

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

My fellow citizens: Today, we celebrate the mystery of American renewal. This ceremony is held in the depth of winter. But, by the words we speak and the faces we show the world, we force the spring.

A spring reborn in the world's oldest democracy, that brings forth the vision and courage to reinvent America.

When our founders boldly declared America's independence to the world and our purposes to the Almighty, they knew that America, to endure, would have to change.

Not change for change's sake, but change to preserve America's ideals—life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness. Though we march to the music of our

time, our mission is timeless. Each generation of Americans must define what it means to be an American.

On behalf of our nation, I salute my predecessor President Bush for his half-century of service to America, and I thank the millions of men and women whose steadfastness and sacrifice triumphed over depression, fascism, and communism.

Today, a generation raised in the shadows of the Cold War assumes new responsibilities in a world warmed by the sunshine of freedom but threatened still by ancient hatreds and new plagues.

Raised in unrivaled prosperity, we inherit an economy that is still the world's strongest, but is weakened by business failures, stagnant wages, increasing inequality, and deep divisions among our own people.

When George Washington first took the oath I have just sworn to uphold, news traveled slowly across the land by horseback and across the ocean by boat. Now, the sights and sounds of this ceremony are broadcast instantaneously to billions around the world.

Communications and commerce are global; investment is mobile; technology is almost magical; and ambition for a better life is now universal. We earn our livelihood in America today in peaceful competition with people all across the earth.

Profound and powerful forces are shaking and remaking our world, and the urgent question of our time is whether we can make change our friend and not our enemy.

This new world has already enriched the lives of millions of Americans who are able to compete and win in it. But when most people are working harder for less, when others cannot work at all, when the cost of health care devastates families and threatens to bankrupt our enterprises, great and small, when fear of crime robs law-abiding citizens of their freedom and when millions of poor children cannot even imagine the lives we are calling them to lead—we have not made change our friend.

We know we have to face hard truths and take strong steps. But we have not done so. Instead, we have drifted, and that drifting has eroded our resources, fractured our economy, and shaken our confidence.

Though our challenges are fearsome, so are our strengths.

Inauguration

government's ability to yield a national recovery.

"Our democracy must be not only the envy of the world, but the engine of our own renewal," he said. "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right in America."

"It will not be easy. It will require sacrifice, but it can be done and done fairly," he said.

Clinton also stressed that the new

Americans have ever been a restless, questing, hopeful people. And we must bring to our task today the vision and will of those who came before us.

From our revolution to the Civil War, to the Great Depression to the civil rights movement, our people have always mustered the determination to construct from these crises the pillars of our history. Thomas Jefferson believed that to preserve the very foundations of our nation, we would need dramatic change from time to time.

Well my fellow Americans, this is our time. Let us embrace it.

Our democracy must be not only the envy of the world but the engine of our own renewal. There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.

So today, we pledge an end to the era of deadlock and drift—and a new season of American renewal has begun.

To renew America, we must be bold. We must do what no generation has had to do before. We must invest more in our own people in their jobs and in their future, and at the same time cut our massive debt. And we must do so in a world in which we must compete for every opportunity.

It will not be easy; it will require sacrifice. But it can be done, and done fairly, not choosing sacrifice for its own sake, but for our own sake. We must provide for our nation the way a family provides for its children.

Our founders saw themselves in the light of posterity. We can do no less. Anyone who has ever watched a child's eyes wander into sleep knows what posterity is. Posterity is the world to come—the world for whom we hold our ideals, from whom we have borrowed our planet, and to whom we bear sacred responsibility.

We must do what America does best: offer more opportunity to all and demand more responsibility from all.

It is time to break the bad habit of expecting something for nothing, from our government or from each other. Let us all take more responsibility, not only for ourselves and our families but for our communities and our country.

To renew America, we must revitalize our democracy.

This beautiful capital, like every capital since the dawn of civilization, is often a place of intrigue and calculation.

Powerful people maneuver for position and worry endlessly about who is in and who is out, who is up and who is down, forgetting those people whose toil and sweat sends us here and pays our way.

Americans deserve better. And in this city today, there are people who want to do better. So I say to all of you here, let us resolve to reform our politics, so that power and privilege no longer shout down the voice of the people.

Let us put aside personal advantage so that we can feel the pain and see the promise of America.

Let us resolve to make our government a place for what Franklin Roosevelt called "bold, persistent experimentation," a government for our tomorrows, not our yesterdays.

Let us give this capital back to the people to whom it belongs.

To renew America, we must meet challenges abroad as well as at home. There is no longer clear division between what is foreign and what is domestic—the world economy, the world AIDS crisis, the world arms race—they affect us all.

Today, as an old order passes, the new world is more free but less stable. Communism's collapse has called forth old animosities and new dangers. Clearly America must continue to lead the world we did so much to make.

While America rebuilds at home, we will not shrink from the challenges, nor fail to seize the opportunities, of this new world.

Together with our friends and allies, we will work to shape change, lest it engulf us.

When our vital interests are challenged, or the will and conscience of the international community is defied, we will act—with peaceful diplomacy whenever possible, with force when necessary. The brave Americans serving our nation today in the Persian Gulf, in Somalia, and wherever else they stand are testament to our resolve.

But our greatest strength is the power of our ideas, which are still new in many lands. Across the world, we see them embraced—and we rejoice. Our hopes, our hearts, our hands, are with those on every continent who are building democracy and freedom. Their cause is America's cause.

The American people have sum-

moned the change we celebrate today. You have raised your voices in an unmistakable chorus. You have cast your votes in historic numbers. And you have changed the face of the Congress, the presidency, and the political process itself.

Yes, you, my fellow Americans, have forced the spring.

Now, we must do the work the season demands.

To that work I now turn, with all the authority of my office. I ask the Congress to join with me.

But no President, no Congress, no government, can undertake this mission alone.

My fellow Americans, you, too, must play your part in our renewal.

I challenge a new generation of young Americans to a season of service—to act on your idealism by helping troubled children, keeping company with those in need, reconnecting our torn communities.

There is so much to be done—enough, indeed, for millions of others who are still young in spirit to give of themselves in service, too.

In serving, we recognize a simple but powerful truth: We need each other. And we must care for one another.

Today, we do more than celebrate America; we rededicate ourselves to the very idea of America:—An idea born in revolution and renewed through two centuries of challenge;—An idea tempered by the knowledge that, but for fate, we—the fortunate and the unfortunate—might have been each other;—An idea ennobled by the faith that our nation can summon from its myriad diversities the deepest measure of unity;—An idea infused with the conviction that America's long heroic journey must go forward.

And so my fellow Americans, as we stand at the edge of the 21st century, let us begin with energy and hope, with faith and discipline, and let us work until our work is done. The scripture says, "And let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not."

From this joyful mountain top of celebration, we hear a call to service in the valley.

We have heard the trumpets. We have changed the guard. And now—each in our own way, and with God's help—we must answer the call.

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government would not follow the Republican school of policy making and that he wanted to give some responsibility back to the American people.

"This beautiful capital, like every capital since the dawn of civilization, is often a place of intrigue and calculation. Powerful people maneuver for position and worry endlessly about who is in and who is out, who is up and who is down, forgetting those people whose toil and sweat sends us here and pays our way," he said. "Let us resolve to reform our politics so that power and privilege no longer shout down the voice of the people."

Although the threat of Iraqi aggression was on the wane after several U.N.-backed attacks, Clinton said he would adhere to the foreign policies set by the Bush administration.

"Today, as an old order passes, the new world is more free, but less stable," he said. "We will act with peaceful diplomacy whenever possible, with force when necessary."

After his inaugural speech, the new President was joined by his wife, Hillary Clinton, and their daughter, Chelsea, at the podium. Gore, his wife Tipper, and their family also joined the Clintons in addressing the applauding crowd.

The families were serenaded by various bands and school choirs during the ceremony. Marilyn Horne, a soprano for the Metropolitan Opera, closed the ceremonies by singing the national anthem. The entire crowd accompanied Horne as a tribute to the incoming administration.

Maya Angelou, a professor of American studies at Wake Forest University, was invited by Clinton after the November election to write a poem for the inaugural celebration.

Angelou, who read her work after Clinton's inaugural speech, related the spirit of American government to images of rocks, trees and rivers. Angelou said that although these images were simplistic, they had sustained life for many ages.

"The Rock cries out today, 'you may stand on me, but do not hide your face,'" she read. "Come, clad in peace and I will sing the songs the Creator gave to me."

Angelou also stressed the importance of ending the nation's racial and ethnic differences. She read a passage that emphasized the need for equal recognition of all citizens. "The Asian, the Hispanic, the Jew, the African and Native American... the Gay, the Straight... they all hear the speaking of the Tree," she read.

To a round of applause, Angelou read her last phrase, a phrase that set the tone for the rest of Wednesday's inaugural festivities.

"Look up and out, and into your sister's eyes, into your brother's face, your country and say simply, very simply, with hope, 'Good morning,'" she read.

Campus Calendar

THURSDAY
NOON: SHS Black Cultural Center will sponsor a forum in celebration of MLK Jr. Week with Dr. Paula Newsome in the BCC.

3:30 p.m. Ridgefield Action Project will have a meeting for old volunteers at Morehead Planetarium.

University Career Services will offer information for starting a job hunt from scratch in 209 Hanes.

4:30 p.m. Women's Studies Program will welcome Leonore Davidoff, University of Essex, to speak on "Beyond the Public and Private: Re-Examining Some Old Husband's Tales" in 569 Hamilton.

5 p.m. Rainforest Action Group will meet in the Campus Y lounge.

New Generation Campus Ministries will hold Bible study in 209 Union until 6 p.m.

BSM Black Parents Alliance Committee will meet in the SHS BCC.

Carolina Indian Circle will meet on the second floor of the Campus Y.

NC Fellows Program applications will be due in 01 Steele.

5:30 p.m. Students Against Drunk Driving will meet in 108 Bingham.

5:45 p.m. Carolina Baptist Student Union will welcome Dr. Robert Seymour to speak on "Race Relations" at 203 Battle Lane.

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