

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO WEATHER FORECASTERS
THE WHITE HOUSE
October 1, 1997

'97 OCT 1 PM12:37

Acknowledgments: VP Gore, Sec. Daley.

And I want to thank all of you weathercasters for coming today. As you well know, people tune into the news for your weather reports more than any other reason. *[Inside joke, based on a very common weathercaster complaint: Of course, it may not feel that way when your producer is cutting another 15 seconds out of your weather show. But...]* The public relies heavily on your expertise -- and not only to figure out whether they'll need to put on a coat when they go to work the next morning. The fact is, your reports save lives. This vast country, for all its natural blessings, has some of the most severe weather and natural disasters of any country in the world. And you're the men and women America trusts to deliver timely warnings and advice. You are engaged in a very important form of public service, and we are indebted to you.

I'd also like to salute the weathercasters' outstanding partners at NOAA [NO-ah] and the National Weather Service. In the past decade alone, you have doubled the amount of warning time we have to prepare for tornados, and quadrupled the warning time for flash floods. And those are just two of the ways you and your research and technology have greatly improved the nation's safety and planning. Thank you very much for all you do.

I have spent most of my time over the past four and a half years trying to prepare America for the challenges and opportunities of a new century and a new millennium. Climate change is, quite simply, one of the most important challenges we face. I believe that if we fail to address it head-on, we will fail our deepest obligations to our children and future generations.

There are four principles that have guided me in preparing my response to the challenge of global climate change. First, I am convinced that the science of climate change is solid. We certainly don't know everything, and more research is needed. But what we already know is more than enough to warrant responsible action.

Everyone always talks about the weather. Now we know we can do something about it. This is one forecast that is in our hands.

When you weathercasters look at the Doppler radar screen and see an advancing mass of dark red echoes, you know it's going to rain. You may not know precisely how much or for how long, but you know it would be a mistake not to advise your viewers to carry their umbrellas.

That's the way I feel about global climate change. The overwhelming majority of the world's climate scientists have concluded that if we don't cut our emissions of greenhouse gases, temperatures will rise and we will disrupt the global climate. In fact, many believe this process has already begun. Scientists don't yet know precisely how bad the effects of global climate change

will be -- exactly how fast the climate will change or how severe droughts and floods might be in a particular region. But given what they do know, it would be a grave mistake for us to put our heads in the sand and ignore this issue.

The second principle is that when the nations of the world meet this December in Kyoto, Japan, we must be prepared to commit to realistic and binding limits on our emissions of greenhouse gases. With 4% of the world's population, the United States produces more than 20% of its greenhouse gases. I believe we must cut back. The world is looking to us for leadership.

The third principle is that we must embrace solutions that will allow us to continue to grow our economy at the same time we honor our global responsibilities. I have worked far too hard to revitalize the American economy to jeopardize our progress now. The plan that we will bring to Kyoto will emphasize flexible, market-based approaches. It will also embrace technologies that can make energy production much more efficient. Let me give you an example. Typically, about two-thirds of the energy produced by power plants is lost in the form of wasted heat billowing out in clouds of steam or pumped out into rivers. But a company called Trigen [TRI-jenn] has doubled the efficiency of power plants in Philadelphia, Chicago, and Tulsa by capturing waste heat and turning it into steam to warm office buildings and fuel factories. It's a wonderfully simple and elegant solution. It represents the kind of American ingenuity that will make our job much easier.

Finally, I believe that we must ask all nations, both industrialized and developing, to participate in this process. It is wonderful that so many countries in so many parts of the world are developing so rapidly. But as we have seen here in America, economic development increases energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, emissions from the developing world will likely eclipse those from the developed world by 2035. So the developed world cannot take on this responsibility alone. In Kyoto, we will ask for meaningful, equitable commitments from all nations.

On Monday, we hope to take an important step forward in our efforts to put these general principles into one sensible policy. We have invited noted economists and leaders from industry, state and local governments, and the environmental and scientific communities to participate in the White House Conference on Climate Change. Our goals are simple: We want to help the American people understand the importance of the challenge, and to allow outside experts to help inform the policy process to the greatest extent possible.

Many of the threats this nation has faced in the past have been clear and present dangers. Global climate change is more subtle. That is, scientists can see the train coming, but most Americans in their day-to-day lives can't hear the whistle blowing. And that makes the work of educating the public that much more of a challenge -- *especially on a chilly day like today*. But we are deeply committed to putting the evidence before the American people. We are deeply committed to building consensus to do the right thing for our future. Thank you very much for being here today. Thank you for leadership in your communities. And thank you for your interest in this very important subject.

And now I would like to ask the Vice President to come back up to the podium to give you his more-detailed perspective on this issue. Unfortunately, I'm going to have to cut class, but I leave you in the very capable hands of Professor Al Gore . . .

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

87 SEP 30 4:51 PM

September 30, 1997

BROADCAST WEATHERCASTERS

DATE: October 1, 1997
LOCATION: East Room
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
FROM: Todd Stern & Katie McGinty

DBS



I. PURPOSE

You are addressing over 100 television weathercasters from around the country on the issue of climate change. The audience includes a wide diversity of markets, from major cities including New York, San Francisco, Chicago, and Los Angeles to smaller markets such as Milwaukee and Huntsville. All major networks are represented. This is a unique opportunity to reach a group of people who are very well positioned to explain the issue of climate change to the American people.

II. BACKGROUND

The broadcasters will have attended a reception Tuesday night at the National Press Club, attended by Todd Stern, Katie McGinty, Jack Gibbons, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Robert Mallett and other members of your climate team. On Wednesday morning, they will receive a series of climate change briefings at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) where they will hear from prominent experts on basic climate change science and on anticipated regional impacts.

Although there has been some skepticism among climate change opponents and the media that this event is largely a photo op, the program in fact represents a highly substantive discussion of climate change science, including a very clear articulation of where the scientific uncertainties are.

Prior to your remarks, the Vice President will give a 25 minute presentation, also highlighting the science of climate change. Your remarks to this group will underscore the importance of weathercasters as communicators and then touch upon the four principles guiding the development of U.S. policy (solid science, the need for U.S. leadership in Kyoto, shaping policies that protect economic growth and encourage technological innovation, and ensuring the participation of all countries).

There are a number of constituencies that are scrutinizing every word Administration officials say on climate change, looking for any hint of where the policy process is headed. You should be very careful not to say anything that suggests a leaning toward a particular

target and timetable or other specific aspect of potential U.S. policy. Furthermore, you should be aware that many in the audience may have seen the advertisement being run on television by climate change opponents. The ad claims that developing countries will be exempt from a new climate treaty. This is highly misleading, and the U.S. has been in the lead in calling for meaningful, equitable developing country commitments.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Pre-brief participants:

Todd Stern, Katie McGinty, Gene Sperling, Dan Tarullo, Dr. Jack Gibbons, Ann Lewis, Beth Viola.

Event Participants:

The Vice President, over 100 weathercasters (see attached list), representatives of NOAA and the National Weather Service, several notable scientists (who spoke during the morning program), and senior Administration officials (to be confirmed).

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- YOU and the Vice President will do a receiving line in the Blue Room
- YOU and the Vice President will be announced off stage into the East Room.
- The Vice President will make brief opening remarks and introduce YOU.
- YOU will make remarks.
- YOU will depart. The Vice President will remain and give a presentation.

VI. REMARKS

From Speechwriting

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Agenda

List of Participants

SEP 30 1997

**GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE
BROADCAST WEATHERCASTERS BRIEFINGS
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 1, 1997**

AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1997

Evening

6:30-8:30 p.m. Reception at the National Press Club
Remarks at 7:00pm

Keynote Speakers: The Honorable Todd D. Stern Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary
 The Honorable Robert Mallett, Deputy Secretary of Commerce
 The Honorable John H. Gibbons, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology
 The Honorable Kathleen A. McGinty, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1997

7:15 a.m. Registration
 NOAA Auditorium
 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD

Morning Session

8:00 a.m. *Welcome* by U.S. Department of Commerce Under Secretary for NOAA
 Dr. D. James Baker; Remarks: Purpose of session; NOAA's role as the Nation's climate service; scope of the science today; range of known impacts; future plans.

8:20 a.m. Dr. Daniel Albritton, Director, DOC/NOAA Aeronomy Laboratory - *Evidence of Increased Concentration of Greenhouse Gases in the Atmosphere*. Remarks: Predictions of the changes in the climate system that could result from increased levels of greenhouse gases.

8:40 a.m. Mr. Thomas Karl, Senior Scientist, DOC/NOAA National Climatic Data Center: *How Climate Patterns Have Changed Over Time*. Remarks: Data show that precipitation and temperature patterns are changing across the U.S. and world.

9:00 a.m. Dr. Ants Leetmaa, Director, DOC/NOAA Climate Prediction Center: *The 1997/98 El Niño: Forecast and Impacts*. Remarks: El Niño disrupts seasonal climate patterns; the current El Niño was predicted using numerical models; predictions for coming seasons; lessons learned which can be applied to long-term climate change.

9:20 a.m. Prof. William Easterling, Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University: *How Climate and Climate Change Impact People and the Way They Live*. Remarks: The importance of studying the climate system and its impact on society

9:40 a.m. Dr. D. James Baker, Wrap-up and Introduction of Regional Experts

(Agenda - Page 2)

10:00 a.m. Announcement of Interview Procedures and Afternoon Program

10:10 a.m. Interviews with Regional Experts

11:45 a.m. Buses depart for White House (Box lunches will be provided on the bus trip to the White House)

Afternoon Session

1:00 p.m. White House

- * Presentations by the President and Vice President
- * Reception with Receiving Line
- * Interviews with the Morning Speakers (optional)
- * Live evening broadcasts for evening news segments (optional)

Regional Experts:

Northwest: Professor Edward Miles, University of Washington
Southwest: Professor Roger Bales, University of Arizona
Midwest: Professor Dennis Ojima, Colorado State University
Northeast: Professor Berrien Moore III, University of New Hampshire
Southeast: Doctor Barbara Miller, Rankin International

DRAFT

Draft 9/30/97 8:30pm

'97 SEP 30 - 9:24

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I'd also like to salute the men and women of NOAA and the National Weather Service who are here today. You and your impressive technologies are, among other things, the first lines of defense against nature's fury. In the past decade alone, you've doubled the amount of warning time we have to prepare for tornados, and quadrupled the warning time for flash floods. You also deserve praise for the highly successful public-private partnership you have fostered with broadcast weathercasters. It's a wonderful model for the nation.

I have spent most of my time over the past four and a half years trying to prepare America for the challenges and opportunities of a new century and a new millennium. Climate change is, quite simply, one of the most important challenges we face. I believe that if we fail to address it head-on, we will fail our deepest obligations to our children.

There are four principles that have guided me in preparing my response to the challenge of global climate change. First, I am convinced that the science is real. We certainly don't know everything, and more research is needed. But what we already know is enough to warrant responsible action.

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[On Monday, we hope to take an important step forward in our efforts to put these general principles I've spoken of today into one sensible policy. We have invited noted economists and leaders from industry, state and local governments, and the environmental and scientific communities to participate in the White House Conference on Climate Change. Our goals are simple: We want to help the American people understand the importance of the challenge, and to allow outside experts to help inform the policy process to the greatest extent possible.]

Many of the challenges this nation has faced in the past were clear and present dangers. Global climate change is more of a looming threat: We see storm clouds

approaching on the horizon, but most Americans in their day-to-day lives can't yet feel the rain. And that makes the work of educating the public that much more difficult. But we are deeply committed to putting the evidence before the American people. We are deeply committed to building consensus to do the right thing for our future.

Thank you very much for being here today. Thank you for your leadership in your communities. And thank you for your interest in this very important subject.

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Station</u>
Mr. Al Roker	New York, New York	NBC
Mr. H. Joe Witte	New York, New York	NBC
Mr. Sam Champion	New York, New York	WABC
Mr. Lee Goldberg	New York, New York	WABC
Mr. Nick Gregory	New York, New York	WNYW
Mr. Irv Gikosfsky	New York, New York	WPIX
Mr. Dallas Raines	Los Angeles, California	KABC
Mr. Steve Rambo	Los Angeles, California	KCBS
Mr. Steve Baskerville	Chicago, Illinois	WBBM
Mr. Steve Schill	Chicago, Illinois	WFLD
Mr. Jerry Taft	Chicago, Illinois	WLS
Mr. Andy Avalos	Chicago, Illinois	WMAQ
Ms. Julia Bologna	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	WPHL
Ms. Cecily Tynan	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	WPVI
Mr. Frank Cariello	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	WTFX
Mr. Peter F. Giddings	San Francisco, California	KGO
Mr. Stephen E. Raleigh	San Francisco, California	KRON
Mr. Bruce W. Schwoegler	Boston, Massachusetts	WBZ
Mr. Tim Kelly	Dedham, Massachusetts	WFXT
Mr. Harvey Leonard	Boston, Massachusetts	WHDH
Mr. Jeff Gilbert	Washington, DC	WJLA
Mr. Bob Ryan	Washington, DC	WRC
Ms. Susan Palka	Washington, DC	WTTG
Mr. Lawrence D. Hill	Washington, DC	WUSA
Mr. Topper Shutt	Washington, DC	WUSA
Mr. Chuck Gaidica, Jr.	Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan	WDIV

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Station</u>
Ms. Theresa Smith	Atlanta, Georgia	TWC
Ms. Valerie Voss	Atlanta, Georgia	CNN
Mr. Shane Butler	Atlanta, Georgia	WSB
Mr. Don Webster	Cleveland, Ohio	WEWS
Mr. Richard D. Goddard	Cleveland, Ohio	WJW
Mr. Kenneth J. Barlow	Minneapolis, Minnesota	KARE
Mr. Bryan S. Norcross	Miami, Florida	WFOR
Mr. John R. Toohey-Morales	Miami, Florida	WLTU
Mr. Ronald Steadham	Plantation, Florida	WTVJ
Mr. Richard Fletcher	St. Petersburg, Florida	WTSP
Mr. Larry Richert	Gibsonia, Pennsylvania	KDKA
Ms. Trish Brown	St. Louis, Missouri	KMOV
Mr. Paul Goodloe	St. Louis, Missouri	KSDK
Ms. Deobrah Pacyna	Sacramento, California	KXTV
Mr. Ed Phillips	Phoenix, Arizona	KNXV
Mr. Sean D. McLaughlin	Phoenix, Arizona	KPNX
Mr. Tom Tasselmyer	Baltimore, Maryland	WBAL
Mr. David S. Marsh	Orlando, Florida	WESH
Mr. Glenn Richards	Orlando, Florida	WFTV
Mr. Hilton Katerli	Hartford, Connecticut	WFSB
Mr. Geoff Fox	New Haven, Connecticut	WTNH
Mr. Bradford A. Field	West Hartford, Connecticut	WVIT
Ms. Loren Noncarrow	San Diego, California	KFMB
Mr. Robert E. Gregory	Indianapolis, Indiana	WTHR
Mr. Bryan Busby	Kansas City, Missouri	KMBC
Mr. Mark J. Baden	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	WISN
Mr. Paul S. Joseph	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	WTMJ

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Station</u>
Mr. Gregory B. Fishel	Raleigh, North Carolina	WRAL-TV
Mr. Jeff Hill	Durham, North Carolina	WTVD-TV
Mr. Michael G. Davis	Columbus, Ohio	WBNS-TV
Mr. Ben Gelber	Columbus, Ohio	WCMH-TV
Mr. Skip Waters	New Bern, North Carolina	WCTI-TV
Mr. Phillip B. Williams	Greenville, North Carolina	WNCT-TV
Mr. Jim Berscheidt	San Antonio, Texas	KENS-TV
Mr. Keith Thompson	Kalamazoo, Michigan	WWMT-TV
Mr. Kevin O'Connell	Buffalo, New York	WGRZ-TV
Mr. Donald J. Paul	Buffalo, New York	WIVB-TV
Mr. Tom Jolls	Buffalo, New York	WKBW-TV
Mr. Don Slater	Portsmouth, Virginia	WAVY-TV
Mr. Jeffrey B. Lawson	Norfolk, Virginia	WVEC-TV
Mr. Brian Tieglund	Memphis, Tennessee	WPTY-TV
Mr. Chuck Rhodes	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	WHTM-TV
Mr. Jim Buchanan	York, Pennsylvania	WPMT-TV
Mr. Michael C. Morgan	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	KFOR-TV
Mr. John W. Matthews	West Palm Beach, Florida	WPEC-TV
Mr. W. Kent Ehrhardt	Palm Beach, Florida	WPTV-TV
Mr. John Belski	Louisville, Kentucky	WAVE-TV
Mr. Randy P. Jackson	Greensboro, North Carolina	WFMY-TV
Mr. Richard J. Ortner	Birmingham, Alabama	WBMG-TV
Mr. Barry P. Finn	Scranton, Pennsylvania	WYOU-TV
Mr. Robert J. Kovachick	Albany, New York	WNYT-TV
Mr. Stephen A. LaPointe	Schenectady, New York	WRGB-TV
Mr. Stephen P. Caporizzo	Albany, New York	WTEN-TV
Mr. Carl Nichols	Dayton, Ohio	WDTN-TV

Name	City	Station
Mr. Clay Anderson	Dayton, Ohio	WKEF-TV
Mr. George A. Winterling	Jacksonville, Florida	WJXT-TV
Mr. Timothy W. Deegan	Jacksonville, Florida	WTLV-TV
Mr. Anthony Cavalier	Huntington, West Virginia	WSAZ-TV
Mr. John McMurray	Flint, Michigan	WJRT-TV
Ms. Tracy L. Capps	Richmond, Virginia	WRLH-TV
Mr. Kevin Collins	Richmond, Virginia	WTVR-TV
Mr. Richard E. Katzfey	Knoxville, Tennessee	WKXT-TV
Mr. Tab O'Neal	Lynchburg, Virginia	WSET-TV
Mr. Charles G. Bell	Roanoke, Virginia	WSLS-TV
Mr. Robin John Reed	Roanoke, Virginia	WDBJ-TV
Mr. Gary Dobbs	Huntsville, Alabama	WAAY-TV
Mr. Jay Prater	Huntsville, Alabama	WAFF-TV
Mr. Danny E. Satterfield	Huntsville, Alabama	WHNT-TV
Mr. Michael J. Hoffman	South Bend, Indiana	WNDU-TV
Mr. Thomas S. Scaman	South Bend, Indiana	WSBT-TV
Mr. John P. Fischer	Elkhart, Indiana	WSJV-TV
Mr. Tim McGill	Oak Brook, Illinois	CLTV-TV

TBD Turner

Draft 10/1/97 11:30am

'97 OCT 1 PM 12:15

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REMARKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO
WEATHER FORECASTERS

THE WHITE HOUSE

October 1, 1997

① key to educating public

Barack
Chasman
S. S. Stetson

"Keynote
Broad goals will be established"

"No country has specified goals"

Mike Crowe

Nation (Security
Indonesian
demonstrations
at times

room

you going to retire
used to deliver bad news

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And now I would like to ask the Vice President to come back up to the podium to give you his more-detailed perspective on this issue. Unfortunately, I'm going to have to cut class, but I leave you in the very capable hands of Professor Al Gore . . .

#