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Remarks at a "Take Our Daughters to Work" Luncheon

April 28, 1994

Well, first, let me join the First Lady and the Vice President in welcoming you here. It's delightful to look out at this sea of faces, to see the daughters of members of the White House staff, people who work for the National Government, people who work for the press, people who have come in from various schools around the Washington area and from other places. I know we've got a group here from Chicago over here, and I just had some pictures taken and shook hands with them.

When I was a much younger man, I was Governor of my State. And my daughter went to school one day, and she was 5 or 6 years old, and they said, "What does your father do for a living?" And she said, "He makes speeches"—which she pronounced "peaches" then—[*laughter*]—"drinks coffee, and talks on the telephone." And you know, that's about it. [*Laughter*] That's a pretty good description of it. And that's when she told me she wanted to be a scientist. [*Laughter*]

I am so pleased to see all of you here, and I especially want to thank the people who've come in from other places, too, to bring their children. I thank the Ms. Foundation and People magazine and everyone who is responsible for this lunch. The real message of this day, I think, is twofold: One is that we have to find a way to make it possible for all Americans to be successful as workers and successful as parents at the same time. We don't want there to be a division between our obligations to our children and our obligations to our work. And the second is, we want to say to the young women of our society: You can grow up to do anything, to be anything, to achieve anything that your imagination and your effort and your talent will let you achieve.

And so, I hope you have a wonderful day today. I hope this is something you'll always remember. And at the very least, I can say what this young lady, who is the daughter of one of our White House photographers and is working here—I said, "Are you having a good day today?" She said, "Sure, I got out of school." [*Laughter*]

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 12:45 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks on Presentation of the Presidential Awards for Design Excellence

April 28, 1994

Thank you very much. I'd like to first acknowledge the work of the jury, including the chair, Michael Vanderbyl, and the Members of Congress who have supported this endeavor, including Senator Pell, Congressmen de la Garza, Regula, Swett, and Yates.

We are here to honor the genius and skill of men and women whose work represents the highest level of excellence in American design, which consists of more than mere beauty; it is also at its best inspirational, enduring, functional and cost-effective. Design, at its best, can enrich our lives, beautify our surroundings, improve our productivity and performance, and even help to effect social change.

We see these qualities reflected in Federal design projects all across our Nation, from the wonderful monuments here in the Nation's Capital, to the simple elegance of Dulles Airport, to the highways of the Southwest, the day care centers in Baltimore, the secure telephones in Federal agencies, even to some of our Government catalogs.

The Federal Government is the largest purchaser of design services in the world. And the designs we commission should reflect not only the best artistic execution available but also taxpayers' money well spent. Each of the eight projects chosen for the Presidential Awards for Design Excellence combine beauty, utility, and economy in a truly unique way.

The Army Corps of Engineers' novel navigational channel system, Bendway Weirs, will save millions of dollars every year on dredging and reduce navigational delays along a 180-mile stretch of the Mississippi River. That's something, because of my previous life, I know a little about.