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AIRPORT at HOUSTON, TX

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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SPEECH BY FIRST LADY
AT AIRPORT, HOUSTON, TEXAS

MRS. CLINTON: I am so glad to be back in Texas, to be back here with so many elected officials. I am pleased that the Mayor is here. He has done a great job in Houston, and we are so proud of all of them, and Congress members, and hospital representatives and candidates for Congress.

And we are just really excited by all that we've got done in the last 16 months in Washington, and I hope that all of you here in Texas who are supporting positive change are also supporting Gary Mauro, who is going to be our new elected land commissioner because he has a vision for what should be done to take care of Texas's natural resources, and it's a vision that we really respect because it produces results.

And I don't want to give a long speech. I want to quickly shake hands with everybody and have a chance to say hello to you all individually, but I want to ask you to just remember a couple of things over the next few months. Think back two years ago. Okay? Think back what the economy was doing two years ago. Think back to how much unemployment there was, how many friends you had who didn't have jobs, who couldn't find jobs. Think back to what the interest rates were. Think back to all of the problems that you were feeling and living with that resulted in the change that occurred in '92 when Bill Clinton was elected President.

Now, think forward for a minute. When you voted, you voted for hope and you voted for change. But I don't think any of us could have expected how much positive accomplishment we've already got.

The economy is doing what it should be doing. We now have the lowest unemployment that we've had for years. Interest rates have been kept down and under control. And look what else. We've got NAFTA. We've got GATT. We've got expanded trade and export opportunities for people. But we also have taken care of people's needs. You know, we're bringing down the deficit, and we're also taking off tax burdens from low income people.

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Now, you don't hear about that. You don't read about it. But that's the fact. And what we've also seen happen is passing bills that could not get out of Congress. It took five years to get the Family and Medical Leave Act. It took five years to get the Brady bill, which is now the Brady law.

It took years to turn into reality a dream of national service so that some of these young people could get better deals on their tuition by taking care of problems in the community. Education legislation. A crime bill that's going to put more police on the streets, just like the mayor did here in Houston. Welfare reform that's actually going to work. And health care reform.

I mean, we've done so much, we haven't had time to stop and tell you all about it. So you need to tell your friends and neighbors and you need to tell people that we're making the kinds of changes that needed to be made, and we've got good partners with people like those standing behind me and this man standing to my right.

So, thank you all. Glad to be back in Texas.

(End of speech.)

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