these people that came here to demonstrate. At least they care about something. At least they show up. At least they make their opinion known. At least they're fighting for something. They're standing up just like you are. Just like you are.

And I want to tell you, make no mistake about it, there's one thing I can do that none of you can do. I can go abroad to represent all of us. And when I do, it is a feeling I can't even put into words for you, because I'm no longer Bill Clinton, and I'm not even really the President. You just become the United States. And you realize what a very great country this is, what we stand for and what we can do.

No one has been more willing to be critical of Government that doesn't work than I have. But for people to go around and say, "It doesn't matter what I do; it doesn't matter how I vote; it won't make any difference"—it does make a difference. It does make a difference. You got the family and medical leave law, the Brady bill, a doubling of tax breaks on low-income working people. You have a whole new economic strategy. You've got the deficit cut in half. You've got a telecommunications law now that provides for honest opportunity for everybody to compete in this brave new world in a way that advances the public interest, all because of the votes in the last election. It does make a difference.

But more importantly, it bothers me when I hear people say that our Government is intrinsically bad and every penny is wasted. My friend James Carville has written a book which I commend to you in which he says that in the last 30 years we have spent half of your tax money on just three things: national defense, Social Security, and Medicare. Now you decide if you got your money's worth. What happened? We won the cold war, and there are no missiles pointed at the United States or any of its people tonight. In spite of the fact that most people over 65 live on very modest incomes, we have cut the rate of poverty among our seniors in half because of Social Security. And most important for the present budget debate, if you live to be 65 in this country, our seniors have the highest life expectancy of any group of seniors in the entire world. So I think we got our money's worth. And it shows you what we can do when we go together and when we work together and when we stand together.

Now, don't let anybody fool you, folks. It's just like I said 4 years ago. This election is fundamentally about you and your families, your children, your future, your dreams, and your challenges. It belongs to you. And you have to seize it. The first thing you got to do is show up, be heard, and be counted. The second thing you have to do is to go to your friends and neighbors and get them to do the same thing.

And then what you have to remember is—I will say it again—no country like this has ever existed. Look around this room. Just look at each other. Look at all the differences that leap out at you, the differences in age, the differences in physical condition, the differences in racial and ethnic background. Look at it all. And it all works when we realize that we must go forward together.

I believe more strongly than anything else—you've got to decide—I am telling you there is no challenge out there we cannot meet. But we all got to show up. We have to put all our players on the field. And I want you to start Tuesday. Say to yourselves, your friends, your neighbors, we are going to go out there and take a stand for our future, and we are going to do it together.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:11 p.m. in the gymnasium at New Hampshire College. In his remarks, he referred to Jason Sabatino, student body president, and Donna Soucy, Manchester alderman.

Message on the Observance of Presidents' Day, 1996
February 17, 1996

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Presidents' Day, 1996. I am pleased and proud that so many of our citizens gather at this time each
year to celebrate our nation’s rich history and
to pay tribute to the office of the Presidency.
America has been blessed with many great
and good leaders over the past two centuries.
The Presidents we honor with special pride on
this day—George Washington and Abraham Lin-
colin—accepted the burdens of their office at
moments of great national challenge and set a
shining example for those who were to follow.
As the first President of the United States,
Washington played a vital part in defining the
role of the Presidency in America’s government
and national life. With courage and vision, he
ensured the steady course of American democ-
racy and, in relinquishing his office at the ap-
pointed time, established the peaceful transition
of power that has become the envy of other
nations around the world.
Abraham Lincoln preserved the Union that
Washington helped to create. He guided Amer-
ica through four years of painful and bloody
conflict, and at the end of his Presidency, we
were still one nation under God, and govern-
ment “of the people, by the people, and for
the people” had not perished from our land.
But Presidents alone cannot ensure America’s
success or preserve our freedom for future gen-
ergations. It falls to each and every citizen to
take part in the great experiment of American
democracy. As we face the unknown challenges
and exciting possibilities of a new century, let
us renew our resolve to participate actively in
the process of government, to stay informed and
committed, and to educate our children about
the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.
In this way we will keep faith with the great
men whose service and sacrifice we honor on
this day.

BILL CLINTON

Statement on the Railroad Accident in Silver Spring, Maryland
February 17, 1996

Today all Americans extend our thoughts and
prayers to the families of the people who died
in the train crash last night. We are working
hard to find out what caused this tragedy.
Several young men and women who died
were Job Corps trainees, returning from a train-
ing center in West Virginia—taking a journey
of personal responsibility. They were working
hard to better themselves, and we salute their
lives as we mourn their deaths.

Statement on the Death of Pat Brown
February 17, 1996

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of Gov.
Pat Brown’s death.
I am very grateful for the warm friendship
and wise counsel he generously extended to me
and for what he meant to America.
More than any other individual, he built mod-
ern California, with its great universities, high-
ways, and vital water system.
He loved people, and he loved politics. Always
positive and optimistic, he believed in the prom-
ise of America, and he brought out the best
in people, because they knew he was committed
to their future.
He was blessed with a wonderful wife andive children, who carried on his traditions of
public service. Our thoughts and prayers are
with Bernice, Jerry, Kathleen, Barbara, and Cyn-
thia, and Pat Brown’s grandchildren and great-
grandchildren. May his great heart and good
spirit be with them always.