

families a family tax cut because the people weren't making enough money working full time to get their kids out of poverty, and now they can, because of the earned-income tax credit; an urban policy in which the Vice President ran an empowerment zone program that brought billions of dollars of new investment into cities all across America; an urban policy which cut the welfare rolls in half, which diversified public housing—and Chicago is leading the way in that—which gave people a sense that we could go forward together again.

Now, this was about people, putting them first, preparing them for a new century and a whole new era in human affairs. Look how much more diverse Chicago is now then it was 10 years ago, racially, religiously. Look how we're learning to live together across all the lines that have previously divided us. That's what I want for America, one America, going forward together, helping each other, making the most of what we can do.

You know, politics and public life is a lot like athletics. It's a team sport. I don't care how good the quarterback is or the center. If you don't have a good team, you're nowhere. You were my team, and we won for America.

So whether you're old or young, white, black, or brown or whatever, straight or gay, abled or disabled—we're all disabled some way or another—I thank you, because you were my team, and we won for America. And I want you to know—the second thing I want to say is this. America is always about becoming. It's always about new beginnings. It's always about tomorrow. The reason we're still around here after over 220 years is that we've always had a focus on the future. We always thought we could do better. We always thought we had a moral obligation to do better. We always thought we could widen the circle of opportunity and deepen the meaning of freedom and strengthen the bonds of our community and be better neighbors around the world. We always thought that.

I still believe that. And you cannot let any disappointment you may feel in this last election take away any pride you feel in what Al Gore and I and our team were able to accomplish with you these last 8 years. And you cannot let—you cannot let anything

deter you from your determination to be the best citizen you can be, to make Chicago and Illinois and America as great as they can be.

I'm telling you, there are still a lot of big challenges out there, but I'm leaving this country in good shape and the best is still to be. You just rear back, stay together, and keep fighting for tomorrow.

God bless you. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:50 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago; Illinois State Comptroller Daniel W. Hynes and his father, Thomas C. Hynes, member, Democratic State Central Committee; and David Wilhelm, former national chair, Democratic National Committee.

Remarks at a Private Party in Chicago

January 9, 2001

We had a rally upstairs. You heard them, didn't you? In the ballroom. A little loud. And I hope we didn't interrupt you. So there's an overflow crowd in the lobby. And they said they have to go through the edge of another ballroom. *[Laughter]* So here I am. *[Laughter]*

So I've invaded your dinner. *[Laughter]* Well, thank you for the wonderful, warm welcome. I'm in Chicago today to basically say goodbye to the people of Chicago and Illinois as President.

It's a very happy day for me in many ways. This hotel—since you're here for that, I should tell you, this hotel plays a huge role in my life. And I have two pictures of this hotel. That's what I told them upstairs, I have two pictures of this hotel which I look at every day of my life. One is of the lobby on Saint Patrick's Day of 1992. Hillary and I are standing there with green graffiti—not graffiti, what do you call it?—confetti, not graffiti, confetti—*[laughter]*—it's been a long day and a long 8 years—*[laughter]*—confetti coming down, because that's the night that we won the Democratic primary in Illinois, which basically sealed my nomination.

The second picture was my mother and my father dining here in 1946. And that's in my private office in the Residence of the

White House. I look at it every night—every single night. So I've seen those two pictures of this place every day for 8 years. This is also where I basically kicked off my campaign in Illinois in December of 1991, and so I'm very happy to be here.

And I wanted to come here for my last appearance in Chicago as President. And I want to tell all of you that it's been an honor to serve. I'm glad my country is in better shape than it was 8 years ago. I thank all of you for the role that you've played in revitalizing our country. And I wish only the best for the future.

I've said many times, and I'll say again, America may find people who do this job better than I have, but you will never find anybody who loved doing it any more.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:30 p.m. in the Empire Room at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to an Overflow Crowd in Chicago

January 9, 2001

Let me ask you a question. Did you hear what went on upstairs? This is troubling. Half are saying yes; half are saying no. Let me say to all of you, I'll give you a brief version of what I said there.

First, I want to thank Chicago and the State of Illinois for being so good to me. I thank Mayor Daley for his leadership and partnership and for making it possible to prove that our crime policies and our welfare policies and our economic policies would all work, because they worked here in Chicago.

I thank Bobby Rush for helping me in '92. I thank Bobby and Dick Durbin and the entire crowd in your congressional delegation who have been so good to me. But Senator Durbin, I especially thank you for all the things you've done. Thank you.

I thank Bill Daley for being a superb Secretary of Commerce and a brilliant campaign manager. What I told them upstairs was, Bill Daley ran the first Presidential campaign in history that was so clearly winning, a court

had to stop the vote in order to change the outcome. It was brilliant.

Now, I want to say two other things. Upstairs, I said that this hotel was very important in my life. I spoke to the Democratic chairs here in December of '91. I had my party here on Saint Patrick's Day in 1992 when we won the primary. Were you there? Some of you were there. And I still have a picture in my little office off the Oval Office of Hillary and me standing here in this lobby with the confetti coming down on Saint Patrick's Day. I've had it there every single day for 8 years to remind me that Chicago and Illinois made me President.

I thank you for voting for us overwhelmingly in '92, in '96. I thank you for a fabulous convention in 1996, which was a joy. And I thank you for sticking with us in the year 2000, which you did. I thank you for that.

I thought—it was really important to me to come here before I leave office to say thank you. And I also want to bring you greetings from the new Senator from the State of New York. Hillary said to tell you hello. And I told Senator Durbin that you should just sort of consider that Illinois also has two Democratic Senators again.

I am honored to have been President at a time when a lot of changes were going on in America and in the world. And as I look back, I am profoundly grateful that our country is so much stronger and more united and more successful and so much more future-oriented and self-confident today than it was 8 years ago when we started. And you had a lot to do with that.

I believe politics and public service is a team sport. And you can have a great quarterback; you can have a great captain; but if you don't have a team, you're going to lose every time. So you were my team, and we won for America together.

So when you think about the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years or the lowest minority unemployment rate ever recorded or 22.5 million new jobs or 25 million people taking advantage of the family leave law or 13 million more people getting college tax aid through the HOPE scholarship tax credit or over 3 million more kids with health insurance or 90 percent of our little kids with immunization against serious diseases for the