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fice. The more I do it, the more I understand why. [*Laughter*]

[*A question was asked, and President Mitterrand answered in French, and a translation was not provided.*]

Q. [*In French; translation not provided.*]

President Clinton. Thank you.

Q. [*In French; translation not provided.*]

President Clinton. Bill, Mr. President, either one.

Q. [*In French; translation not provided.*]

President Clinton. You know more about that than I do.

Thank you.

NOTE: The interview began at 8:05 p.m. at the Elysée Palace with Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, TF1, and Christine Ockrent, FRANCE 2 television. In his remarks, the President referred to Jacques Delors, President, European Commission.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by President François Mitterrand in Paris

June 7, 1994

Mr. President, Madame Mitterrand, Mr. Prime Minister, Madame Balladur, distinguished citizens of France, my fellow Americans, and honored guests, this week, as our two nations mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day and the battles of World War II, I'm glad to have this chance to note the special place France will always have in America's heart. So many of our greatest sons and daughters have shared that attachment. Our first two ministers to this great land were Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. Franklin Roosevelt loved France. So did John and Jacqueline Kennedy.

As President, every day as I go to work I am reminded of the bonds between our two nations. The park across the street from the White House is Lafayette Park. No statue in all of Washington stands closer to the Oval Office itself than that of Rochambeau. Today we're building new bonds between our republics as we work together to address the great endeavors of our time, many of which the President has already outlined, building bridges toward the East, opening the world markets, doing what we can to support democracy, working to strengthen the NATO Alliance and to unify Europe through the Partnership For Peace, cooperating to address the most difficult and painful conflicts of this era. Mr. President, the United States supports a strong Europe, an integrated Europe, a Europe with political and economic and security unity and singleness of purpose with its appreciation of diversity.

We wish to be partners with you in the common struggles of the 21st century. The fact that we have sometimes a difficult partnership makes it all the more interesting and also makes some things in life less necessary.

Our wonderful Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin, once said, "Our enemies are our friends, for they show us our faults." Sometimes with the French and the Americans we no longer need enemies. [*Laughter*] But it is always in the spirit of goodwill and brotherhood.

I can honestly say that with every passing day of my Presidency I come to appreciate France more, the strength, the will, the vision, the possibilities of genuine partnership. I think it is our common destiny, as you alluded, Mr. President, to see that our countries remain forever young, forever restless, forever questing, forever looking for new hills to climb, new challenges to meet, new problems to solve.

As I was preparing for this visit, I was given something by another of America's greatest admirers of your nation, our Ambassador, Mrs. Harriman, She sent me a poem composed in memory of the gallant soldiers who died on D-Day, from the members of the Allied effort to storm the beaches of Normandy to the shadow warriors of the French Resistance and the Free French army, without whom Europe would not be free today. Here it is:

Went the day well.
We died and never knew.
But well or ill,
Freedom, we died for you.

Mr. President, the United States and France are destined forever to be the beacons of freedom for the entire world. Please join me now in a toast to the democratic spirit of our beloved nations, to the heroes of D-Day whose sacrifices we came to honor, and to the proposition that the spirit of liberty

should burn forever brightly in the hearts of all the people of France and the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:19 p.m. in the Salle des Fetes at the Elysée Palace. In his remarks, he referred to Danielle Mitterrand, wife of President Mitterrand; Marie Joseph Balladur, wife of Prime Minister Balladur; and U.S. Ambassador to France Pamela Harriman.

Statement on Assistance to California

June 7, 1994

Californians have been working extraordinarily hard to get their homes, their businesses, and their lives back to normal. This is creating unexpected and unprecedented need for assistance from the Federal Government. This recommendation should assure the people of southern California that our commitment to help them get back on their feet remains strong and unwavering.

NOTE: The President's statement was included in a statement by Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers on the President's request to Congress for additional funds to assist the State of California in the wake of the earthquake earlier this year.

Remarks on Receiving a Doctorate in Civil Law from Oxford University in Oxford, United Kingdom

June 8, 1994

Thank you very much, Chancellor, distinguished members of the university community. I must say that it was quite easy for me to take the chancellor's gentle ribbing about the Presidency, since he is probably the only chancellor of this great university ever to have written a biography of an American President. I thank you for your biography of President Truman and for your leadership and for honoring me.

You know, as I walked today through the streets of Oxford with my wife and with my classmate, now the Secretary of Labor in our administration, Mr. Reich, who is here, it seemed almost yesterday when I first came here. And I remembered when I walked in this august building today how I always felt a mixture of elation and wariness, bordering on intimidation, in your presence. I thought if there was one place in the world I could come and give a speech in the proper language, it was here, and then I heard the degree ceremony. [*Laughter*] And sure enough, once again at Oxford I was another Yank a half step behind. [*Laughter*]

This week the world has taken a profound journey of remembrance. Here in Great Britain, in the United States and France and Italy, all around the world we have reflected on a time when the sheer will of freedom's forces changed the course of this century.

Many of you in this room, including my good friend, the former warden of Rhodes House, Sir Edgar Williams, who is here with me today, played a major role in that great combat. It was a great privilege and honor for me to represent the United States in paying tribute to all the good people who fought and won World War II, an experience I have never had the like of and one which has profoundly deepened my own commitment to the work the people of the United States have entrusted to me.

I am also deeply honored by this degree you have bestowed on me, as well as the honorary fellowship I received from my college today. I must say that, as my wife pointed out, I could have gotten neither one of these things on my own. [*Laughter*] I had to be elected President to do it—with her help. Indeed, it was suggested on the way over here that if women had been eligible for the Rhodes Scholarship in 1968, I might be on my way home to Washington tonight at this very moment. [*Laughter*]

I am profoundly grateful for this chance to be with you and for this honor, not only because of the wonderful opportunity I had to live and study here a quarter century ago but because of the traditions, the achievements, the spirit of discovery, and the deep inspiration of this noble university. Even in a country so steeped in history, there are few institutions as connected to the past as Oxford. Every ritual here, no matter how small, has a purpose, reminding us that we must be part of something larger than ourselves, heirs to a proud legacy.

Yet Oxford could hardly be called backward-looking. Over the centuries, as a center of inquiry and debate, this great university