

unless I go with him. So if I do what my boy wants me to do and I vote for you, will you make my boy free?" And I thought to myself, "What have you been thinking about? This election is not about you. It's about him and people like him."

And let me tell you something: When we passed that crime bill and we put another 100,000 police on the street, and I see the crime rate going down in city after city after city in this country because we did that; when we passed the Brady bill and the assault weapons ban, and the Democrats lost the House of Representatives probably because so many of them sat up and voted for that one bill—but I could go to New Hampshire and say, we just had a great deer season in New Hampshire, and the air was full of ducks in Arkansas and every hunter I know shot them with the same gun they had last year, so the people who told you we were going to take your gun away were not telling you the truth. But I'll tell you something, there's over 40,000 crooks that couldn't get a gun because we passed the Brady bill.

And I saw him tonight, I saw Dimitrios standing there, and I said, "Your son is about 14 now?" "Yes." "How's he doing?" "Fine." And I said, "You got a message for me?" He said, "Yes. Keep fighting for the working people; it's still pretty tough out here."

This election is about you. It's about him. It's about our country. And yes, we have some challenges. But I'm telling you, these are high-class problems because this country is moving in the right direction. And don't let anybody tell you that your Government is inherently bad.

James Carville's new book, which I commend to all of you, points out in the last 30 years we spent half of your tax money on three things: defense, Social Security, and Medicare. What did you get for it? We won the cold war. We cut the poverty rate among elderly citizens in half. And if you get to be old enough to be on Medicare, seniors in the United States have the highest life expectancy of any group of elderly people in the world.

This is a very great country. If you do your part and we do ours, we're going to be just fine. Let's do that in 1996.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:45 p.m. at the Sheraton New York Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to actor James Earl Jones; entertainer Lesley Gore; David Dinkins, former New York City mayor; Alan Patricof, former Chair, White House Conference on Small Business Commission, and his wife, Susan; and waiter Dimitrios Theofanis.

## Message on the Observance of the Chinese New Year *February 8, 1996*

Warm greetings to everyone observing the Chinese New Year as you welcome 4694, the Year of the Rat.

This ancient annual festival unites people of Chinese heritage across America and around the globe in a joyous celebration of hope and new beginnings. Family and friends gather to renew the bonds of love and to rejoice in the rich cultural traditions of the Chinese people. The sorrows and mistakes of the past year dissolve in a flurry of fireworks, dancing, feasting, and the exchange of gifts.

The Chinese New Year is a fitting occasion for us to reflect on the many contributions that Chinese Americans have brought to our national life—among them a respect for family, a rev-

erence for knowledge, and an unwavering determination to make tomorrow better than today. Let us rejoice together in this season of renewal and resolve to work for a future of harmony and prosperity for us all.

Best wishes for a new year of happiness, health, freedom, and peace.

BILL CLINTON

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 16.