

in a golf program in Houston, Texas, for example, very few people are going to be able to drive the ball 320 yards consistently. But you can all have some dream. And everybody's life has real meaning and every one of you has to figure out what that dream is going to be for you. But no matter what it is, you've got to do just what the champions do: You have to believe you can do it and think about it and visualize it. You have to work for it. You've got to get a good education, and you've got to take care of your mind and your body. And if you do, you'll be a champion, no matter what you do and no matter whether you're famous or not.

You think about it. This country has one President, for example, and 260 million other people. Now, if tomorrow we had to do without one President or all 260 million other people, it would be a pretty easy choice, wouldn't it? You'd say, "I like you, President Clinton, but I'm sorry, you'll have to go." [Laughter] "The rest of us are going to stay."

The greatness of America is in all the people. It's in the billions and billions and billions of decisions they make every day. And you're making them for your life and your future and your country. I am very proud of you. But don't you ever forget this: Have your dreams and live for them, but take care of yourselves. Take care of yourselves. Your body is a precious gift. And you have set an example today that I can only hope and pray that every young person in this country, that all of them will follow.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the gymnasium at Andries Hudde Junior High School. In his remarks, he referred to student Ayana Harry; Representative Major R. Owens; William D. Novelli, president, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; Sandra Feldman, president, American Federation of Teachers; and 1997 PGA Masters' winner Tiger Woods.

Remarks at a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Luncheon in Brooklyn

April 15, 1997

Thank you very much. Congressman Rangel said, "I guess I can't say 'break a leg,' can I?" [Laughter] Actually you could. They told me if I had broken my leg, I would have healed quicker.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank all of you for being here. I want to thank Martin Frost for his tireless work on behalf of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. I thank Dick Gephardt for the wonderful work that he has done with me over the last 4 years and few odd months as majority leader, as minority leader, and I hope in January of 1999, as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with your help.

To give you an idea of what this Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee did and what our candidates did in 1996, it is worth noting that even though they were out-spent often by breathtaking margins in the last 10 days—unimaginable amounts in some of the seats—with only 9,759 votes spread across 10

congressional districts, the Democrats could be in the majority today. That's how close that election was. And therefore, your presence here today and your support for them is very important.

I am proud of the things that Mr. Gephardt mentioned. I'm proud of the fact that in 1992 we said we would turn this country around and change the direction of the country, and we did. I'm proud of the fact that we changed the economic philosophy that dominated Washington for a long time, that we reversed trickle-down economics and instead said, "We're going to reduce the deficit and invest in our future. We're going to expand trade and make it more fair."

And the results, I think, are pretty impressive. We've got an unemployment rate today that's the lowest it's been in many, many years, and the unemployment rate today is a full percent and a half below the average—the average of

the two decades before I took office. So we're working together; we're moving forward.

I am proud of the fact that with the leadership of a lot of the Members of the Congress in this room we've taken a serious step instead of just hot-air talk in trying to make our streets safer and our futures brighter for our young people. We had the biggest drop in crime the year before last that we've had in over two decades. We haven't gotten the 1996 statistics yet, but all the indications are that they continue to go down. We are moving in the right direction on that.

And I am very proud of the fact that, again, with the leadership with a lot of New Yorkers in this room, we have put education first on America's domestic agenda again. And I'm very proud of that.

I'm going to do my best to keep doing the public's business, and I will do my best to do it in a fair and open way with the Members of both parties in the Congress. But I can tell you, if you look around the room at the people who are here, and you ask yourself, what are the great challenges of the 21st century for America? Can we keep the American dream of opportunity for all who are willing to work for it alive; can we give our children a world-class education; can we deal with the health care and the safety needs of all the poor children who come from different cultures who are in our country and give them a chance to make their full contribution; can we preserve an American community that's one America and still have an enormous amount of respect for the racial and ethnic and religious differences we have among ourselves? Because if we can, then we are clearly the best positioned country in the world for the new century.

You have to ask yourselves, who would I like to take the lead in answering those questions and in fashioning the answer? And I know what that answer is for me; I know what that answer is for you. And your presence here today will help the American people make a good decision in 1998.

I'd also like to thank the Members of Congress from Brooklyn and the people of Brooklyn for hosting us here today. I have consistently done very well in Brooklyn, as the Members never forget to tell me, and I am very grateful for that. And I am honored to be in this beautiful, beautiful place, and I hope to stay and look around a little bit.

I'm going to Queens tonight to Shea Stadium to watch the Mets and the Dodgers play and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's breaking the color line in baseball. And I'd just like to say one final word about that. It's all the more appropriate, I think, coming as it does right after Tiger Woods' record-shattering performance in the Masters. But it's important to remember that you had, I think, the two great ingredients of a good society at work in both places. In the case of Jackie Robinson, you had people who were willing to end discrimination and an owner who was willing to give him a chance. But you also had a highly disciplined, profoundly dignified, greatly talented ballplayer who was prepared not only physically but also emotionally and mentally to do what had to be done. The same thing happened in the Masters last week.

And I often believe—have said this and I will say it again because I believe it—I think that the elections that really matter in this country are genuinely determined by questions people ask not only about us but about themselves and how they view themselves in the world in the future we're going into.

And I will say this in closing: I believe that the efforts of Martin Frost and Leader Gephardt and all the members of the New York delegation in 1998 will be successful. If we can get the right kind of balanced budget passed in the Congress, if we can continue to stand up for what's right for America, and if we can make sure the American people are asking the right questions in 1998 of our society and of themselves—if that happens, I am not worried about the outcome of the elections, and more importantly, I'm not worried about the future of our country.

Again, let me say I'm profoundly grateful to New York and grateful to Brooklyn and glad to be here, and thank you for helping the DCCC.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:24 p.m. at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Martin Frost, chairman, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Statement on the Fire in Mina, Saudi Arabia April 15, 1997

I was deeply saddened to learn today of the tragic loss of life in Saudi Arabia among the pilgrims performing the Hajj. I have sent condolences to King Fahd on behalf of the American

people and extend our deepest sympathy to the families of those who were killed or injured in the fire.

Exchange With Reporters in Queens, New York April 15, 1997

Jackie Robinson Commemorative Coins

The President. Mark [Mark Knoller, CBS Radio], did you give out any autographs today over at the school?

Q. Thank you, sir, that was very kind of you.

The President. It's a great school, isn't it? Very impressive.

You all know this is the design for the Jackie Robinson coin. And Mrs. Robinson and her family consulted on it—do you want to just tell them?

Rachel Robinson. Yes. The gold coin represents the total man, and we wanted that because we have been trying to impress people with Jack's life in its totality. And we think that's going to be a very rare piece. We're very excited about it. We love the design, and we love the concept, and we're very happy to have it. The silver coin will represent the baseball period and that, of course, he's had an illustrious career. So of course we're proud of that. But we wanted to commemorate both aspects of him—or total aspects of him. And we will sell out. [Laughter] We are already marketing and——

The President. We're hawking the coin. Anybody in our press corps would like to buy one, we can make one available. [Laughter]

Q. What denomination is it? How much money is it worth? What is the face value of it?

The President. What's the sale price?

Mrs. Robinson. The final price hasn't been determined. It's around \$250 on the gold and about \$35 on the silver. And the Jackie Robinson Foundation will receive surcharges from the coins, which we will invest in our permanent endowment fund.

1996 Campaign Financing

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of all the attacks on your Attorney General? What do you think of all the attacks on your Attorney General for the decision she made yesterday on the independent counsel? Newt Gingrich said today he likened that position to something that John Mitchell would do.

The President. That cries out for an answer, I guess. Let me say, I think that—I don't have anything to add to what I've already said. She had to make a legal decision on a legal question. And as I understand it, she consulted her career staff people there and made a decision. And that's all I know. So I don't have any other comment about it. It should not be a political matter; it should be a legal matter. And that's the way everybody ought to leave it.

Q. Thank you.

Jackie Robinson 50th Anniversary Cap

Mrs. Robinson. On behalf of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, we would like to present you with our anniversary cap, since we know that you wear caps——

The President. I do.

Mrs. Robinson. ——we hope to see this on your head. [Laughter]

The President. I hope you see me running and playing golf.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 6:40 p.m. at Shea Stadium during a meeting with Rachel Robinson, widow of Jackie Robinson, and other family members. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.