

Whitewater

Q. How do you feel about last night, Mr. President? Do you think you put some of this Whitewater business behind you?

The President. I just tried to answer the questions, and I felt good about it. I did my best to answer the questions. I feel good about it.

Q. [*Inaudible*—Mr. President, how you could have forgotten about a \$20,000 loan and check to your mother to buy a—

The President. Well, I think what happened was—keep in mind, all this happened in the heat of the '92 campaign. And they just said is there any way any of these checks from Madison could have come from some—been about something else. I said, I don't think so. And what happened was, when I read my mother's autobiography, I said, "You know, that's right, I did help her buy that place." And then—so Hillary and I were talking, so we asked for the checks. And when I saw the check, then I realized that that's where it had come from.

But when Jim McDougal said that, that he was sure that it didn't have anything to do with Madison, that's what got me to thinking about it. Then I saw it in the book. Then we asked for the check stub. That's how we verified it. So it just happened that way.

You know, keep in mind, keep in mind, when I was first asked about this back in '92, just off the top of my head, I said we lost money, but I don't think it was a great deal. I thought—I think I'm quoted in '92 saying I thought we'd lost about \$25,000, just from memory. So apparently, we lost quite a bit more than that.

Q. Are you positive the tax returns that are being released today will clear the air on this matter?

The President. Well, they certainly ought to. Like I said, I always did what I think most Americans do, I gave all my records every year to my accountant. They were normally very simple returns. I didn't have a lot of complicated things on them. And we've given them out, all the way back to '77 now. So you guys have got them. You can do what you want to with them.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:30 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not

available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg

March 25, 1994

Air Collision at Pope Air Force Base

The President. First of all, I'd like to thank General Shelton and General Steele and General Davis for welcoming me here and for giving me an opportunity not only to review the site of the crash but also to go into this hospital and to see, not only a good number of the soldiers who were injured but also the people who have been up virtually non-stop for the last 2 days caring for them.

I found it deeply moving. In the first place, the morale of the people who have been burned and injured is high. Their pride in their work and in their country is very strong. And what everybody said about the quality of care they've gotten and the outpouring of effort that has been made to help them deal with their problem has been very moving. Person after person after person said, "You know, I just can't wait to get back to my work. I'm ready to serve again."

It was a deeply moving thing. I'm very grateful to them for their service, and to all of those who have cared so well for them.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us what you talked about or what you said to some of those who you saw today?

Mr. President. A lot of times we just made small talk. I asked them where they were from, how long they had been in the Army, what happened. They talked about it a little bit.

I was especially moved—I met a man and his wife who were both in the incident, both in the service, both injured. The man was injured because he was putting the fire out on his wife. And a lot of these young people were injured because they, instead of taking themselves to safety, were trying to help others who were being burned.

It was a very—I wish everyone in America could have seen the faces, the eyes, the spirit of these people. They would realize how fortunate we are to be served by men and

women like this who are both brave and selfless and with no concern other than just to get back to their lives and to their duty. I mean, it is very, very moving. I'm very glad I came. I'm glad I had the opportunity to see this, and again, profoundly grateful to the people in this fine hospital who are taking such good care of them.

Q. Is this one of the worst incidents you've seen?

Mr. President. It was a serious problem, but they've handled it magnificently, I think.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. at the medical center. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. William M. Steele, USA, Commanding General, 82d Air Borne Division, Fort Bragg; Maj. Gen. Richard E. Davis, USA, Deputy Commanding, 18th Air Borne Corps, Fort Bragg. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of Passover

March 25, 1994

Heartfelt greetings to all who are gathered to celebrate Passover.

This joyous festival of liberation reminds all of us of the importance of freedom. The Passover seder, filled with its symbols of confinement and liberty, of pain and joy, has served as a means of teaching each new generation the story of the Jews' liberation from slavery in Egypt. As children learn the ancient account, they understand that freedom is something for which we must continuously struggle and that we must always cherish.

Human history is filled with chronicles of peoples throwing off the shackles of their oppressors to embrace the causes of justice and equality. As new nations begin their journeys to a "promised land," the lessons of Passover echo in every corner of the Earth. They teach us that while we must be thankful for the freedom we have, we must also remember all those in the world who still yearn to know its many gifts. This year, let us rededicate ourselves to extending the blessings of liberty to all who seek it.

During this historic season of renewal and peace, Hillary and I extend warm wishes for a memorable and meaningful Passover.

Bill Clinton

Proclamation 6659—Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy, 1994

March 25, 1994

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

In voicing support of the Greek battle for independence, President Monroe expressed the American sense of fellowship that endures to this day, "A strong hope has been entertained, founded on the heroic struggle of the Greeks . . . that Greece will become again an independent nation. That she may obtain that rank is the object of our most ardent wishes."

Throughout the history of our sovereign nations, the unique bond that exists between the peoples of the United States and Greece has grown from the knowledge that we share a common cause—our profound devotion to advancing the ideals of democracy. Drawing on the wisdom of Hellenic philosophy, America's Founding Fathers crafted a Nation that realizes the early promise of representative government. From the gleaming white columns of ancient Athens to the shining monuments of Washington, DC, the spirits and symbols of our capital cities reflect our deeply-held commitment to promoting individual freedom and human dignity.

This year, as Americans and Greeks rejoice in witnessing the formation of new democracies where old adversaries once stood, the traditional celebration of Greek Independence Day reveals the true legacy of Greek and American liberty. To mark both the triumph of freedom and the coming of spring in their rich land, one custom prescribes that Greek children remove the "March-thread" they have worn on their wrists throughout the month. As the swallows return from their winter in the South, the children hang the threads on a tree, an offering to the birds for their nests. These ties, once a reminder of the bleakness of winter, become the seeds of springtime's rebirth.

In much the same way, brave young nations around the world are throwing off the last vestiges of authoritarian rule and awak-