

adults to drink responsibly and moderately—since the .08 BAC standard is not reached until a 170-pound man has had more than four drinks in an hour, and three for a typical woman.

This should not be a partisan issue. Indeed, the bipartisan work of Congresswoman Lowey and Congressman Canady and Senators Lautenberg and DeWine, proves that when leaders from both parties come together, we can set aside political differences to save lives and serve America. It is my fervent hope that the majority of the House will join the large bipartisan majority in the Senate and send me legislation that will make our streets safe, our drivers sober, and our laws more sensible.

### **Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Campaign Finance Reform Legislation**

*March 30, 1998*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

The Congress has an obligation and an opportunity to strengthen our democracy by passing comprehensive campaign finance reform. Instead, the Congressional leadership is attempting to derail serious, bipartisan campaign finance reform through procedural means.

The bipartisan plan proposed by Representatives Christopher Shays and Martin Meehan is genuine, tough reform, supported by a large number of lawmakers of both parties. It would address serious flaws in the campaign finance system, by banning unregulated “soft money” raised by both parties, addressing backdoor campaign spending by outside organizations, and strengthening disclosure. This bipartisan measure is the best chance in years to reduce the role of special interests, give voters a louder voice, and treat fairly incumbents and challengers of both parties. This measure has the support of a majority of the Senate, and I believe that if it were allowed to come for a vote, it would have the support of a majority of the House as well.

Instead, the House leadership has determined to thwart serious reform. It has refused to allow the Shays-Meehan bill even

to come up for a vote. Instead, it has offered a plan stocked with proposals—including the so-called “Paycheck Protection” and “Election Integrity” provisions—that are harshly partisan and plainly unacceptable.

Behind the blizzard of proposals and procedural complications, one thing is clear: this is a transparent effort to block reform. I call on the House of Representatives to rise to its responsibility, bring the Shays-Meehan bill to an up-or-down vote, and give the American people the reform they deserve.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

### **Interview With Ebony, Jet, and the American Urban Radio Network in Cape Town**

*March 27, 1998*

#### **Slavery**

**Q.** Mr. President, you’ve made it emphatically clear that you will not apologize for slavery. Do you understand why there’s such controversy around the issue, and are you prepared for Goree Island?

**The President.** Oh, yes. I think—it was interesting, because after I spoke in Ghana and then in Uganda, and when I spoke in Uganda about how wrong we were to be involved in the slave trade, some people in America said, “Well, why did you do this in Africa,” and “Why haven’t you done the same thing in America?” But most of my African-American friends and advisers don’t believe that we should get into what was essentially a press story about whether there should be an apology for slavery in America. They think that that’s what the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendment was; they think that’s what the civil rights legislation was; and they think we need to be looking toward the future.

But when an American President comes to Africa for the first time and makes a serious trip and a serious commitment to the future, I think recognizing the fact that we did a bad thing in being part of the slave trade, I think, is important here. So I think