

[The participant, who graduated from high school with Hillary Clinton, asked if their 30th reunion could be held at the White House.]

The President. That's a decision for her to make. But I'll bet you she would like to welcome you here at the White House. I'm trying to work out an opportunity to welcome my 30th high school reunion class to the White House as well. I think both of us would like that very much. And I will tell her that you asked. I'm sure—I hope she's watching this morning, but I'll tell her. And I'll bet she would love that.

O.J. Simpson

Q. Mr. President, let me close, if I could, with one that isn't a national issue but one I'm sure you have some feelings on. The entire country, as you know, watched the O.J. Simpson drama unfold last week. What are your own personal thoughts about the fall from grace of such an American hero?

The President. Well, it's a genuine tragedy. In some ways it's a story as old as time; in some ways it's a modern story. It's of course the biggest tragedy because two people were killed. Children were robbed of a mother, a family's lost loved ones, and a man widely admired in this country is now caught in the web of a terrible tragedy. But I have to say that after we all watched it in excruciating detail last weekend, the time has now come for the legal process to take its course. I think the less the rest of us say from now on in until the legal process takes its course, the better.

Q. Mr. President, we thank you very much for taking the time to be with us—

The President. Thank you.

Q. —helping to christen our new studio. We appreciate it and hope you'll come back.

Q. Next time President Clinton, come here to New York and see us.

The President. Oh, I'd like that. I'd like to be looking—I'd like to be on the outside looking in, asking you questions. [Laughter]

Q. For a change, I guess, right?

The President. That's right.

NOTE: The interview began at 7:09 a.m. The President spoke via satellite from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred

to the first "Today" show host, Dave Garroway. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Nomination for a United States Court of Appeals Judge

June 20, 1994

The President today nominated David S. Tatel to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

"David Tatel has an extraordinary record of dedication and achievement in the legal profession," the President said today. "He has set an example for lawyers both in the private sector and in public service with his lifelong commitment to protecting and preserving the rights of all Americans."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Arpad Goncz of Hungary and President Michal Kovac of Slovakia

June 21, 1994

The President. May I first just make an opening comment here. The United States is very honored to have the Hungarian President, Mr. Goncz, and the Slovak President, Mr. Kovac, here. They are on their way to New York to receive a well-deserved award for their common commitment to democracy and reform. They have supported both, steadfastly and with great courage and consistency. And I have personally enjoyed very much the relationship that we have had working together on the Partnership For Peace concept and in many other areas, and I look forward to their progress.

And I congratulate the people of Hungary and the Slovak Republic for their steadfastness, even in the face of great difficulty, and their leaders for their genuine leadership ability. So, it's a great honor for us to have them here in the White House. And we will be talking about the role the United States will be playing with them and the other coun-

tries of Central and Eastern Europe, now and in the years ahead, in this meeting.

Partnership For Peace

Q. Mr. President, is Russia going to sign the Partnership For Peace tomorrow in Brussels, that you know of?

The President. We hope so. We hope they will be doing it in the next few days. I'm not sure exactly whether all the details have been worked out. But when President Yeltsin and I spoke a couple of days ago about the Korean matter, we talked a bit about that. And I expect them to join the Partnership For Peace sometime in the next few days.

North Korea

Q. And have you opened up a channel to North Korea in the aftermath of former President Carter's—

The President. Well, we have a channel of communications to them. And we have followed up President Carter's statements to me and his letter of understanding with a communication to the North Koreans, and we will be waiting to hear back. And we expect and hope to hear back within a couple of days about whether President Carter's understanding of what they said is correct.

Legal Defense Fund

Q. President Clinton, have you decided whether to launch a legal defense fund?

The President. I have nothing to say about that.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:44 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Business Roundtable June 21, 1994

Thank you very much, John. I'm trying to fix this lectern, if you're wondering what I'm doing up here. I'm proving that I don't have sufficient mechanical skills. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank John for his leadership as the chairman of this distinguished group and welcome the incoming chair, John Snow, with whom I just shared a few words about

some of our common interests in Europe. I'd also like to say a special word of appreciation to two of your members for working on issues that we share a common concern about, Joe Gorman, who's chairing your session on education, and Larry Perlman, who's chairing the work force development section and discussing the reemployment act that he's helping us to work on and about which I wish to talk today. I want to thank the Business Roundtable for sharing a belief with me and with our administration that we have to move aggressively to embrace the challenges of the global economy. That, after all, is why we worked hard on the North American Free Trade Agreement and why we are working together to pass the GATT agreement.

I also want to thank you for our common understanding of a simple but powerful truth, which is that even as we lower barriers to trade around the world, we must work hard to lift our people up here at home so that they can compete and win and carry on their work and build their lives. Investing in our people's God-given potential is good economics. You know that, and I do. It pays off in higher productivity, more incomes, a competitive edge for our companies and our country in the global marketplace. We talk about this all the time in the White House. I see my Chief of Staff, Mr. McLarty, and our Economic Adviser, Mr. Rubin; the Deputy Treasury Secretary, Mr. Altman, is here. There may be others here from the administration. These are things that we say all the time in our meetings. I appreciate the work that you did in helping us to pass the Goals 2000 legislation, one of the most important education reforms in a generation in this country. When we work together, we can do things that help America prepare for the future.

I think today is an especially appropriate day for me to be here, speaking with you about how we can better prepare our country for change. Fifty years ago tomorrow, as the Allied armies advanced from the beaches of Normandy, President Roosevelt signed a bill that was called the Serviceman's Readjustment Act, better known as the GI bill of rights. Just as D-Day was the greatest military action in history, the GI bill arguably was the greatest investment in our people