

Statement on the Second Anniversary of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993
May 20, 1995

Two years ago today, I signed into law the National Voter Registration Act, better known as “motor-voter.” This commonsense law is making it easier for all Americans to register to vote. Motor-voter promised to open up the democratic process, and I am pleased to report that it is delivering on that promise.

Across America, nearly 2 million citizens have registered to vote in the 5 months since the law went into effect. In Georgia, 180,000 people registered in the first 3 months of this year, compared to only 85,000 all last year. In North Carolina, 30,000 citizens are registering per month, up from 6,000 a month in 1991. And

in Alabama, 43,000 people registered in the first 3 months of this year, compared to only 23,000 in the same period last year.

Motor-voter is working because it makes sense. The Act simply requires States to make registration easier by making more forms available, at motor vehicle offices, social agencies, and through the mail. It is that simple.

Motor-voter is the latest step in our Nation’s efforts to enfranchise all our citizens, giving them the power to affect their own destiny and our common destiny by participating fully in our democracy. I am proud to see it working so well.

Remarks at the White House Photographers Association Dinner
May 20, 1995

I want to gets lots of records of you clapping for me. [Laughter] Well, ladies and gentlemen, tonight I feel your pain. [Laughter] Is there a courier around here anywhere? [Laughter] I hate these name tags. [Laughter]

I just wanted you to see what it feels like to have your picture taken when you’re eating. [Laughter]

I am here tonight to address a very relevant issue: The President is funny. The power of the Presidency makes me funny. [Laughter] If you don’t believe me, don’t laugh at these jokes, have a nice audit. [Laughter]

You know, I used to complain about how all of you were trying to get my attention, you know, for photos—“Over here!” “Over here!” “Over here!” “Over here!” “Just one more!” “Just one more!”—and I didn’t like the way you tried to get my attention until I heard about how the Russian police tried to get Jeremy Gaines’ attention last week. [Laughter] Now you can “just one more” me from now to kingdom come, and I won’t bite. [Laughter]

You know, I thought Mike McCurry was a model Press Secretary, even before I saw this month’s Esquire. Did you see him, with his model picture from the 1970’s? This man used

to be a model. This goes to show you that not all plastic surgery works. [Laughter] If you like the outfit he’s wearing tonight, however, you can order it from the White House spring catalog. [Laughter]

You know, I’m sorry I’ve never been here before. I really do like all of you very much. But it wasn’t until a few days ago that I found out that this is the only place I could be with you and you wouldn’t have all those question-askers around with you. [Laughter]

One of the things I want to do is to compliment Mike McCurry’s policy of having the Press Office staff in the White House send him a note each day to show what good deeds they’ve done for the press corps or kick a dollar into the pizza fund. This, of course, was an expansion, an improvement on my original idea in which everybody at the White House kicks in a dollar anyway and we just order pizza. [Laughter]

Tonight I want to share with you some of the notes Mike has received from the staff:

To Mike from McNeely: “Yesterday I performed my annual ritual of getting out of the shot.” Think about that. [Laughter]