

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

UT Austin Rally 9/5/96

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Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you all. Thank you. Thank you very much. I am I am very pleased to be here with you. I wanna thank Guadalupe for her introduction. I wanna thank Bernard Rappapord for his lifetime of devotion to this University which he loves so much. I wanna thank my friend Gary Mauro for a lifetime of support and laughs and uh I think you all are very lucky to have him as your Land Commissioner here in Texas, and I'm very glad to have him as a friend. I also wanna thank the University Democrats for inviting me here today. I was looking forward to coming back because the last time I was here in the Spring of 1993, we were just beginning in the White House to see the President make his efforts to bring alive the American dream real for people. We could see just in those first months and now much more clearly what he meant when he campaigned here in Austin during the 1992 Presidential Election. It was a straight forward message and one that I think has been carried through clearly into this campaign. That if we, according to what the President has said, follow this simple but profound strategy, we all can be successful. Number one - provide opportunity for all. Make it possible for every young person in this state to dream about attending the University of Texas and to make it a reality by being available to him. Number two - by asking responsibility from all of us. A dream alone is not enough. You are here as part of one of the great universities of the world because you took responsibility for yourselves. It was the combination of opportunity and responsibility that worked for you and will work for all Americans. And, finally, to remember we are part of one community. The American community needs to be strong, and it needs to include all of us. Now, four years later, it's time for an accounting. In effect, what the President is doing is to say to all of you, "Here's what I've done for the last four years. I want you to renew my contract." And he came before you at the Democratic Convention and he will during the next two months talking about why his strategy is working and what he wants to do for the next four years. Let us think back four years ago. If we remember, the country was struggling with high unemployment, stagnant wages, increasing crime and welfare, and a ballooning deficit. Today, four years later, we have the lowest combined rates of unemployment, inflation, and home mortgages in twenty-eight years. There are ten million new jobs in American and over half of them are high wage jobs. 4.4 million Americans are now living in a home for the first time. Hundreds of thousands of people have started new businesses, and I'm particularly pleased that women and minority owned businesses are at a record high because small businesses create prosperity. After a long struggle, ten million minimum wage workers will be getting the raise they deserve to have. Twenty-five million Americans will be able to keep their health insurance because the Kennedy Castlebom says you cannot lose your insurance if you're sick or change jobs. The crime rate has declined finally four years in a row. We are beginning to know what works and what works is what the President advocated. Put more police on the streets, in community policing, walking a beat and do something about gangs and assault weapons and the other ways that criminals terrorize people. Even before he signed welfare reform, we were seeing progress because the President gave authority to states to start experimenting about moving people from welfare to work and there are nearly two million fewer people on welfare today than when my husband

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took the office of President. We are also making it possible for more people to take responsibility. Child support collections have gone up by 40%. We know that if we don't care for the next generation, nothing we do and nothing you study here will make that much of a difference. And importantly for all of you who are here at this university, the deficit has gone down by 60% and the President's balanced budget plan would move it towards zero if he could get the support for that that he needs. So I think that any fair accounting of the last four years would not only include that but include the Family and Medical Leave Act, the earned income tax credit and many other pieces of legislation and executive actions that are not just abstract political developments, but have actually made a difference in the lives of millions and millions of Americans. But the work is not finished. And as the President and Vice-President explained in their speeches in Chicago, there is a lot ahead of the country. A good ground work has been laid. But now it is up to all of us to do what we have to do to move that positive agenda forward. It is almost hard for me to believe that this election will choose the last President of the twentieth century and the first President of the twenty-first century. By our votes, we will be making a statement about how we intend to meet the challenges that lie ahead of us. This is no time to look backward. This is not time to build a bridge to a past that never existed for most people in this country. Instead, this is a time this is a time to look to your future and to America's future, and the President talked about the kind of bridge he wants your help in building to that future. A bridge that is broad enough and strong enough for every American. A bridge that cherishes and strengthens children, families, and our communities and our nation. A bridge that if we build it together, helps parents be both good workers and good parents. Helps you and every other American get the education and training you need. Helps continue to lower the crime rate. Helps you to have a safer world both at home and abroad. Helps us to preserve our environment for future generations and maintains America's leadership now and into the next century. Now there is there is much that I hope you will talk about and follow in this election, but I want particularly because we are here at a university to talk about education. To talk about how important it is we do everything we can to make education available and alive in the lives of every American child. We have to work together to raise the standards in our public schools. We have to provide choice among public schools so that parents and teachers and students can have more control over their own education. We have to make sure as the President has said that every classroom in America from the smallest town in rural Texas to the the richest district in a big city in this state, is hooked through the information super highway. So every youngster gets access to the same information and the same real time. The President has also proposed that we all work to make sure every third grader in America can read on his or her own by the year 2000. Right now, that's not the case. About 40% of our eight year olds cannot read as well as they should. That is an absolute obstacle to their ever being here at the university. By the time a child is in the third grade, much of their academic success can be predicted. There are always exceptions, but for a general rule, helping youngsters to learn by that age is essential. Parents have to take responsibility. All of us do, and I want to commend the University of Texas for the University's involvement in AmeriCorp because through national service and AmeriCorp you

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have students who are working right now to help children in schools here in Austin learn how to do math better, understand literacy better. That kind of service commitment can change lives, and I know that there is a lot else going on in this campus that makes a very big difference in lives not only of students who are giving service but to those who are receiving it. And I also wanna commend the University for designating 1996 and 1997 as the year of the child. There is no more important commitment than any of us can make. If we focus on education and we do what we should in pre-school, providing opportunities like head start, making it possible for youngsters to learn to read, providing volunteers like you are doing, setting goals and standards so that we know how our schools need to be achieving, then we also have to make it real so that any young person who does well in school can go on to college, and there is no financial obstacle to that young person doing so. I know that in this audience there are students from Zavala Elementary School. Zavala has one of the highest reading scores in this city because everyone, including U.T. students and church members and other volunteers, work with parents and teachers to serve as a tutor and guardian angel for every single child. I want to congratulate the students for doing so well in school, but I wanna challenge all of us to make sure that when these youngsters graduate from high school, the doors of college are open to them. And for that reason, my husband has proposed a \$1500 a year tuition tax credit that will make virtually every community college free for any American who is willing to study hard. That's called the Hope Scholarship. It would be renewable for a second year so that we could literally make the first two years of college within the financial reach of every single American family. In addition, the President wants to make sure that every working family, the vast majority of your families, can also deduct up to \$10,000 a year in college tuition costs, and if the President is re-elected, he will see that families are able to save money for college in tax free IRAs. Everybody will be able to go to college. So in addition to the accomplishments and what we've already seen happen in the last four years, if you renew the President's contract, we will work hard, every one of us, and we'll ask for your help to make sure every eight year old is able to read, every twelve year old can log on to the Internet, every eighteen year old will be able to go to college. That way, by the twenty-first century, Americans will have the skills they need not only to build that bridge to the twenty-first century, but to cross over it with optimism and confidence about their own futures. He has proposed all of this within a balanced budget. He has said that in his budget, which is open for any voter's review, it is budgeted line by line, dime by dime. There are no gimmicks. No big promises that cannot be fulfilled. All of the tax cuts are targeted and paid for. So we should be able to cut taxes for those things that will make us strong while we continue to lower the deficit to zero. Both of those investments on the one hand, getting our deficit under control on the other, are important for your future, and that's why I hope that in the next several weeks, each of you will think seriously about this election and will talk to your friends, your neighbors, your fellow students, and co-workers. There are many people I'm sure in Texas like every other state in the union who think politics has nothing to do with them. They look at the t.v. and they read the headlines, and it's just kind of a confusing mess as far as they're concerned. It doesn't make sense. And what we have to do and what the President is trying to do is link

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up what does happen in the White House and in Congress with what happens in people's lives. It makes a difference whose in the Oval Office. It made a difference to more than...it made a difference to more than twelve million Americans that we finally had a President who would sign the Family and Medical Leave Law. It made a difference that we finally had a President who would sign the Brady Bill and take...and take away from sixty-thousand felons, fugitives, and stalkers the right to get handguns. The President hopes to expand that so that we also prevent anyone who's convicted of domestic abuse from getting a handgun in a moment of anger. But I have to say here in Texas and on the brink of the dove season, there is not a hunter anywhere in Texas or Arkansas or anywhere in America who has been deprived of a single hunting season or a single opportunity because we finally have some sensible legislation to take assault weapons off the streets and out of the hands of criminals and gangs. You know, I was thinking about that earlier because I've been duck hunting. I've actually, believe it or not, killed a duck on the fly, and I never saw an AK-47 anywhere in the duck camp I went to. And so we wanna be very straight forward about this. You've got a President, a Vice-President who understand and care about hunting. They grew up in Arkansas and Tennessee, but we also know that what's been done to protect people and lower the crime rate is working and it hasn't interfered with lawful gun ownership one single bit. So it's that kind of sensible approach to lowering the crime rate, to standing up and saying this has to be done that this President will continue to represent. So there is much that will have to be done by all of us in order for America to meet its challenges and for the rest of us to meet our own challenges in work and at home, but I feel good as I travel around the country about what I see. I see a lot of confidence and optimism. I see people who are really willing to invest themselves in a better future for themselves and their children. And I see a lot of people who wanna be build...build bridges with this President because they know that the best days of America are ahead of us, and if you also believe that, I hope you will take whatever time you can, educate yourself about this election and these issues, talk to people, have conversations about it, get information to those who say they won't vote or they don't think it makes a difference because this election, far more than it is about Mr. Rappapord or Mr. Mauro or me, is about every single one of you. If we make the right decision in November, we will have made the right decision for the course of the next century. Thank you all very much.

End of Hillary's Speech