

high crimes and misdemeanors. Do you personally believe that perjury and obstruction of justice are not impeachable offenses?

The President. I believe that it's not necessary for me to comment further than our brief. The important thing I think you should be asking yourself is, why did nearly 900 constitutional experts say that they strongly felt that this matter was not the subject of impeachment?

My opinion is not important here. My opinion is that I should be doing my job for the country, and other people should be handling the defense and dealing with this issue. And that's what I intend to do.

Brazilian Currency Devaluation

Q. Mr. President, on Brazil. Do you—[inaudible]—harmful effect on the U.S. economy? We send a lot of exports to Latin America.

The President. Well, as you know, we have worked hard to keep the financial crisis in Asia, which engulfed Asia last year, from spreading to Brazil. Latin America is our fastest growing market for American goods and services. And Brazil is the largest country in Latin America. So obviously, we hope that the situation will be resolved in a satisfactory way not only for the people of Brazil but for all of the people in the Americas that want to continue to enjoy the good progress that all of us have enjoyed in the last several years. And we're working hard to that end and will continue to do so.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:30 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Remarks Announcing an Initiative To Improve Economic Opportunities for Americans With Disabilities

January 13, 1999

Wow! Wasn't she great? Let's give her another hand. She was great. [Applause] Thank you.

On behalf of all of us in our administration, many of whom are here, I want to thank all the advocates for persons with disabilities in our audience. I thank especially Tony Coelho, Becky Ogle, Paul Marchand, my great friend Justin Dart, Paul Miller, and others. I want to thank all the people in the administration, those in the Cabinet who are here with me and the agency heads and the others in the White House who have done so much to help to sensitize me and the Vice President and others to the challenges and our obligations.

I say a special word of thanks to Tom Harkin, who has personally taught me a lot about the issues we discuss today, to Senator Ted Kennedy, and to Senator Jeffords. I knew if I listened long enough, that Republican rhetoric would finally sound good around one issue. [Laughter] And you did it today, and I thank you. You were just great. It was great.

I'd also like to thank two great friends of this cause who are in the audience, Senator Jack Reed from Rhode Island, Congressman

Ben Cardin from Maryland. We thank them for being here.

You know, a lot of things have already been said, and I would like to say something not in my notes. I hope nobody will take this the wrong way, because everybody knows what a great enthusiast I am of athletics. Most of the cameras at this hour are somewhere else, and I want to say, on behalf of my wife from Chicago and myself, that we wish Michael Jordan well. We admire him. We like him very much, and we thank him for years of thrilling exploits. In my life, I don't know that I ever saw another athlete with such a remarkable set of qualities of mind, body, and spirit, not only somebody who had a body that would do things no one else's would do but who always expected to do whatever it was he tried to do. And I think it's appropriate that the sports fans around America take a day or two to ooh and aah and hold their breath again and be glad again.

But the courage of Karen Moore, and all the people like her, is greater still, by far.

I remember once, many years ago, after I lost an election and became the youngest former Governor in American history—[laughter]—with