

Americans who need that, not just Americans with disabilities. And we have to go forward.

And I know a lot of people, but none more than you, are eager to see this debate on health care begin. It cannot begin until we have a budget and economic plan in place. And there are many more things that we have to do which are also of interest to you that are especially important. We need a new crime bill. We need a bill that reforms the welfare system. It also works on empowerment. We need a whole series of things that we are eager to get on with doing. But first we have to nail this budgetary issue.

I am especially interested in the health care debate, as you know. And I spoke with the First Lady this morning, as I do on most mornings—[laughter]—and we were reviewing our days, and I told her that Tom and I were going to be here with you today. And she was very interested in, you know, the fact that we were going to do this and asked me to give you her best and to thank those of you who have been involved already with her in the health care task force in trying to work through these issues.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation With Frank Harkin

July 27, 1993

The President. Hello?

Agent 218. Yes, hello. Good afternoon. This is Agent 218 of the Federal Information Relay Service.

The President. May I speak with Frank now?

Agent 218. Yes, he's on line standing by for your conversation.

The President. Frank, this is Bill Clinton. I'm really glad to be able to talk with you now that the text telephone system is in place nationwide. And I'm here with your brother, Tom, who just gave a great speech.

If it hadn't been for you, I don't think we would have had all those great speeches he

made. I just told the crowd here that he made you the most famous brother in America last year.

Mr. Harkin. Gee, thanks.

The President. He said, "gee, thanks."

Mr. Harkin. Thanks for saying that.

The President. "Thanks for saying that."

What we all want to know is whether you are wet or dry.

Mr. Harkin. It is a great moment to talk to you, Mr. President.

The President. Frank, what we all want to know here is whether you are wet or dry. I've been to Iowa twice, and I know how much flooding you've had. So tell us how it is around where you live.

Mr. Harkin. Today it is humid and muggy. I did watch on TV when you were in Iowa.

The President. Well, I just had the Governors of six States, including Iowa, in to see me to talk about how we could help people get over the flood damage, and I certainly hope we can do a good job of that.

Mr. Harkin. Hopefully you will do your best.

The President. I want you to tell all the people here with me how you like this communications system.

Mr. Harkin. It is wonderful to have a TV crew from Des Moines in my house.

The President. Well, now I want you to say a word to your brother. You have proved that you are a person of fewer words than—[laughter]—than the President or your brother. Congratulations.

Senator Harkin. What did he say?

The President. He's waiting for you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:09 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The exchange was part of a ceremony honoring the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Interview With the Georgia Media

July 27, 1993

The President. Well, first of all, I want to thank you for coming. Welcome. As you