

Oct. 3 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000

reverse plastic surgery on another, the way George Bush did to Michael Dukakis in '88, these kinds of races tend to be quite close. But the Vice President and our party, we've got the record; we've got the ideas; we've got the issues. What we need is clarity, clarity. So please—please—go out and tell people that.

And the last point I want to make is this: There's an overriding philosophy behind everything that I've tried to do. I like the fact that there are more people than ever that can afford to live in homes like this. But I also think the people that are catering this event ought to have the same chance to send their kids to college that Chris and Irene do, and Democrats believe

that. We believe everybody counts; everybody has a role to play; and we all do better when we help each other.

So if you can get the issues out and that simple message, I think we'll have a good night on election night.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:50 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to luncheon hosts Chris and Irene Korge; Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush of Texas; and former President George Bush and his opponent in the 1988 Presidential election, former Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts.

Statement on Congressional Action on a National Blood Alcohol Content Standard To Combat Drunk Driving

October 3, 2000

Congress took a courageous step today to save lives by keeping drunk drivers off the roads. This morning House and Senate conferees approved a transportation spending bill that includes a critical measure to help set a nationwide impaired driving standard of .08 blood alcohol content (BAC). This commonsense nationwide limit will save an estimated 500 lives a year and prevent thousands of injuries.

Our progress on .08 BAC marks a new milestone in our ongoing effort to crack down on drunk driving. It is the result of years of hard

work by safety advocates across the country. I applaud Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the more than 400 young people visiting Washington today who have put a national spotlight on this critical safety measure. I also want to commend the tireless efforts and leadership of Senators Frank Lautenberg and Richard Shelby, Representatives Frank Wolf and Nita Lowey, as well as U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater. Today's remarkable achievement shows that when we work together, we can make America's streets and highways safer for all.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Conservation Appropriations

October 3, 2000

I am pleased by the bipartisan agreement approved by the House today providing guaranteed funding to protect critical lands across America. By doubling our conservation investment next year and guaranteeing even greater funding in the years ahead, this agreement is a major step toward ensuring communities the resources they need to protect their most precious lands—from

neighborhood parks to threatened farmland to pristine coastlands.

While we had hoped for even more, the very real gains achieved in the Interior appropriations bill would not have been possible without the many conservation, wildlife, and recreation groups, and citizens around the country, who worked so hard to secure dedicated conservation funding. I commend the many Members of

Congress who came together in a true bipartisan spirit to make this a national priority.

I also am pleased that the bill provides critical funding for cleaner water, energy security, Native Americans, and the arts, and that objectionable riders that threatened serious harm to our environment have been fixed or dropped.

A century ago, President Theodore Roosevelt put America on the path of land stewardship. With this agreement, we enter a new century better prepared to honor and fulfill this vital conservation vision.

Telephone Remarks to a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Dinner in Jupiter, Florida

October 3, 2000

[*The President's remarks are joined in progress.*]

The President. —on the tarmac at the Miami airport for over an hour, and the pilot said we still couldn't take off because of the heavy rains and winds. And I really looked forward to coming. I must say, I feel a little jinxed. Every time I come to Jupiter or try to, something happens. Once before, when I was coming there, you may remember, I tore my leg up, and it took me a couple years, but I finally got back there. And I hope I can come back and see you.

I want to thank the Barots for hosting this dinner tonight. I want to thank Congressman Wexler for being there and for being such a good friend and supporter. I want to thank the candidates who are there, my longtime friend Elaine Bloom, Patsy Kurth, Jean Elliott Brown. Thank you for running for Congress.

And I want to tell the young dance troupe how sorry I am I didn't get to see you dance. I looked forward to it, and I hope I can see you dance either here or in Washington at the earliest possible opportunity. But I really thank you for the efforts you made.

And I want to thank all of you who came out tonight to help our House Democrats and our candidates. I feel good about this election, but it's a long way between now and election day and we have to work very, very hard.

I think it should be clear from the campaigns that have been run by the challengers here in Florida what the stakes are and what the differences are. And the only thing I promised myself is that I would do everything I could between now and election day to help us win the House back and to win as many Senate

seats as possible. As you know, I'm especially interested in the one in New York.

But I have learned that 8 years of experience teaches that every single Senate seat, every single House seat is profoundly important. We have a different economic policy. We have a different crime policy. We have a different education policy, a different health care policy, a different environmental policy, and we have a very different view about what our relationships with other countries around the world ought to be, and America's responsibilities beyond our borders. And for all these reasons, I think it is imperative that we elect every person we possibly can.

I want to thank those of you who have supported me these last 8 years. It has helped us do the things that we've done in America and, especially, in Florida, from saving the Everglades to moving the Southern Command here to trying to help revive the economy in every part of the State.

I want to thank those of you who have come to our country from other nations and who have made it a stronger, more diverse, more interesting place, far more well prepared for the new century. And I want to urge you to do everything you can, to talk to all your friends, people who would never come to an event like this, between now and election day, about why it's imperative that we keep this economy going and keep paying down the debt; why it's important that we invest in the education of our children and the health care of our seniors; why it's important that we find ways to preserve the environment, even as we grow the economy; and why it's important that we make a safer world for our children.