

I did want to say one other thing to you. Yesterday morning we had a nationally televised town meeting here in the Rose Garden at the White House with a couple of hundred folks who came from 35 States. One of the people there said, "You know, we're always asking you, Mr. President, what are you going to do and telling you what we think you should do. What do you think we can do for our country to help now?" And I would just kind of like to repeat something that came out of that conversation because I told the woman who asked the question that there are clearly limits to what Government can do as well as great possibilities there. And a lot of the problems that we have in this country have to be dealt with by citizens working together at the grassroots level. And this is a stunning example of that. I mean, just think how many people all across America are going to wind up having telephones in these hospitals because one man had a vision, and his company and his union were willing to support that vision. I mean, that's an example of the kind of things that can be done by American people all over this country working together. Really, he deserves all the credit. I'm just glad to be here with this inaugural telephone kickoff.

Mr. Young, are you going to call your children when we get off the phone?

Mr. Young. I probably will, Mr. President. I'll get the number from my wife, and I definitely will call. And they will be excited like I am. And I would like to say thanks for the opportunity. And like Albany said, I never dreamed that I would be talking to the President of the United States and the Vice President of the United States.

And the Bronx VA Medical Center has some of the best staff there is. And we appreciate their hard labor and the volunteer service. And they're doing a very good job.

The President. Well, we're trying to support your veterans hospital network. Even as tight as the budget is here and as much as we're cutting, we're going to invest some more money in these veterans hospitals next year to try to keep the quality of care up for people like you.

Mr. Young. That's true. Yes—[inaudible]—the quality of care for the veterans, allocate more funding, and it will bring better

quality care for the veterans which, you know, they deserve. And the staff also.

The President. Well, I wish all of you well. Mr. Young, when you talk to your sons in Italy and Korea, you tell them that we're proud of them on this Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Young. I sure will, Mr. President.

The President. And when you talk to your child in Queens College, make sure that there's a graduation there. We need all the kids we can get with good educations so they'll support you and I when we get older and have a strong economy.

Mr. Young. That's true, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

The President. Thank you. Vince and Ken, thank you very much.

Hershel, you want to say anything?

Deputy Secretary Hershel Gober. I would just like to say before Memorial Day here for my comrades, fellow veterans, Vince, Ken, Eugene, we're proud of you. And Secretary Brown and I, along with the President and the Vice President, want you to know that we'll provide the support that you need and that you have earned. You have entitlements; you don't receive benefits. And I want you to know that we're thinking about you, and God bless you.

Mr. Young. Thank you very much.

The President. Thank you. Have a good day.

NOTE: The teleconference began at 9 a.m. The President spoke from the Oval Office at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters on Departure for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

May 28, 1993

China

Q. Heard anything from China, Mr. President? Their reaction, the Chinese reaction?

The President. I don't know what their—I feel very good about our policy. I think it's a good policy. I don't want to isolate China. I want to do what's good for—just the Chinese people. But I think standing up for

American values and values in China is the way to go. I think this is the right policy. And we have some very serious issues between us, along with these, a broad range of possibilities. I hope we can work—

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:07 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at City Hall in Philadelphia

May 28, 1993

Thank you very much, Rosemary Greco. You know, she's the sort of person that I ran for President to support, a person who started out as a bank teller and became the president of a bank. That's the American dream.

I want to say how glad I am to be here, back in Philadelphia, a city that has been so good to me for so long now, with your Mayor and Senator Wofford and with the members of the House delegation who are up here on the platform with me, and with your State treasurer, Catherine Baker Knoll. I'm glad to be here with all of them. Give them a hand, will you?

My fellow Americans, since I became President I have been working to break the gridlock in Washington, to prove that Government could work for you again. And there have been some impressive examples of success in that regard. The Congress, after 8 years of rankling with the President and two vetoes, voted to pass the Family and Medical Leave Act to guarantee working people a little time off when the baby was born or a parent was sick, and eventually, after years of haggling, voted to pass the motor voter bill to open up the voter registration rolls to millions of Americans and bring them into the political process.

But the real issue was whether we had the courage to come to grips with the economic problems which have paralyzed this country. After years and years and years of gridlock, after years of leaders talking about economic problems and not doing much about them, after years in which we ran our national debt from \$1 trillion to \$4 trillion and reduced our investment in our people, their jobs, and their future at the same time, last night the

House of Representatives gave the American people a victory for economic growth over gridlock.

The plan cuts the deficit by \$500 billion, cuts a quarter of a trillion dollars in Government spending, asks the wealthy who can best afford to pay their fair share, invests in education and jobs, and rewards work instead of welfare.

[At this point, there was a disturbance in the audience.]

Let me tell you something—wait a minute. You know one thing that's wrong with this country? Everybody gets a chance to have their fair say. My budget did more to fight AIDS than any in history, and we're having to put up with this. Tell them to let me talk. If you want to give a speech, go out there and raise your own crowd. We'll be glad to listen to you.

So there were those—I'll make you a deal. I'll ignore them if you will.

There were a lot of people who said we could never change the way things were in Washington, the same sort of people who picked the Phillies to finish last this year. By the way, I think the Phillies are looking pretty good, even that big fellow, Kruk, you know, is a big bat. I wonder who cuts his hair? [Laughter]

Let me tell you something, folks, make no mistake about it, this National Capital of yours is beginning to change. After years in which our house was coming apart with higher deficits and less investment, a Government by special interests instead of the national interests, middle class working harder for less, things are really beginning to change.

After years of a lot of hot air and no responsibility and no willingness to take the tough decisions, yesterday the House began to throw out the economic program that ran our debt to \$4 trillion, ran the middle class into the ground, created a new class of poverty, and robbed our country of opportunity and any sense of community. We are now moving forward with a plan that reduces the deficit, asks the wealthy who can pay their fair share, gives the middle class the chance of having a future with real economic growth,