

Q. Those elephants produce more dung than any other animals. [*Laughter*]

The President. If you write that, make sure you say he did it, not me.

Q. But make sure you say the President was smiling.

Q. Mrs. Clinton, have you enjoyed it?

Mrs. Clinton. Oh, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. at Chobe National Game Park. In his remarks, he referred to former Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Legislation To Establish a Uniform Blood Alcohol Content Standard To Combat Drunk Driving *March 30, 1998*

Although my trip to Africa precludes me from joining Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Congressman Charles Canady, and others gathered in the Roosevelt Room, I want to state once more my strong support for legislation to put the brakes on drunk driving.

Setting a uniform limit for impaired driving at .08 blood alcohol content (BAC) will help us crack down on drunk driving nationwide. At a time when crime all across America is going down, we still lose an American to drunk driving every 30 minutes—every half hour a family is shattered, a child, a parent, a neighbor is lost forever.

By establishing a strong but sensible limit on blood alcohol content, we could save as many as 600 lives a year. And a uniform drunk driving

standard would still allow adults to drink responsibly and moderately—since the .08 BAC standard is not reached until a 170-pound man has had more than four drinks in an hour, and three for a typical woman.

This should not be a partisan issue. Indeed, the bipartisan work of Congresswoman Lowey and Congressman Canady and Senators Lautenberg and DeWine, proves that when leaders from both parties come together, we can set aside political differences to save lives and serve America. It is my fervent hope that the majority of the House will join the large bipartisan majority in the Senate and send me legislation that will make our streets safe, our drivers sober, and our laws more sensible.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Campaign Finance Reform Legislation *March 30, 1998*

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Congress has an obligation and an opportunity to strengthen our democracy by passing comprehensive campaign finance reform. Instead, the Congressional leadership is attempting to derail serious, bipartisan campaign finance reform through procedural means.

The bipartisan plan proposed by Representatives Christopher Shays and Martin Meehan is genuine, tough reform, supported by a large number of lawmakers of both parties. It would address serious flaws in the campaign finance system, by banning unregulated “soft money”

raised by both parties, addressing backdoor campaign spending by outside organizations, and strengthening disclosure. This bipartisan measure is the best chance in years to reduce the role of special interests, give voters a louder voice, and treat fairly incumbents and challengers of both parties. This measure has the support of a majority of the Senate, and I believe that if it were allowed to come for a vote, it would have the support of a majority of the House as well.

Instead, the House leadership has determined to thwart serious reform. It has refused to allow

the Shays-Meehan bill even to come up for a vote. Instead, it has offered a plan stocked with proposals—including the so-called “Paycheck Protection” and “Election Integrity” provisions—that are harshly partisan and plainly unacceptable.

Behind the blizzard of proposals and procedural complications, one thing is clear: this is a transparent effort to block reform. I call on

the House of Representatives to rise to its responsibility, bring the Shays-Meehan bill to an up-or-down vote, and give the American people the reform they deserve.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Interview in Cape Town, South Africa, With Bryna Bates of Ebony/Jet and April Ryan of American Urban Radio Networks

March 27, 1998

Apology for Slavery

Ms. Ryan. Mr. President, you’ve made it emphatically clear that you will not apologize for slavery. But do you understand why there’s such controversy around the issue, and are you prepared for Goree Island?

The President. Oh, yes. I think—it was interesting, because after I spoke in Ghana and then in Uganda, and when I spoke in Uganda about how wrong we were to be involved in the slave trade, some people in America said, “Well, why did you do this in Africa,” and “Why haven’t you done the same thing in America?” But most of my African-American friends and advisers don’t believe that we should get into what was essentially a press story about whether there should be an apology for slavery in America. They think that that’s what the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendment was; they think that’s what the civil rights legislation was; and they think we need to be looking toward the future.

But when an American President comes to Africa for the first time and makes a serious trip and a serious commitment to the future, I think recognizing the fact that we did a bad thing in being part of the slave trade, I think, is important here. So I think we’ve drawn the right balance, and I feel good about it.

Africa-U.S. Trade

Ms. Bates. Mr. President, does the United States see African-American businesses as a part of the national strategy for participation and partnering with South Africa?

The President. Absolutely. Because, in part, I think African-American businesses are more likely to see the opportunities. There are going to be a lot more other kinds of businesses, all kinds of American businesses here, I predict to you, in the next few years, both selling here, buying from here to sell in the American market, and investing here.

But this is really an incredible opportunity for the African-American business community to get on the ground floor of what I believe will be an explosion of economic activity in the years ahead.

One of the things we’re doing here is dedicating the Ron Brown Commercial Center in Johannesburg, and Ron told me years ago, shortly after he became Commerce Secretary, that there was a new Africa emerging and that we needed to be a part of it; we needed to be in on the ground floor. So that’s what we’re trying to do.

Ron Brown

Ms. Ryan. Do you miss him especially now?

The President. Especially now. I just—I’d give anything if he could have made this trip.

Africa-U.S. Trade

Ms. Ryan. Well, Mr. President, speaking of the Africa package, a different version of that, fast track—are you planning on reproposing that again or introducing that before Chile?

The President. Well, I don’t think we can pass it before Chile, so it’s not important. We know we have the votes to pass it in the Senate, and we know we don’t yet have the votes to