

PAIN STATION REMOVALS

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 22, 1998

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY

Baltimore - Penn Station

January 21, 1998

Q Mrs. Clinton, you know there's a burning question out there on everybody's mind today, with the expansion of the Whitewater prosecutor's duties to address some allegations regarding the President and a White House --

MRS. CLINTON: I have nothing to say about that. I will say what I've always said, and that's that the President and everyone associated with him will fully cooperate. But I also believe that -- (inaudible) -- continuation of a lot of political accusations and attacks that my husband has been subject to for, I guess, five, six years now. And, as with all of them -- (inaudible) -- continue to fulfill his responsibilities as President.

Q Mrs. Clinton, help me understand something in this, in these allegations, which are often laid at the feet of people who don't like your husband. He's in his last term. What can they possibly gain by carrying out this action?

MRS. CLINTON: I don't want to speak specifically as to these allegations because I don't speak specifically to any and try to avoid doing so. But I think that's a fair question, and I can only give you my opinion for whatever that's worth. I think from the time my husband announced he was going to run for President, for reasons that I don't fully understand, he was considered a threat to certain ideological and political positions that are held by certain people deeply in our country, and there has been a concerted effort to undermine his legitimacy as President, to undo much of what he's been able to accomplish, to attack him personally when he could not be defeated politically. And I think it's regrettable.

And as I said in some interviews earlier this week, I think that it's not good for our country that political accusations and conflicts are turned into matters of legal concern. They ought to be fought out in the arena. But since my husband has been so successful in changing the direction of the country and accomplishing so much on behalf of the country, I think it has been very hard for his opponents to accept. And that is just my own personal view.

Q How hard has it been for you, as the President's wife and First Lady, to endure this?

MRS. CLINTON: You know, I wouldn't say that it's not hard because it is difficult and painful anytime someone you care about, you love and you admire is attacked and subjected to such relentless accusations as my husband has been. But I also have now lived with this for, gosh, more than six years, and I have seen how these charges and accusations evaporate and disappear if they're ever given the light of day. And so I feel the same way about all of this. It's something I wish that neither my husband, nor anyone associated with him were subjected to, because I regret it deeply. And it's something that I don't think is good for the country.

Q (inaudible)

MRS. CLINTON: Certainly I believe they are false -- absolutely.

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