

tween one that is paid for by prudently cutting Government, and one that is paid for by undercutting Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment, or not paid for at all, bringing back those bad old days of out of control deficits, high interest rates, slow growth, or recession.

I look forward to discussing these plans before the American people in the coming months. This election will give our Nation the chance to decide whether we want to continue forward on a path of opportunity, responsibility, work, and growth. That kind of debate can only be good for our country.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:40 p.m. on August 16 at the Chapman Ranch in Jackson Hole, WY, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 17.

Remarks to the Community in Idaho Falls, Idaho

August 17, 1996

Thank you so much. Thank you. I'm glad to see you. Thank you. First of all, let me thank—

[*At this point, the audience sang "Happy Birthday."*]

Thank you very much. Thank you all for coming out. Hillary and Chelsea and I are delighted to see you. I even thank you for singing "Happy Birthday" to me. I've been a little apprehensive about turning 50 and getting my AARP card, but the music makes it a little easier to bear. We've had a wonderful family vacation in the West; we go back East refreshed, ready to go to work.

I just wanted to say to all of you that next week will be a good week for our country. I'll have a chance to sign a bill that increases the minimum wage and increases tax incentives. [*Applause*] Thank you. The bill also—a lot of people don't know this—the bill also increases incentives, tax incentives for small-business people to invest in their business and makes it easier for small-business people and their employees to take out and keep retirement plans, even during periods when they're not employed. So it's a great bill for America; it's a good thing.

And I have a chance to sign a bill next week that says you don't lose your health insurance if somebody in your family gets sick or if you change jobs, the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill. And of course, the welfare reform bill, which will give States more funds for child care and for health care, and then require people who can to move from welfare to work.

It'll be a very good week for America. And all those bills passed with very strong bipartisan majorities. I can only say that I wish we had more of that in Washington, and I know you do, too. But I am very, very happy, I'm delighted to be here. I love seeing all these signs here. You've made us very, very happy, and we'd like to come out and say hello to you in time for this plane to leave.

Thank you, and God bless you, Idaho. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. at Fenning Field. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Departure for New York City and an Exchange With Reporters

August 18, 1996

Air Force Transport Crash

The President. Before I leave, I'd just like to say how very sad and shocked Hillary and I were to receive word early this morning of the crash of the Air Force transport plane coming out of Wyoming. There are always significant dangers associated with our Armed Forces, the people in our Secret Service, and others who do this work, but this is especially painful to us because they worked for me. They did an invaluable service, and I'm very, very sad about it.

The local law enforcement people are on the ground doing the search now. I have sent an Air Force team of inspectors there. We do not know what caused the crash at this time. And I think for the moment, I'd just like to say that our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the people who were lost, along with our everlasting gratitude.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, can you confirm reports that the pilot may have been having mechanical difficulties and—

The President. When I got—I cannot confirm any final reports. Last night—maybe it was 2:30 this morning, quarter to three, it was about that time when I got a call. I was told that they thought the pilot had turned around to come back to the airport. And that’s the last—that’s the last word I have on the facts. But we should be able to tell you more by the end of the day, because they’re out there.

“60 Minutes” Interview

Q. Happy birthday, Mr. President. Did you lay a glove on Dole in the interview?

The President. I don’t have any idea. You all watch it and tell me. I wouldn’t know. But I’m just happy to be here—still standing—at 50.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:24 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee 50th Birthday Reception for the President in New York City August 18, 1996

The President. Thank you.

Audience member. Cut cake, but don’t cut welfare!

Audience members. Boo-o-o! Go away!

The President. Wait, wait, wait. They’ve had their say. Now, we’ve heard—wait, wait. They got their message. We heard them. Give them an applause, and let them go now. Give them a hand, give them applause. [Applause] Thank you. All right, we got you an audience. We did do that, also. Now, please let me talk.

Audience member. You don’t represent poor working people! Stop the—[inaudible]—against the poor!

The President. Well, all I know is I just got the minimum wage raised. And we cut income taxes on the 15 million poorest working families in America. And there are 1.3 million fewer people on welfare today than there were the day I became President. So I think we’ve got a pretty good claim on that.

Let me begin by thanking Chairman Don Fowler. I know he said before I came out a word, but I’d like to say another word of respect and condolence to the families of those who were on that Government airplane, the Air Force plane that was carrying those who work with me on my security detail out there in Wyoming. It’s a very sad thing. One of the safest planes we ever had. We don’t yet know what happened, but tonight I just ask you to be thinking about their families.

And let me also say to the people who provided our music, to Smokey Joe’s Cafe, and to the Cravat’s Orchestra, I’ve been out here listening while you all have been in here enjoying it directly, and you know, if you’re President, when you stand up in front of people, you’re always afraid that you’re not supposed to be on one foot; you’re not supposed to be snapping your fingers; you’re not supposed to be doing all these things. So I can really enjoy this music better if I’m out there, and you’re not looking at me; we’re all paying attention to the music.

You guys were great. Thank you very much, and we’re grateful to you.

I know that Governor Carey is in the audience tonight. And Carolyn McCarthy, our new candidate for Congress, is here. I wish her well. I believe Mark Green and Judith Hope are here, and I thank you for being here. And somebody told me two people I very much admire for their different gifts with the English language, Neil Simon and Arthur Schlesinger, are here. If they’re here, I welcome them, and thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, I feel very grateful tonight to be on the verge of my 50th birthday. I don’t know why I feel grateful for that. [Laughter] I have been getting all of these absolutely hilarious cards. I got one card I couldn’t begin to figure out. There were nine people in black robes on it and Mr. Perot was on it and Diana Ross was on it. And it said, “Happy birthday from Diana Ross and the Supremes.” [Laughter] I got a card today pointing out that as bad as this is, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr are older than I am. [Laughter] So I’m getting all of these cards, trying to put the best face on this event. I’m going to be all right until I get my AARP card in the mail.