

11/23/93  
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WASHINGTON POST

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Internal Use Only

November 23, 1993

AN INTERVIEW OF THE FIRST LADY  
CONDUCTED BY PHYLLIS RICHMAN

MRS. CLINTON: -- sense of American hospitality and American foods but with a sensitivity to our guests, and their culture and interests. So we have tried to combine that. We found out that President Kim really likes beef, so we're serving tenderloin as the main course. And then we wanted kind of a theme and tastes that he'd be familiar with, as would other Korean guests.

Q I've been noticing more vegetables on the menu than I've seen before? Is this your doing?

MRS. CLINTON: We like vegetables. And we've had some really creative ways of serving vegetables and dressing them up. I really like what we're doing with artichoke bottoms like we are tonight, and taking the squash, which is seasonal for us.

I talked to President Kim's wife, Mrs. Sung, today about pumpkins and squash and, you know, preparing for Halloween and Thanksgiving, and so we're trying to use a lot of vegetables and cook in an elegant and attractive way, but one that is, well, maybe a little more nutrition conscious than we historically have.

Q I notice you're serving a dessert horn. I'm not sure that that's the traditional --

MRS. CLINTON: We like dessert horns. (Laughter)

Q They look good, too.

MRS. CLINTON: They are good. (Laughter)

Q (Inaudible)

MRS. CLINTON: I've been very pleased by the wines, all American wines, that we're serving at all of our meals. We're kind of showcasing them, and a lot of our guests have

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told me, over the past months, that they've discovered some vineyards and some wines that they weren't familiar with.

Q Yes, you've got some pretty adventurous wines tonight.

MRS. CLINTON: We do. Yes.

Q So, do you taste the menu at any time?

MRS. CLINTON: Not usually, no. I often have tasted something like it, or I know what it is. Occasionally, if something is really new, or something that we haven't done before, I will taste it.

For example, my husband has served venison a few times with some of the working lunches and dinners that he has had. And I tasted that, and agree with him that it was really nicely prepared, not too (inaudible).

Q Do you make specific suggestions of what you want to serve?

MRS. CLINTON: We do. We spend a lot of time talking about ideas, and I look through menu books and get ideas from friends of mine, and then we pass them around.

For something like this, though, Roland (phonetic) is so creative, and we knew we wanted to create a mood and provide something that would be a fitting dessert, and so, really, he came up with several ideas. We went back and forth a few times. This is what we settled on.

Q And what, specifically -- did you have any specific suggestions for this meal?

MRS. CLINTON: No, other than to find out what our guests particularly liked and what they couldn't eat, which we try to be very sensitive to. Then taking -- obviously eliminating that, and looking at what they would particularly enjoy (inaudible).

Q Is there anything that you don't (inaudible)

MRS. CLINTON: I'm not keen on a lot of raw things. That's not big on my list.

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Q Vegetables --

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I love raw vegetables, but I'm not a big, you know, sushi fan or (inaudible).

Q Do you think the time will come when you could ever serve something besides red meat for a state dinner?

MRS. CLINTON: Oh, we have. What did we serve back at the Governors' dinner?

Q Well, you served halibut, didn't you?

MRS. CLINTON: Yes.

Q And how did that come about?

MRS. CLINTON: Because I want to serve fish and I want to feature fish. You know, in this case, we would have probably chosen maybe something more adventurous than beef, but because the President really likes American beef and he's our guest, we thought that we could prepare it in a slightly different way and give him a treat.

Q And what kind of (inaudible)?

MRS. CLINTON: We like lots of different fish, and in a lot of the dinners that we have been having, we've had pheasant and every variety of chicken, and we've had all different kinds of fish. We had a fish that I never had before, arctic char.

Q Oh, arctic char is wonderful.

MRS. CLINTON: Yes, I loved it. So we're trying to expand a million different ways of providing chicken and pheasant and other fowl, plus all different kinds of fish.

(The interview was concluded.)

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