

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Communications

Series/Staff Member: Sonya Herbert

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 21115

FolderID:

Folder Title:
DIGITAL DIVIDE ARTICLES

Stack:

S

Row:

90

Section:

5

Shelf:

10

Position:

2

Initiatives for Disabled Unveiled

Clinton Announces Grants, Other Plans for Technology Access

By EDWARD WALSH
Washington Post Staff Writer

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 21—President Clinton toured a high-tech training center for the disabled here today and announced a series of initiatives to improve access for the disabled to the rapidly changing technologies of the 21st century.

Speaking in a small gymnasium at Mott Community College, Clinton said the goal of giving every citizen the opportunity to live a productive life cannot be achieved "if we leave any American stranded on the other side of the now famous digital divide."

"There are truly amazing possibilities," he said in recounting his tour of the center.

The initiatives the president announced included \$16 million in grants from the Education Department's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research for measures to improve Internet access for the disabled.

He said the Americorps volunteer program will provide \$9 million in grants to support 1,200 volunteers to train disabled children and adults in the use of the latest technology.

In addition, Clinton announced, the chief executive officers of more than 45 high-tech companies have pledged to adopt practices to ensure their products are accessible to the disabled, while the presidents of 25 major research universities have agreed to expand research and education on technology access for people with disabilities.

Taking steps to make sure the disabled can use the Internet and other innovations "is not just the morally right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do," Clinton said.

"If we want to keep the rest of the economy growing, we have to make information technology more accessible," he said. "It's responsible for about 30 percent of the economic growth we've enjoyed over these last eight years."

"We have to bring more people into the circle of opportunity to work in information fields. That means people with disabilities have to be able to enter the 21st century workforce, not only for your own benefit but for the rest of America as well."

Clinton included in his remarks a plug for Vice President Gore, saying they had worked together "to break down barriers that hold people back." But, he said, "breaking down barriers is not enough. People actually have to have the tools they need to take advantage of this remarkable moment of opportunity, especially the tools they need in cyberspace."

Clinton's first stop here was at the Assisted Technology Access Center, where he viewed demonstrations of devices designed to assist the disabled. Clinton watched a demonstration of the Eyegaze System,



BY PAUL SANCYA—ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Clinton talks to Karla Hudson, a rehabilitation counselor at the Michigan Commission for the Blind.

which enables people with severe motor and speech disabilities to operate a computer, control household appliances, access the Internet and send e-mail by moving their eyes across a screen. It was developed by LC Technologies Inc., a Fairfax-based company.

"I love it," Clinton said. Invited to try it himself, Clinton sat in front of the screen while Nancy R. Cleveland, medical and technical coordinator for the firm, directed him. At one point, Cleveland placed her hands on Clinton's head to keep it from moving.

The president did not immediately master the system. "Oh, I screwed it up again," he said at one point. "Dad gumit," he said a few minutes later.

Finally, Clinton succeeded in using his eyes to type "GoodMorning," without a space between the words, on the screen of a laptop computer attached to the Eyegaze device. When the computer's audio system spoke the words, a small group of people in the room applauded.

Asked how difficult it was to operate the system, Clinton said, "Pretty hard, but if you're trained you can get it down. It's amazing."

From here, Clinton flew to Detroit, where tonight he spoke at the annual meeting of the Michigan State Bar Association and at a reception for the Michigan Democratic Party.

West's Interest Surges In Yugoslavia's Election

Milosevic Suddenly Seen as Vulnerable

By R. JEFFREY SMITH
Washington Post Foreign Service

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Sept. 21—Two months ago, Western governments uniformly predicted that elections called for Sunday in Yugoslavia by President Slobodan Milosevic would have little impact on the nation's future. Milosevic would certainly be the official victor, they said, either through massive vote theft or suppression of dissent.

But three days before the vote, an unexpectedly strong showing by Milosevic's chief opponent in the past month has some U.S. and European officials hoping for another outcome: a vote that sets in motion his downfall.

As a result, Western governments are now tripping over one

another to advertise to Yugoslavia's voters the potential benefits of political change. Statements from Washington and European capitals predict trade and foreign aid. This is your chance to become part of the new Europe, they say, hoping to win over nationalist Serbs who are the base of Milosevic's support.

Norway last week came out with a specific dollar figure: \$15 million if the opposition takes power.

And under pressure from the Clinton administration and the European Union, the U.N. mission now running the Serbian province of Kosovo, which was occupied by NATO troops last year but is legally still part of Yugoslavia, has reversed its plan to treat the election as an illegitimate ploy unworthy of its attention.

Instead, U.N. officials will go to dozens of polling stations in Kosovo to "bear witness" to how many voters actually show up at the polls, officials say.

The idea is to be prepared to question any exaggerated claims by the Yugoslav government about the number of votes Milosevic collects from supporters in Kosovo, and thus help stoke post-election sentiment against him.

Western analysts say Milosevic has manipulated past elections and could do so again through such tactics as withholding voter lists from outside observers and keeping those observers out of polling stations. In recent weeks, they note, police have arrested and otherwise harassed opposition supporters and journalists.

No Western consensus exists, however, about how quickly the long-standing international sanctions against Yugoslavia should be

lifted to reward Milosevic's principal challenger, lawyer Vojislav Kostunica, if he unseats Milosevic.

During a visit here today, the European Union's commissioner of external relations, Chris Patten, noted that the United States and Europe have long disagreed over how effective the sanctions against Yugoslavia have been. "I am sure we will proceed in step," he said about their potential withdrawal. But EU ministers and the Clinton administration this week released separate statements forecasting slightly different policies on the issue.

The disagreement has not come to a boil yet because most experts still do not rate Milosevic's ouster as a high probability. At age 59, Milosevic has already survived three military routs—in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo—in which tens of thousands of Serbs died. He has also proven extraordinarily adept at convincing Serbs that foreigners are

principally responsible for the nation's desperate economic troubles.

Milosevic called the Sept. 24 election in a burst of confidence that the outcome would be favorable, Western analysts say. His aides, who control the vote-counting process, have repeatedly said he is certain to win a majority on the first ballot. Public opinion polls concluding that Kostunica is more popular are Western-funded inventions, they claim. The United States has been helping bankroll opposition activities.

But U.S. and European officials say that if a large portion of the Yugoslav population becomes convinced that he stole the elections, people could turn out in the streets in large numbers, as they did for several weeks after the 1996 election. This time, protests could spawn major defections from within his circle, leaving him without a base of power, they say.

The issue of how the West should respond to an opposition victory is

complicated by recent changes made by Milosevic and his supporters to the Yugoslav constitution. Even if he conceded defeat, the new provisions would allow him to remain in office until the end of his four-year term next summer.

Many experts also have predicted that the ruling Socialist party could continue to dominate parliament. That would create a divided government even if Kostunica gained the presidency.

But even if Kostunica achieved full power, his rise would not automatically turn on the aid spigots full blast. He has taken many positions at odds with those of Western countries. For instance, he promised

during the campaign not to allow Serbian policy to be influenced by the West. He said he would seek the withdrawal of NATO troops from Kosovo. And he promised not to cooperate with the International War Crimes Tribunal, which last year indicted Milosevic and four of his top aides for alleged crimes in Kosovo

and wants to put them on trial.

After the election of a new president and prime minister in nearby Croatia last winter, U.S. and European officials said the government could gain access to international loans and substantial foreign investment only if it cooperated fully with the tribunal. But several diplomats have said the West's position on Yugoslavia's cooperation is less clear-cut.

On Tuesday, for example, the European Union declared on behalf of its 15 members and 14 other European countries that "a choice leading to democratic change will entail a radical change in the European Union's policy with regard to Serbia [the dominant republic of Yugoslavia]: We will lift the sanctions ... we will support the necessary economic and political reforms by providing Serbia with economic aid for its reconstruction and we will support the reintegration of [Yugoslavia] ... into the international community."

The sanctions on Yugoslavia include a widely flouted ban on the sale of fuel, a ban on foreign investments and a ban on international loans.

The Clinton administration, in contrast, has made a less sweeping statement that "when a democratic transition takes place, we will take steps to remove sanctions."

James C. O'Brien, special assistant to Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright for Balkans policy, told a conference in Washington this week that a Kostunica victory would not cause the United States to back away from its basic positions about Yugoslavia.

The United States will insist on a Yugoslavia that respects the rule of law, the Dayton agreement that ended the 1992-95 Bosnian war, and the United Nations, O'Brien said. If Yugoslavia is to join Europe, it must give up its ambition to annex the Serbian part of Bosnia and must accept the U.N. administration of Kosovo, he said.



Braille show: Legally blind Jaina Sajka shows President Clinton how Braille is read on a computer.

Clinton pushes Net access for disabled

President Clinton flew to Flint, Mich., on Thursday to promote better Internet access for people with disabilities. More than 45 high-tech companies and 25 research universities have pledged to help develop products that give the disabled better access to the digital world. At one stop, the president used Eye Gaze, which allows a person to use eye movements to control a computer.

"It's pretty hard, but if you learn, you can get it down," Clinton said.

The White House said 17.3 million people have severe disabilities, and an Education Department poll found that only about one in four disabled people can use a home computer.

Poverty bill attracts pork amendments

An agreement by President Clinton and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., to enact legislation to help revive economically depressed urban areas has attracted at least 73 Senate amendments this week as lawmakers realize that any pet project attached to the bill would become law.

The 10-year cost has swelled from \$17 billion in the House-passed bill to \$37 billion with the addition of proposed Senate items such as molasses tariffs to protect Louisiana sugar growers, tax credits for Amtrak and farm-related provisions that Clinton vetoed earlier this year.

"It has become a vehicle everyone knows is going to get signed into law," said House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas. "It's going to have a deluge of amendments in the Senate."

One reason, senators and their aides say, is frustration from both Democrats and Republicans who face a dwindling number of legislative days in this Congress and few ways of getting their priority projects through the process.

Senators want cameras in Supreme Court

Senate Judiciary Committee members Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and Joseph Biden, D-Del., introduced legislation that says the Supreme Court "shall permit" TV coverage of its oral arguments.

Specter said that because the Supreme Court "has assumed the power to decide cutting-edge issues of public policy virtually as a super-legislature, the public has a right to know what the court is doing."

There was no response from the camera-shy high court. Justice David Souter told Congress four years

ago that "the day you see a camera come into our courtroom, it's going to roll over my dead body."

House ethics panel criticizes Fla.'s Brown

The House ethics committee criticized Rep. Corrine Brown's dealings with African businessman Foutanga Dit Babani Sisso-ko, who has been convicted for bribery, but it said it could not determine whether the Florida Democrat violated any rules or laws because key witnesses were overseas and not subject to subpoena.

The committee said Brown's actions showed "poor judgment and created substantial concerns." Brown had sought leniency for the flamboyant businessman who pleaded guilty to bribing a U.S. Customs official.

Brown said she was glad the matter has been "put to rest."



Brown: Glad investigation is over.

Ex-White House volunteer sues Clinton

Former White House volunteer Kathleen Willey Schwicker sued President Clinton, his wife and his lawyers, alleging they illegally released personal letters Schwicker sent the president.

Her lawsuit alleges invasion of privacy and recounts the White House's decision to publicize her friendly correspondence with Clinton. The release was done in response to her story that she was the victim of an unwelcome sexual advance by the president in 1993. Schwicker wrote the letters after the alleged advance.

Schwicker said "those in power" have come down on her "like a ton of bricks" since her complaint.

"My children have been threatened, my government files have been released, and my

life's innermost secrets have been dragged through the press. I am only one private citizen, and he is the president, but that is why we have courts, to protect people like me from abuses from people like him."

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart dismissed the suit as another in a long series of attacks against Clinton by Larry Klayman, chairman of Judicial Watch, a conservative group.

The Clintons' personal lawyer, David Kendall, who was among those sued, declined to comment about the lawsuit.

Clinton to veto environmental 'riders'

President Clinton said that he would veto spending bills that have provisions he deems harmful to the environment.

The veto threat, which he has used in the past to protect environmental measures against so-called riders, is especially potent now because members of Congress want to adjourn early next month to go home and campaign.

But first, they must finish the 11 remaining spending bills needed to fund the government in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

Written by Paul Leavitt with staff and wire reports



Plaintiff: Kathleen Willey Schwicker, husband Bill.

Gore's energy proposal sparks some disapproval

By Laurence McQuillan,
Jim Drinkard and
Dina Temple-Raston
USA TODAY

Skyrocketing oil prices were the presidential campaign's hottest topic Thursday after Vice President Gore called for President Clinton to release some of the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve in a bid to bring those prices down.

White House aides said Thursday that Clinton had not yet made a decision about whether to release a limited amount of oil from the re-

The campaign

Bush & Gore Thursday

serve, but they said he was leaning toward that action.

Gore's proposal, first reported by USA TODAY on Wednesday:

► Drew sharp criticism from Gore's Republican challenger for the White House. "He's playing short-term politics with the long-term national security of the country," Texas Gov. George W. Bush said in Nashville.

Bush's counterproposal is to pressure overseas oil producers to increase output. Arab countries recently did that under pressure from the Clinton administration, but prices have continued to rise.

► Was one factor pushing oil prices down as traders considered the effect of an increase in supply if some of the reserve goes on the market. The price of crude oil set for November delivery fell as much as \$1.29, or 3.7%, on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Thursday. It ended the day at \$33.95 a barrel.

► Sparked controversy because *The Wall Street Journal* reported Wednesday that Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers earlier this month advised Clinton that selling some of the reserve "would be a major and substantial policy mistake." Summers is also a top economic adviser to Gore.

Treasury officials subsequently confirmed that Summers wrote Clinton such a memo, but said he was referring to a much larger sale than Gore is contemplating. And Summers, in a telephone interview with the Associated Press, said Thursday that there are a number of approaches for the prudent use of (the reserve) that are now on the



By M. Spencer Green, AP

Live with "W": Regis Philbin and his guest co-host Susan Hawk check out George W. Bush's shirt on *Live with Regis* on Thursday.



By Joyce Naltchayan, Agence France-Presse

Plan on table: Al Gore, in Hollywood, Md., reveals oil proposal.

table, including those the vice president has proposed, which could be appropriate."

Gore proposed several sales of oil in installments of 5 million barrels each. The reserve is a stockpile of nearly 600 million barrels.

Gasoline prices have gone up at least 60 cents a gallon in the past year in most places, and \$1 a gallon in other parts of the USA. With winter approaching, experts are warning that the price of heating oil — used primarily in the Northeast — will be up sharply this year.

Polls show a majority of voters favor selling some of the reserve if that will help lower energy costs.

Gore told USA TODAY Wednesday that "The interests of big oil companies and OPEC are very similar, and those are at odds with the

interests of the American people," he said. "It really all comes down to this: Will we have a president who is willing to stand up to Big Oil and foreign oil and put an end to the Big Oil price gouging?"

Bush said Thursday that Gore's plan shows "we haven't had an energy policy in this country for a long period of time. It means we've just been hoping things would be going well for the consumers, and that's not the case."

In other news:

The Texas governor took his campaign into the heart of popular culture, appearing on the *Live with Regis* show alongside a contestant from the *Survivor* series and taking second billing to a man who breaks boards with his head.

He compared his quest for the presidency to the winnowing process on *Survivor*, where participants vied to be the last one left on an island in the South China Sea.

It was the beginning of a day when the campaign had sought to focus attention on Bush's plans to give Americans private investment options for part of the money they put into Social Security. But the subject got only the briefest mention on the TV show.

McQuillan was with Gore in Hollywood, Md.; Drinkard was with Bush in Nashville and New York; and Temple-Raston reported from Washington.

► Cover story, 1A

Clinton Focuses on Access Of Disabled to Computers

By MARC LACEY

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 21 — President Clinton gazed at a computer screen today at a community center for the disabled and — using only the movement of his eyeballs — haltingly typed out a two-word message: "Good morning."

Never mind that it was well past noon or that the computer repeatedly misread the president's stare. By experimenting with the innovative technology, the president sought to draw attention to the possibilities that computers present to those with disabilities.

Mr. Clinton, accompanied by administration aides who are disabled, said hooking up more handicapped people to the World Wide Web would integrate them into the economy and enable them to live fuller lives.

"We all know that not everyone has shared in the American economic renaissance," the president said in a speech at Mott Community College. "We all know there are people and places who have been left behind, including millions of Americans with significant disabilities who want to go to work, but whose path is blocked and who could work and contribute, not only to their own lives, but to the rest of us, as well."

As part of his continuing effort to bridge what the White House has labeled the digital divide, the president announced a variety of modest initiatives aimed at increasing the number of disabled people with access to computers.

He said 45 technology companies had pledged to do more to make their products and services accessible to the disabled. And he an-

nounced that the Department of Education would provide \$16 million in grants to make cyberspace more accessible.

Studies show that only 24 percent of the country's 54 million people with disabilities have access to a computer, compared with 52 percent of those without disabilities. And a review of state and federal government Web sites by Darrell M. West, a Brown University professor, found that only 278 of 1,813 sites provided disability access.

One site that has received positive reviews is the White House home page. Susan Scheer, executive director of the Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York, said two disabled people, one blind and one with a head injury, reviewed www.whitehouse.gov recently and "both thought that it was very, very good."

White House aides said they chose to come to Flint because of an innovative computer center for the disabled here, not because of an embarrassing episode involving Vice President Al Gore this month.

Mr. Gore apologized to Chad Swiatecki, a local reporter who uses a wheelchair, after the journalist wrote an article saying he was unable to cover a Gore campaign event because it was not accessible to the handicapped.

Today, five wheel-chair-accessible vans were added to the motorcade to carry a few journalists and guests who were disabled.

On his tour of the nonprofit Disability Network, Mr. Clinton tried the EyeGaze system that allows eye movements to control a cursor.

"It's hard to do but if you train you can get it down," he said.

FLOYD NORRIS

Can Al Gore Survive Rising Oil Prices and Falling Stocks?

As election forecasters go, the Dow Jones industrial average has a better record than most. And its latest swan dive may be bad news for Al Gore.

This will be the 26th presidential election since Charles H. Dow put his industrial average together in 1897. So far, its record as an election prognosticator is 22-3 — not perfect, but at least as good as the average pollster.

The indicator says that if the Dow rises from the end of July through the end of October — the three months when investors are most attuned to the political season — the incumbent party will win the election. If the Dow falls, however, the incumbents will be thrown out. Perhaps a rising stock market reflects contented voters.

It has been 32 years since the Dow last blew an election call. In 1968, the Dow rose 7.9 percent during the three key months, but that was not enough to put Hubert H. Humphrey — the last Democrat to run for president while serving as vice president — over the top. Mr. Humphrey faced a few problems that Al Gore does not, notably a party that was badly split by the Vietnam War and by the third-party candidacy of George C. Wallace.

The other failures came in two elections when the outcome was not seriously in doubt. The Dow managed a rise in the three months before the 1932 election, but there was

Election-year performance of Dow Jones industrials from July 31 through Oct. 31.

DOW RISES
Incumbent party ...

Wins ☐ Loses ☐

DOW FALLS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

no way that was going to restore Herbert Hoover's reputation as an economic manager. And in 1956, a slip in the Dow was no threat to Dwight D. Eisenhower's re-election.

In recent elections, the record has been perfect. The Dow fell in 1976, 1980 and 1992, all years that the incumbent president lost.

The incumbent party prevailed in 1972, 1984, 1988 and 1996, when the Dow rose.

The Dow indicator is broadly consistent with a number of other historical trends. It is highly unusual for an incumbent party to be thrown out unless there is substantial discontent about the economy.

This year, most pundits treated Mr. Gore as a long shot through much of the summer, notwithstanding the strong economy. They reversed course as he pulled ahead in the polls after the Democratic Convention in August. As it happened, the Dow started an impressive rise before the

convention, gaining 7.6 percent, or almost 800 points, from July 27 through Sept. 6. With August up nicely, it looked as if the Dow was backing Mr. Gore.

But since then the Dow has slid, dropping in 9 of 11 sessions, including 6 in a row before it rebounded yesterday. Not since 1995 had the Dow gone down in 6 consecutive sessions. Since Sept. 6, the Dow is down 4.8 percent, wiping out most of the August gains.

What went wrong? To be crude about it, oil. The comfortable Wall Street assumption that the Federal Reserve had engineered a soft landing, in which growth would slow enough to stem inflation but not enough to do real damage, is being challenged by the continued rise in oil prices. Recessions followed previous oil shocks.

The Republicans, to be sure, could have picked better candidates to fight over oil. Both George W. Bush and Dick Cheney are former oil company executives who once praised rising oil prices. Mr. Gore will bash the sky-high profit margins that oil refiners now enjoy.

For his part, Mr. Bush will denounce the Clinton administration as not having an effective energy policy, and that could have an effect. Like it or not, the Dow — and the election — may turn on whether oil prices stay high for the next six weeks.