

she went home with information as good as you could get if you had walked out of a doctor's office in Chevy Chase here today. That is the kind of thing we ought to be doing.

But the point I want to make is, what they told me was, all these changes started in 1993 when the Government adopted a new law that said the local governments had to reflect all the tribes and all the castes of India and that women had to be given 30 percent of the positions in local government. And they told me, these people in this poor village—you'd think, well, they'd think, "Gosh, you know, we're so poor we've got to work together." They told me that until this law passed and they all got elected, that people had never had dinner together in this tiny village across the caste lines and the tribal lines.

And now that they've been doing it, you know, they know what they were missing, and they can't imagine why they didn't do it all along. You see these things happen. You all know all the terrible stories from Bosnia to Rwanda to the continuing strife we have in the Middle East, and the struggles we're having Kosovo. But what I want you to understand is, there's something endemic in the human condition that both makes us afraid of people who are different from us and beneath that makes us long to reach out and connect with them.

And I think it's important to point out that this whole effort of building one America is not about homogenizing us. Four or 5 years from now, they will be having events like this at the White House, and—certainly within 10 years—it will be impossible to have four speakers, and they will all be middle-aged, gray-haired guys, and three of them will be white. It won't happen. It will change. In my lifetime, I think we will have a woman President and certainly an African-American or Hispanic or an Asian-American President—maybe all three.

But the point is, it won't diminish white guys. It will make life more interesting. [Laughter] But the struggle is to understand it that way. This is not a matter of homogenizing this country; it's a matter of celebrating, relishing our differences and somehow finding a way to affirm our common humanity. And the older I get, the more I be-

come convinced that it may be one of the two or three most important journeys in life for all of us. Not just as an organization, just individual journeys. Figuring out how to understand and respect the differences between people and not feel that, in order for you to matter more, someone else has to matter less. In order for you to be secure, someone else has to be insecure. In order for you to win, someone else has to lose.

It is a constant theme throughout all human history, and it is something that, in positive and profoundly negative ways, is being played out all over the world today. And I am grateful that in our country, we are largely dealing with—in spite of the tragedy of the hate crimes against people because of their race or their religion or because they are gay, which we have to try to stamp out—largely, we're playing this out in positive ways today.

But I would ask you to remember as we close—just one last thing—what George said. This is not a matter of getting everybody right with the law. It's not a matter of having the right statistics. It's a matter of making the businesses of America a joy to work in, because they will be more productive, they will be more profitable. People are happy to go to work because they are proud of who they are; they respect those who are different from them; and they are making progress on this very difficult journey of life. Now I think it is a great, great endeavor in which to be involved, and I thank you so much for your support.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:43 p.m. in the Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to George M. C. Fisher, chairman, Eastman Kodak Co.; and F. Duane Ackerman, chief executive officer, BellSouth.

## Statement on the Death of Former Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba

April 6, 2000

Hillary and I are saddened by the death of former Tunisian President Habib

Bourguiba. On behalf of the American people, I want to extend our heartfelt condolences to President Bourguiba's family and to the Tunisian people.

President Bourguiba was a historic leader, a pioneer in Tunisia's struggle for independence and for social and economic progress. He also played a courageous role in efforts to advance peace in the Middle East. He leaves behind a nation that can be proud of its social achievements, particularly the steps it has taken to advance the status of women, and a nation poised to take on the critical challenges of deepening democracy and respect for human rights—and building a better future for all Tunisians.

### Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the National Endowment for the Arts

April 6, 2000

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the provisions of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 959(d)), I transmit herewith the annual report of the National Endowment for the Arts for 1998.

William J. Clinton

The White House,  
April 6, 2000.

### Remarks at the Radio and Television Correspondents Association Dinner

April 6, 2000

*[Prior to the President's remarks, music from the movie "Titanic" was played.]*

**The President.** Haunting, isn't it? *[Laughter]* You know, usually, I go for "Hail To The Chief"—*[laughter]*—but this week I can't seem to get that song out of my head. *[Laughter]*

Good evening, President Nolen, Senator McCain, Members of Congress, members of the Radio and Television Correspondents Association, distinguished journalists, Mr. DiCaprio. *[Laughter]*

Now, ABC doesn't know whether Leo and I had an interview, a walk-through, or a

drive-by. *[Laughter]* But I don't know if all their damage control is worth the effort. I mean, it's a little bit like rearranging the deck chairs on the set of "This Week With Sam and Cokie." *[Laughter]* Don't you newspeople ever learn? It isn't the mistake that kills you. It's the coverup. *[Laughter]*

Now, look, I want to say right now, I have nothing against ABC. I like ABC just as much as I like all the other networks. *[Laughter]* Just the other day, for example, Diane Sawyer came to the White House for an interview. Actually, she called it a visit. *[Laughter]* And everything was fine until she asked me to do some crayon pictures in the Oval Office. *[Laughter]* That was weird.

But I just want to say this to David Westin. You know, I've been in a lot of tough spots. Don't let this get you down. *[Laughter]* You may not be America's news leader, but you're "King of the World." *[Laughter]*

Wait a minute, before I go any further, I want to welcome the really funny person who is here tonight, the man who impersonates me every week on "Saturday Night Live," Mr. Darrell Hammond. And Darrell, I want you to know I used to think you were really funny but not so much anymore. I think it's Clinton fatigue. *[Laughter]*

Poor Darrell, what's he going to do when I leave office? *[Laughter]* Come to think of it, what am I going to do? *[Laughter]* I know that you've heard me say I hope to join the Senate spouses club. But I've been thinking, I don't really want to be a member of the Senate spouses club. I want to be president of the Senate spouses club. *[Laughter]*

You know what the big, hot issue on Capitol Hill is today? The majority party, otherwise known as the Republicans, are raising a ruckus about this census long form. They say these questions are too intrusive. Maybe it's just a matter of perspective. *[Laughter]* Depends on whether you're the asker or the answerer. *[Laughter]* But I'd be pretty hard-pressed to call these questions intrusive. You should look at the questionnaire those guys sent me. *[Laughter]* Maybe again, I don't think you should. *[Laughter]*

You know what question really upsets the Republicans on the census form? Question 19: "Are you better off today than you were at the last census?" *[Laughter]* I mean, even