

10/23/94
JOE BRENNAN FUNDRAISER
THE PORTLAND ART MUSEUM

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

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REMARKS OF THE FIRST LADY
JOE BRENNAN FUNDRAISER
THE PORTLAND ART MUSEUM
PORTLAND, MAINE

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much for welcoming me back to Maine. It's been so great. And thank you for your enthusiastic reception. It makes me feel right at home. I was telling Joe I have been to this museum before. I am glad to be back and see so many of you whom I have had a chance to work with and meet along the trail of the last years.

But I am particularly pleased to be here to support Joe Brennan, a governor who knows how to make Maine work, and will again.

You know, I was so pleased to hear what Senator Mitchell said publicly, what those of us who have known Joe over the years, know privately, that he is a man of integrity, a man of commitment, and a man who really cares about what happens in the lives of people who live in his state.

And it has been a great pleasure to see him in this campaign, and talk with him about how to bring jobs to Maine, how to make Maine work, and how to make the Maine state government work again.

When the President was up here at the Bath Iron Works, it was like old times because they both believe in helping people, in using the government not as an obstacle, not as a burden, but as a partner with business, and labor, and citizens, so that we can all do better together.

Those of you who know his record, who are here in this room, and in the overflow rooms, are here because you know that Maine needs that kind of leadership again, and that it will have positive forward-looking leadership when Joe Brennan is once again in the governorship.

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But that's really the issue for this upcoming election throughout the country; do we move forward and continue to make progress together? Or do we listen to the silent songs of the promisers, the people that Senator Mitchell said will tell you whatever they think you want to hear during a campaign leading up to election for the cynical purpose of capturing votes, but then go back to business as usual.

And that's really what's at stake in this election here in Maine as you vote for a new senator to replace George Mitchell, and you have an excellent candidate with Tom Andrews.

We need more senators like Senator Mitchell and like the kind of senator that Senator Andrews would be. People who will stand up and say "no" to the special interests. People who will stand up and say "no" to the filibusters. People who will be for the kind of positive hopeful change that all of us in our hearts want for our families, our communities, our states, our nation.

And you also have two excellent potential congressmen right here. They are people who will vote according to their convictions and will make sure that the people of Maine continue to get the kind of representation that you deserve to have.

As we move forward towards this upcoming election there will be many issues. The airwaves will be filled with all kinds of advertising, but the basic issue is do we continue to go forward and make progress together, addressing the problems of average hardworking Americans, or do we turn back and return to the policies of the 1980s?

You remember the 1980s. Those were the Reagan years, the years of trickle-down economics, of big tax cuts for the wealthy, of budget deficits out of control, and having trillion-dollar spending gap, which have led to cuts in important programs like Medicare.

And you remember it, the middle class getting squeezed, everybody working harder and falling further behind, and it also meant here in Maine jobs going overseas.

Now in 20 months we have not been able to reverse all of the damage of the 1980s and trickle-down economics and

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those Reagan policies that favored the rich over everybody else.

But we have made progress. With the kind of leadership from a president who cares about what happens in the lives of people, and the kind of leadership from a governor like Joe Brennan. We can continue to make progress against some very hard, tough decisions.

Why on earth would we listen to those who try to peddle the contract of September 27, 1994? You saw them all lined up doing what their leaders told them to do, signing on the dotted line, signing to return us, this country that we love so much, back to those policies of tax cuts for the wealthy, exploding deficits, cuts in Medicare, and put the squeeze on all the working people.

We don't need that. Why would we go back to trickle-down policies when we can go forward with building from the grass roots up, with the turning around businesses like the Bath Iron Works, and with giving people the tools they need to make their own lives more productive?

That's the kind of leadership Joe Brennan gave this state. That's the kind of leadership this president is giving our nation. And I think that's the kind of leadership that people of Maine want, expect, and deserve to have.

Sometimes with all that goes on in the national political scene, you lose track of what really counts in people's lives. And I want to just mention a few things that I think make a difference in the lives of people in Maine. And when they think about it and understand what is being done, it will make a difference in how they vote on November 8.

There's not a day that goes by that the President and I don't run into somebody who thanks us for something that's already been done.

We were in the White House recently, and a family was going through on a tour with a little girl in a wheelchair. The father of the girl came up to the President and grabbed his hand and said, "I want to thank you, because I learned a few months ago that my daughter has a terminal illness, and I didn't know what to do." "But then I heard about the Family in Medical Need Act that you and the

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Congress had finally passed, and I knew that I could take some time off from work to stand with my little girl."

We will go into a community and meet the young people who are now part of the domestic peace corps called Americorps, who are working to make our streets safer, to make the lives of our elderly citizens better, to help clean up our environment, and while earning money to go to college at the same time. And we know that is helping an entire generation feel good about themselves and about their futures.

Or we will go through a neighborhood and hear people talk to us about how this president has taken on an issue on that other people talked about, that nobody wanted to deal with, namely, reforming the welfare system and putting in requirements for people to work and getting the help that they need.

Or taking on health care, which is a tough issue. But the problems that got this president to worry about health care are not going away, and neither is he, we will continue the fight.

Yesterday I wish everyone of you could have been with us on the south grounds of the White House as the first grants under the crime bill to put more police on the streets were announced.

As I was leaving one of your senior living centers here in Portland, I met two Portland police who are working the streets of Portland because they got supplemental funds from the Federal Government to make Portland a safer city. Don't tell me it doesn't make a difference who is in the White House in this country when it comes to crime.

And then today if you had been in the Rose Garden you would have been so proud because, if you're like me, I am sure all of you in this room, during the 1980s I would read these stories about \$500 screwdrivers and would go crazy. I would think what on earth is my tax money going to a government that can't figure out how to go to a hardware store to buy a screwdriver?

Well, today the President signed sweeping legislation that will change the way the Federal Government works and buys things. No more \$500 screwdrivers and \$900

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toilet seats and all the other things that have outraged us for years.

Some people, particularly in the other party, talk a good game. It is this president that is actually getting the job done for the people of America.

I know Maine is an independent sort of state. The people are independent, and I like that because I am kind of an independent kind of person, too. But what is at stake in this race for governor here is way beyond party affiliation, way beyond partisan politics, and way beyond whether you call yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent.

This race for governor of Maine is about who can get the job done to make Maine work. And when you have a proven record, and you have a man of the integrity of Joe Brennan, you have a winner. You have a winner not only for Maine, but you have a winner for America. Because every time we elect people like Joe Brennan, who can get the job done, we restore confidence in government.

How ironic it is that only after you have problems you wouldn't think to draw the right conclusions. But apparently those in the other party think we have very short memories, they leave a lot of problems and then they figure out ways to blame those who are sweeping up behind them.

Well, Joe Brennan is here to once again put his reel in motion on behalf of the State of Maine, and to make Maine proud again of its state government, and to make Maine know there are things that people in Maine can do for themselves with the right kind of leadership from the grass roots up.

That's what Joe Brennan stood for, that's what he will stand for again, and that's why I thank you for supporting him as he goes to become the governor once again.

(End of Speech)

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