

weapons that may not be mentioned by name in the law but that are the same thing with just some minor modification to try to get around the law. In other words, there are a whole set of issues here that I believe we have to look at and make decisions on and then set up a set of priorities based on how much we can get done how quickly.

On the issue of the registration of either the guns themselves or the people who own them, you know, in the question of automobiles we have both people registered, you know, people have an automobile license, and the cars themselves are registered. And that's all done at the State level, but a lot of the information is in national computers for law enforcement purposes. For example, if someone steals your car today and drives it to another State and leaves it in the parking lot of a shopping center and it's found, the license number could be fed back into the computer, and you could be told within a matter of a few seconds, normally, that your car's been turned up and where it is. So what I am doing now is to ask the Justice Department to work with our staff to analyze all these proposals both on the merits, if it's right or wrong, and secondly, for the details, how could it be done, and thirdly, what should we do in what order. And that's what I'm looking at now.

The main thing I can tell you is that we are committed to going further. The Brady bill was a good first step. It will save some lives, especially for people who have established records of mental problems or clear criminal records. But it is nowhere near enough. It is the beginning, and we have got to move forward.

Q. The North Koreans—

The President. You heard my answer. I just think it is very important that we know exactly what we're talking about: How would it be done? What are the mechanics? How does it rank in order of priority with these other things we have to do, both in terms of what's most urgent, number one, and number two, what can we most likely get done quickest?

And let me just emphasize, if you look, there was a study in one of the papers just in the last 10 days on the deaths of young people by gunshot in one of our major cities

which concluded that the increase in the death rate was attributable over a brief period of time, like over the last 5 years—we're not talking about 20 but over the last 5 years—entirely to the dramatic increase in the use of semiautomatic assault weapons as opposed to single-shot guns. That single thing had raised the death rate in the last 4 or 5 years more than any other thing.

So, there are lots of issues here. We're going to try to deal with them all in an aggressive and forthright way, but we have to figure out exactly what to do and in what order. The possibility of movement here has just opened up, and the American people need to keep the pressure on, and we'll keep moving.

North Korea

Q. Mr. President, the North Koreans seemed pretty inflexible yesterday in their statement about their offer being "take it or leave it." Is there more flexibility in private than they're showing in public?

The President. Well, let me just say we have some hope for the continuing discussions. When negotiations are going on, I'm always reluctant to characterize them one way or the other, whether it's GATT or with North Korea. I just don't want to do that. But if you've asked me, have I given up on the discussions, the answer to that is no. We're aggressively pursuing them.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:37 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Interview on "The Home Show"

December 10, 1993

Gary Collins. The President of the United States, ladies and gentlemen.

The President. Gary.

Sarah Purcell. Hello, Mr. President, how are you?

The President. How are you? Glad to see you.

Ms. Purcell. Pleasure to meet you.

The President. Thank you.

Ms. Purcell. Thank you. Welcome to your own home.

The President. Here we are.

Mr. Collins. By the way, have you done all your shopping yet?

The President. No, I haven't even started.

Mr. Collins. Oh, yes, we know what you're going to get, though.

The President. You do?

Mr. Collins. Well, it's bigger than a bread-box but smaller than a bus.

Mrs. Clinton. Now, don't give it away.

Mr. Collins. Oh, I'm sorry.

Ms. Purcell. You know how these men are——

Mr. Collins. That's good—[inaudible]—what are you getting——

The President. I accept.

Mrs. Clinton. He seems very happy.

The President. Hi, Socks.

Ms. Purcell. Can you give us any hints about what your plans are for a gift for——

The President. No, I wouldn't do that.

Ms. Purcell. We saw your last year's gifts.

The President. I have made a decision. Do you like that?

Mr. Collins. Well, somebody told us that you shop Christmas Eve, is that correct? Do you like that?

The President. I do two things actually, though. At least in the past I have. When we lived in Arkansas, I had a little closet that was just mine, and I shopped all year long for everybody that I knew, just a little bit here and there. And I'd travel around, and I'd buy something, and I shoved it all in the closet. And then about 10 days before Christmas, I'd take it out and organize it. And then I would find out what I hadn't done, and then I'd go out the day before Christmas and shop.

Ms. Purcell. Now, who did your wrapping, or did you do the wrapping?

The President. Well, the people who worked at the Governor's mansion did some of it, and then I did some of it. I did a lot of it myself.

Ms. Purcell. Are you pretty good?

The President. Chelsea and I would do a lot at the end. I'm pretty good actually.

Ms. Purcell. Yes.

The President. I'm not bad.

Mr. Collins. I just hate it. I would walk a mile rather than wrap a package.

The President. Well, you know, at the end of the—the last 2 or 3 days I get in the

Christmas spirit in a big way, and I do a lot of that stuff.

Mr. Collins. Is that starting to build for you now? I mean, first Christmas in the White House as President.

The President. But really, I become like a little boy again around Christmastime. I don't want to sleep. I just want to, you know, do things.

Mr. Collins. This has really been a year for you folks, hasn't it? I mean, all the things that have been going on, the health reform, NAFTA, the Brady bill. I mean, the list goes on and on, and it just seems you're just getting started. And the polls seem to reflect kind of a turnaround in the feelings about the White House and what the effort is here. It must give you a tremendous sense of pleasure.

The President. Well, when we took office, you know, there was so much to be done and such a huge wall of cynicism that we had to pierce. And you know, when you start really changing things, there are going to be a lot of broken things around and about. So we knew it would be tough, but it was really gratifying to come to the end of the year and to see these ratings come out saying that I had more success than any President in the last 40 years in the first year and things like that. I think people are beginning to see, well, the economy's getting better and the country's moving. I'm very, very grateful for it.

Mr. Collins. So it's going to be a great message this Christmas.

The President. It's going to be a happy Christmas at our place.

Mr. Collins. What do you like about it most? I mean, what's the highlight of Christmas for you—if you had to pick one thing?

The President. If I had to pick one thing, it would be our family's sort of renewed sense of togetherness. It happens every year. Just the sense of gratitude we feel, it really kind of comes together, we feel. We try to remember what Christmas is really a celebration of, and it brings us closer together.

Ms. Purcell. You come from a single-parent family, and I know that Christmas probably is a lot different for you now. How do you feel about those changes in your life? And how does it mean——

The President. Well, I'm just—I'm very grateful. I'm extremely grateful to my mother, who was widowed three times in her life, a very brave lady. And she did a good job for me and for my brother. We're grateful to her. And I think it's real important, as Hillary and I go across the country and try to get more families to stay together and more intact families and support more responsibility for fathers, to point out that there are an awful lot of single parents out there—mostly women but some men—who have done a superb job, who've been fanatically loyal to their children, who've made great sacrifices for their children. You know, if every parent in this country, whether there was a two-parent family or single-parent family, had the internal fortitude and the external skills to put their children first in their lives, the problems in this Nation would drop dramatically in a decade. Ten years from now you wouldn't recognize this country.

Ms. Purcell. I absolutely agree.

Mr. Collins. If we could just keep the spirit of Christmas going a little bit beyond New Year's, we'd have remarkable results.

We talked about earlier tradition. We talked about the food that you're going to share on Christmas Day and so forth, and we waited for you to arrive because I understand—and we have a good source here—that on Christmas Eve, part of the fun is doing carols and acting out roles. We heard that you're awfully good.

Mrs. Clinton. He's a good singer, too.

Mr. Collins. Is he?

Ms. Purcell. Is he a good singer?

The President. I love Christmas carols.

Ms. Purcell. And you act out the parts in the carols, from what I understand. Somebody's Rudolph and someone's—

Mr. Collins. What's one of his big hits?

Mrs. Clinton. Well, the Twelve Days of Christmas, you have 12 different things to do. So, that's a special thing.

The President. I'm a very good partridge in a pear tree. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Collins. Can you give us an example?

Mrs. Clinton. We've never known quite how to act that out, so it's different every year.

The President. Maids a-milking, you know. Swans swimming. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Collins. We'll be back with the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Mrs. Clinton. What is it, nine lords-a-leaping?

The President. I can't believe I did—yes—

Ms. Purcell. We'll take a break and be right back as soon as we can remember them all.

[*At this point, the network took a commercial break.*]

Ms. Purcell. [*Inaudible*—but they actually have, and then you had something that you wanted to present them with, didn't you?

Carol Duvall. Well, I do feel a bit like it's bringing coals to Newcastle to bring you a Christmas ornament after looking at all these gorgeous, gorgeous trees. But we did know that you have an official White House heart ornament that a lot of the quilters around the country had made. Well, we wanted to get into the act, but I know that a lot of our ladies don't all sew, they don't all quilt. So, I tried to copy the idea with a nonsewing one. And this is our little ornament for you.

Mr. Collins. That's a little ornament. Take a look at it. All right, there it is, and here we go.

Ms. Duvall. Now, you're supposed to turn it around to the other side.

Mr. Collins. Turn it around.

Mrs. Clinton. Oh.

The President. That's great.

Mr. Collins. Oh, I remember that.

Mrs. Clinton. That's so neat.

Mr. Collins. Mr. President, if you can hold that real close over your shoulder, we'll get a—

Ms. Duvall. They've got a shot of it. I'll have to tell you that was before this meeting, so I had to cut that out of a magazine. But, it was a nice picture of you.

Mrs. Clinton. Oh, Thank you. We'll put that on our personal tree.

The President. We've been collecting these ornaments, you know, for a very long time now.

Ms. Purcell. And I know that the two of you have been giving a lot of thought to this being your first year in the White House, your first Christmas in the White House. And

I know you must have some special thoughts of things you might wish for the Nation for the New Year and for the holidays. Would you like to start, Mrs. Clinton?

Mrs. Clinton. Well, I just wish that the feeling of Christmas and the meaning of Christmas could find a place in the heart of everyone in the country and that it wouldn't be just seasonal, but it would go on and on and help change the way we treat each other and live together.

The President. My hope is that we will achieve more peace on Earth next year, peace in the Middle East, relief of tensions in other places in the world, but mostly that the American people will find a way to bring peace to our own streets, our own homes, our own communities. Our Nation is too violent. It makes a mockery of all the things we say we believe. It is turning the joy of childhood into a tragedy for too many millions of children. And I'm going to work real hard next year to have more peace on this piece of Earth that we inhabit in the United States.

Mr. Collins. Well, I don't know how you can work any harder than you've worked this year.

Ms. Purcell. Absolutely.

Mr. Collins. With the surge in popularity, the people turning to the Government to say, "please help us; it looks like we can't do this ourselves," are you going to feel much more bolder next year in terms of your campaigns and—

The President. Well, I don't know if we can get any more done than we did this year, but I think we can. I think we can move forward on health care, on crime and violence, and on reform of the welfare system to move more people into permanent jobs, which I think will strengthen families. Those are the three things we're going to be—

Ms. Purcell. Two enormous jobs to tackle, but thank you so much for sharing this with us. We really appreciate here at "The Home Show"—

Mr. Collins. We wish you the very, very best holiday.

Ms. Purcell. And thank you for sharing it with us.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview began at 11:49 a.m. in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House.

Proclamation 6637—Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, 1993

December 10, 1993

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Thomas Paine once wrote that "Had we a place to stand upon, we might raise the world." December marks the anniversary of two cornerstone events in the continuing struggle to guarantee the protection of human rights and to raise world awareness of these due liberties. On December 15, 1791, the American Bill of Rights was ratified. And a century and a half later, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Each document has raised the sights—and elevated the lives—of countless people.

Our Bill of Rights guarantees our fundamental liberties, including freedom of religion, speech, and the press. It has been an enlightening guidepost during the more than 200 years of social change that have broadened our understanding of these basic liberties and assured these basic rights for all of our citizens. We continue to commemorate Bill of Rights Day because ensuring respect for human rights in the United States is never ending—it is a work in progress.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The universality of these rights and the common duty of all governments to uphold them—the themes embodied in the Declaration—were reaffirmed at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna this past June. The Declaration has been the building block for developing international consensus on human rights because it promotes common interests we share with other nations. It recognizes that all people are endowed with certain inalienable rights—the right to life, liberty, and the security of person; the