if everybody will just remain calm and let the market work itself out.

Q. Is this a situation where good news is bad news?

The President. No—well, it's a situation where good news can maybe reinforce some of the things which are going already. If you have real good news, you know you're going to have interest rates go up a little bit because the economy's very robust. But these other things are happening. I think we'll work through it, and I think it'll be just fine. We're just going to have to ride through it a little bit. But I think it's going to be fine.

NCAA Basketball Championship

Q. Are you worried about tonight's game?

The President. Of course. [Laughter] Of course. I mean, it'll be a great game. And you have to respect the fact that Duke has been there 3 of the last 4 years—extraordinary talent, more seasoned, more experience in the players, a fabulous coach, good program, playing at home with lots of folks from Carolina. It's a—

Q. You're low-balling—sounds like you're low-balling here. [Laughter]

The President. You guys taught me I had to do that. [Laughter] I learned it, it's one of the many lessons I've learned from you.

Q. [Inaudible]—that's a political hedge.

The President. No, it's a real hedge. I expect a very, very vigorous and an extremely close game.

Q. You're going to have to switch ties. [Laughter]

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:57 p.m. at the Sheraton City Centre. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks in a Health Care Roundtable and an Exchange With Reporters in Troy, North Carolina

April 5, 1994

The President. We just completed kind of a brief tour of the hospital, and I met some of the nurses and patients and people who work

here. We talked a little bit about the physician shortage in this county, a little about the problems with delivery of babies and the high rate