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Briefing Material /  
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## White House Entertaining

The President and I try to entertain a wide variety of people at the White House. At a dinner for the head of state of another country, we invite guests to reflect the interests and background of the honored guest. We also want to have these visitors from other countries meet some interesting Americans and to showcase some of our fine American talent. Like any good party, we like to have a mixture of people from many different occupations.

There is also a lot of more informal entertaining at the White House. The President and I, sometimes together and sometimes separately, have afternoon receptions for special groups. Again, we try to see that these groups represent many sections of our country and many interests.

Entertaining is perhaps more important for us than ever in our lives, because the White House does restrict our ability to meet people in a relaxed way. At these dinners and receptions, we can meet and talk to people. We've found that most people are relaxed in the White House, and we do get a chance to meet and talk to people we would not get to meet ordinarily.



I have to tell you that one of the reasons I'm so interested in the performing arts is because I'm a ham. I really enjoyed being on stage as a dancer, and I'm drawn to the excitement of the live performance.

There's a beautiful exhibit at the Kennedy Center all this year that tells about theatre in this country, and it shows that America has a long history of being in love with the stage.

I think some people think of the performing arts as something that happens only in New York. I don't. I find it very exciting to see people using their talents in little theaters, dance companies and school concerts all over America.

The professional performing arts aren't just the Metropolitan Opera or the San Francisco ballet, they encompass symphonies, dance companies and theater groups in every state, and these local groups are important in keeping alive traditions and in teaching our children about the magic of the live performance.



Cancer

When I think about my cancer operation so soon after we moved to the White House, I think of the verse from Ecclesiastes: "To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

And the reason I think of this verse is because the mastectomy I had alerted so many other women to breast cancer. Of course, the operation was a very difficult experience for me and my family, but it really did make me feel better emotionally to know how many lives my experience may have saved.

I know that if this had happened to me at another time in my life, it would not have had the same impact in the news, and so I feel very fortunate that something positive came out of my illness.



NEW HAMPSHIRE LOSS

Naturally, I wish he had won, but there are always ups and downs in politics. I think he's done a good job, and I feel voters are going to start realizing it.

August is many months and many primaries away, and the President's leadership and accomplishments are just beginning to be understood.

In 18 months, he's done so much to improve the economy and restore a good attitude toward the White House. He's a dedicated, determined man, and the outcome of one primary isn't going to alter his commitment to the campaign.

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