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MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC JEFFERSON JACKSON  
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON SPEECH  
APRIL 11, 1992

CAROLYN ELLIS INTRO

Thank you Mr. Chairman for those generous words. As most of you know I've been involved in various political activities in this State for a long time. I may look old but frankly I don't remember Al Smith. But of all the things I've been involved in politically in Mississippi none has given me greater satisfaction than to be associated with Chairman Cole (?) with this great Congressman Mike \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of the campaign for the presidency of the United States of my friend, Bill Clinton. The phone rang in my office the other day and my great secretary, Lois \_\_\_\_\_, Lois stand up, these folks haven't seen you, Lois \_\_\_\_\_. Lois said a reporter from New York City wants to talk to you. You want to talk to him? I said not especially, but I will and this guy got on the line. He said I read where \_\_\_\_\_ Mississippi \_\_\_\_\_ for Bill Clinton 74% of the vote, the largest vote percentage wise that he's gotten in this country. Said why'd you do that, as if I had something to defend. And I said we did it because we know him and I said when the folks up there in New York know Bill Clinton as well as we folks down here in this part of the country know him, you're going to vote for him too. And he showed em. He showed em. Carrying New York in that very difficult campaign. We do know Bill Clinton here. He's been a neighbor. We know the Clinton family. The Clinton family after tonight will have spoken at three of the Jefferson Jackson Day dinners in Mississippi in the last twelve

years. When I was elected governor in 1979, one of the governors that had caught my attention, whom I had never met, was the young governor of Arkansas. I called him up and I said, Governor Clinton, I want to get acquainted with you. I'd like to try to model what we do in Mississippi after some of the things you've started in Arkansas. Would you come over and speak at our Jefferson Jackson Day dinner. That was the first one that we had had and a renewal of Jefferson Jackson Day dinners in Mississippi and many of you were there that night and you will recall the impression, the great impression that that young governor of Arkansas made on all of us and I think a lot of us went out of that room down at the Holiday Inn downtown that night saying, this man has the potential to be President of the United States. But he came back last year after his distinguished years of service in Arkansas where he has lifted that poor state up against all sorts of resistance and has now made that state his record in that state stands out as among the finest in the country. I've served with some superb governors in the early 80's. I'll put that class of governors we had across the South up against any political leadership that we've had in this country any time in this century. And Bill Clinton stood out among that star studded group of my colleagues who have governed the southern states and I think all of us saw in him the qualities of leadership that this country needed then and needs even more desperately now and I'm telling you tonight all of us in this room and the folks whom we represent, and we do represent a lot of people who can't be here tonight, we have

a responsibility to carry the message into every precinct in this State that the time has come for us to establish the kind of leadership at the highest levels of our government that will see us through the perilous years ahead. Nobody is better qualified to do that than our colleague, the distinguished governor of Arkansas. But you didn't come here to listen to me. You came here to hear this wonderful lady, this wonderful speaker that we have. And my task is to present to you the person who will introduce her, Carolyn Ellis from Vicksburg, Mississippi, on the Mississippi River. Carolyn \_\_\_\_\_ of Vicksburg, she \_\_\_\_\_, has degrees from \_\_\_\_\_ and Columbia and the Yale Law School. She has come from a very distinguished and fine family. She has four brothers, three of them are lawyers and one is an engineer, that's about the right ratio, I think. Some of them are here tonight. After she graduated from Yale, where she was in attendance and was a good friend of both Bill and Hillary Clinton, where they studied together and worked together and played together and knew each other and developed a friendship that has extended down through the years. She went to New York City, New York City, where she practiced law for five years. And then one day, Bill and Hillary came up. Bill by that time had become the Attorney General of Arkansas and Bill and Hillary said in effect, Carolyn, you've been in New York City long enough. It's time to come on back down South. And that's where she came. She came to teach in the Law School at Ole Miss in 1977 and when she got there, she met and married her distinguished husband, the professor of

mathematics, Bill \_\_\_\_\_, later made significant contributions in many ways not the least of which is to provide us with three young Democrats \_\_\_\_\_ County. Ladies and gentlemen, let me present to you now this delightful lady, a delegate to the National Convention, my good friend \_\_\_\_\_ close friend of our speaker tonight, I'm delighted to present to you Carolyn Ellis \_\_\_\_\_. Carolyn.

#### CAROLYN ELLIS

Fellow Democrats, this is a great moment for me. For 23 years I've been talking about Hillary Clinton. My brother, David, is here today and he's heard every word of it for 23 years and for several months I've been talking to you about Hillary. Almost a year now I've been talking about Bill. I'm so eager for you to meet Hillary and to know Hillary as I know Hillary. \_\_\_\_\_ Hillary as you see television and media coverage and the New York tabloids and all of that, but to see her as the person that I have known and cared about so greatly for almost a quarter of a century, I can't believe \_\_\_\_\_. She doesn't look it. Believe an article about Hillary described her in the blend of Mother Teresa, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Betty Crocker. Now, I chuckled just like you're chuckling, but I didn't chuckle because it was \_\_\_\_\_. I chuckled because I knew it was mostly true. We all have heard all of those great things about Hillary in the press and great \_\_\_\_\_, she's one of the top 100 lawyers in the nation, she's probably one of the top ten in the nation actually, her

brilliant days at Yale Law School, her work doing this and that and the other. And that's the public Hillary. It's the other Hillary, it's the strain that gives rise to the Mother Teresa label, it's the Betty Crocker label that I want to tell you about and not a whole lot of people know about. When I first met Hillary, I was sitting down in the dumps in this beautiful library at Yale Law School. Hillary met a lot of people in the library at Yale Law School, not the least of which was Bill Clinton. But, anyhow, I'm here from Mississippi, I'm kinda dejected like what am I doing in New Haven and you know this is kind of depressing and what is this big fat book I have in front of me. And part of her compassion I think is she looked at me and she said is that a wake or is that wake? And she came over and stuck out her hand and said hi, I'm Hillary Rodham. And in the next hour she had transformed a very lonely, homesick, waiflike, depressed and very confused young woman into a friend for life. And that's the way Hillary is. Hillary, I guess \_\_\_\_\_, but she meets people, she befriends people because she cares about people and it was her compassion and her care and her concern for people that most moved me during the years that we spent together at Yale. I don't know if many of you know this, I told it to a reporter from \_\_\_\_\_ recently and he didn't seem to know it. Hillary and I started law school together but it took her four years to graduate. Now, it wasn't because she was slow, but it was because Hillary had a \_\_\_\_\_ interest in children's development and children's rights and Yale University was blessed with a medical school that had as part of

its program a child study center that Hillary wanted to work with and to stay at for an additional year. And it was during that time at Yale that we hadn't really concentrated \_\_\_\_\_ conversations with children and their development and their emotional needs. \_\_\_\_\_ great sensitivity, a woman who wasn't going to get out and simply make a lot of money which \_\_\_\_\_ Democrats here that make a lot of money, but anyhow, I knew that there was a higher calling that she felt drawn to because of the compassion and \_\_\_\_\_. But, of course, she went on to do those things. \_\_\_\_\_ who knew her and loved her at that time that \_\_\_\_\_ the premier children's rights group in the nation. It's no surprise to us that she's on the board of directors of the Children's Coalition Network. I hope she \_\_\_\_\_. It's no surprise to us that she's on the Children's Hospital's Board. No surprise to us that she chaired the Task Force in Arkansas that reshaped education in that State and that she's on so many boards so much involved with the education of young people. That's only a part of Hillary's circle of care. She has a beautiful way of looking at people and finding out the best and the greatest \_\_\_\_\_. Now, when you're a law student and you look your fellow for those of you who've been there and you look at your fellow law students, sometimes there's not a whole lot great you see in them. You'll see some characters you wish you hadn't come across, you see some nerds, you \_\_\_\_\_ and that kind of thing, but for Hillary, these \_\_\_\_\_ people \_\_\_\_\_ about these

people and I'd say, Hillary, are you for real and she'd say but Carolyn don't you see \_\_\_\_\_ in that person. Inspired by her I really think that I began to look into people's \_\_\_\_\_ a little bit keener and a little bit softer \_\_\_\_\_ to see \_\_\_\_\_ not only \_\_\_\_\_ this woman at all. So let me tell you about Bill. When he came to law school we were in our second year and he was a year behind us because he had taken off and gone to \_\_\_\_\_ Oxford is what he said and we spied him and he was a nice looking fellow \_\_\_\_\_ hair was a lot curlier at that time and a lot darker and we tried a way for Hillary to meet him and she did. But she found out he was from Arkansas. Well, that was one side of the balance, the other side of the balance is that to her to meet all our other classmates he stuck out. I don't want to say he stuck out like a sore thumb, he didn't stick out that way, but he stuck out because here we were in a rather \_\_\_\_\_ aggressive place and he stuck out as one of the most decent, the most gentle, the most kind, the most concerned people who I ever met and who ever graced the halls of the Yale Law School. That was an unusual characteristic to find and it was a very attractive characteristic and it is a very attractive characteristic of this wonderful man the best and the brightest we have. Hillary was a little bit more soggy than the rest of us when she saw this and their love developed and it was really kind of precious to watch. But along the way Hillary would say to me you know he's really cute, he's really nice, he's really special, but he's from Arkansas. Now, my

own mother is from Blytheville, so I said Hillary I know a little bit about Arkansas, it ain't Mars, I mean, you can work this out. Don't leave this guy, he's cool. And, fortunately, love finds its way and Hillary gave up great opportunities to do some really incredible professional opportunities to follow her heart to Arkansas, where I think not only that she's found a place in Bill's heart and Chelsea's heart, but in the hearts of everyone in her State. A reporter for the New York Times when talking to me a few weeks ago said to me, he said you know, he does this great story on Bill in the \_\_\_\_\_ Magazine and was very awed by both Bill and Hillary, he said but one thing that really awed me most is the way they have cultivated a network over the last 20 years. Now I'm not used to talking to the media, but apparently that's the way media think. They don't think in terms of friends. And I'll say excuse me, I said, this is not a cultivational network, the people who are with Bill and Hillary who've known them since grade school, since high school, since college, university, law school, we ain't a network, honey. We haven't been cultivated like flowers. They love us, they loved us when we were nobody, we loved them when they were nobody and they have kept that love and they have kept faith with us and we have walked through the milestones of life together. They are here for us and we are here for them. \_\_\_\_\_ probably doesn't know this story, but I'm actually the catalyst for your re-meeting him in the eighties. I said to Bill one day, you know \_\_\_\_\_ is an \_\_\_\_\_ and he said \_\_\_\_\_. He said you know I loved that guy. He was so decent and so kind and

so nice to me when I was going to Oxford, I want to really see him. Bill Clinton never forgot a friend. Bill Clinton never forgot anybody he loved and Hillary is the same way and their hearts are big. There's another side of Hillary that I want to tell you about. It's this incredible cheerfulness and optimism. One night we were sitting in a little dairy bar type place in New Haven that she liked to go and we were drinking these wonderful milk shakes that they made, playing this game like if you could live in any century and any time and any country where would you live. It's a lot like you know \_\_\_\_\_ and romantic England and she said, oh no, she said, you know if I could live anywhere, anytime, I'd want to be in America and I'd want a part of the twentieth century. It wasn't fake, she meant it. The year was 1970. It was a troubled time. She saw the greatness, she saw the potential, she saw the goodness in this country and that's what's in her soul. There is another side to her, it's the Betty Crocker side. A lady said to me the other day and it really made me made. That's a nice way of putting out it made me, she said you know, I want to send Hillary some cookies and I looked at her hard and fast in the eye and I said don't. I said I want to tell you something about Hillary Rodham Clinton that not many people know about because she doesn't brag about it but she's one heck of a cook. Now, obviously, she doesn't get a chance to do that much anymore. But in those days when we had our first apartment, this girl could whip up some of the best food you ever tasted and when I visit Little Rock and the Governor's Mansion, I thought I was kinda going to a

resort but I \_\_\_\_\_ governor's mansions and then I got there and you know there was Hillary whipping up supper for us and \_\_\_\_\_ Chelsea who was a baby and then she got me in to mending baby clothes with her and I thought is this what it is to be the first lady, but I saw Hillary as a wife and I saw a devoted mother and I saw her as a person and to me that's what she is, a person of multiple facets. The birth of my first baby, she sent me a pillow for the baby that said; a baby is God's opinion that the \_\_\_\_\_ go on and she truly believes that. She is a woman of multiple roles, she's a wife, she's a mother, she's a civic worker, she's a lawyer. She could have taken any one of those tasks and performed it to its ultimate. She took all of them. That's been hard but for women of our generation it is the choice that we have that maybe our mothers did not have. We had the educational opportunities that most of our mothers didn't have. We had the opportunity to work in the home, we had the opportunity to work outside of the home, we had the opportunity to do both. Her multiple roles have been exhausting. When I called her for support and said I'm dying because I'm doing these multiple roles, she reassured me that there's no one correct decision. \_\_\_\_\_ that any decision we make is the right one. And she had made one and she has set an example for all of us, men and women. She has immense energy, she has a mixed talent and the most important thing of all she has an immense heart. I have been lucky to have been her friend all these years. It is with great pride and with deep love and affection that I want

to welcome Hillary, my friend and the next first lady of the United States to Jackson.

#### HILLARY

My goodness. Thank you Carolyn. That was a real gift and I just feel grateful for your friendship. I hope many of you in this room will get to know my friend, Carolyn, who will be among the delegation that goes to New York and I'm so grateful for her being my friend over all these years. This is a terrific evening for me. I feel so much at home and I feel so welcome and so supported being here with friends that have supported not just what my husband has been doing in this campaign, but what he and many in this room have been doing in our states for more than a decade. People like the Winters and the Manuses, Congressman Epsby, so many on this platform and so many of you in the audience. The people who are here who \_\_\_\_\_ witness the kind of progressive politics that we are so proud of and that we have fought so hard to maintain over all of these years. And in many ways I think our MC, Willy Morris, gave words to many of us in this room in order to express the way we have felt and the words that we have tried to do together over these years. And I think that is what is really at stake in this election. It is a feeling, it is a movement, it is a sense of what we are capable of doing together that many of us have had a \_\_\_\_\_ and have shared in because of our common commitments and usual concerns. We have used politics as a way of expressing that which is often hard to express as a way of bringing

people together and crossing all of those barriers and obstacles that for too long divided us. We have tried to harness our energy to make the kinds of changes that would really give opportunities to people who have been left behind in the past. And we've seen the results of that kind of commitment. It has not been easy and there have been setbacks along the way. I know that many of you grieved the results as your chairman said of what happened in November because for Mississippi having someone in the governor's mansion who followed the likes of \_\_\_\_\_ and William Winter and his spouses what he believes has to be painful. But that is a temporary setback. If we can continue to marshall our energies together and to override the kind of regressive and unfair politics that not only embody the current governor of this State \_\_\_\_\_ that for too long \_\_\_\_\_ the national level. There are two things that I want to talk about this evening. The one is my husband and the other is this campaign. The first, my husband. Carol had made some allusion to earlier and both Mike and William have also spoken about. It is very difficult for those of us who know him and have worked with him, who love him and care about him to see the caricature that often gets painted as we move through this electoral season. \_\_\_\_\_ I'm often asked about and what I was asked about earlier at the press conference. But I have to tell you that as hard as this campaign has been, as many blows as I think have been unfairly directed at my husband, I have never for a minute either doubted the decision that he made to run nor ever wanted to be anywhere else but where I was at that

time. Because I not only share the faith that has already been expressed about what will happen as people get to know my husband, as they learn more about him, as they see him in the richness and the fullness of his personality, as they recognize the core conditions by which he is motivated and as they understand the kind of commitments and toughness that he carries with him, as they realize that he is someone for whom life has not been easy but rather than being embittered it has consistently challenged him to turn whatever obstacle he encountered into an opportunity. And that at bottom what this country needs right now is that kind of man and that kind of leader. We have some very hard choices that are going to confront us and when Bill Clinton is elected President, and I believe with all my heart that will happen because I think that not only is he the man for our time but that we are in the grip of history and that history is moving forward and that this country has an opportunity to respond, to remake itself and to create a new vision of what we should be and that he will be there as its leader as we lean toward the 21st century. I not only believe that, but I see it happening before my very eyes. Because what this campaign is about is bigger than Bill Clinton, it's bigger than his candidacy, it's bigger than him as a man. He is certainly the catalyst and the leader of it, but it is a campaign that challenges each of us. It asks each one of us to think how we will change, what new responsibilities we will take on. And it's been interesting in the months since Bill made the decision to run to see how different people and different regions of the country

have responded to his basic message, a message about how our government needs to provide more opportunities, but how we as Americans need to take on more responsibility for ourselves, our neighbors, our families, our communities. It's been especially gratifying to be here in this region of the country because that message is falling on very fertile ground. Here, in Mississippi and in Arkansas and Louisiana and Texas and Missouri and Tennessee and Oklahoma and Georgia and Florida, where Bill's margins, although not as great as that one given to him here have been in the sixties, the high sixties, the low seventies, because in this part of the country we know what we have tried to do against great odds during the 1980's. We know the progress that we have tried to make and we yearn for the kind of leadership that a president who cared about us could have given to our efforts in Mississippi and Arkansas. When we think about the work that was done that my husband and Congressman \_\_\_\_\_ did on the \_\_\_\_\_ Commission, one of the finest reports that has ever been created in this country, a blueprint for turning the Mississippi River Delta into an engine of change and growth and opportunity that was basically ignored, we didn't fit in to the politically correct ideology and game plan of the Reagan and Bush Administrations. We were not needed, those of us who cared about what went on in the Delta. So we were ignored. Think of what we could have done had we a president who understood the potential of this region of the country, who understood that with some help we could have done the rest. So we have tried on our own but it is clear that the

problems in Mississippi and Arkansas, no matter how hard a governor might work, no matter how committed a member of Congress might be, are part of a national issue, a national problem. We cannot solve the problems in Mississippi or Arkansas on our own. We can continue to strive to make a difference, but what we need is national leadership and we need to start some kind of a national vision about what this country will be. \_\_\_\_\_ day Bill and I were talking, now and some months ago, in which I asked him of all the things that George Bush had done, what one thing did he believe was the most injurious to this country. And he and I agreed that there was a long list that we might be able to put down on paper. But he surprised me in the way that Bill Clinton has been surprising me since I first met him, because he said you know of all the things George Bush has done that maybe more than all else has undermined our capacity as a nation is the way he derided vision. Remember in 1988, when he was asked what is your vision for America? He said, oh yes, the vision thing. He never could answer the question because he doesn't have one. His politics at the center are hollow. There is no vision. There is nothing as we say in Arkansas to tie to. There is no bigger concept, no idea, it is power for the sake of power, driven by a narrow set of views without any overriding vision. And that absence of a vision, as Bill has said from one end of this country to the other, is a grievous absence because without a vision how does one plan for the future. It's hard to get up in the morning and think about what you're going to do through the whole day without some vision about

where you'll be when the day is over. We've been without one. And the absence of that vision has made it impossible to break the gridlock, to have any sense of purpose, to create the climates of leadership and change that this country desperately needs. What Bill Clinton offers is a vision. It's a vision premised on his firm belief that we have problems in this country that must be acknowledged that no longer can be denied. But that for all of our problems there are solutions. There are new economic policies that would begin to make a difference almost immediately. The kind of policies that George Bush has followed has been money based economic policies. What we need are people based economic policies. What Bill has proposed is the kind of approach to the network of training opportunities for all of our people. It is inconceivable to me that one of the first acts your sitting governor apparently pursued was to cut back and try to eliminate the literacy office in the State of Mississippi. Not only in a state like mine that has so much work to do to upgrade the skills of its work force, but in the face of what is clearly the imperative for any modern economy and that is to increase the skills of all of the people of the society. If we do not invest in our people, we will never increase our productivity and we need \_\_\_\_\_ (drowned out by applause). And we also need to recognize that we need a whole different kind of investment policy in this country. What we firmly have is an obsession in the White House with cutting the capital gains tax. You know I was listening to the paraphrase of the four freedoms from President

Roosevelt that Frank Barber delivered so eloquently. You would think that George Bush would say that you know what we need is we need to remove the fear of a high capital gains tax. But that's his whole motivating force, he gets up every morning of his life and believes that that will solve every problem that confronts this country. There is no evidence to that, it is an irrational belief. There is no way to justify cutting the capital gains tax cut and stop speculation when in the 1980's the stock market tripled and wages fell. There is no reason to give that kind of benefit to people who can go invest in the Japanese stock market, for goodness sakes. The only reason we ought to be giving any kind of investment help to anybody in America is if they will invest in America again. We need to do what President Kennedy did to stimulate the economy in the early 1960's. You give investment tax credit to Americans with the guts to stand their ground in America, invest in new planned equipment, invest in worker training and begin to build this economy again. It is now a well known fact, and it's one of those dirty little secrets that I've tried to keep hiding from those tabloid press \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about it, I was raised a Republican. I was a Goldwater girl in 1964. I mean I had a conversion when I went off to college, but you know I was raised by Republicans who really believed in conserving what we have in this country. Even my father, bless his heart, cannot understand the kind of Republicans we've been saddled with for the last decade. You know the kind who give tax benefits to people who move jobs overseas. Now, what on earth does that have to do with being

an American president, he asked. I said, well, you know, Daddy, I don't know. But if that kind of new ideology that has gripped even the Republican party, where you get all kinds of confusion among people who used to think they were Republicans, it is that kind of attitude which has undermined the economy of this country and which has led many, many Republicans so far to support my husband because they, like my father, recognized that what is being passed as Republicans today, from the Bush administration on down through your current delegates, have nothing to do with putting American interests first. It is an ideology that is driven by self-interest whose full flowering we saw in the 1980's with the kind of \_\_\_\_\_ of greed and self-interested politics that nearly destroyed this country, which is why we cannot let it continue for one more year, let alone four more years. Because the other thing that is clear is that these folks have no new ideas. They have no new ideas. They have the same ideas that kept them in power during the 1980's recycle. There is one of the ways we're gonna beat them in November because people don't wanta be sucker punched again. In 1988, George Bush won that election by saying read my lips and running those negative Willie Horton type ads, you know that. We did not have an election about any issues. We didn't have any idea what George Bush believed about our economy, or education, or anything else. It turned out George Bush didn't have an idea about what he believed about any of those things either. So we have spent three and a half years waiting for him to decide what it is he believes about any of those. Well, guess what, we're gonna be

able to tell the American people what we believe. And we're gonna be able to lay out for them the kind of economic policies that I just briefly outlined to you. And we're gonna be able to tell them that going hand in hand with old economic policies is an education policy that a real education president will implement starting with things like fully funding Head Start so every single youngster in the country can get a chance to \_\_\_\_\_ (drowned out by applause). \_\_\_\_\_ national education role the president was agreed to with the governors that my husband was the principal director of and which George Bush put on the shelf to come up with his own approach. You know, his idea is a private voucher approach. The one special school in every single congressional district, 535 you know schools. There are thousands of schools in this country needing to be revitalized. What do they think they're gonna do with those specialty schools besides \_\_\_\_\_.

Those goals are good goals and they could be implemented by a president who cared about them. You know one of those goals is that American children will be first in the world in math and science by the year 2000. Now unless you believe that American children are somehow genetically inferior to children in Europe and Asia, then what we have to decide is what are we gonna do to get those children to meet that goal. That's the kind of question we should be asking ourselves. I can remember two presidents. One President Eisenhower, who after \_\_\_\_\_ he said we need our children to do better in math and science, put some money into it, but more than that put some rhetoric behind it.

And I can remember President Kennedy, we were going to be the first nation to send a person to the moon and I can remember my teacher saying to me, you need to learn this, your president wants you to learn this. I don't have any idea what George Bush wants my daughter to learn. I want a president again who tells us what he wants our children to learn. And \_\_\_\_\_ think about these last two points that Bill has made about education. First of all, we do a terrible job taking care of children who don't go on to get a four year college degree. It is just a disgrace the way we just basically let them drop out of school or we turn them out of high school and they just kind of wander around trying to find a job. What Bill Clinton has proposed and what he will do, because we're trying to do it right now in Arkansas, is a national apprenticeship program to give every youngster who wants to work the dignity and the respect that that youngster deserves and the skills to make him competitive with workers anywhere in the world. \_\_\_\_\_ same policies of the Reagan/Bush years which made it increasingly difficult for middle income children to go to college. You know that. It became harder and harder. Some families were able to scrape by, but for many it became a losing proposition. What Bill proposes is to scrap the existing student loan program and substitute for it what he calls the national service trust fund out of which any youngster could borrow money to go to college and then pay it back in one of two ways, either as a percentage of their income right off their income tax returns at income time \_\_\_\_\_ folks but you know what that would mean, no more

defaulting. The money would come right back, you'd have to pay it back. Or more importantly, with two to three years of national service back here at home. Think of what we could do in Mississippi and Arkansas if the young people who went off to get educated at the equivalent of the GI domestic bill like Bill is proposing would come home where they would serve as community workers, maybe as community police officers, as teachers' aides, as health care workers, \_\_\_\_\_ (drowned out by applause).

\_\_\_\_\_ kind of new idea and extending opportunity to a new generation in return for responsibility that is the hallmark of everything Bill is talking about in this campaign when it comes to a health care system that he will be among the first to make sure we get a health care system that covers every American, that controls costs, that reforms the practices and provides access, or whether it's a new housing policy or a new approach to crime and drugs, there has been a lot of good work during the 1980's because state and local governments had to be creative because we kept being squeezed from the federal level. We kept getting fewer and fewer dollars to solve bigger and bigger problems. So we know things that work that we can put together national solutions for. And we need a new foreign policy and Bill has outlined that in two major speeches to take the values that are \_\_\_\_\_ the American experience, democracy and a free market economy and once again make them part of what we believe in internationally. You know it's a little bit hard to take when we see what goes on in our country and how we see the American dream slipping further and

further away from so many Americans and to realize that people all over the world want what we have and believe what we believe. We need to revitalize both our domestic agenda and our international agenda, not only because it's the right thing to do for the world, it is essential for us. You know the Soviet Union is no longer, but it wasn't defeated on any field of battle. They crumbled from within, politically, economically, spiritually. It was no longer able to maintain itself. And that is the final thing that I want to leave you with. Because when we look at the problems and when we look at the potential dissolution, we have to realize that even if we laid those out and explained them to the nation, we have to do something more in order for this vision that Bill has to be a reality. And that's for us once again to be one nation. Because you know what happened during the 1980's. We were driven apart for political purposes. Wedges were driven between races and ethnic groups, between \_\_\_\_\_ and income levels and even when it suited the folks in Washington and the White House between men and women. The net result has been that we have been weakened because of that position. It was done for political purposes because so long as we were staring at one another across these divides, we would not all turn our faces together and say why aren't all of our incomes declining? Why aren't all of us less safe in our homes and on our streets. If we ask those questions, they lose, we win. But they have continued to divide us by creating them and us. You know who them is. Them are the liberals. Them are the minorities. Them are the Democrats. We have to stand and with one voice say,

there is no them in America, there is only us. And us has so much more that unites us than divides us. You know, I was in New York for more than a week and New York is an intense place and there was a lot of rough give and take in the political process and many of you tonight have said, boy, I bet you're glad to be away from there. Well, I'm glad to be home, I'm glad to be with so many of you whom I've known before, but you know, that city has been driven apart maybe even more than the rest of the country by this kind of decisiveness. That city too is aching to be brought together. That city wants healing and unity just as much as we do in this region of the country. What we have to do together is to make this campaign a crusade, a crusade for unifying and healing this country. A crusade for bringing us together, a crusade that challenges each of us to be better than we have been, which makes it clear that this nation is much, much bigger than the sum of its parts. It stands for all that we have valued in the past and all that we can believe again in the future. You know, Bill has said many times that one of the reasons he got into this race this year it appeared that George Bush was invulnerable is because he could no longer look at our daughter and feel confident that he had done his part to make sure that the world he was leaving her and especially this country which we love so much would be the land of hope and opportunity and confidence that we have taken for granted during the darkest days of the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Revolution, Watergate and all the rest. But if you go back and you look at opinion surveys even going as far back as the Depression,

one of the singular characteristics is that no matter how bad times were and how objectively bad the circumstances of an individual were, when Americans were asked, what do you think about the future, they always answered with optimism. People standing on bread lines, people standing in the worst conditions in the Mississippi or Arkansas Delta, when they were asked will the future be better, they said yes. And today, you go ask those same questions of those same people who are descended from those optimistic forebears and you know the answers are not optimistic anymore, particularly for young people. They don't see the future the way I hope they will again see it. They worry about what will happen to them and they don't think America will ever be what it was when their parents were growing up. It is our obligation and particularly the obligation of this generation to do whatever it takes to return that hope and optimism to those young people. We cannot do it with the present leadership that we have. We can only do it by believing each one of us that we can be agents of change and taking part in this campaign as a crusade to recapture this country, give it a vision and return it to those of us who care deeply about it and what it means. That's what this Clinton campaign is about to us. That's why it is worth whatever price we have to pay and that's why I hope that you and Mississippi will stand with us and speak out for us because we're doing it for the future. Thank you all very much.