

can't keep that going unless you find more customers. And he believes in that.

So he's for continued paying off the debt, continued investment in people, science and technology, and continued expansion of trade, and doing it in a way that tries to bring all people into the stream of economic opportunity. I think it's a good economic program, and I support it.

President's Future Plans

Mr. Insana. Final question to you. Down here on Wall Street, there have been a couple published reports that suggested that you have an interest in coming to work here, once you finish your term as President, and going to Lazard Freres for what is not an inconsiderable amount of money. Any truth to those stories?

The President. It's a total fabrication. I must say that it was an immense surprise to my wife and daughter that anybody would ever offer me that kind of money to do anything. [Laughter] So, no, I don't think it's really appropriate for me at this time to be discussing that.

What I want to do is to work until the last hour of the last day I'm President, to get as much done for the country as I can, to leave America in the best shape I can, and then to have—for the rest of my life, try to be a good and useful citizen. And I'll have plenty of time to figure out what I should do to make a living at a later time.

It was a flattering rumor. Many of the other rumors have been flattering. But they're all, as far as I know, completely unfounded.

Hillary Clinton's Appearance on "Late Show With David Letterman"

Mr. Insana. We saw Mrs. Clinton on "Letterman" last night. You didn't happen to bring a Top 10 list with you this evening, did you?

The President. No, but I thought she was fabulous. I must say, I was sort of—I was amazed. I used to think I was the funny one in our family. And I was very proud of her. I thought she was wonderful.

Mr. Insana. Mr. President, good to see you. Thanks for joining us tonight.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The interview began at 6:55 p.m. in a broadcast booth at the New York Stock Exchange. In his remarks, the President referred to Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder and president, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition; Sanford I. Weill, chief executive officer, Citigroup; Richard Grasso, chairman and chief executive officer, New York Stock Exchange; Steve Ballmer, president and chief executive officer, and William H. (Bill) Gates, chairman and chief software architect, Microsoft Corp.; and Mr. Gates' wife, Melinda. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Wall Street Project Conference Reception in New York City
January 13, 2000

Well, first let me thank Reverend Jackson. And Jackie, thank you. And Dick Grasso, thank you for having all of us here tonight. This is the first time I have ever spoken from this microphone. You know, as President, I'm superstitious, and we've had such a good stock market. I don't ever comment on it—except I like the way it finished today. [Laughter]

I wanted to say just a couple of things very briefly. First of all, I want to thank Dick Grasso for his leadership in the Wall Street Project. A lot of people don't know that the stock market was organized over 200 years ago so that there would be a mechanism through which bonds could be issued to finance America's debts in

the war for our independence. So, in the beginning, this stock market had not just a profit motive but a public interest purpose. This man has infused the stock market not only with its greatest success in history but with a public interest purpose, to include all Americans in our prosperity. And we thank him.

Most of you were with us today in the afternoon, and I won't make you sit through my speech again—or stand through my speech again, even though I'd kind of like to, because this is the first crowd in a long time when I've been guaranteed a standing ovation. [Laughter]