

00:00:07:13 - 00:00:13:22

Unknown

Get this family Bible here.

00:00:13:25 - 00:00:22:25

Unknown

Amen. May I say your response? That I was an ordinary man.

00:00:22:28 - 00:00:36:07

Speaker 2

The Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

00:00:36:09 - 00:00:54:22

Speaker 2

I take this obligation through faith, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion. I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I'm about to enter.

00:00:54:24 - 00:01:20:01

Unknown

So help me God, brother.

00:01:20:03 - 00:01:23:29

Unknown

Thank you.

00:01:24:01 - 00:01:25:19

Unknown

Thank you. I praise.

00:01:25:21 - 00:01:50:22

Speaker 2

Your. I want you to know that the Bible we used is the one that I read and by my bedside. So it's very special. Mr. Vice President, as you said, as you know, many people in this country and throughout the world depend on both faith as a vehicle to bring stability and American style enterprise to the developing countries and emerging economies.

00:01:50:24 - 00:02:17:21

Speaker 2

And it is because of that that opening is so crucial to our growth and the welfare of others. And I pledge to you, my we all, to President Clinton and to the American people. And okay, will be moment best friends and effective agencies and.

00:02:17:24 - 00:02:43:29

Speaker 2

Community at home. I can assure you that President Biden and Vice President Gore are becoming passionately committed to fairness and opportunities for all communities, including the Hispanic community. They embraced the goals of the G.I. forum because it is good for America, and their faith and belief in our community has translated to the high level of appointments and policies that benefit us all.

00:02:44:01 - 00:03:06:28

Speaker 2

On focusing on the various groups.

00:03:07:01 - 00:03:33:28

Speaker 2

It's very inspiring to hear those words and to be a personal witness to the formal beginning of such a distinguished and promising career of public service and on behalf of our nation. So I thank you again, George, for your willingness to serve and for your commitment to excellence in public service and it is an honor for me to be able to.

00:03:34:00 - 00:04:07:12

Speaker 2

Where are you in today? In making my remarks to this group about veterans and issues facing our nation, facing the Hispanic community. I want to first of all, say that these oath of office are extremely important, and some of you may not know. About the legal debate concerning President Clinton's government oath of office on January 20th.

00:04:07:14 - 00:04:46:27

Speaker 2

It was valid, but under the Constitution. His term of office for the first four years expires exactly at noon on January 20th. And according to the way many read the Constitution, the second term is not begin until he takes over on January the 20th. I was sworn in as a position that requires it at 11:58 a.m., and you're jumping ahead.

00:04:47:00 - 00:05:16:14

Speaker 2

Of there was a very beautiful and talented office singer. Some of you may have watched it on television. Jessye Norman, who sang the patriarch music and she sang in such a heavenly manner. Some of us encouraged her to keep going, but a president did not take his oath of office until after 12:05 p.m..

00:05:16:16 - 00:05:27:24

Speaker 2

It was a very special five minutes for me.

00:05:27:27 - 00:05:31:11

Unknown

He took over a million because I.

00:05:31:11 - 00:05:43:11

Speaker 2

Am convinced that historians will remember that for inspiration. It's a time when our nation was in peace at home. During times.

00:05:43:13 - 00:05:47:22

Unknown

Our economy was booming.

00:05:47:24 - 00:06:15:14

Speaker 2

We created 3.1 new jobs and 1.2 of them to Hispanics. And with all due respect to President Clinton. History will also record that there were fewer crimes committed during my.

00:06:15:16 - 00:06:44:26

Speaker 2

Hearings. Partly because we put two new police officers in us. But in many ways, what's most important to me is that Partizan bickering so frequently, the pain of those days in Washington gave way during the entirety of my presidency to the bipartisan, the patriotic music. First, you work for yourself to go. And I think that's the reason the chant began there in Washington as well.

00:06:44:27 - 00:06:55:13

Speaker 2

Westward, across the nation. Five more minutes, more.

00:06:55:16 - 00:07:28:25

Speaker 2

Let me say it to all of you today that President Clinton and I will remain vigilant in our efforts to make our government look like America, because, make no mistake, this nation is a much better place because of the diverse representation. We are a better nation when we take full advantage of the talent and the commitment to excellence to be found in all of the communities that make up America.

00:07:28:27 - 00:07:50:00

Speaker 2

How do I know that? Well, because we have taken advantage of that talent and put it to work on behalf of the American people, and we have seen the difference and I think you have been able to see the

difference in our communities, because before Bill Clinton and I were elected, if you recall, our economy in America was foggy as we ran the poll.

00:07:50:03 - 00:08:20:26

Speaker 2

Unemployment was high and rising. We had what the economists call a triple digit recession. That means that three times in a row, the economy tried to come up on its knees, and three times in a row it fell back down. Three times it attempted to recover, and three times it slipped back into recession. Each time, unemployment rose once again, the private sector was barely generating any jobs, wages were flat for most Americans and dropping in real terms.

00:08:20:28 - 00:08:48:06

Speaker 2

For many Americans, the federal budget deficit had climbed to almost \$300 billion per year, the highest by far in American history, and it was headed even higher. We wanted to change that, and after the oath of office were taken together with the hard work and ingenuity of the American people, we went to work in turning around that situation and building a new economy in our land.

00:08:48:08 - 00:09:17:18

Speaker 2

And when we talk about this new economy, we're not just talking about high speed data or mind boggling new technology or unprecedented opportunities to sell our awareness to the people of other nations on every continent. What we're really talking about is our children and our families right here at home. The opportunities that they will have, the chance they will have to reach out for their dreams, what will give them the best future, how they will unlock a higher fraction of their potential.

00:09:17:20 - 00:09:53:26

Speaker 2

We're talking about renewing. Renewing the American dream itself to make certain that the promise of America is always and everywhere available to those willing to shoulder the responsibilities of Americans. That is why Bill Clinton and I, as Latinos and people all across America that help us bring about that change. And when you gave us that chance, President Clinton and I put forward a brand new economic plan to recognize the power and the promise of our new economy and unlock the potential of our people and to turn things around.

00:09:53:28 - 00:10:16:27

Speaker 2

And incidentally, it was difficult to get this new plan adopted. Sometimes change is resisted. It was resistance so strenuously in the summer of 1993, when it came for a vote, we had quite a fight on our hands. You may remember how it came out. It passed the House of Representatives by a one vote margin. I thought that was as close as it could get.

00:10:16:27 - 00:10:28:08

Speaker 2

But then it came over to the Senate, where I resigned as vice president, and it was a 5050 tie, closing momentary despair.

00:10:28:10 - 00:10:38:21

Speaker 2

You know, your Constitution. I was there until now, but extremely significant. Which roughly translated, does say every time I vote. We went, I voted.

00:10:38:23 - 00:10:43:10

Unknown

And we won and came.

00:10:43:12 - 00:10:49:22

Unknown

Down.

00:10:49:24 - 00:11:19:08

Speaker 2

The results speak for themselves. 13 million new jobs in America created since that change. Again, the highest economic growth in more than a decade. The greatest consumer confidence in almost 30 years. An increase in the earned income tax credit that is lifting more families out of poverty. And one percentage basis benefits Hispanic families more than those of any other group in America, because it helps those in the lower and middle income groups that are working.

00:11:19:10 - 00:11:42:26

Speaker 2

It puts an average of \$1,000 extra each year into the paychecks of working families in America, and we raise the minimum wage and long lives. Incomes are finally increasing across the board. The gap between rich and poor we have been widening is not closing up again. We've seen the creation of more new small businesses in each of the last four years than in any other year in American history.

00:11:43:02 - 00:12:13:25

Speaker 2

Unemployment has fallen to historic lows, and all of this is happening. Stock market up 150%, incomes up. All of this has happened without a single trace of inflation. In fact, inflation has gone down. Now that's a success for our economic policies. It's a good beginning. We know how much more needs to be done and how much farther we need to go, but it feels better to move in the right direction than it did when we were moving in the wrong direction.

00:12:13:28 - 00:12:41:23

Speaker 2

It feels better to have the newspaper headlines that the business action has surprisingly good news, instead of surprisingly bad news. When things go bad, they build upon themselves like a snowball rolling downhill. But when things start to go good, the good news? It builds on itself. And we're beginning to see that good news make a real and positive difference in the lives of families all across the United States of America.

00:12:41:26 - 00:13:31:07

Speaker 2

But we do have a long way to go, and we understand that full well. And part of the evidence that is so clear to see is that in many of America's Hispanic communities, families are still hurting, still struggling to make ends meet. We need to address this challenge. And here at the American G.I. forum, I want you to know how keenly aware I am that this group is not only a critically important veterans organization, it is also more G.I. forum is well integrated into Hispanic and Latino communities across the country, and forms part of the social fabric, keeping those communities together.

00:13:31:07 - 00:13:59:09

Speaker 2

I know the role that you play, whether it be a candidate forum or a wedding or a baby shower or a quinceanera place to cool off after the softball game, whatever the occasion, when the community needs a forum, G.I. forum halls and centers are part of the cultural traditions and makeup. Just authentic neighborhoods in America. You have risen to the challenge.

00:13:59:12 - 00:14:42:16

Speaker 2

We are rising to the challenge. We want to be your partners. We understand that while the overall rates of poverty have been declining, Harry, rates for Hispanics in America have remained at historic highs. Hispanics have the highest proportion of working poor families, as I mentioned earlier. And so if we are truly to celebrate the new prosperity of the United States and the new economy of the world, we must first bring that prosperity to every single community in our land, because history has taught us that in economic times, that does not lift all those capsized.

00:14:42:18 - 00:15:27:27

Speaker 2

Every boat. And so while there has been real progress in America, not enough Latinos are participating. And we must understand this will not fix itself. We have to make it happen by removing the barriers that have stopped that progress, by providing the opportunities that have not been sufficiently available. One of the most important things we can do is to give people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives and empower them, whether it is investments in communities, investment in education, the most important strategy of whether it is helping our hardest working families to pay the bills and raise their children as they wish to, we must act.

00:15:27:27 - 00:16:02:07

Speaker 2

In other words, empowering communities and empowering the families who live in those communities is the strategy of choice. The cornerstone of our empowerment agenda is our Empowerment Zone program. I spoke earlier here in Kansas City about a very successful effort that is underway here, empowering a community that needs empowerment. This approach of empowerment provides the initial start up resources, but relies on communities to get the job done themselves.

00:16:02:10 - 00:16:44:10

Speaker 2

Already are empowerment zones have very strong and steady success, not only in urban America but also in distressed rural areas. And I've seen it with my own eyes. Just a few weeks ago, I went to a groundbreaking for a new housing complex in the of the altar polonium and the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. While I was there, I met with this family request youth empowerment funds to start a badly needed ambulance company in this community and the project he created 12 brand new jobs that really needed in the community.

00:16:44:12 - 00:17:16:09

Speaker 2

His daughter, Lisa Diaz, is in high school. She has watched her father lift himself and his community, and now she is starting a career in the health care. Also, the power of example is so important in empowering communities. This is an amazing story, sometimes easy to miss for those who don't see what is happening in the lives of people.

00:17:16:11 - 00:17:44:29

Speaker 2

It is a story that we can and should replicate. That is why I'm very proud that we convinced the Congress to pass our plan to triple the number of empowerment zones in America. When I say convince the Congress president once said, our negotiators will not leave the table until you do this. And if it's not in the bill, we won't agree to the bill.

00:17:45:02 - 00:18:24:22

Speaker 2

That's equation presidential style. And it resulted in a great achievement, because what we're seeing now is a chance and take this empowerment to new heights and to bring the benefits to more communities that desperately need empowerment. We're proving that when we empower people and work together, there's no limit to what we can achieve. That's because we believe where there is a will, there's a way here that we believe that we.

00:18:24:25 - 00:19:07:14

Speaker 2

Could also empower people by concentrating on that key strategy of education, because in our nation and throughout the world, people are experiencing profound changes as we move from the industrial age to the information age and this new economy. What you earn really does depend upon what you learned. And yet let us look squarely at the fact that Latinos currently, for many reasons, including

historic obstacles, Latino, have the lowest educational attainment rates of any venture capital group in the United States.

00:19:07:21 - 00:19:41:00

Speaker 2

Just over half of all Hispanics age 25 and over completed high school. Less than 10% have college degrees. This must change. Or how can we be serious about preparing for the knowledge economy if we do not do more to expand the knowledge of all of our people? This agenda Americans will have is critically important. Education is about equipping people with a high paying jobs of the future, but it's also about our values.

00:19:41:02 - 00:20:27:03

Speaker 2

It's about unlocking that higher potential that these boys and girls and young men and women have in their hearts. They need to be individually empowered with new knowledge and the opportunity to get the education they need. It's about that honor to that has always been at the heart of the American dream. It's about bringing everyone to the starting gate of this new economy, not just letting the race go on, but making sure that everyone has a chance to participate in that race, and then to rise as high as their hard work and their ambition and their dreams will allow them to rise.

00:20:27:06 - 00:20:58:15

Speaker 2

That is why President Clinton was so insistent that this balanced budget agreement that he just signed this week included the largest increase in spending for education in three decades, including investments in Headstart and Time. One expansion of immigrant and bilingual education. World class standards for all of our children. More Pell grants, a huge increase in children hope scholarships to make community college essentially free for all Americans.

00:20:58:23 - 00:21:09:00

Unknown

And taxpayer dollars is being rolled.

00:21:09:03 - 00:21:40:29

Speaker 2

History was made this week. And when it's looked back upon by the historians years from now, they will see that this new enormous investment in the opportunity provided by education, thank you is historic. And the way the G.I. Bill after World War Two was historic. But we're not finished by a long shot. We're speeding up and moving even more aggressively to open up more opportunities.

00:21:40:29 - 00:22:08:12

Speaker 2

That's why, just a couple of weeks ago, President Clinton announced a new effort to recruit 35,000 high qualified and diverse teachers or neglected schools in impoverished urban and rural areas. We know our children can learn. We know that it doesn't matter where they come from or who they are, what they look like. If we give them the opportunity, they're going to learn.

00:22:08:15 - 00:22:38:04

Speaker 2

But we have to give them the opportunity. That's our responsibility. Whether it's rebuilding old schools, recruiting teachers, wiring classrooms to the information superhighway and libraries, or, most important, whether it is making sure that young people do not drop out, but instead stay in school and get the education demanded by today's economy, it's all our responsibility. We cannot let our children down.

00:22:38:07 - 00:23:02:23

Speaker 2

We can accomplish these goals. Let us remember that while we invest in our future, we should also make an investment in building an America that empowers our hardest working citizens by treating them more fair work. We've worked very hard for the money tonight to give hard working Americans the will to build better lives for themselves and their families.

00:23:02:23 - 00:23:45:07

Speaker 2

We fought for that American wage increase and the extra income in the Earned Income Tax credit. But that's why we also insisted that the bill just signed this week include a \$500 child tax credit to go to American working families. We had a huge argument with those who did not want the \$5 per child to go to working families, making less than around \$30,000 a year, and we believe the principle was simple families who work for America deserves an America that works for them.

00:23:45:07 - 00:23:45:24

Speaker 2

And again.

00:23:45:24 - 00:23:56:18

Unknown

The president used this place to implement.

00:23:56:21 - 00:24:24:29

Speaker 2

Well, USA G.I. forum know what I'm talking about. The folks who live in every single thing that it has been your credo. And since that brave and visionary young doctor and progressive, a mom from World War Two to form this great American institution, you have.

00:24:25:01 - 00:24:27:24

Unknown

Government cannot do it alone.

00:24:27:27 - 00:24:54:14

Speaker 2

So there are some things that cannot be done without the chance to work together through our instruments of self-government. Our great nation was built on the principles of self-help, shared responsibility, service, service for those who need it, our homeless, our children, our needy, our elderly, and our veterans. Ever since our War of Independence, Hispanics have stood tall for our nation's freedom.

00:24:54:17 - 00:25:23:28

Speaker 2

When duty has evolved, as families have answered boldly and bravely in the air, on the land, at sea been the steel of the nation's soil, defending our land against all enemies, and their valor has helped to shape our nation. And we honor them. We honor you, and we do so by working hard for veterans and for working, and by working hard on behalf of all Hispanics.

00:25:24:01 - 00:25:52:14

Speaker 2

We are determined to do all in our proud count. To do proud by you, President Clinton. I and Secretary Gove believe that we have no more important responsibilities and to care for those who answered the nation's call and serve with honor. That is why we're working hard to increase funding for veterans care each year. We improve services across the board.

00:25:52:17 - 00:26:20:14

Speaker 2

The search for answers to the mystery of Gulf War Syndrome to treat our veterans exposed to Agent Orange, to house our homeless veterans so they can live with the dignity and respect that they have earned to fully account for every single one of our MI eight. So let me just close with one additional thought.

00:26:20:16 - 00:27:10:17

Speaker 2

We live in a time of great awakening, and people throughout our land are coming to understand in a much more powerful way that we must become, in President Clinton's phrase, one America, the United States stands for the proposition that freedom is the natural condition of humankind. We provide an example to nations all around this earth that religious freedom, political freedom, and economic freedom make possible a better and more prosperous way of life than any other approach.

00:27:10:20 - 00:28:19:00

Speaker 2

We also stand for the proposition that people from different backgrounds, different communities, different heritages can not only get along that minimum condition, but can enrich one another with the value inherent in diversity. It is a two step process. The first is absolute respect for difference and appreciation for the unique heritage, each community and improvements to this nation. The second step is transcendence of that difference and for business in general, respect for with full appreciation of what all men and women have in common as children of the United States of America makes it possible to reach out for those values we have in common in mathematics, the teachers speak the lowest common denominator in matters of

00:28:19:00 - 00:28:52:00

Speaker 2

the spirit. There is the highest form of government, and it is sometimes even easier to grasp onto the task from different perspectives. We believe that being one America means being united in a promise of a nation, and unveiled a path to prosperity for all those who are willing to work hard. It means we ignore and speak out against the voices of hatred and bigotry and prejudice that tries to divide us.

00:28:52:02 - 00:29:24:13

Speaker 2

It means that we speak out against those who, out of ignorance, genuinely believe that there are no remaining barriers. That opportunity based on ethnic prejudice. They don't have eyes to see or is inferior. They don't understand that the challenge is still there to be confronted. They want America to be standing up to those who would take away benefits from investments in benefits have been promised.

00:29:24:16 - 00:29:31:19

Speaker 2

It means standing up also, as we have done to those who would take benefits away from illegal immigrants.

00:29:31:19 - 00:29:40:29

Unknown

These men and women of color.

00:29:41:01 - 00:30:03:16

Speaker 2

They said goodbye to their nearest friends and closest family so that they might reach out for that freedom and prosperity. They honored our country by coming here legally and seeking out a new life in the land of the free. And all they ask is that they be given the same chance as every other person in this nation. This promise has a name.

00:30:03:16 - 00:30:33:21

Speaker 2

It is called the American Dream. And in the end, the greatest measure of this or any other administration is not in the decimals or statistics of economics. History will judge us instead on the question of whether or not we strengthen that American dream for all who reside in this beautiful and. But we made it easier for Americans to succeed, whether we empower them with the tools to build their own lives in a changing world.

00:30:33:24 - 00:31:00:24

Speaker 2

I believe that by those standards, we're making great strides forward. But this is no time for us to rest on our laurels, and we need your help because we must continue to build on America as we become more diverse in the next century, and as we do, as we continue to implement the vision of empowerment and make the most of our great in adversity, we will be guided by your example service, family.