

be no debate or discussion about initiatives to bring prosperity to their communities. In fact, any reference to Native American and tribal concerns is utterly lacking.

This is a disturbing oversight, it is a tremendous failure, and I could not be more disheartened on behalf of those who continue work to overcome the serious challenges they face in bringing prosperity to their communities.

BILL CLINTON—A PLACE IN HISTORY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, many of us had the opportunity to be in Little Rock, AR, yesterday for the opening of former President Bill Clinton's Presidential Library. It was an extraordinary and very moving ceremony, and all of us who were there will always remember it.

That evening, to conclude such an extraordinary day, ABC News broadcast a special edition of its popular television program, "Primetime Live," an hour-long interview of President Clinton by Peter Jennings about the President's new library, his years in office, and his plans for the future.

I believe all my colleagues will be interested in the interview, and I ask unanimous consent that a transcript may be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PRIMETIME LIVE—A PLACE IN HISTORY, ABC NEWS, NOVEMBER 18, 2004

PETER JENNINGS: Tonight, America's 42nd president. His library, his legacy and his future. "A Place in History."

Hello, everyone. I'm Peter Jennings. And this is the very modern edge of Bill Clinton's Presidential Library, on the banks of the Arkansas River. We are here this week for a first tour of the library. And a conversation with Mr. Clinton about his presidency and about his future. The building is, well, appropriately dramatic, for a man whose presidency was dramatic and divisive, and full of accomplishment.

CHELSEA CLINTON, DAUGHTER: I hereby present to you and the American people, the keys to the William Jefferson Clinton Foundation Center and Library. Thank you.

PETER JENNINGS: President Clinton calls this place on the banks of the Arkansas River, a bridge to the 21st century. It is the largest and most expensive Presidential library. This week, Little Rock is crowded with people who are attracted by the Clinton magic.

LOCAL RESIDENT, FEMALE: He's a uniter. And I just love him.

LOCAL RESIDENT, MALE: He's a credit to Arkansas, as well as a credit to the nation.

PETER JENNINGS: With all the Democrats there, it has the slight feel of a political convention. The people there from Washington and Hollywood, and Arkansas, of course. In a Little Rock concert hall, one of the President's friends celebrates.

ARETHA FRANKLIN, SINGER: He seems to have the goodwill and interest of all the people.

PETER JENNINGS: His recent heart surgery notwithstanding, Mr. Clinton had several events to go to in the last few days. The swearing in of public service volunteers at

Little Rock Central High School. And today, the dedication.

EMCEE, MALE: Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States, former Presidents William Jefferson Clinton, Jimmy Carter, and George Walker Herbert Bush.

FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER: Bill Clinton brought insight, wisdom and determination to bear on the issues that he addressed.

FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH: Through his indefatigable determination, not only did he lift himself and his family up, he also went on to touch the lives of millions of people around the world, as President of the United States, giving them hope.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: The William J. Clinton Presidential Library is a gift to the future by a man who always believed in the future. And today, we thank him for loving and serving America.

PETER JENNINGS: Bill Clinton has been planning his Presidential library ever since he was in the White House. At the beginning of September, for a few days before his heart surgery, well, he might have missed the opening.

Is it true that if the prospect of death is suddenly more apparent, that your attitude towards life changes?

FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: I think it's changed mine. But not in the way it does some people. Apparently most people have a period of depression. Perhaps because it's the first time they've ever confronted their own mortality. But since my father died before I was born, and I've been living with death all my life, I have never viewed it with the morbid fear some people do. On the other hand, if you dodge a bullet like I did—and, you know, I was about to leave on a 21-day, 6-nation tour of Asia, to help my foundation and promote my book. I think I'd probably have had a heart attack. Might well have died. When that happens, you have to ask yourself, "Well, you got a little extra time here. What are you going to do with it?" And so, today, when I take these hourly walks that are part of my recovery, you know, when I walk past 40 trees, I can probably tell you what color 30 of them were. You know, I find birds that I used to miss. I'm more alive to just the pace of daily life than I used to be. And I'm very grateful for things that are easy to take for granted.

PETER JENNINGS: First of all, has it turned out how you wanted it to turn out?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Yes. By and large, it has.

PETER JENNINGS: You clearly love it.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: I do. You know, I worked really hard on this. I literally approved every word.

PETER JENNINGS: Down the center of the library are eight dramatic panels, each one a time line for a year of his presidency. And on the back, interactive computer screens that allow visitors to call up videos of important moments, documents on policy, even the President's schedule, for every day of his eight years in office. On the outer walls, 18 separate alcoves. Each one devoted to a different theme that defined his presidency. There is a huge amount of interactivity.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Huge. A lot of it. Thousands and thousands of things that people can pull up. But here, this is how we dealt with the major religious, racial, ethnic conflicts of our time. This is Northern Ireland.

PETER JENNINGS: Middle East.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: This is the Middle East and what happened there. There're some artifacts there.

PETER JENNINGS: Former Yugoslavia.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: These are the Balkans, Bosnia and Kosovo. And a letter to a person—I know how much you

cared about this. That's a letter I got from—you remember her? The young girl that wrote the book.

PETER JENNINGS: I do. These are all leaders with whom you worked.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: That's right.

PETER JENNINGS: Who was the toughest to negotiate with?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Oh, I don't know. All these guys were my friends, you know.

PETER JENNINGS: Well, what does that mean, they were your friends?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, I mean, they were my friends. I liked them personally. And I felt that we were always working for the same ends, even when we disagreed.

PETER JENNINGS: What was it like? For example, Boris Yeltsin didn't speak English.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: No.

PETER JENNINGS: And did you simply become accustomed after a while to having that third voice, the interpreter between you?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: We had a wonderful interpreter, who was there most of the time. An American. And I got to know his Russian interpreter. And they became like a member of our relationship. It's funny. You just learn to deal with it. Yeltsin, I thought, had extraordinary strengths. Everybody knows he had some weaknesses. But he was completely committed to democracy. Completely against Communism. And completely committed to having positive relationships with the West.

PETER JENNINGS: Somebody told me the other day, sir—I was in Ramallah for Arafat's funeral. This is a slightly embarrassing question, perhaps. Somebody told me that when you and he and Barak were meeting in those final days, he'd asked you that if things didn't go well, that you not blame him publicly.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: At Camp David in June, he asked me that. And I said I won't, because we still have six months to go. Let me tell you what happened. The reason that I put in so much effort, and the reason I got so angry about this, because we were also at the same time trying to end North Korea's missile program, is that I personally asked Arafat again, six weeks before I left office. I said, now, you just tell me, I'm going to put a deal out here. It's going to be really hard for Israel. And if you accept it, then we can say that's the basis of a peace that we'll either finish by the time I leave, or right after. I said, do you intend to get a deal before I leave office? I said, 'cause otherwise, you gotta let me go to North Korea and Asia. 'Cause I only have six weeks left and I can't do both. It was the only time he ever cried in my presence. He said, you have to do it. He said, if we don't make peace now, after all the trouble that you've taken and all the things we've done together, it'll be another five years and countless deaths before we make peace. So, I took him at his word. I stayed. I got the deal. I think he intended to do it. But for whatever reason, he didn't.

PETER JENNINGS: Nelson Mandela.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: He's wonderful. And you know, his image is as the world's saint. The truth is, he's a saintly man but he's also a very tough and shrewd politician. And a very, very loyal friend. He is a ferociously loyal friend. And he was fabulous to me the whole time I was there. And he was a great President. But these are just people from around the world that I had good relationships with, that I think are fascinating and that I admired. Of course, Rabin and Hussein I just love. I loved Rabin as much as I ever loved another man. I had

an unusual relationship with him. And I never met anybody like him.

PETER JENNINGS: Can I ask you a couple questions about Iraq? You said at one point, I'm not precisely sure when, that Iraq will do pretty well when Saddam Hussein is gone. Want to revise that at all?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, I think that even I underestimated the level of opposition, at least given the troop strength we had there. You know, my position on the Iraq war was different from almost everybody else's that I've heard talking. And I supported giving the President the authority to take action against Saddam Hussein, if he did not cooperate with the UN inspectors or if he was found to have had weapons of mass destruction he wouldn't give up. I did believe that the Administration made a mistake going to war when they did. And that's what alienated the world. And most Americans still haven't focused on this.

PETER JENNINGS: Iraq does not look good at the moment. Do you think the United States could lose there?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Oh, I suppose we could. But I don't think we will. I don't think we will. I think that the President's re-election gives him an opportunity, first of all, to ask for and get more help from other countries. Senator Kerry made a suggestion, in the campaign, that I think he should consider. He should consider going to the Congress and asking for the authority and the budget to increase the size of the Army, even if we have to pay a little more to recruit them. And between getting more help and sending more troops, to try to shore up more places. I think, ironically, we'll be able to get our troops out quicker if, in the short run, we have more there.

PETER JENNINGS: Is there some code among ex-Presidents, about what you say about the current President, as an ex or former President? Are you constrained about what you can say?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, I think there has been. But I think there are reasons for that. We've all made our own mistakes and then we've all been told that we were finished and full of mistakes when we weren't. So, I think we're just a little reluctant to do that. You know, my job is not the same thing as yours, for example. Your job is to question what Presidents do, and whether it will work. Former Presidents, our job, I think, is to try to make America and the world a better place.

PETER JENNINGS: Walking through this two-story hall, it is clear, as in all Presidential libraries, that this is the life and times of the President, presented as he most wants to be remembered. In his words and on his terms.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: This is about the new threats, 21st century threats. So, this is what we did on weapons of mass destruction, and the work we did around the world to try to secure the stocks of weapons of mass destruction. And this is what we did on nonproliferation, modernizing the military and getting new weapons there. And this is a section on terror.

PETER JENNINGS: Why did you put the ten most-wanted poster in here of Bin Laden? You've been taking flak on bin Laden.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Yeah, but not from anybody who knows the facts. I mean, to be fair, most of it was highly political. If you look at the 9/11 Commission's report about what we did and how we prepared for, we had 9/11-style threats for the millennium. And the extent of preparations and the work we did. The number of terrorists we brought to justice. The 20 al Qaeda cells we broke up. If you look at all that and the fact that we apparently came closer to

getting Bin Laden than anybody has since, even though they have a lot more options, military options that we had. I wish that I had gotten him.

PETER JENNINGS: There are stories around, as you know, that the Sudan offered him to you, not once, not twice, but three times. Any truth to that?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: That's not true. It's not true, and I've done everything I could to run that down. It is simply not true. They were always playing a double-game, the Sudanese. The guy running Sudan was in business with Bin Laden. And we did try to get him out of there because, at the time, Sudan was worse than Afghanistan as a harbor for terrorists. But they never offered him to us. At least I can't find it in any document, talking to any person. The first time I heard that, I went to an extraordinary amount of trouble to find out if it was true, and I urged the 9/11 Commission to try to find out if it was true. I just don't believe it's true.

PETER JENNINGS: This library has been a labor of love for President Clinton. He was involved in every detail. Hours before it opened, he was still telling the architect, James Polshek, and the designers, a little corrections he wanted made here and there. Did you fuss a lot?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: A lot. PETER JENNINGS: I mean, when it was over, did they think you'd been a pain in the neck?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: I think so. They now say I was a perfect client. But Polshek said I was the only guy he ever had who would go away for three or four months and come back, and if he changed one line on the drawing, I would know. And I said, well, you know, I care about this. I want it to work.

PETER JENNINGS: Why did you want this here, in this particular place, on this bank of the river?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, first of all, I wanted it to come home to Arkansas because these people made me President. And I wanted it here. I wanted it to be in the heartland, in the middle of the country, where people don't have access to things like this, so they could learn about their government, how it works, what the decisions were. And I wanted it on this river because I love this river. It was a big part of my childhood. I first swam in this river, 40 years ago or more.

PETER JENNINGS: You're saying that your soul is still in Arkansas, even though you live in New York?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, a lot of me is still here and always will be. And I will come home a lot. I'll be here a lot.

PETER JENNINGS: There is an apartment and an office for him on the top floor. This is the largest of all 12 Presidential libraries. And at \$165 million, certainly the most expensive. Mr. Clinton has visited many of the other libraries. His architects have studied them all.

JAMES POLSHEK, CLINTON LIBRARY ARCHITECT: Each Presidential library takes on certain characteristics of the President. So that Johnson's is very imperial. Kennedy's is elegant. Reagan's is folksy. You know, and Bush gets the word hokey. Clinton's is very progressive, very forward-looking.

PETER JENNINGS: The President refers to the architecture here as like a bridge to the 21st century. Which was, you'll remember, his theme in office. Like other libraries, it has millions of documents available to historians and thousands of presidential gifts and other mementoes for us all to see. Every library seems to have some sports equipment. And invariably there are Presidential

vehicles. Mr. Clinton has a Presidential limo right inside the front door. John F. Kennedy's library has his sailboat. George Bush's library has a fighter bomber, similar to the one he flew in World War II. The Reagan library has the Boeing 707 Mr. Reagan used as Air Force One. Presidents love it, of course, when people visit. President Johnson had a novel way of suggesting to football fans at the nearby University of Texas that they come on over.

MICHAEL BESCHLOSS, PRESIDENTIAL HISTORIAN: Johnson had ordained that an announcement be made at half time saying, anybody who wants to use the bathroom or get some cool water can get it at the Johnson Library across the street. Thousands of people flowed through the front doors. And by the end of 1971, the Johnson Library was just about the best-attended presidential library in the United States.

PETER JENNINGS: Presidents save a vast amount of material. Right down to the White House menus. Who knows what will turn out to be significant?

MICHAEL BESCHLOSS: Only last year in the Truman Library, someone came across what looks like sort of a junky desk diary. They found a number of pages in which Harry Truman had recorded in his own hand diary entries day by day in 1947. Had that thing been thrown out, we would have lost it.

PETER JENNINGS: The Clinton Library ultimately houses 630 tons of Mr. Clinton's past. Mr. Clinton is so enthusiastic about his library, we suspect he will be giving tours. President Truman, who spent six days a week sometimes at his library, often gave tours.

JAMES POLSHEK: That would surprise me if he didn't. You know, he loves to give tours. And he would give tours in the White House frequently to anybody who would come along.

PETER JENNINGS: As soon as the President arrived, we started off in his favorite room.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: This is an exact replica of the Oval Office, with replicas of the paintings I had there, the sculpture I had there. And these are actually books I had in the Oval Office.

PETER JENNINGS: I heard that yesterday you were in here fiddling with the desk.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Yes. Well, I was trying to make sure these are all my things. These are Robert Berke's sculptures that he gave me of Harry Truman and FDR.

PETER JENNINGS: I got the feeling that at this pace our tour might have lasted for several weeks. Obvious question here is, how nostalgic are you?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Oh, it makes me happy being in here. That's a globe that Hillary and Chelsea gave me. That pot was given to me by King Hussein.

PETER JENNINGS: That staff?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: It's a Moroccan Berber stick, given to me by Hillary.

PETER JENNINGS: It was time to move on.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Here are some of the interesting things . . .

PETER JENNINGS: That people gave you?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Yes. This is Lance Armstrong's bike. He gave me one of his speed bikes, as you see, and a jersey and a helmet after he won the Tour de France.

This guy makes cowboy boots for all the Presidents.

PETER JENNINGS: Are some of the presents that a President gets really tacky?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Yes. Some are. We got a few of them up here that

are of some question. There's kind of a little cartoon-like thing. There's a great picture of Hillary and me as James and Dolly Madison.

PETER JENNINGS: Not very flattering, sir.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: No. As I said, I didn't look very good in those tights. There's my dog, Buddy. These are some of my saxophones. I had saxophones that I was given from Germany, from France, from China, from Japan. You see, here's some of the compelling art here we got.

PETER JENNINGS: As we said, Presidents hold on to everything.

This Presidential library is a revealing testament, both to your style and your character. What are some of the misconceptions you're trying to clarify?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Well, the biggest one I think, is kind of much bigger than me. And that is, I think politics. There's more and more of an attempt to turn every political race into an identity race. You know, do you identify with this candidate or that? Does he share your values? Is he on your team or on the other team? What I wanted to show people here is that leaders make choices. And those choices, if implemented as policies, have consequences, positive or negative. They're people, and they also make mistakes, and I made my fair share of them. But I also believe that no one could fairly come into this library and read this stuff and look at these exhibits and hear these other people talk about the work they did and the feelings they had, people around the world and people here at home, without believing that this matters a lot. That these choices matter. People are affected in ways that are quite profound by the decisions that our leaders make.

PETER JENNINGS: Now in the entire library, this is—I'm not sure I'm using the right word. But this is the most militant alcove.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: You think it is?

PETER JENNINGS: I do. I do. This is about your struggle with the Republicans and others. Why don't you just tell us why you did this?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: What I'm trying to show here is this whole, long litany of things, where the ideological fights, in my opinion, went too far. Spending \$70 million on Whitewater, which was a land deal I lost money on, that no one disputed. One of the great political con jobs in the history of the American Republic that they could get that much money spent. And then, we go to the impeachment. We had 800 Constitutional scholars who said there was no basis for impeachment. Gingrich, privately, acknowledged they shouldn't impeach me. They did it because they wanted to put a black mark on me in history.

PETER JENNINGS: Do you think they did put a black mark on your presidency that is indelible?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: No. I mean, it's there. But I think the more time goes on, the more people will see it for exactly what it was. Doesn't mean I didn't make a terrible personal mistake. But I certainly paid for that. But what they did was legally and constitutionally wrong, and it was done for political reasons. The overwhelming majority of Republican and Democratic legal and Constitutional scholars agree. And I think in history, it will all come out just fine. I've always believed that. I think things come out in the wash. But, you know, people are always being written and rewritten in history.

PETER JENNINGS: You love history, sir. Rate yourself as a President.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: I'm not going to do that. Anything I say is wrong.

It's a lose/lose deal. My wife's in public service. I'm still trying to do things as a former President. And I have no business being the judge of my own presidency right now.

PETER JENNINGS: But at the end of the President's term, historians did feel free to judge. Fifty-eight historians, as I think you may know, did this for C-SPAN. And they were all across the political spectrum. And they came out, in general terms, that you were 21st. And on public persuasion and economic management, they gave you a fifth. Pretty good.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Pretty good.

PETER JENNINGS: They gave you a 41st on moral authority.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: They're wrong about that.

PETER JENNINGS: After Nixon.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: They're wrong about that. You know why they're wrong about that? They're wrong about it.

PETER JENNINGS: Why, sir?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Because we had \$100 million spent against us on all these inspections. One person in my Administration was convicted of doing something that violated his job responsibilities while we were in the White House. Twenty-nine in the Reagan/Bush years. I'll bet those historians didn't even know that. They have no idea what I was subject to and what a lot of people supported. No other President ever had to endure someone like Ken Starr indicting innocent people because they wouldn't lie, in a systematic way. No one ever had to try to save people from ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and the people in Haiti from a military dictator who was murdering them. And all of the other problems I dealt with, while every day, an entire apparatus was devoted to destroying him. And still, not any example of where I ever disgraced this country, publicly. I made a terrible personal mistake. But I paid for it. Many times over. And in spite of it all, you don't have any example where I ever lied to the American people about my job, where I ever let the American people down. And I had more support from the world, and world leaders and people around the world, when I quit than when I started. And I will go to my grave being at peace about it. And I don't really care what they think.

PETER JENNINGS: Oh, yes, you do, sir. Excuse me, Mr. President, I can feel it across the room. You feel it very deeply.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: No, I care. You don't want to go here, Peter. You don't want to go here. Not after what you people did and the way you, your network, what you did with Kenneth Starr. The way your people repeated every, little sleazy thing he leaked. No one has any idea what that's like. That's where I failed. You want to know where I failed? I really let it hurt me. I thought I lived in a country where people believed in the Constitution, the rule of law, freedom of speech. You never had to live in a time when people you knew and cared about were being indicted, carted off to jail, bankrupted, ruined, because they were Democrats and because they would not lie. So, I think we showed a lot of moral fiber to stand up to that, to stand up to these constant investigations, to this constant body-guard of lies, this avalanche that was thrown at all of us. And, yes, I failed once. And I sure paid for it. And I'm sorry. I'm sorry for the American people. And I'm sorry for the embarrassment. But they ought to think about how the rest of the world reacted to it. When I got a standing ovation at the United Nations from the whole world, the American networks were showing my grand jury testimony. Those were decisions you made, not me. I personally believe that the standing

ovation I got from the whole world at the United Nations, which was unprecedented for an American President, showed not only support for me, but opposition to the madness that had taken hold of American politics.

PETER JENNINGS: I think somewhere you say that it was Nelson Mandela who taught you about forgiveness?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Yes. He was unbelievable. When I was going through all this, he was really mad. You know, he came to the White House and defended me, and said the Congress should leave me alone. And he gave a blistering defense in the White House, the day before Gingrich gave him the Congressional gold medal.

NELSON MANDELA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA: We have often said that our morality does not allow us to desert our friends.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: I said, how did you ever let go of your hatred? I said, didn't you hate those people, even when they let you go? He said, "Briefly, I did. But when I was walking out of my compound for the last time, I said to myself, they've had you 27 years. If you hate them when you get through that door, they will still have you." He said, "I wanted to be free. And so I let it go." And then he looked at me, and he grabbed my arm and he said, "So should you."

PETER JENNINGS: This Presidential library is a reminder of how much is behind you. Make you feel old a bit?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Oh, a little bit. But like I said, I'm very optimistic. I'm always thinking about the future. And I've got, you know, this huge agenda with my foundation. I like the life I had but I don't dwell on it. You know, some days I feel like being President is something that just finished yesterday, and it's all just real and alive to me. Some days it seems like 100 years ago. I wanted to give this gift to America, of this library, and tell the story about how we moved into the 21st century, and how it changed the way we lived and related to the rest of the world. But now, I want to focus the rest of my life on what I'm going to do tomorrow and on the work of my foundation and whether we can save a couple million people from dying from AIDS. Whether we can bring economic opportunity to people who aren't part of this global economy. I believe in global trade. But half the people are left out of this system. And that's why there's so much anti-globalization. I believe in racial and religious reconciliation. There's still a lot of people who haven't done it. So, I've got a lot of work to do here.

PETER JENNINGS: You're 58 years old, and you had two terms. And like a world-class athlete, you're suddenly yanked off the mound. Somebody compared it to pulling Sandy Koufax out of a baseball game.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Yeah. I'm sorry he quit when he did too.

PETER JENNINGS: Doesn't it feel like that at times?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: It did. But, you know, sometimes it's a blessing. Sometimes it's a blessing to go out on top. You know, I had a, I don't know, 62, 63 percent approval rating. The country was in great shape. There have been many times since then that I wish I had been able to help the American people and the world with problems that come across the President's desk.

PETER JENNINGS: John Quincy Adams said there was nothing so pathetic in life as an ex-President. That's no longer true, I gather.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: No. And it certainly wasn't true of him. What he meant was, you didn't want to sit around and pontificate about the way things used to

be and pine away about not being President. And he didn't spend the rest of his life whining about the fact that he didn't get re-elected. He just went to work. Jimmy Carter did the same thing. He said, okay, what did I care about as President where I can still have an impact? What are the needs of the world? What can I do that won't be done if I don't do it? And he went out there and did it. And, you know, I admire that. I mean, that's what we're all supposed to do. When you've been President, you have received the greatest gift, if you love public service, that anyone could ever get. So, I just feel like you owe it the rest of your life to try to give it back.

PETER JENNINGS: What do you want to do, most of all?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Just what I'm doing. I want to be a servant. I'm going to obviously, over time, broaden the sphere of my foundation work. We are working with five African countries, virtually the whole Caribbean, India, China. Money shouldn't determine who lives and who dies from AIDS. That's what I'd like to do now because I think there are more lives on the line. And I believe we can do more to have people feel better about America and about the West, by helping keep people alive.

PETER JENNINGS: Why did you choose AIDS?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: It's the most maddening of all problems. That's why. One in four people will die of AIDS, TB, malaria and infection. AIDS is 100 percent preventable. There's medicine that prevents mother to child transmission for pregnant women. There's medicine that for most healthy people, can turn it from a death sentence into chronic illness. And yet, there's 6.2 million people who desperately need the medicine. Over 40 million people infected. It's madness. So, this is something where I just figure the system's broken. And this is something a former President ought to do. Just go in there and try to put it together. And that's what I'm doing.

PETER JENNINGS: Bill Clinton is hugely popular in other parts of the world. Often regarded by countries as an honorary citizen and treated like a rock star. He has that particular touch with people in all walks of life. We also talked for a minute or two, about potential new leadership at home.

PETER JENNINGS: If Senator Clinton runs for the presidency, will you be her chief political adviser?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Oh, I don't know. First, I don't know if she's going to run. I think she wants to run for re-election. I have no idea if she's gonna run for president.

PETER JENNINGS: Really?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: If she did, I would do whatever she asks me to do. You know, I think of all the people I've ever known in public life, she has the best combination of mind and heart, of management skills and compassion. I think she's very tough-minded. She has strengths I don't have. And I think she's learned a lot from me over the years about the things that I was good at that she needed to get better at. But, you know, she's got a mind of her own and she's going to make up her own mind in due course. I have no idea what she's going to do.

PETER JENNINGS: This has been a very tiring time for the President. After we saw him, everyone wanted to know how was his recovery going.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: As far as I know I'm doing well. I'm walking an hour a day. Up hills, vigorously. I still get tired easily. I haven't recovered my stamina. But everybody who's done this says I will.

PETER JENNINGS: No interview with President Clinton is complete without a lit-

tle bit of trivia. You were, after all, the pop culture President. So, I'd be grateful if you'd give me maybe one-liners on the following subjects. The last movie you saw.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: "Ray." It's unbelievable. I knew Ray Charles and I talked to him a couple weeks before he died. I liked him very much. And I love music, as you know. It's a fabulous movie.

PETER JENNINGS: Your favorite singer now.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: I like Tony Bennett. I like Bono. I like Barbara Streisand. I like Judy Collins. I like Sheryl Crow. I love Aretha Franklin.

PETER JENNINGS: The Presidential perk you most miss.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Working in the Oval Office. It's the best work space on earth.

PETER JENNINGS: Your favorite food now.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Turkey or vegetarian chili.

PETER JENNINGS: And the one you most miss?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Steak.

PETER JENNINGS: The country you'd like to live in, if it were not here.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Probably Ireland.

PETER JENNINGS: You want to be a mystery writer at some point in your life, I gather?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: I'd like to write one book that was kind of frivolous. A Dylan mystery.

PETER JENNINGS: So, write the first line of the mystery novel.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: The President's aide was found dead on a street in Southeast Washington from unnatural causes.

PETER JENNINGS: And the very last one. A living person, not already encountered, who you'd most like to meet?

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Someone I have never met? I would like to meet the new President of Kenya. Because he abolished school fees for poor children and a million extra children showed up at school. I think that that's something that's likely to affect more lives positively than almost anything any other political leader will do this year.

PETER JENNINGS: Thank you, sir.

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thanks.

THE 108TH CONGRESS AND MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

MR. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, as the 108th Congress draws to a close, it is time to reflect on a number of opportunities to support working families that this Congress missed.

American workers are the backbone of our economy. They have built this country, brick by brick and industry by industry. Too many of them have seen their factories closed and their jobs shipped overseas due to bad tax policy and dismal trade agreements. As the Senate meets today, families around our country are struggling to make ends meet in a sluggish economy. This Congress has missed opportunity after opportunity to support these families.

As consumer and health care prices continue to rise and families must make difficult decisions about what to buy and what to go without, the 108th

Congress will adjourn without even considering an increase in the Federal minimum wage. Congress last voted to increase the minimum wage 8 years ago, to the current level of \$5.15. The Congressional Research Service notes that the Federal minimum wage would have had to have been raised to \$8.49 in February of this year to equal the purchasing power that it had in February of 1968. Increases in the minimum wage have not kept up with inflation or with rising consumer prices, and workers earning minimum wage are struggling to make ends meet, often working two or more jobs. And many of these jobs do not provide basic benefits such as health insurance and paid sick leave. To that end, I am proud to be a cosponsor of legislation introduced by the Senator from Massachusetts (MR. KENNEDY) that would require certain employers to provide paid sick leave benefits, and I look forward to continuing to support this and other legislation to support working families when the 109th Congress convenes next year.

This Congress did little to help workers who are scraping by and who, too often, have to choose between their jobs and their families. And for those laid-off workers who have been unable to find family-supporting employment in these tough economic times, this Congress has done even less.

For the second year in a row, Members of Congress will go home for the holidays without acting on legislation to extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Program. Many unemployed workers who are actively seeking employment have simply been unable to find jobs, and are relying on unemployment benefits and related programs to support themselves and their families. I regret that, despite the support of a bipartisan majority in the Senate for extending these important benefits, a minority of members have used Senate budget rules to block passage of this important extension. And I am stunned that, despite bipartisan support for extending these important benefits in both the Senate and the House, Congress will adjourn for the year without sending an extension to the President.

In addition, this Congress has built upon the regrettable record of the 107th Congress with respect to undermining basic worker protections. Members of the House and of the Senate have gone on record a total of six times in opposition to the Bush administration's overtime rule. This rule, which will rob millions of hard-working Americans of the overtime pay that they deserve, went into effect on August 23, despite bipartisan opposition in Congress. And for the third time, the administration has saved this ill-conceived rule by issuing a veto threat against legislation containing a provision to block that rule. I commend the Senator from Iowa (MR. HARKIN) for his leadership on this issue, and I will continue to support efforts to roll back the harmful provisions of this rule.