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ABC ST. PETERSBURG

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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AN INTERVIEW OF THE FIRST LADY  
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Q Can you tell me, are you happy to have (inaudible)? I guess a little bit, right (inaudible)?

MR. RODHAM: Absolutely delighted. I don't know who would -- I mean, October the 4th rolls around a lot sooner than we hoped, and yet we're anxious to see a victory (inaudible) Tuesday night. This (inaudible) my sister, which is gratifying to me personally, plus I have (inaudible).

Q What kind of (inaudible) what kind of support does (inaudible)?

MR. RODHAM: Well, it's not new to the State of Florida, I'll tell you that much. We've seen some of this, the families getting involved, and with all the discussions that we've had about family values I think that we, in this state, are exhibiting that tenfold, because we talk, you know, and believe in what we say.

Q Do you all consider (inaudible) or what brought (inaudible)?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, we were graciously invited to come here to this church (inaudible) Dr. Lyons (phonetic), who is the president of the National Baptist Convention (inaudible) my husband, who is a Baptist. And I am very excited about the leadership he will be able to give on important issues (inaudible) personal responsibility. So it was a real honor (inaudible).

Q Outside, before I came in, I tried to question a couple of the women who (inaudible) had a chance to actually question (inaudible). And the one woman said, well (inaudible) so many things for other countries but we have so (inaudible) here at home (inaudible) my question, how can we

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spend so much time helping other countries when we have our own problems here?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, this president has spent more time on solving problems here at home than his recent predecessors, and it's beginning to show results. I mean, we have 4.3 million new jobs since he's been president. The deficit has gone down for the third year in a row, which hasn't happened since Harry Truman was president. The crime bill has been passed, which will put more police on the streets, will take assault weapons off the streets, and build more prisons. So I think this president is paying very close attention to what goes on.

But sometimes the situation outside your borders can impact on the quality of life here at home, and those people here in Florida certainly know that. With both Cuba and Haiti just offshore from the State of Florida, it's very important that the president pay attention and deal with those, and the president has.

I think it's to the benefit of the people of Florida to have a president who focuses on what's good for Florida, both here at home and, when the occasion arises, outside of (inaudible).

Q (Inaudible) question from another individual outside (inaudible) this woman has said something (inaudible) up your sleeve regarding health care that you're not addressing so far. And she wants to know what is plan B, and where are you headed now?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I'm glad she wants to know, because we need (inaudible). The reasons why the president wanted to have health care reform are because health care was becoming too costly, there were all kinds of pressures on Medicare, which would endanger the government financed health program for older Americans. Many working Americans were losing their coverage at work or having to pay more for it.

So there are lots of problems in our hospitals and doctors' offices that need to be addressed, and the problems will not go away. So we pushed that issue further than it's ever been before in our country, but we're going to have to keep working on it to make sure that we really do make health care available for every American at an affordable price.

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Q (Inaudible) to know what is plan B and what (inaudible).

MRS. CLINTON: Well, that's being worked on. There is no plan at this moment. It is being worked on, but the commitment to health care reform is (inaudible).

Q And on Cuba, I'm just curious to know what (inaudible) personally, and that's a difficult (inaudible) concerned about, now that Haiti is at least on its way to resolution, what is going to happen there.

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I think that the president handled the situation in Cuba very well. And certainly that seems to be the majority support in the American community and the State of Florida, because he averted the kind of -- a lifting of pressure that was being planned in Cuba by Fidel Castro, and worked out an agreement (inaudible) itself. And people are not being endangered in the waters the way they were, thank goodness. But also we haven't given in to what was a form of blackmail, in a sense, that we had an unfortunate experience with our country before.

So I think that what this president did on Cuba was very smart and very tough, and with the continuing embargo, there is going to be some results. But again, you have to be patient, you have to make sure to keep working on policy, and that's what he will do.

Q I'm sure you're sick of being asked this question, but everyone wants to know if you're pregnant. What do you have to say?

MRS. CLINTON: You know, I find it so funny that a tabloid could say that. I mean, my goodness, you know, a tabloid said I had a space alien baby, too. So although I would be -- I would be thrilled if it were true, it is not.

Q Okay.

(End of interview.)

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