

Because now, anybody that ever cussed out the present welfare system has nothing left to kick around. This is now everybody's problem, and everybody's opportunity, and everybody can play a role in it. So every community of any size that has any substantial group of children and parents on the welfare rolls now has the opportunity, literally, to explode the myth of poverty, break the culture of poverty, and bring huge numbers of people back into the mainstream. It will only work if people say, "You know, I could do that. I could hire one other person, especially if they can give me that, and I can train those folks. And if you subsidize the training in that way—well, if there's a few problems getting people adjusted to the work force, well, so what, I'm getting a little help to do that, so it's not the end of the world."

Every one of you needs to think about that. That's a big challenge for Philadelphia and a big challenge for America. But if we meet it, if we meet it, if we can prove that we've got a community-based, caring, work-oriented, child-oriented system for poor families, we can take care of our children, liberate their parents from their difficulties, and prove that all of the myths that a lot of people have used to kick poor people around for years are wrong, by taking responsibility for developing a system that is oriented toward success at home and success at work. That's what we want for all the rest of us. That's what we should want for those folks, too. And I hope you will help us build that bridge to the 21st century.

This is a good time to be an American because we know things are going better than they were. We know things are going in the right direction. But this is no time for complacency, no time for complacency in the political campaign. Believe me, it is not over; in some ways it may be just about to begin. It is not over. But most importantly, this is no time for complacency for us as Americans. We have work to do. We have work to do to get to the 21st century with the American dream alive for all, with an America that's coming together, with an America that's still able to lead the world toward peace and freedom and prosperity. But if we do, our best days are still to come.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:21 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Warwick Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Donald L. Fowler, co-chair, Democratic National Committee; Thomas A. Leonard, fundraiser for the Democratic National Committee; and Mayor Edward Rendell of Philadelphia.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Extend Most-Favored-Nation Status to Cambodia

September 25, 1996

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 1642, a bill to extend most-favored-nation (MFN) status to Cambodia after a bilateral trade agreement between the United States and Cambodia has entered into force.

This legislation is an important milestone in U.S.-Cambodian relations. The United States was a major supporter of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), a peacekeeping success that led to free and fair elections in 1993 and the establishment of the Royal Government of Cambodia. The United States supports efforts in Cambodia to strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and foster economic development.

Most-favored-nation status will make it possible for Cambodia's private sector to realize its full development potential and will further improve the access American firms enjoy in Cambodia. United States export financing programs now will be able to go forward to the extent possible under the criteria established by relevant governing statutes. MFN will open the door to significant future opportunities as Cambodia seeks to join the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and takes steps to integrate itself into the dynamic regional economy of Southeast Asia.

My approval of this legislation reflects the strong U.S. support for the people of Cambodia in their efforts to overcome a tragic past and establish a democracy based on human rights and market economy reforms.

While I recognize that the process of democratization and development in Cambodia has not been easy, I believe MFN status will make an important contribution to achieving

our policy goals for a peaceful, prosperous, and free Cambodia. I am confident that with the support of the international community, Cambodia will continue to make progress and strengthen its efforts at economic reform and greater protection of human rights.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 25, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 1642, approved September 25, was assigned Public Law No. 104-203.

**Remarks at the Congressional
Hispanic Caucus Institute Dinner**
September 25, 1996

Thank you. Thank you so much. Well, I thought I had had a long day in Pennsylvania. [Laughter] I went to Pittsburgh and to Robert Morris College. Robert Morris was one of the main financiers of the American Revolution, and he quit the Continental Congress in 1778 because he thought they were printing too much hot money. I guess he would have quit the Congress in the 12 years the other folks were making economic policy. [Laughter]

I announced there, with Secretary Rubin, a new savings instrument for the American people, a bond that will appreciate with inflation, an inflation-proof savings bond that the American people will be able to buy from now on, so that families that are trying to save for their children's education or their retirement will always know that inflation will not eat up the value of a secure Government investment. I'm very proud of that; it was a good day.

I went then to Philadelphia, and I went down to the south side to eat a Philly cheesesteak; a lot of you have done that. And all the people were gathering in the neighborhood, and I met a lady who had just been in our country for 3 months. She had moved here from Hong Kong and she introduced me to her children and she said, "I can't believe this happens in America." I said, "Well, ma'am, that's the way it works here. I work for you, not the other way around." [Laughter] And she was pretty happy about that, and I was glad to see it.

So then I went to two events there and came home just in time to put on my uniform so I could come and be with you. [Laughter] I thank you, Ed Pastor, for your leadership. I thank all the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for their service to our country. Thank you, Rita Elizondo, for your leadership with the Caucus Institute; the Institute Fellows, thank you for your support. John Quinones, I wish I had heard you; you're probably better at this than I am. To the members of my Cabinet who are here and the members of our administration in every facet of it, I thank you for your service and for being here.

I would like to say a special word of thanks to my long-time friend Congressman Kika de la Garza. I heard the last of his remarks outside, and I loved it. I wish I had heard the whole thing. He is a wonderful man, much loved and much respected. He will be much missed, and we wish him well and thank him for his remarkable service.

As Ed said, this is the 4th year you have invited me and the 4th year I've showed up. You know, by this time of the year I'm normally pretty tired, even when it's not an election year. I come here out of purely selfish motives. There is more energy in this room than any other place I go all year long and you get me going, you know. As all of you know, I have been trying to sort of improve my Spanish as my daughter races off into the sunset of increasing fluency, and I try to demonstrate that every year. And it was suggested that I try to do something different this year, that maybe I should do the macarena, but Al Gore has a corner on that. I can't begin to move in the way he does doing that. So how about this: *Siempre es un placer estar con ustedes*.

Now, tomorrow I will get a grade on this from Bill Richardson. I hope the others will be more gracious.

This is the 19th anniversary of the Caucus Institute. You have worked to do some profoundly important things. You have worked to demonstrate what I have been working for in America, opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and an American community that truly includes all of us. For the last few weeks I've had the extraordinary opportunity to get out and around our country again. Hillary