

Nov. 3 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

people. Go forward. Vote for hope. Vote for tomorrow.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. at the Des Moines International Airport.

Statement on the Flood and Fire Disaster in Durunka, Egypt

November 3, 1994

I am deeply saddened to learn of the disaster in the Egyptian town of Durunka, as well as storm damage in other parts of the country. Mrs. Clinton and I join all Americans in extending our condolences to the families of the victims of this tragedy.

We are grateful for the warm welcome offered to us by the Egyptian people during our

recent visit. I have instructed the U.S. Agency for International Development to offer cooperation and assistance to Egyptian relief operations. The people of Egypt can be sure that their American friends will stand by them in coping with the aftermath of this terrible event.

Interview With Mike Siegel of KVI Radio, Seattle, Washington

November 3, 1994

Mr. Siegel. Very good to talk to you today. You sound a little hoarse.

The President. I'm a little hoarse, but I'm feeling great.

Role of Government

Q. All right. Let's go right to it then. One thing that crosses my mind is something that you were in fact one of the creators of, back in the mid-eighties, the Democratic Leadership Council, and talked a great deal about bringing the party back to a centrist kind of position. And now we see today that there is—according to the New York Times today, a two-to-one margin of the people in this country believe Government should be less involved in solving national problems, which would be consistent with what the Democratic Leadership Council said, as you were one of those who were the inspiration to create it. And then there are those who now criticize what you have done because of the health care and the crime bill and the environmental proposals and the very large budget proposals that you've made. Are you creating big Government again, in contradiction to what you wanted to do with the Democratic Leadership Council?

The President. Absolutely not. The people wouldn't feel that way if they were given the

facts. This year, for the first time in 25 years, the Congress adopted a budget that I recommended that reduced both defense and domestic spending—this year, for the first time in 25 years. The only thing that increased this year was health care costs because we refused to act, Medicare and Medicaid. We reduced domestic spending. We reduced defense spending. We have reduced the size of the Federal Government. There are 70,000 fewer people working for the Government than there were on the day I was elected. There will be a reduction of 270,000 people in the life of my budgets.

And the crime bill was a bill that empowered local governments. I don't understand where people get off saying that's the National Government interfering in crime. What we did with the crime bill was to reduce the size of the Federal Government by 270,000 and give it to local communities to hire police, to build prisons, to have the resources in the courts for tougher punishment and alternatives to imprisonment for first offenders, and to have prevention programs. That's what we did with the money. So the crime bill is evidence of reducing the size of the Federal Government to empower people at the local level to reduce the crime rate.