

I call on the Congress to act—before it adjourns for the year—on a multi-year reauthorization bill that will give transportation planners and decision-makers the assurance of multi-year funding levels that they can use to continue to improve America's vital transportation network. My Administration stands ready to assist

the Congress to resolve the issues and agree on a multi-year bill.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
October 27, 1997.

NOTE: H.R. 2169, approved October 27, was assigned Public Law No. 105–66.

Remarks at a Birthday Party for the First Lady in Chicago, Illinois October 27, 1997

The President. Thank you very much. You can hear I'm a little hoarse tonight, but I'll do my best to be heard over the din. Let me say to all of you, first of all, thank you, Mr. Mayor; thank you, Mrs. Daley; thank you, Lois Weisberg. I thank all the committee, everybody who had anything to do with this day today. You have made Hillary and, I might say, her mother and her brothers who came with her today—you've made their whole family very happy. This has been an unforgettable day in her life, and I am profoundly grateful to all of you, and I thank you very much.

You know, before I met Hillary, you could put what I knew about Chicago in a thimble and have space left over. [*Laughter*] About a week after I met Hillary, I thought there was no other city on the face of the Earth. [*Laughter*] I'll never forget the first time I came here to visit Hillary. I remember only two things: her father would not come outside to say hello to me—[*laughter*]—which I thought showed good judgment on his part—[*laughter*]—and she took me to Chicago and showed me the city. And I fell in love with it then—that was a long time ago now—and I have been ever since.

This is a magnificent place. You have done unbelievable things. You're in the process of

doing other unbelievable things. They may well make a larger chapter in the history of this city, but you will never have a kinder, better, warmer gesture than the one you've given Hillary today, and I will never forget it as long as I live. Thank you very, very much.

Audience member. Four more years!

The President. It's not constitutional. [*Laughter*]

I want to ask Hillary to come up now. You have to remember—this birthday—she wore it lightly for a long time, but her staff started celebrating it 50 days before the event. They wanted her to recognize precisely how old she was by giving her one present a day for 50 days up to the blessed event—[*laughter*]—which occurred yesterday. Now she's still celebrating it as if she's going to hold on for dear life. [*Laughter*] Whatever she wants to do, I'm for.

Ladies and gentlemen, our First Lady.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:25 p.m. in Gar Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago and his wife, Margaret; Chicago Commissioner of Culture Affairs Lois Weisberg; and the First Lady's mother, Dorothy Rodham, and brothers Tony Rodham and Hugh Rodham, Jr.

Remarks at Oscar Mayer Elementary School in Chicago October 28, 1997

Thank you very much. Thank you, Evaline, and thank you, Mary. Thank you, Maggie Sul-

livan. Mr. Blitstein, thank you for welcoming me here.