

around the situation in rural America, over and above what we've got to do to fix the farming bill.

So again I say, I remember the first time I came to Hermitage. I'll remember the parade all my life. But I think in many ways I'll remember this best of all. In many ways, the people here got me started. In 1978, I think I got over 90 percent of the vote in Hermitage the first time I ran, and I'm grateful for that. It's been a long time since then, and it's been 92 years since the Rock Island Railroad built a depot here, on the old road between Tinsman and Crossett. But now, thanks to you, thanks to what you've done, you've made a new beginning for the 21st century.

And what I want to come out of this, let me say again, for farmers everywhere, for people

in rural America and small towns everywhere, when they look at your face, when they see your pride, when they hear your results, they need to know we can make a new beginning everywhere, and the rest of us need to be committed to making a new market everywhere in this country people haven't had their fair chance at the American dream.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. in the courtyard at the Hermitage Tomato Cooperative. In his remarks, he referred to Randy Clanton, director, Hermitage Tomato Cooperative Association; farmers Jimmie Sue Wade and James Carter; Mayor Mike Colvin of Hermitage; and civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

## Radio Remarks on Expanding a Wildlife Refuge To Protect the Salmon Habitat in the Columbia River

November 5, 1999

Today I announced the expansion of a wildlife refuge to protect the prime salmon habitat along the Columbia River. This supports our treaty with Canada to protect Pacific Coast salmon.

My budget proposes increases for salmon restoration, but Congress has provided only a fraction of the resources necessary to do the job. So, again, I call on Congress to provide the necessary resources to support this treaty and

to work with me on a budget process that observes our obligations and protects and preserves our environment.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at approximately 12:15 p.m. at the Hermitage Tomato Cooperative Association. These remarks were also made available on the White House Press Office Radio Actuality Line.

## Remarks in a Teleconference on Agricultural Issues With Rural Radio Stations in Hermitage

November 5, 1999

*The President.* How are you doing?

*Stewart Doan.* Fine, sir. Welcome back down to Arkansas.

*The President.* Nice to hear your voice, Stewart.

*[Mr. Doan of the Arkansas Radio Network began the conference by listing American farmers' problems, including low commodity prices, high production costs, reduction in exports juxtaposed*

*with a rise in imports, and the growing number of farmers exiting the business. He asked what incentives existed for crop growers to stay in farming for the next century.]*

*The President.* Well, let me say first of all, I think we've got to change the '95 farm bill. When the Republican Congress passed it at the end of the session, they did it in such a way that I had to sign it, because otherwise we