

mammogram, often because of problems with their insurance.

In medical research, women have been on the sidelines too long, too little research into the causes and cure of breast cancer and osteoporosis. Heart disease is the number one killer of women, but until recently, all of the search for a cure was centered only on men. The simple fact is that we've paid too little attention to the unique problems of women.

I met with a lot of mothers this week whose children either have or have already died of AIDS, and there are an enormous number of women who now have the HIV virus and who have passed it along to their children, or some have it and some don't. And we don't know whether or not there are different potential resolutions of this for women than for men.

We're trying to change all that in this administration. For one thing, I've put only women in charge of the health care struggle. Donna Shalala is Secretary of Health and Human Services. America became the first nation in the world to establish a senior Government position to oversee women's health issues. I put a woman and a mother in charge of health care reform, and you can see she's done a pretty good job, and we're all still pretty healthy.

We created an office of research on women's health at the National Institutes of Health, and increased funding for breast cancer research, for a national action plan on breast cancer, for research into other problems that affect women. We removed barriers that stood in the way of finding cures to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. We passed the family and medical leave law, a profamily bill if I ever saw it. You ought to read the letters that we get on that.

But if we really want to do right by the American family, and if we really want to honor our mothers, if we want the emotional satisfaction of seeing a lot of that pain taken away and the personal satisfaction of thinking we have done what our mothers would have told us to, which is to face up to our responsibilities and do the right thing, then we've got to find a way to provide health care to all Americans, to guarantee comprehensive benefits, including preventive care, including

those screenings and tests and check-ups to keep people well, not just spend a fortune on them when they really get in trouble.

We've got to preserve the right to choose doctors that women normally make the choice of. And our older women need to be able to rely on Medicare.

We can do these things. We can fix what's wrong with our system and not mess up what's right. But in order to do it, it's going to take the same discipline that was required to deal with the problems of the economy; the same courage that was required to take that vote yesterday on assault weapons; and same memory that that is, after all, what we were raised by our mothers to do. And on Mother's Day, I hope that we will all resolve that, by Mother's Day next year, the women who cared for us will have a health care system that cares for them.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:52 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Barbara Bailey, mother of Representative Barbara B. Kennelly, and Luisa DeLauro, mother of Representative Rosa L. DeLauro. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia**

*May 6, 1994*

#### **Jones Lawsuit**

**Q.** Mr. President, do you have any comment on the lawsuit filed against you today?

**The President.** Well, I thought Mr. Bennett did a fine job. I don't have anything to add to what he said.

**Q.** Are you going to argue that all the charges are false?

**The President.** I don't have anything to add to what Mr. Bennett said. I'm going back to work.

**Q.** Do you categorically deny the charges?

**The President.** Bob Bennett spoke for me, and I'm going back to work. I'm not going to dignify this by commenting on it.

**Haiti**

**Q.** Can you tell us whether you're thinking of changing your Haiti policy regarding the return of the refugees given the escalation of violence?

**The President.** We've had our Haiti policy under review, as you know, for the last 3 or 4 weeks. And we had a meeting about it today. We're going to meet again tomorrow. And I think we may have some announcements to make after that.

**Q.** About changing the policy on the refugees, sir?

**Q.** Have you tasked the Defense Department to do some military options just in case these sanctions cut today don't work?

**The President.** I don't want to discuss that. As I have said, I do not favor that option. I just don't think we can rule it out. I think it would be irresponsible to rule it out.

**Q.** You do not favor that option?

**The President.** Well, I've never favored—you know what I favor. What I've been trying to do is to get Governors Island followed. I'm trying—I think the people down there ought to keep their word. But we certainly can't afford to rule it out.

**Q.** Do you think you might have announcements regarding the refugee policy, was that what you were referring to?

**The President.** I don't have—I'll make an announcement when I have something to say about Haiti policy. But I don't have anything else to say.

**Q.** Are you referring to the refugee policy?

**The President.** I have nothing else to say about it.

*[At this point, one group of reporters left the room and another group entered.]*

**Prime Minister Mahathir**

**Q.** Mr. President, you missed Dr. Mahathir in Seattle. Now that you have met him personally, how do you feel about it?

**The President.** Well, we haven't had a chance to visit yet, but I have been looking forward to this for a long time. I admire his leadership very much, and I admire the incredible accomplishments of his nation under his leadership over the last several years. And I look forward to establishing a good relationship with him and continuing our partnership.

I'm also very grateful for the security partnership we have had and for the contributions that have been made by Malaysia to the operation in Bosnia, to the operation in Somalia, and to being a responsible leader in world affairs.

So we've got a lot to talk about and I'm looking forward to it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:55 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to former Arkansas State employee Paula Jones and attorney Robert Bennett. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

**Proclamation 6683—Mother's Day, 1994**

*May 5, 1994*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

With the signing of the first Mother's Day Proclamation 80 years ago, President Woodrow Wilson set aside the second Sunday in May as a special time to pay tribute to America's mothers. This year I join with Americans across this great land on May 8, 1994, to honor our mothers with the appreciation and affection they so richly deserve.

Indisputably, the role of mothers has changed greatly in the last half-century. They are bread makers and breadwinners, heads of households and heads of state, caretakers of elderly parents and of newborn infants. They are also volunteers in our communities, schools, and religious organizations. Mothers find time to inspire and challenge their children to dream big dreams and to do good deeds. They provide encouragement to their children to reach for the stars and to strive for excellence. When our mothers succeed, our children succeed. When children succeed, our Nation's future is assured.

Mothers are not only our life-givers, but they are also our nurturers who sustain us with deep and unconditional love. In a world of constant change, they establish a reliable foundation of unchanging values. By instilling strong moral principles and showing concern for social improvement and well-being,