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LARRY KING LIVE Transcript #1752

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## Interview with Hillary Rodham Clinton

**LARRY KING:** [voice-over] Tonight, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is next on *Larry King Live*.

**ANNOUNCER:** Now, live from Washington, here's Larry King.

**LARRY KING:** Good evening, a full hour is promised with Hillary Clinton to kick off a king-sized week on CNN. Hillary was supposed to be with us a few weeks back but tragedy occurred with the death of Ron Brown— what do you make, by the way, of these tragedies in the Administration? The Admiral, Ron, Vince — what's the—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, First Lady of the United States:** Well, of course, the accident with Ron Brown was terrible, unexpected and unpredictable. And we lost so many other people along with him. The suicide of the Admiral is just unbelievably sad. On a personal level it's a great loss. I don't know if you ever had a chance to meet him, but what a—

**LARRY KING:** Once I met him; I never got to interview him though.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh, what a great guy. I mean, the kind of person who just would light up a room, make you feel so at ease, and the times he was at the White House, sometimes alone, sometimes with his wife, Betty, he would be sure to say hello and thank you to all of the people who worked there. I— I think it's a great loss for everybody.

**LARRY KING:** What do you make of it?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't know that we can make anything of it, other than, you know, the stresses of the kinds of jobs that people have today with the extraordinary scrutiny that everyone is under and the relentless and unforgiving glare that people who live in public life are subjected to. But then, I think there is also always, you know, underlying issues of depression or vulnerability. So, as I said, when our friend Vince took his life, I don't know that any of us who are left will ever know all the reasons why.

**LARRY KING:** You never really know.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't think so, Larry.

**LARRY KING:** But in this case he said in a note—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** —that it was he was going to embarrass the Navy. And Admiral Zumwalt, here Friday night, said, "It ain't that big a deal."

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I don't know if

explanation that it was an honest mistake, if indeed it was. And, of course, Admiral Zumwalt, for whom I have the highest regard, has said to you and has said to others, there wasn't even a mistake. But in today's atmosphere, which is so highly charged, a lie is halfway around the world before the truth can get out of someone's mouth. **LARRY KING:** What do you make of that atmosphere. Like, what — on right wing talk radio you are rapped every day.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** This is like a common occurrence.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** Tabloids—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** —take you on. You have been probably more vilified than most. How do you deal with it?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I think there has been a lot of that for everybody in public life. You, for example, have not escaped it either. Anyone who is in the public arena. I think it is regrettable, I think it creates a climate in which peoples respect for one another, respect for institutions, the feeling that we are all in this together, that people are trying to do the best they can — is a victim of that kind of mentality. And as a result, I think people are reluctant to believe anything or anybody. They kind of back off and that breeds, at least in the political process, I think, apathy and cynicism because of all of the negativity that is out there.

**LARRY KING:** Do you ever get used to it?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't think you can get used to it. I think what you do, as Eleanor Roosevelt — who is one of my great heroines — said, you know, you just grow as thick a skin as you possibly can and you try to take criticism seriously, but not personally. But sometimes that is difficult, especially for people who have had a whole life and a whole career where they have been lauded and successful all of a sudden to get into this arena, where the rules really are different than they are anywhere else. And to be criticized for the first time. I think unless you've had some getting used to it, it could be devastating.

**LARRY KING:** Would you want Chelsea to marry a major political figure or a major show business figure or a celebrity who makes the press a lot.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I want her to marry or have a life that is the best for her based on the decisions that she makes at the time.

**LARRY KING:** Would you be worried, though, if she chose that route?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I hope by that time, we will have come to our senses—

**LARRY KING:** Ha, ha.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** —and that people will be giving each other the benefit of the doubt a little more and not be looking to tear other people down at the expense of other peoples reputations, regardless of the truth or the evidence. A friend of mine said the other day that sometimes he thinks we live in an evidence-free world anymore because it doesn't really matter. And sometimes

or put into eight or 10 seconds.

So, I would hope that by the time she's ready for that kind of decision that all of us, whether in the political arena, or the business world, or the media, will say "You know, we don't need to do this to each other."

**LARRY KING:** Frank Sinatra said half-truths are worse.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh.

**LARRY KING:** Because it takes you longer to explain them.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, he's had a lot of experience, hasn't he?

**LARRY KING:** Yes, I was in the restaurant, but I didn't sit over there.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm. Yeah. Well, I hope that all of us, regardless of our politics or ideology, will say, "Look, we don't need to be doing this to each other, let's try to be civil, let's be successful. Let's judge people on their whole performance, their whole life, not on one little thing."

**LARRY KING:** Lots of bases to cover. Were you surprised at the success of *It Takes A Village*?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I was— I was surprised. Because it's a sort of a different kind of a book, you know? It's not a memoir, and it's not a strictly policy wonk book, but it does talk about my 25 years of work on behalf of children and my experience as a daughter and a wife and a mother. So it's kind of a hybrid.

**LARRY KING:** They say it's terrific. Plus it had an extraordinary run, didn't you?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, it's still on the best seller list. I am very gratified by that. But, you know and tell me about having read it, or having been assigned to read it, in a class — which I am very pleased about. I was over at the Omni Shoreham the other day and a woman in the catering department came up and told me that her son had read it in class and he really thought it was a good book. Those are the kinds of stories that I really cherish, because I had hoped by this book to get a conversation going about what our kids need, what works for families and how all of us have responsibilities.

**LARRY KING:** More in a minute with the First Lady of the United States, Hillary Clinton. A lot to talk about. We will get into it. We will include your phone calls as well.

And tomorrow night, the complete cast of *60 Minutes*, you remember them?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** They will be here tomorrow night, don't go away.

[commercial break]

**LARRY KING:** I think this is our sixth visit together. It's always great to have her, especially to kick off a week like this — Hillary Rodham Clinton the First Lady of the United States.

I know there are some things that have occurred in the past few months that we haven't heard you comment on.

**LARRY KING:** Were you— were you— your husband was pained, were you hurt by Bill Safire's 'Liar' column?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No.

**LARRY KING:** You were not?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No. No.

**LARRY KING:** Why not?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Why should I be? I mean there are some people who criticize my husband and everything he stands for a living and he's one of them. So, it doesn't bother me. It's just too bad that he goes to such an extreme.

**LARRY KING:** So, in other words when you read it and heard about it, nothing?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Now, my mother was insulted.

**LARRY KING:** Ha, ha. That's always a mother, isn't it? They took it— she took it personally?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** She takes it personally because she's a mother, you know? I'm sure I'd feel the same way if I were in her position. She said to me the other day, she said "You know, Hillary, when you were growing up, you never gave your father or me a sleepless night. Now that you and Bill are in the White House we hardly ever sleep a night through." So—

**LARRY KING:** How about— was there a lot of pain at the correspondent's dinner which got such widespread attention?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Not— not really. Not personally. Again, I mean that's—

**LARRY KING:** You looked stunned.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I was stunned about people say about my mother—

**LARRY KING:** Really?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** —I think it has gone so far, it's so absurd, that I just turn it off. But when I heard it said about other people that did shock me. But— that's— that's, you know, that's his business.

**LARRY KING:** Well, what do you— what do you— Let's— so that— that's very interesting. What about you are we entitled to know? How much of your— do we— do we have to know your happiness or unhappiness? Do we have to know — what about your personal life goes to the public?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, what don't we know? I mean I'm not sure that—

**LARRY KING:** Yeah, but what should we know?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, that I can't answer because I have a different sense of what privacy is and how people should lead their lives and how you try to construct a life of integrity and I have been, as I've said before, rezoned, since I've been in Washington. So I accept the fact that people want to know all kinds of things and I will do the best job I can to answer them.

**LARRY KING:** Has it changed you?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No.

**LARRY KING:** Not at all?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No, I don't believe so.

older, I hope that, you know, I get to be a better person if I can be. I mean—

**LARRY KING:** But it hasn't hardened you at all, toughened you?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I mean, I think what prepared me most for Washington was playing lots of sports with boys in my neighborhood growing up. I'm so used to them razzing each other and razzing me, that it, you know, it — you know, I think — that's why I urge girls to play competitive sports with boys at an early age. And I am so glad more do now. I think a lot of this is just part of the atmosphere now. And I know that it's not easy, it's painful sometimes. It does upset me — I am not going to sit here and say that when people come up with all these charges that they just roll off my back, but I just deal with them the best I can and go on.

**LARRY KING:** Does it affect you and the relationship with the President?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No. No.

**LARRY KING:** In other words, you don't 'take it upstairs'?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, we do just to support each other. I mean, that's— I don't know how you would go through this alone. I don't know how you know, anybody could take that kind of pressure without somebody who loved them and supported them and was there for them, and we are for each other. So, it has— it has not affected our relationship, except to, you know—

**LARRY KING:** Strengthen it?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't know that strengthen— I mean, we've always had such an extraordinary partnership, as well as marriage, best friends as well as husband and wife. It's given us, you know, some new challenges to meet together, but that seems to be par for the course these days.

**LARRY KING:** I went to the mall today, saw a movie, you told me that was your favorite thing you used to do with Chelsea when you were First Lady—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Yeah. I love going to movies.

**LARRY KING:** —when was the last time you walked through a mall with your daughter?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh, a long, long time. I can't even remember, right now.

**LARRY KING:** How do you deal with that as a wife and then raising a child.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, we've tried to make it possible for her to have as normal a life as possible. But, it isn't easy and certainly for my husband it's practically impossible. He can't get out and you know, walk through the mall easily, or—

**LARRY KING:** Because he likes doing it?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh, he loves it.

**LARRY KING:** His instinct is to do that.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Absolutely. I mean he— he loves people. He genuinely loves people; he loves meeting them, he loves hearing their stories, he loves helping them. And we could lead that kind of life before, we can't now. But we try to you know, occasionally get out to

a store, you know, go for a long walk, I did that, even yesterday, in that terrible heat.

**LARRY KING:** Where to?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** In Washington.

**LARRY KING:** You walked in Washington?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I did. I walked in Washington. Yeah, I had a friend and I went out for a long walk.

**LARRY KING:** Did people stop you on the street?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No.

**LARRY KING:** You had sunglasses.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Of course, it was so hot out there.

**LARRY KING:** Talk a little politics. First, Elizabeth Dole. That's an interesting contrast. Elizabeth Dole was a Democrat early on, then she became a Republican. You were a Republican, you were for Goldwater, right?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** And now you are a Democrat. Do you know Elizabeth Dole?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Not well. I have met her, certainly, yeah.

**LARRY KING:** Like her?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't know her well, but I admire her work.

**LARRY KING:** Do you think she could be First Lady and President of the American Red Cross?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** You know, I am going to say about that what I have said about questions concerning me or other women and their lives — I think each woman has to make the choices that are right for her and her family and if that's what she believes is right for her and her husband, then I would support her in doing that.

**LARRY KING:** It's fair to ask because you know the job, right?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Right. Right.

**LARRY KING:** Now you know it and she doesn't. No one else knows what being First Lady is like except Nancy, and Barbara and Betty.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** Right?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** And— and Rosalynn.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** They are the ones who know. So what would you— can you go 9-5? Somewhere else?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, it depends upon what you are going to give up. It's like any other choice a woman makes. I mean, if you are going to be full-time 9-5, or — in the kind of job you are describing, that's not 9-5—

**LARRY KING:** No, it's travel and—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** —that's a much bigger job, then there are certain things you will have to delegate that you cannot do yourself. I mean, I do a lot of work with my staff and with others in the White House, you know, dinners and social events, planning Christmas which starts in June and goes all the way through—

**LARRY KING:** Yeah.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** —to the New Year.

Other women might make different choices and I would judge how somebody would fulfill their responsibilities.

**LARRY KING:** So, if someone asked for advice you wouldn't say do or don't?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No, I would just say—

**LARRY KING:** It's up to them.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** —“Here's what I know needs to be done, that the White House has to have done, in order for it to fulfill its responsibilities, here's how I have done it.” But I don't believe in telling anyone what choice they should make. That's something they should decide based on what they think is the responsible alternative for them.

**LARRY KING:** More from Hillary Rodham Clinton on *Larry King Live*. Then your phone calls. *It Takes a Village* is still on the best seller lists.

Don't go away.

[Commercial break]

**LARRY KING:** We're back with Hillary Rodham Clinton. Politics. Are you going to campaign a lot?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh, yes, very much so.

**LARRY KING:** Out on the hustings?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Yes, I'm going to—

**LARRY KING:** With the President and alone?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Yes. That's the way we've always done it for, gosh, all the 20 years of our marriage.

**LARRY KING:** Have they carved out a role for you different from four years ago? I mean, now you are the incumbent.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't think so. I think, I will be doing what I have always done, which is speaking on behalf of the campaign and doing whatever I can to help my husband.

**LARRY KING:** Have you— is it fair to say you've backed off since health care?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't think so, Larry.

**LARRY KING:** You don't?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No, I mean, I've spent a lot of 1995 writing my book, which I cared very much about and which has some strong opinions in it about child rearing and what American society should do. I've kept a very active speaking schedule around the country. I just finished giving my second commencement this year, I give a third one on Thursday. So, I don't— I don't quite know where that came from, but I certainly don't feel, given the pace of my life and all of my obligations that I am doing anything much different.

**LARRY KING:** So you will speak out on issues in this campaign?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Certainly.

**LARRY KING:** And we will know what you're— you are not going to be Mrs. Wallflower.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No, I don't think so.

**LARRY KING:** Some people have said that you've backed off and you are not in the combative mode that Hillary was in two years ago.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I think that is a mischaracterization. You know, two years ago, I was working on behalf of my husband's health care plan which he and I both felt very strongly about. We spoke about it separately, together. We tried to explain it to people and since then, I have talked about a lot of other issues and have been in many events in the White House and around the country on matters, but nothing that has risen to the level of public interest or controversy that the health care issue did. So people may not know everything I've been doing.

**LARRY KING:** Critics and observers, pundits who say you are the left wing of the Clinton White House.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** There is no left wing of the Clinton White House. You know, I listen to that and I don't know where those folks have been, because they certainly haven't followed my husband in the last four years, nor in the years before. I mean just take a couple of issues — you know, when he campaigned for President he said he was going to take a tough stand against crime. We'd had a lot of rhetoric before that, but he came in and in his first two years, he went after assault weapons, the Brady Bill, put another 100,000 police on the street, increased the punishment for a lot of crimes at the federal level. He's been implementing that. The crime rate has been doing down. He campaigned on what he would do, he did it, he is doing it and he will continue to do it. And if you pick any other issue, like welfare for example: he said he would end welfare as we knew it. He started by getting the earned income tax credit passed so that people who are working but hardly making a living above the poverty level, would not have incentives not to work and then he, a few days after he came into the White House met with the nation's governors and said, “I want you all to start changing welfare at the grassroots level,” because he knew there would be a fight in Washington and so through 38 waivers to states, we're beginning to see some results. And he is continuing to work for a national welfare bill that doesn't penalize children, that does provide adequate day care but does move us toward moving people off of welfare.

So, I mean people who say that, I don't think have really looked at the record very closely.

**LARRY KING:** So you'll— you say labels don't fit. You wouldn't call yourself a liberal?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No, I don't think— I don't think these labels and stereotypes work at all. Because, you know, I am someone who has always been concerned about crime, so what my husband did, I said, “Horray.” I mean, what mother or woman wants to walk a lot of our streets? And I am grateful that we are finally getting the crime under some control, although we are going to have to do more on youth violence and teenage gangs, and the President has plans for that. For a long time, and when the — when my husband was Governor of Arkansas, I supported his efforts to move people from welfare to work. We were totally in agreement on that. So, I think it's, you know, it's—

**LARRY KING:** You are saying that's a bum rap.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Or—

**LARRY KING:** Or it doesn't fit.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I am saying that it doesn't fit. There is very little evidence of it. And what my husband has done, what he has said he would do, I think is right in line with his entire public record.

**LARRY KING:** How do you get along with Dick Morris?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Very well. He's been a friend of mine for — I hate to tell you — 18 years. I was very much in favor—

**LARRY KING:** You met him when I was six?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** When I was six, yes he came to my kindergarten class to make a polling presentation.

**LARRY KING:** How— how important is he in this re-election. The — the cog. We— we read so much about him and know so little about him.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, there are a lot of people who are very important. But Dick has worked with my husband since 1978 and he is someone who my husband feels really does have a lot of good ideas and worked with him all through his governorship, when he really created a lot of the new Democratic positions, that he took into the '92 campaign, that he really pioneered there. So, I think, as you know, is a very important part of the team, but it's a team and the captain is the President and all the rest of the people who work do so at his request and he makes the final decisions.

**LARRY KING:** So— and is it pretty much a Clinton campaign? I mean— by that I mean he signs off on it.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** He—

**LARRY KING:** Is he easily managed is the question.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I don't think that he is 'managed' in that sense. I think what he does is bring to the campaign, as he brings to his presidency strong feelings and values about what he wants to do in America, what he wants to stand up for. That's another part of the bum rap. I mean, here is somebody who has stood up to the National Rifle Association, to get the assault weapons ban and the Brady bill, has stood up to the tobacco manufacturers on behalf of his campaign against teenage smoking. Has stood up time and again, against the majority in Congress, on behalf of whether it's Medicare, or Medicaid, or education or the environment. He has a very strong sense of where he thinks our country should go and that's where he has been leading us.

Sen. Dale leaving the Senate? And I know you to get along, because I sat with you one night at the old Dick Ziebert's [sp?] coffee and you—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Right.

**LARRY KING:** —and dessert—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Right.

**LARRY KING:** —and you seemed to really get along together, you and the Senator.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Right.

**LARRY KING:** Were you surprised he left?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I think I was as surprised as nearly everybody in Washington. Yeah.

**LARRY KING:** Do you think it's a good idea, politically?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I— I don't really have

an opin—

**LARRY KING:** Play reporter for the— your chance—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't really have an opinion.

**LARRY KING:** —to be a pundit.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, now, I do write a weekly column, but—

**LARRY KING:** Okay, what are you going to say about this?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I am not going to say anything about it.

**LARRY KING:** Well, do you think it's a smart idea?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I have no idea, Larry. I really don't. I think that, you know, there is more than I can say grace over, at home trying to figure out what I do from day to day. That is his choice, his campaign, and we will just see how things work out.

**LARRY KING:** Are you— how do you — how do you feel about being so far ahead in the polls?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh, I don't believe it. I never believe polls, good, bad, indifferent.

**LARRY KING:** You don't think 19 points, or 16 points—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I think that the President has really acquired a very broad level of support in the country because people have kind of caught up on what he's been trying to do, and the impact — whether it's on the economy, or the falling crime rate, or the fact that there are now fewer people on welfare than there were when he took office, or that the deficit — which he said he would cut in half — has actually been cut in half. I think that all of that reality really began to sink— sink in around the country.

**LARRY KING:** So he is ahead.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** He is ahead, absolutely he's ahead.

**LARRY KING:** So when you say you don't believe them—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I don't— I don't think anybody should take anything for granted. I think politics is volatile, I have no doubt that, you know, there is going to be ups and downs in the months ahead. I am absolutely confident my husband is going to win, because I think he's the right man to be president in the country at this time, but that doesn't mean that it's going to be easy, or that it's not going to be different, that there's not going to be a lot of different challenges.

**LARRY KING:** The late Claude Pepper used to say always run like you are 20 points behind.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I think that's a very good piece of advice.

**LARRY KING:** Your relationship with the Gores, has that continued well from the campaign, where you got to know each other?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** It's been wonderful. And there is one pact that the four of us made that I would really recommend to anybody in this town or anywhere in America. We knew that there would be attempts to pit one of us against the other, or that some story might come on the screen which said, you know, "The vice president said this, or the president said that, or Mrs. Clinton or Tipper

said that—" so we made a pact at the very beginning of the  
sign that we would never believe anything that was  
outed to any of the others of us that if we had a prob-  
lem with one of us or a question about what was happening  
we would just deal with it honestly. And it has been the  
most wonderful relationship. I am crazy about both of  
them—

**LARRY KING:** So if you read a quote attributed to Tip-  
per—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** —that might have been critical, you call  
Tipper?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh, sure.

**LARRY KING:** And discuss it right there.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Right, right. Absolute-  
ly. Now, there haven't been any that I'm aware of, so it  
hasn't really arisen, but that kind of honesty on the front  
end and saying, you know, we're not going to let people  
who make their living out of trying to create conflict, do  
that to us. And you know, if there are disagreements or is  
somebody thinks we ought to go this way instead of that  
way, then let's talk about it.

And I just only have really positive things to say about  
them.

**LARRY KING:** Do you concern yourself about things like  
"Will Colin Powell run?"

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No, because I have  
no— no input—

**LARRY KING:** Control?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** —or control over that.  
That's some— that's for — for him and his family to  
decide.

**LARRY KING:** So you— you don't — idle time concerned  
about him?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No, I don't. I don't.

**LARRY KING:** We will take a break and come back with  
more and your phone calls for Hillary Rodham Clinton,  
First Lady of the United States. This is *Larry King Live*.

Wednesday night, David Letterman. Do you like him?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Yeah, he's funny.

**LARRY KING:** Well, David, there's a chance. We will be  
right back.

*[Commercial break]*

**LARRY KING:** We're back with Hillary Rodham Clinton,  
we're going to go to phone calls in just a couple of mo-  
ments. A couple of other things to cover, we will never ever  
get into all of this of course.

Whitewater. the jury is out now in the other trial down  
there.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** And apparently they asked today for 700  
pages of documents.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** Which obviously indicates that this is  
confusing.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** What's your read on that?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, one thing that's

not confusing, one thing that both the prosecution and the  
defense agree on is that my husband had absolutely noth-  
ing to do with these allegations and that for four years  
now, the only allegation made against my husband was  
made by David Hale, who the prosecutor called in his clos-  
ing argument, a notorious liar. So, I am just hoping that  
once and for all these allegations are discredited and will  
be, you know, pushed off the screen.

**LARRY KING:** On the day he did that testifying—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** —were you there that day?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I was in the  
house, yeah. But I wasn't in the room.

**LARRY KING:** Did you watch it?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No, no.

**LARRY KING:** What about the allegations against you?  
How have you dealt with that?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, just as with  
these allegations against my husband. Every time there  
has been any kind of official investigation or report, what  
people alleged has been proven to be not true, and  
eventually that's what the American people will see of all  
of these politically inspired investigations.

**LARRY KING:** The Travelgate story—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm.

**LARRY KING:** —they were all on this show, all of the  
travel office and they said that their word that they got  
was that you wanted them out. I'd like to hear it from you.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I have said  
repeatedly ever since that happened, that I had no role in  
the decision of getting them out of the White House. But I  
did express concern. And I think that that concern was  
well-founded. That if somebody anywhere in Washington  
were misusing funds, or negligent about the use of funds,  
that should be looked into and taken seriously.

**LARRY KING:** The— the first thing, though, is if a First  
Lady expresses concern, that might appear to an underling  
to mean "I better take some action."

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, you know, I tell  
the story about being in France for a state dinner and  
meeting — it was when President Mitterand was in office,  
and meeting with his wife earlier in the day and at the end  
of our conversation she said she felt so bad that there  
wouldn't be any flowers on the table at the state dinner.  
And I said, "Well, why?" And she said, "Well, because, you  
know, we were told that you would not let any flowers be  
on any table for any dinners because of your husband's al-  
lergies." And I said, "Oh, Madame, I never said such a  
thing. I might have expressed some concern about my hus-  
band's allergies, but we have flowers on the table at our  
state dinners. Is it too late? Can you get flowers?" And she  
was greatly relieved.

So, that was —

**LARRY KING:** So you just express concern and they  
dump the flowers. So is it possible you expressed concern  
and they fired people?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No. I— I don't know  
what's possible because I can't speculate on what some-  
body heard. I know that I said, you know, if this is some-

thing that is a concern it should be looked into. But I know we have had some funny experiences in the past three years, where, you know, my husband will say, "Gee, I want a banana," and next thing you know there are bananas everywhere. So, you know, we have learned to be, you know, maybe a little bit more careful about that.

**LARRY KING:** Before we take some calls, what about this whole experience surprised you the most?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** That there isn't really any way to prepare for it. That when you walk in that door at the White House the day that your husband is inaugurated, you really do not know what you are walking into. You can read history, you can know that there are all kinds of experiences that people have had to go through, but until you actually are there, day in and day out, neither the wonder and the thrill and the excitement of it, nor the challenges of it seem quite real. And it's a constant adjustment. And I think it's been an extraordinary and for me it's been a very positive and wonderful experience, but I could never have predicted how I would have reacted or what would have happened to me.

**LARRY KING:** It ain't the First Lady of Arkansas.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No, no. Nor—

**LARRY KING:** Nothing like it, right?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** —of any— anything else like it that I am aware of.

**LARRY KING:** Does it make you commiserate more with the Betty's and the Nancy's and the Barbara's and the Rosalynn's?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** And also for the Presidents. I mean, when I see how meaning is imputed to events and actions that is not in anyway related to what you thought, at the time, you were doing, or that, if you go back in history and see how every woman who has been in this position, starting with Martha Washington, was criticized, you really do develop empathy, and regardless of the political differences. And I guess that is one of the things I would like to see back here in Washington. And I've had older members of Congress of both parties, say that, you know, in the old days, 20 years ago, 10 years ago even, it was so much easier to be somebody's friend. It was easier to get to know each other. Because people saw each other as human beings and there was more empathy. So, I think that that is a lesson not just for us in the White House.

**LARRY KING:** We could name the whole Senate when we were kids, right?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Ha, ha.

**LARRY KING:** What changed that do you think?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't know, Larry. I mean, a lot of scholars have written some very impressive books about the way we have changed our culture, the impact of the media, 24 hours news filling all those minutes and hours, so that things that would never have been paid attention to, you know, 10 years ago, are now more important than they should be perhaps. The commercial pressures on the media. When we had three networks there was, you know, certain stability, and then when we had CNN, there were four, and certain stability, you know, and

now when you've got 150 channels how do you communicate with people unless you are controversial and confrontational and have something nasty to say. So, I think it's a com—

**LARRY KING:** Or we've become gimmicky?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** —well, I think it's a combination of a lot of, you know, pressures.

**LARRY KING:** We will include some of your phone calls for the First Lady. Only in America. Don't go away.

[Commercial break]

**LARRY KING:** We're back with Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Let's take some phone calls, Scottsdale, Arizona. Hello.

**1st CALLER, [Scottsdale, Arizona]:** Hello, good evening, Larry.

**LARRY KING:** Hi.

**1st CALLER:** I have a question for Mrs. Clinton.

**LARRY KING:** Go ahead.

**1st CALLER:** What tools would you give to parents to help them raise children in this difficult generation where they are facing such tremendous pressures?

**LARRY KING:** Great question.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh, I love that question. It's really what I wrote my book about *It Takes a Village*. And I will just say one piece of advice that I got as I was growing up that I've passed on in the book. You know, when I used to get into a jam, or be confused about a decision, my father used to say, "Well, how are you going to dig yourself out of this?" And starting when I was a little girl, I carried around this mental image of a shovel. And the shovel began to sort of stand for the tools that I would want any child to have. Starting with love, attention, discipline, feelings of self confidence that are rooted in real experience. So I would do things like reading to your child and talking to your child from the moment you have that child in the world. I would also make sure that your child has little tasks that will take some effort to accomplish. I am a big believer, for example, as silly as this may sound, in continuing to teach our children how to tie shoelaces, the old fashioned way. It's a frustrating task for those little fingers, but they have to do it and they learn how to stick to something.

Now, in my book, I give lots more examples of the kinds of tools, and as I say, you know, sometimes for me in my own life, shovels weren't enough, I needed a bulldozer. Ha, ha.

**LARRY KING:** There is no training for that either. There is no training for First Lady there is no training for parenting, is there? Anyone can be one.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, that's true, but the best training is the kind of parents you had and that's why I think if we support mothers and fathers, if we give families the kind of support they need to be the best parents we are going to get better outcomes and that's not just a job for the family I mean, one of the arguments that I try to make in my book is that, you know, it is not just the family who influences the child. You know, sometimes I wish I never had to send my daughter out, but she goes out to school, she goes out in the neighborhood, people who

our streets, and all the rest of it, will influence how treated and grows up.

**LARRY KING:** Long ago, when I was just starting in the business, one of the first people I interviewed was Eleanor Roosevelt and she told me the toughest job of a First Lady is raising children in the White House. It's next to impossible. How do you do that?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I think she's right. I think that it certainly is the single part of my life and my husband's that I think we've spent more time on — you know, people see the headlines, but you know, we spend time with our daughter and we try to be there for her and of course, as she's gotten older she may not have needed us as much but we still hang around hoping that, you know, we will be able to help her whether it's with homework, or just to talk. And we've tried very hard to carve out as much normal life as possible.

**LARRY KING:** But you are in an abnormal — for want of a better term — an unreal situation for a child, right?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Yes.

**LARRY KING:** But you're — I remember Chelsea — she goes to friends houses —

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Right, right.

**LARRY KING:** —and she stays overnight, they come to the White House —

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** That's right.

**LARRY KING:** But you've got to — you've got to work at normalcy.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** You have to work very hard at it. And —

**LARRY KING:** Do you call in for pizza?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, we tried to do that one time and we weren't successful. So we — we have pizza but we don't get to call in anymore.

**LARRY KING:** The pizza — the pizza place didn't believe it, right?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** They didn't believe it. Ha, ha.

**LARRY KING:** Dominoes? What are you kidding? We'll never make it in a half hour!

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** That's exactly right.

**LARRY KING:** No, but what — how is she — she's how old now?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** She's 16.

**LARRY KING:** Dating?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I am not going to answer any questions about her. I mean, that's the way that we try to give her a normal life, is that I try to keep her privacy and respect how she lives and give her as much space as possible.

**LARRY KING:** All right, in that venue, does she still come to you? Are you still the source of — are you 'Mum'?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Yes.

**LARRY KING:** Or are you — have the peers taken over?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** No, I feel — and I think Bill feels the same way — you know, just very fortunate that we have a relationship with her where she does talk to us. Now, obviously she talks to her friends, she's a normal teenager. But, that's something else we

started many, many years ago. I mean, we didn't just wake up one day and say, "Oh, my gosh, we have a teenager, we better start talking with her." You know, we talk with her, we've tried to be as honest to her, bring in as many pieces of information she might want, so that she can know what's going on, ever since she was a very little girl.

**LARRY KING:** Do you think some of it is luck, too?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh, I think lots of life is luck and grace and blessings, and there are people who work so hard and just seem to be beset by misfortune and others —

**LARRY KING:** Black cloud?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** —yeah — who just kind of skim through life. But I do think some of what you can do in life is try to maximize the chances for good luck. To try to be as good a person and to try to take care of the people who are near you, and to try to, you know, build up your own sense of gratitude for the world that you are in and share those blessings.

**LARRY KING:** When this is all over — let's say four years from now, which is your wish — are you going to go back to law?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't have any idea what I am going to do.

**LARRY KING:** Your daughter is going to be grown, right? And she will be — she will be at college.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Larry, don't say that.

**LARRY KING:** She will be —

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I know, I know. You are introducing more reality than I can take.

**LARRY KING:** Do you want her to go to Yale?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I want her to go wherever she is happy.

**LARRY KING:** Georgetown?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I —

**LARRY KING:** Wherever she's happy?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Wherever she's happy, yeah. She's — she's going to start looking at that. But I don't know what I'm going to do. I think that — I hope it is, in a little over four years that I will be facing that decision with my husband and I hope I write another book. I'm interested in writing, I like the process of writing, I learned a lot from this book by the way.

**LARRY KING:** Just wondered, what might the President do?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't know.

**LARRY KING:** What do you think?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** But you know, even after a second term, he will be young —

**LARRY KING:** Fifty-four, right?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** —and he's so vital and resilient, has so much energy and he really, I believe, will look for ways to continue to help people and to help solve problems.

**LARRY KING:** The story was that if John Kennedy would have lived he would have bought a newspaper. Because he liked the *Boston Globe* maybe or something like that and run it.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Mm-hm. That's a nice to—

**LARRY KING:** What would be the first thing you would say Bill would do?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't know, maybe go on the senior circuit of the—

**LARRY KING:** Golf?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** —golf pros.

**LARRY KING:** And what do you do? Beat him?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I don't know. He loves golf.

**LARRY KING:** We will be right back with Hillary Rodham Clinton and more of your phone calls. Don't go away.

[Commercial break]

**LARRY KING:** Before we take the next call, there are a lot of feminists, fans of yours, who say that you've become the symbol, you're taking the flak for all the feminism flap in America, you have become—

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Ha, ha.

**LARRY KING:** —flak symbol.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I feel like I should wear a flak suit and a hard hat.

**LARRY KING:** Do you feel like you are a symbol for the stand up ness of American women?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh, I don't know. I think that, to some extent I might be, or, you know, a lot of other women are as well.

**LARRY KING:** You don't think you are looked upon that way?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh, I think in some quarters, sure.

**LARRY KING:** Yeah. Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Swarthmore are you there? Hello? I don't hear anything. They did not connect the phone in.

Do you— do you see yourself as a role model?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I— you know, I see myself as somebody who has tried to live my life according to what I believe in and what I think is important. And, so when someone says that to me, I always say, "I hope you will find what's important to you and do that to the best of your ability, and make choices that are right for you." So, if I am to anybody an example or role model, I hope it's not to try to be like me, because I don't think there is any way to do that, with anyone else — but perhaps to just know what's right for you and to try to have the courage to do it, despite what anybody else might say.

**LARRY KING:** How about dealing with a public marriage, you know, where both people are famous.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Yes, yes.

**LARRY KING:** What about that aspect?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, you know, I married my husband 20 years, plus ago, and he wasn't famous. He had lost his only political race, I wasn't famous.

**LARRY KING:** So you got famous together?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I don't think — I mean, he— his career was a public career and he certainly now, is famous as president. But I think that we've just

been together so long, and we've kind of grown up to together ever since we met each other in law school, so we see our marriage as very private and something that is so important and precious to us that the idea that it's of interest to other people or that people kind of look in and try to figure it out, you know, we just— we just don't pay much attention to that.

**LARRY KING:** Does it surprise you that they do?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I guess it doesn't surprise me because today, you know, people's personality and what they do is seemingly so important and the topic of such conversation. But I don't think anybody can ever know very much about anybody else's life or their marriage and so much of it just kind of, you know, off mark or idle gossip that doesn't really have any relation to reality. We laugh about it a lot.

**LARRY KING:** Back with our remaining moments with Hillary Rodham Clinton right after this.

[Commercial break]

**LARRY KING:** Carlisle, Pennsylvania, for the First Lady, hello.

**2nd CALLER, [Carlisle, Pennsylvania]:** Hi, and thanks for taking my call.

**LARRY KING:** Sure.

**2nd CALLER:** Mrs. Clinton, I am wondering how do we as parents and educators implement the— the wonderful ideas and suggestions that you list in your book, how do we make them real?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I think we start where we are. We start in our homes. I've had people tell me that, you know, they are now, for example, having a night with their children, planning it, turning off the television set as I recommend in my book for one night a week. They're doing things with their kids, they're trying to rearrange their priorities. I think we do it in our schools, by making sure that parents feel welcome in the schools, so that they are partners again, with teachers and that it's not the teachers feeling isolated and the parents feeling confused. I think it's in our communities, where, as I say in the book, you can band together to patrol streets, to provide recreational activities for kids. It's in mentoring programs and I have visited so many good ones, from Florida to Missouri to Texas to California, to Philadelphia — and I think there are so many good ideas out there — and one of the reasons I wrote this book is because we only hear the negative stories? And I see the positive stories every single day. And I meet mothers and fathers and teachers and ministers and business people who are making a difference in kids lives. And one of the things I am going to do next year is create a kind of clearing house of ideas that work around the country, so that if you're in Pennsylvania and you want to try something, you don't have to start from scratch, you will be able to get ideas about what has worked elsewhere.

**LARRY KING:** Last call, Tulsa, hello?

**3rd CALLER, [Tulsa, Oklahoma]:** Hello.

**LARRY KING:** Yes?

**3rd CALLER:** Thank you for taking my call.

**LARRY KING:** Sure.

**CALLER:** As the mother of a teenage girl, I would like to know what you would do Mrs. Clinton to address this problem in the country and how you feel about it, because it is so horrendous.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, you know I—

**LARRY KING:** Teen pregnancy? Is that what you're asking about? Teen pregnancy.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** You know, I had an interesting opportunity the other day to meet with Mary Pyfer [sp?] who has written a book called *Revising Ophelia* about what happens to teenage girls in our culture, has a new book out and I've talked with people all over the country about how do we address these issues that affect our children? Whether it's teenage pregnancy, or drugs, or violence, or you know the kind of depression and alienation that too many of our young kids feel. I think that we are seeing some approaches that work, but you have to start where you are. And if you have a young child, you need to start there and if you have an older child, you need to be as open and available to that child; you need to be as honest with that child, you need to spend time listening to that child, not picking confrontations despite what I may feel about— how I may feel about you know, what my daughter wears or how another mother may feel about, you know, what her daughter does to her hair and all. Trying to pick those moments when you can really talk about what the important decisions are.

**LARRY KING:** We are running out of time. Are you looking forward to the campaign?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Very much.

**LARRY KING:** Do you like campaigning?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** I love campaigning. I love meeting people, I love listening to people. I always learn a lot. I feel like I'm in, you know, some kind of wonderful graduate education course.

**LARRY KING:** Ever worry about safety?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Oh, I trust the Secret Service and the people who take care of us. I mean—

**LARRY KING:** So you don't think about it?

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Well, I can't say it doesn't cross my mind, I do think about it, but I feel, you know, very well taken care of.

**LARRY KING:** Thanks as always.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Thank you.

**LARRY KING:** We will see you on the trail.

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:** Okay, thanks, Larry.

**LARRY KING:** Two Scorpios say good night. A little inside joke.

Thanks for joining us. Tomorrow night, the entire cast of *60 Minutes*. Good night.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

*The preceding text has been professionally transcribed. However, although the text has been checked against an audio track, in order to meet rigid distribution and transmission deadlines, it has not yet been proofread against videotape.*