

So I'm glad to be here for her. And I'm glad to be here with Mayor Brown. That's got a great sound, doesn't it: Mayor Brown. I got tickled today in our earlier meeting. I was here with the mayor, who was in my Cabinet. He ran—he was the drug czar in my Cabinet, my very first one. And former Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen was also at our meeting. We nearly had a quorum for a Cabinet meeting in Houston. [Laughter] Knowing how people in Texas think, you probably thought I just had three or four too few from Houston. [Laughter] But anyway, I was pretty proud of Houston's contribution to my Cabinet and my administration.

You know that story Lee told—unfortunately, that's a true story, that story he told about Memphis and how I left him to give the speech and when I left everybody left. [Laughter] But he will—you know, in his quiet, persistent way, he always gets even. [Laughter] And what I want to tell him is, his time is coming, because he got elected this year, and I got elected last year, and I can't run for reelection. So when I am a former President, I will come down here; I will let him introduce me to speak for him. And when he leaves, the media will leave, the crowd will leave, everybody will leave. [Laughter] And I will talk to the handful who are left with great energy, and we'll be even then. [Laughter]

I don't know how many of you have seen this wonderful movie "Amistad." Have you seen it? It's a great movie about the African slaves that were basically towed into New Haven harbor and eventually are freed through the intervention of former President John Quincy Adams in the 1840's, late 1830's, 1840's. And Quincy Adams has got a great line in here; he says, "There is nothing so pathetic as a former President." [Laughter] All I can tell you is, I hope to find out. [Laughter] I hope the good Lord has got that in mind for me, and I'll try to beat the odds.

We've had a good time today. I woke up in south Texas this morning, got there at 2 o'clock last night. I was in Brownsville, McAllen, and Mission today. I've had a great day. And then I came to Houston, and we've had a wonderful day. This is quite a remarkable place you have. You should be very proud of it.

I want to take just a very few minutes of your time to say something pretty serious, maybe a little bit abstract. We've talked about

some of the specifics we are doing. In 1992 I was the Governor of Arkansas—in 1991, actually. I decided in late 1991 to run for President for a very simple reason: I wanted America in the 21st century to be the greatest country in the world as a force of peace and freedom. I wanted our country to be coming together as one America instead of to be driven apart by its diversity as so many other places in the world are. And I wanted the American dream to be alive not just for my child but for every child that was responsible enough to work for it. And I believed we had to change course to get there because it's a new time.

And it really is a different time. We've already got one leg in the 21st century; you surely know that in Houston. And how would you describe this? What is different about this new time?

First of all, the extent of globalization is greater than any other previous time. We are more tied to people all around the world in ways good and sometimes not so good, or at least potentially not so good, than ever before. Goods and services and people and money and technology and information, they just move around the world at great speed.

Secondly, there is, along with the globalization, an utter explosion in information and in science and technology which is changing the way we work and live and relate to each other and the way we relate to the rest of the world. When you put these two things together, the scope and pace of change is more rapid and profound in ordinary life than at any previous time.

Those of you who are in business know that. Those of you in education know that. In just about any line of work you know that. If you've got a law practice, you know that. If you run a branch of a bank, you know that being a bank teller is not what it was 5 years ago. I'll bet you some of you in here have not used the Internet very much, but if you have children, I bet your kids have. [Laughter]

Now, here's an interesting thing to think about. Five years ago, when I became President 5 years ago, the Internet was still largely the private province of research physicists. It got started as a Government research project. It was turned over to these research physicists. A couple of bright young people in their twenties figured out that this thing had enormous potential commercial and educational and just communication application and is now the fastest