

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR
"CULTURE COUNTS: A CONFERENCE ON FINANCING,
RESOURCES, AND THE ECONOMICS OF
CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"
FLORENCE, ITALY
OCTOBER 7, 1999**

Thank you very much, and I am delighted to be here at this very important conference. I would like to begin by thanking my good friend Jim Wolfensohn and the directorate of the World Bank for inviting me to be a part of this conference. I also want to applaud the bank's commitment to culture and the way in which the bank has included culture among the core areas to be addressed in the Comprehensive Development Framework.

Let me also thank Director-General Gianfranco Facco Bonetti and the government of Italy for hosting us here in Florence, a city that is truly a cultural capital of the world and one that draws millions and millions of visitors because of the treasures that are so well displayed here. I also thank the government of Italy and the government of the city of Florence for supporting this conference.

I know you have already had three productive days talking about the importance of culture in sustainable development. You have been discussing ways in which financing and resources can be made more available for culture. There are many important points in this discussion that bear attention and that I hope will serve as the basis for further conversations among cultural ministers and representatives, but also joining with economic and finance ministers and social ministers as well. I further hope that the conference creates the kind of

public and private dialogue that is important for the furtherance of the appreciation of culture in the lives of individuals and societies around the globe.

I would not take your time in repeating the issues that you have already discussed and about which you have so much expertise. But I would like to speak to you as someone who has been privileged to travel widely, to see some of the world's most priceless cultural treasures and traditions, and to listen to the challenges and hopes of families – and especially to hear the voices of women and children – who are struggling to build better lives for themselves. I would like to add just a few modest strategies and suggestions for supporting cultural development to ones you have already discussed.

Over the past seven years, I have represented the United States on nearly every continent but for Antarctica, and I have met hundreds—indeed thousands—of men, women, and children who have talked to me and shown me with pride their homes, their crafts, their treasures, their museums, their institutions, and the fabric that makes up their lives. Like many of you, I have seen some of those treasures that are known throughout the world. I have walked along the reflecting pool of the Taj Mahal. I have seen with my own eyes the Door of No Return on Goree Island in Senegal. In both those places one could not help

but be provoked to think: in the first, about the enduring love that was shining in those shimmering waters, and in the other, the doorway that led so many of my fellow countrymen on their horrifying journey to slavery. Each of those instances was a provocative moment, and there have been many others, whether it is sitting in one of the great cathedrals of Europe and watching the sun stream through the stained glass or standing in awe before one of the artistic treasures in this city.

It is at those moments that I believe many of us are overcome by the richness, the diversity, and the legacy of the human experience. Each of these monuments has sprung from the mind and muscle of our forebears. And each has the power to take us back to civilizations in the recent or distant past. As we look at places that are so well known to us, we also have to see those smaller, quieter places where culture is living today. From the Great Wall of China to the Western Wall in Jerusalem, you can see how culture is being lived out on a day-to-day, minute-by-minute basis. But you could also see how young people look so similar today, dressed very much the same in brand-name t-shirts, eating the same brand-name hamburgers, finding their dialogue and their imaginations fired by the same kinds of TV and movie characters, evidence of the globalization of popular culture in our time.

When I think, then, of globalized popular culture juxtaposed against some of the world's most unique cultural treasures, I am particularly reminded of the urgency that we must give to preserve and nurture culture in sustainable development in what often appears to be a throw-away world.

Globalization in itself is neither good nor bad. Technological progress, the Internet, faxes, satellites, jet travel have indeed brought our world closer together. And more than at any other time in human history, the world has the knowledge, the skills, and the wealth to empower people – especially those living in the developing world – with the choices and opportunities to live healthier and more fulfilling lives.

But we have also seen first-hand how globalization and development can threaten cherished traditions and cultures, how globalization can create consumers, but not citizens. We know from the newspaper headlines stories of in-laws burning brides because their dowries failed to yield color TV sets, or of poor people in every region of the world spending hard-earned money on products they think represent modern culture.

President Havel of the Czech Republic has spoken and written at length about globalization and the homogenization of our desires and tastes. He

argues that now, though, there is already a rebellion against globalization. He sees, as I see, the desires of so many to assert their identity against mass culture fueled by globalization. In his words, "Many of the great problems we face today . . . have their origin in the fact of this global civilization, which is no more than a thin veneer over the sum of human awareness." Beneath that thin veneer, people are striving for identity and feeling a great need to set themselves apart from one another. Cultures and peoples who feel they have been marginalized by globalization are demanding to be heard, and some are even taking drastic steps to be so heard. We have seen some of the worst evidence of this in wars and ethnic cleansing, in the threats and terrorism of religions fundamentalists.

That is why in this era of globalization this conference is so timely, because it is essential that we respect the diversity of cultures and that we give all people the opportunities to preserve and practice their traditions. And that is why whenever we consider strategies for economic and social development around the world, we must not forget the importance of culture.

Now, I would imagine that there are many in the countries from where all of you came, and others who are observing this conference, who might wonder why so many people committed to tackling the "hard" issue of

alleviating poverty – people committed to bringing education and health care and water purification and sanitation and transportation and communication to disadvantaged communities – might gather here in Florence to discuss what still too many believe is a luxury, that of culture and the role of culture in development. But as this conference so rightly says, when it comes to alleviating poverty, culture counts. It counts for economic development, where the restoration of historic areas and monuments can attract tourism, and the revitalization of traditional crafts can attract business and investment. It counts for social development, because we have learned over and over again that we cannot improve the quality of life without improving the soul of life. And culture is the soul of life. It is what gives us roots, gives our lives meaning, it is what binds us to each other.

The American writer William Faulkner once said, “The past is never dead. It is not even past.” Not only the blood, but the experiences and hopes of our ancestors course through our veins. And only through their languages and legends, through their still-existing monuments and still-living traditions, can we understand who we are, where we came from, and what we want to be.

Just think of what has happened in the ten years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, as people have discovered their long-suppressed culture and felt

compelled to express it in many diverse ways. Just a few days ago in Warsaw, I visited the Lauder School, where scores of children were studying Hebrew and Jewish traditions in a place where it was thought that would never occur again.

Four years ago, in Mongolia, I met children who in the days of Communism had never been permitted to read about their great ancestor, Ghengis Khan, or to find materials for school in their native language. In those two places, very far from one another, Warsaw and Ulan Bator, I saw children – children expressing themselves and looking for ways to connect their present with their past. As I listened to the children sing a traditional song in Warsaw, I thought how extraordinary it was that they would now be able to worship and speak their own language, to honor the ways of their ancestors without fear. When I returned from Mongolia after hearing the stories of the young Mongolian children who could not even imagine their past because there was no written material or other text to provide that guidance to them, I worked with their government to procure Mongolian-language textbooks so that those children, too, would have the right to express and understand their culture and history.

Throughout our century, we have seen the waste and tragedy that can occur when we take a culturally illiterate approach to development. How many

health clinics that have been funded by the World Bank or UNESCO or UNICEF or governments have failed because they could not serve the communities that desperately needed them because aid workers failed to respect local mores and customs? How many tons of farm machinery have been left rusting in fields because donors never asked the farmers whether they wanted the equipment in the first place? How many roads to nowhere sit abandoned in the countryside because local residents had not been consulted on the placement of such roads?

For the sake of progress we have uprooted tens of thousands from ancestral villages and transferred them into high-rise apartments that offered modern amenities but attracted crime and alienated residents. For the sake of progress we have knocked down historic buildings and replaced them with parking lots. For the sake of progress we have built roads through the countryside and destroyed centuries-old, time-tested methods of irrigation.

That is why we must bring a new cultural literacy and cultural respect to all of our development strategies – from health care to education to safe shelter to sanitation and clean water to transportation and agriculture. Cultural respect and preservation must become indelibly linked to progress and development. The World Bank – and so many of you who represent foundations and

governments – have helped lead the way, both by making sure that development projects reflect the lives and traditions of the people they serve, and by investing in culture for its own sake.

Let me mention one particular strategy that I have seen first-hand in the last year. Last spring, in Cairo, I visited a medieval neighborhood that was coming back to life because of efforts to restore a twelfth-century mosque and other historic buildings. The corrosive effects of time, pollution, and rising groundwater had begun to destroy the structures. And like so many other urban centers struggling with rapid population growth, living and health conditions had deteriorated. The renovations were, however, spurring the increased development of other buildings and attracting more tourists and business back to the community. The work that was done there was both culturally literate and sensitive, and I was pleased that the U.S. government, through USAID, was supporting this and similar efforts in Morocco and India and China.

For the first time in the history of humankind, more people are living in cities than in countrysides. And as urban populations continue to grow, projects to restore and re-purpose historic structures and to upgrade sanitation and infrastructure can be essential to ensuring the continuity and strength of communities. Through such projects an entire neighborhood can be mobilized

and empowered to rehabilitate historic traditions and at the same time to solve problems such as those caused by rising groundwater. Traditional craftsmen can find new employment and businesses can prosper from well-managed tourism.

In addition to all the recommendations you have made for "Creating Capacities for Sustainable Development," let me add just two more:

First, I believe it is important to support more museums and cultural institutions in the developing world, places where cultures are most threatened by globalization. I often think of a struggling museum I visited in Africa. There was only one air-conditioned room in this beautiful old building that had been turned into the national museum. And in that one air-conditioned room, in a closet full of cardboard boxes, were kept some of the most precious artifacts of our human history. The museum guide took out the boxes one by one and opened them, and inside, wrapped in thin cotton, were human skulls more than a million years old. I think of those skulls – some of the most priceless artifacts of humanity – stored in those flimsy boxes, and wonder how many more irreplaceable objects are at risk of disintegration and destruction. We must do more to help these nations and their governments restore their treasures, store them safely, and display them appropriately. The answer is not

to remove them from their countries of origin, but to keep them close to the people, where they belong, by offering appropriate aid.

That is why I was very excited to hear about an innovative idea called the "Culture Bank." With the help of Peace Corps volunteers and a few international NGOs, the people of a village in Northern Mali have found an ingenious way to keep their local treasures in the community and to promote business development at the same time. They have started a "culture bank" that offers small loans to people who agree to lend an object of historic value to the community museum as collateral. That way, families who need money for seeds for harvest or another goat to milk or whatever other business venture they are engaged in for their daily income are not tempted to sell their treasures to tourists who will take them out of the villages. So far, the bank has had a 100 percent repayment rate, and a new respect for cultural traditions has taken root in the community. We must find more innovative ways like these to link cultural development to economic development.

My second proposal is also very simple. I believe we should call on our children's potential to serve as leaders in cultural preservation. I would urge that we support more efforts such as the Adopt-a-Monument program that I have seen both here in Italy – in Naples and in Sicily in Palermo. As many of

you may know, it is a program that encourages schoolchildren to choose a historic monument and take responsibility for its care. In both Palermo and Naples, I saw how children had worked hard to revive centuries-old churches in their communities that had been left to deteriorate. They studied the history, they developed guided tours, they picked up garbage, and they raised funds for renovation. At each site, I was surrounded by children eager to tell me the story of their church. I could hear the pride in their voices as they recounted the historic events that had taken place within those walls.

I have heard and witnessed similar delight in the voices and eyes of children in my own country. Two years ago, the President and I created a White House Millennium Council to lead us in a celebration of the coming millennium by helping all of our citizens to "honor the past and imagine the future." I have traveled around my old country bringing attention to historic sites, encouraging local communities to come together to Save America's Treasures. That includes not only great works of art and historic buildings and natural landscapes, but what may be found in every community or even in the attics of many homes in my country. I remember visiting Hispanic children in New Mexico who had banded together to study the history of a local statue called the Southwest Pieta. They performed a play in both English and Spanish to explain the legend of this statue.

The enthusiasm that children can show for cultural preservation is also evident in a new effort in the United States called Pennies-for-Preservation. School children are raising, literally, pennies to save historic places such as the home of Harriet Tubman, the famous ex-slave who in the nineteenth century became a leading abolitionist who led other slaves to safety and freedom. Though their contributions were modest, their interest in the fate of this historic place was priceless.

Each of the children I met from Adopt-a-Monument or Southwest Pieta or Pennies-for-Preservation also have gained a new appreciation for the rich cultural legacy of their ancestors and therefore are likely to show more respect for the culture in which they live.

There is no reason why these efforts cannot be transplanted, especially to children living in countries struggling to preserve their cultural treasures. Anyone who has ever seen the concentration a child can bring to a hobby or a sports event or to a story that is being told knows that children have a tremendous capacity for soaking up knowledge and history. They are innate curators and preservationists.

So why not, in this age of globalization, remind them early of their

unique and diverse heritages and help them learn to take responsibility for preservation? Teach them to respect culture and recognize the stake they have in its preservation and maintenance for future generations. If we do work with such children we may also see other results flowing from these efforts.

I have met so-called "at-risk" children – those at risk of dropping out of school or becoming violent or criminals. And with those young children we have seen time and time again that if given the opportunity to participate in the arts and culture, they often bloom. Studies have shown that arts programs, more than any other, are most effective in bringing out the intellectual and creative potentials of at-risk children and keeping them out of trouble. Each year at the White House, we give out the "Coming Up Taller Awards" to recognize model programs, and I've been told countless times by young men and women that if it had not been for their writing or arts or performance or dance classes, they would be on the streets or in jail. These children know what you know: Culture counts.

In a mere 85 days, we will be celebrating the dawn of a new millennium. As we look back at these past 1,000 years, we can see that as a people we have made much progress. We have cured diseases thought incurable and managed to lengthen and improve the quality of life. We have circled the earth in every

imaginable way -- boats and planes and even balloons. We have seen the effects of space shuttles and fiber-optic cables as they have stretched our imagination and brought us closer together.

But nothing has changed what we might very well call the values that define us most, values that exist between the economy and the government, values that really lie in the middle between our economic and our governmental activity and that make our life worth living -- our family and our faiths, our work and freedom, our creative expression and knowledge, our associations. In other words, our culture. So if we want to see the 21st Century be as rich as it can be, and if we hope that our children will respect their own cultures and the cultures of others, then we have to make culture count. And we have to link culture to economic and social development. And by doing so, we will make a statement that is a statement of values about who we are as a people and what kind of future we think we can make together.

Thank you for thinking through these issues and for ensuring that culture counts in the future.

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President Havel of the Czech Republic has spoken and written at length about globalization and the homogenization of our desires and tastes. He

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argues that now, though, there is already a rebellion against globalization. He sees, as I see, the desires of so many to assert their identity against mass culture fueled by globalization. In his words, "Many of the great problems we face today . . . have their origin in the fact of this global civilization, which is no more than a thin veneer over the sum of human awareness." Beneath that thin veneer, people are striving for identity and feeling a great need to set themselves apart from one another. Cultures and peoples who feel they have been marginalized by globalization are demanding to be heard, and some are even taking drastic steps to be so heard. We have seen some of the worst evidence of this in wars and ethnic cleansing, in the threats and terrorism of religions fundamentalists.

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**“Save America’s Treasures”
Visit to the Breed Street Shul
Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**

**Los Angeles, California
December 10, 1999**

Thank you all so much. Thank you. I am delighted to be here. I am delighted to see all of you here, and that you’ve had a chance to hear from so many leaders of this community. I want to start by thanking some of the people who haven’t been thanked, but who certainly entertained us well. And that is all of the bands and the choirs. I have a list here: the Tiara Latin Music Band, the Valley Beth Shalom Day School Choir, the mariachi band, the Milken Community High School, and another mariachi band—two mariachi bands—as well as a clesmer band. Let’s give them a hand and thank them for coming out today to be with all of us. (Applause.)

I want to thank the Councilman for his years of effort. Councilman Alatorre has been on the front lines of making this day happen. I want to thank your colleagues on the Los Angeles City Council. I want to thank the Getty Trust and everyone associated with the Trust. And the National Trust for Historic Preservation, represented by Richard Moe, its president. I am delighted and I appreciated very much what Steve Sass said today, and I want to thank him for that moving and eloquent statement.

And I particularly am pleased that we can be joined by your congressman, who truly is a rising star in Washington, doing an excellent job representing the people of this district and moving forward on a lot of important issues. Thank you so much, Congressman, for your good work. (Applause.) And I am so pleased to be able to stand here and say, “Governor-Elect Gray Davis.” That sounds so good to me. (Applause.)

You know, this Sunday, on the first night of Hanukah, my husband and I will be in Jerusalem. (Applause.) And we will be joining Jews all over the world, including those here in Los Angeles, in lighting the menorah and beginning the Festival of Lights. We will think about all of you and we will think about what it means to celebrate, to think about others, to have a sense of our eternal connection, one to the other.

We will not only be lighting the candles on the menorah in Jerusalem, but we will also then go to Bethlehem to light a Christmas tree. And I know that for many of us in this crowd, our religious traditions at this time of year are extremely important. Many of you here in Boyle Heights will take part in a Peace Posada tonight, and honor the Virgin of Guadalupe this Saturday. (Applause.)

And we can all give extra thanks because this community has come together to honor the past and imagine the future. That is the theme that the President and I chose to celebrate what we think of the millennium, and how we should consider what we as Americans have to be thankful for: the many blessings that we enjoy in our country today.

This Shul, and the work that we are doing together to preserve it for future generations, is an important statement. It's a statement that we believe that there must be continuity between generations, and there must be connections among people; that this great city of Los Angeles and this great state of California have really been built because of the countless—the millions upon millions—of individual decisions and efforts and hard work of the people who came here and called it their own.

It has, as you might know, one of the largest Jewish communities in the world, and one of the largest Latino communities in the world, right here in Los Angeles. (Applause.) And Boyle Heights has served as a gateway for so many people who come to this country, come to this state and this city looking for better opportunities. That's why it is so significant that we would be here in this neighborhood today to preserve this extraordinary building that represents the lives, the dreams, and the aspirations of so many.

I am so pleased that the Getty will be donating \$15,000 to help save the Shul, and to do the work that is necessary to make sure that the rains don't ruin the inside. And I'm also pleased to announce that the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles will also donate \$15,000 for this important beginning preservation work. (Applause.)

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has taken on the Save America's Treasure campaign. And you heard from Mr. Moe. He is representing the private sector that, working together with the public sector, can make the difference in whether or not we truly do honor the past. And we have some members of the Save America's Treasures Committee here with us, and I want to thank all of them.

I particularly want to thank the Getty, however. Because if any of you have yet had the opportunity to visit the Getty—how many of you have been to the new Getty? Well I hope all of you get a chance to go. Not to overwhelm the facility with even more millions of visitors, but it is an extraordinary commitment to art and culture and architecture here in Los Angeles. And what the Getty is doing by making this \$1.1 million contribution to the Trust will enable communities all over the United States to begin to save their own treasures.

I'm also pleased to say that the federal government will do its part to help. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which many of you know as FEMA, has made a commitment to provide funds to the Breed Street Shul to preserve its foundation and prevent more damage in the future, especially from earthquakes. (Applause.) This commitment is a part of FEMA's larger, new commitment to preserve our nation's heritage. And I am very grateful to FEMA.

But what is really special about this announcement is the way so many parts of the community have come together—certainly the Jewish Historical Society and the Jewish Federation, also though the Boyle Heights Neighbors Organization, the East Los Angeles Community Corporation, the L.A. Family Housing Corporation, the Los Angeles Conservancy, and all the residents who live in this area.

You know, there was on public television recently a film called "Meet Me at Brooklyn and Soto." And once it first played on public TV, I'm told that there were calls that came in from people who wanted to help: a teacher at Roosevelt High whose class wanted to take on the Shul as a community service project. All the Roosevelt High people—thank you for that! Excellent work! (Applause.) The Latino painter who said he didn't have any money but he wanted to paint over the graffiti. The neighbors around this area who want to plant flower beds and make this entire building beautiful again.

So there is so much going on here in Boyle Heights that I am so pleased that we could gather together on this afternoon to talk about how important this effort is. It's important certainly on its own, but it's also important symbolically. Because what I have found as I've traveled around our country is that when we start to honor our past and imagine the future, we really see each other in a different light. You know, the new immigrants in Boyle Heights today can think back about those immigrants who came 60 and 70 years ago, who did not speak English, they spoke Yiddish; who did not know where they were going to get the opportunity they sought; who tried to keep their families together; who tried to keep their traditions together, while they fully entered into the American experience. And now new immigrants and new generations of Americans are going through the same experience.

We learn by looking backwards so that we can better know how to move forwards. And when we honor this experience, by honoring this particular building, we honor the past. And we honor those who have made the past for all of us.

I do hope that I'll be able to come back to Brooklyn and Soto, that I'll be able to come back to this Shul when it is alive again, when once again it is open, when it has a museum to teach about what happened when Jewish immigrants came here, but it also is a place for art classes or music classes or community discussion groups and meetings. When it is a place that truly represents both the past and the future.

I've been very honored to go to so many of those places around our country. Just last week I was in New York at Queens College, where we honored Louis Armstrong and where I went to his house that will serve as a place to memorialize his music and his contributions to civil rights and the betterment of America.

I know that from here I'll be going to the Broadway theater district, and I'll be visiting the L.A. Theater, and I'll know as I visit that that individuals made that renovation possible. Because members of the community of Los Angeles have cared about this city, we can see so many changes that really do represent the kind of commitment to the future and the Save America's Treasures effort that I believe is so important.

You know, the word "Hanukah" means rededication. And that is, in many ways, what we are doing today. This Shul is a dream in the making, and today we can dream of a future when it is open and welcoming to people from all parts of the community. And we can imagine what kind of future that will mean in this neighborhood, to have this beautiful building vibrant and dynamic again.

I hope that all of you will share the excitement we feel in not only helping this particular building be renovated and reopened, but in looking for other ways to honor the past and imagine the future. Just think of what all of us could do—every single one of us—if we start taking a look at what is around us: a building covered in graffiti; a library lacking in resources; photographs that are yellowing; or a cemetery overgrowing with weeds. We can say to ourselves, “I can play a role in that.”

You know, one of my favorite stories about the Save America’s Treasures effort is this: One day, sitting in his living room, a sergeant in the U.S. Army was just watching television when he saw that one of our veteran cemeteries in Washington, D.C., was totally overgrown. And he thought to himself, How did this happen, and why did people let it happen? And he was about to just sort of flip the channel when he suddenly realized, You know, I could do something about that. And he did. He got together with a lot of his friends, and one Saturday they went in and they cleaned that cemetery up. And they put some fresh American flags and flowers in front of those graves. He was saving one of America’s treasures. He was honoring the past sacrifice of people who we today are once again honoring as well.

You know, President Kennedy once said, “On this earth, God’s work is our own.” Well, each of us has that chance, by reaching out to another person, by helping a child, by cleaning up a street. And by being here today, all of us are saying: We care about America. We care about its past. We care about what we are doing today. And we care enough to help build a better future for all of us. And I thank you for being part of building that better future.

Thank you all so much. (Applause.)

MELANNE VERVEER

Press

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Speeches -

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**EXCERPTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF
THE LEADERS OF THE DIFFERENT FAITHS REPRESENTED
IN TURKEY CONVENED AT IRCICA ON THE OCCASION OF
THE VISIT OF MRS. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Welcoming address of IRCICA Director General
Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu**

Dear Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, distinguished guests,
I am delighted to welcome you to IRCICA. On behalf of the Centre and myself, I would like to thank you for the honour given to us by your visit. I also welcome the distinguished guests who accepted the invitation to attend this meeting. Your visit to our Centre is another positive step in your efforts towards promoting inter-cultural understanding, a mission which we share. Our Centre, which was established fifteen years ago as the first intergovernmental cultural institution of the OIC and also the first international organisation to be set up in Istanbul, endeavours to strengthen cooperation among Islamic countries and to promote understanding between the Muslim world and other nations. With this aim, we try to inform world opinion about the civilisation of Islam, the history and culture of Muslim nations, their cultural and scientific exchanges with other civilisations, particularly with the West. For many years now, we have been participating in various forums which brought together representatives of different religions. We have also undertaken a great many activities in cooperation with major international organisations and with hundreds of institutions engaged in Islamic studies, including eminent institutions in the United States of America, such as the Library of Congress, the Center for Middle East Studies of Harvard University, and the Middle East Studies Association of North America. Around three hundred universities, research centres and libraries in America and approximately ten thousand institutions in other parts of the world receive our publications. The main purpose of these activities is to present a true image of the Islamic civilisation and foster affinities between peoples of different cultures. We included a number of relevant research projects in our work programs and are currently building up the endowment of a foundation that we have established to help the success and continuity of these efforts.

We believe that inter-religious dialogue ought to be based on the principles of tolerance and respect of others which are shared by all religions and shape the ideal human values of major civilisations. Guidance comes from the religions themselves. All three revealed religions teach man to strive to live his short life on earth in peace. Despite this, relations between religions and cultures still suffer from misunderstandings, intolerance and distrust. Some go so far as to suggest that conflict and confrontation between civilisations are inevitable. Furthermore, statements are made characterising Islam as violent - a label that is in total contradiction with the essence of Islam, a religion of peace. Such assertions overlook the fact that economic, political or other reasons of acts of violence are fundamentally the same in all cultural or religious contexts.

These and other views prejudicial to inter-faith relations are fraught with danger and can be disastrous for the future of mankind, all the more so in the present international environment where new balances of power replace the old bi-polar system. This process, more than ever, calls for joint efforts to prevent religious hatred, which went to the extent of ethnic cleansing in the very recent war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Therefore, inter-faith dialogue carries the utmost importance in our time. I believe that your valuable efforts, and in particular this meeting at IRCICA, will help to reinforce this understanding. Your visit to Istanbul is also highly significant because this is a city which for over five centuries has been one of those rare lands of peace where peoples of different religions live together in an environment of perfect harmony. Your presence in the atmosphere of this historic Yildiz Palace, with the distinguished representatives of our different religious communities, is another meaningful manifestation of inter-cultural dialogue. Towards this goal, our Centre, for its part, will continue to make all efforts possible in cooperation with the institutions concerned all over the world. ...

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**Address of Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton,
First Lady of the United States of America**

Thank you very much, Director General. I feel privileged to be here, and I feel privileged to be here with all of you. Istanbul, as the Director General has already said, has been and remains the meeting place of the world's great religions. I am grateful that the leaders of these religions should gather here this afternoon to assist me in understanding and being part of a dialogue on behalf of peace and tolerance and respect among all people. It is an honour for my daughter and me to be here at the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture. My daughter has studied Islamic history in school in the United States and has a deep and abiding interest in Islam.

My visit today to just a few of the religious sites that are part of this great city's heritage underscores the deep history and importance of this city and this country to religion. I also had the opportunity yesterday to speak to leaders of the communities of business and academia and other institutions, and I spoke about the dramatic costs of ethnic and religious conflict in the past and in the present.

I saw at first hand in Bosnia just a few days ago, what the failure to respect and tolerate can bring to innocent people. While I was there I met with some religious leaders and leaders of the communities represented in Bosnia, and we discussed how each of them will attempt to play a major role in bringing peace to that troubled land. They know very well that reconstruction consists not only of rebuilding the physical plant, repairing the houses, once again opening the roads, and enabling people to live their lives, but it also involves spiritual reconstruction and reconciliation. They told me they knew that peace cannot be realised unless there is both physical and spiritual renewal, and unless peace, tolerance, respect and understanding replace the hatred and violence that marred their lives.

The leaders gathered here already know the importance of dialogue, community, tolerance and reconciliation. And I am very grateful that we have such leaders representing the major monotheistic religions here in this city, because this city has so much symbolic and religious importance to people throughout the world. As the Director General

said, we face enormous challenges in the future and the religious community will have to be at the forefront in assisting the rest of us in meeting those challenges, in creating conditions for coexistence and harmony, in making it possible for all religions and religious people to exemplify their own spirituality in ways that enhance their lives and the quality of life among all of us. I am very grateful that I have this opportunity to meet with leaders who stand against those who, as the Director General said, would use and misuse religion for political or other reasons. And I am also grateful that there are efforts such as those that emanate from this Centre to bridge the divides that too often separate us, man from man, woman from woman, people from people, and instead, attempt to bring reconciliation to all the children of God.

I look forward to our opportunity to exchange ideas and views, and I am appreciative of the chance I have been given to listen to these leaders gathered here who speak for so many others and whose voices have been strong on behalf of the need for all of us to be humbler, to work harder and to understand our obligations to make it possible for each of us to fulfil the divine mission that we have been given as believers. And I thank you very much for convening this gathering.

Speeches on Philanthropy (giving, service, etc.)

- HRC speeches
- HRC videos (prefer speeches)
- POTUS remarks

Look for Americorps, mentoring,
volunteering, etc.

Please find.
 Already have.

X Not in binders.
 - Not applicable.

01/18/93	Service	Faces of Hope Address	D.C.	Draft	Folger Library
12/06/94	Service	Promotion of Non-violence	D.C.	Draft	PeaceLinks Pe
03/21/95	Service	New Covenant	D.C.	Trans	Interfaith Imp Awards
04/25/95	Service	Americorps Safetynet Project	New York, New York		Volunteer Pro
05/30/95	Service	Social development	via satellite	Draft	Elie Wiesel Fo
06/02/95	Service	Service by Older Americans	Michigan, Escanaba	Draft	Bresnan Supe Awards
08/08/95	Service	Community Foundations	Video	Draft	Conf. for Com
10/21/95	Service	Leadership Forum	Video	Draft	Nat'l Ctr. for N Boards
10/25/95	Service	Community service	Video	Draft	Action for Bo
10/25/95	Service	International service	Video	Draft	Council of Jew Federations
11/08/95	Service	Urban League social investment	Video	Draft	National Urba
11/08/95	Service	Philanthropy	Video	Draft	Nat'l Society o
04/26/96	Service	Community Service	D.C., White House, OEOB	Draft	President's Se
05/15/96	Service	Support for House of Ruth	D.C.	Draft	Congressional Luncheon
09/13/96	Service	Private, Govt solutions to probs.	Video	Draft	Nat'l Neighbo
03/13/97	Service	Young people volunteering	Video	Draft	New World F Awards
04/23/97	Service	Socially responsible business	Video	Draft	GSD&M's Ide
06/09/98	Service	Innovative public policy	Video	Draft	Center for Pol
✓ 06/04/99	Service	City Year Americorp	Boston, Massachusetts	Dr/Tr	10th Annivers
09/10/98	Service	Americorps Reception	Washington, DC		
12/13/98	Service - children	HIPPY	Jerusalem, Israel	Trans	U.S. National
11/05/98	Service - Legal	Public Interest Law	Video	Draft	NAPIL
06/03/99	Service - legal	Atlanta - 6/8	OEOB 459 - Video	Draft	Atlanta Legal
01/19/98	Service- children	Reading to Children	D.C., MCI Center		Martin Luther
02/23/96	Service-Americorps	Community service	Pennsylvania, Philadelphia	Draft	Americorps Y
07/31/96	Service-Americorps	Olympic Americorps Team	Georgia, Atlanta	Draft	Roosevelt Hou
04/02/97	Service-Americorps	Young people-service	D.C.	Draft	Presidents' Su
04/09/97	Service-Americorps	Young people-service	New York, New York	Draft	NYU Nationa

✓ 11/09/93	Service-businesses	Civil society/workplace	New York, New York	Trans	Business Ente
05/07/96	Service-environmental	C&O Canal restoration	D.C.	Draft	The Thai resid
04/06/93	Service-in democracy	Liz Carpenter Lecture	Texas, Austin	Trans	University of
04/20/93	Service-in democracy	Importance of service	D.C., White House	Trans	National Yout
10/13/94	Service-in democracy	Civil Society	D.C.	Trans	Business for S
02/15/95	Service-in democracy	Service	Illinois, Park Ridge	Draft	Maine East Hi
02/15/95	Service-in democracy	Civil Society	Illinois, Chicago	Trans	Civic Federati
08/02/96	Service-in democracy	Democracy	D.C.	Trans	Bosnian Civic
10/29/96	Service-in democracy	Civil Society	Video	Draft	Women's Leag
03/05/97	Service-in democracy	Importance to democracy	Video	Draft	KCBS-TV Co
04/24/97	Service-in democracy	Democracy, civil society	Kentucky, Louisville	Draft	University of
04/29/97	Service-in democracy	Importance to Democracy	Pennsylvania, Philadelphia	Draft	Closing Cerem
05/01/97	Service-in democracy	Importance to democracy	Virginia, Arlington	Draft	Make a Differ Annual
06/04/97	Service-in democracy	Importance to democracy	Rhode Island, Providence	Draft	City Year Ral
12/12/95	Service-international	American private aid to Bosnia	D.C., White House	Draft	Bosnia Event
12/13/95	Service-international	Humanitarian Aid	Video	Draft	Madrid Huma Summit
05/01/96	Service-international	Humanitarian Aid	D.C., White House	Trans	10th Ann. of C Tragedy
01/29/96	Service-intertational	Humanitarian Aid	D.C., White House	Draft	Bosnian Hum
10/09/93	Service-legal	Yale Law Medal of Merit	Connecticut, New Haven	Draft	Yale law stude
05/18/94	Service-legal	Volunteer legal services	Video	Draft	San Diego Vo Lawyers
✓ 03/24/95	Service-legal	Legal Aid	New York, New York	Trans	Legal Aid Soc
08/08/95	Service-legal	Community Outreach Program	Video	Draft	125th Anniv.
06/21/96	Service-legal	Services to children	Video	Draft	National Cent Law
06/10/97	Service-legal	Legal and community	D.C.	Draft	Washington L

		service			Committee
✓ 06/10/98	Service-legal	Arkansas Bar Association	Video	Draft	Arkansas Bar
07/09/98	Service-legal	Women in Federal Law	Washington, DC	Tran	Interagency C
04/25/95	Service-legal and other	Public Service	New York, New York	Draft	NYU Anl. Sur
09/28/94	Service-Legal Services Corp	Legal Services Corporation	D.C.	Draft	20th Annivers
✓ 08/02/96	Service-Legal Services Corp.	Legal Services Corporation	Florida, Orlando	Trans	ABA Conv. Y
08/03/96	Service-Legal Services Corp.	Legal Services Corporation	Florida, Orlando	Draft	Legal Service
✓ 07/14/93	Service-natural disasters	Rebuilding after hurricane	Hawaii, Kauai	Trans	Kauai Hyatt
10/10/95	Service-natural disasters	Natural Disaster Awareness	Video	Draft	Natural Disast Day
05/11/96	Service-natural disasters	Recovering from Disaster	Arkansas, Fort Smith	Draft	Fort Smith Re
05/10/96	Service-participation	Challenges in democracy	D.C.	Draft	Center for Pol
04/30/97	Service-Peace Corps	Jordan volunteers	D.C., White House, OEOB	Draft	Reception for
09/13/96	Service-public	Support for public service	Video	Draft	Eagleton Insti
07/03/97	Service-public	Public service	Video	Draft	American Soc
09/30/97	Service-public	importance of service	Miami FL	Transcr ipt	Miami Herald
09/19/95	Service-social development	Importance of NGOs	Video	Draft	Annual NGO
06/10/98	Service-social work	School Centennial	Video	Draft	Columbia Uni Work
✓ 04/14/94	Service-to children	Humanitarian Award	New York, New York	Trans	Elie Wiesel Fo
02/08/95	Service-to children	Young Children Priority One"	D.C., White House	Draft	Kiwanis Club Council
03/13/95	Service-to children	Girl Scouts	Video	Draft	Girl Scouts' N
02/14/97	Service-to children	Lawyers as reading tutors	D.C.	Draft	Holland&Kni
02/21/97	Service-to children	Violence in schools	D.C.	Draft	Garrison Elem
04/23/97	Service-to children	Reading volunteers	D.C., White House	Draft	Reading is Fu
07/03/97	Service-to children	Community support for families	Video	Draft	San Diego Tri
05/05/95	Service-voting	Cinco de Mayo reception	D.C.	Draft	Southwest Vo

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

(For Immediate Release)

March 24, 1995

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
AT THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY DINNER

New York, NY

MRS. CLINTON: I want to thank the Legal Aid Society. I am delighted to be here among all of you who are supporters of legal aid and particularly of the Legal Aid Society. I want to thank those of you who had so much work to do to put together this dinner, and particularly acknowledge Mr. Murray (phonetic) and Mr. Brone (phonetic) for their leadership. And I am very pleased to have the opportunity to share this award with Marty Lipton (phonetic). And I especially appreciate what he had to say this evening. I also want to say a special word of thanks to all who were dinner chairs for this dinner. At least two of them have been my lawyers. Several others I admire, and appreciate greatly their contributions to this city and state, as well as to our country.

I am pleased to be here because this award means a great deal to me, coming as it does from people whose work I appreciate and respect. And coming as it does with so much support from the private bar, which has really been the backbone for the movement for Legal Services, from its inception. Over the years, as those of you who support and work with the Legal Aid Society know so well, this Society has been the true servant of justice, not only as the oldest organized provider of legal services to the poor, but also as the largest. Year after year, you have set records for the generous support that is provided for the civil and volunteer divisions. And the volunteer division itself continues to be a model for meaningful and effective pro bono involvement.

And I particularly want to thank Lane (phonetic) for her introduction, for her personal friendship and support, but also for pointing out that there is this great partnership between the Legal Services Corporation and the work that you do here every day, and particularly in support of the volunteer division. I congratulate you, particularly all of you who are currently on the staff, for the contributions you have made and are making to the cause of equal justice. And I know that the President joins me in urging you to keep up the good work you are doing in spite of the obstacles you confront as we as a nation attempt to navigate through uncharted and sometimes unfriendly waters.

I would also like to acknowledge the importance of Alex Forger to the Legal Services Corporation. While I know he is missed here in New York, we are fortunate to have his leadership and talents in Washington. And he is doing a magnificent job at perhaps the most critical moment in the life of the Legal Services Corporation. We are very grateful for that, Alex.

Coming here tonight, I was reminded of my first real involvement with legal aid when I was in law school and I worked at the New Haven Legal Service Organization, which many of you know was one of the first Ford Foundation model projects to determine whether legal aid could be delivered efficiently to the poor based on a stack model. I was immediately impressed by the commitment of the lawyers and the work that was being done struck me as what the profession at bottom was really about.

When I next was involved with legal services, it was when I began teaching at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas. And I did not know that I was going to have the opportunity to teach, because at that time it was the summer of 1974 and I was engaged in another enterprise in Washington, serving on the impeachment staff of President Nixon's inquiry. (Applause) And when that ended, I was out of a job, and I called the dean of the law school, where a young man I had met during my own law school years was then teaching, and said that, "You once mentioned when I met you that if I wanted to teach, I would give you a call, so I thought maybe I'd give you a call." And he said, "Sure, you can come have a job. That's easy." And I asked, "What would I teach?" And he said, "I don't know, I'll tell you when you get here." So I showed up in late August of 1974 and he said, "Well, I want you to teach criminal law and run the legal aid clinic, and run the two prison projects for the state and federal prisons, and by the way, I want you to teach trial advocacy." That was sort of the way law schools work. I had no experience doing any of those things and immediately began trying to figure out how to start.

The very first evening I was in town ready to take on these new responsibilities, I was invited to the local County Bar Association's welcoming cocktail party for the law school faculty. The lawyer who was then the President of the local bar took me around introducing me to everyone. He introduced me to the Dean of the Chancery Court judges, by saying, "Judge, this is the new lady law professor. She is going to teach criminal law and run the Legal Aid clinic." And the judge looked down at me and said, "Well, I don't have a use for either lady law professors or legal aid clinics." And I thought, well, I'm certainly getting off on the right foot here. I always have a little trouble getting my footing in new setting in case you haven't noticed. (Laughter and applause)

But I found as many of you who find every day, and as many of you who are veterans of the legal services efforts have found in the past, that we often encounter people like that judge who

do not believe in legal services for the poor. He found all kinds of ancient statutes, going all the way back before the Magna Carta, to point out that it was illegal, immoral, impractical, and otherwise totally un-American to provide legal services for pro bono matters for simple cases. Over time, he became used to the fact, but not accepting of it, that legal Services was to stay.

And I thought that that really was the way we could describe most of the country until the past several months. I'm reminded of my own experiences because I know that it was replicated in so many communities, and is still being lived out in courtrooms and offices all over the nation. And that now we face the greatest possible challenge to the future of the provision of legal services. It has been 21 years now since the birth of this great enterprise, the Legal Services Corporation. And the LSC grantees, including the Legal Aid Society, have assisted millions and millions of people. Mothers seeking child support from absent fathers, children without access to health care, families facing homelessness, tenants living in intolerable housing conditions, welfare recipients seeking training for child care so they can work, nursing home residents deprived of the most basic care, victims of spousal abuse...and I can, as I know you are able, go on and on.

The work of Legal Services has been amplified by the pro bono participation of the many thousands of private attorneys who consider it part of their professional obligations. Federal funding and other funding has been leveraged by charitable contributions such as yours. And I know we have to continue to urge the private bar to become even more supportive, no matter what happens on the state or federal level. Many of the people here understand that and I hope will carry that message to your compatriots in our profession.

We are going to be facing a very difficult challenge in the months ahead. And I'm hoping that we will be able to demonstrate clearly why the provision of legal services to those otherwise unable to afford them is not only the right thing to do for those individual clients, but is essential for the quality of justice available to all our citizens. I know that this is particularly important because poor children are suffering special burdens and poor people today are facing an even greater array of obstacles. And tragically, in today's political climate, poor children and their families are likely to be viewed less as objects of concern, but as culprits for everything that goes wrong with society.

I recently heard a sermon in which the minister related a story in Leviticus about the ancient Israelites who annually placed all of their miseries and sins on the head of a goat. And then sent that goat off into the wilderness. And when the goat reached the wilderness, the tribe felt cleansed of all problems, all evils, all sins. That, unfortunately, is an apt parable for

what is happening in America today. In today's society, the scapegoat is poor children and their parents. And somehow, we think we can rid ourselves of all our social problems by scapegoating children and exiling them to a wilderness of greater poverty and homelessness.

So today, we find ourselves at a crucial moment in our own history, when the very notion of what we stand for as a society is at stake. Our constitution reminds us that the twin purposes of government are to secure the blessings of liberty and to establish justice. And as the President said last year in the Proclamation for National Legal Services Week, "The very nature of justice demands that it be available to all. True justice cannot be rationed, it cannot be afforded to some while others are denied the full benefit of their rights. Our Founders understood that privilege and responsibility are inextricably linked. The words 'equal justice under the law,' inscribed over the portal of our nation's highest court, represent a sound promise made to every American." I hope all of you will be sure that your voices are heard over the next weeks and months. Because all of us need those voices, but particularly the clients and the potential clients are counting on you. I hope all of you will help remind America that Legal Services is not just about providing legal help, but about offering proof that the American Dream is a promise we are still committed to fulfilling.

Let me conclude by offering a prayer by the South African poet, Alan Payton (phonetic). It seems fitting tonight, and it seems a little sad to me that it does. Here's what he said.

"Open my eyes that I may see the needs of others.
Open my ears that I may hear their cries.
Open my heart so that they need not be without succor.
Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the
 anger of the strong.
Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of
 the rich.
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed and
 use me to bring them to those places.
So open my eyes and my ears that I may this coming day
 be able to do some work of peace for Thee.

Protecting legal services for those who need the help of lawyers is a historic cause, and with your help we will continue America's commitment to justice, so that all of us in our own way will be servants of justice. Thank you very much. (Applause)

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

April 14, 1994

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
ELIE WIESEL HUMANITARIAN AWARDS,
NEW YORK CITY

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much. I am overwhelmed by this entire evening, and I am feeling not only overwhelmed but quite unworthy in the face of all of the words that have been said and all of the emotions behind those words: the hopes that they carry, and the challenges they face on the way to being fulfilled.

I was very honored when I received word that the Foundation wished to bestow this award on me. And as I have thought about being here with you this evening, I have had many mixed feelings. I certainly looked forward to spending the time that I've had the opportunity to do so with Elie and Marian tonight, two people whom I admire.

I told Elie last night that as I was putting my daughter to bed she asked me if I would be home tonight, and I told her no, I would be in New York, and what I would be doing. She immediately got out of bed and found her copy of Night and gave it to me, and said, "You might want to reread it on the way to New York."

I have been very moved and grateful for the kind words that my friends Barbara Streisand and Carly Simon, two women whom I am very grateful to for their friendship and support -- and to all of you who made this dinner possible and who support the work of this foundation.

It is important to stop on occasion, like we are doing this evening, bringing together so many in this room who represent the power of intellect, the power of money, the power of politics, the power of academia, the power of volunteers, and to spend some time thinking about the words that moved us, the stories, and perhaps rekindling our own commitment to doing what we can to take whatever action is available to each of individually and through our communities

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and our countries, to help children.

I was particularly honored that the prime minister would be here. She is someone who is facing many challenges in her country. And our country, and certainly the President, are standing ready to help. But let's think for a minute about where we are and what lies ahead of us if we really expect that our children will inherit a world safer and ready for the challenges that they face.

I was struck by the kinds of parallels between the words of a young woman whose book you may have read, who has so movingly described what it is like for a child today in the world that is too often cruel and filled with war. She wrote: boredom, shooting, shelling, people being killed, despair, hunger, misery, fear, that's my life.

The life of an innocent 11-year-old girl, a schoolgirl without a school, a child without games, without friends, without the sun, without birds, without nature, without fruit, without chocolate or sweets, with just a little powdered milk, in short, a child without a childhood. That young woman, Zlota Filipovich (phonetic), wrote those words on June 29, 1992.

Fifty years earlier another child sounded the same alarm with her own words, awakening us to the folly of indifference and the terrible toll it takes on our young. She wrote: "until all mankind, without exception, undergoes a great change, everything will be destroyed and disfigured, after which mankind will have to begin all over again." Those were Anne Frank's words.

Those were the words of another child caught up in another -- following another war. But they are the words that you could hear throughout the decades, and that if we listen we can hear today.

We can hear the cries of the children in Rwanda, Burundi. We can hear the cries of the children in Brazilian slums who are hunted by vigilantes and slaughtered at night, children in Thailand who are involuntarily ensnared in rings of prostitution and slavery, children in Somalia, starved and diseased until they are as frail as match sticks, children in Sarajevo, so numbed by violence that they no longer flinch at the sounds of bombs in their streets. Unfortunately, the persecution and the resulting fears of children knows no

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boundaries.

Here in America, not far from where we are this evening, in one of the great centers of learning and education, there are children who do not flinch at the sounds of gunfire themselves. Just this week the Carnegie corporation issued an extensive report decrying the conditions of millions of infants and children in our own nation.

As unthinkable as it may seem, over the last 30 years conditions have actually worsened for American children ages zero to three. Yes, we have made progress, and we can point to it and take pride in it, but as Elie Wiesel has reminded us often, our technological and scientific progress has outpaced our progress as moral beings, and that is certainly true when it comes to the treatment of our children.

We have machines that can detect tumors in the brain for those who are able to access them, yet 60 percent of American children are not immunized by the age of two. We have the finest libraries in the world, like this magnificent one, yet we have millions of our children who leave school at an early age, or even graduate unable to read and write adequately. We have the most elaborate and expensive system of justice that has ever been invented, yet more and more American children resolve their disputes not with words or debate, but with guns.

So in the face of this it is very hard for me to feel what I know I should feel, which is the joy of this honor. I accept it, and I'm grateful for it, but it serves in some ways as a rebuke, because I and many in this room have worked for many years advocating changes that we thought were needed to promote the well-being of children, and yet we see so many unmet needs around us.

It is not enough that we sympathize with the plight of children here and around the world. Sympathy is important, but empathy is even more important, and action is essential. We may not ever be able to comprehend the pain and suffering that many children feel during their days and nights, but we know what children need.

We know, because we try to give it to those children in our families and the children that we have any

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kind of relationship with. We know what produces healthy, productive young people. We know it starts with making sure that they have decent health care and conditions for living, educational opportunities, the right combination of love and discipline, and attention. We know what children need. We lack the will to insure that every child has the opportunity for those needs to be met.

As we are looking forward to the 21st century, a century which, as was said earlier, in some ways started with Sarajevo, and unfortunately seems to be ending there, two bookends of folly and hatred, of irrationality, of spite -- ancient enmities overcoming the present and leading into the future. We must do better, and we can start here at home by resolving that in our own lives we will make more of a commitment to the children whom we can touch.

Simple acts of kindness and understanding accumulate. Those in business can ask themselves, how do I help my workers not only be good workers but also good parents? How do I provide opportunities to them to do that? How do I extend the skills of the business community into the larger community, and provide services and resources to assist?

We've made some changes in the last year that will bear fruit. Tomorrow is not a red-letter day in America. It's tax day. But it is a red-letter day for 17 million working American families whose taxes will go down because we need to be sure that the people who are raising children in their homes in America have incentives to stay off welfare, to lift themselves out of poverty, to take care of their own families.

And yes, we are pushing a crime bill that will try to restore sanity to our streets and our neighborhoods so that children will be able to walk safely to school and play in parks again. And we will do what we can to reform a welfare system that has kept enslaved in dependency millions of mothers and children. And we intend to provide a health care system that will enable every child to have the kind of basic health care that you and I take for granted and have provided to our own children.

But beyond these programs and these changes, there is something more at stake. It is not enough just to look to the kinds of legislation or regulation, or business changes

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that are needed. This is at bottom, a moral and ethical concern. Our country has an opportunity again to recommit itself to human rights around the world and here at home. To once again make very clear that we are a great country because we value the individual dignity of each person, respect that person's rights, and provide opportunities for those responsible and willing to take advantage of them.

So it is with great pleasure I come tonight, with some trepidation that I accept this award, not feeling worthy of it, but hoping it will spur my conscience and my commitment, and also hoping that all of us will look into the eyes of the children we see on the streets, those in our schools, who are very different from us, come from very different backgrounds, and know there's a spark of the immortal in each of them, and that if we help to fan it we will not only be giving life to children, we will be giving life to ourselves and to the country we love. That's what I hope all of us can commit ourselves to.

Thank you very much.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Internal Transcript

July 14, 1993

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
AT THE KAUAI HYATT

Kauai, Hawaii

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you all. Thank you very much. The other part of the story the Governor just told is that in mid-March, Washington was under about two feet of snow, and I wanted everybody to be able to come to Kauai at that very moment. And I hope they will, from all parts of the world, because they need to come back to see what has happened here. (Applause)

I started my morning with an excellent briefing by the Governor and the Mayor and General Richardson, who is here today, who headed up what I think has to be the most remarkable and efficient response effort to a disaster that we have had in our country. I want to congratulate the General and everybody who worked with him. (Applause)

Looking at the slides and film of the destruction wrought by the hurricane this morning, I was reminded again and again by the words of the General or the representatives of FEMA or the Governor or the Mayor as to what you faced just a few months ago, the kind of devastation that wiped out so many of your homes, destroyed essential services, shut down your businesses.

And yet, at the very same time that I was viewing those slides and being reminded so forcefully of what you were up against, I heard story after story of how you responded. Yes, it is true that the federal, state, and county efforts in response, I believe, will become a model as to how governments need to work together and to streamline bureaucracies to get immediately where people are and what their needs are to be met. But the bigger story that comes out of the hurricane is what the people of this island did for themselves and for each other, the spirit of response and reaching out, the opening of arms and hearts that began almost immediately. (Applause)

As I flew over in the helicopter, and I was having areas pointed out to me, I could see in my own mind the difference between what I saw on the slide this morning and what I saw before me now. I heard about the people who showed up at the shelters with their

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chainsaws in hand, ready to go to work as soon as they were able to get out. I heard about the private contractors and the workers from the sugar cane plantations who got ready to get out and clear those roads. I heard about the courageous county workers who worked around the clock for day after day after day. I heard about the people who rushed to the food bank in order to supplement their efforts, and the people who took one another in.

That is the real story of what happened here, and it is that spirit which has rebuilt and will continue to continue the rebuilding of the island, but it is the spirit as much as the beauty that surrounds us that should welcome people from all over the world here.

The lesson of this island's response is not just told in how quickly roads were cleared, utility services restored, schools opened, businesses restarted, all of those tangible pieces of evidence about how you were able to come together. The story is really one of spirit and community, and I wish I could bottle it and take it all over our country. I wish the rest of our states could have some sense of what this state and this island were able to achieve.

As the Governor and the Mayor alluded, we've had our share of natural disasters in America in the last several years, and we're in the middle of another terrible one in our Middle West. We have learned a lot as to how to put back together the infrastructure, how to put the roof back on this beautiful hotel. But we may not have learned as well as you have what we need to do to help heal what is not seen, the people who still are not back to work, the people who are still traumatized by what happened to them. Your efforts here to deal with the heart as well as the hand, to help each other, is what I will take back with me not just tomorrow, but for the rest of my life. (Applause)

I cannot stand here in this hotel without saying a special word to the management and the employees of this Hyatt. This is a visible demonstration of what can be done, putting this hotel back into service, being already over 60 percent occupancy, being told that it will be over 80 percent occupancy next month. Knowing how much hard work went into that and that the employment level are back to where they were before the hurricane, says a lot about the dedication of the Hyatt people and all who worked with them, and I want to thank them for doing this and having us here. (Applause)

As Joanne told you, I was privileged to be here last summer. What she didn't tell you is that her husband took me on a journey that made Jurassic Park look like it was child's play. We hacked our way through somewhere, ending up in a waterfall somewhere

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else, where I had the time of my life, and just think about it all the time, especially at stressful moments. If you ever see an expression on my face on television like I look like I'm not wherever I'm supposed to be, I am here. That's where I am. (Applause)

And my hope and prayer for all of you is that you will remember what you accomplished together, that you will hold in your hearts that sense of togetherness and commitment that cut across all the lines that too often divide us, that put aside the bickering and the problems that make up the daily stuff of life, so that we could focus on what needed to be done immediately, and that that spirit will sustain you as you finish the task before you.

A lot of the work that has already been done can be pointed to -- roofs being put back on. Some of the rest of the work of getting our people back to work, getting people back to our island here, that needs to continue with the same intensity that you've brought to what you've already done the last 10 months.

I want you to know that the President and I will be there with you in spirit. We will be back again in the future, and we want to invite the whole world to come see what you've done. Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

END

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 9, 1993

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
BUSINESS AWARDS LUNCHEON

A PARTICIPANT: -- Mr. Warren Buffet. (Applause)

MR. BUFFET: After watching those stories, I think you'll agree that they have created five very difficult acts to follow. And that's what we warned our next guest. She wasn't phased, of course. She has an uncanny ability to upstage some very important people.

We are thrilled to have with us today the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who passionately shares the values and visions that we have celebrating today. She will conclude our program with some reflections on the challenges facing our country today, and the critical role that business must play in meeting those challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen, First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton. (Applause)

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much. I believe this is the first after-breakfast speech I have ever given, and it's going to be mercifully short because there is very little that I think any of us can add to what we have already seen and learned this morning.

When Warren and Jim and Norman came to see me some months ago to share with me really the vision of what this trust is doing and hopes to do in the future, I was immediately taken, as I always am, by the three of them, individually or collectively, because they were, once again, seeing beyond where most of us can see.

But as I thought about what they were attempting to do when they created this trust, and how we have seen how in each of these stories of the companies and individuals honored this morning, that that vision is taking route and being exemplified, I was really moved by several thoughts.

The first is that this needs to be much more

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broadly shared than among the group here. And I was delighted to hear that the business schools of our country -- I was a little concerned to hear that they are 200, but I was delighted to hear that at least 200 business schools are going to be studying these videos and learning about the lessons from them.

But more than that, I was struck by how in so many ways, with the collapse of many institutions in what used to be called civil society, whether we talk about the church, whether we talk about the kind of neighborhood, community, civic organization, whether even we talk about the school or the family, that in many ways you, who are in business, and its leaders, have responsibilities that were never envisioned. Even I would guess, Diane, by the Merchants of Light.

Because for many Americans their contacts in the work place, the lessons they learn there, the values that are transmitted, may be the only ones that they are continually, persistently exposed to. That is something of a daunting realization.

But if you think about how we spend our time now as individuals, where we put our energies, it is true that relationships and work, as was said before, can broadly summarize. But there are no intermediary institutions, as there used to be, playing the extraordinary roles that I think many of us enjoyed in an earlier time as we came to maturity.

And at the bottom of every story we heard was a very fundamental faith in the human potential and a willingness to translate that faith into respect for the individual. Whether we are talking about going into an inner city, urban neighborhood to provide groceries to people who by and large work hard for a living, are too often stereotyped by the images we see, and who for the first time in years felt that they too had a right to be treated as the consumers they are. That was respect.

Whether it was recognizing that when illness and difficult times strike, not turning one's back, but instead turning forward to face it, is a mark of courage as well as good business, that too is respect. Seeing the men and women employed in the building trades, and looking at their faces, and recognizing what it meant to them, both to be given as

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women, the opportunities that were extended, but also men who were working, themselves, to figure out how to translate values into daily life, it was lessons in respect that made that possible.

And then the extraordinary images we saw of workers on a shop floor being given information that for too long they could only speculate about, and often speculate wrongly, being brought in as partners in an enterprise, being given the tools so that they could become more fully involved in making the right decisions for themselves and their company, that could only come because there was respect.

And then, finally, the lifetime achievement given to someone who combined all of the extraordinary values we heard described, but really coming from a basic respect for a constitution, for the institutions that are necessary for this country to keep growing and meeting new challenges.

So there are many wonderful lessons. But these lessons have to be seen in the light of a time that demands that they be applied more vigorously than ever before. We need to clone and multiply the lessons and the leaders we have seen this morning.

This country, as it confronts the 21st century, will more and more listen to the words of business leaders. Not just because that is the way people make their livings, but because of this new expanded role that you all are playing in conveying values, not only to your employees and your shareholders and those with whom you do business, but to the larger society. Many of the great debates we are engaged in now are values debates. How we treat one another, how we support one another, how we hold one another responsible and accountable.

And without adding more burdens to making a living, to making a profit, I hope that this trust can live up to its name by instilling in all of us a recognition that we have a larger role to play in creating the environment that will not only be good for business, but good for all of us in the country we love. Thank you very much. (Applause)

A PARTICIPANT: I just want to offer our thanks to Mrs. Clinton for being here for the honor of her presence, for the honor of her words, and most of all thank you for the way you care.

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A couple of notes, quick notes. If you want to nominate someone for a business enterprise trust award, there are going to be forms out in the hall. There is going to be a press conference here afterward, so unless you want to stay, leave fairly quickly so it can start. It's about the trust awards. And, as Mrs. Clinton said, there's a year now to clone and multiply to become what Fitzgerald said we were, that England was a land, France was a people, but America was a willingness of the heart. See you next year. (Applause)

* * * * *

As prepared

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS FOR THE CLOSING CEREMONY
OF THE PRESIDENTS' SUMMIT ON AMERICA'S FUTURE
PHILADELPHIA, PA
APRIL 29, 1997**

General Powell, President and Mrs. Bush, and all of you who have gathered here in Philadelphia to help renew America's spirit of citizen service:

Now is the time for the real work to begin.

As we close this historic meeting, let us also open a new chapter in our country's story. A chapter written by an engaged, active, and committed citizenry that has -- and must continue to be -- the lifeblood of American democracy.

This summit was held in Philadelphia these last few days because, as my husband said, this is the place where our country was born. Born not just of a Continental Congress or a Constitutional Convention, but born of a people -- a people who understood the essence of service and community.

For it took all kinds of Americans -- from the Founding Fathers, to the first stewards of America's young government, to local shopkeepers and merchants, to teachers in one-room school houses, to good neighbors and good citizens from New Hampshire to South Carolina and beyond, whose daily lives and activities embodied the spirit of the new democracy.

And it took all kinds of service to keep this young nation alive -- the service of government, the service of business leaders, the service of volunteers, philanthropists, advocates and activists.

Why have we survived and thrived longer than any other democracy in the history of the world? Because we are truly a stool with three legs. The first leg is a government built on the ideals of free and independent elections, a functioning legislature, an independent judiciary, and a free press. The second is a market economy that encourages entrepreneurship and innovation and provides the opportunity for individuals to seek their fortunes and reap the benefits of hard work.

Yet as vital as these two legs are, they are not enough to sustain the free and prosperous nation that America has become, and must remain.

There are many avenues to good citizenship. As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

This is a particularly important message for our young people, who need to feel a stake in their own futures and in their own country. That is why the President is so proud of AmeriCorps, which encourages young people to get involved and learn the rewards of service while earning a ticket to college. That is why we have spotlighted businesses these last few days that provide internships, part-time jobs, summer training programs for young men and women. That is why it is so important for all of us to focus our efforts on the weakest and most vulnerable among us -- our children -- who need mentors, teachers, coaches, counselors, doctors, nurses, role models and, most of all, opportunities to fulfill their own God-given potential.

Our democracy, and the ideal we place on service and community, requires an enormous amount of trust. It often asks us to put our fates in the hands of people we don't even know. People who take the oath of office to serve on the city council, in the State House, in the Congress, and in the White House. People who vote in the booth next to us on Election Day. People who are entrusted to teach our children in school, coach them on the basketball court, lead their scout troops. People who police our streets and staff our hospitals. People who make decisions about everything from what is in our food to what we see on TV.

But most of all, it asks that we trust ourselves. That we trust our own capacity to serve and nurture the soil of democracy in which our country and our values are rooted. For without a commitment to service, democracy is planted in very shallow ground.

As this Summit concludes here today, let all Americans ask: "What can I do to make a difference in someone else's life? What can I do to help my community and my country?"

I guarantee that anyone who answers the call will discover what anyone who has served already knows: When we serve others, we get a lot more than we give.

Through actions large and small, public and private, we can build a stronger community, and a stronger democracy. With your help, we will do it.

Thank you.

It is the third leg of the stool -- civil society -- that has provided the real balance of power that our Founding Fathers envisioned. It is civil society -- the term that describes the countless daily associations and actions that weave together the fabric of democratic life -- which mediates between the powerful and potentially excessive forces of government and the market by tapping into a great sea of individual energy and caring that exists from coast to coast.

Civil society is the vehicle for our values, the way we convey who we are and what we stand for as Americans. And that, in essence, is what this summit is about: Renewing the spirit of citizen service that is so vital to our democracy and the model society it has become for people around the world.

In the past few years, I have traveled on behalf of the United States to every continent. In Mongolia, I saw a country where nearly a century of domination at the hands of dictatorship and communism could not suppress the popular will self-expression and self-rule.

In Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, where I spent last July 4th, I met citizens who led a peaceful Velvet Revolution, overcoming decades of Soviet-inspired rule and paving the way for a newly democratic central Europe.

Last month in Africa I visited six nations that have undergone a political, economic, and social sea change in the last decade, embracing democracy and open economies and throwing off the yoke of injustice, brutality, and oppression..

Each of these places represented extraordinary triumphs of the human spirit that depended on courageous leaders and courageous citizens.

Yet it was also clear -- from Ulan Bator, Mongolia to Kampala, Uganda and everywhere in between -- that arriving at democracy is always far easier than sustaining it. Over and over people asked me: "How did you Americans do it? How did you create a society that allowed democratic values to flourish?"

Throughout the world, as tyranny crumbles and democracy comes alive in country after country, people are looking to America and Americans for guidance and inspiration. And we have much to offer from our own experience.

Our country has shown the world that democracy is not just about the

machinery of government or the institutions of an open market. It's not just about politics or profits. It's about the internalization of democratic values in people's hearts, minds and everyday lives.

It's about joining together and giving of ourselves to promote the common good. It's about the organizations, associations and activities we engage in that Alexis de Tocqueville observed more than 150 years ago -- and which are a hallmark of American citizenship and a distinctive part of our national life.

This Summit, and the call to action being issued here, come at a crucial moment for us in America because we have seen our ideals embraced around the globe. Never before has the world been more free. And that is in large measure because of American leadership over the last century.

Yet on the horizon of a new century we also see many uncertainties. We live in an Information Age that holds out unprecedented opportunities for peace and prosperity, but also the challenges that come from living in a complex, competitive and fast-paced world. We face growing global competition; we see families under greater stress as men and women try to redefine their roles in the family and outside; we see the pressures of the mass media and the consumer culture bearing down on our children; we see new and passionate debate about the balance between individual and community rights and responsibilities.

And, we also see a decline in volunteer activity, a drop-off in voting, and other indications that Americans feel less able and less willing to participate in ways that make our democracy as stable and strong as it is.

This Summit has asked each and every one of us to look at ourselves and try to understand how we can rekindle what one writer has called the "habits of the heart" -- the spirit of service. It has asked us how we can combine our strong notions of individualism with our equally strong desire for community in ways that benefit us all.

We know that government can help create the conditions to help people help themselves. We know that the private sector can unleash the energy and capital needed to further our prosperity. But only civil society -- the service sector -- can evoke that immeasurable the spirit of giving and caring that makes our country unique in the world.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION DINNER
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
AUGUST 2, 1996

Thank you very much. Thank you so much. Bob, I really appreciate that kind introduction. I also appreciate your actually having read my book. That means a lot to me. I am so pleased to be here at the ABA convention and particularly here at what is traditionally one of the highlights of the annual convention, the Young Lawyers Division dinner. And it is a special honor for me to be here with Roberta Ramo, who has done such a terrific job as President of the ABA this year.

I am pleased that Jerry Shestack is here, an up and coming new President of the ABA as well. And Rocky Rodriguez who's done such a good job as the chair of the Young Lawyers Division. You know, I was wondering after I accepted the invitation and I was looking forward to coming, whether I should, after all, show up.

I read just the other day Art Buchwald's syndicated column in which he said that one reason I've gotten a little bit of criticism in the last several years is not because I am married to the President, it's not because I'm a Democrat, it's not because I worked on health care reform, it's not even that I'm a Cubs fan, a truly endangered species if there is one, but Art Buchwald argues that it's because I'm a lawyer. And he goes on to list all the reasons why people might not like the idea of one lawyer living in the White House, let alone two lawyers.

But I thought about that, and I thought back over the years that I have been a lawyer, and all the work that I have done, and I thought particularly about my associations here at the ABA, working with people like Bob or H.T. Moore and others of you in this room working on the Women's Commission, being part of this great association. And I was even more excited about coming because I am proud to be a lawyer. I am glad I am a lawyer.

And I was looking anyway for an excuse to come to the annual meeting. Because I miss the meetings. I miss the fellowship, the stimulation and the information. So to all of the fellows and the members and supporters and the families associated with the Young Lawyers Division, I thank you with great appreciation for this award which means so much to me. And to be counted among such a distinguished group of past recipients.

I also want to thank you for the passion and commitment you bring to serving our country, your communities, to helping

members of the legal profession fulfill our most important purpose -- that of making our society more just, and making justice more accessible to all of our citizens.

Through efforts such as the Affiliate Outreach Project, the Greater Access and Assistance Project, the Disaster Legal Services Committee and so many other efforts, you have helped countless Americans resolve disputes, overcome problems large and small, and in turn, you have helped them gain a greater respect for our nation's system of justice. I want especially to thank you for your continuing commitment to the Center on Children and the Law.

As Bob was saying in the introduction, I have worked for more than twenty-five years on issues affecting children, and I know how important the Center's efforts are. Just this morning I had a meeting at the White House with representatives of private foundations, as we were working together to find solutions to the problems afflicting the foster care and adoption system.

And I know that the work of the Center has helped to focus attention on the persistent and heart-breaking problem of child abuse and neglect and foster care that I think should be addressed by all lawyers. It cannot be left to over-burdened social workers who are trying to do their best under very difficult circumstances. Lawyers can and should be leaders in the effort to develop laws and legal precedents that protect children and strengthen families. And if it were not for the Center, that work would not have progressed as far as it has.

As all of you know who are gathered here tonight, the most valuable reward of a juris doctor degree is not necessarily a big income or a precise knowledge of some aspect of our legal system, but rather the power that comes with the opportunity to serve others -- to help those who have no voice, who do not have the means or the skills to seek justice for themselves and for their families.

"Freedom. Justice. Liberty. Without lawyers, they're only words." That is the theme you're exploring and celebrating at this year's convention. For millions of Americans, "freedom, justice, and liberty" will mean very little if Congress succeeds in its short-sighted crusade to destroy a once bipartisan, twenty-two year old American institution, the Legal Services Corporation.

From its beginning, the Legal Services Corporation has had to weather many challenges to its existence. I know from my own experience. As a law student I worked in the precursor to the Legal Services Corporation in the Yale-New Haven Legal Services office. I was just one year out of law school when President Nixon signed the bipartisan bill creating the Corporation in

1974. My service on the House Judiciary Committee's Impeachment Inquiry into President Nixon was ending and I needed to find a new job.

I decided to call the dean of the law school at the University of Arkansas whom I had met earlier in the year because I knew a young man who was then teaching at the law school. And I asked the dean if he had any jobs left even though it was the middle of August. He said yes, he did. But when I asked him what he would want me to teach, there was a pause, and he said, "Well, I don't know for sure, but I'll tell you when you get here."

Two weeks later I arrived in a place where I had never lived to take a job I knew nothing about. As some of you probably know from personal experience, love can do strange things to a person. When I went in to see the dean after arriving in Fayetteville, Arkansas, he said, "Well I have given this some thought. I want you to teach criminal law. I want you to run the prison projects at the state and federal prisons. I want you to teach trial advocacy, and I want you to set up and run the new legal aid clinic."

I had no experience doing any of that. And I was already feeling a little overwhelmed when I went to the annual reception for law school faculty sponsored by the County Bar Association. The President of the Bar took me around introducing me to everyone, and we got to one of the formidable judges in that part of Arkansas and he said, "Judge, this is the new lady law professor. She's going to teach criminal law and run the legal aid clinic." And this tall distinguished judge looked down at me and he said, "Well, I don't have any use for lady law professors or legal aid clinics, but we're glad to have you here anyway."

You know, it's the story of my life. I move to a new town, and it just takes a while for me and the new town to kind of get in sync. So there I was. I didn't have much time to doubt my new career choice because classes started the next day. So I went to work, desperately trying to stay at least one class ahead of my students, furiously filling out all the paperwork needed to create a legal aid clinic, and recruiting students and volunteers to help. I believed then as I believe now that having the opportunity in law school to represent real live clients with real problems is an important part of any law student's education.

I had certainly felt that way when I was in law school and I had represented a poor foster mother trying to adopt the young child she'd had for several years and being told that she could not because she had signed up to be a foster mother, not an adoptive parent, and because she was a little too old and some other problems. I also had seen very clearly within the first

couple of weeks in the legal aid clinic how important it was to deal with the problems of clients and expose students to what the range of needs that lawyers could meet were.

I particularly remember having a woman come in to see us about a divorce. She actually came in with her father. She told me and the students that I had who were assigned to help that she'd been married for a number of years and she had eight children but she had just finally decided that enough was enough and she needed a divorce and they didn't have any money.

Well, we were very diligent and the students took down all the information and one of the students said to me, "You know, she can't really tell us where she got married. She thinks it was in this neighboring county. I'll go see if I can't find the marriage certificate." Well, it turned out that the woman hadn't gotten legally married, and there wasn't any common law marriage in Arkansas, and we were dreading her return with her father to tell her that.

She came in and the students were very apprehensive. I was a little bit concerned myself. Finally I broke it to her. I said, "You know, I hate to tell you this, ma'am, but it turns out you never were legally married to your husband." She looked shocked but her father slapped his knee and said, "Well, that's just fine. I never liked him anyway."

Now experiences like that make a big difference in how you see the world if you're a lawyer, no matter what you do after you go out of law school into the so-called real world. No experience has been more important to me than my association as a legal aid lawyer and as a member of the board and then Chair of the Legal Services Corporation, because I've met many, many people like that judge whom I met when I first moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, who didn't think we needed legal aid and didn't think that people really deserved to have lawyers unless they could pay for them. And I've met many people like that woman and her father, who desperately needed help untangling problems they knew they had and some they didn't even dream they had.

Despite opposition, legal aid societies and the Legal Services Corporation have become a part of American life, and last year, Legal Services programs throughout our country helped five million people who otherwise could not have afforded legal assistance. They were helped with evictions and divorces and child support collections.

As most of you know and have first hand experience with, the vast majority of legal aid cases require little more than basic advice, a referral, a patient ear, a letter, maybe a phone call

to help someone untangle a mess they're facing. Very few cases need to be resolved in the courts.

When President Nixon first proposed the Legal Services Corporation, he said something which I wish every member of Congress would remember today. He said, "These are small claims in the nation's eyes, but they loom large in the hearts and lives of poor Americans."

The survival of the Legal Services Corporation hangs in the balance today. Despite strong efforts by the Administration, the ABA, and very good advocates within Congress and countless others around the country, funding for the Legal Services Corporation has been slashed by one third. Congress has also tied the hands of legal aid lawyers by banning them from filing class action suits. And even more troubling, other restrictions are proposed that would prohibit legal aid programs from raising money from private sources.

You know, when I was practicing law in Little Rock toward the end of the 80s and I didn't have what I thought was enough time to give to being on the regular referral list, we had the opportunity to contribute money instead. And so many of us did because we wanted to support the staff lawyers, we wanted to support the infrastructure that's required for Legal Services even though we were not personally able to take on any cases.

If that were prohibited, I would think it would be a violation of the First Amendment rights of lawyers, the rights of Association of Lawyers, but even beyond any Constitutional or legal argument, it just seems wrong to say to lawyers in the private practice that they cannot, through their funds, contribute to lawyers who are legal aid lawyers.

A result of the cut-backs and restrictions on Legal Services have included a quarter of the professional staff having left, more than a hundred offices having closed, and thousands of low-income Americans having been denied access to our legal system.

The magnitude of this problem is especially apparent in the area of domestic abuse. According to Legal Services Corporation, one in every three cases handled is a family law case. Fifty-nine thousand of the cases handled in 1995 alone were attempts by poor women to get legal protection from abusive husbands. About 9,300 of them involved neglected and abused children. As the President said last week in California, "If we want to protect people against domestic violence, we must not destroy the Legal Services Corporation. We ought to let legal aid lawyers do their jobs so they can help the rest of us protect people."

But unfortunately the opponents are looking to abolish what remains of the Legal Services Corporation. The good news is that

members of Congress on both aisles are standing up against that. Just recently the House of Representatives, in a remarkable bipartisan vote, did vote to restore most of the funding that had been slashed from the current budget to \$250 million. And yesterday in a letter to the Senate, the Administration once again strongly urged the Senate to provide \$340 million to Legal Services and the Senate yesterday approved through the Appropriations Committee \$288 million.

So we have held the line. The differences in the House and Senate levels will have to be reconciled and I hope all of you will let your voices be heard so that we can end up on the higher side of that reconciliation. The ABA and its leadership has been critical in this effort to save Legal Services. I want to thank all of the public efforts that have made by private law firms, local bar associations and individual lawyers. And your President, Roberta Ramo, has been very eloquent in carrying the message as her predecessors have before her. We would not today have a Legal Services Corporation were it not for the American Bar Association.

That is important not only for the clients who have been, are being, and will be served, but it is important for our society and our profession. The legal profession becomes truer to its fundamental values when people from every walk of life and every income level have their legal needs met. The thousands of legal aid lawyers and the many more thousands of private lawyers who donate time and money to legal aid are the heart and soul of our profession. They are helping our country uphold the one true contract individuals have with America -- the Constitution, and specifically its promise of justice for all.

In a proclamation for National Legal Services Week, the President said what I think every one of us believes: "The very nature of justice demands that it be available to all. True justice cannot be rationed -- it cannot be accorded to some while others are denied the full benefit of their rights. Our founders understood that privilege and responsibility are inextricably linked. And the words 'Equal Justice Under the Law,' inscribed over the portal of our highest court, represent a solemn promise made to every American."

Now that is a promise that cannot be fulfilled without lawyers. Without lawyers, that promise is only words. With lawyers, a mother can petition for child support, a nursing home can be forced to live up to its obligations to its elderly residents, an eviction that is unlawful can be stopped, domestic violence can be prevented. This is something that means not only a great deal to those directly involved, but to all of us.

I'm not asking that all lawyers go out and become legal aid lawyers. But I think all of us who are lawyers need to consider

more carefully and speak more often about what it means to be a lawyer today and what it would mean to our profession if we did not have among us people who dedicated themselves full-time to an organized national effort to provide justice to all.

And even if we do not choose to become full-time legal aid lawyers, a career in the law should mean a life of service and a commitment to justice whether it is in a legal aid office, a classroom, a courtroom, a law firm, a corporate office, wherever lawyers work and are needed.

As the fellows and former "Young Lawyers" in this room will agree, one of the inevitable but wonderful things about growing older, I'm looking for the wonderful things as I do grow older, is discovering that the struggle for progress is often as important than the end result. At some point, however idealistic we may be or have been, we accept that the principals of fairness, justice and equality often become flawed in their application.

We accept that we will not solve all the problems we see in our professional life or even in our lifetime. But we keep striving, we keep struggling for those ideals that we believe must be kept alive because we want to be committed to the promise of a better future.

The cause of justice is worth a life long struggle. I commend all of you for being willing in times that are not always favorable to lawyers, to play leadership roles in our profession. The legal profession, and lawyers, are essential to the continuing vitality of our country's cherished ideals. Our voices, our efforts, are more needed today than they have been for quite some time. Those without power, those without voices that can be heard, need us to advocate for them. And through the ABA and through the Young Lawyers division, a single voice for justice can be magnified many times over.

So for all of the reasons that bring you here, that make you believe in the importance of your involvement in this Association and this division, I thank you. But I also challenge you to stand up and be counted on the side of freedom, justice, and liberty. And let us all be sure that we don't ever let them be just words. Thank you all very much.

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City Year 10th Anniversary Celebration

Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Boston, Massachusetts

June 4, 1999

Thank you so much. Thank you, Jamie Lee, for your service and for your introduction. I am deeply grateful for the honor that you have bestowed upon me today, but I'm even more grateful for the work you do every day and the example you set. I want to applaud all the members of Boston City Year who have given so much to this community. And besides that, you can perform, you can recite, you can work, and you can set all of our hearts just bursting with pride and gratitude.

As I was watching Lauren and Rosa and as I was seeing what they have done for us today, I thought of all the City Year members I've met all over this country, wearing your red jackets, usually with big smiles and with more energy than I can possibly keep up with. And I want you to know how important what you're doing here is for our country.

You are honoring three of us today, and it is a great honor for us to be with you. It is also an honor to be here with the Governor who has supported City Year, and I am very grateful also to Mayor Menino for his support of City Year and the leadership of many from this city and this Commonwealth. It is literally transforming the streets and neighborhoods where people live and work. I've often thought that if we could just ignite the spirit of City Year and national service and AmeriCorps, we would see such a revolution sweep our country. Well, indeed, that is what is happening. From the early ideas and vision that Michael and Allen brought to City Year along with their colleagues, to this day 10 years later. I believe we are seeing the deeply held effects of what you and others like you are doing.

It takes a long time to change a heart. It takes a long time to change a culture. But that is what is happening. And it's hard to imagine a better place to celebrate this tenth anniversary than here, in this historic hall. A place where Samuel Adams rallied the citizens of Boston for the cause of independence. Where George Washington toasted the nation on its first birthday. Where people have always gathered to replenish our commitment as Americans to liberty, justice, and citizenship.

Now City Year is keeping those values alive. You are carrying forward the vision that brought people here in decades and centuries past: to unite in a common purpose; to celebrate our diversity; to stand for the idealism that has always been the hallmark of America's best days.

I want to thank all of you who are part of this extraordinary and very worthwhile effort. Let me start by recognizing the two men who, along with all of you, have really made this day possible. Allen and Michael had an idea and, as social entrepreneurs, they were able to act upon that idea. They recruited many leaders like Executive Director Robert Lewis, who throughout

our country and at every City Year site has similarly inspired the spark of social entrepreneurship and city involvement.

There are many people in this hall today who have worked to make this day possible. I know that many are good friends and supporters of City Year. I want to congratulate my co-honorees, because I know that Dean Jones, as he's often referred to, is not just the Dean of Education but the Dean of Social Justice, and is not just an example of honor here, but someone who is looked to around our country for his leadership.

I know that the Swartz family has a fine tradition of city involvement in this community. And now by spreading out and enabling City Year to grow even stronger, their contributions are more important than ever. Leaders like one of your City Year trustees, a friend of mine, Rosabeth Moss Kanter, who takes the work that she does every day at the Harvard Business School and checks it into City Year to keep that spirit of change and action going. But there are many of you who are really responsible for what we celebrate today. As energetic as all of you who are currently corps members happen to be, we have to continue to reach out to our fellow citizens on behalf of the goals of City Year.

When my husband and I began to think about the millennium and the change of the century, we wanted it to be a time for America to take stock and perhaps spend a few reflective moments considering what it is what we want for our future. One of the themes we adopted was to "Honor the past; imagine the future." Honor the past by bringing forward those values and aspirations that are the best of America, but imagine an even better future that leaves no American out.

What you are doing is really fulfilling that need to honor the past because you keep faith within a loving community. You understand the need for "Big Citizens" in our time and you are literally helping to transform the country and to build, I'd imagine, a better future. Giving gifts to the future is what you do every day when you visit an elderly person, or help plan a community garden, or work at a community soup kitchen, or tutor a child who needs help, or become a friend or mentor to another child, or open a school vacation camp where kids would otherwise have no other place to go, or help change neighborhoods that used to be warzones to places that are once again filled with happy playing children. You have mentored and tutored in the last 10 years almost 400,000 children. You've worked on the front lines for the city disaster victims. You have helped immigrants prepare to become citizens. You've taught students how to resolve their problems peacefully. You've helped in infinite ways to engage middle school and high school students in service themselves. And because you have done all of that for 10 short years, you have helped to launch a national movement that will make service a common expectation and experience on every young person growing up in America.

Too often today, we have a very distorted view of our young people. Look at the stereotypes when you hear the stories of tragedy and disaster. I know that that is not in any way representative of the young people I meet every day, everywhere in America. I know that there are young people in this generation who are doing as much if not more than anyone has ever done before to help build a better, more peaceful, helpful America. I know that young people

today often have a more difficult time navigating to adulthood than the people I grew up with, that it seems much more difficult to sometimes find your footing. That is why what you're doing here -- what the Governor said is an anecdote to allowing the other problems to besiege our society -- it is not only life changing for those of you who participate, but it can be completely life changing for our entire nation by helping to shatter stereotypes.

You have helped to bring people together from every segment of American society. And you know, and I'm sure that Allen and Michael have told you, that my husband and I looked to City Year when he was elected President as a model for the kind of national service program that we hoped could fill the entire country with the same kind of energy and enthusiasm that is brought to you now that the City Year Corps members wear the AmeriCorps emblem on your signature red jackets, because you are part of the huge growing national network of service.

This fall, we will all celebrate the fifth anniversary of AmeriCorps, and I hope you are all once again with us at the White House. Because since the President swore in the first corps members in 1994, more than 100,000 young Americans have served in AmeriCorps -- including 40,000 serving this year alone, representing every part of America and serving in 4,000 communities in every state.

Now that it's up to us to make City Year and AmeriCorps a permanent part of the fabric of America's civil life, I'm pleased that the President has proposed to expand AmeriCorps to 100,000 members each year by 2002. And I hope the Congress supports that request. Because when, in the wake of Littleton, we ask ourselves, "What can we do?" Well, one answer is, "Let's provide service opportunities for every young man and woman in America so that they can live and work together side-by-side in common purpose to make this country all it should be."

But we know that government cannot -- and should not -- shoulder that burden and that mission alone. We all have to be part of making service live in our lives. And towards that end, it is my great pleasure and honor to announce the creation of the first-ever endowment fund for City Year. This fund will enable thousands more young people to serve in their communities.

Now most of us, when we think about endowments, we think about universities and hospitals and museums, and in helping them endure into the future. But now we also must ensure that our civic institutions are equally supported. We have to take seriously the call to service and create continuing commitments to that call. What deTocqueville called "the habits of the heart" are what we need to be sure our youth are nurtured in every generation to come.

You know, at the end of the last century, people came together here in Boston and around the country to create enduring civic institutions like Boys and Girls Scouts, the YMCA, and the Urban League. Well now it is up to us to endow youth service and civic engagement to help to make sure that as we go into this new century, we are equally committed to the kind of future we want to make.

And I want to recognize those who have contributed to this beginning endowment who have already helped to raise \$6 million. I want to thank the following for their legacy gifts: Bank of Boston and CEO Chad Gifford; Bain Capital and Mark Nunnally; Timberland and CEO Jeff Swartz. There have been numerous individuals who have also given generously: Holly Davidson; Paul and Phyllis Fireman; Sidney and Judy Swartz. I would like personally to thank Sidney and Judy who have dedicated this gift, the civic innovation initiative, in the President's and my name. And I hope that it will serve to spur all of us on, to do even more to find new ways to engage young people in national service. And finally, I want to thank Compaq Computer Corporation and Hans Guetsh for their national sponsorship of City Year. Now we often talk about a "wired world." Well that has several meanings – these are wired people. You know the energy that comes from these young people is something that we must awe moving forward.

I know that we will be able to reach the goal of \$10 million because of the public/private partnership that this represents. And I know that as we do, we're going to be even more committed to making City Year available in every community around our country.

I started today with my husband in the Roosevelt Room in the White House speaking with young people; speaking about what we can do in the wake of Littleton and other violence that strikes our streets and takes too many of our children too soon. We talked about a lot of different things. We talked about trying to get some sensible gun control measures. We talked about the culture of violence and what we needed to do to convince those who control the media – from the Internet to the movies and everything else – to understand the impact that has on children. We talked about how to make our schools smaller and to give more opportunities for adults to have meaningful interaction with every individual child, and for peers to mediate and avert problems and avert violence. We talked about how important it was for parents and other adults to spend real time with children and young people -- to listen; to respond; to help be part of making the aspirations, the fears, the hopes of all of our young people understandable so that we can manage our own.

Now, in a way, I think that what you are doing here is one of the best answers that we can give to what we as a nation have to do to respond. We've made progress in so many areas in the last 6 ½ years. It is not just enough to end the violence that taught and molds our children by just saying "No" to them. We have to give every other person a chance to say yes and a chance to contribute, a chance to make a difference, a chance to serve. We, every one of us, has a stake in the healthy development of every boy and girl in America. And each of you understands that because you're turning that into helping lift up even young people. There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be fixed by what is right in America. That's something my husband has said over and over again.

Well, I want to say to all the corps members here that to your 40,000 colleagues around our country, you are what's right in America. And I thank you for what you do every day and for helping us to imagine a better future. I love that saying: "For every one of me, there are a thousand of me." Let's keep going until every one of those thousands can be reached, and every one of them can have the same experience that you had -- to serve, to give back, to grow, and to

be part – to make America what it should be. “Imagine, recruit, transform, and inspire.” Those are not only good words for City Year – those are good words for America in the 21st Century.

Thank you all.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEO REMARKS FOR ARKANSAS BAR ASSOCIATION
JUNE 10, 1998

Bill and I are extremely pleased to have this chance to be a part of the 100th Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Bar Association -- even though it is from further away than we are used to. Like Bill, I have been a dues paying member since 1973 and have always been proud of the work done by the Arkansas Bar.

Arkansas lawyers do their vital share of pro-bono work in nearly every county in the state. I want to commend the association for implementing a citizen service project called 100 Hours for 100 Years and I encourage all of you to become involved. Encouraging pro-bono work has always been a priority for my husband and me, and I am grateful that the Arkansas Bar Association shares this commitment.

I also want to thank Jack McNulty for his leadership this past year and his enduring friendship, and I want to extend my own congratulations to the incoming President of the Arkansas Bar, Robert M. Cearley (keer-lee).

Good luck to all of you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 27, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND THE FIRST LADY
AT RECEPTION IN HONOR OF THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

The East Room

5:08 P.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you. Please be seated, and welcome to the White House. It is a great pleasure, and an honor, to welcome all of you here as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of one of the pillars of equal justice in America, the Legal Services Corporation.

There are many, many distinguished guests in this audience today who have come here to help mark this historic milestone, and to remind us of our nation's enduring commitment to protecting the disenfranchised and vulnerable among us: Our Attorney General, Janet Reno, who has devoted her life to enforcing civil rights laws, to ensure equal opportunity for all Americans. We have a number of members of Congress -- Senator Specter was here, Representative Tom Allen, Representative Howard Berman, Representative Ben Cardin, Representative John Conyers and Representative Jim Ramstad.

There are also a number of you who have helped to support those in Congress who have made the Legal Services Corporation a bipartisan cause. It was born as a bipartisan cause in 1974, under President Nixon, and with Republicans and Democrats in both the House and the Senate supporting it, and supporting it strongly. And many of you have, through the years, stood for that bipartisan commitment. Many who have led the corporation and who have led the bar have been the strongest voices on behalf of Legal Services.

I want to thank my friend Doug Eakeley, whose outstanding six-year tenure as Chair of the LSC is a reflection of his life-long commitment to making equal justice not simply an abstract principle, but a reality in people's lives. And I want to thank LSC's President John McKay, a pro bono lawyer himself, who has fought tirelessly against efforts to dismantle LSC and to build broad support for the program.

I welcome as well the current LSC board members, staff, volunteers and clients, including Lucy Johnson, who we will be hearing from later. And I'm thrilled that there are so many of my dear friends and colleagues from the years when I was privileged to serve on the board and serve as its chair. And I would like to ask to stand all those who served on the LSC board and all who were staff members from its beginning 25 years ago so we can thank you. Please stand. (Applause.)

I also want to thank the members of the bar who are here -- both the ABA, the NBA and state and local bars throughout the country. I know that the President-elect of the ABA, William Paul, is a very strong supporter of the Legal Service Corporation, and the past president, Roberta Cooper Ramo, is here as well.

In addition, there are distinguished judges from around the country, including State Supreme Court judges. And I want to thank all of you who recognize how important it is to make sure that judges are able to see everyone because they are brought into the court by lawyers who are committed to ensuring that all people are given access to the judicial system.

Part of what we celebrate today is the rich diversity of people from all walks of life and from every political persuasion who believe that ensuring equal justice to Americans is everyone's concern and our common responsibility.

Seeing so many of you who have been a part of my and the President's life over the years certainly is a trip down memory lane in many ways. I can think of my own early involvement with the New Haven Legal Services Organization when I was in law school, and then moving to Arkansas, where I took a teaching post at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and when I arrived being told that I was to teach criminal law, run the Legal Aid clinic, run the two prison projects and teach trial advocacy. Now, that took a little sinking in, but it wasn't long before I was invited to the local Bar Association welcoming cocktail party for new members of the law school faculty. And the president of the local Bar introduced me to the dean of the chancery judges in that part of the state, as saying, this is the new lady law professor, she's going to teach criminal law and run the Legal Aid clinic -- where upon the judge looked at me and said, I don't have any use either for lady law professors or Legal Aid clinics. (Laughter.) And I said, well, Judge, it's nice to meet you. (Laughter.)

Unfortunately, we've all encountered people who do not believe in Legal Services for the poor, who don't believe, as we do, that equal justice -- equal access to justice is as inalienable a right for Americans as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness -- and who don't believe, as we do, that widening the circle of human rights and dignity is fundamental to the promise of democracy. They don't believe, as we do, that every time anyone is denied their basic legal rights, whether because of race, gender, income or circumstance, that our democracy is imperiled.

Well, that is what many of you have understood. And in the audience today, we have Sarge Shriver, who understood it very early on, and helped to fund and support a lot of the early Legal Aid services around the country, including the one that I worked with in New

Haven; representatives of the Ford Foundation, who made it a commitment in the 1960s to see whether they, too, could create a system that wasn't just hit-or-miss, but truly was there for people when it was needed; and then, finally, in 1974, when the Legal Services Corporation became the law.

And since then it has been a beacon of hope and the last line of defense for millions and millions of Americans: mothers seeking child support; children without access to health care; families facing homelessness, or living in intolerable housing conditions; welfare recipients seeking training; nursing home residents deprived of basic care and dignity; farmers losing their livelihoods; women seeking protection from abuse.

The people that you have served are as diverse as the problems that you have helped to solve. I think of people like Edith Hernandez of Illinois, the mother of five who had been abused throughout her 12-year marriage. Today, she and her children live without fear. With the help of Legal Services, she was granted an order of protection and obtained a divorce. She now works with victims of domestic and gang-related violence -- and her children, including two in college, are thriving. I'm pleased she's here with us today, and I would like to ask Edith Hernandez to please stand. (Applause.)

I think of people like Dan and Terry Choat, who raise pigs on a farm outside Omaha, Nebraska, and are the parents of six children. Recently, as with many farmers in America today, their expenses exceeded their profits. But with the help of a local legal aid lawyer, they've been able to stay out of bankruptcy and have developed a payment plan to pay off their creditors and save their farm for their children and their grandchildren.

And I think of individuals who have been inspired by others, including many of you in this room, to widen the door of justice for those who have too long been shut out; people like Karen Brown, who's also here with us today, who grew up in public housing in New Jersey and wanted to make a different life for herself and for those around her. She said, I wanted to give people a sense of power so they can do things for themselves. Despite those law school debts and tempting offers from corporate law firms, Karen became a legal aid lawyer, and her first client was the housing project she grew up in. I would like to ask Karen Brown to please stand. (Applause.)

Every one of us could go on and on with the stories that we know of the individuals and the communities that have been lifted up and given hope because of what legal services and thousands of pro bono lawyers and legal aid groups around the country do every day. Yet, if we spent this historic day just celebrating the accomplishments of this remarkable corporation over a quarter century, we would not be worthy of its legacy -- because we all know that as much good work that is done, and as many families that are kept together, and people protected from abuse and given a chance, we still reach only a fraction of those whose services are really ones that LSC and those working with them should be able to provide.

Some things haven't changed since I was the chair in 1980. We still have to fight for every penny we get from Congress. And today, we again face a challenge from those in Congress who are working to slash the budget.

The faces of the clients that the Legal Services Corporation serves, however, have changed. Twenty years ago, the majority of Americans living in poverty were the elderly. Thanks to many federal programs, such as Social Security and Medicare, many of our elderly are doing much, much better, and are living above that poverty line. Today, of the 40 million Americans living in poverty, almost half are children. Without the Legal Services Corporation, many of those children and their parents would have no place to turn.

So as we come to the end of this century, and approach a new one, we find ourselves at a critical moment in our own history, when the very notion of what we as Americans stand for is being tested. Every day we are reminded of that test when we read the words inscribed over our Supreme Court's entrance: Equal Justice Under the Law.

We know that to keep that promise, we have a lot of work still to do. But like many of you, I believe that this mission is too important to be left to any one group, or even those currently in the Corporation, but instead it has to be the job of all of us. And I believe that if we continue to speak out on the importance of Legal Services for our entire constitutional framework, and make clear that what we are talking about is not for some people, but for all of us, if we are to make good on what we say we believe, then Legal Services will be here long into the next century.

No one has worked harder to make equal justice a reality for all citizens than our nation's top lawyer and legal rights advocate, our Attorney General. I honor her tonight not only for the work she has done on behalf of crime and violence, but what she's done to try to make sure that the American community is all that it should be. And she has been committed to enforcing our civil rights laws, committed for all that she has done to keep America's children out of harm's way, and committed to Legal Services.

So it's my pleasure to introduce a truly dedicated public servant, Attorney General Janet Reno. (Applause.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Let me say, first of all, I apologize for being late. I've been over meeting with the Russian Prime Minister, and you would have given me a pass, I think. I was doing good work, I hope.

Lucy, thank you for your statement, and on behalf of all of us, for the award. Let me say, I could just sit here and sort of look at all the people that are here. I hesitate to even call people by name, but I want to thank all the members of Congress who are here, including Congressman Berman and Congressman Ramstad. I'd also -- I see Mr. Conyers and Congressman Cardin, Congressman Allen, Congresswoman Waters. former Congressman Cox

and Father Drinan, we're glad to see you here, sir. Thank you. Sarge and Eunice Shriver; the ABA presidents, Jerry Shestack, Bill Eid (sp), Roberta Cooper Ramo, William Paul. And I see former Secretary of Commerce and Trade Ambassador Mickey Kantor, who was on the Legal Services board with Hillary.

We all go back a long way, all of us who care about this, it seems like. Doug Eakeley and Tom Allen and I, we went abroad together as young men 30 years ago. We must have gotten infected with a Legal Services virus. (Laughter.) Judge Broderick, it's good to see you here. And Jim Ramstad said, we were there 36 years ago -- is that how long it was? (Laughter.) They're coming tomorrow, you should come back. Make you feel old, or young, as the case may be.

I want to say that for our family, the Legal Services Corporation has been very important. My wife has done many things I've been proud of, but I have never been more proud of anything than her service on the Legal Services Corporation to which President Carter appointed her, and the work she did as the chair of that Corporation. (Applause.)

You know, here in Washington, everybody's got a lawyer. Whether you need one or not, everybody's got a lawyer, you know? (Laughter.) We forget what it's like to have a lawyer be the difference between homelessness and having a stable home; between unemployment and the security of a job; between the disintegration of a household and holding a family together in difficult times. The Legal Services Corporation has made equal justice not a political cause, but an everyday occurrence. We have tried to advocate that -- I see our former chief advocate, Mr. Dellinger, there -- but this is a person thing for those of us who have experienced it.

Hillary's brother, in the back, was a public defender for many years in Miami. And Janet Reno, as a prosecutor, supported efforts to make sure that everybody had a decent defense -- something that I think is a sterling example.

Everyone of you in this room has that sort of story. But those of us who are old enough to remember when it was different feel it perhaps the more strongly. And I want to thank Howard Berman and Jim Ramstad for giving voice to the struggles we're now engaged in in Congress. Sometimes I think that the Legal Services Corporation, even though it's very young -- 25 years old -- is suffering from the infirmity of its success, and perhaps from the success of our economy at this moment that we have people who may make this decision without the benefit of memory.

So I ask you to remember. It was in 1962, not that long ago, when the Supreme Court had not yet established a constitutional right to counsel in criminal cases. Then the idea of legal assistance in civil cases was a distant dream. Disadvantaged Americans who had a hard enough time just getting through the day found that the legal system was stacked against them, and even if it wasn't they couldn't possibly know it because they couldn't get a lawyer.

Our country's faith in the law was strained in the hearts of many because of injustice and the stain of racism. But the men and women who founded the Legal Services Corporation knew that educating people about the legal rights they did have was critical in the fight for equal rights; that if people did not know about their rights and could not exercise them, the fact that the Supreme Court had enshrined them was of little practical impact.

Today, thanks in large measure to the efforts of the Legal Services Corporation and the countless lawyers you have inspired, it is clear that a lot of progress has been made. Lucy's story really tells the tale. The doors of opportunity are open wider, and we are fortunate now to be living in a period of unique prosperity, with the lowest minority unemployment in our history and the highest home ownership in our history. We have the lowest crime rates and welfare roles of our generation. But you and I know there are still a lot of poor folks out there. There are still people in places that have been left behind, even by this great recovery.

I traveled across the country a couple of weeks ago, from Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta, to East St. Louis, to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Phoenix and East Los Angeles. And there are still people out there -- most of them, by the way, are working; most of them are working, doing the same thing you and I do every day, for much lesser rewards -- who are having enormous difficulties. So we have this.

It is also true that in spite of the progress that we've made in meeting the promise of equal justice, there are still a lot of people out there who don't trust the legal system, or the law enforcement system. So there is a need -- a crying need for the work of the Legal Services Corporation.

And that's idealistic, hard-working lawyers -- virtually 100 percent of whom could be making a lot more money doing something else -- who believe that the law should be an instrument that benefits us all equally, and that the rights that are enunciated in the law books and in the Supreme Court cases should be real in the lives of all Americans.

President Kennedy did call for equal justice here 36 years ago. Last week in this room, with another glittering array of legal talent, from lawyers to judges to scholars of all races and backgrounds in this country, we renewed our pledge to that ideal.

Today I think we have to say again, equal justice is the birthright of every American. It is the obligation of those of us in public life and politics to try to bring the benefits of this economic recovery into every corner of our country. But the Scripture says that the poor will be with us always. But American law says they will not be disadvantaged under the law. And until we close the gap between our principles and our reality, we will need the Legal Services Corporation.

For years now, some in Congress have tried to dismantle it. They have seen it as a political thing. I do not believe it is political to say a poor person should have the same right as a rich person. I do not believe it is political to say we have to bring the law into the real lives of all Americans.

We have stood firm against the opposition to the Legal Services Corporation. I'm proud that every budget we have submitted has requested more funding for Legal Services. Like Congressman Ramstad and Congressman Berman -- and by their presence here, all the other members who are here -- I was deeply disappointed that last week the Appropriations Subcommittee in the House voted to cut my request in half, leaving hundreds of thousands of American families without the critical legal protections they need.

But need is the wrong word. Under the law, they are entitled to them, as citizens. For 25 years, the Legal Services Corporation has stood above the fray of partisanship, but in the fray of the grimy details of daily life that require legal protection and legal assistance. I ask Congress to put politics aside; to follow on this issue the model of the Legal Services Corporation, and give the full funding and support the corporation needs. In a very large budget, it is a very small item. But it has an enormous impact.

Think how outraged Americans of both political parties in all political philosophies would have been if this fine woman and all of her fellow tenants had been thrown on the street for failure to pay electric bills that they paid. We could have passed the hat in America and collected the annual budget of the Legal Services Corporation to help them. You know that's true. How then can we walk away from the people who save them, and can save so many like them every day, in every way -- in publicized and quiet ways that we will never know?

Thomas Jefferson once said that equal justice is a bright constellation of our political faith. With conscience and conviction, let us get the support for the Legal Services Corporation it needs. We cannot let the bright constellation dim. Twenty-five is too young, and there are still too many people out there who need you.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

5:52 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 18, 1999

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
ON BRIEFING ON HER TRIP TO THE BALKANS

Presidential Hall

1:12 P.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Welcome. Please be seated. We are very pleased to have you here for this event. I am delighted to be joined by several members of Congress—Senator Lautenberg, Senator Hutchinson, Senator Voinovich, Representative Sheila Jackson Lee. Julia Taft I see as well. Ken Hackett, the Executive Director of the Catholic Relief Services, and other members of the government and many representatives of non-governmental organizations, as well as Albanian Americans and refugees from Kosovo.

As you know, I just returned from visiting Stankovac I, one of the refugee camps in Macedonia. And it certainly was an experience that I and those who traveled with me will never, and could never, forget. I wanted to tell you briefly about what I saw and heard in my meetings there—for two reasons. First, because these heartbreaking stories of families separated, of girls raped, of men executed, of homes destroyed—these tragic stories are happening every day and happening even today. And they must be told and retold and never forgotten.

Nothing makes the case more powerfully for why the United States and our NATO allies are pursuing their mission in Kosovo, and why we cannot give up until the evils perpetrated by Milosevic and his regime have been stopped and the refugees returned home in peace and safety.

The second reason I wanted to come and speak with you today is to thank all of you. I saw a lot of extraordinarily hard work going on at that one camp in Macedonia. And I know it is being replicated in the other camps in Macedonia, and in Albania, in the relief work being carried out in Montenegro, and in many other locations where refugees are being moved. None of that would have been possible without the commitment and the compassion and the resources that so many of you have brought to bear on dealing with this humanitarian crisis.

I particularly want to thank the members of Congress who are here—we will hear from two of the senators in just a moment—and the other officials from State, DOD, HHS, INS, USAID, and others who are leading the government's response to this crisis.

And I also want to thank many American citizens, some representatives of whom are with us today. But to the literally thousands and thousands of Americans who have made contributions, who have opened their hearts and their homes and their wallets, I want to thank you.

And I'd like to highlight a few particular Americans who have made some real contributions. We have with us some students from St. Peter's Inner Parish School on Capitol Hill. They gathered over 100 emergency kits, including soap, candles and bandages, for the refugees in the camps.

There are students here from the Georgetown Day School in Washington, D.C. They are in the process of planning a school-wide fundraising effort to supplement some of their individual work. And then there are students here from Stoneridge School of the Sacred Heart, who, with a little help from a concert by Peter Yarrow, raised \$15,000 for trucks in Albania and Macedonia.

I'd like to ask these young people to stand, and I'd like to express our appreciation to them. (Applause.) I also want to thank their teachers and their parents for obviously setting such a good example for their involvement.

We're also joined today by two refugee families who are living in Manassas, Virginia. They are the first families to be relocated to the Washington, D.C., area. They were part of the first group of refugees with relatives in the U.S. to come over. I met that first group of refugees at Fort Dix and I'm delighted that we could be joined by two of the families. And we will hear from one of them, Veton Sylejmani, who will be speaking on his own behalf, on behalf of his extended family and on behalf of many other refugees.

I don't know that any of us who have not endured what these men, women and children have can really fully comprehend what they have suffered, or the courage it takes to speak about their experiences. I found it difficult in the refugee camp to ask and then listen to the stories that the refugees told me, because it's a very painful experience for them to have to relive that. But they are willing to do so because they want all of us to know what has happened to them and is still happening to their loved ones.

So I'm particularly grateful to these two families, and also to the Ethiopian Community Development Council, who has helped to make their stay as comfortable as possible.

We will also hear from the Executive Director of Catholic Relief Services, Ken Hackett, who just returned from Albania. I saw some of his colleagues at work in Macedonia and I'm extremely grateful to all of them.

As these men and women will tell their stories here today, as they told their stories to me, as they told them to the two senators on their recently concluded trip, I know that all of us have those images and those words really emblazoned in our own minds. A 63-year-old woman told me she doesn't know where her daughter and grandchildren are. After her son-in-law was killed by Serb police action in January, her daughter stayed with his parents. And then when the Serbian police came, they held guns to their throats, burned down their house, and ordered her family to leave.

She's not sure that her grandchildren and other son are still in Kosovo, but she doesn't know where they are, and hopes only that they're safe.

Another family that left their village before paramilitary forces arrived were driven from village to village before arriving in Macedonia six weeks ago. One of the men in the group talking to me cried as he remembered the funeral of one of the Albanians in the village. Serb police surrounded the mourners as they sat at the grave, threatening to kill them all, and then stripping them of their money and their valuables.

In another tent I met a man who spoke English, who told me that his wife and children had been visiting their grandfather when the Serbs arrived at his house, forcing him to leave without his family. He, too, moved from village to village and is still waiting for news of where his family is.

And in the final tent, I sat down with an extended family and listened to their stories. And maybe what affected me the most of all these horrors that were related to me was told by a woman. She told me of how, when they were being pushed in this huge crowd in Pristina, heading toward the train station, she was holding on to her children, she was supporting her mother-in-law, and her husband had other children and relatives, and they were trying to stay together. And all of a sudden she felt the hand of her older daughter slip out, and the older daughter had been holding on to two younger siblings. And she tried to turn, but she couldn't turn because she was hemmed in and the police were continuing to push them forward. She couldn't go back, she was screaming for her children; she couldn't find them. They were pushed onto the train. And there they were in a refugee camp in Macedonia, not knowing where her children are. And her husband, who went looking for them—she can't find him either.

Time and again these haunting images remind us of what is at stake and what is going on here. When I was in London with Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair, I met with two refugee families who have made their way to London, who told me how this all started. This is not something that started just a few weeks ago, nor even just last year when we saw the pictures of people being pushed into the mountains. It started as long ago as 10 years, when first Kosovars were forbidden to go to the theater or the sports stadium; then their schools were closed; then they were afraid to drive their cars on the streets because they would be stopped and harassed and robbed.

Then a couple of years ago they started being pushed out of their homes—a family at a time, a block at a time. They took refuge in the mountains. That was where we saw the first wave of refugees coming over the borders. I can remember visiting with a pediatrician who cared for those people while they were up in the mountains. And then, finally, the great expulsion that we have seen in the last two months.

When I arrived in Macedonia, I sat down with representatives from the NGOs such as CRS, UNHCR, IOC—many of the others who are on the frontlines. And many of them had been in Kosovo; they had actually been operating in Pristina and other places. So we not only have the eyewitness accounts and stories of the refugees themselves. We have the corroboration of the NGOs, who actually were there and stayed there as long as they could, until they, too, were ordered out or required to leave for their own safety.

It was very sad to hear them talking about how they felt so bad leaving their colleagues in the medical offices they had set up, in the food relief operations they were running. And they, too, were searching to make sure that they knew what had happened to them.

But now, here they are. They're in Macedonia, they're working together, they are literally coming from all over the world. I saw an Israeli organization, called Israeli Council for Youth Movements, who helped give the young people something to do in the camps. The children can now attend UNICEF-run schools. The German Red Cross was running a hospital there. Medical teams have arrived from everywhere from France to Taiwan. An Iranian group has even cooperated by installing a portable shower. I mean, this has been an outpouring of humanitarian relief from every kind of country, from every part of the world.

But the bottom line is these people want to go home. I mean, no matter how well organized these camps are becoming and how many more services are being provided, they want to go home. And I'm very hopeful that we'll be able to see that come about, so that these people can return in safety and peace.

The United States' assistance to the refugees is now over \$200 million. Yesterday the Administration, with Julia Taft and others, announced \$4 million to help support Albanian and Macedonian families who are hosting refugees, who are really the unsung heroes of this refugees crisis. Because if it were not for the Macedonian and the Albanian families who have taken people into their very poor homes, then the camp crisis and the refugee problem would be even greater. So we're going to try this program on a beginning basis to help fund these families so that they can meet their own needs as well as the refugee needs.

But if we're going to fully implement what we need to do both militarily and in terms of humanitarian and economic support, then we need to have the President's supplemental budget actually signed into law so that the money can start moving. And we hope that by the end of this week, Congress will act favorably on the supplemental budget that has been negotiated.

I'm pleased to announce that today an additional \$15 million will be given to help the refugees from Kosovo. It will be given to U.N. organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other international and non-governmental organizations who are providing refugee relief. It will also help support our efforts to provide a safe haven for up to 20,000 refugees here.

I'm also pleased to announce that this week the United States will establish an Internet information center at Fort Dix, New Jersey. It's a public-private partnership headed by the United States Information Agency. It will help the refugees get information in their own language so that they can find out more about what's going on back at home and perhaps even locate missing family members.

I'm delighted that many of the computer companies who are helping to lead this effort are here with us today, and I want to thank them.

I'm also pleased to announce that Reebok is donating a thousand pairs of shoes and a thousand duffel bags to the refugees, who often arrive at Fort Dix with little more than the clothes on their back. And I'd like to thank Reebok CEO Paul Fireman for this commitment.

When Senator Lautenberg and I visited Fort Dix, the general in charge of Operation Open Arms talked about how he hoped to treat the refugees there—to welcome them to Fort Dix, as his grandparents had been welcomed at Ellis Island.

Today's announcements will make sure that we're continuing to help service the needs of the refugees, here in the United States as well as in the camps that have been established for them, and also to continue to elicit the kind of support we need from business, young people, relief organizations, government leaders, Albanian Americans, and others who are helping to make this humanitarian effort work.

It's now my great honor to introduce the person who has just headed up the congressional delegation that returned from visiting six countries in 72 hours, which is, I think, probably a record of some sort. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson has shown great leadership, standing up to ensure that we honor our humanitarian commitment to the refugees. And it's my great pleasure to introduce Senator Hutchinson. (Applause.)

* * * * *

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I want to thank everyone who came this afternoon. I especially want to thank all of the speakers.

Those of us lucky enough to be up on the stage can look right at Veton's little child, and we can see those big eyes, and that look that babies have, about the world being just wide open to them, no matter where they're going.

And Kay and I were sitting here, remarking about how beautiful the children that we saw are. And we hope that we don't have to face a winter in tents, Ken, because I can just imagine—I was standing in the refugee camp, and you could look over the hills of Macedonia and see the mountains of Kosovo, and they still have snow on them. So I know that the snow doesn't leave until July or so, and it's back by September or October. So it will be a great challenge. We're hoping that we don't have to meet that challenge.

But I'm confident that with the continuing support, the broad-based citizen concern that we've seen in our country and around the world, that whatever the needs that these people have, we will be able to address them until the day finally arrives when they're able to go home and resume their lives in peace and security.

So, to all of you who are on the frontlines making that happen in all your various ways, I want to thank you for your hard work. And thank you for being here this afternoon. (Applause.)

END

1:55 P.M. EDT

**Remarks on Kosovo Relief Efforts
by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**

**Dover Air Force Base
Dover, Delaware
April 9, 1999**

Thank you very much, General McDuffie. I am honored to be here and to have a chance to see in action just a brief snapshot of what you're doing on behalf of this mission. I'm pleased to be joined here with those who support our military men and women and their families, and in particular, this base. I want to thank Governor and Mrs. Carper for joining us. I want to thank Congressman Castle. And I particularly want to thank Senator Biden. Because what he said today needs to be said over and over again to remind us why we're doing what we're doing and why each of you is an integral part of fulfilling America's mission of leadership at this point in the world's history.

I'm very grateful for all of the military personnel and the leadership who have pulled together the humanitarian side of this mission. We know very well that there are a lot of men and women who are supporting the bombing and are actually making those flights, and we want to think and pause for a minute to make sure we remember them and their families as well.

General McDuffie and General Handy have worked very hard on the military side to make sure the logistics are handled as well as they can be. And Brian Atwood, the Administrator of USAID, brings his considerable experience to bear on making sure the work you do here actually gets delivered and makes a difference in the lives of the men, women, and children we are trying to help.

But none of this would be possible -- none of the planning, none of the effort -- if it weren't for the men and women on this base. So let me thank Colonel Grieder and the entire Eagle Wing and Liberty Wing for all you're doing to bring the food that I saw being flown in to the people of Kosovo. Your contribution represents almost half of the 1.1 million HDR's that we are providing now. There's no way these people we are trying to help could get a meal because there are no cooking facilities where they're being temporarily placed, were it not for these HDR's. So every time you package one up and load it on a pallet and put it on an aircraft, I hope you'll have in mind the pictures and the faces that I do of the people who are going to be on the other end and receive this gift of the American people that you're making possible.

You know, I went to Bosnia shortly after the peace accords were signed, when it was safe enough to go to our base in Tuzla, but not very safe to go anywhere else. I couldn't get in to Sarajevo. But I was able to fly out of Tuzla into two base camps -- Camp Alicia and Camp Bedrock -- to visit with the men and women who were there on the front lines of America's peace-keeping efforts. And I also had an opportunity to visit with some of the people,

principally women, who had survived that first of Milosevic's attempts to bring to bear the full weight of his dictatorial powers -- his use of propaganda, disinformation, the stirring up of ethnic and religious hatred -- for his own personal, political, partisan advantage. And I remember sitting in a room in Tuzla talking with a group of Bosnians. There were Serbs and Croats and Muslims. I couldn't tell who was who based on my observation of them. I listened to them explain to me how it came to be that all of a sudden, neighbor was turned against neighbor, and paramilitary units were given free reign to round up men and boys and put them in camps and summarily execute them. Or to rape women. Or to turn children into orphans. And one of the people with whom I was speaking said, "You know, when it started in my village, I went to one of my neighbors and I said, 'Why is this happening? We've known each other, we've known our families so long. We've been at each other's weddings; we've attended the funerals of our loved ones. Why is this happening?' And the response that I was given," she told me, "is from the voice of an old friend: 'Well, we were told that if we didn't do this to you, you would do it to us.'" And the woman said, "Well, who told you that?" And the answer was, "Well, we read it in a newspaper or we heard it on the radio." It was the message of hatred, it was the message of ethnic cleansing, that Milosevic and his allies were putting out in order to turn Bosnia into a killing field.

Now what we saw happen in Bosnia was part of a larger plan on the part of Milosevic. And this is a continuation of the plan. It didn't just start a few weeks ago. And these refugees, although they are now coming out in the tens of thousands, they were coming out in smaller numbers on a regular basis over the last year. Last Spring, I met in the White House with a woman who is a pediatrician from Pristina, the capital of Kosova. And she sat and detailed to me what it meant for her to be taking care of the women and children who are being driven into the mountains, who are fleeing before the Serb paramilitary units. She didn't have the medicine to take care of them. They were dehydrated. They were contracting diseases. She came to me to tell me what was going on firsthand, and this was a year ago. And so diplomacy was tried; interventions were tried; common sense, appeals to humanity were tried. In every way we knew how to try to talk to a person who wasn't interested in hearing about the suffering of women and children, but only interested in his own perverted view of what was a political strategy to keep himself and his allies in power.

So the peace efforts were not sufficient. And you know, you learn early enough in life that sometimes after you try everything you know, whether you like it or not, you have to use force to try to bring across a message, and to try to make it clear that you will not tolerate unacceptable behavior and actions that strike at the very core of what it means to be a human being.

So I wanted to come to thank those of you who are on the front lines of fulfilling the need that we as Americans and as members of the NATO alliance feel to send that message as forcefully as we possibly can, but to fulfill also, because of our values, the role of providing humanitarian relief to those who have been driven out of their homes. I know that this has been added to your other regular duties. Many of you have put in enormous extra hours of work in order to make

sure that this mission can be accomplished. Many of you even gave up your Easter weekend to come in and do the work that needed to be done. A couple of the people I spoke with earlier told me that it wasn't even hard to get you to do that. It just took a phone call and you were on your way.

When you think about it, there would hardly be a more relevant way of fulfilling the meaning of Easter than trying to turn darkness and despair into hope and renewal. And that is what you are making possible.

I sometimes try -- when I visit places where terrible atrocities have occurred, where people have seemed to have lost all sense of empathy or compassion with their fellow human beings -- I try to imagine, as hard as it is for Americans to do that, I try to imagine what it would be like if something this terrible were to happen here. Instead of the people I don't know whose faces I see on the television screen, I try to superimpose the faces of people I do know and love, and imagine them being forced out of their homes and villages. Imagine them being pushed at gunpoint to walk into the hills without their belongings or their identity papers. Imagine children that I love and spend time with having to endure sub-freezing temperatures, rain, and even snow. And then I think about all of my friends huddled together in a no man's land, unable to go back home and unable to go forward into a place of refuge and safety.

If you think about it that way, then it's easier to understand that, as blessed as we are here in our country, there are countless people who don't share those blessings and look to us for the very simplest gift, right now, of survival. And when I met the men and women that I shook hands with and thanked, who were loading the HDRs and securing the pallets and getting them on the tonners and getting them into the bellies and I was able to say thank you, I could imagine this human chain from hand to hand to hand here at Dover to our personnel who will be unloading and then distributing this food. And it is such a strong statement against what we are standing up to fight.

You are also representing countless other Americans -- the relief workers, other members of the military, ordinary citizens -- who want to lend a helping hand as well. The United States has already committed \$150 million to this humanitarian operation, and we will stand by the Kosovar refugees until they can once again rebuild their own lives in security. Just this morning the President reiterated that the United States will not accept as permanent the results of this ethnic cleansing, not when a quarter of Kosovo's people are living in refugee camps beyond Kosovo's borders. And not when hundreds of thousands more are trapped inside, afraid to go home but unable to leave. This gift from the people of the United States of America, which is emblazoned on the side of every box and on every HDR, is the way we can fulfill our own values and reach out across this vast ocean to try to alleviate the plight of these refugees.

I know that many Americans are responding. I've been checking on the results of the contacts that have been made at the White House. We've received countless calls, letters and e-mails from people who want to know how they can help. A woman from Indiana wrote the White

House saying, "I've watched the refugees on television all evening and I'm deeply concerned. Is there anything the mothers of this country can do to assist the mothers who have been displaced?" A veteran from Ohio wrote, "I spent 25 years helping to defeat the Soviet Union. What can I do now to help the suffering of the refugees?" And a group of junior high students from Minnesota wrote, "We all feel it is horrible what is going on in Kosovo and we want to help the people who have no food and made it past the border." But I especially like what a woman from Florida wrote when she said, "Tonight I will close my eyes haunted by the image of the refugees fleeing, the looks in the eyes of the children and the elderly. We are so blessed in our beloved country and I really believe the majority of American folks would like to help these folks in some way but really don't know how."

Well, I want Americans to know that you are helping. The relief efforts that our military and relief agencies are doing is an extension of all of us as Americans. But there are ways that individuals, who aren't members of our Armed Forces or aren't a member of a relief agency, can help as well. There's a toll free number that you can call: 1-800-USAID-RELIEF. Already more than 22,000 people have called. And right after this I will be filming a PSA to give more Americans this number so that they can call as well. That is the way to not only help the Kosovar refugees, but to thank the men and women of this Dover team for what you are doing.

You know, I mentioned being in Bosnia and talking to the victims of Milosevic's initial effort to dominate other people and to ethnically cleanse land that he believes should be off limits to them. That made a very big impression on me, but probably an even bigger impression came when I looked into the faces of the men and women in our military who are on the front lines keeping the peace there in Bosnia. I had the same feeling today when I met the members of the Dover team. You know, you go down a line of Americans and you shake hands and somebody says, "I'm from Pennsylvania;" and somebody else says, "I'm from Oklahoma;" and somebody else says, "I'm from Hawaii." And you look into faces that are every shape and color from the whitest white to the darkest black and everything in between, and you hear different accents of people who grew up in the city and grew up in the country, grew up in the north, grew up in the south. And they're all Americans, and they're all part of this Dover team, and they're all part of the United States military.

When I was shaking hands today, just like when I was shaking hands in Bosnia, I couldn't tell you who among those I shook hands with was a Christian, a Muslim, or a Jew. I couldn't tell you what their political beliefs were, what their personal experiences were, because that's what we've worked so hard to overcome in our country. We've made a lot of progress. We have some problems, but year after year, decade after decade, we've tried to fulfill our ideals and values. And here at the end of this century we are the only remaining superpower. And we are not just because of our military mind, and not just because of the stock market going over 10,000. As important as those are, we are because of what we are inside and what we believe. And so every day when you come to work here, you're not only doing what's important to be done on this mission and all the others you are assigned, you are in small ways and large representing what is best in this country. And you are also representing what we are fighting to

make possible for other people: that every man, woman, and child can live up to their own God-given dreams and potential. Thank you for making it possible for these desperate people to have a belief that there is a tomorrow and that they will be able to see once again their own dreams. Thank you very much.

**Humanitarian Relief for Kosovo News Conference
Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**

**The White House
April 21, 1999**

Thank you, and I want to welcome all of you here today. And I very much appreciate your coming. I want to thank those whom you will hear from in a few minutes, including FEMA Director James Lee Witt and USAID Deputy Administrator Hattie Babbitt; and Congressman James Moody who runs Interaction. We also have with us OPM Director Janice LeChance and Morrison Webb, executive vice president of AT&T.

I also want to recognize the heroic contributions of Refugees International, an organization that is on the front lines of humanitarian disasters around the world. And they lost three relief workers in a terrible car accident this week in Albania, who were trying to reach the refugee camps.

Before I begin, I want to say a word about the terrible school shooting that occurred yesterday in Littleton, Colorado. I'm sure all of us are joined together in mourning the loss of so many young lives. And we are sending our prayers and sympathy to the families, the loved ones, the classmates of the victims and the entire community. It's hard to imagine this happening again. And at the extraordinary time that we heard about it, I think all of us hoped it were not true.

When we look into the eyes of our own children we cannot even imagine the fear that parents in Littleton must have felt waiting to find out if they had lost their children.

And it is very hard to just comfort a child who, seeing it on television, is afraid. Imagine what it is like for the young people who saw their friends die before their eyes. Even if we cannot comprehend or imagine the magnitude of the pain that is filling the hearts of the people of Littleton, we can help with our prayers and our hopes by doing all that is possible to make sure the children there receive the counseling and support they need -- whatever medical and psychological help might be required.

And more than that we can, once again, recommit ourselves to ensuring that all classrooms and schoolyards are filled with learning and the sounds of children who are enjoying the everyday give and take of life, and are not filled with violence and anguish.

We're here to talk about a very different tragedy in another part of the world, but one that is equally demanding of our response. The humanitarian disaster in Kosovo is almost incomprehensible.

You've come here because you do want to help. And for that we are grateful, because we need that help more desperately than ever. We've seen the horrifying images of children in trains, children separated from families, robbed of their childhoods, their homes and their memories.

Two out of three of the Kosovars have already been forced to flee their homes, often at gun point, without time to even snatch a family photograph from the wall or even to take identification papers or medications on their fearful journeys.

Like all Americans, I have been outraged by recent reports of paramilitary forces destroying health centers and hospitals, driving out doctors and nurses and depriving refugees of much needed medical care.

I've heard chilling examples of what is happening from a doctor whom I met with again just last week. I met with her first last summer when she came to the White House to tell me what was occurring even then as people were being driven into the mountains.

This brave woman, who had worked around the clock, has now become a refugee herself. Last week when she visited me, I could not only tell from her words, but by the haunted pain in her eyes, what she and the people around her have endured.

She had come here—luckily enough she still had her passport which she smuggled out in the diaper of a nephew she held on her lap—she'd come here to bear witness and to make sure we understood what was happening to the people of her country.

We are doing as much as we can to ease the suffering of the refugees, but we have a lot of work ahead of us. Some of you have seen firsthand what life is like in those camps as wave after wave of displaced people pour across the borders—exhausted and hungry and sick—where international relief agencies are working desperately against time to prevent outbreaks of cholera and other diseases.

You also are aware that, in addition to the camps, there are tens of thousands of refugees being housed in homes in Macedonia and Albania by people who've taken those refugees in. Oftentimes, 20, 30 people living in one room. And those host families are also stretched to breaking point.

To help the people of Kosovo rebuild their lives, we know we have to work as a team at every level of government, in international relief agencies and other charitable organizations, in our businesses, our houses of worship and our communities.

Since the violence began, the United States has contributed more than \$150 million in humanitarian aid including blankets, tents, water jugs and enough food to feed three quarters of a million people. A few weeks ago, I went to Dover Air Force Base and saw the service men and women who have literally been working around the clock loading the food onto pallets to be transported to reach the people of Kosovo.

This week the president called on Congress to pass his \$6 billion proposal for an emergency aid package which includes nearly \$800 million in humanitarian assistance.

The American people, as is the case when events like this occur, have responded with an outpouring of generosity and support. Here at the White House we are flooded with countless calls, letters and e-mails from people who want to know how to help. A woman from Indiana wrote asking whether there was anything the mothers of this country could do to help the mothers of Kosovo.

And another woman from Florida wrote, "We are so blessed in our beloved country. And I really believe that the majority of Americans would like to help in some way, but don't really know how." Well there are ways for everyone to help.

USAID and FEMA are working together to make sure that Americans can do our part through a toll-free number, 800-USAID-RELIEF, and the website www.info.USAID.gov, under the Kosovo listing.

Today I'm also pleased that the President will be sending a memo to every employee in the federal government encouraging them to find out what they can do to help as well.

Across the country, people are coming together to try to understand how they can make a difference. On Monday I met in New York with the heads and representatives of major foundations to talk about what more can be done in the foundation community to support those who are on the ground delivering the services.

I'm very grateful to former Congressman Jim Moody and everyone at Interaction for their leadership and commitment. I also know that the American business community has responded and is responding and wants to know what more it can do to be responsive.

Leading corporations from AT&T to Time Warner to Pepsico are urging their employees to help by matching their contributions dollar for dollar. One relief organization, Project Hope, has already received up to \$5 million worth of pharmaceutical supplies.

UPS has donated cargo space to transport food and other goods into the refugee camps. Slimfast is also involved in the relief effort, and I'm pleased that their president, Danny Abraham, could be with us today.

Major Internet companies, from Yahoo! to Amazon.com to eBay.com, are donating prime space on their home pages to the Red Cross, CARE and other organizations. I'm especially pleased that Yahoo! and Broadcast.com are running public service announcements as a way of getting more people involved.

These are only a few of the major contributions that we're hearing about and that NGOs are receiving.

All told, I believe NGOs have already received \$25 million in cash, in-kind donations. This is setting, yet again, a new standard in corporate—indeed, international—citizenship.

I cannot tell you how proud I am every time I travel around the world on behalf of our country and I see what American corporations are doing, not only to provide jobs—which is the first and most important way to help any country—but also by setting an example of philanthropy and corporate citizenship that is literally helping to transform the way business is conducted and what can happen in a society.

That's why we want to encourage you to continue to be creative about ways you can make a difference. In a few minutes, we're going to find that cash contributions, as you'll hear from our speakers, are often the most effective way to help in an ever-changing situation.

But every donation counts, and every donation is helping. I want to say a special word though about Macedonia and Albania, because here perhaps as much as any way, the business

community in America and your counterparts in Europe and Japan and elsewhere can make a very big difference.

I just met with the Macedonian ambassador and representatives of the Macedonian government to hear firsthand the impact that this crisis is making on their economy and their country. I thank them on behalf of the President and the American people for what they are doing.

Because think about what it must mean to be in small, poor countries and having to deal with the tens of thousands—now hundreds of thousands—of displaced people coming across your borders seeking all manner of help and having all kinds of needs that must be met.

Macedonia, for example, is providing safe haven already for more than 100,000 refugees. But because of the conflict, its trade routes through Serbia have been severed. Foreign companies are canceling contracts, thereby putting people out of work, particularly in the textile manufacturing sector because companies are concerned about continuing to do business in Macedonia given the instability there.

Now when that happens, it exacerbates enormously the strain on the government and the people of Macedonia. Oftentimes these contracts are being canceled at plants that are of considerable distance away from the refugee camps. They are often in plants that are in the center of the Albanian population in Macedonia which is attempting to help host families to take in a lot of refugees. But now people are losing the jobs that they had that supported, in a meager way, the caring of these people because of these kinds of cancellations.

We cannot let this conflict derail the social, economic and political progress that Macedonia and its neighbors have struggled so hard and for so long to achieve. We also want to be sure that insofar as possible, existing contracts and even new investments continue in the region.

And in addition, if there are ways of buying supplies from local producers and suppliers to supply both military and civilian relief needs, I hope we will do as much as we can to continue to boost the local economies in both Macedonia and Albania.

I think that those governments and those people need our support now, and they will continue to need our support in the future.

Because as we work and pray for peace, we cannot lose sight of the fact that there will be a lot of work to do if we are eventually to realize our goals of returning the Kosovars to Kosovo and rebuilding the economies there, as well in the neighboring countries.

So thank you, thank you for what you've done and what you will do. It is a unique public/private partnership that is one of the hallmarks of the American experience that is not matched anywhere else in the world and has never been matched in history.

It's now my pleasure to introduce someone who's working very hard every day on making sure that our relief efforts are effective on the ground, and that's USAID Deputy Administrator, Hattie Babbitt.

FINISHED TRANSCRIBING – NEEDS TO BE EDITED

***Seventeen Magazine/Cover Girl* Volunteerism Awards**

**Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
National Museum of Women in the Arts
March 16, 1999**

I am absolutely delighted to be here for many reasons. First of all, this is one of my favorite places in Washington, and I hope that all of you have had a chance to explore and enjoy the exhibitions here at this wonderful museum. And secondly, because I am so pleased that the partnership between *Seventeen Magazine* and Cover Girl is doing this important work of not only honoring individual young women for their volunteer accomplishments, but making it clear, as the video said in the very beginning, that we need to do a better job of really understanding how terrific America's young people are. We don't know the full story. We don't see beyond the headlines and the images sometimes on television. And I'm privileged to meet with a lot of young people throughout our country, and I always come away encouraged and confident about the future because of what I see them doing and believing. So this is an especially important event for me and I'm very grateful to have been invited.

I want to thank Ann for her introduction and for her leadership of this effort. I also want to thank *Seventeen* magazine's publisher, Lori Burgess, and Editor-in-Chief Patrice Adcroft and the Editorial Projects Director, Andrea Chambers, for your commitment to both educating and challenging young women. Now I confessed to Lori that I—first I had to ask this question to Lori, how long has *Seventeen* been published? And I was relieved to learn longer than I've been alive. There are few things that I find current that you can say that about any longer. But I could tell Lori that I used to read *Seventeen* magazine, and so for me, knowing what it meant to my friends and me, and to the young women whom I knew growing up, I was especially pleased that the editorial content and the stories in the magazine are focusing on all aspects of a young woman's life. And to be here to help join in congratulating these outstanding young recipients of the *Seventeen* Cover Girl Volunteerism Awards, gives me a chance to really say just a few words about why this event is important in and of itself, but why what it represents is even more important. I also want to thank Brandy for being here, and I really enjoyed my opportunity to meet her along with the other young women that I met before the event, but Brandy I want to thank you for your energy and for the kind of commitment that you've made to being a good role model for young women, and I congratulate you.

You know, March is Women's History Month, and last night at the White House we had a millennium event, one of the events that we hold from time to time, to talk about women's lives as we move toward the end of a new century. We watched film clips of women marching for the right to vote, we watched them speaking out on behalf of issues they cared deeply about. We reminded ourselves that

some of the greatest work that has ever been done in our country has been done by women as volunteers-women who were reformers, women who believed that they could make life better for their families and their neighborhoods and their communities, so they decided to advocate on behalf of causes. Women at the end of this last century, the 19th century, were at the forefront of pointing out the injustices that existed at that time. They were the ones who would speak out on behalf of the incredibly difficult conditions of work that women and children were subjected to, who launched campaigns to clean up the streets and get rid of the garbage, things that made a real difference in how people lived and worked. As we listened last night to the scholars that we'd invited to speak to us, I was reminded in a very positive way about the changes in women's lives over the last hundred years, and the theme of our millennial celebration is, "honor the past, imagine the future." Well certainly we honor the past when we pay tribute to those who worked hard and fought for and struggled to obtain the rights that we enjoy as citizens of America, and for women we pay particular tribute to those women and men who stood up year after year, starting in 1848, and said women should be allowed to vote, women should be able to hold office, women should serve on juries, women should be able to own property in their own name. All of these things, which now seem like part of ancient history, some of them were not resolved until the 1970's, when the last state finally was ordered to let women exercise the right of citizenship and obligation to serve on a jury, for example. So there is a lot of change that has happened in my lifetime and in the lifetime of many of you in this room. So let us honor the past, but equally and probably more important, let us imagine the future. And knowing the past helps us imagine the future. Knowing about not just famous people whose names you might read about in history, but knowing the stories in your own families, helps each of us think about what we can do. You know, Ann was telling some stories about her children, and I was thinking about my own mother's life, someone who was born before women could vote, who had a very difficult upbringing, who didn't have a lot of opportunities that she and my father worked to give to me, and really the story of America is each generation imagining a better future, so that our children and our grandchildren will have the opportunity to enjoy these rights and exercise these responsibilities that we call our right of citizenship here.

By looking at the stories of these six young women, we can imagine the future. And we can think more about what we're all capable of accomplishing. I think often about the kinds of people who inspire us. Now, I never met Seventeen's founding Editor-in-Chief, Helen Valentine, but I have read a little bit about her in preparation for this, and she, even then, encouraged young women to become informed and get involved. Now that was at a time when women's activism had died down. It comes and goes in sort of cycles in our country. And she told young women: "Never for a moment think, I am only a girl in my teens, what can I do? You can do plenty." And urging women to be politically active, and contribute to the war effort, Helen Valentine said, "We expect you to run this world more sensibly than we have."

From its very beginning, Seventeen was more than a handbook on hairstyles and makeup. I'm told that every March issue in the 1940's was dedicated not to what we would wear to prom, but to the Red Cross, and ever since, it has fulfilled that tradition. In recent years, Seventeen has brought to its pages the voices of teen mothers, children who are victims of unfair labor practices

in the Philippines, families rebuilding their lives after the hurricane in Central America, teens whose parents are in prison. Now that may not always be easy reading, but it's important reading. Those stories need to be told. Because if we're going to imagine a better future, we cannot shut our eyes to the suffering nearby and far away. And I'm particularly pleased that in its work, and in its efforts to communicate with young women, that message of Mrs. Valentine's is still being told today. So it shouldn't surprise us that a Seventeen survey found that nine out of ten teens already volunteer. They believe, as we do, that it's part of being an American. So the stories that we heard in this video should make us all stop and think that yes, we're honoring six remarkable young women today, but these young women stand for thousands and even millions of others of young women and men who are trying to do their part to make sure we do build that better future we can imagine.

I want to thank each of the winners. I want to thank Aubyn Burnside. Taking care of foster children has been a very important issue to me for a very long time. I've worked on behalf of foster children, neglected and abused children, children who, once they come into the foster care system, become our responsibility. It's not just the social workers or the judges, it is all of us who have to care for these young boys and girls. And I want to thank Aubyn for doing what she could to give a sense of dignity and respect to these children, some of whom move many, many times in just a very few years of their short lives.

I want to thank Jennifer Fletcher, for understanding how important the arts are in our educational system. Mr. Holland's Opus is one of my favorite movies, Jennifer, and it is because I can remember, although I have not a shred of musical talent, how much I learned in school, starting in my elementary school and going through my high school, because of the classes I was exposed to, because of the opportunities I would have to be in productions—I was always told that if I lip-synched and didn't actually sing, I could be in the chorus with my friends—and I know how significant it is that we keep the arts in our schools and I want to thank you for having the idea of having a benefit concert. Now I believe that it should not take a Jennifer Fletcher to make sure that the arts stay in the schools; every school district should work out a way of doing that.

And I want to thank Annie Chau for her taking on the responsibility of making it possible for young children to be exposed to the arts, again something that we are losing in our school systems, because too many school systems, when budget cuts come, they cut the arts and they cut physical education, two things that I think are essential to what young children should be exposed to. So I want to thank Annie for mobilizing other talented young artists like herself, to be sure that they were given a chance to use their skills and to learn.

And Melissa Poe is someone that I have known for several years, because I happened to be on the board of directors of Wal-Mart at the time that -- and I chaired the environmental committee—at the time that we made a partnership with Melissa to do what we could to make Wal-Mart stores and employees more environmentally conscious, and Melissa was a great help in that. And she's gone on to create an organization that has touched hundreds of young people and influenced adults as well. And the issue of the environment will only continue to become a more important issue in

the twenty-first century, that all of us are going to have to face up to and do something about, and I want to thank Melissa for her leadership.

And Megan Kirschner, I want to thank you, for doing something to try to help a young woman who needed that kind of help. We still do not have health insurance for all the children in our country, and it is heartbreaking, if, like Megan, you know a child who is not able to get all the treatment he or she needs, because that child's parents cannot afford the insurance that would pay for the treatment. It is something that should not be a part of our American life, and I am grateful for Megan's willingness to try to do something to help one young woman.

And Kat McKell, thank you, for your combination of commitment to expanding youth volunteerism and the environment. I love the name Manateens, that's so perfect for Florida, and it is a real symbol of what young people can do together, if given a chance.

So each of these young women are being honored today for what they did, but what they did should, I hope, send a message to all the rest of us about what remains to be done. We should make it possible for all young people to volunteer, and perform service, but we should also learn from the lessons and the models that these young women give to us, that there is a lot of work we need to be doing in partnership with young people, to imagine and then to build that better future. So I'm honored to be part of this awards ceremony that pays very just tribute to these particular award recipients, and to thank both Seventeen and Cover Girl for their commitment to really exemplifying what volunteerism means. But I think we should not just applaud them, we should be challenged by them, and if we are, we will find even more opportunities for young women and men to give service to their communities, and we will find ways of making it possible to imagine and build a better future for them and all of us.

Thank you very much.