

sources, in providing educational and economic opportunity, in defending tribal rights to protect children, families, and culture.

America is going in the right direction in no small measure because every American and every American family and every American ethnic, racial, and religious group knows that in our America, they are all entitled to be treated with dignity and equality. But I am especially grateful for the Indian nations for standing with us as we have fought to preserve our common values, as we have worked to balance the budget without crippling our investments in people and our obligations to one another.

Now we have to continue the progress and build upon it. The endorsement of the leaders here and the work we will do together will be critical to keep our country moving into the right direction as we move into the 21st century. I value their friendship. I value their partnership, and I look forward to working with them.

Thank you all very, very much.

Gambling on Indian Reservations

Q. Mr. President—[inaudible]—meeting, and can your administration do anything, any more to resolve the current logjam?

The President. No. There are some Indian gaming issues around the country that we still have the capacity to resolve. But the ones here are in the courts. And there's really nothing more for us to do except to let them work their way through the courts.

Q. Mr. President, the so-called dean of Native American leaders is not here today, Mescalero

Apache President Wendell Chino. And he wants you to fire U.S. Attorney John Kelly, the man who shut down his casino and so do, frankly, some people on the stage with you today. Is that going to happen, sir?

The President. This issue is in the courts now, and I have no further comment.

Campaign Financing

Q. Mr. President, do you seek, in fact, the disputed \$450,000? Everyone in the administration said there's nothing illegal, but there's some ethical issues been raised. We haven't heard you say much about it.

The President. Well I—first of all, I expect to have the opportunity to discuss that tomorrow night. But I believe that the political parties should not give back contributions that were legally made and legally received. And if they made a mistake and took any money that shouldn't have been taken, then they ought to give that back. I think that there are clear FEC rules on this. There's a law on this. That's what we've got a Federal Election Commission for. And we know they're capable of doing their job because they've taken action this year already.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:40 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Pyramid Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Martin Chavez of Albuquerque; Albert Hale, president, Navajo Nation; and Gov. Leonard D. Garcia, Pueblo of Santa Ana, Southern Pueblos.

Exchange With Reporters on the Presidential Debate in San Diego, California

October 16, 1996

Q. Can you tell us what you're thinking about—[inaudible]—today?

The President. It's been a long time since I've done one of these townhalls, so I'm looking forward to that. I'm interested to see what the people have on their mind, and I'm looking forward to it. I've done my best to prepare. I've still got some reading to do. I'm going to go back and do a little work now.

Q. If Bob Dole goes real negative, how are you going to respond to that today, Mr. President?

The President. Well, we're going to respond to the people who are in the audience. That's the way this was designed, and we'll just see what happens. I'm going to do my best to re-

spond to their questions and to talk about what I'm going to do for the next 4 years.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:30 p.m. en route to the debate site. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Presidential Debate in San Diego

October 16, 1996

Jim Lehrer. Good evening from the Shiley Theatre at the University of San Diego, San Diego, California. I'm Jim Lehrer of the "NewsHour" on PBS. Welcome to this second 1996 Presidential debate between Senator Bob Dole, the Republican nominee, and President Bill Clinton, the Democratic nominee. It is sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates.

We will follow a townhall-type format tonight. The questions over the next 90 minutes will come from 113 citizens of the greater San Diego area. They were chosen in the past week by the Gallup organization to represent a rough cross-section of voters as to political views, age, gender, and other factors. Each said he or she is undecided about this Presidential race.

They were told to come tonight with questions. Nobody from the Debate Commission or the two campaigns has any idea what those questions are; neither do I. We will all be hearing them for the first time at the same time. I met with this group 3 hours ago, and we spoke only about how it was going to work tonight. They are sitting in five sections. I will call on individuals at random, moving from one section to another with each new question, alternating the questions between the two candidates. My job is to keep things fair and the subjects as clear and as varied as possible.

The rules, drawn by the campaigns, are basically the same as they were for the Hartford and St. Petersburg debates: 90-second answers, 60-second rebuttals, 30-second responses for each question. The candidates are not allowed to question each other directly. There will be 2-minute opening and closing statements. The order for this evening was set by coin toss.

We begin now with Senator Dole and his opening statement.

Senator Dole.

Opening Statements

Senator Bob Dole. Thank you very much, Jim.

Let me first give you a sports update: the Braves, one; Cardinals, nothing—early on.

I want to thank you and I want to thank everybody here tonight, and I want a special thanks to my wife, Elizabeth, and my daughter, Robin, for their love and support, and thank the people who are listening and watching all over America.

In 20 days, you will help decide who will lead this country into the next century. It's an awesome responsibility. And you must ask yourself, do you know enough about the candidates? You should know as much as possible about each of us. Sometimes the views have been distorted—and millions and millions of dollars in negative advertising spent distorting my views—but I hope tonight you'll get a better feel of who Bob Dole is and what he's all about.

And I think first you should—I should understand that the question on your mind is, do I understand your problem? But I understand it if—it occurred to me and I might just say that I'm from a large family. I've got lots of relatives, and they're good, average, middle class, hard-working Americans. They live all across the country. They're not all Republicans—maybe all but one. [Laughter]

But in any event, I understand the problems, whether it's two parents working because one has to pay the taxes and one has to provide for the family; whether it's a single parent who just barely pays the pressing bills; or whether you're worried about an education for your children—are they going to the best schools; or whether you're worried about safe playgrounds, drug-free schools, crime-free schools.

This is what this election is all about. And hopefully tonight when we conclude this debate, you will have a better understanding and the viewing and listening audience will have a better understanding. Thank you. [Applause]

Mr. Lehrer. Mr. President, 2 minutes, opening statement.