

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

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KATHLEEN BROWN FUNDRAISER  
FOX STUDIO

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REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY  
AT THE KATHLEEN BROWN FUND RAISER  
FOX STUDIOS  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MRS. CLINTON: I'm delighted to be back in California with so many friends and so many people who are supporting positive change in this great state. I'm also pleased that Evan and Susan Byer (phonetic) are with us. No one said during the introductions that Susan is from California. And she is here with her mother. And those of you who heard Evan tonight know why he is one of the strongest representatives of the new Democratic Party around our country. And we'll be looking forward to having Kathleen join him as one of the governors who stand for positive (inaudible) in America. (Applause.)

You know, I've been to California so much lately that when I go back to Washington, I'm just convinced the ocean is on the wrong side. (Laughter.) I just can't quite get oriented. And I'm back tonight because, as others have stated, obviously, the President could not keep his hoped-for opportunity to appear on behalf of Kathleen and the Democratic ticket here this evening because of the events of the last week.

But I know many of you were either on your way here or were perhaps already here and were not able to see firsthand his speech and the coverage of what has occurred in the last hours. What has occurred is what he hoped for and planned to occur. What his hope and plan was is that in the face of the overwhelming force that the United States and 25 other nations under the aegis of the United Nations' resolution were about to engage in the need to restore democracy to Haiti, that the final negotiations as to their departure that was conducted by the President's delegation,

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consisting of President Carter and General Powell and Senator Nunn, would finally convince the military junta that they had to go.

During the course of the day, with the President's constant contact with his negotiators in Haiti, it became clear that there was still a final bit of reluctance on the part of the military junta. And at that point, the President ordered that the plans for the invasion that had been laid begin to be implemented that resulted in the 82nd Airborne from Ft. Bragg at North Carolina being completely mobilized, 61 planes then took off, and the plans for the invasion were underway.

Obviously, they would not have begun until our delegation had left Haiti, and they would not have begun until the evening. Once the military junta learned that the 82nd Airborne was in the air, they began to appreciate the seriousness of their position. (Laughter.) And, as a result of that recognition on their part, the efforts of the last months and leading up until the last hours with the negotiations as to the details concerning their departure finally were resolved, with the signing of an agreement that will result in a peaceful transition. (Applause.)

Our military troops will be going into Haiti. They will begin to enter Haiti in the early morning. But it will be under a permissive environment that will, we hope, result in a peaceful transition over the next several weeks, with the return of Aristide and with elections that have been promised.

Obviously, the President is gratified by this turn of events. He knows full well it could not have happened in the absence of all the planning and preparation. And he was particularly pleased that so many nations around the world have been willing to send troops and to support the transition with police and other kinds of resources.

Additionally, once the duly elected government is restored, there will be international support for rebuilding the economy of Haiti and attempting to give that country the stability that it needs to try to become the democratic nation it attempted to become with its elections.

Part of the reason, as the President explained in

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his speech Thursday night, for his action is that there remains now in our hemisphere only two nondemocratic regimes, Haiti and Cuba. With the restoration of democracy into Haiti, we will have taken a rather significant step towards securing freedom and democracy, market economics, and progress throughout the entire hemisphere.

It has been the President's long-held view that helping Central America and South America and the Caribbean to become stable, democratic regimes with all kinds of economic opportunities is one of the best ways for America to not only be secure militarily but also economically. So this step is certainly to the benefit of the people of Haiti. But it is also to the benefit of every single American.

And we are very grateful that the plans have worked out and that the people of this country supported the President, despite many questions and concerns, when once again, he did what he thought was right, despite what others said about the proposal and the plan. (Applause.) Because that is what we need today more than ever.

Our democracy is the longest lasting democracy in the history of the world, because although we have not always lived up to our own values and ideals, although we have made missteps in our history, at every critical juncture, we have more often than not figured out a way to do what is right and what would work, not only for the lives of our people, but also for the furtherance of that democracy that we all count on, rely on, and too often, take for granted.

It is at such a time that we find ourselves again in this nation. We are at a turning point. The Cold War is over. And I've heard many, some in the press, some in politics, some citizens, almost mourn the passing of the Cold War because it organized our political thinking for us. We knew who we were for, we knew who we were against. It enabled us to be in some way very secure about how we stood as Americans around the world.

Well, thankfully, we no longer have missiles pointed at us in the former Soviet Union, a major accomplishment of this century. Thankfully, we are not staring across barbed wires and Berlin Walls at those who would prevent others from seeking freedom and their own God-given potentials. That is behind us.

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But with those changes have come new challenges. And it requires new and creative and courageous leadership that calls for the best among us and does not pander to the worst in us. And that is the kind of leadership this President is trying to give our country. And it is the kind of leadership that Kathleen Brown wants to give to the State of California. (Applause.)

In order to navigate through this transition period, we have to recognize that there will be a lot of insecurity, even anxiety, among people. When an old established way of thinking about how we relate to the rest of the world is changed and nothing simplistic, easily pointed at takes its place, then we are open to a lot of confusion. And unfortunately, during those times, as we look back in our own history, we are open to demagoguery, we are open to blaming, we are open to the politics of negativism. We see that all over the country right now.

But in spite of that, which perhaps is historically inevitable, that we have to work through it, in spite of that, in the last 20 months, we have a lot to show for the politics of progress, for placing hope over fear, for rejecting cynicism and instead believing optimistically that, as my husband said at his inaugural, there is nothing wrong with America that cannot be fixed by what is right about America. (Applause.) And if we remember that and hold onto that, then we can already chart the progress we have made together.

Imagine, if you will, that this were not September of 1994, but instead, September of 1992, and I were here trying to persuade you to vote for a new President, for a new change of direction in America.

And I stood before you and said, "If you vote for Bill Clinton, he will come forward with the first responsible budget that has been presented to the Congress in years. He will come forward with a budget that will begin truly to bring down the deficit. He will come forward with a budget that will spark an economic recovery that builds on the strength of our private sector and that we will in two years and less see more than 4 million new jobs. We will see millions of working families taken off of the tax roles, so that welfare is not an attractive alternative.

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"We will see 90 percent of our small businesses become eligible for tax breaks and investment credits, so that they can begin to grow and develop and invest more. We will see all of this, and we'll finally have a President who for the first time since Harry Truman will be able to say that the budget deficit will go down three years in row. There will be no more shenanigans with the numbers. We will have a man at OMB, Leon Panetta from California, who will tell it to you honestly and will give you real numbers about what is at stake in the federal budget. We will cut \$255 billion in federal spending, and we will begin to reduce the federal workforce for the first time since 1960, so that it will then reach 1960 levels."

And if, in addition to that, I had said to you, "While we are doing that, this new President will also tackle problems that have been too long neglected. He will come with the most sweeping education legislation that we have seen in a generation, legislation that sets goals for our young people, that says, 'Here is what you can achieve academically,' that also remembers that not every young American or Californian will be able to go onto college, and they ought to be given dignity as they learn to work with the skills that will enable them to have good and decent jobs.

"And also, we'll introduce an American service program called 'Americorps,' where young people will be able to work in their communities, 20,000 in the first year, growing to 100,000, not only working in their communities to help solve problems, but earning money to be able to go to college. And in addition to that, problems and issues and legislation that had been left languishing or neglected will be addressed. The Motor Voter Bill will be passed. Family medical leave will be passed. The Brady Bill be become the Brady law and will be passed." (Applause.)

"The student loan program will be reformed, taking out the middle man, which will increase the number of people who will be able to be eligible for loans and lower their interest rates. And not only will all of this happen, but we will see breakthroughs in the Middle East. We will see stability beginning to take hold in Russia.

"We will see the missiles that used to be pointed at us turned away. We will see breakthroughs in Northern Ireland. We will see the proliferation of problems of North Korea begin to be brought under control. And we will take on

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the problems here at home on our streets by finally after six years beating the National Rifle Association to pass the crime bill." (Applause.)

And if I had gone on to tell you that not only that, but with respect to California in particular, we would not forget how California needed help to begin to grow again, we would lift export controls on computers and other equipment, without adversely affecting national security, but giving a great boost to those who are creating so many jobs and new technology in California, which is the center of that in our country.

We would begin to sell products that are grown here in California in markets that had never been open before, thanks again to the brilliant work of the United States trade representative, Mickey Kantor, from here in Los Angeles. We would be selling apples and rice in Japan, never before, as well as expanding many other agricultural products and negotiating NAFTA and negotiating GATT.

And then, I would also go on to say that we are reinventing government. We are making big changes. They may not get into the news. You may not hear about procurement changes, but they will save billions of dollars. Under the leadership of Vice President Gore, people are doing things differently in the federal government. They are saving money. They are beginning to do away with the paperwork.

And under the leadership of Roger Johnson from Orange County, the General Services Administration is beginning to actually do a better job at governing the real estate that is so much a part of the federal government's presence in so much of this country. On and on and on.

Now, if I stood here two years ago, and I told you all that I promised you that I thought could happen, many of you I am sure would begin to look around at each other and say, "My goodness. This sounds too good to be true. How could it possibly happen?"

And if I went on to say, "Not only will those things be accomplished, will those pieces of legislation be signed, will that progress around the world take place, but health care reform, welfare reform, campaign finance reform, lobbying reform will all be introduced and pushed vigorously," you would probably say, as I often do nearly

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every day, "I'm exhausted." (Laughter.) "How could all of this happen?"

But it happens because of the new leadership that came to Washington with the election of 1992. It makes a difference who's in charge. Despite the cynicism and the apathy that afflicts too many of our citizens today, it makes a difference. And just as all of those changes are beginning to be felt in the homes and the workplaces and the schools and the streets of America that have occurred just in the last 20 months in Washington, so too will the changes that Kathleen Brown wants to bring about in Sacramento begin to be felt after she has been governor for 20 months, as well. (Applause.)

What we need in the governorship of California is a governor who actually wants to get positive change for the entire state, not just tax breaks for his friends, not just special interest legislation, not just finger-pointing and blame-placing, but an agenda of change that will make a difference and restore that California promise.

Having grown up in the Midwest and having lived in the South, I know that for many Americans, California is viewed as the cutting edge, the place where the future always starts. That's what most Americans have always believed. Kathleen Brown knows that. She doesn't want the holding pattern that California has been in for 12 years to continue any longer.

The problems in California haven't gone away, despite all the rhetoric. They are there, they are important, and they need to be addressed. I've actually read Kathleen's economic plan. I commend it to those of you who are here this evening. The incentives that are there for the private sector, the recognition about how education and workforce training and safety in our streets and health care all fit together is very important. And she has initiatives that will address all of those areas.

She understands that investing is important for the future, but she has a track record of fiscal responsibility in the Treasurer's Office. She has a track record of actually making money for the State of California. It is not she who has presided over a deficit that cannot be gotten under control. It is not she who has resided over a state government that Financial World calls "the worst managed

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state government in America."

If I were a Californian, I would be embarrassed, and I would probably be a little mad about that. It is not Kathleen Brown who presided over a state government giving out IOUs. It is not Kathleen Brown who presided over a state government that does not apparently understand how to get its own fiscal house in order. (Applause.)

Kathleen Brown understands that government has to be cut, just as President Clinton and Vice President Gore understand that. And there are many parts of government, whether it's state or federal, that need to be trimmed, need to be eliminated. Hundreds of programs have been eliminated in the President's budgets. Hundreds more have been downsized. But part of the reason why you go into state government is to make things grow for everybody, to help the private sector. And one area that is critical to the future of the private sector in California is education.

Again, everyone I knew growing up looked to California and its education system as an example of what we wished for throughout the country, the finest public schools, the extraordinary network of community colleges, and that jewel of the higher education system, the finest in the world. Now, your classrooms are the most crowded in the country. Tuition has been raised beyond the means of many young Californians. And there doesn't seem to be any recognition in your current state government as to why that is a tragedy that will undermine the growth and productivity of California for generations to come if it is not reversed.

Kathleen Brown has stood for improving education. But in a sense, what she has stood for is very traditional -- restoring the excellence of California's education system, so that it once again becomes the engine for economic growth and opportunity that it always has been. (Applause.)

She has also been unafraid to take on the prime issue, but not just with rhetoric, but with specific proposals that garnered her the endorsements that she talked about. That crime bill that the President finally got through had been languishing in Congress for six years. That crime bill will put police on the streets here in California, will lock up three-time violent offenders, has an important provision called the "Violence Against Women Act," which will

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help victims of domestic abuse. (Applause.)

It has a very important initiative aimed at prevention, which is fully supported by the police and law enforcement officials around this country. During the fight for the crime bill, three voices that were heard loudly and clearly -- two on the floor of the United States Senate were your senators, Senator Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. (Applause.) And back here was Kathleen Brown.

Now, the crime bill could not have finally passed without Republican support. Crime is not a partisan issue, or at least it should not be. A child who was shot at in a drive-by shooting isn't asked first whether his parents are Democratic or Republican. Someone who is the victim of an assault weapon doesn't have time to say, "No, no. I belong to the NRA. Don't shoot me."

Crime is not a partisan issue. It has been made a partisan issue for too long by too many who perceive the political advantage in talking tough and doing very little. What on earth would politicians who oppose the crime bill do if we ever really got crime under the control that the President thinks we can by taking these steps? What would they do? Because they have not been interested in solving the problems of crime, they have been interested in blaming people and dividing us over the issue of crime for too long. (Applause.)

And let's talk a minute about immigration. Because as Kathleen says, this is a problem that deserves the most serious attention we can give to it. And again, you know, I know people in politics in America have short memories, but my goodness. Where were the Republican Presidents and your former Republican Senator during the years when illegal immigration really became a problem? They were not there trying to solve that problem. They were there trying to expand illegal immigration for their own reasons.

It is not an easy problem to solve, but certainly, demagoguery and hyperbole, as Attorney General Reno said yesterday, is not a solution. Neither are good-sounding sound bites in order to get votes that will then quickly be forgotten once the election is over.

What we need is a sensible, intelligent plan for

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immigration. That's what the Clinton Administration has come up with. That is what Kathleen Brown has contributed to and pushed for.

Kathleen Brown has asked for federal help in beefing up the border patrols, and California is getting such federal help. We will have more border patrol agents. But, you know, before Pete Wilson talked about illegal immigration in the President's very first budget, he asked for more money to do something about illegal immigration. He fought for more money in this next budget, and the crime bill has money in order to help stem illegal immigration. He got very little help from Pete Wilson's former colleagues on the Republican side of the United States Senate to help solve a problem that is a national problem.

We are finally getting the resources. We finally have a plan in place. What we need now is sensible, practical leadership, not demagoguery and rhetoric in order to implement the plan in order to stop illegal immigration in California. (Applause.)

And I want to just say this very clearly. For the first time ever, the federal government will pay the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens who have committed crimes in California and will begin deporting such people. Now, you had a President who used to be the governor of California, and that issue was never raised when he was in the White House for eight long years. (Applause.)

I know it's difficult to talk about policy and to communicate it effectively when people are, as I said earlier, feeling themselves insecure about their own personal lives, their jobs, their futures. But that is part of the obligation of leadership, and not just political leadership. Many of you here are leaders in business and labor and education. You're leaders of citizens groups and voluntary associations.

Every one of you, not just Kathleen Brown, I hope, will begin to do all that you can to talk sense about the problems facing California and America, to move us beyond the politics of partisanship and rhetoric. We need Democrats, Republicans, independents. We need everyone working to solve our problems and build our future together. That is what the President believes in. That is what he has been working toward.

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Because when it is all said and done, what's really at stake in this election, even beyond who wins on November 8th, is what kind of people we are, how we view ourselves, how we think about our futures. America has always been the land of the American dream. And no place has exhibited that more than California.

My mother grew up in California, graduated from high school here. And I can remember her stories about what that meant. It wasn't a place. It wasn't like saying you're from the suburbs of Chicago, which is where I'm from. It was a state of mind. It was a sense of possibility of a boundless future.

And what is at stake now in this election is whether that future will be reclaimed from those who have held it hostage to their personal and partisan political agenda, whether once again, the future of California will belong to Californians, all those who are willing to do the hard work of building a business or teaching a classroom of children or raising a family, working hard and playing by those rules that guided most of us as we found our way to our own future.

It's a tough time to be in politics. And there are those who say, "Well, you know, Kathleen as a woman may not be tough enough to take on Pete Wilson," who I hear people say all the time, "He hasn't done a good job. We're disappointed in what has happened to the state. But he's tough."

Well, you know, it's time for all of us to understand what real toughness is. Real toughness is being able to get people together, to have the patience and the courage to work through tough problems together. Real toughness is showing a willingness to say things that may not be popular but which are right. Real toughness is understanding that the best we can do in our own lives and in the lives of our children and our neighbors is to get up every single day, determined to make a positive difference.

This state is filled with literally millions of people who will never be on TV, will never run for governor, but who are truly tough in the best sense of the word, because they're out there against great odds trying to live their lives with dignity and honor and courage. They deserve a governor who understands what that's like, who isn't always looking to the next election, the next cynical manipulation

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of public opinion, the next 30 second ad, but instead is building for the generations to come.

That's what leadership is about, and that's what Kathleen Brown offers California. So please help her deliver on November the 8th. Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

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