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PRESIDENT-ELECT CLINTON HOLDS HIS **FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE**, ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES

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DAN RATHER, anchor:

This is a CBS NEWS SPECIAL REPORT. I'm Dan Rather in New York. Good day.

The president-elect of the United States, Governor **Bill Clinton** is about to hold his first news conference since he was elected nine days ago. The inauguration is 10 weeks away now. They started building the platform at the US Capitol today. And Governor Clinton is in Little Rock, putting together a transition team. The new president-elect is expected to have an announcement about the makeup of that team before he takes questions from reporters in the old state House building in Little Rock. Governor Clinton is expected to impose some tough, new ethics guidelines on the transition staff and on members of his new administration, restricting their lobbying activities after they leave their jobs. Questions have already been raised about the transition chairman, Vernon Jordan, and a possible conflict of interest between Jordan's work on the transition and his position on the board of RJR Nabisco, which makes, among other things, cigarettes. Governor Clinton had a meeting last night with transition aides and with Senator Al Gore of Tennessee, the new vice president-elect. Governor Clinton has invited the Democratic leaders of Congress to meet with him on Sunday. Now here is the president-elect.

Governor **BILL CLINTON** (President-elect): Good afternoon. I want to thank you all for coming today, and I hope you're enjoying my favorite building in our state. I'm here to announce that we are moving along on schedule in the transition process. The appointments that we have released today will put the transition into high gear here in Little Rock and in Washington. They reflect my commitment to assembling the most qualified and diverse group of people available, including men and women with broad experience, some of whom served in the campaign and others who are just joining us now as we move toward governing.

I know that some of you might be interested in the Cabinet-level appointments, and let me tell you that I don't have any to announce today. But I do want to tell you what I'm doing on it and to spell out some of the criteria that I have established in seeking to fill these positions.

First and foremost, these people must have an unqualified commitment to public service. Tomorrow, I will release a code of conduct for official involvement in this transition, and in the next several days, we'll be laying out the code of ethical conduct that appointees in the Clinton-Gore administration must agree to abide by, in order to serve in high office. I've also pledged to the American people that my Cabinet will look more like America than previous

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administrations.

As I said before, I think the great diversity of this nation can and must be a source of strength as we face the challenges that lie ahead. I have spent several hours, already, especially in the last three days, working with Senator Gore, with Mr. Christopher, and with others discussing potential Cabinet appointments. I have spent an enormous amount of time with Senator Gore and with--with others discussing the kinds of things we want these departments to do. I think that too often in the past potential president-elects have been in a rush to fill the Cabinet positions before they decided whether they wanted these departments to pursue a different mission than had been pursued in the past, and without considering perhaps (clears throat), excuse me, how these departments should fit one with the other.

Let me just give you, if I might, just one example of that. I have read, at least in my history books, that some Cabinet appointments are considered major and others are considered minor. I don't know how you would consider the Departments of Commerce and Energy in that regard, but from the kind of economic policy I have laid out and the things that I think we have to do to change this country economically, those are very major appointments. And how they pursue the missions of those departments will affect the success or failure of this administration's economic efforts, as well as what is done by the other major economic players. So I have devoted some time to reviewing potential names. I intend to spend a lot more time doing that. This is something that I am deeply engaged in personally, and I think we will make the appointments in a timely and appropriate fashion.

I'd also like to say that Senator Gore and I have continued the partnership we established in the campaign. He has been here all day working with me, and I think that this is perhaps unprecedented, but quite good for the country. I think it will strengthen and help us as we move along.

I've also made one other commitment in the past I'd like to reiterate today, and that is that I intend to look beyond partisanship in bringing together public servants to help guide our nation for the next four years. If we're going to meet our goals of reviving the economy and carving out a new world for America, in the post-Cold War era, we have to put aside a lot of our past preconceptions, and I intend to look and am now aggressively looking among not only people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds and men and women, but also people of different political backgrounds who share the common goal of restoring economic growth, job creation and incomes and strength to this country. If you have any questions, I'll be glad to try to answer them.

Mr. GENE RANDALL (CNN): Governor. Governor, you campaigned on a theme of economic hope and a pledge of putting Americans back to work, are you finding it increasingly necessary to scale back the expectations you might have raised? And, secondly, what do you think you'll have to accomplish in the early months of your campaign to keep alive the hopes you might have raised during the past year?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, I campaigned on a theme of economic hope and creating jobs and increasing incomes. I also told the American people repeatedly we didn't get into this business overnight, and we're not going to get out of it overnight. I think what I have to do is present an aggressive plan to the United States Congress and pass it and to put together a world-class economic team and to take whatever steps that can be taken in the--without new laws being enacted by Congress to revive this economy. I think all along the way, I have to do my best at one of the most important jobs of a president, which is to communicate to the American people, to explain exactly where we are at this point in our history, how we got here, and where we're going into the future.

There is--there--there has to be a short-term economic agenda. We've been in this deep recession for a long time now. There also has to be a long-term economic commitment to increasing the productivity of the American economy, so that we can not only create more jobs, but that we can begin to raise incomes of ordinary Americans again for the first time in well over a decade, and I expect that we'll be able to do that. I expect to keep the focus on these economic issues, and I'm not scal--trying to scale back or scale down or anything else. I think the American people understand that these problems are of long duration, and there won't be any overnight miracles, but I think they expect aggressive and prompt action, and I'm going to give it to them.

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Ms. SUSAN SPENCER (CBS News): Along those lines, do you intend to propose a middle-class tax cut in January as you advance through the campaign?

Gov. CLINTON: I intend--I intend to propose a tax package that is consistent with what I recommended in this campaign. I have not made any decision to change it.

Ms. SPENCER: That was including a middle-class tax cut, correct?

Gov. CLINTON: That's correct. I have not made any decision to change what I advocated in the putting people first book on the economic issue. If I make a decision to do that, I'll let you know, but I've not made a decision to do that.

Unidentified Woman #1: Governor, the top savings and loans regulator says \$ 50 billion is going to be needed to complete the bailout program and finance the deposit insurance fund. Do you intend to ask Congress for this money? If so, how quickly after you take office? And will this hurt your ability to finance some of the programs you would like to see implemented?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, it's interesting. They--they came out with that figure, which is a bigger figure than they were using before the election--as soon as the election was over. But I have not--I'm not in a position to accept the figure because I have not been advised about it. Let me--let me tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to devote a lot of attention to the condition of the S&L bailout, the RTC, as well as to the condition of the banking system in the country and the potential impact of the new capital requirements coming in on December 19th and--and make a judgment on that, and as soon as I do, I'll be glad to share it with you.

I'm--I'm just not in a position--I don't have all that much confidence in all the decisions that have been made by the RTC, and I don't know what our options might be. So I can't tell you precisely what I'll do. I--it is an--it concerned me that that announcement was made, when it was made and the way it was made with the figure that was tacked on to it, and I think it probably came as kind of a jolt to the American people. But I will do what I think is best and responsible. But I can't accept the figure yet.

Andrea?

ANDREA: Governor, Bob Dole said you're going to have a honeymoon and that he's going to be the chaperone. Do you anticipate that you're going to have a tough time with the opposition, and how do you respond to his comments that you did not have a mandate?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, I think--let me say a couple of things about that. First of all, I think that I--that the American people hope that I have a honeymoon, not for me, but for them. If a honeymoon means a break in--in partisan political behavior and an honest attempt by people of good will to reach agreement on something that's good for the country. I had a good talk with Senator Dole on the phone yesterday. I'm looking forward--when I go to Washington next week to see President Bush, I'm also looking forward to a meeting, a bipartisan meeting, with the leadership in Congress, and I'm going to hold out a--a hand of cooperation to them. And I think that they will extend it in turn.

I think that the clear mandate of this election, by the way, from the American people was an end to politics as usual, an end to the gridlock in Washington, an end to fingerpointing and blame. I think there is no question that there was a mandate in this election. In terms of whether I got a mandate or not, you know, having a 100-vote electoral majority more than you need is not too bad. There are only a couple of Democrats in this century who'd gotten a bigger percentage vote, but, arguably, the greatest president we ever had, Abraham Lincoln, was elected with under 40 percent of the vote. So I think the American people will all now evaluate what I do and whether I do it well and whether they support it.

ANDREA: Do you think that you'll have to scale back, to follow up Gene's question, your legislative agenda to

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avoid the kind of experience Jimmy Carter had by putting up so much legislation so quickly, that he ended up with a bottleneck?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, one of the things that--that I think that we do is to set priorities and to proceed with discipline. I think that--that there are some clear priorities that we have to pursue. We--we have to have a program for economic growth, job creation, short and long term. We have to have a clear plan for deficit reduction over the next four years. We have to have a plan to deal with the exploding cost of health care and the fact that 100,000 Americans a month are losing their coverage, something that is ballooning the Medicaid budgets of this state and virtually every other one in the country, and we have to have a plan for political reform, something I campaigned on and I believe in. And I'm going to do my best to pass a national service program, and one--I think those are the things we have to focus on.

I think we have to proceed with real discipline, but I think the--the American people want America to get its House in order and want this economy to start working again, and that's what I'll focus on.

Unidentified Man #1: Governor?

Gov. CLINTON: Yeah.

Man #1: ...(unintelligible) abroad about what the Clinton foreign policy would be. I wondered if you could tell us what will be your first 100-days plan in foreign policy, and what are the attributes you'll be looking for in a secretary of state and in a national secretary adviser?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, I think--I've laid out my foreign policy in great detail and with clear specificity. I've certainly tried to, and I believe that I spoke more to foreign policy than anybody else running in the Democratic primary, at least inarguably more than my opponents in the general election.

Man #1: What is--what is your top priority?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, my top priorities will be settling on a multiyear plan for a defense budget that I think keeps the defense of this country the strongest in the world and deals with the necessity to downscale, pursuing our continued efforts to reduce nuclear weapons with Russia and with other nuclear powers, working hard to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: nuclear, biological and chemical. Keeping the Middle East peace process on track, and doing whatever I can to make sure there is no break in continuity. And doing what I can to strengthen global economic growth in terms of resolving the outstanding matters with Mexico, hopefully resolving the outstanding issues with--in Europe and proceeding with a cooperative strategy with the other major economic powers to promote global growth, something which will help us very much.

Man #1: Governor, the second half of the question?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, I want a secretary of state who understands that we have obligations of continuity and obligations of change, and that basically the pillars of our national security and foreign policy ought to be a different, but still very strong defense, a commitment to global growth and the economic regeneration here, and--and the fulfilling of our responsibility as the world's sole superpower to try to promote the democracy and freedom and restrain the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. I want someone that I think really understands that and can relate well to those issues and to people around the world dealing with that. And in terms of a national security adviser, I want the same thing. I want people--by the way, I--I do think that Mr.--President Bush's group worked pretty well as a team in that area, and that's something that I want. I'm very much committed to picking a national security adviser, a secretary of defense and a secretary of state that can work together on this--this agenda. I think that's what I ought to be doing.

Unidentified Man #2: ...how quickly are you going move on your pledge to allow gay and lesbians in the military? You're getting some heat for it now, you're getting pressure to do it in January, three days after you take office. How

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quickly are you going to move?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, I think that--first of all, I'm going to move forward on that.

Man #2: ...(unintelligible) 100-day agenda?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, let me tell you what I'm going to do. First, what I'm--my concern here is to do it in a way that is most appropriate for the management of the whole national security and military interest of the country. I want to consult with a lot of people about what our options are, including people who may disagree with me about the ultimate merits. And let me just remind you one more time of how this all came up.

This whole issue really came to light when Secretary of Defense Cheney was asked to comment on a study which said that there were many thousands of--of men and women who were homosexuals in the military forces, who served our country with great distinction and never did anything in their conduct that was destructive of the morale or the purpose of the military. And I think he referred to this rule as an old chestnut or something of that kind. What I want to do is to come up with an appropriate response that will focus sharply on the fact that we do have people who are homosexuals who served our country with distinction, who were never kicked out of the military. Others are being kicked out of the military, one of whom has just been reinstated by court pending, and that the--the issue ought to be conducted. Has anybody done anything which would disqualify them, whether it's Tailhook scandal or--or something else? What I plan to do, in--in an appropriate fashion, in a prompt fashion, is to put together a group of people and let them advise me about how we might best do this, but I'm not going to change my position on it.

Unidentified Man #3: There are a couple of things that you can't--there are some things that presidents can't do, as you well understand.

Gov. CLINTON: A lot of things.

Man #3: There are things that presidents can do. Right now there are--for instance, there are two executive orders, in effect, one of which bans abortion counseling by physicians at clinics which--which use federal funds. The other is an executive order that President Bush issued last May, which effectively bars Haitian exiles from this country. Have you made up your mind on what you're going to do with those two issues?

Gov. CLINTON: Yes. Well, I have made up my mind that I'm going to change the policy in both areas. I don't believe in the gag rule, and I think it should be repealed. And with regard to the Haitians, I think my position on that has been pretty clear all along. I believe that there is a legitimate distinction between political and economic refugees, but I think that we should have a process in which these Haitians get a chance to make their case. I think that the blanket sending them back to Haiti under the circumstances which have prevailed for the last year was an error. And so I will modify that process. I'm not in a position now to tell you exactly how we're going to do it or what the specifics will be, but I can tell you I'm going to change the policy.

(Several people try to ask questions)

Gov. CLINTON: Go ahead.

WOLFE: You spoke...

JOHN: ...(unintelligible)

Gov. CLINTON: John and Wolfe, go ahead, then we'll...

JOHN: ...10 million unemployed Americans. Can you tell us specifically what in your 100-day plan will bring jobs to them--specific jobs programs--and when they can expect to see those jobs?

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Gov. CLINTON: Well, we--we will have at least two things in this plan, which should create jobs in the short run--that is, in this calendar year. First of all, I will ask the Congress to adopt an investment tax credit that I have been advocating for well over a year now, to give the private sector incentives to go out and invest in new plant and equipment and to--to increase their capacity to hire. We had the proposal--the specific proposal I put in my plan, we had an independent consulting firm evaluate, and they said that they believe that that one proposal, just investment tax credit, would create a half a million private sector jobs in the first year alone--just that one proposal.

The second thing that we will do is to try to accelerate the investment of our country in infrastructure in terms of road projects, water projects, other projects of that kind that are already on line with the plans that are in--ready to go, in the first year with the commitment that I have to transfer defense cuts into domestic investments. So I want to try to increase transportation funding and those kinds of things to put people to work, and they have a lot of spinoff job creation. So I think--those are two specific things. There will be more, which we'll be talking about during the course of this transition, but those are two.

WOLFE: Governor...

Gov. CLINTON: Wolfe?

WOLFE: Governor, you--you suggest that you want to spend a lot of money for infrastructure. You proposed earlier \$ 20 billion, but many economists think that's not enough. Fifty billion may be necessary. Won't that dramatically increase the deficit as you're trying to create jobs? How do you balance these? And, secondly, are you beginning to feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the responsibility that you now have?

Gov. CLINTON: No, I'm having a wonderful time. I mean, it is an enormous responsibility. But I asked for it, and it is an indulgence to feel overwhelmed by it. It's like everything else. If you get up over--every day and go to work and put one foot in front of the other. I mean, some nights when we fini--last night we finished at--after 11. And we sit around and think, 'This is overwhelming, you know.' But--but it is in the nature of democratic government that most people can do most jobs if they summon their best effort, and I'm just going to give you my best effort every day.

Now let me answer your question. The--the major debating point among all the economists about what to do with the economy now is just that. You know, do you--there was the crowd that--there is the group that says, 'Go ahead and make big cuts in the deficit now, because a few years from now you'll bring down interest rates,' even though it will actually drive up unemployment, slow the economy more. And--and then there's the group that says, 'Spend more money now, either by putting more money into construction projects or by having huge tax cuts.' And then there's--you know, my position is--and we're going to have a chance. We'll test it. We'll see if I'm right. That's what the election was about.

I believe that what we have to do is to have a disciplined reduction in the debt, so we send a clear signal to the markets at home and abroad that we're going to bring this deficit down but that we do it more gradually and with a framework which permits us to substantially increase investment. You see, I believe that we cannot balance this budget ever unless we can get more economic growth than we've got. I think if you look at this anemic growth, the anemic employment and the anemic tax receipts, you're never going to get to a position where the budget is in balance unless you grow the economy. But, on the other hand, to ignore the deficit is a--is a great mistake. So I'm going to pursue my course, which is increase investment, gradual, but disciplined reduction of the deficit, and we'll see if it works.

Steve, go ahead.

STEVE: Is the criticism that has been aired of Mr. Jordan's tobacco connection appropriate or fair in your judgment? And, sir, will you ask him to make an adjustment in his affairs?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, I don't think it is--should be--let me--let me answer the question from the point of view of the citizens. I don't think that the American people should be concerned about it. I have asked--keep in mind,

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everybody is working on the transition, is working for a two-month period and, in his case, for nothing. What I have asked them to do is to not attend to their board duties, to--to, basically, be on leave from any of their board responsibilities, during the time they are working for this transition. And I have told all the people, even those who were working for free, that they will be subject to the same ethical constraints as the people that we hire to work on this transition, which we will announce tomorrow.

So in my view, that is enough. Now in terms of the tobacco connection, I'll have two points to make. First of all, those of you who are familiar with my record and my wife's public statements here at home would have little to be concerned about us being too close to the tobacco lobby. I vetoed a smokers bills of right that passed overwhelming in my legislature in 1991, and I spent the rest of the legislative session trying to fend off an override, which we successfully did. I think Senator Gore's record on public health issues is well known. So that's the first point I want to make.

The second point I'd like to make is that Vernon Jordan is my friend and has been very important to me in the selection of the vice president and in this transition process. But Vernon Jordan is not going to pick these major people who serve in the health-care positions. I am. And so that is my job. I am working hard on this. Nobody on this board is going to be making these decisions. I'm going to make them. So I hope the American people will accept that.

Yes?

Unidentified Man #4: On the economic summit, Governor...

Unidentified Woman #2: Governor?

Man #4: ...we're told that you...

Gov. CLINTON: Let her go next. I've been waiting--and, Dee, you're next.

Go ahead.

Woman #2: You set up a fairly elaborate system for the transition of domestic policy advisers. What do you hope to learn from them and the policies that are passed--will they be yours or theirs?

Gov. CLINTON: Mine. They will be mine, but I can learn a lot from them. Let me just give you an example. If you take all the things that we have recommended, why do we need a tu--we have an economic team--on the domestic side, we've got an economic team, a health-care team and a team for virtually everything else. You know, that's sort of my reinventing government and issues--political reform, national service, the criminal justice things I recommended.

Let me--here's why you need a team. It's all very well to say you want an investment tax credit and quite another thing to make the 15 decisions that have to be made to shape the exact bill you want. It's--it's all very well to say, as I have said, that the working poor in this country who are exploding exponentially, if they work 40 hours a work and have a child at home, should be lifted out of poverty by increasing the refundable income tax credit for the working poor and another thing to answer the five or six questions that define how you get that done.

In the national service context, all of you who were on this campaign, you heard people applauding and hoping at every turn that--that idea. And it's one I feel very passionate about. But there are a lot of factional questions that have to be asked. How much money should everybody be able to borrow a year? What contributions should people's families be expected to make, if any? How are you--if you put this into effect, how are you going to keep the colleges and universities of this country from using it as an excuse not to explode tuition even more? I mean, there are lots of factual questions. So we--what these people are going to be doing is they will--is trying to figure out how to implement the recommendations we made in the campaign, telling us if there are better ideas that we ought to either--that we ought to add to them or modify them and--and, basically, making sure that we got it all paid for and then dealing with the

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practical details of how you take ideas and work them into the incredibly complex laws governing the congressional budgeting process and deal with the committees and all that.

I mean, one of you asked the question about--you said President Carter tried to pass too many things and either didn't get it done or, when he did, nobody knew what had happened. One of the things that Ronald Reagan did in passing his program that I think you have to give him a lot of credit for in 1981 is to put a whole lot of changes into omnibus bills by organizing the thing properly and making sure it fit with the way that the congressional laws worked. I was very impressed with the way they did it, and we will do as much of that as we can. I think the fewer votes you have, the better off you are. So those are some of the things they'll be doing.

Yes?

Unidentified Man #5: On the economic summit, we're told that you're going to be bringing some of the top business leaders from across the country here to Little Rock to give you their views on what should be doing about the economy. By almost anyone's standards, Ross Perot is one of the more successful business leaders. You agreed with some of his economic strategies during the campaign and you appealed to his supporters to be comfortable with voting for you. Would you be comfortable with having him come and be a part of that team?

Gov. CLINTON: I wouldn't be uncomfortable doing that. I have not made up my mind who's going to come.

Man #5: ...(unintelligible) invited?

Gov. CLINTON: I have had no discussions on that. I have no--but I want--I'm going to have business leaders here. We'll have some people from labor here who understand the changes that are going on. We'll have some distinguished economists here. We'll have a lot of people who were part of this campaign and some people who weren't. And it will be more in the nature of a retreat in that sense. I mean, I'm asking people to come here and go to work. You know, there's not--it's not--there's not going to be much posturing and show about this. It's going to be a lot of work.

Man #5: Ross Perot says he wants to get under the hood.

Gov. CLINTON: Wants to what?

Man #5: Ross Perot says he wants to get under the hood. He's ready to work--day one.

Gov. CLINTON: Well, I expect he'll have a chance to get under the hood.

Unidentified Man #6: Governor, are you satisfied with the way in which President Bush has handled the State Department probe into your background during the campaign, or do you think more needs to be done?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, I'm glad Ms. Tamposi had to leave her job about six weeks early. I thought that was an appropriate thing to do. I don't know that I know enough to give you a final judgment. Let me just say this. If I catch anybody using the State Department like that when I'm president, you won't have to wait till after the election to see him gone. I don't want to talk about what happened in the past. The election was over. We don't have a--we don't have a minute to waste looking into the past. I just want you to know that the State Department of this country is not going to be fooling with **Bill Clinton's** politics, and if I catch anybody doing it, I will fire them the next day. There won't be--they won't have to have an inquiry or rigmarole or anything else, because that is too important to me that the rest of the world see us as having a coherent and as s much as possible non-political foreign policy. I have--and let me say, you will see that I've gone out of my way since I was elected to support the idea that President Bush is our president, that he makes foreign policy and that we're all going to stick with it till there's a change, and this is a part of that to me.

Yes?

Unidentified Man #7: What is your policy of the Korean peninsula?

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Gov. CLINTON: I'm sorry. I didn't hear you.

Man #7: What is your policy of Korean peninsula?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, I expect, by the way, to have a talk with President Roh this afternoon. I wish I had had my conversation with him already before we had this. I hope that someday the Korean people will be reunited in a democratic and free society. I hope that we can continue to be a force for the security of South Korea. And I hope very much that the North Koreans will not be successful in developing real nuclear capacity.

Yes?

Unidentified Woman #3: Could you give us some more details about the lobbying restrictions and ethics package you're going to announce? And tell us what real impact do you think they're going to have on the way business is done in Washington? Whose interests are going to be better representative--represented because of them and whose won't?

Gov. CLINTON: I don't want to give more details, because otherwise we don't have anything else to do the next time we meet. I will--I will--let me tell you what I'm going--on the first question, let me answer you this way. Tomorrow I will release what I--what will be the rules for people involved in the transition. And several days after that, we will release, as we finalize them, what will be the rules for people who take high positions in the administration. Then we will release those things which require legislative changes in rules relating to lobbyists and campaign finance reforms that I will push to the Congress. And I will do that in three separate stages during this transition process.

The--what change I expect is this. I think that the main--let me back up and say, first of all, lobbying is a part of people's First Amendment rights. I bet nearly everybody in here has been a lobbyist or a supplicant or something at one time or another before a public body. If there were a bill pending in Congress to substantially restrict the application of the First Amendment, all of you would happily show up and say why it was a lousy idea and you would be lobbyists. But that wouldn't make you bad people. It would make you patriotic Americans. The problem with the system that we have is that if--that all decisions are made by organized groups, then very often the public interest is not served.

So how do I expect this to change? I think the--the code of ethics requirements on the executive branch will give people confidence that whatever decisions we make in dealing with economic issues here and beyond our borders will be made by people who cannot in turn profit for them for several years after they leave the government. And that will increase the credibility of our decision making. Secondly, if we can pass lobby reform through the Congress, it will--it will lessen the influence of special interest groups, with the public interest, because people will know more about what lobbyists are doing when they're doing it. Thirdly, if we can pass campaign finance reform, I think race--every election will be like this last election. That is, I don't think incumbents will have a free ride in the Congress, even when things settle down some. If you have limits on total spending, you open the airwaves to--to debate, and you limit the influence of PACs. Then I think every election can be like this presidential election was. People have to go on the talk shows, they have to do the debates, they have to do the town meetings, they have to honestly defend their records in order to get re-elected.

(Several people try to ask questions)

Unidentified Man #8: Governor, Little Rock is not Washington, and you--you face increased security as president-elect.

Gov. CLINTON: Thank goodness.

Man #8: And you're also faced--increased media scrutiny. Will we see you on the streets of Washington a lot jogging, and are you frustrated by the bubble?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, I'm a little bit. You know, I'm a real sort of informal person. I live in an atmosphere that is

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highly personal and informal. I know my friends and neighbors, and my constituents can come up to me and talk to me on the street. But I would hope that both Senator Gore and I would be able to maintain some greater level of ongoing personal contact with folks than is typically the case. Now I know there are security concerns, and we've talked to the Secret Service about that, and I have no criticism of them. I think they do a fine job. But I--I think that one of the reasons we made this campaign a success is because we went out of our way to demonstrate, both of us, together and separately, that we could be genuinely accessible to the American people and that we were interested in them. And I think that there are a lot of things you do in your own personal habits which send that signal out. So I hope I'll be able to do it. May not.

Yeah?

Unidentified Man #9: ...that you had some options for action, without congressional help to move the economy along. Could you be specific about what those options are?

Gov. CLINTON: I could when I'm really ready to talk about what I want to do. I don't want to--I think it's very important for me not to be hypothetical in that. And I--I need to settle on in what I'm going to do and then tell you. I think I shouldn't be hypothetical.

Yes?

Unidentified Woman #4: You had mentioned twice--you had mentioned twice now the spread of nuclear weapons in your statement, and also you expressed concern about North Korea and also Iran, another unfriendly nation that's getting close to the--what is it that you can do to prevent that, and--and is that a concern that you--now that you have more information, is that a deepening concern?

Gov. CLINTON: Well, it's been a concern of mine for some time, and I know it's also a concern of Senator Gore's. I--I think we will have to work on the right kind of test band, the right kind of agreement not to proliferate or transfer technologies. I think we'll have to work on trying to help promote some elemental security procedures for our allies who are willing to help us. I mean, you know, we're living in a different world now with the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and even the disintegration of ordinary means of security. I mean, when you find whatever it was, six or seven pounds of enriched uranium in the back of a car in a rest stop in Germany, you see what you're up against. I just think that--that this is something that will require a great deal of our attention and a very disciplined and consistent effort to try to keep this stuff down. And we're going to do what we can. Thank you very much.

RATHER: Governor **Bill Clinton**, president-elect of the United States, Senator Al Gore of Tennessee, vice president-elect, holding their first news conference. Unusual, if not unprecedented scene there, of the new president-elect appearing with his vice president at his first news conference since the election.

Now about the economy, Governor Clinton, you may have noticed, said he favored a, quote, 'short-term economic agenda to jolt the economy forward, followed by a longer-term commitment to create jobs and growth and increase incomes.' The governor renewed his call for an investment tax credit, which he said could create 500,000--that's a half a million jobs--in its first year. He also reiterated that he's for accelerated spending on public works projects, a step, of course, that if it were effective, could create jobs very swiftly. Asked whether he would formally ask Congress for a middle-class tax cut, a point in his campaign economic program, Governor Clinton said today that he had not yet made any changes in that program and would let reporters know if he did, indicating that he does plan to propose very early in the administration some kind of middle-tax--middle-income tax reduction. We'll, of course, have more about all of this and the rest of the day's news on tonight's "CBS Evening News." Until then, Dan Rather in New York. I'll see you later.

ANNOUNCER: This has been a CBS NEWS SPECIAL REPORT.

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