AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

of the various influence centers in our society to reinstill character and give a good life to our people. But the fundamental fact is that this is a very great country, and nearly everybody is still getting up every day and doing the very best they can to do what is right. Nearly everybody desperately wants to have children who have good character and who do good and who are good, nearly everybody.

So I think what you are here about is profoundly important. But what I want to say to you is, do not be discouraged. In the light of the whole history of our Republic, this is our job at this time. It is not an undoable job. It is profoundly important. It will be difficult because of all the forces working on people's state of mind that undermine what we have to do. Because it's so much easier in the world today to identify what we're against instead of what we're for. It's so much easier in the world today not to look at the problems within our own hearts and minds because we can always find somebody we think is worse. So it is so much easier to put this off and delay it. And there are no institutions really for bringing us all together, across all the lines that divide us, in our common cause of building what is good about America and building up what is good within the character of our people. But we can do it. And I believe we will.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Amitai Etzioni, founder and chair, Communitarian Network.

Statement on the Hospitalization of Former Defense Secretary Les Aspin

May 20, 1995

I was saddened to hear that former Defense Secretary Les Aspin was hospitalized earlier today. Hillary and I wish him a speedy recovery. Our prayers are with him and his family at this time.

Statement on the Second Anniversary of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993

May 20, 1995

Two years ago today, I signed into law the National Voter Registration Act, better known as ''motor-voter.'' This common sense law is making it easier for all Americans to register to vote. Motor-voter promised to open up the democratic process, and I am pleased to report that it is delivering on that promise.

Across America, nearly 2 million citizens have registered to vote in the 5 months since the law went into effect. In Georgia, 180,000 people registered in the first 3 months of this year, compared to only 85,000 all last year. In North Carolina, 30,000 citizens are registering per month, up from 6,000 a month in 1991. And in Alabama, 43,000 people registered in the first 3 months of this year, compared to only 23,000 in the same period last year.

Motor-voter is working because it makes sense. The Act simply requires States to make registration easier by making more forms available, at motor vehicle offices, social agencies, and through the mail. It is that simple.

Motor-voter is the latest step in our Nation's efforts to enfranchise all our citizens, giving them the power to affect their own destiny and our common destiny by participating fully in our democracy. I am proud to see it working so well.

Remarks at the White House Photographers Association Dinner

May 20, 1995

I want to gets lots of records of you clapping for me. [*Laughter*] Well, ladies and gentlemen, tonight, I feel your pain. [*Laughter*] Is there a courier around here anywhere? [*Laughter*] I hate these name tags. [*Laughter*]

I just wanted you to see what it feels like to have your picture taken when you're eating. [*Laughter*]

I am here tonight to address a very relevant issue: The President is funny. The power of the Presidency makes me funny. [*Laughter*] If you don't believe me, don't laugh at these jokes, have a nice audit. [*Laughter*]

You know, I used to complain about how all of you were trying to get my attention, you know, for photos—''Over here!'' ''Over here!'' ''Over here!'' ''Over here!'' ''Just one more!'' ''Just one more!''—and I didn't like the way you tried to get my attention until I heard about how the Russian police tried to get Jeremy Gaines' attention last week. [*Laughter*] Now you can ''just one more'' me from now to Kingdom come, and I won't bite. [*Laughter*]

You know, I thought Mike McCurry was a model Press Secretary, even before I saw this month's Esquire. Did you see him, with his model picture from the 1970's? This man used to be a model. This goes to show you that not all plastic surgery works. [*Laughter*] If you like the outfit he's wearing tonight, however, you can order it from the White House spring catalog. [*Laughter*]

You know, I'm sorry I've never been here before. I really do like all of you very much. But it wasn't until a few days ago that I found out that this is the only place I could be with you and you wouldn't have all those question-askers around with you. [*Laughter*]

One of the things I want to do is to compliment Mike McCurry's policy of having the Press Office staff in the White House send him a note each day to show what good deeds they've done for the press corps or kick a dollar into the pizza fund. This, of course, was an expansion, an improvement on my original idea in which everybody at the White House kicks in a dollar anyway and we just order pizza. [*Laughter*]

Tonight I want to share with you some of the notes Mike has received from the staff:

To Mike from McNeely: ''Yesterday, I performed my annual ritual of getting out of the shot.'' Think about that. [*Laughter*]

To Mike from Josh: ''I held Paul Hosefros, of the New York Times by the feet and suspended him from the ceiling so the New York Times could run one more bizarre angle of the President's picture.'' [*Laughter*]

To Mike from Ralph: ''I gave Ira Wyman CPR after he jogged with the President.'' [*Laughter*]

To Mike from Sharon: ''I helped Ken Lambert prepare for his interview with Jesse Helms regarding his pending NEA grant.'' [*Laughter*]

Now, not everybody could meet Mike's challenge, so the pizza fund only had about 20 bucks in it. So I decided the First Lady should manage the fund. [*Laughter*] And she has invested it so wisely—[*laughter*]—that beginning Monday morning, daily, the Four Seasons will be catering filet mignon in the Press Office. [*Laughter*]

I had a wonderful time tonight being on the other end of the camera.

I want to congratulate the award winners and to say to all of you, the photographers, editors, engineers, producers, and cameramen and women with whom I've shared these extraordinary past couple of years, I watch your work with great appreciation. You have transmitted images that no one who was there could every forget. I know I'll never forget, from the DMZ in Korea to the swollen banks of the Mississippi River to the beaches of Normandy, the NCAA championship—the one I liked—[*laughter*]—this remarkable picture on the cover of your program, which hangs in my private office in the White House because I liked it so much.

And like the priest who gave us the wonderful invocation, I want to say a special word of thanks for the work all of you did to make Oklahoma City real to us, both the agony and America at its best.

The great photojournalists, the men and women who are carrying on the great tradition of Mathew Brady, from the Civil War to Robert Capa's D-Day photography to Joe Rosenthal's remarkable memory of Iwo Jima, I salute you all.

I thank you for what you have done. And I hope that as we continue our journey together, me in the limo and you guys 20 cars behind—[*laughter*]—you will every now and then cut me a little slack for being nearly 50 and a bit on the heavy side. [*Laughter*]

Now before I leave tonight, I want to make one very important policy announcement. I will not jog in the morning. In fact, I will

do nothing until 10:45 a.m., so the pool call time is 10:30 a.m., not 6:45 a.m. [*Applause*]

Now I'm going to go so you can enjoy the rest of the evening. Now, I'll start late so you can have a good night's sleep. The pool has to go with me and the rest of you can stay. [*Laughter*] Ralph, you can stay, too. [*Laughter*]

Good night, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:10 p.m. at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to official White House photographer Ralph Alswang.

Statement on the Death of Les Aspin

May 21, 1995

I speak for millions of Americans when mourning the death today of Les Aspin and join many others in saying that he was my friend.

As a Member of the House of Representatives for 22 years, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee for 8, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, Les rendered our Nation extraordinary, selfless service.

Les Aspin accomplished greatly because he cared greatly. He brought the same commitment to his most recent assignment that he brought to Washington as a young Congressional aide, staff assistant at the Council of Economic Advisors, and Defense Department official in the 1960's.

No one knew better than he how Washington works, but he never thought of it as a game for its own sake. He was here to make a difference. And he did. He probed and helped shape a generation of American defense policies and budgets, culminating in the decisive bottom-up review of our military strategy, which he conducted as Secretary of Defense.

Les Aspin was unique. He brought the light of his joy in living and the heat of his intellect to every occasion. He never met a person who didn't like him. And we all will miss him.

Remarks on Signing the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

May 22, 1995

Thank you very much. Mr. Bersoff, thank you for your comments and for the outstanding example of the family business you have built to such a remarkable extent. Thank you, Sally Katzen.

Before I begin, as a matter of personal privilege, I would just like to say a brief word about the death of my good friend Les Aspin. Hillary and I grieve his loss, and along with all other Americans, we thank him for the remarkable service he rendered to our country as a distinguished Congressman from Wisconsin, as the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the House, as Secretary of Defense, and as head of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. He did a lot of work to keep us safe through a turbulent time, and we are all very, very much in his debt.

Let me thank the Members of Congress who are here. You know, I've got to say, I was sitting here listening to Mr. Bersoff talk, and I thought it'll be a miracle if we get this on the news tonight, because this is something we did without anybody fighting. [*Laughter*] And the real reason this languished around for 5 years was because nobody was fighting anybody else about it. And after I got here, I discovered some of the best ideas in Washington were not being implemented simply because there was no anger attached to them. It's a sad thing to say, but it's absolutely right.

And so, sometimes energy is not behind things that hang around here for years, because there's no real brutal conflict. And in that context, I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here for overcoming all the inertia against consensus—[*laughter*]—and actually passing a bill that everybody was for. And I thank you. I thank Senators Nunn, Roth, and Glenn; Representatives Meyers, Sisisky, Peterson, and Davis, all of whom are here, and of course, former Congressman Horton and former Senator, now Governor Lawton Chiles for the work that they have done.

This is a remarkable bill, and I want to talk about what it does. But first, let me say