AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

wife, Patricia, their sons, Steven and Scott, and the students, teachers, and schools of Seattle.

Remarks at WETA's "In Performance at the White House"

November 30, 1998

The President. Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, the American musical is one of our Nation's most beloved art forms. It's also one of the most encompassing. What other country can hum tunes from songwriters as varied as George Gershwin, Eubie Blake, Irving Berlin, Fats Waller, Cole Porter, Betty Comden, and Adolph Green?

And typical of our diverse Nation, the greatest excitement comes when America's various musical traditions intersect. When African-American, Jewish, and European classical traditions come together in the songs of George Gershwin, when Thomas "Fats" Waller and Andy Razaf mix the syncopation of jazz with the forms of popular musical theater, there is a new song in the world, a song that could only come from America.

Tonight we welcome to the East Room, from the musical theater, four artists who are at the top of their game. They have lent their voices to some of our most favorite American classics, and I'm sure they'll take American music to new heights in the next millennium and, hopefully, in the next few minutes.

I think it's appropriate that we've gathered here in America's home because tonight we're going to hear what these terrific performers sing at home, with no one to please but themselves.

And now please join me in welcoming our emcee for the evening. I first met him after I saw his terrific performance in "City of Angels," for which he won a Tony. He won another Tony for his role in "Chicago" and sang at both my inaugurations.

Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. James Naughton.

[*At this point, the entertainment proceeded.*]

The President. Was this great or what? [*Applause*] Unbelievable. They were wonderful. Thank you all. Mr. Naughton, thank you. I think you have a whole new career, the "Righteous Father's Sons." [*Laughter*]

Well, it's been said that it's easier to understand a nation by listening to its music than by learning its language. Tonight we heard the energy, the excitement, the very soul of America.

I want to thank all of our wonderful performers, James Naughton, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Jennifer Holliday, and Patti LuPone, and all the great musicians and arrangers who accompanied them. This was a very special night. They have given us a great gift.

Thank you all, and good night.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 7:50 p.m. in the East Room at the White House, and his remarks were recorded for later broadcast on WETA public television. The event was part of the White House Millennium Evenings Series.

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority Concerning Refugee Assistance

November 30, 1998

Presidential Determination No. 99–6

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Delegation of Authority Under Section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as Amended

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, I hereby delegate the functions and authorities conferred upon the President by section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act (MRAA) of 1962, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2601(b)(2), to the Secretary of State, who is authorized to redelegate these functions and authorities consistent with applicable law. The Secretary of State, or his or her delegate, is directed to provide notice to the President of any use of the functions and authorities delegated by this determination.

Any reference in this memorandum to section 2(b)(2) of the MRAA, as amended, shall be deemed to include references to any hereafter-enacted provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 1.

Remarks Announcing AIDS Initiatives

December 1, 1998

Thank you, Amy, for your magnificent remarks and the power of your example. Thank you, Cynthia, for coming to this big, scary crowd. [*Laughter*] She was nervous. I said, ''Well, look at the bright side. At least you got out of school for a day.'' [*Laughter*]

I thank the other children who are here with us. And I want to thank all the members of our administration who have helped so much in this cause: Secretary Albright; Brian Atwood; Dr. Satcher; our AIDS Policy Director, Sandy Thurman; members of the Council on HIV and AIDS. We're glad to have Nafis Sadik here, the Director of the U.N. Population Fund. Richard Socarides from the White House, I thank you and all the other members of the administration. And I, too, want to join in expressing my appreciation to the Members of Congress who Brian mentioned for their support for AIDS funding.

But I especially want to thank Amy for being here and reminding us of what this is all about. When she was speaking, my mind wandered back to an incident that occurred when I was running for President in 1992. Some of you have heard me say this before, but I was in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a place largely known for its enormous percentage of Czech and Slovak citizens. And there was in the crowd at this rally where I was speaking a woman who was either Czech or Slovak, probably, holding an African-American baby. And I said. ''Whose baby is this?'' She said, ''This is my baby.'' And I said, ''Where is this baby from?'' She said, ''Florida, I got her from Florida.'' [*Laughter*] And it was October in Cedar Rapids, and she should have been in Florida, probably. [*Laughter*] She said, ''This baby was born with AIDS and abandoned, and no one would take this baby.'' This woman had—her marriage had dissolved; she was raising her own children alone. But because she heard about children like this wonderful little girl, she adopted this baby.

And every year since, about once a year, I see this young child. I've watched her grow up now, and I'm happy to tell you that 6 years later she's still alive and doing pretty well. She comes to the NIH for regular checkups, and she comes by the White House to see her friend. And every time I see Jimiya, I am reminded of what this whole thing is about.

And I think I should tell you one other thing. When Amy was standing up here with me and I was telling her what a fine job she did, she said, ''I'm so glad that Cynthia could be here and that I could say Carla's name in your presence.''

This is, I think, very important for people who have not been touched in some personal way—who have never been at the bedside of a dying friend, who have never looked into the eyes of a child orphaned by AIDS or infected with HIV—to understand. And I believe, always, that if somehow we could reach to the heart of people, we would always do better in dealing with problems, for our mind always conjures a million excuses in dealing with any great difficulty.

Let me begin, even in this traumatic moment, to say we have a lot to celebrate on this AIDS Day. We celebrate the example of Amy and Cynthia. Just think, a decade ago people really believed that AIDS was unstoppable; the diagnosis was a virtual death sentence; there was an enormous amount of ignorance and prejudice and fear about HIV transmission. Most of us knew people who couldn't get into apartment houses or were being kicked out or otherwise—their children couldn't be in school because of fears that people had about it. Every day, for people who had HIV or AIDS and their families, every day was a struggle a decade ago, a struggle for basic information, for treatment, for funding, and all too often, for simple compassion.

For 6 years, thanks to many of you, we have worked hard to change this picture and so have tens of thousands of other people across our country and across the globe.