

Harry Truman said when he went home to Independence that he was going to now have the most exalted title you could have in the United States, the title of citizen. This is a State where citizenship has a reputation of being honed to a fine art. It's a State now where people are being given an opportunity to see that there are now alternative visions of change for the future, very different roadmaps to the future. If 1992 was about change versus no change, 1996 is about two very different visions of change.

I have done my best to be there for you, as my old saying goes, 'til the last dog dies. But now you have got to be there for your friends and for your neighbors. I am telling you, I know, I have seen the world as it is, and I believe I understand where it is going. We are on the verge of the era of greatest possibility our country has ever known, but we have very serious challenges that we have to meet to get there if everybody is going to have their shot at the American dream and if we're going to go there together.

I believe we will. I know I am an optimist, but when I look at you, when I looked at the faces that I saw today in those three stops I made before I got here, when I know what is really in the heart of the American people, and when I understand that we've been around for nearly 220 years because most of the time we do the right thing—if you will go out there and do what you can, yes, it will advance the cause of our party but far, far more important, it will advance the future of our country and these children that are here.

Do it. Do it for me. And one time, let me win the New Hampshire primary. [Laughter]

God bless you, and thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:19 p.m. at the Sheraton Tara Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to George Charles Bruno, U.S. Ambassador to Belize.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in London, United Kingdom

February 19, 1996

It is with great sadness that I once again express my condolences to the victims of an

IRA bomb in London. These cowardly acts of terrorism are the work of individuals determined to thwart the will of the people of Northern Ireland. They want peace. I condemn these acts of violence in the strongest possible terms and hope those responsible are brought swiftly to justice.

Over the last 17 months, the people of Northern Ireland have tasted peace and grown accustomed to the blessings of a normal life. We must not let the men of the past ruin the future of the children in Northern Ireland. The Irish and British Governments are engaged in intensive efforts to move the peace process forward. I strongly believe that is the path to follow.

For our part, we will continue our dialog with the Irish and British Governments and the parties to support their efforts to restore the cease-fire and find a lasting and just peace. We look forward to the summit expected at the end of the month between the Irish and British Governments. I am hopeful they will find a way to peace.

Remarks on the Observance of Eid al-Fitr

February 20, 1996

On behalf of all Americans, I want to extend my personal greetings to the entire Muslim community here in the United States and around the world as it celebrates the Eid al-Fitr.

This week marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. It is a time for rejoicing and celebration, but it is also a time for reflection and rededication. On this occasion, let us rekindle our commitment to the cause of peace among all the peoples of the Earth. If we are dedicated in our belief and constant in our labor, we can build a better future, one of cooperation, understanding, and compassion, for ourselves and for our children.

Let us also remember the values of family and community, as well as our responsibility for those who are less fortunate, ideals that lie at the heart of Ramadan. These principles of personal commitment to faith and to society truly are universal values.

So as the new Moon ushers in this holy celebration, let me say to all who follow the

faith of Islam here in the United States and around the world the traditional greeting: *As-Salaamu Alaykum*, may peace be with you, and may God grant you health and prosperity now and in the years ahead.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at 5:26 p.m. on February 16 in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. This transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 20.

**Remarks at the Swearing-In of
Kweisi Mfume as President of the
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People**
February 20, 1996

Thank you very much, Myrlie Evers-Williams, for your introduction, for your remarks, and most importantly, for your willingness to take on what appeared to be a thankless and could well have been a no-win situation in seizing the helm of the NAACP and helping to bring it to this moment of great celebration and unity. The entire Nation is in your debt, and we thank you.

To the distinguished Members of Congress, the mayors who are here, the clergy, members of the administration; to the young people who have performed, and the family of Congressman Mfume. Kweisi told me today before we came out that this is a celebration of rebirth and renewal. And the Vice President and I were standing there amidst his—four of his five strapping young sons; the other is in school or he would be here, showing that he still has his priorities in order. [*Laughter*] He said, "This is going to be a celebration of rebirth and renewal. And so I have given this over to the young people and to Roger Wilkins." [*Laughter*]

And I must say, as I heard Jaimie speak, and as I heard Jason speak for the Arkansas contingent here, and as I heard Ayinde speak—by the way, I memorized that poem, and I never spoke it half that well—and then I heard the Morgan State Choir sing, I thought this really is about rebirth and renewal and energy and youth. And I kept cutting my speech shorter and shorter. [*Laughter*]

I just want to make a couple of brief points. This country does still need the NAACP. Oh, we are here in the Justice Department today because of what the NAACP has meant to us. When I was the age of these young people here, I can remember what it was like, still, to have a church burned in your home State, to have people intimidated away from pursuing their legal rights.

We are here because of what the NAACP has meant to America. To me and to Al Gore, growing up as white southerners in the South, we loved the NAACP. It made us believe that something good was going to come at the end of the civil rights struggle. It made us believe that we could all live together and grow together. But we know today in this age of incredible possibility for our country, when we have the African-American unemployment rate in single digits for the first time in 20 years, 100,000 new African-American owned businesses—we know still that more than half our people are working harder just to keep up.

We know still that, as we glory in these young people being in college, that the college-going rate is going up, but the college-going rate among young people who come from the poorest fifth of our families has leveled off and going down because of the costs. And we know we must never go back to the days of the black church bombings, the other terrible acts of racial terrorism.

And so I want to say, too, we need the NAACP today not only because there are still economic problems and elementary social divisions. We have to do everything we can to see that we determine, in this Justice Department, who created these recent crimes and all of us stand together against any kind of return to that.

Let me say as I look across this crowd and I see so many people—I don't want to call names, but I want to say just one thing about our public life. I see Reverend Jackson and Mrs. King and Dexter and Congressman and Secretary Kemp standing there, sitting there. One of the men who wanted to replace me in the Presidential election this year had to undergo the agony of having leaflets passed out against his Asian-American wife. That is wrong. We still need the NAACP, and no party can tolerate that sort of thing. And none