

Toude file

# First lady is ready to take on challenges of the millennium

By Trude B. Feldman

SUN WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton says the advent of a new millennium evokes a universal longing for worldwide rejection of man's inhumanity to man and a revival of ethical, spiritual and moral values.

"At the outset of the 21st century, my vision for America is political action for human betterment," Mrs. Clinton told me in an exclusive interview — her first in the new century. "I want to make a difference in the enhancement of opportunity for peoples all over the world."

"The decisions made in this century will perhaps determine what kind of a country we will be. We need to challenge every inequality and answer every indignity; and we need to intensify our stand for equal justice, human dignity and mutual respect."

As one of the most famous women in the world today, Mrs. Clinton is not ready to relax, but instead she has become the first sitting first lady to run for the U.S. Senate. Here she gives her reasons for running and clarifies some of the misconceptions about herself:

**TBF.** Mrs. Clinton, why do you really want to be a senator from New York and how did the evolution begin?

**HRC.** At first, I was honored when some New Yorkers asked me to consider the possibility of running for the seat of (Democratic) Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. The more they talked, the more I listened and became convinced. Then I traveled around the state. When I was asked to help on various issues, it just seemed to be the right way for me to make a contribution in public service. It was an accumulation of people discussing the idea and my believing I could really help on the issues that I had worked on for many years.

**Q.** Why did you choose New York over Illinois, your native state, or Arkansas?

**A.** I've always wanted to live in New York, and the president and I planned to move there after our time in the White House. I just sped it up by one year.

**Q.** But, logistically, how do you envision your marriage working?

**A.** Well, we are now one of the many commuter couples in America, and I am very confident it will be a new and exciting experience for me and my husband.

**Q.** But isn't moving to New York now helping to fuel rumors that you are distancing yourself from the president?

**A.** No, that's a myth about our relationship. We still love and care about one another and expect to spend the rest of our lives together. Those who speculate or talk about our personal lives do not know the truth.

**Q.** How would you end speculation that you want to use a Senate seat to run for the presidency?

**A.** By telling you that I am committed to the Senate because I believe in its importance. ... I want to be the best senator I can be. I have seen what a difference one vote can make. You know, much of our prosperity is due to the combination of the private sector's energy and dynamism and new technology. But there is also the role the president's policies have played, and the 1993 economic plan passed by only one vote in the Senate. So I am a strong believer that the Senate makes a difference, and those who vote in that chamber affect our lives.

We also made a difference to families who were worried about their children playing in the street by passing a tough crime bill with more police on the streets and more positive activities for children. And it made a difference that brave Democrats like Marjorie Margulies-Mezvinsky (former representative from Pennsylvania) had put their political lives on the line to pass the president's Deficit Reduction Act. It passed by only one vote in the House — Marjorie's vote —

and by only one vote in the Senate — Vice President (Al) Gore's vote. So it is important that New Yorkers be represented by members of Congress who understand today's issues.

**Q.** Both you and Mayor (Rudolph W.) Giuliani are smart, tenacious and tough. But he is a seasoned New Yorker. How will you stand up to him?

**A.** I will stand up for the issues that concern the people, particularly the children. The election should not be about the mayor or about me but about what is important to the people. I will try to make sure they have the leadership that helps bring jobs, improves public education, provides health care, protects the environment and keeps guns out of children's hands. I will fight for sensible gun legislation, like the Brady Bill, which has already saved countless lives. (The bill is named for former presidential press secretary James S. Brady.)

**Q.** Will you be a leader in the Senate, and what is your definition of leadership?

**A.** I believe the best kind of leader is a leader-servant, someone who serves the people, but who also expresses ideas and views about what is in the best interest of the people who are represented. I would like to be a servant-leader in the sense that I would do my best on behalf of the needs of the people. But I would also try to point out some of the problems I think have to be addressed and try to lead in that direction.

**Q.** How will the president help you?

**A.** He is already helping me. He gives me lots of good advice. Remember, he was successful in New York in his two elections for the presidency and is still popular there. Also, he has been a good president for New York. So his involvement is important.

**Q.** What impact will the president's personal indiscretions and his impeachment have on your Senate campaign or the general elections? Will that experience make a difference in voters' minds?

**A.** Well, the president and I both believe in moving on. And I think New Yorkers are sophisticated and will care more about what I will do for them to improve their lives. If our family and I have forgiven my husband for his personal behavior, I think most Americans will do likewise. So, hopefully, the voters will judge my candidacy on the issues and not on my husband's personal mistakes or the aftermath.

**Q.** Seventeen months ago, during an interview for Yom Kippur (the Jewish Day of Atonement), the president told me he believes in the reality of atonement, forgiveness and the healing process. Can you say a word about how that process is progressing?

**A.** The president has engaged in a very genuine process of self-examination and has made quite a heartfelt effort. He has also received lots of support and good advice from clergy and friends. He strongly believes in atonement and in forgiveness as well as in responsibility and in healing. That belief has helped both of us work through the challenges that the last few years presented us with.

He learned from that experience, and I think anyone who suffers has more empathy and compassion for others and their dilemmas. We are

committed to the healing process and continue to work on that as a family. So it is an ongoing part of how we live our personal lives.

**Q.** The president also told me your devotion and love have been a constant inspiration to him, especially during his painful days. How has that source of strength manifested itself?

**A.** Well, I am very grateful that I have a deep faith that sustains me through difficult and painful times. My husband and I love each other very much, and we are both close to our daughter, whose unique strength touches both of us. I'm very blessed with love and support from family and friends. So it's not just my support that helps my husband; it is his love and care that nurture me as well. It is mutual. We lean on each other to get through the vicissitudes of life.

**Q.** When his presidency ends next January, how do you want your husband to be remembered?

**A.** He has really set a hallmark for a different kind of leadership here and around the world, and already has a remarkable record of accomplishments. The country is in better shape today than it was when he became president seven years ago. He has put into action his plans to extend opportunity and responsibility in very definite ways into people's lives. The country is economically so much better off. He has worked on behalf of racial reconciliation and inequality and against bigotry and prejudice of any kind.

**Q.** If you had your seven years in the White House to live over, what would you do differently?

**A.** I would certainly have a different approach to the health care reform effort (in 1993), because I would have liked that to be judged on its merits. Also, I would have been more aware of the political process that surrounded it and tried not to make the mistakes I made. Now one of my most difficult challenges will be to pass a new health care plan.

**Q.** In hindsight, do you regret you proposed your health care reform before proposing welfare reform when Sen. Moynihan recommended that to the president?

**A.** Well, there were reasons why the president wanted to go with health care first. So we got welfare reform done and not health care. That is a piece of unfinished business.

**Q.** What were the president's reasons?

**A.** He believed that the deficit had to be dealt with first and that the expense of health care, which was going up so dramatically, was a major problem with obtaining fiscal responsibility and erasing the budget deficit. This is why he wanted to treat health care at the same time as he treated his economic plan.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced her U.S. Senate candidacy Feb. 6.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trude B. Feldman, right, talks to Hillary Clinton in the White House map room.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON FARMER

**Q.** In retrospect, do you regret the president's decision?

**A.** It's difficult to turn back the clock. But I think Sen. Moynihan was certainly aware of how difficult health care reform would be, and his advice to first pursue welfare reform was very sound advice.

We now are at a point seven years later where we have seen welfare reform enacted, but we don't yet have comprehensive health care reform.

So yes, that's regretful, because it would have been great if we could have done not only deficit reduction but also welfare and health care reform while the Democrats were in control of Congress in 1993 and '94 ... and we might not have lost the Congress if that had been done right.

**Q.** How would you now conceptualize a new health plan?

**A.** I don't have preconceptions about the best way to address it, so I plan to consult with health experts who have new and good ideas.

**Q.** There are millions of people without health insurance in the U.S. who cannot afford quality medical care. How would you expand the number of people covered by health insurance?

**A.** The president has proposed that people be able to buy into either Medicare or the federal health employees benefit package between the ages of 55 and 65. That is a proposal we should consider and work on. As for Medicare, those benefits for people over 65 should be expanded to include prescription drugs.

**Q.** What about people under age 55? And do you favor a Patients' Bill of Rights as suggested by the American Medical Association?

**A.** There will be a proposal to provide insurance for working parents whose children will be insured under the Children's Health Insurance Program that I worked to help pass. But our principal challenge is how we create a system that enables every American to be insured. I favor providing support for Americans under 55 to be able to buy into Medicare ... or Medicaid or private insurance.

The president may extend health care coverage to different groups of Americans, particularly the working poor families and their children. And, yes, everyone should be protected by a strong Patients' Bill of Rights.

**Q.** What would you do to make sure Medicare is protected?

**A.** I would use the surplus that has been resulting because of our strong economy and our responsible fiscal policies to extend the life of Medicare and to provide for a prescription drug benefit program.

**Q.** It appears that the current priority is to focus on men's health. How would you focus more on health care for women?

**A.** We have dramatically increased our attention and funding for women's health care and even have a special office for that. We increased the amount of money for the study of women's health and provided clinical trials for drugs and treatments that primarily affect women. We also increased the amount of money for research for diseases including osteoporosis, ovarian cancer, uterine cancer and others. We expanded efforts to find a cure and prevent breast cancer, and added Medicare benefits for mammograms.

I'm convinced that preventive measures like mammograms can reduce the morbidity and mortality of breast cancer. I would particularly cite the initiatives of Dr. John Williams, vice president of the George Washington University Medical Center (in Washington, D.C.) Under his direction, the mobile Mammography Unit travels around Washington to enable poor or busy women to access mammograms for free or at reduced rates.

**Q.** What about dental care for children of the poor?

**A.** I hope that will be included in the new plan ... because I think we're not providing adequate dental care — not only for poor children, but for others whose insurance policies don't cover dental care.

**Q.** Let's turn to the woman behind the candidate. What makes you tick? Describe yourself to a stranger.

**A.** I'm someone who tries very hard to live by the tenets of my religious faith and by the advice of philosophers that an unexamined life is not worth living, but that our highest obligations are to our faith, our family and friends and to our community. I am constantly asking myself what more I can do to help someone else, and how I can live the best life I am capable of living. Therefore, I sometimes do what is conventionally accepted and perceived by others as typical. And I sometimes do things that are surprising to others but which seem right to me. But I can only live my life according to my own values.

**Q.** What makes you happy?

**A.** I find the greatest joy in my family and friends. Certainly, I have been very lucky and am well aware of how fortunate I've been. The things that make me happy are simple things, whether it is laughing with a friend or taking a walk on a beautiful day.

**Q.** What do you do for relaxation?

**A.** I try to do anything that helps me to decompress. I love to read, to spend quiet time with my family on weekends, holidays and vacations. I play word games and card games like pinochle, hearts and spades. I like to exercise and to catch up on my sleep.

**Q.** Who are those who have influenced you and how?

**A.** As I grew up, my dad taught me that I could achieve anything I set my mind on if I worked hard at it. My mother has instilled in me the drive I still have to care about and help others. My husband has influenced me with his love of life, his caring and his kindness toward all people. And Chelsea — from her vantage point as a college student — influences me when she shares her views, thoughts and those of her friends.

**Q.** How do you cope with the various problems in and out of the White House?

**A.** I try to keep my focus on what I think is important, and rely on my faith through prayer and reading. That helps me clear my mind. I also try to be surrounded by loving, caring and positive people, and ... and I take vitamins.

**Q.** What are your most important accomplishments in the past seven years?

**A.** I am very grateful that I've been able to work on lots of important legislation that has changed people's lives, whether it was the economic plan that I helped advocate or the anti-crime provisions or the adoption and foster care laws or the efforts to try to extend economic opportunity to working Americans.

I'm satisfied with the work I've done to make the White House the best it could in terms of history as well as making it more of a showcase for American art, music, cuisine and decor. I am also pleased that I could defend the arts and speak up for the arts at a time when they were threatened. I am glad I could take our message of democracy and freedom around the world to people in so many different countries.

**Q.** During this election year, how can the so-called "politics of personal destruction" be lessened or prevented?

**A.** I think that is part of the media culture in which we now live ... that the sensational, the scandalous and the personally destructive are filling our airwaves and print media, and now the Internet outlets. It will take self-discipline and willingness on the part of those who determine what is in our media to back away from that, and I hope political leaders will help to lead the way.

**Q.** How can we try to combat evil, hatred and intolerance so evident in our society today?

**A.** We have to change people's hearts. The prejudice and bigotry that infect the human heart are not in our genetic code. They are planted in the hearts of children by the adults around them. We need to stand against the perpetuation of such evil.

And, whenever possible, the U.S. must speak out strongly and act against the kind of hatred and evil we see in Kosovo, Northern Ireland, Africa and other places.

**Q.** But don't we have evil and hatred and prejudice right here in America?

**A.** We surely do, and we have to root it out wherever we see it. That is why I want to be a catalyst ... to begin such a task in the Senate. I would also try to demonstrate, by example, how that scourge can begin to be eradicated, and I would start with traditional ethics.

Each individual should look into his or her heart and make sure there is no unjustified hatred, bitterness or anger toward any person or group.

**Q.** Finally, if you lose your race for the Senate, what are your plans?

**A.** I will always be concerned and will work for my causes. I hope to do this in the Senate. But, if not, no matter where I am, I will work on behalf of improving the lives of families here and around the world.

If America is to remain the indispensable nation and the leader of this complex world, we have to reach out, take risks for peace, be willing to stand behind those who advocate human rights and tolerance and to put a human face on the problems now confronting us.

Saturday, February 26, 2000/Las Vegas Review-Journal

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PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

■ *Hillary Rodham Clinton today will become the only incumbent first lady to run for the U.S. Senate. In this exclusive interview with White House correspondent Trude B. Feldman, Clinton candidly talks about political issues and personal matters and her vision for the future.*

# Poised for a new millennium

**H**illary Rodham Clinton says the advent of a new millennium evokes a universal longing for worldwide rejection of man's inhumanity to man and a revival ethical, spiritual and moral values.

"At the outset of the 21st century, my vision for America political action for human betterment," Clinton told me in an interview—her first in the new century. "I want to make a difference in the enhancement of opportunity for people all over the world."

Here, in her own words, Clinton clarifies some of her objectives.

**Q. Why do you really want to be a senator from New York, and how did the evolution begin?**

**A.** At first, I was honored when some New Yorkers asked me to consider the possibility of running for the seat of Democratic Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. The more they liked, the more I listened and became convinced. Then I traveled around the state. When I was asked to help on various issues, it just seemed to be the right way for me to make a contribution in public service. It was an accumulation of people discussing the idea and my believing I could help on the issues that I had worked on for many years.

**Q. Why did you choose New York over Illinois, your native state, or Arkansas?**

**A.** I've always wanted to live in New York, and the president and I planned to move there after our time in the White House. I just sped it up by one year.

**Q. But, logistically, how do you envision your marriage working?**

**A.** Well, we are now one of the many commuter couples in America, and I'm very confident it will be a new and exciting experience for me and my husband.

**Q. But isn't moving to New York now helping to fuel gossip or rumors that you are distancing yourself from the president?**

**A.** No, that's a myth about our relationship. We still love and care about one another and expect to spend the rest of our lives together. Those who speculate or talk about our personal lives do not know the truth.



RICHARD DREW/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The hallmark of Hillary Clinton's seven years as first lady has been an interest in health care, the poor and children.

keeping the family together, and that's what I intend to do. I talked at length with my husband, with our daughter, with my mother and my brothers, and each is supportive and believes my campaign for the Senate is an important

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**Q. Who are those who have influenced you, and how?**

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**Q.** How would you end speculation that you want to use a Senate seat to run for the presidency?

**A.** By promising that I am committed to the Senate because I believe in its importance—I want to be the best senator I can be. I've seen what a difference one vote can make. You know, much of our prosperity is due to the combination of the private sector's energy and dynamism and new technology. But there is also the role the president's policies have played, and the 1993 economic plan passed by only one vote in the Senate. So I'm a strong believer that the Senate makes a difference, and those who vote in that chamber affect our lives.

We also made a difference to families who were worried about their children playing in the street by passing a tough crime bill—with more police on the streets and more positive activities for children.

**Q.** What are today's most important issues, and how will you make a difference for New Yorkers?

**A.** I'd like to make a difference in many ways—on the economy, education, health care and the environment. I also want to help support families to do their most important work—the rearing of the next generation. New York now has the second-highest poverty rate and the greatest income gap in the country, and that's a serious problem for the state's future.

Also, I want to enable New Yorkers to get their fair share of federal dollars so they can cut their own taxes and be able to relieve some of their burdens.

**Q.** How will you juggle your White House duties with campaigning?

**A.** Like others who run for office, I have responsibilities to my family and my position here in the White House, which I intend to fulfill while campaigning. It's like someone already in Congress who runs for the Senate, or a governor or a senator who runs for the presidency. There are existing obligations to fulfill.

Most people who run for office are able to do that while



RICHARD DREW/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The hallmark of Hillary Clinton's seven years as first lady has been an interest in health care, the poor and children.

keeping the family together, and that's what I intend to do. I talked at length with my husband, with our daughter, with my mother and my brothers, and each is supportive and believes my campaign for the Senate is an important undertaking. My family has always believed in public service, and I'm grateful to have that support.

**Q.** What is your campaign strategy for victory?

**A.** I will travel to each of the counties in New York and meet as many people face-to-face as I can. I'll spend time with them and let them see me for who I am so they can draw their own conclusions. But it's perfectly fair for New Yorkers to want to know more about me and make sure I'm committed to them. I hope eventually it will matter more what I'm for than where I'm from.

**Q.** Both you and Mayor (Rudolph W.) Giuliani are smart, tenacious and tough. But he is a seasoned New Yorker. How will you stand up to him?

**A.** I will stand up for the issues that concern the people, particularly the children. The election should not be about the mayor or about me but about what is important to the people. I will try to make sure they have the leadership that helps bring jobs, improves public education, provides health care, protects the environment and keeps guns out of children's hands.

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**Q.** What impact will the president's personal indiscretions and his impeachment have on your Senate campaign or the general elections? Will that experience make a difference in voters' minds?

**A.** Well, the president and I both believe in moving on. And I think New Yorkers are sophisticated and will care more about what I will do for them to improve their lives than our

health care reform effort (in 1993) because I would have liked that to be judged on its merits. Also, I would have been more aware of the political process that surrounded it and tried not to make the mistakes I made. Now, one of my most difficult challenges will be to pass a new health care plan.

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**Q.** How do you cope with the various problems in and out of the White House?

**A.** I try to keep my focus on what I think is important and rely on my faith through prayer and reading. That helps me clear my mind. I also try to be surrounded by loving caring and positive people, and . . . and I take vitamins.

**Q.** What are your most important accomplishments in the last seven years?

**A.** I am very grateful that I've been able to work on lots of important legislation that has changed people's lives whether it was the economic plan that I helped advocate or the anti-crime provisions or the adoption and foster care laws or the efforts to try to extend economic opportunity to working Americans. Many areas that I've been involved in that I feel strongly about, have really changed people's lives. And on an individual basis, I tried to give hope and inspiration to people who need to be encouraged to take better care of themselves, to be independent, to fight for what they believe in.

**Q.** Finally, if you lose your race for the Senate, what are your plans?

**A.** I don't intend to lose.

**Q.** But if you do, then what?

**A.** I will always be concerned and will work for my causes. I hope to do this in the Senate. But if not, no matter where I am, I will work on behalf of improving the lives of families here and around the world.

Feldman has been a White House correspondent since the 1960s. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

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# FLORIDIAN

SECTION

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2000 ■ THE TIMES

EAST

## A prince of a patron

■ Charles, an artist himself, is giving young painters a career boost by taking them on state trips as "official artists" and otherwise lending them his royal patronage.

By SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN  
Times Senior Correspondent

LONDON

Although she is considered one of Britain's finest young artists, Emma Sergeant was feeling a bit out of place at the exclusive gathering at Sotheby's auction house. So she retreated to a corner and was leafing through a catalog when a trim, middle-aged man suddenly bounded up.

"He said, to my absolute shock, 'I'm a great fan of yours,'" Sergeant recalls. "You could have picked my mouth up off my chest."

It was His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the surprises didn't stop there. He was planning a state visit to Egypt and Morocco and he wanted Sergeant to come along — as "official artist" with all expenses paid.

From that moment, "I did notice a lot more interest in me," Sergeant says. "One minute I was sitting in the corner — the next I was moved up the table."

Although she is a commoner and he the heir to the British throne, Sergeant and Prince Charles



*Ngorongoro from Hugo Hill* by HRH The Prince of Wales, Serengeti Plains, Tanzania 1997.

quickly connected on a level transcending wealth and class. Like Sergeant, Charles is an artist — a watercolorist whose aesthetic sense has defined not only his own life but also his vision of his country.

"It continues to be my view that the best of

modernity flows from the best of tradition," he once said. It is a credo that has made him both a patron of classically trained artists and an influential critic of the "disorder and ugliness" that mark much of

Please see **CHARLES** 3F

## Talking with Hillary Rodham Clinton

By TRUDE B. FELDMAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. After seven years in the White House, Hillary Rodham Clinton is the first first lady to run for the U.S. Senate.

In an exclusive interview she talks about her accomplishments, her personal and busy life and her vision for the new century.

**Trude B. Feldman:** Mrs. Clinton, why did you choose New York to seek a Senate seat?

**Hillary Rodham Clinton:** Because I believe in public service and I've always wanted to live in New York. The president and I planned to move there after our time in the White House and I just sped it up by one year.

**Q:** But isn't moving to New York now helping to fuel gossip or rumors that you are distancing yourself from the president?

**A:** No, that's a myth about our relationship. We do love and care about one another and expect to spend the rest of our lives together. Those who speculate or talk about

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**Q:** What's your definition of leadership?

**A:** I believe the best kind of leader is a leader-servant, someone who serves the people but who also expresses ideas and views about

Please see **CLINTON** 3F

what is in the best interest of the people who are represented. I'd like to be a servant-leader in the sense that I would do my best on behalf of the needs of the people. But I'd also try to point out some of the problems I think have to be addressed and try to lead in that direction.

**Q:** How will the president help you?

**A:** He is already helping me. He gives me lots of good advice. Remember, he was successful in New York in his two elections for the presidency and is still popular there. Also, he has been a good president for New York. So his involvement is important.

**Q:** What impact will the president's personal indiscretions and his impeachment have on your Senate campaign or the general elections? Will that experience make a difference in voters' minds?

**A:** Well, the president and I both believe in moving on. And I think New Yorkers are sophisticated and will care more about what I will do for them to improve their lives. If our family and I have forgiven my husband for his personal behavior, I think most Americans will do likewise. So, hopefully, the voters will judge my candidacy on the issues and not on my husband's personal mistakes or the aftermath.

**Q:** Sixteen months ago, during an interview for Yom Kippur, the president told me he believes in the reality of atonement, forgiveness and the healing process. Can you say a word about how that process is progressing?

**A:** The president has engaged in a very genuine process of self-examination and has made quite a heartfelt effort. He has also received lots of support and good advice from clergy and friends. He strongly believes in atonement and in forgiveness as well as in responsibility and in healing. That belief has helped both of us work through the challenges that the last few years presented us with.

**Q:** The president also told me your devotion and love have been a constant inspiration to him, especially during his painful days. How has that source of strength manifested itself?

**A:** Well, I am very grateful that I have a deep faith that sustains me through difficult and painful times. My husband and I love each other very much, and we're both close to our daughter, whose unique strength touches both of us. I'm very blessed with love and support from family and friends. So it's not just my support that helps my husband; it is his love and care that nurture me as well. It is



Photo by SHARON FARMER

In the White House map room, Hillary Rodham Clinton and journalist Trude B. Feldman talk recently about the first lady's marriage, her definition of leadership and what she'll do if she doesn't win a U.S. Senate seat.

mutual. We lean on each other to get through the vicissitudes of life.

**Q:** When his presidency ends next January, how do you want your husband to be remembered?

**A:** He has really set a hallmark for a different kind of leadership here and around the world and already has a remarkable record of accomplishments. The country is in better shape today than it was when he became president seven years ago. He has put into action his plans to extend opportunity and responsibility in very definite ways into people's lives. The country is economically so much better off. He has worked on behalf of racial reconciliation and inequality and against bigotry and prejudice of any kind.

**Q:** If you had your seven years in the White House to live over, what would you do differently?

**A:** I would certainly have a different approach to the health-care reform effort (in 1993) because I would have liked that to be judged on its merits. Also, I would have been more aware of the political process that surrounded it and tried not to make the mistakes I made. Now, one of my most difficult challenges will be to pass a new health-care plan.

**Q:** It appears that the current priority is to

focus on men's health. How would you focus more on health care for women?

**A:** We have dramatically increased our attention and funding for women's health care and even have a special office for that. We increased the amount of money for the study of women's health and provided clinical trials for drugs and treatments that primarily affect women. We also increased the amount of money for research for diseases including osteoporosis, ovarian cancer, uterine cancer and others. We expanded efforts to find a cure and prevent breast cancer and added Medicare benefits for mammograms.

I'm convinced that preventive measures like mammograms can reduce the incidence of breast cancer. I would particularly cite the initiatives of Dr. John Williams, vice president of the George Washington University Medical Center (in Washington, D.C.). Under his direction, the Mobile Mammography Unit travels around Washington to enable poor or busy women to access mammograms for free or at reduced rates.

**Q:** What about dental care for children of the poor?

**A:** I hope that will be included in the new plan... because I think we're not providing adequate dental care — not only for poor chil-

dren, but for others whose insurance policies don't cover dental care.

**Q:** Let's turn to the woman behind the candidate. What makes you tick? Describe yourself to a stranger.

**A:** I'm someone who tries very hard to live by the tenets of my religious faith and by the advice of philosophers that an unexamined life is not worth living, but that our highest obligations are to our faith, our family and friends and to our community. I'm constantly asking myself what more I can do to help someone else, and how I can live the best life I'm capable of living. So, I sometimes do what is conventionally accepted and perceived by others as typical. And I sometimes do things that are surprising to others, but which seem right to me. But I can only live my life according to my values.

**Q:** What gives you the most pleasure?

**A:** I find the greatest joy in my family and friends. Certainly I've been very lucky and am well aware of how fortunate I've been. The things that make me happy are simple things, whether it is laughing with a friend or taking a walk on a beautiful day.

**Q:** What do you do for relaxation?

**A:** I try to do anything that helps me to decompress. I love to read, to spend quiet time with my family on weekends, holidays and vacations. I play word games and card games like pinochle, hearts and spades. I like to exercise and also catch up on my sleep.

**Q:** Who are those who have influenced you and how?

**A:** As I grew up, my dad taught me that I could achieve anything I set my mind on if I worked hard at it. My mother has instilled in me the drive I still have to care about and help others. My husband has influenced me with his love of life, his caring and his kindness toward all people. And Chelsea — from her vantage point as a college student — influences me when she shares her views and thoughts and those of her friends.

**Q:** How do you cope with the various problems in and out of the White House?

**A:** I try to keep my focus on what I think is important, and rely on my faith through prayer and reading. That helps me clear my mind. I also try to be surrounded by loving, caring and positive people... and I take vitamins.

**Q:** What are your most important accomplishments in the past seven years?

**A:** Well, for one thing I'm satisfied with the work I've done to make the White House the best I could in terms of history as well as making it more of a showcase for American art,

music, cuisine and decor. I'm also pleased that I could defend the arts and speak up for the arts at a time when they were threatened. I'm glad I could take our message of democracy and freedom around the world to people in so many different countries.

**Q:** How can we try to combat evil, hatred and intolerance so evident in our society today?

**A:** We have to change people's hearts. The prejudice and bigotry that infect the human heart are not in our genetic code. They are planted in the hearts of children by the adults around them. We need to stand against the perpetuation of such evil.

And, whenever possible, the United States must speak out strongly and act against the kind of hatred and evil we see in Kosovo, Northern Ireland, Africa and other places.

**Q:** But don't we have evil, hatred and prejudice right here in America?

**A:** We surely do, and we have to root it out wherever we see it. That's why I want to be a catalyst... to begin such a task in the Senate. I'd also try to demonstrate, by example, how that scourge can begin to be eradicated, and I would start with traditional ethics. Each individual should look into his or her heart and make sure there is no unjustified hatred, bitterness or anger toward any person or group.

**Q:** If you lose your race for the Senate, what are your plans?

**A:** I will always be concerned and will work for my causes. I hope to do this in the Senate. But if not, no matter where I am, I will work on behalf of improving the lives of families here and around the world.

**Q:** Finally, what's your vision for America?

**A:** At the outset of the 21st century, my vision for America is political action for human betterment. I want to make a difference in the enhancement of opportunity for peoples all over the world... I think there is a universal longing for rejection of man's inhumanity to man and for a revival of ethical, spiritual and moral values....

If America is to remain the indispensable nation and the leader of this complex world, we have to reach out, take risks for peace, be willing to stand behind those who advocate human rights and tolerance and to put a human face on the problems now confronting us.

Trude B. Feldman, an internationally syndicated feature writer, has covered the White House for more than 30 years. Her interview with Mrs. Clinton on her 50th birthday was published in *Floridian* in 1997.

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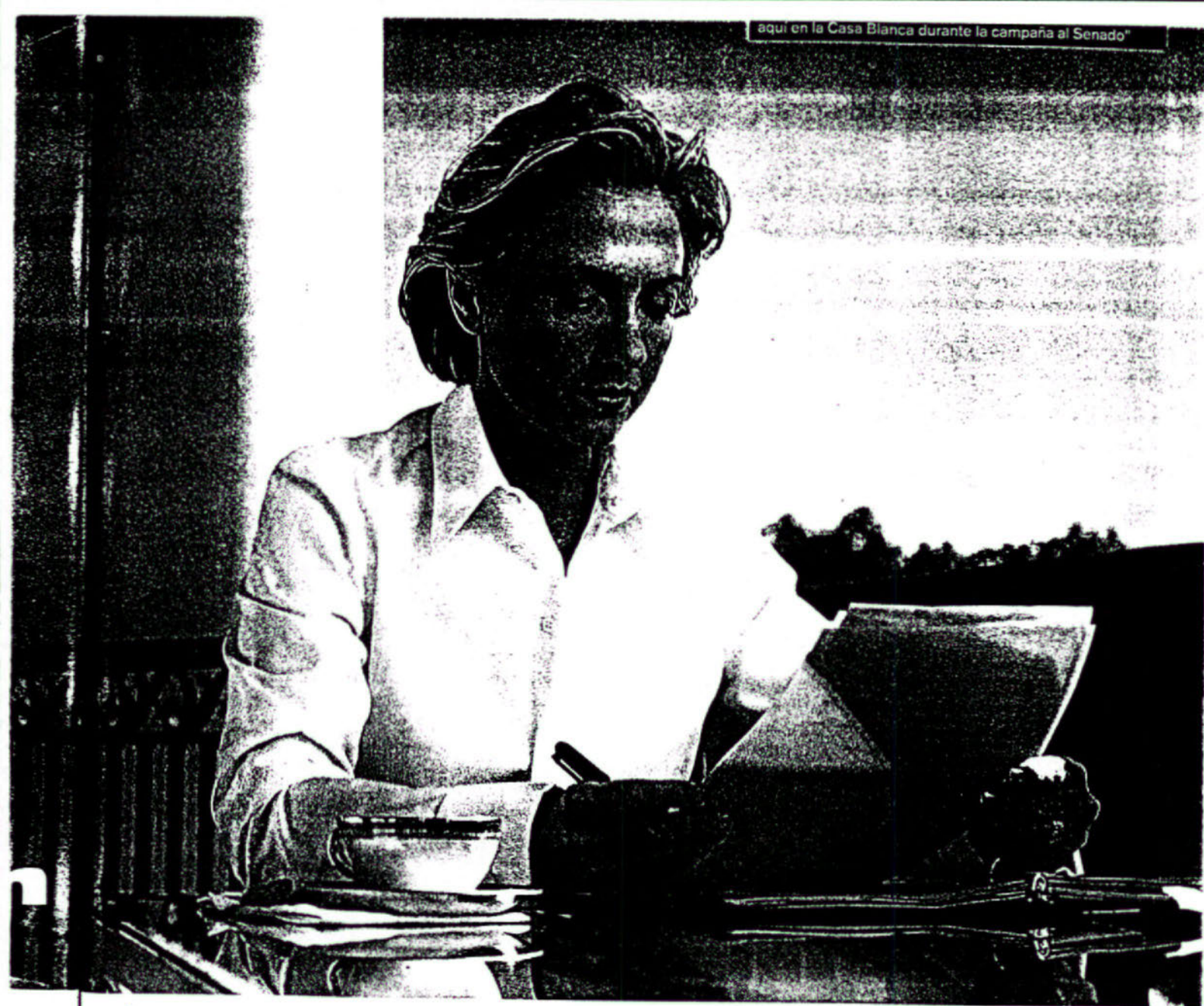
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# Hay que cambiar EL CORAZON

La sanidad, la educación, los desheredados, los niños... En esta entrevista —la única concedida en vísperas de anunciar su candidatura al Senado— Hillary Clinton repasa su ideario liberal y afronta sin reservas todos sus problemas personales y políticos



# ENTREVISTA

Texto: © TRUDE B. FELDMAN/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TEMPO  
Fotos: ANNIE LEIBOVITZ

*Hillary Clinton*

**¿Por qué quiere ser senadora por Nueva York y cómo surgió esta idea?**

Inicialmente me sentí muy honrada cuando un grupo de neoyorquinos me pidió que pensara en la posibilidad de presentarme al escaño que dejaba vacante el senador demócrata Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Cuanto más les oía, más me convencía. Después viajé por el Estado y, cuando me pidieron ayuda en varios asuntos, pensé que sería una buena forma de contribuir al servicio público. Mi candidatura fue el resultado de las discusiones con muchas personas y de mi creencia de que realmente podría ayudar a la gente en

muchos temas por los que he estado trabajando desde hace años.

**¿Por qué eligió Nueva York en vez de Illinois, su Estado natal, o Arkansas, donde residió anteriormente?**

Siempre quise vivir en Nueva York y, además, el presidente y yo habíamos hecho planes de mudarnos allí después de que terminara el plazo de estancia en la Casa Blanca. Sólo lo he adelantado un año.

**¿Y, logísticamente, cómo cree que funcionará su matrimonio?**

Bueno, ahora somos una más de esas muchas parejas americanas que se desplazan cada día a trabajar desde muy lejos y confío en que será una experiencia positiva para mí y para mi esposo.

**Pero el mudarse a Nueva York, ¿no fomenta las habladurías de su distanciamiento del presidente?**

No, eso es un mito sobre nuestra relación. Seguimos queriéndonos y preocupándonos el uno por el otro y espero que pasemos jun-

tos el resto de nuestras vidas. Quienes especulan o hablan de nuestra vida personal no conocen la verdad.

**¿Cómo pondría fin a las especulaciones acerca de que su aspiración al Senado es solamente un paso previo a presentarse a la Presidencia?**

Aclarando que me dedico al Senado porque estoy convencida de su importancia. Y quiero hacerlo lo mejor posible porque he visto la diferencia que puede significar un solo voto. Creo firmemente que el Senado cuenta mucho y lo que se vota allí afecta a nuestras vidas. Por eso es tan importante que los neoyorquinos estén representados en esa cámara por quienes comprenden sus problemas.

**¿Cuáles considera los temas más importantes de la actualidad y cómo logrará usted beneficiar a los neoyorquinos?**

Me gustaría hacerlo de varias maneras, en la economía, la educación, la sanidad y el medio ambiente. También me gustaría ayudar a las familias en su tarea más impor-

## ¿cuáles son sus planes?"

### Hillary: "No tengo intención de perder"

tante: educar a la próxima generación. Nueva York tiene la segunda tasa de pobreza más alta del país y la mayor diferencia en nivel de ingresos entre ricos y pobres, lo que representa un serio problema para el futuro.

#### ¿Cómo piensa compaginar sus deberes en la Casa Blanca con la campaña?

Como cualquiera que vaya a la oficina: tengo responsabilidades con mi familia y con mi posición aquí en la Casa Blanca que no pienso abandonar durante la campaña electoral. Es lo mismo que cuando un congresista se presenta al Senado o a gobernador, o un senador compite por la Presidencia. Hay obligaciones con las que se debe cumplir.

#### ¿Cuál es su estrategia para conseguir la victoria?

Viajaré a cada una de las regiones del Estado y veré personalmente a tanta gente como pueda. Pasaré tiempo con ellos y dejaré que me vean para que saquen sus propias conclusiones.

#### Tanto usted como el alcalde Giuliani son inteligentes, tenaces y fuertes. Pero él está hecho a Nueva York. ¿Cómo le hará usted la competencia?

Haré oír mi voz sobre los temas que afectan a la gente, especialmente a los niños. La elección no tendría que ser entre el alcalde o yo, sino sobre lo que es importante para la gente. Trataré de convencer de que ofrezco el liderazgo que ayuda a crear puestos de trabajo, mejora la educación, da seguro médico, protege el medio ambiente y mantiene las armas lejos de las manos de los niños.

#### ¿Cómo será su liderazgo en el Senado?

Creo que el mejor líder es el que sirve al pueblo, pero también el que expresa sus propias ideas y su punto de vista sobre lo que más interesa a la gente que representa.

#### ¿Cómo la ayudará el presidente?

Ya me está ayudando. Me da muchos buenos consejos. Recuerde que Nueva York le apoyó en sus dos elecciones presidenciales y sigue siendo popular allí.

#### ¿Qué incidencia podrán tener en su campaña para el Senado las indiscreciones personales del presidente y su procesamiento por el Senado el año pasado? ¿Podrá todo esto influir en los votantes?

Bueno, tanto el presidente como yo pensamos que debemos seguir adelante. Y creo que la gente de Nueva York es lo suficientemente sofisticada y se preocupará más por lo que yo haga para mejorar sus vidas. Si mi familia y yo hemos perdonado la conducta de mi esposo, creo que la mayoría de los estadounidenses harán lo mismo. Por eso tengo la esperanza de que los votantes juzgarán mi candidatura en base a mis propuestas y no por los errores de mi esposo.

Hace dieciséis meses el presidente me dijo que creía muy de veras en el arrepentimiento, el perdón y el proceso de curación. ¿Podría decirme algo sobre cómo va ese proceso?

El presidente está comprometido de todo corazón en un genuino proceso de autocritica. También ha recibido mucho apoyo y buenos consejos de clérigos y amigos. Cree tan firmemente en el cambio y el perdón como en la responsabilidad y la cicatrización. Esa creencia nos ha ayudado a ambos a esforzarnos para hacer frente al desafío que representaron estos últimos años para nosotros. Él aprendió mucho de esa experiencia y creo que alguien que sufre tiene más empatía y compasión hacia los demás y hacia sus problemas. Estamos abocados a pasar juntos este proceso de cicatrización y seguimos adelante como una familia. Es parte de nuestra vida.

#### El presidente también me comentó que el amor y la devoción que usted le brindó en este proceso fueron una constante inspiración para él, especialmente en los días más difíciles. ¿De dónde sacó usted tanta energía?

Bueno, estoy muy agradecida por la profunda fe que me sostiene en tiempos difíciles y dolorosos. Mi esposo y yo nos quedamos profundamente y ambos estamos muy unidos a nuestra hija, cuya fuerza nos conmueve. El amor y apoyo de tantos amigos y familiares es un verdadero respaldo. Pero no es sólo que yo ayude a mi esposo con mi apoyo sino que también él me sostiene a mí con su amor y sus atenciones. Es algo mutuo. Contamos el uno con el otro para superar todas las vicisitudes de la vida.

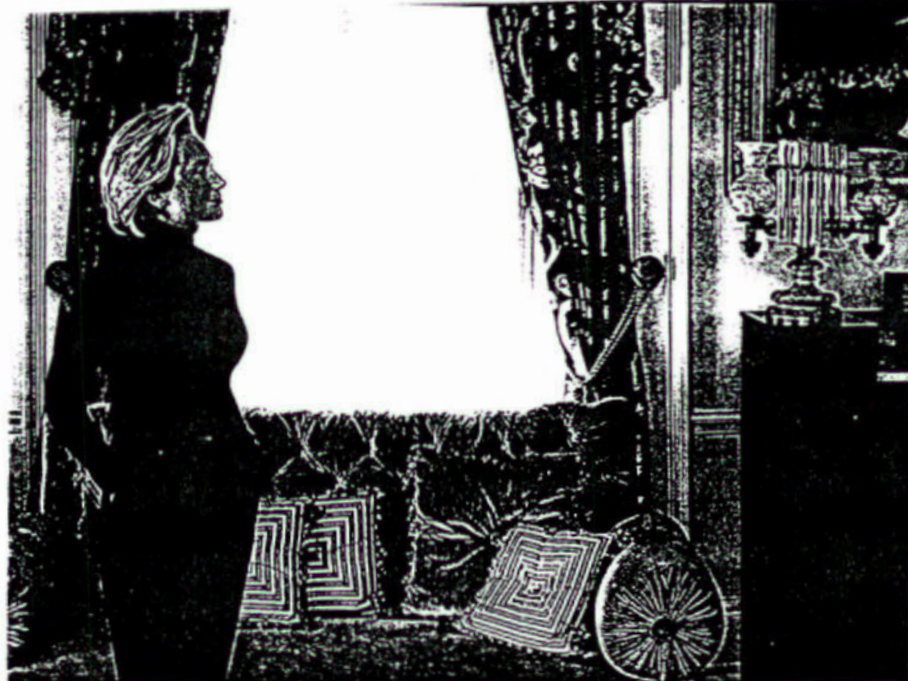
#### Cuando termine su etapa como presidente en enero del 2001, ¿cómo quiere que recuerden a su esposo?

Ha dejado ya su impronta como un tipo de líder diferente, tanto aquí como en el extranjero. Tiene ya un notable palmarés de logros. El país está mejor hoy que cuando él llegó a la Presidencia, hace siete años. Ha puesto en marcha sus proyectos para mejorar las oportunidades de la gente y el país ha mejorado mucho económicamente. Ha trabajado por la reconciliación racial para eliminar la desigualdad y los prejuicios de todo tipo.

#### Si pudiera vivir de nuevo estos siete años en la Casa Blanca, ¿qué haría de forma distinta?

Ciertamente, presentaría de forma distinta la reforma sanitaria porque me hubiera gustado que la juzgasen por sus propios méritos. También estaría más atenta a la política que rodeó todo el esfuerzo por llevar a cabo esta reforma e intentaría no cometer los errores que cometí. Ahora una de mis

"Ahora somos una más de esas muchas parejas americanas que se desplazan cada día a trabajar desde muy lejos"



## "Si mi familia y yo hemos perdonado la conducta de mi esposo, estoy segura de que la mayoría de los estadounidenses harán lo mismo"

metas más difíciles es presentar precisamente un nuevo plan de seguro médico.

**¿Cómo concibe ese plan nuevo?**

Me gustaría trabajar con gente de ideas porque no tengo nada preconcebido.

**Volvamos a la mujer que hay tras las candidatas. ¿Qué la mueve? Descríbase para quien no la conoce.**

Soy alguien que se esfuerza por vivir de acuerdo a las normas de mi religión y siguiendo a los filósofos que mantienen que la vida que no se analiza no merece la pena vivirse, pero que nuestras mayores obligaciones son con nuestra fe, nuestra familia, nuestros amigos y nuestra comunidad. Constantemente me pregunto qué puedo hacer por ayudar a alguien y cómo puedo superarme en la forma de vivir. Por eso a veces hago lo que está aceptado convencionalmente y se ve como típico, mientras que otras hago cosas que para los demás resultan sorprendentes, pero que a mí me parecen correctas. Sólo puedo vivir de acuerdo a mi propia escala de valores.

**¿Qué le produce placer?**

La mayor alegría la encuentro en mi familia y en mis amigos. Es cierto que he sido afortunada. Soy consciente de ello. Las cosas que más feliz me hacen son sencillas, como reírme con los amigos o darme un paseo un día hermoso.

**Cuando sale a caminar se disfraza, como hacia la esposa de Nixon.**

Sí, me pongo una gorra de béisbol y gafas de sol cuando salgo a caminar o de compras con los amigos, pero no funciona siempre...

**¿Qué suele hacer para relajarse?**

Trato de hacer cualquier cosa que me distienda. Me gusta leer, pasar un fin de semana tranquilo, tener días de fiesta o vacaciones con la familia. Jugamos a las cartas o a juegos de palabras. Me gusta hacer ejercicio y ponerme al día con el sueño.

**¿Cómo se las arregla con los muchos problemas dentro y fuera de la Casa Blanca?**

Trato de distinguir lo que es realmente importante y confío en la ayuda de la fe mediante oraciones y lecturas. Eso me permite clarificar las ideas. También trato de rodearme de gente que me quiere y es positiva... Y tomo vitaminas.

**¿Cómo le gustaría ser recordada tras su etapa como primera dama?**

Como alguien que trabajó duro para ayudar a hacer de su país y del mundo un lugar mejor, prestando especial atención a las necesidades de las mujeres y los niños.

**¿Cuáles fueron sus logros más importantes en los últimos siete años?**

Estoy muy agradecida por haber podido colaborar en muchas leyes importantes que han cambiado la vida de la gente, tanto si se trató de los planes económicos que ayudó a defender como de las leyes contra el crimen, sobre la adopción de niños o los esfuerzos para aumentar las oportunidades económicas de la clase trabajadora. Muchos otros temas en los que trabajé y en los que me interesé, realmente han mejorado la vida de las personas. Y en el plano individual, traté de aumentar la esperanza y servir de inspiración para quienes necesitan aliento para cuidar mejor

de sí mismos, para ser independientes o luchar por lo que creen.

**Durante este año de elecciones, ¿cómo cree que podríamos evitar las agresivas campañas negativas y los ataques personales a los candidatos?**

Creo que eso forma parte de la cultura y medios de comunicación en la que vivimos. Lo sensacional, lo escandaloso, lo personalmente destructivo inunda nuestras ondas y la prensa escrita, y, ahora, Internet. Quiénes controlan lo que difunden nuestros medios necesitarán autodisciplinarse y voluntad para cambiar las cosas; yo espero que los líderes políticos ayuden a abrir el camino.

**¿Pero cómo podemos intentar combatir la maldad, el odio y la intolerancia tan evidentes hoy en nuestra sociedad?**

Tenemos que cambiar el corazón de la gente; los prejuicios y el racismo que infectan el corazón humano no se encuentran en nuestro código genético. Están plantados en los corazones de los niños por los adultos que los rodean. Así que necesitamos alzarnos contra la perpetuación de tal maldad. Y, cuando sea posible, Estados Unidos debe denunciar con fuerza y actuar contra el tipo de odio y maldad que vemos en Kosovo, en Irlanda del Norte, en África y en otros sitios del mundo.

**¿Pero no cree que tenemos ese tipo de odio, maldad y prejuicios aquí mismo, en Estados Unidos?**

Claro que sí, y tenemos que cortarlos de raíz donde los veamos. Por eso yo quiero ser un catalizador para empezar un trabajo de ese tipo en el Senado. Intentaría demostrar cómo pueden erradicarse esas plagas.

**¿Y qué ejemplo utilizaría usted como demostración?**

Vivir de acuerdo a la *Regla de Oro*: hacer con otros lo que quiero para mí. Y seguir también los Diez Mandamientos y la ética tradicional. Cada persona debería examinar su corazón y asegurarse de que no hay odio injustificado, amargura o ira contra ninguna otra persona o grupo. Éste sería un buen comienzo.

**Finalmente, si usted perdiera su carrera por el Senado, ¿cuáles son sus planes?**

No tengo intención de perder.

**Pero, ¿si fuera ese el caso?**

Siempre me preocuparé y trabajaré por mis causas. Espero hacerlo desde el Senado. Pero, si no, donde quiera que esté trabajaré para mejorar el nivel de vida de las familias, tanto aquí como en el resto del mundo. En el nuevo milenio nuestro destino estará cada vez más ligado al de otros países. Cuando yo miro al mundo, veo que la única manera de crear un futuro mejor es tanto a través de la imaginación y la esperanza como del realismo y del pragmatismo. Si Estados Unidos quiere seguir siendo la nación indispensable y el líder de este complejo mundo, debemos arriesgarnos por la paz, mirar hacia fuera y estar dispuestos a respaldar a quien defienda los derechos humanos y la tolerancia, y a poner un rostro humano a los problemas con los que ahora nos enfrentamos. □

