

where my work dictated and where I wanted to move. When we get out of here”—this is a 1993 conversation we had—“when get out of here, I’m going to have to spend a lot of time at home because I’ve got to build my library and my center there, and”—but I said, “but I will live wherever else you want to live.” And she told me years ago that she wanted to go to New York. And I said that’s fine with me. I love New York. I’d be happy to live there. It would be fine. So I’m going to divide my time between New York and Arkansas no matter what happens.

I talked to her three times yesterday; it was really, I think, an exciting day for her. She felt really good about it.

**Mr. Herbert.** Tough for a New York reporter—I’ve got to decide whether to cover her or cover you.

**The President.** She’s a better story now.

**Mr. Herbert.** She’s a great story.

**The President.** She’s a better story, but this is an important story, what we’ve been doing these last 3 days. I’m so thrilled. I hope I can persuade them to adopt the legislation by the end of the year. But I think all these business guys get interested; it’s really amazing. There is no partisan difference on this in the business community, and a lot of these guys that were with us in the last 2 or 3 days are Republicans. They’re just excited about it. They think it’s the right thing to do, and they think they can make money doing it. So do I.

**Mr. Herbert.** Thank you very much.

**The President.** Thanks.

NOTE: The interview began at approximately 11:30 a.m. on July 9 in the Presidential limousine en route to the Hilton Anaheim. The transcript was embargoed for release by the Office of the Press Secretary until 6 a.m. on July 11. In his remarks, the President referred to Richard L. Huber, chairman and chief executive officer, Aetna, Inc. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

### **Statement on Releasing Funds Under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program**

*July 12, 1999*

In much of our Nation, the early part of summer has brought a chance to explore the outdoors or enjoy a day at the beach or lake. But in large parts of the eastern United States, these first weeks of summer have brought record high temperatures, extreme discomfort, and, for some, severe danger.

Up and down the eastern seaboard, and as far west as Michigan, temperatures over the past 2 weeks soared to levels more than 30 percent higher than average for this time of year. Temperatures that hit the nineties and beyond can pose grave risks to the elderly, the very young, the disabled, and the ill. Tragically, this heat wave has already claimed the lives of more than 100 people.

Today I am releasing \$100 million to help low income Americans in the affected areas cope with this terrible and life-threatening heat. These funds will help victims of the heat wave pay for the costs associated with home cooling, so that they are able to purchase air conditioners and fans and pay their electricity bills.

These resources will help protect the most vulnerable among us as the current heat wave runs its course.

### **Statement on the Cease-Fire Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

*July 12, 1999*

I salute the leaders of Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DROC), Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe for their courage and commitment to peace in agreeing to the terms for a cease-fire in the Congo war. The signing of this agreement in Lusaka on July 10 provides hope for the many innocent civilians who have suffered

through one of Africa's most dangerous and divisive wars in modern times.

Zambian President Chiluba also deserves special tribute for his role in mediating and facilitating the Lusaka peace talks, and for his continuing efforts to urge rebel factions to support the cease-fire agreement. I urge all rebel groups to commit to peace and sign on to this important accord.

We have worked with all parties to encourage the resolution of their differences through dialog and negotiations. We will work closely with our partners in Africa, the international community, and the United Nations to support this agreement. We hope that its full implementation, including the disarming of those responsible for the Rwandan genocide, will end the cycle of violence in the region, pave the way for an inclusive democracy in the DROC, and help bring a better life for all the people of central Africa.

### **Message to the Congress Transmitting the District of Columbia Budget Request**

*July 12, 1999*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 202(c) of the District of Columbia Financial Management and Responsibility Assistance Act of 1995 and section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Governmental Reorganization Act, as amended, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Request Act.

This proposed Fiscal Year 2000 Budget represents the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. For Fiscal Year 2000, the District estimates revenue of \$5.482 billion and total expenditures of \$5.482 billion, resulting in a budget surplus of \$47,000.

My transmittal of the District of Columbia's budget, as required by law, does not represent an endorsement of its contents.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
July 12, 1999.

### **Remarks on Departure for Miami Beach, Florida, and an Exchange With Reporters**

*July 13, 1999*

#### ***Patients' Bill of Rights Legislation***

**The President.** Thank you very much, Senator Daschle and other Members of the Senate who are here. I would also like to thank the health professionals who have joined us: Beverly Malone, the president of the American Nurses Association; Dr. Michael Rapp, the president-elect of the American College of Emergency Physicians; Dr. Omega Silva, a board member of the American Medical Women's Association; Dr. Gary Dennis, the president of the National Medical Association. They represent over 200 medical, consumer, and citizens groups who endorse our legislation.

You heard Senator Daschle say that it has been almost 2 years since we started the call for the Patients' Bill of Rights. Ever since, we have been gratified by the enormous outpouring of support from professional as well as consumer groups. Now, after months and months and months of delay, the Republican leadership in the Senate finally has agreed to allow an open debate on the Patients' Bill of Rights. And I must say, it has been very enlightening.

The American people have waited a long time for this day, and we must not let this opportunity slip away. All Americans in all plans must have these basic rights; that's what this is about. Are you for or against all Americans and all plans having these basic rights: the right to see a specialist; the right to go to the closest emergency room; the right to remain with your health care provider throughout a medical treatment, whether it's a pregnancy, chemotherapy, or some other course of treatment; the right to hold a health plan accountable for its decisions if they are harmful?

Senator Daschle's bill would make each of these rights the law of the land. It is strong, meaningful, effective, and if you talk to people who have been affected adversely by the way HMO's too often operate in this country, it is long, long overdue.

Now as you know, there are some who will try to substitute the Republican leadership's