

a successful new round of global trade talks. A successful round will include bringing down barriers in agriculture, manufacturing, and services; keeping E-commerce tariff-free; and ensuring that trade will lift living conditions for working people everywhere while protecting the environment. And as I said in Seattle, a successful

WTO must be more open and accessible to all citizens around the world.

I am determined to move forward on the path of free trade and economic growth while ensuring a human face is put on the global economy.

Statement on the Fire at the Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse Company Building in Worcester, Massachusetts

December 4, 1999

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the tragedy that has struck the Worcester community. The six firefighters who are now missing and presumed dead valiantly put their lives on the line in the effort to save others and protect their city. Their courageous service reminds us all of the tremendous commitment

and sacrifice made by the thousands of firefighters across America who risk their own lives every day to protect our communities. Our thoughts and prayers go out to these courageous firefighters, to their families, to the Worcester Fire Department, and the city of Worcester.

Remarks at the Kennedy Center Honors Reception

December 5, 1999

The President. Thank you very much. Thank you all, and welcome to the White House; to the wonderful array of artists who are in this room and members of the Cabinet and others who have come to be part of this happy evening.

We share this evening with honorees who have touched our lives and ennobled our Nation. Recently, Hillary and I went to Greece, and I had the opportunity early in the morning to go and visit the Parthenon, a magnificent, almost unbelievable architectural creation, given what had to be done to make it work and the materials and instruments that were available at the time. The Parthenon was the brainchild of the great statesman Pericles. Pericles said this to his soldiers in the Peloponnesian War: "We shall not be without witness. There are mighty monuments to our power which will make us the wonder of this and succeeding ages."

As the curtain falls on this remarkable century, at the dawn of a new millennium, it is fitting that we Americans should ask ourselves, what will be the monuments that we offer up to the gaze of succeeding ages? Today, we are

blessed with unprecedented prosperity and military might, but I believe it will be true of us, as it was Pericles' Athens, that the monuments of power that truly define, sustain us, and last throughout the ages are those that spring from the mind and the spirit.

Just as we remember the great philosophers and playwrights, the historians and architects of ancient Greece, so tonight Hillary and I are proud to welcome you here to pay tribute to these five remarkable artists and creators. They come from many places; their immense talents range over a wide creative landscape. In giving the world new ways to understand the human experience and celebrate the human spirit, they are all leaving their own enduring monuments for succeeding ages.

And now, to present them: four Americans and one Scotsman whom tonight I declare an honorary American citizen. *[Laughter]* It seems appropriate to do on the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. After all, we couldn't have won the cold war without you. *[Laughter]*