

Q. But you would accept something less than 100 percent?

The President. Social Security doesn't have 100 percent.

Q. That's the first time we've heard you say that.

The President. Social Security—you cannot physically get 100 percent. There's no way to get 100 percent. Social Security only has 98, and they've just moved from 97 a couple years ago. But I think you have to have a universal coverage goal because if you don't have the idea of trying to essentially have functionally full coverage—whatever that is, it's a very high percentage—then the rest of these reforms will not work.

So my olive branch came because he said he was willing to work every day in August, every day in September, and every day in October, and I liked that.

Q. Maybe he's talking about a filibuster—

The President. All I'm asking you tonight is report this on the merits. Talk about what the doctors said. Talk about what the people said. These doctors, a lot of these doctors might be Republicans that signed this ad in the Boston Globe today. They said what will work is universal coverage. That is the almost universal

opinion of knowledgeable physicians. The people who know what will control costs and provide security to middle class America know that unless you cover virtually everybody, you're not going to get that done.

And let's talk about the merits. Let's not turn this into a political story, let's talk about what will work in middle America.

Q. How about a 50–50 split?

The President. I'm open to changes in the split. I'm open to a lot of things. I just want to cover the American people. I've always been open to that from the first day. The only thing I want to do is get everybody covered, deal with the cost, preserve choice.

Q. [*Inaudible*—fully cover less than 100 percent?

The President. You cannot physically cover 100 percent. It's impossible. Nobody can do that. We don't cover 100 percent of the people in Social Security, and it's universal. Social Security is universal. I want a universal program, but we can't physically get to 100 percent.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 12:30 p.m. at the Hynes Convention Center. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Fifth Anniversary of the Arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi July 19, 1994

July 20 marks the 5th anniversary of the detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the democratic opposition in Burma and a symbol of human rights and democracy worldwide.

The remarkable resurgence of democracy in so many parts of the world in recent years demonstrates that authentic voices of freedom cannot be stilled and ultimately will triumph. Aung San Suu Kyi reflects the fundamental yearning of the Burmese people for freedom and justice. She honors the memory of her father Aung San, the founder of modern Burma, and continues to embody the hopes of the people of Burma for an end to the military dictatorship and the reestablishment of popular, representative government.

I urge the Burmese military regime to heed the will of its own people by releasing unconditionally Aung San Suu Kyi and all other remaining prisoners of conscience in Burma. I also call on the regime to honor the results of the 1990 election and to undertake genuine democratic reform. To this end, the regime should begin a substantive dialog with Aung San Suu Kyi aimed at achieving a political settlement that respects the sentiments of the people of Burma.

This issue remains a priority for my administration. For this reason, we welcome any efforts by the international community and by Burma's neighbors to encourage genuine reforms. The United States also looks forward to discussing these vital issues later this month during the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in Bang-

July 19 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

kok, where we will seek an intensified effort to gain the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners and to promote genuine democratic reform.

Statement on Senate Action on Supreme Court Nominee Stephen Breyer *July 19, 1994*

I am deeply gratified by the Senate Judiciary Committee's unanimous vote to forward Stephen Breyer's nomination to the full Senate for confirmation to the Supreme Court. Chairman Biden and Senator Hatch deserve enormous credit for their bipartisan spirit and responsible approach to this nomination.

The Judiciary Committee has now given unanimous, bipartisan support to two consecutive Supreme Court nominees. I hope this is a sign

not only of the quality of those two selections but also of a return of civility to the confirmation process.

I am confident that the full Senate will act swiftly to confirm Judge Breyer. I believe he will be an intellectual leader on a Court that respects the Constitution. His brilliant mind and balanced approach will make him a superb Supreme Court justice.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Texas Senatorial Candidate Richard Fisher *July 19, 1994*

Thank you very much, Richard, and you and Nancy and your wonderful children. It's a great honor for me to be here tonight even to take a little ribbing by Bob Strauss about how I look in my running shorts. [*Laughter*] Henry looks better in his running shorts. I saw Henry in his running shorts yesterday morning in Miami, and I thought he looked better, too. But I wouldn't have said it in public if Bob hadn't. [*Laughter*] I hope Henry's enjoyed his brief tenure as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. [*Laughter*] Akin Gump is going to hire him for about a half million a year starting tomorrow, Bob Strauss' penance. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Secretary Cisneros for the brilliant job he has done, literally. I mean it's unbelievable what's happened to HUD since he took over, how he's turned it around and made it an instrument of progress: everything from standing up for civil rights of people, the standing up for the civil right of people who live in public housing to be free of crime, what they're doing in Chicago and throughout the country is unbelievable; and now working not only to try to help homeless people get off the street but help them get into the mainstream

of life which is, after all, the ultimate answer to the problem of homelessness.

I want to thank Senator Graham, my longtime friend, a former seatmate in the Governors' Association, for his sterling leadership of the Senate Campaign Committee.

And what can I say about Secretary Bentsen—that he hasn't already said? [*Laughter*] I'll tell you one thing, I like to make fun of him because he talks in such a frank way to his President when I need to be frankly spoken to, which is about every other day, you know. [*Laughter*] But in the annals of this century when the history is written, I think that he will be literally remembered as one of the greatest Secretaries of the Treasury we ever had and as someone who dealt with a very rapidly changing world with all kinds of new challenges and had a major responsibility in helping this country adjust its economy to the global economy. He has been absolutely spectacular. I had high aspirations for Lloyd Bentsen's tenure, but he exceeded them in every way, and I am very grateful to him for that.

Let me tell you about Richard Fisher and one reason I'm here tonight, besides the fact