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work together and to learn by doing in that way.

So I would urge you all to do everything you can to increase the involvement of your students in community service projects. We can change the character of America by changing the attitudes, the approach, the intuitive responses of this young generation, this brilliant, aggressive, intelligent, and energetic group of people toward the idea of community.

I see all these surveys that talk about how pessimistic or cynical people are, but the truth is, cynicism is an excuse for inaction and an awful poor one. It's a poor rationalization for believing that nothing you do makes any difference.

And so I ask you all to remember that. You have these people, even though the age of college students is getting increasingly higher, none of us are too old to give a little something back and to be given an opportunity to give something to our community. And you can do that in a unique way that opens up the way people think about America and its future.

I believe—I will say again—I believe that the younger generation today will live in a time of greatest possibility America has ever known. But in order to make it really work, those possibilities have to be available to all Americans who are willing to work for them. And they have to be available in a country that is coming together across its divisions, not drifting apart.

The changing nature of work, the changing nature of work organizations, the changing nature of markets are all putting pressures to divide, to split up, to splinter off an American community that still needs very much to move closer together, to open opportunity to everybody, to tackle our social problems, and to make this country what it ought to be.

There are no people in America better positioned to lead this country in the right direction than you are. Thank you for your fight for higher education, thank you for your fight for student aid. Please, please, take on these other challenges, and let's give this country the kind of future it deserves.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:28 p.m. in the Ticonderoga Room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Michael Adams, chair, board of directors, Ann Die, vice chair, and David Warren, president, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; and President Jiang Zemin of China.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation With President Rene Preval of Haiti

February 7, 1996

President Preval. Good evening, Mr. President.

President Clinton. Hello?

President Preval. Good evening, Mr. President.

President Clinton. Good evening. I wanted to call you and offer you my congratulations on your inauguration.

As you know better than I, this is the first democratically elected transfer of power in Haiti in the history of your nation, and it's a real advance for democracy in our hemisphere and a great opportunity for your country, and I'm proud that the United States has been supporting you.

Translator. You can go on, Mr. President. He understands English.

President Clinton. Well, I just wanted to say those things and also to assure you that we are aware that you still have a lot to do, a big agenda ahead of you, but so much has been accomplished. You've had these peaceful elections. You have restored democratic institutions, including the Presidency and the Parliament. You have dismantled the repressive FADH. You have shown some economic growth last year. You have 5,000 people in the national police force, and there has been a dramatic decline in deaths due to political violence.

So for all those things, even as we look to the challenges ahead, I know you are proud, and you should be proud. And I'm very glad that Ambassador Albright and Deputy Secretary Talbott and others from the United States delegation were able to be there. General Sheehan was at your inauguration, and he's already back here visiting with me, and he brought me a new baseball made in Haiti with "Operation Uphold De-

mocracy'' on it. So it's my souvenir from your inauguration, Mr. President, and it's a great day for you and a great day for all of us who believe in freedom and who support you.

President Preval. Mr. President, on behalf of the Haitian people, I thank you very much for this call. I know that you are so much busy that I appreciate very much this gesture.

[*At this point President Preval spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter*.]

I'm going to be more comfortable if I continue in French, Mr. President.

President Clinton. Please do.

President Preval. As you, yourself said, you played a very great role amid the U.N. effort to help restore democracy in Haiti, and we thank you for that. We have been independent for 193 years, and this is the very first time that one President transfers power to another democratically elected President.

But as you very well know, the challenges before me are enormous, because democracy cannot take place without economic development. And on the economic front, we are going to make every effort that we possibly can to give satisfaction to the Haitian people. And in particular, we would like to invite American investors to come to Haiti to invest.

Our police is yet weak, and we certainly want to strengthen it to consolidate it still further in order to safeguard security in Haiti.

Mr. President, I know how terribly busy you are, and as disappointed as the Haitian people were that you weren't able to be here, when they hear that you have called, they will, I am sure, be truly delighted.

Merci beaucoup.

President Clinton. *Merci*, Mr. President. You tell them that I'm still supporting them and their freedom, and the United States is still supporting them, and we will do what we can to encourage investment, to get the economic development going and, as you know, we want to continue to provide some support through civil engineering and infrastructure projects and some other things that we can do consistent with the ongoing partnership that we want to have with our two countries. So we will be there with you, and we're excited for this day and ready for the work ahead.

President Preval. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Clinton. Have a wonderful evening. It's a great day for you.

President Preval. And I hope that we'll have the pleasure to meet very soon.

President Clinton. Yes, I do, too. I'm looking forward to that.

President Preval. Thank you very much.

President Clinton. Thank you, and goodbye. Thank you.

President Preval. Thank you to your family.

President Clinton. Thank you.

NOTE: The conversation began at 4:16 p.m. The President spoke from the Oval Office at the White House.

Proclamation 6865—150th Anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution

February 7, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

When James Smithson, an English scientist, died in 1829, he gave his entire estate ''to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.'' This extraordinary gift, amounting to one and one-half times the Federal budget of the day, led to passage of an Act of Congress establishing the Smithsonian Institution. Signed by President James Polk on August 10, 1846, this legislation created a Board of Regents to oversee the execution of Smithson's trust.

Today, 150 years later, the Smithsonian Institution is famed around the globe, and its collections are enjoyed by thousands of Americans and foreign visitors every day. Through dedicated original research, the preservation of an unequaled collection of artifacts, and the presentation of public exhibitions and programs, the Smithsonian truly embodies its benefactor's dream. As one of