

*President's Future Plans*

Q. That's right, sir. And sir, I'm going to say it now because I probably won't get a chance to say it before you leave office. We're going to really miss you.

Q. Thank you so much, sir.

*The President.* Well, I hope you'll—you know, call me now and then. We'll still talk on the radio. [Laughter] You may be the only guy who wants to talk to me when I'm not President anymore. [Laughter]

Q. I know, because now the Republicans don't even want you to practice law. They've tried to hold that up on you, too.

*The President.* I know. Well, they tell me that after the—for 3 or 4 months I'll be lost when I leave office because when I walk in a room, nobody will play a song anymore. [Laughter]

Q. We'll play a song for you.

Q. We'll play some old school—yeah.

*The President.* —one of your songs for "Hail To The Chief"—how's that?

Q. There you go.

Q. Because we know what you like. [Laughter]

*The President.* You've got a deal.

Q. All right, President Clinton.

*2000 Election*

*The President.* Again, I just want to say—I hope everybody listens—you've got to show up Tuesday. You've got to be there. I mean, this election is every bit as important as the one that elected me in 1992. We've turned the country around. The last thing we need to do is go in reverse.

Q. All right.

*The President.* Thank you.

Q. Thank you, sir.

*The President.* Bye-bye.

NOTE: The interview began at 9:30 a.m. The President spoke by telephone from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush of Texas.

Remarks on Departure for Los Angeles, California  
November 2, 2000

*Situation in the Middle East*

Good morning. Thank you very much. Let me begin with a word about developments in the Middle East. Last night the parties announced that they had reached an understanding on how to end the violence based on the agreement we reached at Sharm al-Sheikh.

I hope the parties can move forward to put an end to this violence that has caused so much pain on both sides. We know it won't be easy. This morning we were reminded once again in Jerusalem that there are those who seek to destroy the peace through acts of terror. This cannot be permitted to prevail. It is now time for those who believe in peace to stand together to stop this violence and to work against the terrorists.

*106th Congress*

I wanted all of you to be here today because you've worked so hard on our priorities here at home. The Republican leadership of the

106th Congress has proven itself unable to finish its work before facing the voters. Congressional Republicans are leaving behind a legacy of unfinished business on health care, education, economic progress, and social justice. Regrettably, this is a Congress that may well be remembered for broken promises, lost opportunities, and misplaced priorities.

In contrast, our administration, with congressional Democrats, put forward an achievable agenda for America and its families, a real Patients' Bill of Rights, expanding health coverage to millions of uninsured Americans, a raise in the minimum wage, tax cuts for education and retirement, improving our public schools, protecting our environment, strengthening Medicare with a voluntary prescription drug coverage for all seniors, and a balanced budget that pays off the debt by 2012.

We had a simple strategy to accomplish these goals: heeding the wisdom of the American people; reaching out to win bipartisan majorities

in Congress; and calling for a vote. That's putting progress over partisanship. The results should have been a strong record of legislative achievement. But time and again, rather than listening to the voices of the American people and responding to the bipartisan calls within the Congress, the Republican leadership has bowed to the demands of special interests.

On every single issue, we have worked in good faith to craft compromises that were good for the American people. And when Democrats and Republicans have worked together, we have actually made real progress. We won new investments for our inner cities, rural communities, and Native American communities, and 79,000 new housing vouchers for families climbing their way out of poverty. We increased our investment in a clean environment and doubled our funds for land conservation. We enacted the largest one-year increase ever requested for Veterans Affairs and the largest increase in the history of the National Science Foundation. And we met our historic commitment to debt relief for developing countries.

Just last Sunday we reached bipartisan agreement on an education budget that would have been a tremendous achievement for our children. But under orders from their special interest, the Republican leadership canceled the compromise we had reached with the Republican congressional negotiators. So unless we keep fighting, there will be no funds for school construction, no more progress toward cutting class size by hiring 100,000 new qualified teachers, no new investment in teacher quality, no new funding to strengthen accountability, turn around failing schools, double the number of children served in after-school programs. That is wrong. So we must keep working to make it right.

We built a bipartisan coalition to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid by expanding coverage for children with disabilities, Americans moving from welfare to work, and pregnant women and children who are legal immigrants. But the Republican leadership rejected these proposals in

favor of a massive give-away to HMO's—tens of billions of dollars without taking adequate care of these vulnerable populations or adequately compensating the teaching in rural hospitals, home health agencies, and other providers who serve our people. Before this year is out, we must resolve this matter, finally and fairly.

The leadership says they didn't have time to complete the budget. But they wasted no time in blocking fair treatment for Latino immigrants, in blocking commonsense gun safety legislation, in trying to stop new worker safety rules, in filing the spending bills—filling the spending bills they did pass with political election-year pork.

One thing should be clear: The lack of progress in this Congress was not a failure of bipartisanship. On raising the minimum wage, a real Patients' Bill of Rights, hate crimes legislation, campaign finance reform, school construction, the new markets legislation for the areas still not touched by our prosperity—on every single one of these issues, we had bipartisan majorities, Republicans and Democrats, ready to pass them. But the Republican leadership and their special interest allies, unfortunately, still had the power to kill them.

It is unfortunate that their leadership failed to deliver on so much that was within our grasp. But the fight is not over. The American people expect us to finish the job they sent us here to do, and when the Republican leadership comes back after the election, I hope we are ready to work together—and they are ready to work together—to meet that challenge. I am ready. We've done a lot of good, but there's too much left undone, too much that a majority of both parties support.

So thanks for your efforts. Let's go out and let the American people have their say, and we'll come back and go to work after the election.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.