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LUNCHEON Q&A SESSION
WITH HRC

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THE WHITE HOUSE

LUNCHEON QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
WITH MRS. CLINTON

November 10, 1994

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 MRS. CLINTON: So what I believe is that we
3 still have to stand firm on this, but maybe we can explain
4 it a little better, and I use the example of the
5 (inaudible) coming out of the suburbs of New York, and
6 speaking for (inaudible) and in talking about the assault
7 weapons bill and the Brady bill I say we are not going to
8 stand (inaudible) legal weapons or recreational weapons.
9 We are trying to get assault weapons out of the hands of
10 mentally imbalanced people and criminals.

11 And usually I'd say instead of being (inaudible)
12 the President has done a statement on the IRA and that's
13 what we need to do, and I'm usually an advocate of the
14 more (inaudible). And most of the people who came up to
15 me (inaudible) and they say, thank you for saying that.
16 I've (inaudible).

17 Now, these are educated, well-dressed people
18 living in the affluent suburbs, who didn't understand
19 because we've had so much propaganda in what it is we're
20 trying to do, so I think a little more education and a
21 little less advocacy to try to get us to the same
22 (inaudible), that's not what we're trying to do.

23 QUESTION: In thinking about what happened in
24 the election, what are the things (inaudible) that the
25 Christian right have picked up on something about the

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1 American people, that there is that there is a lack of
2 spiritualism, and that many people (inaudible) get
3 (inaudible) and obviously they've made a difference. What
4 do you think about that?

5 MRS. CLINTON: This is one of the real
6 grumblings that have developed, because -- and I said
7 something about this in an interviews. I have a lot of
8 sympathy for people who (inaudible).

9 I've had a lot of sympathy for the feeling that
10 I think many of us have that we're just out of control,
11 and whenever that happens, you know, there is always a
12 strong (inaudible) for those who want easy (inaudible) and
13 those of us who struggle to try to deal with some pretty
14 complex issues that have created the position that we were
15 complaining about.

16 I think most of the people who identify
17 themselves as part of the Christian right are basically
18 decent people who really care about their family's future,
19 but I think they are being used for political ends by
20 people who have often pretended (inaudible).

21 There are all kinds of issues at work here, so
22 part of what we have to figure out how to do is to answer
23 legitimate concerns which are most starkly presented as
24 Christian right, but which I think affect all of us.
25 (Inaudible.)

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1 The answer, though, if that's the case, is to
2 draw the line on a lot of the political efforts that are
3 being made (inaudible) where a lot of the meanest-
4 spirited out there (inaudible) and we're just going to
5 have to (inaudible). It's very difficult. We want to get
6 to a legitimate consensus without getting into the
7 political (inaudible).

8 But I also think that there is a kind of
9 political or spiritual values of living. Whatever one
10 thinks of it, there is a sense that we're not just
11 (inaudible). So that is a kind of fundamental issue. You
12 can see it developing in a lot of different ways in our
13 country, and it is going to be challenging because if all
14 of the press and the people feel like that we're going to
15 see (inaudible).

16 QUESTION: What do you hope for Chelsea
17 (inaudible) political career, seeing you go through
18 (inaudible.)

19 MRS. CLINTON: I hope she takes a lot of things,
20 but I hope she really takes a rock-bottom sense of how
21 loved she is, who she is, and that whatever lot of life
22 you're in you're going to have challenges and you've got
23 to play it out (inaudible) and you just have to be as good
24 to yourself as possible.

25 We've spent a lot of time talking with her about

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1 (inaudible). Her father's been in politics for her entire
2 life. When she was old enough I talked (inaudible) just
3 an amazing father to be around (inaudible).

4 (Laughter.)

5 MRS. CLINTON: -- and we knew that he would
6 (inaudible) as the Governor. (Inaudible.) So we said to
7 Chelsea (inaudible) political figure sometimes
8 (inaudible).

9 It was sort of -- it was a sad lesson, because
10 (inaudible) but since then we've really talked to her
11 about this, and so nothing -- I mean, it's not that it's
12 less hurtful when people say terrible things about your
13 father or your mother (inaudible) but it's not quite --
14 she kind of takes it as much in stride as she can take it,
15 so that we try to give her an internal resource and try to
16 really protect her and not subject her to (inaudible).

17 People ask me all the time, we don't see your
18 daughter. Why don't you bring your daughter out? When
19 are you going to show your daughter? We haven't seen her
20 for a long time.

21 I consider that a compliment, because I don't
22 want them to see my daughter. My daughter has her own
23 life. So we will do the things she does typically, and
24 that's it. (Inaudible.)

25 So I think that has helped her feel grounded.

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1 QUESTION: (Inaudible) personal responsibility
2 (inaudible)?

3 MRS. CLINTON: You know, we have tried to talk
4 about that. We were on a bus the other day. We had so
5 much fun with the doors when we had to pull the TV --
6 always be late, 4 or 5 hours late.

7 (Inaudible.) We'd all stand up there -- we'd
8 all have different roles to play, and one of us would
9 always say, change the car, and we didn't have to do as
10 much changing from the inside out as from the outside, and
11 you know, Al would often talk about how his family
12 (inaudible).

13 You know, it caused a lot of changes, and it was
14 entirely (inaudible) motivated and my husband will talk
15 about, it doesn't matter what you do in your life, if you
16 get to do some things you think are important, you have to
17 be patient.

18 We tried to talk about that, and we're going to
19 continue to find ways to talk about that. I think you're
20 right, it is a significant sense of impatience in part
21 because I believe a lot of our problems were kind of
22 pushed to one side in the last decade, in part because our
23 political structure was organized (inaudible) and
24 everything we did had a relationship to that, including
25 education.

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1 You got an education so kids would be smarter
2 than the last generation, and I think that once that
3 construct ended, there was this sense of uncertainty and
4 impatience, but also recognition that, gosh, what do we do
5 now? Where did all these (inaudible) come from? Where
6 did all these crackheads come from? How did this happen
7 in our lifetime?

8 And I think that that, a lot of it is pushing
9 people. There's a lot of impatience -- okay, okay, this
10 has all happened, let's get it fixed now -- and that's
11 something we're going to have to contend with.

12 (Inaudible.)

13 QUESTION: (Inaudible) strategy on health care
14 reform (inaudible)?

15 MRS. CLINTON: Well, that's what we're working
16 on now, and have people who are coming up with suggestions
17 (inaudible), but I think we should be able to get
18 (inaudible) things better (inaudible).

19 The real problem as I see is, and the
20 (inaudible) know this better than anybody, we've got to
21 figure out how we do whatever we do about health care in
22 the public sector, which means (inaudible), and we control
23 everything else in the system, and we eliminate even more
24 agencies, health care will still drive everything up.

25 The real problem is, how do we deal with that --

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1 I mean, from a Government perspective -- and the balance?
2 How do we deal with that, and how do we have some
3 (inaudible) reforms, and I feel a personal interest in
4 trying (inaudible) moral obligation.

5 QUESTION: I was very interested when you
6 brought up the women's (inaudible) Labor Department's
7 survey, because 75 percent of respondents say the major
8 issue (inaudible) on the agenda today, and also
9 (inaudible) every night, or at least I think (inaudible)
10 Americans get their information, too busy to watch TV
11 every night (inaudible).

12 But I didn't see on the agenda today issues that
13 really affect a lot of you (inaudible) very little
14 attention (inaudible) or salary discrimination, issues
15 that really affect the average person, women, or the
16 average women --

17 MRS. CLINTON: Well, in part, it (inaudible)
18 bottom-line issue (inaudible).

19 But those are all issues that we're very
20 involved in and plan to use our limited resources to
21 (inaudible), and one of the real interesting dynamics of
22 this election is that it's really a very active campaign
23 where the Republicans are people who want less Government,
24 but I don't think there is a (inaudible) understood what
25 it meant, a I don't think they understood in the same way

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1 that the Republicans meant it, because Republicans want
2 less Government and all the programs that (inaudible)
3 magazines (inaudible).

4 They want the Federal Government (inaudible).
5 They want the Federal Government enforcing minimum pay and
6 equal work laws. They don't want (inaudible) or the other
7 things, so they'd eliminate all of that, and instead they
8 would (inaudible), and provide (inaudible) tax cut or
9 (inaudible).

10 And so it's going to be a very interesting
11 problem, because we want to be cooperative, but we also
12 believe that our best investments are in making more
13 people able to make the right choices with their lives,
14 and if women want to work they need access to child care.

15 Those are some of the things that we're going to
16 be part of, and a lot of your voters, a lot of your
17 readers who may have been voters who did vote for less
18 Government I think will be surprised at how that agenda is
19 going to develop. (Inaudible.)

20 QUESTION: Much has been said that the
21 electorate's vote was a vote that was conservative. Now
22 more and more people are conservative. I think that's
23 just as confusing as saying that they want less
24 Government. What do you think conservative means now, for
25 most Americans?

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1 MRS. CLINTON: I don't know. I mean, I think
2 that a significant percentage, more exactly, the persons on
3 the Christian right, would label themselves conservative,
4 and what they mean is, they want the Congress to pass the
5 school prayer amendment, they want the Congress to
6 eliminate any funding for anything that they consider
7 undermining traditional families, such as child care
8 (inaudible).

9 There's a whole list of things that those who
10 identify themselves in that way might very much
11 (inaudible) not to, but I think most voters were not
12 negative voters. They're saying, it's just not working
13 well. I mean, do something better than you're doing, and
14 the irony is, over the last week the President's
15 popularity has been going up. I mean, it was at 52
16 percent Thursday and Friday, and that's why I think that a
17 divided Government is something that Americans really
18 want.

19 They wanted to see whether a different
20 leadership in Congress would make a difference, but I
21 don't think if you went out and interviewed 1,000 people
22 today they could tell you what the effect of Congress
23 means, unless they are part of an organized group that
24 says, you've a great bill, give me back my assault
25 weapons, or, you know, get rid of gag rule, or bring it

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1 back, actually, so that -- you know.

2 There are groups in the electorate, and I'd say
3 25 percent, give or take, that are conservative in a kind
4 of antichoice role -- gun, antigay, you know, all of those
5 kind of buzz-word ways -- and they will be working very
6 hard to get their agenda worked out, but I don't think
7 that's (inaudible).

8 QUESTION: Actually, most women in the House
9 election voted for women.

10 I think there was a gender gap (inaudible).

11 MRS. CLINTON: (Inaudible.) What I think we
12 need are more women out to get the vote out.

13 QUESTION: They did. The majority of women did
14 vote.

15 MRS. CLINTON: (Inaudible.) In the House, there
16 were -- we were talking about Ann Richards (inaudible). I
17 don't know what the final votes were, but certainly they
18 were (inaudible). Also, the turnout favored women
19 (inaudible). I don't know, maybe (inaudible).

20 But I think women had a stake in these elections
21 and the more we can empower them and energize them
22 (inaudible).

23 Well, we've got to go in a few minutes, right?

24 (Multiple voices.)

25 MRS. CLINTON: One of the great things

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1 (inaudible).

2 (Laughter.)

3 MRS. CLINTON: Don't tell Rush Limbaugh.

4 (Laughter.)

5 MRS. CLINTON: All of you who are editors of our
6 media fashion magazines (inaudible).

7 (Laughter.)

8 MRS. CLINTON: Really in style for the moment,
9 and they have the bulbs, too, they've been forcing the
10 bulbs, so they have the bulbs that they're going to plant
11 and name the day that they're going to be here, so those
12 of you that will be interested, please join us.

13 (Inaudible) baptize it with champagne.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MRS. CLINTON: (Inaudible) so that's what we're
16 going to do, and you're all welcome. If you haven't seen
17 the sculpture gardens, we hope you will join us. We
18 are very pleased at the way it turned out.

19 (End of interview.)

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