

lessening social problems of our country, for the role that the United States has been able to play in advancing the cause of peace and freedom and security in the world.

So many of you said something nice to me yesterday about our trip to China, which would not have been possible had I not been elected and reelected. And I think we have the right policy there, where we're trying to advance both our security partnership and our economic interests and still stick up for democracy and freedom that we all believe in. You are responsible for that.

The second point I want to make, very briefly—it looks like the rain is coming again—is that in these elections, we're going to try to elect more Democrats to the House, to the Senate, and to the Governor's office. We're going to try to defend the incumbents that are up for reelection. I honestly believe, and any major national survey will show, that nearly two-thirds of the American people agree with us on virtually every significant question. And the attacks that Republicans have raised against Democrats—that we were weak on the economy; we couldn't be trusted on the deficit; we never met

a tax we didn't like; we were weak on welfare and crime; we couldn't be trusted with foreign policy—all that has no salience anymore.

So, if we can convince the American people that by electing more Members to the House and Senate, they can have more of the progress they like instead of the partisanship they deplore in Washington day-in and day-out—instead of letting them get carried away by the kind of emotional, negative, but unfortunately very powerful tactics that our adversaries used in the last 2 or 3 weeks of every election—you can take pride that the next 2 years can produce even more progress than the last 6 have. That's what I want you to think about. That's what you've been here for. And I am profoundly grateful. Thank you very much.

Now show everybody the Democrats have enough sense to get in out of the rain. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to Fred and Lisa Baron, dinner hosts; and Leonard Barrack, national finance chair, Democratic National Committee.

Statement on the Death of David J. McCloud *July 26, 1998*

Hillary and I were greatly saddened to learn of the death in a plane crash of Lieutenant General David J. McCloud, Commander, Alaskan Command. He hosted us several weeks ago at Elmendorf Air Force Base on our way to China and proudly described for us the mission his command carries out in furtherance of our national security interests. General McCloud was a superb airman and an exemplary leader. He helped ensure that our forces from all of the

military services were prepared to meet the challenges of the post-cold-war environment. His impact was felt throughout the United States Air Force and the Department of Defense. On behalf of all Americans, we extend our condolences to his family and the men and women of the Alaskan Command that he led so well.