

first time or more land set aside for protection for all time than any time in 100 years—when you say all those things—that wasn't just me; it wasn't just us with the Democrats and the Congress; it was you, too. We did it together. We were a team, and I thank you for that.

The last thing I want to say is this. I want you to keep fighting for the future. And I'll be there with you. I'll just be a citizen, but I can serve well. I've still got a voice. I've still got a heart, and I've got a mind to spend the rest of my life trying to pay America back for all the good things the American people gave me these last 25 years.

So don't get discouraged; don't be frustrated by what happened in November. But don't be passive. Just take a breath and keep looking forward and keep doing what will come naturally—to fight for the things we believe in, to build the future we want for all of our children together.

I can honestly tell you that in 11 days at high noon, when I walk out of the White House for the last time as President, I will leave more optimistic and more idealistic about the people of this country and their potential, and especially about the young people of this country, than I was the day I took the oath of office in 1993.

I love you. Thank you. God bless you. Goodbye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:37 p.m. in the lobby of the Palmer House Hyatt Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago and Gore 2000 campaign director William M. Daley. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Iraq

January 9, 2001

Dear _____:

Pursuant to section 575 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-429), enclosed is a report on plans for the provision of humanitarian assistance for the Iraqi people and for the commencement

of broadcasting operations by the Iraqi National Congress.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 10.

Interview With Allison Payne of WGN-TV in Chicago

January 9, 2001

Accomplishments in the Final Days

Ms. Payne. Congratulations, sir.

The President. Thank you. Hi.

Ms. Payne. I understand you're working just as hard these last few weeks as you have been the last 8 years. What's driving you?

The President. Well, I get paid until January the 20th. I think I ought to show up for work. Also, I think there's a lot of things to do. We just had, in some ways, the best legislative year we've had, certainly in the last 4 years. We had the biggest increase in investment in education, the first time we've ever gotten any funds for school repair and construction, a big increase in funds for the after-school programs that have been so important to Chicago. We got the new markets initiative that I worked hard on here with Congressman Danny Davis and Speaker Hastert, across party lines, to get more investment into poor areas in America, and a big debt relief initiative for the poor countries. We're doing a lot of stuff here.

And I went to Vietnam. I was able to set aside some more land, preserve it. I'm still working, and I'm going to work to the very end. And of course, I'm trying one last time to make peace in the Middle East. I'm doing the best I can.

Chicago

Ms. Payne. What are you going to miss most about Chicago?

The President. Oh, the people. I love it here. But I'll still come a lot. It's still Hillary's home; a lot of her people are from here. A