

## Message on the Observance of Cinco de Mayo, 1996 May 4, 1996

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

Each year the Fifth of May reminds us of the blessings of our nation's rich cultural diversity. The Mexican people have made profound and lasting contributions to our society, enriching our national life with the values of family, faith, and love of country.

In commemorating the victory of Mexico's army at the Battle of Puebla, we rededicate

ourselves to strengthening the bonds of friendship and partnership between the peoples of Mexico and the United States. Our nations share a legacy of independence and courage in the face of adversity, and each time we celebrate Cinco de Mayo, we reaffirm our reverence for these ideals.

Hillary and I send best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday.

BILL CLINTON

## Remarks at the White House Correspondents Association Dinner May 4, 1996

*The President.* Thank you very much. Carl, Terry, Mr. Vice President and Mrs. Gore, Mr. Speaker, Governor, to distinguished head table guests, to all the honorees tonight, my colleagues in the administration, to all the entertainers that made all the politicians feel that they came out to get a thrill instead of listen to me.

I apologize for being late tonight, but, as you know, I was at a charity event at Chelsea's school, auctioning off a game of golf. It brought in a few dollars.

*Audience member.* How much? Tell us how much.

*Audience member.* Could I ask a followup? [Laughter]

*The President.* Well, I can tell you this: I know I was criticized for putting it up, but it was not bought by the Ambassador from Iran. [Laughter] I was hoping Ralph Reed would buy it, but he didn't even bid. [Laughter]

Anyway, it got a little money, but the thing that disappointed me was that it didn't generate as much as I had hoped. So I was able to generate some serious cash for the Sidwell Friends School; I auctioned off the shoes I wore the day I shook hands with President Kennedy. [Laughter]

By the way, if there's anybody here who would be willing to pay \$500,000 for a Presidential humidor, I'll be happy to go out and buy one for you.

Even though I was late, my staff kept me apprised of the evening. This may come as a surprise to you, but you're not the only ones who do pool reports. Since not everybody at the White House can be at every public event, we distribute our own pool reports on what the press has been up to. And so Mike McCurry handed me these notes when I arrived. This is what happened before I got here:

6:02: Helen Thomas arrives at the Hilton. In accordance with time-honored tradition, at 6:04 she asks the first question—[laughter]—"Mr. Bartender, can you make a wine spritzer?"

6:22: A van pulls up to the front door. All five members of the McLaughlin Group emerge—[laughter]—without a referee, bickering loudly. [Laughter] The topic: Is it Kondracke's turn to sit up front on the way home? [Laughter]

6:25: Andrea Mitchell arrives on the arm of Alan Greenspan. Greenspan pays the coatroom attendant one dollar—[laughter]—and mentions that last year it only cost 75 cents. One minute later, five people in the immediate vicinity rush to call their brokers. [Laughter]

6:52: Jim Miklaszewski discreetly tells Brian Williams he's sitting in Tom Brokaw's chair. [Laughter]

7:09: Bill Plante arrives at the CBS table and receives many favorable comments about his new George Clooney haircut. [Laughter] One CBS executive present, however, suggested he