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BOB CARR FUNDRAISER
MICHIGAN

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of The Press Secretary

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REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
RECEPTION FOR BOB CARR
NOVI, MICHIGAN

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you so much. I am so pleased to be back here in Michigan, and to see a number of you whom I've had a chance to work with and meet before. And I am delighted to be here on behalf of the next Senator from Michigan, your own Bob Carr.

And I don't want anybody to be mistaken. Bob, just come over here a little closer.

We are so proud of him, his record of service and the campaign he's running, because it's not only good for Michigan, it is good for America. And we need to elect him to the United States Senate.

I would also -- I am very pleased to be here with others who have been great supporters, wise counselors and good friends, and it is a delight for me to see Senator Riegle in this audience, because he has fought hard in the last 20 months for the interests of working people, and particularly for the interests of families and children. And I am very grateful for your leadership --

And I am also always glad to be with Chairman Dingell, who has given me such support in so many ways over the last months, and who stands on the side of the interests of citizens who may not have a voice, and stands for working people, and stands for health care reform. And we will keep working until we get it done.

And of course, everyone who's been introduced and recognized by Bob, who has played a role -- Kate and Debbie and Debbie and Millie and everybody who's here -- you're here because you're not only supporting a particular candidate, you're supporting a particular vision about American

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politics, and where we are going, and where we need to be going.

And it truly is a stark choice that voters will face on November the 8th. Do we go back? Do we go back listening to the siren songs of deficit spending to build up defense and to cut the taxes for the wealthiest? Do we listen to the siren songs about how you can balance the budget while you increase some spending and while you decrease revenues. We have heard that before.

As my husband says over and over again, he wishes he had the kind of gall it takes to stand in front of people --

-- and to promise them a trillion dollars worth of good time on hot checks --

-- which is exactly what the other party is offering.

Now, it's like -- I don't know whether it was Yogi or Casey who said "Deja vu all over again," but that's exactly what it is. We've heard it before. We watched our jobs getting shipped overseas. If any state in this country understands what a return to trickle-down economics would mean, it ought to be Michigan --

-- because it was Michigan that took it in the chin. We know what it will mean to go back, not only in terms of an economic plan that failed in the 1980s, but also the social attitudes that went along with that failed economic plan. They are not in any way disguising what they offer. They come right out and sign a contract for America, or as my husband likes to say, a contract on America, on America's future and America's jobs and America's growth and prosperity.

Now that's what the other side offers. That's what Bob's opponent basically offers, because he not only buys into all of that, he buys into the opposition's role in the United States Senate, which is to stand in the way of progress, to stand up for every vested interest in -- especially the vested interest of Republicans who want power for the sake of power. That's what the opposition offers.

What does Bob Carr offer? He offers a continued,

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progressive march toward the future. Is it going to be easy? Of course not. It is difficult changing policies that were so deeply rooted. But look at what has been accomplished in just 20 months. If you look at the kind of policies that this President and the very courageous supporters in Congress, like Bob, stood behind, you can see where the buck really stops. A lot of folks love to talk tough about fiscal responsibility and budgetary responsibility, but it was this President who only had Democrats who were willing to really cut the budget, 255 billion dollars worth. It was this President and his allies, the Democrats in the Congress, who brought down the deficit now three years in a row. That hasn't happened since Harry Truman was in the White House, and he understood that the buck really does stop. These other guys, it's like a shell game. You can't see the buck, it moves so fast because it is spent a hundred times before it ever lights in anybody's palm. This is not a very difficult choice, if Americans and if citizens of this state know what is at stake. The problem is -- and we were talking about this a little earlier -- the problem is that when you get into Washington determined to change things, and you realize how much has to be done, you work really hard.

You put your head down, you keep moving straight forward, trying to get the job done. And you don't have a lot of time to promote yourself, promote your policies, get up and call people names, point fingers, get into the blame game. And so the other side is just a lot better at that. They are experts at it. And part of what we have to say is, after 20 months, it's now an election. This gives us an opportunity to tell the story about what has been done, to tell the story, not only about a budget that has brought down the deficit to a new low, as reported today, beyond anything anybody could have predicted, but also other tough decisions for people. This is the first President who really has introduced welfare reform. The other side talks about it, they love to beat up on it. They don't want to reform the welfare system, they wouldn't have anything left to talk about. It is this President and his allies like Bob Carr who will get the job done for the (inaudible).

And it was this President and his allies who fought for the rights of middle income kids to go to college and do national service. We have now expanded the rights of nearly 20 million Americans to college loans at low interest rates, so that the kind of obstacles that used to be in the way will be eliminated. There will be no more financial obstacles for

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any young person who really want to go to college.

And at the same time, he created a domestic peace corps called Americorps, which gives young people a chance to serve in their communities solving problems. This year there will be 20,000 members. That is more than ever served in one year in the Peace Corps, and we need those young people. And by the end of 1996, if we keep going with the leadership we've got, we will have 100,000 young people doing community service all over this country.

And we haven't forgotten the young people who don't go on to college, unlike the other party. We think it's important that young men and women who work hard and do their best, they get a chance for apprenticeship and training so that they can get good jobs and not dead-end jobs. This Administration is producing on that as well.

You know, when you look at what has been done in trying to advance economic opportunity for every American, we have a great story to tell, but we also recognize that we need to make our community safer. We need to make it possible for children to walk to the park or walk to school, or for older women to feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods.

That Crime Bill was locked in the Congress for more than six years, and that Crime Bill is now the law, despite the best efforts of the opposition to prevent it, because Americans are sick and tired of politicians talking tough on crime and not doing anything about it.

So when you survey the landscape, have we changed America overnight? No. My goodness, you know, I can't change most things about myself, let alone my husband overnight, we work on it all the time.

But at least we get up every day trying to head in the right direction, and that's what's happening in this country. And yet we know that the forces of opposition don't want us to keep moving forward. They want to turn back the clock, not only on economics, not only on solving the crime problem, but on women's rights and children's futures, and we have to stand up and say no.

If I had stood here two years ago asking all of you to support my husband for President, and I had listed not

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only what I've already said, you know, bringing down the deficit, restoring physical responsibility, creating more than 4.2 million new jobs, getting small business going again, more than any have been incorporated since World War II, taking poor people off of the welfare rolls, because we took them off the tax rolls if they work 40 hours a week and have children in the home, dealing with the Crime Bill and Family and Medical Leave and the Motor Voter Bill and education legislation and Americorps and all the things that.....

I'm telling you, somebody in this crowd, if I'd gone on and on and on like that, would have turned and said to your neighbor, "What is she smoking and did she inhale?"

Now the fact is, I can stand here now and I can tell you every one of those promises has been kept. And every one of them --

Every one of them is beginning to make a difference in people's lives. We can't do away with the anxiety and the insecurity that come from years of neglect of our social problems. I mean, we have been having social problems now for more than 30 years. Families have been breaking up, children have been losing their way for lack of discipline and love and attention, we've seen violence increase in our cities.

For 20 years we've seen hard-working Americans not gaining much economically, wages staying stagnant, benefits going down. And then for 12 years we watched as our government got bankrupted. This can't be turned around overnight.

But anybody who's ever built a business, anybody who's ever created any kind of opportunity for themselves or their family, anybody who's worked hard on any kind of community endeavor, you know that you have to stay at it day in and day out. And what sustains you is your belief that you're moving in the right direction. And that is what I hope that the citizens of Michigan will think about between now and November 8th.

We are making progress, and we can make more progress together. But as we move toward the election, beyond any particular issue, the choice comes down to rhetoric, sloganeering, versus programs that will make a

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difference and positive achievements, appealing to our fears and divisiveness, or to our hopes and a new sense of community among us.

We need to elect people who are willing to work hard to achieve the kind of country that every one of us in our hearts know is achievable. And if we believe we can do that, then each of you in the next days, go out and talk to your friends and neighbors, find people who are undecided, even talk to people who are in that kind of mood that is really gripping so many voters -- yeah, they're mad about things. Heck, we're all mad about things.

But do you make important decisions when you're angry? Or do you try to look at what the decision is? You can make a big difference, voter by voter. So not only do we thank you for your resources, we ask you for your time and your effort and your conviction that this election is about more than just electing Bob Carr. It is about casting a vote for the direction of this state and the country.

And let's do it in a positive way that will enable all of us to feel good the day after it happens. Thank you all very much.

(End of Speech)
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