

Feb. 19 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

*The President.* I believe that the speech I gave at the Pentagon was quite clear about that. We want to significantly reduce his capacity to produce chemical and biological weapons and his capacity to deliver them and to visit them on his people, his neighbors, and people throughout the world. I believe the more the American people learn about the dangers of chemical and biological warfare, the kinds of problems they can present to us now and in the future, the stiffer their resolve will be.

And so I feel that time is on our side. And I believe that 10 years from now, not in the

heat of this moment, 15 years from now, when people look back at this time, they will want to look back at a period when those of us in positions of responsibility fulfilled our responsibility by trying to rid the world of this danger.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, prior to his departure for Baltimore, MD. In his remarks, he referred to White House Counsel Charles F.C. Ruff.

## Exchange With Reporters in Baltimore, Maryland February 19, 1998

### *Living Classrooms Water Quality Experiment*

*Q.* Tell us, what does it mean?

*The President.* Well, this water is from here. So they wanted to test the water to see if it could accommodate life. And you had to put this free agent in the water, and then you shake it up, and then you match it up with these colors here, to see which one it's like. So we put it in here, and the color is most like this one—7.5 to 9, and then here's the chart. It's around neutral; this way it will accommodate life. If it's too acidic, obviously it won't. But if it gets way out here, it's too basic, it won't. So anywhere in this range, right, 7 to 10 is okay. And you see the color here is like in between these two.

I learned all that from Brandon here, my science instructor—[laughter]—my marine biology instructor here. You did a great job.

*Brandon Hunter.* Any time.

*The President.* And so did you, Aaron.

*The Vice President.* Aaron did a great job, too.

*Brandon.* This was fun.

*The President.* Was it fun for you?

*Brandon.* Yep.

*The President.* It was fun for us, too. Thanks.

### *Vice President's Travel*

*Q.* Mr. President, if you're grounding the Vice President, will you be skipping some of your trips over the next couple of weeks, too?

*The Vice President.* We're going to go do this event now, and then we'll—

*The President.* I didn't ground him. Don't get too carried away with the school metaphors here. I just asked him to stay around.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. at the Living Classrooms Foundation. In his remarks, he referred to Brandon Hunter and Aaron Hunt, Middlesex Elementary School students who participated in a water quality experiment. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

## Remarks Announcing the New Clean Water Initiative in Baltimore February 19, 1998

Thank you very much, Thank you. I don't know about you, but I thought that Larry Simms did a terrific job. Can we give him a hand?

[Applause] I've been in public life long enough to know when a guy throws a sucker punch. When he got up there and said, "Oh, I'm just