

6/11/94
Fundraiser for Gary Mann

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Internal Use Only

June 11, 1994

SPEECH BY THE FIRST LADY
AT FUNDRAISER FOR GARY MAURO
HOUSTON, TEXAS

MRS. CLINTON: It is great to be back in Texas and greater to be back in Houston. Thank you all very much. I want to thank Mayor Ramir, who has done such a terrific job, and the words he spoke about my husband were so meaningful to me, because they come from someone who puts a lot of effort into trying to make change and see results, and those are the kind of people I respect, and I'm grateful for the support of somebody as great as the Mayor of Houston, Bob Ramir.

And I also want to extend my greetings to all of the elected and appointed officials that Gary pointed out in the crowd, and I want to say two additional things. The first is, I really believe that Texas is going to make the smart decision and send Richard Fisher to the United States Congress.

It would be, I think, beneficial for Texas and certainly nice for the Senate if we actually had two Senators from Texas. And I am absolutely convinced that we will have in our country four more years of the wit, the wisdom, the strength, the vision, and the just down-home common sense of your governor, Ann Richards.

And I'm also convinced that you are here this afternoon because you know, as the President and I know, that there is no more creative, no more successful, no more visionary elected statewide official in the entire country than your land commissioner, Gary Mauro.

I feel very lucky to have had Gary has a good friend for many years, but I feel even luckier than Texans have had his leadership, and we have, in the last year and a half, borrowed him from you from time to time to help us solve some of the problems at the national level. Working hand in hand with the Deputy Secretary of Energy, Bill White, from Houston, Gary Mauro chaired a national commission that would begin to absolutely revolutionize the way we fuel federal vehicles by moving such vehicles to the use of compressed

MORE

natural gas. And we are starting to see the impact of that in Washington (inaudible).

You know, there are a lot of people who think nothing good ever happens or nothing good ever gets done. Those are the same people who always think the glass is half empty. Well, I was raised by folks and I prefer to spend my time with folks who see that glass as half full. And what I see day after day around this country are people like those of you in this audience, working at the grass roots level, working in businesses and schools and hospitals, raising families, doing the hard work that it takes to build communities, and I also see a lot of visionary leaders, like Bob Ramir and Gary Mauro, who are making tough decisions, and it does make a difference.

The city of Houston is a safe place today because you elected Bob Ramir your mayor. It made a difference (inaudible). The State of Texas -- The State of Texas is both a cleaner, more environmentally progressive state and an economically more advanced state because you have elected Gary Mauro, who understands there should not be a conflict between the economy and the environment, who understands that if you're building for the future you build in ways that maximize both our economic future and our environmental future, who understands it is good for both the economy and the environment of Texas to use natural gas instead of diesel or other fuels in our vehicles, who understands that if we don't have clean beaches we don't leave a legacy for our children and our grandchildren.

There are other people who might say, well, you know, eh's gone too far, and others who might say, well, he hasn't gone far enough. I look at results. The results speak for themselves. And you are voting with your feet and your contributions by being here this afternoon. I want to move beyond rhetoric in politics.

When my husband ran for President he said, "Let's not push this country to the right or pull it to the left. Let's push it into the future. Let's get the (inaudible)."

Let's support mayors who deliver on crime prevention and commissioners who deliver on the economy and the environment and, while we're at it, let's support Presidents who have gotten the economy moving again (inaudible).

MORE

I was raised to believe that what you did was more important than what you said. My father used to say to me all the time "Talk is cheap." Well, I'll tell you what. It must be cheap because there's so much of it around these days. And it's (inaudible) talk. It's negative talk. It's destructive talk. It's tearing people down. It's not building toward the future. So let's just ask ourselves as we consider where we are right now, here in Houston and in Texas in June of 1994, where we were two years ago.

Now, some people seem to have awfully short memories. I remember what the economy in Texas was like when I was flying to 33 cities during 1992, when I was in those small planes with Gary Mauro. We'd touch down, and we'd visit with business people and public leaders and other concerned citizens, and I heard what had happened to the economy in Texas, how the bottom had dropped out, and how nobody really knew where the end was.

And now, here we are, two years later, because we have a President who was unwilling to accept the conventional wisdom, who was unwilling to buy the idea that all he had to do was talk, why, then, the election would take care of itself, because you can always fool the people if you just throw some more rhetoric at them, who came from a neighboring state where he was also raised to believe that it does kind of count, what you do.

He began to make the changes that we now see all around us. What have we done in the last year and a half? Well, let's start at the beginning. We finally have a President and Administration, spearheaded by one of the greatest Secretaries of the Treasury we have ever had in the United States, Lloyd Bentsen who said, we are not going to gimmy the books any more. We're going to actually present an honest budget, with honest numbers, and we're going to try to get it passed, and we're going to tell the people what it will do, and here's what it will do if it's passed.

It will raise taxes on the richest one and a half percent of Americans, but they deserve it. It will lower taxes on 17 percent of Americans because they deserve it. It will lower the deficit dramatically. It will lower interest rates. It will increase investment. It will give small businesses more breaks on expensing and other investment techniques than they have had for years, and it will create jobs. You know what? Bill Clinton and Lloyd Bentsen were

MORE

absolutely right. It has done every one of those things and we can be proud that it has.

If that were all this Administration has done, I'd say we're on the right track, but, no, I've got a husband who doesn't know what it means to quit working. I mean, he keeps everybody working around the clock because he thinks we have a lot of problems we have to tackle. That's why we've finally got a President who passed the Motor Voter bill, which means that many of you will have a better chance to get people registered and voting (inaudible).

We finally have a President who understood what it meant if you had a sick relative and you needed time off from work and you couldn't because they'd fire you if you left, and that's why we finally got family and medical leave passed. We have a President who made a promise that we were going to have a generation that would have an opportunity to go to college and they could pay off their loans by doing public service, and we did, by September of last year, pass a national service bill that will give you a chance not only to get lower interest rate loans for children going to college, but by next year we hope will have 100,000 young Americans working in our country to solve our problems.

We have a President who took on a lot of tough decisions. He passed NAFTA, he finished GATT, because he knows that rich countries get richer by expanding trade, and it's already beginning to work. We're exporting more automobiles than we have in a decade. We're finally beginning to understand that America does not grow by withdrawing. Americans are expansive people. That's what brought us all here. We believe in the future. But we have to also understand that the future really depends on what we do for our children. And one thing we have to do is give them a good education, so this President got passed the most extensive education legislation in a generation. It's going to guarantee lifetime learning opportunities and state schools for every youngster in America.

This President got passed for the first time a crime bill that has been sitting in the Congress for seven years. Some people can talk tough about crime, but it took Bill Clinton to get a crime bill out of both Houses (inaudible).

Where does he look for ideas? Well, one of the places he looked was right here in Houston, because the

MORE

President has this old-fashioned idea that he shares with your mayor that if we get more police on the streets we will have safer streets, so we will put 100,000 more police on the streets if we get that crime bill finally enacted into law. And this President also knows that you have to do something about the welfare system and that you have to do something about the health care system.

Now, this is a big agenda by anybody's standards. but it's an agenda that was built up over decades of neglect. It was an agenda that was waiting to be tackled by somebody willing to take on the hard decisions. So, for those of you who are here supporting Gary Mauro, you are not only supporting a candidate, you are not only supporting someone from your state, you are supporting an idea of politics that is positive, that is visionary, that is future-oriented, that sees the glass as half-full and possibly overflowing with hope and opportunity and responsible choices for all of our people.

Last week, when we were in Europe honoring and paying homage to the World War Two generation that literally saved democracy not only for America but for the entire world, we were overwhelmed by the experience, from Italy to England to the beaches of Normandy, and as my husband said on every occasion, we need always to remember the sacrifices of our parents and grandparents, but we should not only just honor that in commemorative ways. We should honor those sacrifices by continuing to build this country and by making the tough decisions that have to be made.

Will they be controversial? Of course they will. Read history of D-Day. Did General Eisenhower have 100 percent approval ratings for his plans for the invasion? Of course not. Any time you are engaged in a great effort, in war or peace, you have to be willing to move forward despite the odds. That's what makes a great people, and that's what makes a great country. So, support that kind of politics. Support it here in Texas, and support it in America. There's a lot at stake, but if we do it, there's a lot to be proud of. Thank you all very much.

(End of speech.)

* * * * *

MORE