

governments, and they would have control over how many cities and counties they had in each State. Well, they needed a Capital for the National Government, but they didn't want to give the Capital to any particular State, see, because they had all been very jealous of each other. They all had been independent. And each State, even little Delaware or Rhode Island, thought they were as important as big New York or Pennsylvania. So no one wanted to give the Capital to any particular State.

So they set aside a piece of land where Washington is now and created the District of Columbia as an independent entity, a creation, if you will, of the National Government, and put the Capital there. And they put the White House there. And those were the first two big buildings in Washington, DC, the Capitol of the United States and the President's house, where the President lives and works.

*Hillary Clinton.* And we hope you can all come visit us.

*The President.* Would you like to come see it?

*Students.* Yes.

*Hillary Clinton.* We'd love to show you.

*The President.* Well, I hope you can come someday.

Is there a first-grader with a question?

Q. How old are you?

*The President.* How old am I? How old do you think I am? [Laughter] I'm very old. [Laughter] I'm 48.

*Hillary Clinton.* Forty-eight years old.

*The President.* And I'll be 49 on August 19th. And Hillary is younger than I am. [Laughter] Anybody else have a birthday on August 19th? You do?

*Hillary Clinton.* In August? Is your birthday August 19th?

*Student.* February.

*Hillary Clinton.* February? [Laughter] That's when Chelsea's birthday is. Chelsea has a birthday in February.

*The President.* Is there a first-grader with a question? We did first grade. Kindergartner? Go ahead.

Q. Would you like any visitors?

*The President.* Would I like visitors?

*Hillary Clinton.* We'd love to have you come visit.

*The President.* We love visitors, and we especially love visitors from home. We love it when people from Arkansas come up and see us. But we have visitors from all the States, and we have visitors from all over the world. And in the morning we start tours in the White House, on most days. People can come and see the White House where the President lives. They just come in and see. Very often I stop and talk to them and see people from all over America there.

Well, should I ask the principal if we can continue? How are we doing, Ms. Parker?

*Jackye Parker.* Well, I think it's about time for us to have to leave.

*The President.* Well, I wish I could answer all your questions.

*Hillary Clinton.* You have good questions.

*The President.* You guys ask great questions. And I want you to have a wonderful day. I want you to remember what we said about your dreams. Will you do that?

*Students.* Yes.

*Hillary Clinton.* Oh, we have 4-year-olds here.

*The President.* Oh, 4-year-olds. Is there a 4-year-old with a question?

*Hillary Clinton.* Are you a 4-year-old? Here's a 4-year-old with a question.

*The President.* What's your question?

Q. Does your cat, Socks, sleep in the White House?

*Hillary Clinton.* Yes, our cat, Socks, does sleep in the White House. And if you come to visit, maybe you'll get to see Socks, because when he's not in the White House he's outside of the White House. And the President's office is called the Oval Office, and Socks hangs out outside the Oval Office. [Laughter] And then he travels everywhere; he visits everywhere. You know, Socks gets letters. If you want to write to Socks, Socks gets letters, and he sends back a picture.

*The President.* With a paw print on it.

*Hillary Clinton.* Right, that he has signed. [Laughter] So I will tell him that you were asking for him, okay?

*The President.* Yes, I can see Socks every day. We put him right outside my office. I can turn around, look outside the window, and there he is.

*Hillary Clinton.* Thank you all so much.

*The President.* Have a wonderful day.