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Industries, Inc.; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; and Tom Lazo, president and chief executive officer, Custom Programming Services, Inc. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Al Gore.

Remarks on the Shootings at the North Valley Jewish Community Center

August 10, 1999

Before I leave tonight, I wanted to say just a word about the shootings at the Jewish community center in Los Angeles.

Once again our Nation has been shaken and our hearts torn by an act of gun violence. To the victims and their families, like all Americans, I offer our thoughts and prayers.

I have been briefed on the situation on the ground. The Federal Government has offered all appropriate assistance to the local law enforcement officials who are working on this case. I wish I could say more conclusive now; we don't know much more than has been reported. I want you to know that I intend to continue to monitor the situation very closely tonight and tomorrow. But again, I say this is another senseless act of gun violence; a lot of shells were found on the scene. It calls on all of us not only to give our thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families but to intensify our resolve to make America a safer place.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:14 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks at a Gore 2000 Reception

August 10, 1999

The President. I was back there deep in conversation. [*Laughter*] Let me, first of all, say to all of you how glad I am to see you, how pleased I am that you're here, and how much I appreciate your support for the Vice President. I will be very brief.

When it was apparent that I was going to become the nominee for the Democratic Party in 1992, I had Warren Christopher, the person I probably trusted most in the world, organize a Vice Presidential search for me. And we went through all the candidates, and I said, ''Well, what do you think?'' He said, ''I don't think you have a choice.'' He said, ''I think Al Gore is much better than all the others.'' And I said, ''I agree.'' And I said, ''You realize they'll all say we're crazy. I mean, we're the same age; we're from the same part of the country; we're more or less from the same wing of the Democratic Party.''

The Vice President. Not quite the same wing. [*Laughter*]

The President. Not quite the same wing of the party, not quite the same. Yes, and I can't climb Mt. Rainier. [*Laughter*] And if I could, I wouldn't. [*Laughter*]

So, anyway, we did it. It violated all the sort of conventional wisdom. And I made a lot of decisions in the last 8 years, some of them were good and some of them weren't, but none were better than that one.

And I just want to say—basically say three things about it. Number one, in all the success this administration has had, from the economic renewal to the decline in welfare rolls, to the decline in crime, to the efforts to make our air and water cleaner and our food safer, to our search for peace around the world, and managing our big, difficult relations with Russia and China, reaching out to Africa in a comprehensive way, really, for the first time for any administration, right across the board, every single success we've had is a success that belongs not just to me but to the Vice President. If he hadn't cast the deciding vote on the economic plan, I'm not sure any of us would be here tonight having this conversation. So the first thing I want to say is, the record of this administration is his record.

The second point I want to make is that he has made it clear what he would do if he got the job to a greater degree and in greater detail than anyone else running. Even though, arguably, he should have to do less since people know more about him; that's not what he did.

The issue in this election will not be whether we should vote for change or not. The issue is what kind of change we'll vote for. We're living in an inherently dynamic time. You know, each year, as all of you know who follow this, I try to lay out an agenda