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Part 2

THE WHITE HOUSE

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INTERVIEW OF THE FIRST LADY
ONE ON ONE INTERVIEWS
ST. JUDES CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Q (Inaudible.)

MRS. CLINTON: Oh, I think there were a lot of good ideas, but somehow we (inaudible) were everybody could sit down and iron out their differences. I think, because unlike Congressman Cooper, (inaudible) on the sidelines and would have been engaged in the debate and made a very (inaudible) ideas presented. There's a lot of education and awareness that has gone on, so I think we'll be back and moving forward with a lot of people participating in it.

Q I must also ask you, since this is 1994 and we have another very important political year, was it part of the problem perhaps that the Republicans are so -- so obsessed at this point with trying to (inaudible) in the Senate? Was that a (inaudible) to you, the (inaudible).

MRS. CLINTON: I think that was a problem and it was unfortunate, but there seemed to have been a decision made by the majority of Republicans that they would not participate on many of the issues that the president was promoting and which people said they wanted. Health care reform was just one of those.

But just the other day, lobbying reform, which people are demanding (inaudible) died on the Senate floor because of a filibuster and a Republican senator left after helping to kill it and was greeted by cheers from Washington lobbyists.

So there was a concerted effort by the majority of Republicans to stop progress on a lot of the important issues that people tell me they want the Congress to act on and which the president was for and which the majority of Democrats have been for. And I think that's so unfortunate

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that Republicans would put partisanship ahead of working out the problems of the country.

And I hope the people of Tennessee do not reward that kind of obstructionism. I hope that they take a really hard look at what is being said and what is the likely outcome if they vote for Republicans who are committed to saying "no" and obstructionism instead of helping to solve problems, like both Congressman Cooper and Senator Sasser have shown themselves to be.

Q (Inaudible) last month we have before the November election, do you see more of the Clinton administration coming out here (inaudible)?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, you know, Vice President Gore has been here and I'm sure that other members of the administration will be here. They've all been working very hard and pretty much confined to Washington, working on a whole range of issues that we believe the people of America want to address. But now that the Congress is going home, this campaigning will start in earnest and Republicans will have a lot of answer for.

You know, they all lined up, lock-step, signed this "Contract for America" that would just turn the clock back, back to trickle-down economics, back to billion dollar deficits. I just don't think anybody is really voting for that. And once they find out that's what the choice is, I believe that this election will turn out just fine for the Democrats.

Q And, quickly, do you think at this point, in the term, do you think you can see (inaudible) reelection?

MRS. CLINTON: Oh, absolutely. I think the Clinton-Gore administration has kept faith with what both the president and vice president said they wanted to do.

I'm a little bit confused that so many people don't seem to know that this president has proposed welfare reform that will require people to work; this president passed the Family and Medical Leave Act, which makes a difference in people's lives; that we will immunize children; we will send more to Head Start; that we've removed 15 million working Americans from the federal tax rolls so that they were not in any way tempted by welfare; and I could go on and on.

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Many of the important changes which have actually been put into law which are starting to affect people's lives, once people in Tennessee know about that, then I think they're going to feel very good about what the Clinton-Gore administration has accomplished.

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