AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Gambling on Indian Reservations

Q. Mr. President—[*inaudible*]—meeting, and can your administration do anything, any more to resolve the current logjam?

The President. No. There are some Indian gaming issues around the country that we still have the capacity to resolve. But the ones here are in the courts. And there's really nothing more for us to do except to let them work their way through the courts.

Q. Mr. President, the so-called dean of Native American leaders is not here today, Mescalero Apache President Wendell Chino. And he wants you to fire U.S. Attorney John Kelly, the man who shut down his casino and so do, frankly, some people on the stage with you today. Is that going to happen, sir?

The President. This issue is in the courts now, and I have no further comment.

Campaign Contributions

Q. Mr. President, do you seek, in fact, the disputed $450,000? Everyone in the administration said there's nothing illegal—but there's some ethical issues been raised. We haven't heard you say much about it.

The President. Well I—first of all, I expect to have the opportunity to discuss that tomorrow night. But I believe that the political parties should not give back contributions that were legally made and legally received. And if they made a mistake and took any money that shouldn't have been taken, then they ought to give that back. I think that there are clear FEC rules on this. There's a law on this. That's what we've got a Federal Election Commission for. And we know they're capable of doing their job because they've taken action this year already.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:40 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Pyramid Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Albert Hale, President, Navajo Nation, and Leonard D. Garcia, Governor, Pueblo of Santa Ana, Southern Pueblos.

Exchange With Reporters in San Diego, California

October 16, 1996

Presidential Debate

Q. Can you tell us what you're thinking about—[*inaudible*]—today?

The President. It's been a long time since I've done one of these town halls, so I'm looking forward to that. I'm interested to see what the people have on their mind, and I'm looking forward to it. I've done my best to prepare. I've still got some reading to do. I'm going to go back and do a little work now.

Q. If Bob Dole goes real negative how are you going to respond to that today, Mr. President?

The President. Well, we're going to respond to the people who are in the audience. That's the way this was designed, and we'll just see what happens. I'm going to do my best to respond to their questions and to talk about what I'm going to do for the next 4 years.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:30 p.m. en route to the debate site. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Presidential Debate in San Diego

October 16, 1996

Jim Lehrer. Good evening from the Shiley Theatre at the University of San Diego, San Diego, California. I'm Jim Lehrer of the "NewsHour" on PBS. Welcome to this second 1996 Presidential debate between Senator Bob Dole, the Republican nominee, and President Bill Clinton, the Democratic nominee. It is sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates.

We will follow a townhall-type format tonight. The questions over the next 90 minutes will come from 113 citizens of the greater San Diego area. They were chosen in the past week by the Gallup organization to represent a rough cross-section of voters as to political views, age, gender, and other factors. Each said he or she is undecided about this Presidential race.

They were told to come tonight with questions. Nobody from the Debate Commission or the two campaigns has any idea what those questions are; neither do I. We will all be hearing them for the first time at the same time. I met with this group 3 hours ago, and we spoke only about how it was going to work tonight. They are sitting in five sections. I will call on individuals at random, moving from one section to another with each new