

Now, what did that mean in practical terms? We fought for family leave, the minimum wage; we fought to mend but not end affirmative action; we fought for fairness for immigrants; we're fighting for hate crimes legislation, for employment nondiscrimination legislation, for equal pay for women enforcement. We are fighting for court appointments so that we'll have a Supreme Court that will defend civil rights, human rights, and a woman's right to choose. That is an issue.

In every one of those areas, the people who are running on the other side have an honest disagreement with the Democrats. The leadership does not agree with the hate crimes legislation or the employment nondiscrimination legislation or strengthening the equal pay laws. And they certainly don't commit themselves to a Supreme Court and Federal courts that will preserve civil rights, human rights, and a woman's right to choose.

Now, they disagree honestly. But for people to say there are no differences in these elections—you should be happy. The country is in great shape and you have choices. But it's important to understand what the choices are. You don't have to say a bad word about any of their candidates from the President on down. You can just say, look, we have a different view of what's good for America.

But I'm telling you, the reason this election is so close is that I think people feel a certain comfort level with how well things are going. And you know, this one sounds good, and that

one sounds good, and today I like this one, today I like the other one.

But this is an exercise in citizenship. And I'm telling you, I've been doing this a long time now. This is the first time in 26 years I haven't been on the ballot at election time. [Laughter] And I'm perfectly happy out here campaigning for the Democrats for Congress and for Hillary for Senator and for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. I'm grateful.

But what you have to do—I'm telling you, you can do this for people. You can walk up to people you know; you can walk up to people you don't know. But I'm telling you, you cannot let this election unfold unless everybody you know votes and votes as a knowledgeable citizen. If you want to build on the prosperity, if you want to build on the social progress of the last 8 years, if you want to keep going forward as one America where we keep coming together, across all the lines that divide us, those are the three big questions.

And if you want to do that, you only have one choice: Al Gore, Joe Lieberman, and the Democrats.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. in the Esplanade Ballroom at the Moscone Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco; Walter H. Shorenstein, founder and president, Shorenstein Company, LP; and former professional baseball player Willie Mays.

Exchange With Reporters in San Francisco

November 3, 2000

2000 Presidential Election

Q. Mr. President, do you have any message for Nader supporters in California or elsewhere? Do you have any message for Nader supporters about what they should do?

The President. I think they ought to vote for Al Gore, for several reasons. One is, our administration, as I just said, has the best environmental record in history. And we could have done even more if the Congress hadn't been so opposed to it. But every year, we also, for 6 years, had to beat back any number of anti-

environmental provisions in the law that we keep getting out and getting out. So Al Gore has been at the forefront of that.

I think now that the economy is better and the Congress is likely to be, under any circumstances, less dominated by the Republican right in the next Congress, Al Gore will be able to do even better. It would be a great mistake to not support somebody who has got a lifetime commitment—and we've got a record that's good—in favor of another option, of a party that's really promised to undo a lot of what

we've done. I don't think it's a complicated issue here.

Q. Do you think they're throwing their votes away if they do that?

The President. They'll have to decide that. I just know that—there are one of two people are going to be elected, and they have records and plans. And I think on the records and plans, if you care about the environment, Gore wins hands down.

Thanks. Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:12 p.m. in the Moscone Convention Center following a voter rally. A reporter referred to Green Party Presidential candidate Ralph Nader. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at a Get Out the Vote Rally in San Jose, California November 3, 2000

The President. Thank you very much. Are you ready to win this election?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Let me say first, to all of you, how very glad I am to be back in San Jose. I want to thank Mayor Gonzales and all the people here who have always made me feel so welcome. I've had some of my happiest days as a candidate and as a President in this part of the wonderful State of California. Of course, my daughter has lived near here for the last 3 years.

I was reminding Governor Davis that in 1992 we had 10,000 people at San Jose State, and it was the most exuberant rally in the entire campaign. It was an amazing thing. I'll never forget it.

I'm delighted to be on the stage with all these folks today: our State Democratic chair, Art Torres; your wonderful Representative in Congress, Zoe Lofgren. I am so proud of her. I love being with her. Secretary Norm Mineta, my great friend, what a credit he has been to San Jose and all of California. You should be so proud of him.

And it means especially a lot to me that Willie Mays came here with me today. He's been here with me so many times, and I'm very grateful. You know, one of the great things about—we just had the World Series, so I want to say this—one of the great things about being President is that if you have a particular interest, you can pretty much get anybody who is involved in it to come and talk to you. *[Laughter]*

I love music, and I love sports. And I became a friend of Hank Aaron who, as all of you know,

owns the all-time home run record. So there was a celebration of the 25th anniversary of Hank Aaron breaking Babe Ruth's record in Atlanta. And Hank invited me to go down, and I did. There were 12 Hall of Fame baseball players there. And so I said to Hank Aaron, "Who is the greatest player you ever played with?" He said, "It's not even close. Willie Mays is the greatest baseball player who ever played."

I want to say, are there any students from San Jose State here? *[Applause]* I want all of you to know that when I landed in my helicopter today, I had the enormous honor to meet your young football player Neil Parry—who was injured and lost his foot—and his family. They're in good spirits. They've got their heads up. He told me he was going to play football next year, and he wanted me to come watch him, and I told him I'd have some more time, and I'd be honored to come back and see him.

I want to thank Gray Davis for being a truly astonishing Governor. He has gotten so much done in so little time. You should be very, very, very proud of him. He has also been a true friend to me and a loyal supporter of Vice President Gore, and we're going to celebrate here Tuesday night, in no small measure because Gray Davis never blinked when things looked bad, and now they look good all over America. Thank you, Gray Davis.

And I'll just tell you, I am so proud of Mike Honda. We had a talk the last—this is the second time I've been in his district to campaign for him, and we were talking about what it was like to be young and Japanese in America