

this message. It didn't have to be that way, but that's the way it's worked out.

And so you know what all of the issues are, but you need to understand that underneath those issues, this idea of building a bridge to the 21st century that's wide enough and big enough for us all to walk across is a fundamental idea about the decision we're going to make about how we're going to live together and what kind of world your children will have to live in.

And I want you to be enthusiastic and happy and have a good time tonight, but I want you to be in a position to really celebrate on November 5th. That's the night that matters. And so I say to you, there are—if you think hard enough about it, every single one of you can think of somebody you know that hasn't made up their mind yet for whom they'll vote or whether to vote. And one of the big questions in these elections—you know when you see all of these endless polls published every day, and there seems to be 10 or 15 points difference between them and you think, gosh, all those people are smart, and aren't there established methodologies and all that—you know what one of the biggest differences is in them? How skeptical the pollster is about whether the younger generation will vote, how skeptical the pollster is about whether young women, working for

meager wages, struggling to make ends meet, often supporting their own children, sometimes without the child support they're entitled to, will be too exhausted, too frustrated, or too skeptical to show up and vote on November 5th.

So I say, we've worked very hard to register people; we're working very hard to get our message out. You have been incredibly generous to us, far more than we could have possibly expected; we're being outspent still heavily by the other side in most of these races. But we're still getting our message out there; we're still fighting the fight; we're still moving forward.

So ask yourself, "What do I want my country to be like in the 21st century?" And then, "What can I do in the next 13 days to make sure that happens?" And then we'll have a big celebration on election night. Between now and then, just know I am grateful to you and know—never, never, never doubt there is an enormous connection between the decision you and your fellow Americans make and what kind of bridge we build to that bright new tomorrow.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:43 p.m. at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to musician Wynton Marsalis.

Remarks on the Anniversary of the Assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel

October 24, 1996

Today the Yartziet candle, symbol of the anniversary of a death, burns for my friend Yitzhak Rabin. So often, we recognize the true measure of a person only in retrospect, when someone is gone, and his or her legacy becomes clear. But once in a long while, a figure of greatness stands before our eyes, and we recognize it in an instant. Yitzhak Rabin was such a figure of greatness. And virtually all of us who knew him during his life saw that immediately.

He lived the history of his nation, from the heroic struggles of Israel's birth to the repeated defense of its existence, to the quest for peace and acceptance after decades of conflict and bloodshed. He had an indomitable will which

he dedicated without hesitation to the lifelong service of Israel's security.

For a people who in 2,000 years of exile were too often powerless in the face of oppression, Yitzhak Rabin embodied the independence and self-sufficiency of modern Israel. And he possessed something else: the genius to see after a lifetime of war that the greatest safety for Israel's people can be attained when peace and security are one. Through deeds as well as words, he helped bring an entire region to the threshold of a new and better day. Yitzhak Rabin was truly a light unto the nations.

It was one of the great privileges of my life to know Prime Minister Rabin and to have

worked with him for the benefit of the people of Israel and all the Middle East. I'll always remember the first time we met at the White House. He told me that he had a mandate from the people of Israel to take calculated risks for peace. And I told him that I would be his partner in advancing peace and in minimizing those risks. That was my pledge to him, and that remains my commitment to the people of Israel. I will do all I can to preserve Yitzhak Rabin's legacy by helping Israel to make a secure peace with its neighbors.

A year has passed. The wounds of loss have not yet healed. But the memory of Prime Minister Rabin remains a powerful inspiration to me and to people the world over. In March I visited Har Herzl. In keeping with the Jewish tradition of only adding to the memory of those who have died and never detracting from it,

I put a small stone from the South Lawn of the White House on his grave. That stone symbolizes the depth of my feeling for my friend Yitzhak Rabin and the unshakable bond between our two nations, which he did so much to strengthen.

Today, on the anniversary of his death, I ask all men and women of good will to join me in adding to the memory of this remarkable man by carrying on the struggle for security and peace for Israel and reconciliation for the peoples of the Middle East. Yitzhak Rabin made that struggle his last work. Now it is our responsibility to make good on his legacy.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at 5 p.m. on October 17 at the Sheraton Universal in Los Angeles, CA, for broadcast on October 24.

Remarks in Birmingham, Alabama *October 24, 1996*

Thank you very, very much. Thank you. Hello, Alabama! Can you hear us all the way back down there to the road? Thank you for coming.

Ladies and gentlemen, I promised Howell Heflin I would come to Alabama and ask the people of Alabama to support our efforts to build a bridge to the 21st century. It is such a beautiful day, and the crowd is so large, maybe Alabama is going to come along with me on that bridge to the 21st century.

Let me say first of all to Dr. Berte and all the people who are here from this wonderful, wonderful school, I thank you for hosting us. I've looked forward to coming here for a long, long time. I have two great friends who teach here at Birmingham Southern, Mark Lester and Jeanne Jackson; I thank them. And I have heard about what a great place this is. Senator Heflin told me he had lifetime tenure on the board here, and he was going to continue to serve, even after he left the Senate. He didn't ask me for permission to leave the Senate, or I wouldn't have let him do that. *[Laughter]*

I want to tell you how honored I am to be here with all the people on this program today: the candidates for Congress; the officials of our Democratic Party; the distinguished mayor of

Birmingham, my longtime friend Richard Arrington; Chief Johnson; the leaders of the Alabama Teachers Association, the Alabama Federation of Teachers, the Education Association; the Birmingham Southern College Young Democrats; all the others that are here.

I want to thank Congressman Earl Hilliard for being here with us and for his service. I want to thank another distinguished Alabamian who is retiring, Congressman Tom Bevill. I'd like to ask him to stand up, Tom. He's back there with his partner, Bob Wilson, who's trying to succeed him. I thank him and Mary Lynn Bates and Bob Gaines and Judge Ingram. Thank you all for being here with us today.

I'd like to say a special word of thanks to Lieutenant Governor Don Siegelman, who's been our friend a long time. And I'd like to say too that I'm very, very glad to be here with another distinguished Alabamian, the President's Special Assistant for Public Liaison and the highest ranking African-American ever to serve in the White House, Alexis Herman, from Mobile, Alabama, who's here with me today. Thank you, Alexis.

The last thing I want to say is that—by way of introduction—is that I met Howell Heflin