

Interestingly enough, after the fall of the Iron Curtain and the breakup of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, we've had American citizens who had roots, for example, in the Baltic States. One went home to his country and became the Ambassador. I don't know if he had to give up his American citizenship, or not. It would be a function of the law. But there are—and the laws operate differently in different countries. But almost all countries allow some form of dual citizenship.

Now, second thing is, the President didn't mention this, but if Ghana does this, it certainly won't hurt in trying to get more Americans interested in Ghana, going to Ghana, and contributing to Ghana's future. I thought it was quite a clever idea myself. *[Laughter]* Thank you very much.

**President Rawlings.** No, no, no. Hold on, Mr. President. *[Laughter]* On one condition—that if you fall foul of the laws and regulations of my country, the—what do you call it? —the judiciary, the police—and the laws of my country will take their course without the American Government attempting to intervene, to say, this is a citizen of my country.

**President Clinton.** I think that's what the rule is.

**President Rawlings.** Thank you, sir.

**President Clinton.** There's a whole lot of law on that. I think that's the rule. Thank you.

**Q.** I want to say to you something.

**President Rawlings.** Yes, sir.

**Q.** You know, we the people—

**President Rawlings.** Yes sir.

**Q.** —of African descent that are Latino, are ready, willing, and able to cooperate with Africa—*[inaudible]*—and our experience, the President of the Dominican Republic, and I, as a Cuban-American, reside here for—*[inaudible]*—are ready and willing to help you in the African initiative. And I guarantee you with my friend of the Republican Party is going to give me 100 percent support for the initiatives—of Africa. So you have the cooperation of the Latinos like the Jewish have for their people in Israel.

**President Clinton.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 169th news conference began at 2:35 p.m. in the Presidential Hall (for-

merly Room 450) of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to David E. Kendall, the President's personal attorney; President Laurent Desire Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. President Rawlings referred to Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Richard Kwame Peprah of Ghana.

### Radio Remarks on Fighting Fraud in the Medicare Program

February 24, 1999

We need your help to fight Medicare fraud. Most health care providers are honest, but a few bad-apples threaten the system. You can help us spot those bad-apples by checking your Medicare records carefully. If you see questionable charges or services, call your doctor's office first, then call your Medicare representative. If you still have questions, call us at 1-800-HHS-TIPS. Fighting Medicare fraud is everybody's responsibility.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at approximately 3:45 p.m. in the Oval Office for later broadcast as a public service announcement.

### Statement on the Resignation of Paul Begala as Counselor to the President

February 24, 1999

Paul Begala has been a close and trusted adviser since I first sought the Presidency. I value his advice; I appreciate his loyalty; and I treasure his friendship. I am grateful that he has used his razor-sharp mind and wit in the service of core values and the common good. Paul has given long hours to the service of his country, and he has more than earned the right to seek new horizons, through teaching and writing, and to spend more time with his three young children. I expect he will continue to be a powerful and persuasive voice for the cause we share in years to come. Hillary and I wish him, Diane, and the children all the best.