

stay home. That is not the message. The message is we're grateful for the chance to serve. We're grateful that America is better off.

But this country has huge challenges. I just spoke this morning, as Hillary said, to the Council on Foreign Relations about all of this global, economic, and financial turmoil, and what things America must do right now to try to turn it around and limit it, and what long-term steps we have to take.

So I think you need to go out and say to your friends and neighbors, "Look, we're glad things are doing well. We're on the edge of a new century and a new time, and things are changing; we have big challenges. And because we're doing well, we have the obligation to our children to think big, to think about the people of this country who aren't doing so well, and to think how we can bring this whole country together as one community in the 21st century."

That means we have to do our part to straighten the global economy out, because we can never be an island of prosperity in a sea of misery. It means we have to do the big things like saving Social Security before we do the popular things like spending this surplus—it's only now beginning to materialize—for a tax cut.

We've been waiting 29 years to see the red ink turn black, and before we've seen it even a day, some people want to spend it. I know it's election year, but I'm telling you, what I want is for the baby boomers like me, when we retire, I don't want us to bankrupt our children so they can't raise our grandchildren. I say, save Social Security first before you do anything else with the surplus. It's a big issue.

As Senator Torricelli said, we've still got to extend health opportunities to people, but there's 160 million people in managed care plans. I think they ought to have a right to an emergency room, to a specialist, to the protection of privacy of their records. That's what the health care bill of rights is all about—the Patients' Bill of Rights. We're for it; they're not. That's a big issue. The American people need to know that. It will shape the way millions of families live.

The environment's a big issue. We believe you can grow the economy and improve the environment; they disagree. That's a huge

issue; it will shape the way millions of people live. We're for campaign finance reform, and they aren't. It's a big issue.

So I ask you, go out there and talk about the big issues, talk about the people issues. And remember, in the end, the reason we're Democrats is because we believe, on the edge of a new century, that what we're doing will help to expand opportunity and deepen freedom and bring us closer together and promote peace and harmony in the world. That's what we believe.

Go talk big. Go tell people not to be complacent. Tell them not to worry about the adversity. Adversity makes people come out and show up—witness your presence here tonight.

What we've got to worry about is that people know what this election is about. Go out and tell them and make sure your investment tonight has a big, big payoff on election night in November.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:10 p.m. in the Dinner Room at the Supper Club.

Remarks at a Performance of "The Lion King" in New York City *September 14, 1998*

Thank you so much. I will be very brief tonight. For one thing, you need to know that I have to be brief tonight because if we're not out of here, with all the pictures taken, by 11:30, we kick into overtime—[laughter]—and we dilute the impact of your contributions in November. [Laughter] And I don't want to do that.

But I do want to say to Peter, to Tom, to the incredible cast and the musicians, I found myself looking back and forth—I have a cricked neck from looking at these two percussionists here who were so magnificent tonight. Thank you very much.

And I just want to thank you all for giving us a night we'll never forget in this magnificent theater. I also want to thank all of you for being here, for being here for Hillary and me and Al and Tipper, for what we have done for the last 6 years and what we can do in the next 2 and what we should do in November.

This is a very, very important time. The stakes are high; the issues are clear. I knew Al Gore was going to stand up here and say that Scar was the embodiment of the other guys. [*Laughter*] That's what happens when you think you can destroy the environment while you grow the economy. I knew he was thinking that. I knew he was thinking that.

Hillary said the same thing. Hillary said, "That's what happens if those Republicans that have the House get the whole thing. Look at that." [*Laughter*]

Well, we do believe in the balance of forces and the balance of people and in bringing everybody into our big tent. We believe that all the animals in the jungles can live together if they have peace in their heart.

So I want you to leave here determined to make your investment good, remembering why you came, proud of it, and touching everyone you can now about what is still at issue in this great, great cause.

Thank you, God bless you, and good night.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:08 p.m. at the New Amsterdam Theater. In his remarks, he referred to Peter Schneider, president, and Tom Schumacher, executive vice president, Walt Disney Feature Animation and Theatrical Productions.

Remarks to the National Farmers Union

September 15, 1998

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon; welcome to the White House. Lee, thank you for the award. Thank you for your comments. Thank you for your strength. Thank you for your leadership for our farmers. I've known him for years; I don't think I'd ever focused on what a good speaker he was before. [*Laughter*] He could have been a politician or a preacher in addition to a farmer. It was great.

I want to thank Secretary Glickman for his truly outstanding work, along with Rich Rominger, Carl Whillock, and the others here from the Department of Agriculture, who really try to be your advocates every day.

We have at least three NFU members who work at USDA: Mike Dunn, Larry Mitchell, and John Stencel. And I thank them in par-

ticular. I want to thank Senator Dorgan and Congressman Pomeroy for coming and for being your vociferous advocates. I talked to Senator Harkin right before I came over here today, and he has also been your great friend, along with Senator Conrad and Senator Daschle and Congressman Boswell from Iowa, who couldn't come this morning. But all these people have been up here working hard for you, and I wanted you to know that.

I also would like to say that the National Farmers Union has done a lot of good for this administration and for our efforts here in Washington, from helping to keep our food supply safe to working to expand health care to giving us the first balanced budget in 29 years in just a couple of weeks now. You have been with me every step of the way, and I am very grateful for that.

When I was a boy growing up in Arkansas I knew a lot about agriculture, but I didn't know much about the intersection of agriculture and politics. When I became a Governor and served for a dozen years, many of them very, very hard years in the 1980's on the farms in my State, I came to appreciate what it was like when the National Government had good policy, what it was like when it had bad policy, and what it was like when it had no policy.

I remember there were a couple of years when I was doing everything I could to be creative, and I think when you were head of the South Dakota Farmers Union, the State of South Dakota actually came to me—the Governor then—and asked me for a copy of the banking laws that I had changed in Arkansas, because I changed our State banking laws to try to help the bankers keep more farmers on the farm. And when we had that terrible situation, when the price of land collapsed, all the collateral on the loans was no good. There was no way for people to finance their farms, and they were losing them, and we were able to give some help to our farmers then. But through the whole thing, I always felt so helpless that there wasn't an appropriate national response.

Now I feel especially bad for the farmers because it's been such a good time for the rest of the country. We've got nearly 17 million new jobs now, and the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, and the lowest inflation