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GMA w/ Lisa McCree 1/28/98

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GOODMORNING america

State of the Union Address / Lewinsky Investigation
White House Evaluates Clinton Address Impact / Effect of Clinton Speech
Clinton Polls / White House Right-Wing Conspiracy Strategy
Lucianne Goldberg Involvement / First Lady on the White House Crisis
First Lady on the White House Crisis / Hillary Clinton Interview
The Healthy Woman / The Buck Starts Here
Reflections on Hillary Clinton Interview

CHARLES GIBSON..... Co-Host
LISA MCREE Co-Host

Guests:

PAUL BEGALA, President Clinton's Advisor
GEORGE WILL, ABC News Political Analyst
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, ABC News Political Analyst
CELINDA LAKE, Democratic Pollster
FRANK LUNTZ, Republican Pollster
JONAH GOLDBERG, Lucianne Goldberg's Son
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, First Lady of the United States

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First Lady on the White House Crisis

LISA McREE, Host: And good morning again from the White House, good morning, America, in Washington, DC, this morning. I'm Lisa McRee. And this morning we'll be joined by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to talk about this extraordinarily painful and difficult week in the White House this last week, and the incredibly successful State of the Union speech last night. She'll be here to talk politics and personal life coming up in just a little bit. Charlie?

CHARLES GIBSON, Host: I'm Charles Gibson. It is Wednesday, January 28. And we are in Washington again this morning with full coverage of the crisis in the White House. And that is obviously, as Lisa made reference a moment ago, a subject that the President hoped would be overshadowed by his accomplishments and visions for the future, as outlined in last evening's State of the Union address.

Of course, his most loyal supporter throughout these tempestuous days has been First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. We had invited her a number of weeks ago to come on with us after the President had made his State of the Union address to talk about the situation and the proposals that the President

outlined, particularly on the subject of child care. But the timing of all this, obviously rather opportune, because of the situation that has arisen, the events involving the President in the last few days.

She is there to talk about that and the President's speech last night in the diplomatic reception room of the White House. So let's go to Mrs. Clinton and Lisa McRee.

LISA McREE: All right, Charlie, thanks so much. And we'd like to thank you, Mrs. Clinton, for being with us this morning. This was a previously scheduled interview, then you honored your commitments with all of the news organizations.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Thank you, Lisa, I'm glad to be here. I'm still trying to wake up a little bit, to be honest. It's been a long night, and a wonderful time that we had last night.

LISA McREE: The State of the Union last night, how'd he do, one to 10?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Oh, I'd say maybe 100 on a scale of one to 10. I thought it was not only one of the best speeches that my husband has given, but it had so much solid substance in it about what he wants to do for the country. And I was thrilled by it, because he's worked so hard on it, he's had a lot of good ideas that he's had to test with the fiscal considerations taken into account. And I thought it was a triumph.

LISA McREE: Weren't you worried a little bit? Was the President worried that the nation's attention and the Congress's attention might not be focused on the policies and the programs he wanted to talk about?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: You know, I wasn't really very worried about that, and I don't think he was either, because it's been our experience, having lived through the last six years, that most Americans are concerned about what their President can do for them, and the kinds of issues that he talked about last night are the kinds of issues that are on people's minds. You know, how are we going to save Social Security and educate our children and provide health care and child care?

So I think that it proved again last night

that the people are really pleased by what the President has done the last five years and want him to continue his agenda.

LISA McREE: I think it also proved he does have an amazing ability to focus. Just minutes before the State of the Union address, this is such an important speech for him, particularly this year, there is another news report regarding the Monica Lewinsky story, a former lover comes forward, makes allegations in a news conference. How do you not become distracted for even a moment by that?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Well, you know, in the kind of job that my husband has, you cannot afford to be distracted. I mean, at any minute, somebody could do something that threatens our troops around the world. There could be a terrible tragedy that has to be responded to right away. We can't afford to have a president distracted.

And I think one of the great gifts that our country has right now is that we have a President who works very hard every day to do what he can to help our people. And every day he wakes up and really says to himself, you know, "I'm going to do the best I can for my country today."

LISA McREE: We're heading down a dangerous road with Iraq, and the President has been saying that he can focus on it, he can do this, he can do both at the same time. But doesn't this matter really need to be wrapped up quickly for him to devote his full attention to Iraq?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Well, you know, if it's not this matter, it'll be another. People have been harassing my husband for, gosh, I don't know, ever since I've known him. But certainly ever since he started running for president. And I don't think that anything is going to distract him from doing his duties as President.

He knows what is most important, and I think the American people know what is most important, and that is for him to give his energy and his attention to the important affairs of state that have to be dealt with. And you mention foreign matters like Iraq, he mentioned it last night. He's going to keep

his attention focused where it needs to be.

LISA McREE: We have to ask the Monica Lewinsky questions. You've said that you heard of the allegations as the story hit the press last week, as most of the nation did. Did you privately ask your husband if it was true?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: I have talked to my husband about everything. But I don't, you know, ever talk about my conversations with my husband. But I can state unequivocally that, as my husband has said, these are false allegations.

LISA McREE: Do you believe he's told you the whole story?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: I know he has. And I know that the American people will eventually know the story. And I guess my attitude about all of this is that because I have seen so many false accusations against not just my husband but myself, I really just want everybody to take a deep breath and relax and just, you know, sit back, because here they come again. We're going to have to just ride through this, as we have so many of these other false accusations.

LISA McREE: What is it about your husband, Mrs. Clinton, that seems to make him a lightning rod for these types of allegations?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Well, it's not just these types, it's all types. You know, I said yesterday that my husband, ever since I've known him, inspires very strong feelings. People, for reasons I don't understand and have ever since I've known him, really just hate him over some of his policies, his personality.

I mean, I've always thought of my husband as a pretty friendly, gregarious person, yet I know that there are some people in our country -- and there were in Arkansas, and there have been in every political campaign he's ever been in -- who just think the worst of him, make up stories about him, spread rumors about him.

And, you know, we've had people accuse us of murder, accuse him of drug running, accuse of everything under the sun. And I have to believe that it is in large measure

motivated by people who just flat-out disagree with the kind of politics and policies that my husband believes are best for America.

LISA McREE: You've also talked about your husband's generosity and his warmth and his, you know, his warmth with people, even, you know, people he hardly knows.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: People he doesn't know, you know, he just is that kind of human being that reaches out to all kinds of people.

LISA McREE: I think you called him emotive. Have you ever talked to him about sending mixed signals?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: No, no, because he is who he is. I mean, he is a happy, friendly, loving, kind, good person. And I think that that's who he is, and I -- you know, I get a kick out of it most times, because he just loves life. And he wants to live every minute of it, and he loves people. And I'm glad he does.

LISA McREE: Did you want him to come out fighting earlier, though? Because you are known for your political wisdom as well as your legal skill. And after several days of uncomfortable silence, he finally made a statement on Monday. And the polls went up. Did you want him to come out and make that -- what seemed to be a very almost emotional statement, and very forceful, did you want him to make that earlier than Monday?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Well, he made it earlier. He said the same thing Monday that he had said before. But remember the circumstances. It was very difficult and awkward. Here he is, hosting two heads of state, he has Prime Minister Netanyahu and he has Mr. Arafat. He does not want to be talking about matters that do not in any way affect peace in the Middle East, our security in the Middle East, our relationships with people around the world.

And I think he felt compelled that he had to say something, but he wanted it over with, he wanted it done with. And I think, therefore, he felt on Monday he wanted to be absolutely clear that nobody misunderstood him.

LISA McREE: In the last few days, you,

other members of the President's team, have been talking about a right-wing conspiracy.

— Kenneth Starr last night said it's nonsense. Your reaction to his comments?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Well, I don't think there's any doubt that there are professional forces on the right at work for their own purposes and profit. There are just so many curious relationships among a lot of people, and various institutes and entities. And I think that that deserves thorough investigation. All these relationships should really be looked into.

There's good articles, I understand, today in "The New York Times" and "The New York Observer" that begin to outline some of these relationships. And I think the American public has the right to know what's behind a lot of these relationships.

LISA McREE: Last week, the President gave a sworn deposition in the Paula Jones case, and there have been many reports, sourced different ways, that the President admitted to an extramarital affair with Gennifer Flowers some years ago. Is that true?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: I'm not going to comment on the President's deposition because as I understand it, it's under a gag order. And I think that we should just wait to see what the President said. And I know he told the truth.

LISA McREE: But you haven't asked him?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: I'm not going to talk about something that's under a gag order. I think that would be breaking the court's rules.

LISA McREE: But is -- are you concerned at all about it being released, then?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: No, I'm not concerned. My husband has told the truth, and he will continue to tell the truth. And so my view about all of this is that we ought to look carefully at who's telling the truth and what the truth is, and we ought to just wait until the truth comes out in all of these matters. And I have every confidence that it will.

LISA McREE: You've said you don't know the exact nature of the President's personal

relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Monica Lewinsky apparently had some help, though, legally, some advice professionally from Vernon Jordan. Have -- has the President explained to you why Vernon Jordan would help this young intern get a job offer?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: You know, Lisa, I've known Vernon longer than I've known my husband. And Vernon is also somebody who is a real helper to people. I can list countless young people, old people, rich people, poor people that Vernon has helped over the -- gosh, nearly 30 years that I have known him.

You see, I think all of these issues, they will be put into context. We just have to wait. I know that everybody in the press is always so impatient to try to, you know, jump to conclusions. But I don't think we can do that. I think we just have to let this process unfold. It's going to take some considerable length of time. And I think we have to look at what people are saying from all directions who are involved in this.

You know, one of my husband's favorite old Southern sayings, which I keep thinking about when I look at all these things that just kind of come up and happen all the time, is that, you know, if you find a turtle on a fence post, it didn't get there by accident. And I just look at the landscape around here, and I see just lots of big old turtles sitting on lots of fence posts.

And I think we need to find out how those old turtles got on those fence posts, because there's just a lot going on behind the scenes and kind of under the radar screen that I think the American public has a right to know. And I encourage every journalist, every media outlet to help us understand all these curious relationships and make sense out of them.

LISA McREE: But when you talk about a right-wing conspiracy, and people planning, particularly this situation, "The Washington Post," Janet Reno, who agreed to let Kenneth Starr investigate this matter?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: I just think we ought to see what happens, and we ought to try to get to the truth the best we can.

But let's, if we could, talk for a minute

about what the American people are interested in, and that's what the President had to say -- last night. Because I think that there were several things that he said last night which I want to reiterate, because they are so important to the lives of all of us here in our country, starting with saving Social Security.

I was so proud of him for coming out and saying, you know, if we have any surplus -- which, of course, we don't have yet -- let's use it to save Social Security for everybody in the future. And let's do what we need to do to make education work. And as somebody who has spent a lot of time in a lot of classrooms, I am thrilled that we might get class size in lower grades down to a reasonable level so teachers can give individual students the attention they need.

And I really hope that the Congress will take the President's request to heart and give us a consumer bill of rights, so that people who are in managed care can stand up for themselves and get the information they need. And, of course, I think child care is one of the critical issues facing all of us, and I'm going to Connecticut this afternoon to talk about that.

LISA McREE: And we promised we would let you talk about your agenda. And we will honor that...

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Well, it's not just...

LISA McREE:... as well as (crosstalk)

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:... it's not my agenda, but it's the American people's agenda and the President's agenda.

LISA McREE: And it's a very Democratic agenda. Last night's State of the Union speech was sort of tailor-made for the Democratic Party, a dream come true. And people several years ago were saying it couldn't be done. How did he do it? How did he get this Republican-led Congress to agree and work and, you know, allow him to make this speech that, again, became a dream come true for the Democrats?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Well, I think it's a dream come true for America. And the reason is because, when he took office, he determined to put our fiscal house

in order. I mean, we couldn't be sitting here talking about saving Social Security or lowering class size or having a child care program if the President hadn't made the hard choices in 1993, and if every Democrat hadn't put their political lives on the line to vote for the deficit reduction plan.

Remember, that passed without a single Republican vote. And a lot of people lost their seats over that, including some who were in the gallery with me. And then, when the President determined that he would show that we could be tough on crime and not just talk it to death, because that hadn't worked for a number of years, I think he also built credibility that his strategies are sensible, pragmatic ones.

And what he said last night, I thought, was particularly important, in saying that, you know, government's not the enemy, and government's not the answer. And what he's showed us as a people in the last five years is that there's a new way of defining our government. And what he came with last night is an agenda for the 21st century.

So I don't think it was just Democrats who were happy. I think that Americans were happy.

LISA McREE: Does the President have to address the Lewinsky matter again before he can energize this agenda of his?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: I don't think so. I think the country's energized, and I certainly think that he'll see as he goes out into the country what we saw in the polls that have already been taken by networks such as yours. But what we -- yes, but what we know -- it's not just what, you know, a poll on TV might say, it's what we know from talking to people and listening to people.

So I think the country's going to be very excited about this agenda, and, of course, the President will work tirelessly, as he does on everything, to try to bring it to pass.

LISA McREE: Have you been at all concerned about some of the Democrats who have come out and said publicly, "If any of these allegations are proven true, then the President may have to step aside"? I mean, has that been -- have those things felt

outrageous as you've heard them?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: No, I don't have any reaction to any of that. I think the only point I would make, again, is that people just ought to take a deep breath, and let's just wait, because there's so much that is pushed out to try to stir up reaction. And, you know, I've learned a long time ago in my life in politics with my husband that what matters is what happens at the end, when everything is out and things are in context, and people can make their own judgments.

LISA McREE: You've said before that in the near future, people will learn the whole story and there will be more details. Do you think that this young woman, when she came to work at the White House as a 21-year-old intern, was part of some right-wing conspiracy and placed there by your husband's enemies?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Oh, I'm not suggesting any such thing.

LISA McREE: OK.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: No.

LISA McREE: All right. But in general, this sort of wide approach that the White House is using now, that it's someone else's fault, those reports came from the press, they came from secret tapes that were made. It didn't seem to anyone observing that it could have been anything that was orchestrated.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Let's just wait and find out what the truth is, Lisa. And I don't think it's fruitful at all to speculate or to engage in hypotheticals. I'm interested in what the facts are, and we know very few facts right now.

LISA McREE: I know you're very interested in the future. You and the President have spent a lot of time talking about the millennium and what this nation's going to do as we move into the next century. You've been orchestrating and working on programs that would make this country, you say, stronger and better. Are you worried at all about how you, your husband, will go down in history because of this crisis...

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Lisa...

LISA McREE:... because of the allegations?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:... no, for

goodness sakes, no. I'm really focused on the future and getting up every day and doing what I can to make a contribution, and I'm really glad you mentioned the millennium, because last night the President briefly talked about what we want to do, and he mentioned the Star-Spangled Banner.

Now, I think every American knows about the Star-Spangled Banner, but they may not know that it is deteriorating, and that if we don't engage in a rather significant conservation effort, it just may disintegrate, and we lose one of our national treasures.

So we are trying to put together a public/private partnership to save some of our most important heritage, like the Star-Spangled Banner. I've been told it will cost \$15 million to repair that banner. And there's so many other places in our country that need attention, whether it's Thomas Edison's house with all of his papers, one of the founders of modern science, or our prehistoric sites, like Mesa Verde. I could go on and on.

And so what I want everybody in America to think about is, how are we going to give gifts to the future? And I think the President has already given a wonderful gift to the future with everything he's done for the country, and he'll give some more in the years to come.

LISA McREE: Just a few seconds left, and you can see even in this interview, and I'm sure every interview you do in the near future, it's going to be hard to focus on your political agenda. When will the President come out and give a detailed explanation, sit down, and talk about this matter, and be able to put it behind us? When can that happen?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Lisa, because there's an investigation going on, nobody can expect the President to say anything more publicly, because if there weren't an investigation he could, but because there is an investigation, he can't. And I hope every American understands that. And I know that that must be very frustrating for people.

But that is the way the system works. And you won't hear any more from Vernon Jordan, you won't hear any more from my

husband, because they have to abide by the rules that they operate under when they have these investigations.

But again, I'm going to say, everybody take a deep breath, just wait. These things take time. And when the truth comes out, this, like all the other accusations that have been made against us for so many years, will fade into oblivion. And the work that the President's done will stand the test of time.

LISA McREE: All right. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, thank you for sitting down this very difficult week...

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Thank you.

LISA McREE:... for you.

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: Yes, thank you very much, Lisa.

(Commercial Break)

(Local News)

(Commercial Break)

Hillary Clinton Interview

CHARLES GIBSON, Host: It is 30 minutes past the hour. Charles Gibson here in Washington. It is just Gibson. It is just me, no McRee. I am here by myself in the studios at the moment. Lisa is, if you were watching in the last half-hour, was interviewing the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and she is now on her way. Lisa is, from the White House back to our studios here.

In this half-hour, we're going to be wrapping up reaction to last night's State of the Union address, as well as the latest developments in the crisis in the White House.

We're also going to look at something that you may be asked to do sometime soon, choose an electric company. There is deregulation now in the electricity industry, the same way there was in the phone industry a couple of years ago. And as deregulation for electric companies spreads across the country, scam artists are getting ready to make the choice for you, which electric company you'll use.

It's the same tricky way that they got unaware subscribers to switch phone

companies. And on The Buck Starts Here, in this half-hour, how to pull the plug on electricity slamming.

Also, we were talking yesterday about when you should send your child to school or to keep the child home when they're sick. Well, we're going to take this up now for adults. Do you go to work when you're sick because you think staying home could jeopardize your job? That kind of thinking does put your health and the health of your co-workers in jeopardy. And this morning, our Dr. Tim Johnson has tips to help you avoid the flu and whatever bug is loose in the office.

All that coming up, and as I say, Lisa will be back here to talk some about the interview just concluded with the First Lady. But first, one more look at the morning's news. Kevin Newman is just across town on Capitol Hill. Kevin?

KEVIN NEWMAN, ABC News: Hey, good morning, Charlie. Well, as all of us have just seen, the First Lady has again vigorously defended her husband during this turbulent time for the Clintons. ABC's Ann Compton has also been watching her talk with Lisa. Ann, what are the headlines?

ANN COMPTON, ABC News: Well, I think the headline is Mrs. Clinton's demeanor. With all the furor and the pace of the information which has come public in the last week, Hillary Clinton was calm, she was very deliberate, she was trying to portray a very -- a sense of calm and patience at the center of the storm. She would not answer specifics about the President's involvement with people, about his deposition to any of the lawyers. But she made it very clear, she believes him.

(clip from "Good Morning America")

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: I'm not going to talk about something that's under a gag order. I think that would be breaking the court's rules.

LISA McREE: But is -- are you concerned at all about it being released, then?

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON: No, I'm not concerned. My husband has told the truth, and he will continue to tell the truth.

ANN COMPTON: The -- now, Mrs. Clinton is a lawyer, she understands the legal ramifications here. And once again, she urged journalists in all news organizations to go after the idea that there is a conservative conspiracy after her husband. She said it's one that is done by professionals for profit. But she did not ask -- be -- give any specifics, and she did not try to engage in any combat again with special prosecutor Kenneth Starr. Kevin?

KEVIN NEWMAN: OK, Ann, thanks very much. Ann Compton at the White House.

The President himself heads to the heartland today. He's going to Illinois and Wisconsin for speeches that may test public reaction to his State of the Union themes, especially improving education, and to his personal troubles. Our polling last night, by the way, suggests that his speech helped Mr. Clinton restore some public confidence.

Now, the President is also dispatching his top diplomat to deal with the continuing standoff with Iraq. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will visit Europe and the Middle East to try to rally support for possible military action against Iraq.

Tonight from ABC News on PrimeTime Live, I think every parent worries about turning car keys over to a teenager. Well, Chris Wallace isn't going to make you feel any better about it.

(clip from "PrimeTime Live")

CHRIS WALLACE, ABC News (voice-over): It's every parent's nightmare, teenagers behind the wheel. Watch as the 16-year-old driving this car runs right through a red light and almost hits someone.

1st TEENAGE PASSENGER: Red! Red! Red, red!

CHRIS WALLACE: It's even worse inside the car. While her friends are terrified, the driver has no idea she's done anything wrong.

TEENAGE DRIVER : What? What just happened?

2nd TEENAGE PASSENGER: You drove through a red light!

CHRIS WALLACE (voice-over): It's

one of many frightening moments during a PrimeTime experiment. We wanted to find out how prepared kids are when they get their license at age 16. So we installed cameras. They knew the cameras were there, but you won't believe what we found.

KEVIN NEWMAN: And you can see the full report from Chris Wallace on PrimeTime Live tonight at 10:00, that's 9:00 Central.

That's the news at 8:34. Spencer, that report has convinced me that my children will not be driving before they're 30.

SPENCER CHRISTIAN: (inaudible), I don't blame you, Kevin. It is pretty disturbing.

(Weather)

(Commercial Break)

"Chi" Exclusive interview with Hillary Clinton by our director

Translated by Guy Rabner

We want a child for the year 2000

Silvana Giacobini, Washington, May

The appointment was set for 3:00 in the afternoon on a slightly windy and bright sunny day. Merely ringing the doorbell brings out emotions as in place of doormen there are, of course, policemen. Young and handsome men, gigantic, both black and white, four of them let me to the gate where they check my purse and take me carefully through a metal detector just like those at airports. Having passed the checkpoint, one enters the White House gardens where small television crews assigned to register interviews are stationed. One then enters the room where the President holds his press conferences speaking to the peoples of the world via correspondents. From here we have seen Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan speak. From here the Gulf War was announced. It is striking that this same room can transform the battlefield electronic instruments, tin cans and simple pieces of paper. One instant for a reality check from the countless images seen on television and then a beautiful young woman, dressed in a black suit, enters and greets us with a big smile: it is Julie Mason. Her job, along with the omnipresent Marsha Perry, is to plan the day of Hillary Clinton, the First Lady. After a brief walk, she leads us into the Map Room. We are on the first floor of the West Wing of the White House. Here, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, looking at the maps of different countries on the walls, followed the developments of WWII in Europe. In this room he announced that America was to enter that terrible conflict.

A Philippine servant brings us a drink and leaves us to briefly await the arrival of the First Lady. When she enters, she finds the quickest route to us and arrives with a smile which illuminates her lightly made-up face, a firm handshake and a cordial welcome. We sit on the Map Room's red damask chairs and we begin to talk about children. Hillary underlines how difficult it is today to be parents, to impose a discipline, one much more different than that of previous generations. Today's children have more freedom than we had at their age. "I have spoken about it with my husband since the situation with Chelsea is very different from the one in which we grew up," she candidly says as if we were in any room and not at the White House and as if we had known one another for years.

Question: To stay close to one's man for better or for worse can force a woman to put aside her own identity. Feminists in England have attacked Cherie Blair because she gave up her brilliant career as a lawyer to support her husband. As a lawyer yourself, is it compromising sometimes to be only "Mrs. Clinton"?

Answer: Both politics and public service have always interested me. Even when I was a lawyer I had interests outside of the realm of law and now I have others

outside of the political environment of my husband, that have always impassioned me. However, I've always been interested in political issues. In becoming the wife of the president I have not given up anything. Rather, it has given me and gives me great satisfaction to be able to continue to be interested in these issues, feeling that I have not given anything up. I feel like I've reached another important moment in my life. This is what we women want. Women must grow and be in a position to make positive decisions for their lives without any external pressures.

Q: You often are busy with the problematic issue of adoption. In "Chi" you spoke with tenderness about little Adam, a parentless child who was invited to the White House by President Clinton. Would you and your husband like to adopt a child?

A: Adoption is an issue which we will think about when my husband leaves the office of the presidency. We love children and we want to continue to try and have them but it is something that we will face after the end of his term in office.

Q: Following the Dutroux case in Belgium, a true psychosis has emerged in France against child molestation, so much so that the penal code, which provides to pursue those who even suspected of committing these crimes, has been brought back, especially in the school environments. Nevertheless, in Romania, Brazil and in other parts of the world sexual "tourism" continues.

A: This is true.

Q: In the USA, your husband has signed Megan's Law, (brief explanation) which mandates authorities to alert neighbors of convicted child sex offenders in their neighborhood and to institute a federal register of pedophiles, sex offenders and rapists. Some states, however, like California where 900 registered offenders have disappeared, they don't want to adopt Megan's Law. how does one, then, efficiently combat child molestation knowing the results of the Stockholm Congress of last August?

A: I think that today we are begin to understand better and put into focus this particular, horrible crime. Megan's Law is the first result of our efforts in the attempt to identify child molesters. I am also convinced that these criminals should spend more time in prison because I believe that a pedophile is a criminal that can't easily be rehabilitated at the roots. It's not like any other crime. In my opinion, someone who abuses children should stay in prison for more time and should only be released with severe limitations. I think Megan's Law is a good mean's of warning those who live in the same neighborhood that an ex-criminal lives in that area but I repeat that I would like these individuals stay in prison longer.

Q: A conference was recently held at the White House on the development of a baby's brain. Going by the conclusions which were reached, what can families do at home?

A: At the conference it was explained and demonstrated how the brain and the psyche of a baby form and develop, what happens when one speaks to, reads to, or plays with them in the first three years of life. During my trip to Italy, I noticed that Italians pay much attention toward small babies and here many parents do the same. We must, however, educate all parents so that it is always done in the first three years of a child. There are many things that a parent can do because a newborn's brain develops better when it is helped in this way in its growth and development into adulthood. It is necessary to divulge this information.

Q: How have you both behaved in front of Chelsea? What have you done to promote and foster her capacity to learn? Is there a secret?

A: With Chelsea I have applied, though unknowingly, the methods we spoke about at the conference. I did it because my mother had done it with me and I knew that it was necessary to do it with my daughter, to develop a healthier emotional relationship. So both her father and I read something to her every day, we played together with her and I sang to her some little songs until when she was big enough to realize that I didn't have a beautiful voice. I think she was two when she put her finger on my mouth and said, "Don't sing, Mom." Her father continued to sing to her, though, because he has a beautiful voice. Therefore, we tried to do the most educational things possible.

Q: Why did Chelsea choose to attend Stanford University? To get her freedom from you both or because it's a nice place?

A: For both reasons. She liked Stanford a lot during her visit there. Most importantly, she needed to be herself and have her own space and more privacy. Chelsea is convinced that being far from Washington will give her this opportunity.

Q: But for the daughter of the President of the United States it's impossible to have so much privacy, for security reasons if nothing else. What has Chelsea chosen to study?

A: She's interested in studying medicine. I don't know if in the end she will do it but she wants to become a doctor.

Q: An interest that runs in the family: you have fought for health reforms, to support research against AIDS and breast cancer.

A: I believe we have made notable progress in understanding the mechanisms of AIDS and the research currently underway is looking at ways to prolong the life of the AIDS patients. Research is also focused on the preventative front of pregnant women. They are given various medicines to avoid the transmission of the AIDS virus to their unborn child. For breast cancer, today we have more information

which permits us to stabilize at the gene level the percentage of women that could develop the disease. What more, technology allows us to discover well in advance the presence of tumors and therefore to cure a larger number of women. We are living in an important moment in the field of scientific research in the entire world and it is critical to continue to invest public and private funds in research in order to better understand the causes of some diseases and to adopt new therapies.

Q: Volunteerism, a concept introduced by Kennedy in the '60's was promoted by President Clinton at the recent Philadelphia Convention.

A: Bill and I are convinced that if people offer more of themselves to help others, we can resolve many problems. The President wanted all of the political representatives present but it was not a political matter. We wanted to show that it was an idea of all Americans. I am very satisfied by the results attained. Now we must see how many citizens will offer their time.

Q: In Italy, too, we speak about volunteerism but often the comments revolve around that exactly that need for volunteerism shows the inadequacy and insufficiency of the public structures. This, however, shows the need to increase those structures which would require an increase in the budget and public spending. What do you think about this?

A: The same thing happens here but I believe that when you have a high percentage of senior citizens, of children and sick people in need of assistance, you cannot depend solely governmental intervention or, conversely, solely on private organizations or volunteerism. This is the reason to ask for contributions from all sectors.

Q: In Italy, the problem of pensions (social security) is a popular topic of discussion as well as the proposal to raise the retirement (pension) age of women to sixty five years old. Those in favor were those who wanted equality with men in this regard and those opposed to this who acknowledge that even the woman who works in the home goes unrecognized, respond that women are not eligible for compulsory military service. In sum, if before the woman wanted the bicycle she now wants the pedals.

A: It is important to value to the job women do in the home because we know it is both necessary and difficult. Their role in child raising, their contribution to the community and the countless hours of work that each woman donates and is not recognized for. What more, upon the death of her husband the woman has nothing and I believe that that is unfair.

Q: Repairers of the breach: President Clinton at his inauguration quoted a verse from the Bible taken from the Book of Isaiah. How to be the "repairers of the breach" in daily life?

A: What a great question. There are many things that we can do. Above all, each individual should act and live respecting one another. They should try to live in harmony with their neighbors and try to resolve the problems they are faced with. To live as a family with great harmony is also very important.

Q: Often this road, however, becomes more difficult within this.

A: Every effort is valid even if done only at a personal level and not necessarily at a community level. For example, helping an elderly person who lives alone, offering one's time to organize sports activities for children. There are many ways to make a contribution without spending a lot of money or dedicating too much time. Of course the government must be present from the beginning to combat all forms of prejudice, violence and discrimination. This can only be achieved if each individual works together with the government.

Q: I agree with you, even if I believe it is a utopia. There is always the good and the bad. How can one become better?

A: We must be realistic. There will always be bad, there will always be disappointment, for each of us life is not always fair. That, however, does not mean that one should stop trying to create a better world because it is in the attempt to better the conditions of the world that one attains the most satisfaction. To stop is not an ideal way of living but rather a selfish one. I would like to live in a community, in a city everyone helps one another, where the bad has no roots. How, though, does one get there? If exactly each one of us makes the attempt to be better. Of course it won't happen overnight but in taking it one step at a time maybe we will succeed in creating an atmosphere in which the number of bad people diminish. It will be impossible to eliminate all of them, there will always be someone, it is human nature. I believe, however, that the possibility exists to live together peacefully.

Q: There are two huge problems to face: Drugs and violence. Behind them there are financial interests too powerful to be able to overcome them.

A: Let's examine why there is such a large flow of money in the drug world. People want drugs. If sellers did not have buyers then there would not be so much money. Therefore we must educate our children to understand that drugs are not the solution to the problems we face in life. They must understand that drugs destroy the brain, hurts their future and causes physical and mental problems. We must persuade ourselves and our children to not use drugs. What more the special police forces must work to capture the dealers and the criminals spreading violence.

Q: What is happening in America?

A: In the last five years violence has decreased thanks to the efforts of my husband because he succeeded in changing the method used to solve the problem of respect for the law. It is necessary to work on two fronts: To be tough with those who commit crimes asking for longer stays in prison. This should be done with it in mind that we should also give that youth something positive: recreational activities, a job, a better education. Thus, on the one hand to have more police officers in the city but at the same time offering positive alternatives to the community.

Q: I agree, but where do you find the funding for all of these programs? The government, if it doesn't raise taxes or something else can't handle these expenses alone.

A: You need to use both public and private funding. The first duty of the government is the protection of its citizens from attacks from foreign enemies and, domestically, to try and eliminate all weapons that are being sold and to give people positive alternatives.

Q: At the conclusion of your stay in the White House, what will you do?

A: We will take a long vacation. I would like to write and return to teaching Law or history. I want to stay involved in the political life of my country because it is important to me but I don't know in what capacity yet. I'll think about it in three and a half years.

Q: Where in the world will there be a woman president? Maybe in the United States in the next millennium? The disparity between the sexes has not disappeared. Do you see the possibility that a woman can become president at the beginning of the next millennium?

A: I think so. I have said it publicly and I repeat that within the next twenty five years we can have a woman president. There is a large number of women both in the government as well as in private industry prepared and qualified to handle the duties. I think that in the US it is more difficult than other countries in which there is a parliamentary system where a Woman like Golda Meir, Margaret Thatcher, Benazir Bhutto and Indira Gandhi could be elected Prime Minister. However, if a woman runs for the office in our country she needs to know how to sell herself to unknowns and that's harder. When instead, she works together with men and they know us better as people there are personality characteristics that are positive. It's easier to establish a human relationship.

Q: This, then, couldn't happen in the United States?

A: No, because if you have to throw yourself into the fire, to face those unknowns who already from the beginning have a stereotyped image of women it's certainly a

lot harder. I hope that my country will have a woman president in the first twenty five years of the new millennium.

Q: Are there many women in this position?

A: No, but I believe that we can talk about a female vice president in the next election. There are many women who are making a name for themselves in the political world.

Q: By law, one can not run more than twice. You, however, are not Bill Clinton (who is in his second term) You're not the president of the United States.

A: Lucky me! No, I will not run.

Hillary

For U.S. Senate

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The Issues

New York State Democratic Convention Pepsi Arena, Albany, NY

May 16, 2000

Thank you. Thank you so very, very much thank you for this evening.

Thank you for all the support and the help and the advice that so many of you have given me. I cannot thank the people in this hall enough, but let me begin by thanking Congressman Rangel and Congresswoman Lowey and all the other Democratic Members of the House.

Let me thank Senator Schumer, all New Yorkers owe you, Chuck, a debt of thanks for your tireless leadership. You have led the fight to reduce crime and gun violence, to keep our children safe. You have led the fight to improve the upstate economy to bring good jobs to the entire state and I look forward to working with you, I will have more to say in a few minutes about Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, one of the wisest most knowledgeable, most experienced public servants in American history.

I have also benefited, as all New Yorkers have, from the encouragement and counsel of good friends and outstanding public officials like Comptroller Carl McCall, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, Speaker Shelly Silver, Secretary Andrew Cuomo, Democratic Leader Marty Conner and our great party chair Judith Hope.

To the thousands of New York Democrats who make a difference every day in city halls and county governments and union halls, boardrooms, in classrooms, in court rooms in Albany and in Washington, it is you, it is all of you who are the reasons why we are winning elections all across the state. From Chautauqua to Westchester and Nassau where Republicans are being replaced by Democrats who are solving problems—not just playing politics.

That is nothing new.

Time and time again, the great leaders of New York's Democratic Party have brought us together for the common good. It was, after all, New York Democrats who led the way in building the great American middle class; in giving rise to the labor movement, to civil rights, to women's rights, to gay rights; in furthering our commitments to public education and old age security.

From Al Smith to Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, from Herbert Lehman to Robert Wagner to Robert Kennedy to Daniel Patrick Moynihan, New York has always led the way. And we will continue leading by building on the progress of the last seven years: 21 million new jobs, balanced budgets, lower crime, stronger schools, better childcare, a cleaner environment, a safer and more inclusive American community. Our thanks must go to Vice President Al Gore and President Bill Clinton.

I am delighted that the President is here this evening and I



am so grateful for his support. I would not be standing here tonight were it not for Bill, and were it not for all he has done for me, I could not be prouder as an American and as a New Yorker to have a President who has meant so much to our country. We are a better country than we were in 1990.

And we are a stronger and a better Democratic Party. We are dedicated to the values of community, and opportunity and responsibility and enterprise. We stand for innovation, diversity, and inclusion. We're ready to take action and demonstrate leadership.

I am here tonight because, as noble and rich as our past is, along with all of you, I believe that New York's future can be even better if we work hard to make it so.

You see, I believe that we can strengthen our families and create the opportunities every child needs to succeed in a new century. I believe we can reach across the lines that often divide us - geography and race and religion, class and even party - to bring people together to fulfill our common mission. Because I believe in those core values and I believe in those goals and I believe with all my heart that if we work together we can make our future even better, I am deeply honored and humbled to accept the nomination of the New York Democratic Party.

I am honored because you are offering me the privilege of representing this state, its families and children, as well as our party. I am humbled because I know I have very big shoes to fill. After all, who has stood for our Democratic values more than the senior senator from New York? Senator Moynihan has what the Irish call the gift of being able to see around corners. Long before our nation awoke to the risk, he warned us of the threat that demographic changes posed to our social security system. Nearly a decade before the Berlin wall crumbled he forecast the collapse of the Soviet Union and he urged Americans to prepare for a post cold-war world. He warned us of the breakdown of the family and reminded us that family was the bedrock of our society.

In 1993, the President's economic plan; the plan that erased the deficits and created surplus, passed by one vote - thanks to Senator Moynihan's great leadership as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Pat Moynihan has served our nation for 5 decades with his thought, his ideas and his actions. He served four Presidents and he served in the Senate with four more. There is not a person in this party, in this state or nation who is not in his debt and I am at the top of that list.

On behalf of all of us, I also want to thank Liz Moynihan for her warmth, her support and her encouragement. You know Liz Moynihan is a great friend and a great champion for New York. And Liz, when you advised me to travel upstate last summer, I listen and 62 counties later I can say, "that was wonderful advice." And by the way, just for the history books, I think Liz is the most successful campaign manager in our state's history. After all, she has managed winning four Senate races in a row, which has to be a record that will never be broken.

So Senator, we are forever in your debt and we wish you and Liz well. However, we still expect to see you both around and we still expect to hear about every historical event that ever occurred anywhere in New York State. We are looking forward to knowing even more about what has happened before, so that we can be better supporters of the history of New York, and we can learn how we can build on that history

for the future.

I am excited by the chance to be a part of the future, and I pledge to you that I will work my heart out every day of this campaign to become your next Senator. And I will work everyday in the Senate to keep faith with you, with the values and the ideals of the Democratic Party of New York. Because make no mistake about it - this election is not about me or about any Republican opponent - it is about the people of New York and the common mission that we are pledged to.

What is that mission? Well, I think it is to strengthen our families, to protect our children, to improve our schools, and to extend healthcare to every New Yorker; it is to free our families and communities from the terror of gun violence, to strengthen Social Security and modernize Medicare, to ensure America's continued leadership in the world.

Despite the strides and progress we have made, there are still too many forgotten New Yorkers. I have met them. I have been in diners, sitting across from parents who tell me with pain in their eyes in his or her teenage years who has been diagnosed with a mental illness and they cannot afford to get the best treatment for their son or daughter.

I have met the children - we need to put faces on those statistics to demonstrate what it is like to be caught up in poverty and despair, to be without the families and the healthcare and the education they need to prepare them for the future.

I have met the mothers and fathers working fulltime who are stressed by too little money and too little time. I have traveled upstate where an economy that the Erie Canal opened up is now looking for revitalization and hope.

You know, we have some of the greatest institutions of higher education in the world and we still have too many students who cannot afford to go to college. We have some of the best public schools in the world. Yet far too many of our students are crammed into overcrowded, and dilapidated buildings without the resources that are needed for the education they require.

We have the finest hospitals in the world. Yet more than half a million children in our state do not have health insurance and over two million older New Yorkers cannot afford their prescription drugs.

We have the most beautiful scenery - from the Finger Lakes to the Adirondacks to Long Island's beaches. Yet we face environmental challenges to our air, our water, and our health.

We are home to the dynamic financial capital of the world. Yet we have family farms and businesses upstate and neighborhoods downstate that are not yet enjoying the benefits of the new economy.

We are producing countless new fortunes. Yet we have the second highest rate of poverty of any state in the country. Now I know and you know that we can do better and New York should not settle for less than the best.

You know there is something for all of us to do - not just those of us honored to be running for or holding office. There is something for all of us to do in our homes and families, our work places and neighborhoods. Every one of us can make a commitment to improving the life of a child or providing better

jobs, to doing more to make our community safer and cleaner.

As your Senator I pledge to work with you to fulfill that mission. I will work with you to make sure that we do keep our national fiscal house in order, because if we do not then New York will be especially disadvantaged.

We have to make sure that we balance our budget and make sure we use our surpluses to pay down the national debt, protect Social Security for generations to come and strengthen Medicare with a prescription drug benefit for every older New Yorker.

We have to continue investing in our children. What does that mean? Well, I think that means we have to keep working for higher standards for schools and students and teachers. We do need smaller classes for our children. We need modern, state of the art schools in the rural areas as well as the urban ones and we have to teach our children what I call the six R's-- not just reading writing and arithmetic, but how about responsibility, respect, and results?

In order to do that, we have to make sure every child has a chance to get off to a good start. That is why I will fight to make sure that every child who needs good child care or a Head Start program or an after school program will have that opportunity.

Because I have a lot of experience as every parent here does, in balancing family and work, I will continue to advocate for ways that we can make it possible for parents to be both good parents and good workers. Let's expand the family and medical leave options. Let's use technology to make work more available and accessible for parents.

And while we are at it, let's make sure that we make work pay. You know a lot of New Yorkers are working very hard but many feel that they are not making any progress. I want to work everyday as your Senator to provide the kind of tuition deduction that will enable every family to send their children to college in our state.

I want to make it possible for a family to care for a disabled loved one, for aging parents in our homes and that means I want to support a tax credit for long-term care. We should be rewarding responsible families not penalizing them.

And let's make sure that when people work full time, they get the pay that they deserve. That is why I support high minimum wage, protecting workers' rights. Let's once and for all ensure that women receive equal pay for equal work.

We also have to stand up to the special interests that stand in our way. "Enough is enough" is the message to the gun lobby. That was the message on Sunday at the Million Mom March. No more should we be silent, as the gun lobby refuses to put our children's health and safety first. We must end the terror of violence in our streets and schools by adopting common sense gun safety measures.

We know they will work. Remember when the gun lobby said that if the President was able to pass the Brady Bill that would destroy the rights of gun owners? Remember when the gun lobby said that if we ban assault weapons, a measure Senator Schumer fought for, that would destroy the rights of gun owners?

I have traveled all over this state and I have yet to meet a gun

owner who has missed the hunting season, or an opportunity to go sport shooting. We know that by taking the assault weapons off the streets and passing the Brady Bill kept 500,000 fugitives, felons and stalkers from buying the guns that would have killed and maimed New Yorkers.

We will also keep working until we finally achieve the goal of providing quality affordable healthcare to every New Yorker and every American. There are steps we have to take, smaller steps that are achievable until we can reach that goal. That is why I will continue to fight to provide coverage for mental health problems because it is not right that we deny treatment for people who are suffering the diseases of the mind when we treat diseases for every other organ of our body.

We also have to be sure that we continue the fight that Senator Moynihan and Senator Schumer are waging to provide the financial support for our hospitals and nursing homes.

And we have to continue to fight for affordable prescription drugs, and that is why I proposed the bill that we would re-import from Canada, FDA-approved American drugs and we must have a Patient's Bill of Rights so that doctors and nurses are calling the shots on health care.

We have a big challenge ahead of us here at home, because we have to prepare all New Yorkers for the global economy. That means we should be taking advantage of new technology.

I believe that as a nation we should be providing broadband access to the Internet for the entire country. Just a President Roosevelt electrified the United States, we should connect the entire country particularly the rural areas in upstate New York.

But we have to be sure that people are ready to do those jobs, and that is why I propose technology bonds and regional skills alliances to prepare people for the jobs of the new economy.

We need new incentives to create jobs, to support agriculture, to reduce airfares and to lower electric rates. I look forward to working with Senator Schumer and all of the people throughout the state, particularly upstate and in depressed areas downstate, so that we can look back on this year and this convention and say that we did what was necessary to provide the jobs that would keep young people who want to stay in Western and Central and Southern New York. That will be our first priority in the Senate.

But we also have to make sure that our state and our country are not divided. We have to work for one New York and one America. I hope that this year, even before I am in Washington, we will finally have state and federal laws against hate crimes.

It is just not right. No New Yorker, no American, should be the target of violence on account of their race, their gender, their religion, their disability or their sexual orientation. We must stand against hate wherever it rears its ugly head.

We also have to be sure that we are up to meeting the challenges that are around the corner. Yes we want to reap the benefits of the Internet revolution, but we also want to protect the privacy of our financial, personal and medical records.

We want to grow our economy but we want to do it while protecting our environment and the health of our children and grandchildren.

One of the ways we will get more help on all of these issues, is continuing Senator Moynihan's fight for New York's fair share from Washington. If we are able to get back some of those dollars that we send to Washington, that will enable local government to lower our property taxes and use those dollars to meet the issues we face right here at home.

In addition to working with you, I pledge that I will also stand against those policies that would hurt New York and America. And I will need your help to do that. Together we must stand against a Republican leadership that is set on irresponsible fiscal policies that threaten to return us to the bad old days of sky-rocketing deficits and recurring recessions.

You know one thing that the President is fond of saying is that when he became President, once again, the rules of arithmetic were followed in Washington. Well, we need to be sure that they stay in place and that is one of the many reasons why we must elect Al Gore President of the United States.

We also need a President like Al Gore to stand with us against any attempt to restrict a woman's right to choose and against any Supreme Court nominee who would do so.

And let's all pledge to stand against the mean-spirited politics of revenge and retribution that put partisanship before progress.

As I travel this state, what I hear from people in every county is their hopes and dreams and aspirations for their children and themselves.

I have heard countless stories - sitting on back porches and standing in backyards, sitting around kitchen tables, walking through supermarkets and in every place you can imagine. These stories have been real; they have touched me.

But you know I have also heard stories that have left a knot in my stomach, and have really said to me - nobody's paying attention, nobody knows how hard it is, nobody cares.

So what is this election really about? As I said, it is not about candidates. It is though, about our children, and about our families and about our futures.

It is about Donna Centrella, a cancer patient in Massena who knows first hand what thousands and thousands of other New Yorkers know - what it means to confront a serious illness without health insurance. We owe it to Donna and so many others like her, to make sure that she gets the treatment she needs and that we all get the health insurance we deserve.

This election is about Central Islip High School and so many other schools I have been in throughout the state. As I walked through the halls of Central Islip with the principal, doors opened on classrooms that used to be closets. I was told that it is so overcrowded that there is no space to offer students the extra classrooms they need to prepare for the new Regents exams. We owe it to Principal John Smith and his teachers and students to invest in our schools so that the next generation of New Yorkers is ready to lead us forward in to a new century.

What is this election about?

Well, it is about Jill and Robert Kneer whom Chuck Schumer and I met. They work full time both of them - and they are struggling to cover the tuition costs for two children already in college and a third who will enroll in the fall. We owe it to the Kneers and tens of thousands of others to give them the support and relief they need because if they have a child who is motivated and wants to go to college there will be no financial obstacles.

What is this election about?

Well it is about Marie Kaplan. A breast cancer survivor who believes with all of her heart that there are environmental connections to her illness. She is worried about her daughter and all of our daughters, and we owe it to her to invest in the medical research to find out once and for all, why so many areas of our state have higher than average rates of cancer and asthma and other diseases.

If we look at all of these stories we know that there are nearly 19 million stories. There are stories in every community in this state and I have heard them from people throughout the state.

I have heard them from young entrepreneurs starting jobs in Buffalo that cannot find people to fill those jobs even though they pay \$60,000 a year.

I have heard it from single moms in Albany who are not getting any child support and are working full time and are stretched so thin they do not know how they are going to hold it together.

I have seen and I have listened, and I have learned. And I know that we owe it to every one of these people to make sure we give our best efforts to build on the progress we have made but we must not allow ourselves to become complacent. We cannot say that everything is fine, because we know its not. We must have that same can-do spirit of hope and optimism that built this state in the first place.

There is much we can do and much we must do.

In six months New Yorkers will vote for a President and I know that everyone here will do all we can to ensure that Al Gore is the choice of New York and America.

And in six months New Yorkers will elect a new Senator. I have said in many different places, that when it comes time to vote, I do not believe this election is about me or about my opponent.

I believe it comes down to some very simple questions we have to ask ourselves. Will we pull together as a state? Will we decide that there is no upstate or downstate or rural, suburban or urban or black or white or brown but just one New York unified and committed to doing the very best for every child, everywhere, in every corner of New York?

Will we therefore work together, toward our common mission of lifting up all of our children and families to ensure that there are no more forgotten New Yorkers?

Will we seize this moment and commit ourselves to work as hard as we can to lift the sights of all our children, to ease the burdens of all our elderly, sick and vulnerable citizens, to spark the enterprising genius of all our young people to make

our state all it can be?

If the answer to those questions is "yes" then that is the resounding answer we should take forward from this hall. This is the chance of a lifetime and the test by what we will be judged, on is whether we as a party and as a people, are up to meeting the challenge.

I believe we are. I know that we can do this together. If you will help me, I will work my heart out to make it happen.

Thank you all very much.

Something to say?
Write me a note!