

Remarks at the Congressional Barbecue

June 23, 1994

Thank you very much. We want to welcome you back again this year. We want to thank you for braving, first, late votes and then a late rain in all this heat. And finally it's kind of cooling down and getting better.

We're delighted to see you, all of you here tonight. You are welcome here. This is, after all, your house, and we're sort of the temporary tenants, and we're having a good time. We're really looking forward to hearing Trisha Yearwood tonight. And I hope you've enjoyed all the wonderful food. And I'd like to ask that we give a round of applause to the people who provided that. *[Applause]*

Hillary and I have tried to make this event and the one we had last year fun, relaxing, nonpolitical, which is almost impossible in Washington. And only the heat reminds us of the atmosphere in which we must labor during the daylight hours. *[Laughter]* But we have really enjoyed having you here tonight.

I want to thank the Members who came and brought their family members, their friends, their staff members. It really helps us, I think, to get a feel for the human side of what we hope will be a very enjoyable night for you. And I think there's already been enough talking, and I'm ready for the music.

Would you like to say anything? She wants the music, too.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to country and western entertainer Trisha Yearwood.

Interview With Kevin Horrigan and Charles Brennan of KMOX Radio in St. Louis, Missouri

June 24, 1994

Representative Richard Gephardt. Hi, Kevin and Charles. We want to welcome the President of the United States today. We're on Air Force One, and we're going to be in St. Louis in a few minutes. And we welcome the President to our great city.

Q. And we welcome you, Mr. Clinton, to the voice of St. Louis, KMOX Radio.

The President. Thank you. It's good to be on KMOX, and it's good to be coming back to St. Louis.

Campaign Finance Reform

[At this point, an interviewer asked the President to justify raising \$40 million in campaign funds after having campaigned during the Presidential election to reform campaign financing.]

The President. I justify it because of the opposition policies of the Republican Party and all the special interest groups that have raised and spent far more money against us, attacking me and my policies and spreading disinformation to the American people. Let me say that all this time, ever since I've been in office, I have worked hard to pass a campaign finance reform bill, which would limit these kinds of contributions right across the board to both political parties and restore basically unfettered debate to the central position it ought to have in our political system.

But I don't believe in unilateral disarmament. The money that I have raised will be used to try to make sure that the Democratic parties throughout the country in these fall elections and our candidates will at least have a fighting chance to talk about our record and the facts and what we've done here. If we could change the rules for everybody, that's what we ought to do.

When I ran for President, I didn't even take any PAC money. And I have worked very, very hard to pass campaign finance reform laws and lobby reform laws which will make the system better. But until I do, it would be a mistake for the Democrats to just lay down and not raise any money, letting the Republicans and a lot of their allied groups have all the money in the world when they already have greater access to a lot of things like a lot of other media outlets than we do.

Q. Wouldn't you be setting a leadership example, though, if you were the first one to say, "Look, these \$15,000-a-table fund-raisers basically are way out of hand. I've got to put an end to this"?

The President. Well, I'm trying to put an end to it. All the Congress has to do is to