

TO: HRC
FROM: Lissa 
RE: Q and A for Vogue – Greece
DATE: May 31, 2000

I've pared down the questions that VOGUE/Greece sent us and have done my best to answer them. They'd like a copy by tomorrow (Thursday) if possible. Please review this draft when you have a minute. (Melanne has looked them over also).
Thanks.

Draft #1

VOGUE (Hellas)
Q AND A FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
JUNE 2000

Which single issue would you judge to be of highest importance in the developed world, particularly concerning women?

It's hard to pick one issue because there are so many that are important to women. But the good news is that we have made tremendous strides, particularly in the five years since the United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing.

In the United States, we've extended health care coverage to several million children who were uninsured. We've made dramatic increases in funding for programs to combat domestic violence. We have made an unprecedented number of loans to women who own small businesses. We've done more than ever before to assist families with child care opportunities and family leave. We've seen greater numbers of women get involved in the political process, both as candidates and at the grass roots.

Still, challenges remain that require our further commitment and attention. We still have far too many people who lack access to quality, affordable health care – and many of them are women. While we have made progress in the economic arena, we need to get to the point where women get equal pay for equal work. We can do more to help parents – and especially women – balance the demands of family and work. These are a few areas where we need to do more.

You have been particularly interested in health care and more recently in issues concerning our youngest children, ages 0 to 3. Why do these issues concern you so much?

So much of life flows from one's health, whether we are children or adults. Obviously, children are better able to develop intellectually, socially and physically if they are healthy. Adults are better able to meet their responsibilities to their families as well as on the job if they are in good health. So I believe that, as advanced societies, we should be at a point where our citizens are assured of access to the health care they need. It's not just a philosophical issue, it's an economic and social one too.

As for our youngest children, this turns out to be a critical developmental stage of life. New scientific discoveries have told us much more about brain development during the first three years of life. As a result, we are in a much better position to help children develop to their full potential if we start early with very simple steps

such as talking, reading and singing to them. In 1997, the President and I hosted a White House Conference on Early Childhood Development with experts ranging from scientists to doctors to parents. The conference really helped raise awareness about these crucial years of childhood and offered practical advice to parents and others involved in raising children.

Do you feel that a woman's political profile is trivialized when the media make a fuss about the way she dresses or wears her hair? How conscious are you of the fact that we are living in an era obsessed by image and surface impressions of people in public life?

One thing I learned very soon after coming to the White House was that the media certainly can get preoccupied with appearances. I can't even keep count of the number of stories that have been written about my hair! Much of it is a natural curiosity and fascination about people in the public eye. But I honestly don't think that voters decide who they're going to vote for based on a politician's wardrobe or hair style, or whether a woman candidate wears a yellow dress or a beige suit.

What are your favorite ways to relax?

I love to walk. That's one of my favorite forms of relaxation. I also do a lot of reading. I like movies and we play cards a lot as a family. I love music and have quite a few of my favorite CDs in my office. Sometimes I find it relaxing just to chat on the phone with my friends, especially when I've been on the road a lot.

What is your experience of Greece and are you planning to visit anytime soon?

I've been to Greece twice as First Lady, and each visit has been a wonderful experience for me. I was privileged to visit in 1996 and to go to Olympus for the lighting of the Olympic torch, which was a truly memorable occasion. I also have had the great pleasure of visiting with women leaders in Greece, who talked to me about many of our shared concerns.

Mostly, though, I came away with an even deeper appreciation of Greece's ancient history and its contributions to our civilization. I found it profoundly moving to be in the birthplace of democracy and to think about how much our own democratic values and principles are derived from Greece and the Greeks.

And of course, as anyone who visits Greece knows, it is simply a beautiful country and the people are wonderful. I look forward to a time when I'll be able to visit again, but it probably won't be until after my Senate campaign is over.

Would you care to elaborate on your political ambitions?

As you know, right now I'm a candidate for the United States Senate from New York. I believe I can make a difference in the Senate because, while I've never held elective office, I have worked on issues affecting children and families for more than

30 years. Whatever I do in my life, I hope to advance the cause of children and families and the most vulnerable in our society. That is my ultimate goal.

FAX TRANSMISSION

Date:	May 9, 2000	No. Pages:	3
To:	Ms. Lissa Muscatine Washington, D.C.	Fax:	(202) 456-7805
From:	Effi Weinberg	Phone:	(248) 540-8479
		Fax:	(248) 540-9420
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Dear Lissa,

It was a pleasure speaking briefly with you a few days ago. I am so glad you also thought that instead of burdening Mrs. Clinton, the questionnaire was a very good idea.

As promised, I am faxing you the questions from *Vogue*. Kindly answer the questions you can - perhaps those you consider the most pertinent. Please feel free to do whatever you like.

Please forward the answers to the questionnaire to my office in Michigan (248) 540-9420, so I can make sure they get into the right hands.

I have tried to invite the most important members of the media who are the most popular with the Greek-American communities, especially in New York. The editor of *Vogue* will cover both events and will have an opportunity for a brief exchange with Mrs. Clinton.

If you have any questions, please call my secretary, Nancy at (248) 540-8479.

Thank you for your assistance.

With my very best wishes,

Effi Weinberg

VOGUE

HELLAS

1. Do you feel that in your race to political prominence, you are representing a long line of powerful women? Would you care to elaborate on your ultimate political ambitions?
2. Which single issue would you judge to be of highest importance in the developed world, particularly concerning women?
3. You seem to take special interest in health issues, beginning with the Health Bill and lately getting involved in the 0-3 debate about childhood personality development issues. Why is it that you hold these particular subject to heart?
4. What is your position on the matter of abortion, an issue that seems to have settled on the pro choice side of the debate in all developed countries except the U.S.?
5. Are you a firm supporter of the nuclear family, or do you believe that Western society finally has to wake up to alternative family ideals?
6. Do you think that politics is something that should obey the laws of marketing and advertisement?
7. Do you feel that your political profile is trivialized when the media makes a fuss about the way you dress or style your hair? How conscious are you of the fact that we are living in an era obsessed by image and the surface of things?
8. If Chelsea announced that she is willing to continue the family tradition, would you be supportive of her?
9. What is your experience of Greece? You already have met a group of prominent Greek women and participated in an ecological initiative. Are you planning to visit Greece anytime soon and if so, for what reason?

10. Are there any Greek women, living or not, that hold your interest or admiration?
11. What are your favorite methods of relaxation and what is your most superficial indulgence?
12. If you were to guide someone through the streets of New York, which places would you choose to visit and why?

TOTAL P.03

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