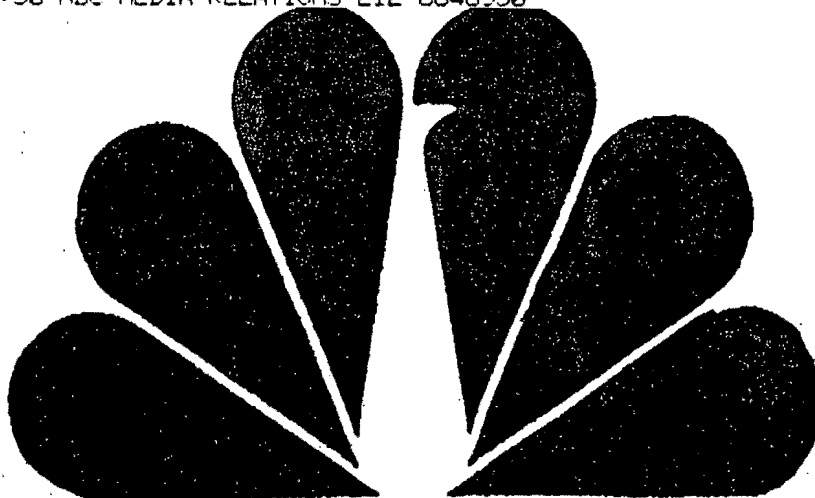


06/10/93
COURIC, KATIE
NBC



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NBC-HILLARY-CLINTON

FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON TALKS WITH KATIE COURIC

IN NBC NEWS SPECIAL TO BE TELECAST JUNE 10

NBC News will broadcast a special interview with Hillary Rodham Clinton, "Hillary: America's First Lady," on Thursday, June 10 (10-11 p.m. NYT). Conducted by Katie Couric, this is the first nationally broadcast in-depth television interview with Hillary Rodham Clinton since she became First Lady.

During the wide-ranging interview, Mrs. Clinton discusses public reaction to her role in the White House, her influence in the Clinton Administration, raising a teenager in the White House, and her haircut.

The interviews were conducted in late May. Following are excerpts of Couric's talks with Mrs. Clinton.

ON BEING A ROLE MODEL:

Couric: "Millions of people see you as a role model, and millions of other people see you as a very threatening person. Why do you think you are such a lightning rod?"

Clinton: "Because I think women's roles right now are lightning rods every day in so many different ways. In work places and kitchens, and places all over America, people are struggling to define what it means to be a woman, a mother, a wife....And because my husband is the first of our generation to be elected President...it's the first time that a lot of those private discussions have really been played out at such a very high and visible point in our public life."

INFLUENCE:

Couric: "How much influence do you have?"

Mrs. Clinton: "I don't know that I have any more influence than anybody else who is an advisor to the President. And there are dozens of people who he talks to on a regular basis, and asks advice from. Just as he always has. My husband loves to seek out people with different points of view. And I'm one of those people...on certain issues....

"On other issues, we don't talk about them at all. It's not anything I know anything about, or he doesn't think that it's something he wants to talk to me about...but I think that everybody who's in any kind of marriage, and particularly the marriages that have lived inside this house, knows that husbands and wives influence each other."

ON HEALTH CARE:

Couric: "What is it about Hillary Rodham Clinton that makes you capable of spearheading this enormous movement?"

Clinton: "Well, I think that I'm willing to immerse myself in all of the hard decisions that have to be made, because the President asked me to do that. And because I try to keep thinking about these problems not from the point of view [of] any particular interest group but as a person, as a mother, as somebody who has to use the health-care system: Is that what I want for myself?

"...What I want to do is to be somebody who helps make sure that what we come up with sounds real and will work....I want it to be understandable and workable for real Americans...."

Couric: "Can you say, unequivocally, that taxes will not be raised?"

Clinton: "I can say, unequivocally, that the President has some options in front of him that will minimize any general kind of tax that is put on anybody in this country....They'll have to pay premiums for insurance that will give them the benefits that we're going to be requiring everybody to have. They won't pay taxes to the Federal government."

Couric: "It will come out of their paycheck?"

Clinton: "Or come out of a contribution...."

Couric: "Much has been said about the success of the Clinton Administration riding on health-care reform. That's a tremendous pressure for you, and what seems to me to be a tremendous political risk. Wouldn't it have been easier for your husband -- or wouldn't it have been wiser -- for your husband to hire someone who could be fired, for example, if he or she failed?"

Clinton: "Well, I suppose by traditional political standards it would have been....Is it a risk? Sure it's a risk. Am I conscious that I could get blamed or, you know, be criticized? Of course. But I think that it's a risk that my husband believes is worth taking, and I agree with him."

Couric: "How are you held accountable if you fail?"

Clinton: "...there'll be many people who are willing to jump up and down and say, 'I told you so,' and point fingers. But it's not whether I fail....and even whether the President fails; it's whether the country fails."

ON THE INTERPRETATION OF DAVID GERGEN'S APPOINTMENT:

Couric: "The appointment of David Gergen as counselor to the President has been widely interpreted as a move to the center by your husband, or a return to center, if you will. Do you endorse that?"

Clinton: "Well, I don't think he ever really left the center. I think that anybody who looked fairly at what he has done for the last several months would conclude that....I think that David Gergen, who's been a friend of ours for a number of years, will bring a real added perspective...He's been in this city -- which, based on my short experience, is a very difficult place to understand why it does what it does sometimes. And I think he'll be a good counselor, which is the role that the President's asked him to play."

Couric: "Surely, it's not simply the perception that he has lurched to the left as many columnists have described. I mean, gays in the military, abortion rights, raising taxes rather than giving the middle class the tax break that was promised during the campaign, don't you think it's clear that he has..."

Clinton: "Well..."

Couric: "...strayed a bit?"

Clinton: "You know that both those first two issues were talked about in the campaign. He made it very clear where he stood on those issues. And he won the election. And with respect to the economic package, you know, to wake up the day after the election and find out the deficit was worse than you had been led to believe, that there were a lot of tough decisions that were now made even tougher because of economic changes that had occurred, required him to be responsible. And I think he's done that."

"And I don't think it's 'left' or 'right' to say, you know, 'We're going to deal with the deficit, guys. We're going to cut spending, and we're going to try to invest to create jobs.' I consider that pretty much down the center."

ON JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS

Clinton: "I had a wonderful couple of lunches with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis....And she talked about raising children...because I think she's done such a magnificent job with her children under the most extraordinary of circumstances probably anybody has had to face in our lifetime. And she talked about how it's so important to give your children responsibility, give them as normal a life as you can, despite everything that's going on around them. Don't let them have too much attention, or be exposed too much, because they deserve a chance to grow up to be who they're going to be."

Couric is the co-anchor of NBC News' "Today," and will co-anchor a new NBC News magazine show to premiere in August.

Jeff Zucker is the executive producer of "Hillary: America's First Lady."

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NBC-New York, 6/10/93

esparkman

Mon Jun 7 11:19 page 5

HILLARY CLINTON:

If anybody were hiding the President in the basement you know...

KATIE COURIC:

In fact I wanted you to point out just where you were when you threw the lamp at your husband.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well, you know that's-- I'm looking for that spot too. Actually I have a wonderful young man who works for me named Neel Lattimore. And he had a great response to that when somebody first called and said I heard that she threw a lamp at a Secret Service agent. And Neil said, how did you find out? We buried him in the Rose Garden. We didn't think anybody would know. I mean you know they're just-- all that sort of silly stuff that goes on that you get used to.

KATIE COURIC:

Do you ever get used to some of the vicious rumors, though, that are spread about you and your husband and your family?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Yeah. I never get used to why people need to do that. Why they try to build themselves up by lying about other people. I never get used to that. But I guess it's just human nature. And you just hope that when people come out with those outlandish and untrue stories, that most people just roll their eyes and put them where they deserve to be, in the trashcan. But that's part of-- the other part of being in public life. And if you go back and read about some of the terrible things that were said about people who've lived in this house before that were absolutely untrue, you know that unfortunately there are people out there who don't want to see a President change, don't want to see a President do something to help the country, but for their own personal or political agenda want to undermine him.

And you just try to learn and figure out how to get around that attitude.

KATIE COURIC:

I just want to take one more quick glance...

HILLARY CLINTON:

Isn't this...

KATIE COURIC:

...at the beautiful view?

HILLARY CLINTON:

...incredible?

esparkman

Mon Jun 7 11:18 page 1

SLUG	SHOW	WRITER	MODIFIED	esparkman	TIMING	LC
HRC/KC politics	XSCRIPT	esparkman	Sun Jun 6 15:46 1993	HOLD	15:42	378

These are extended excerpts of two interviews between the First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and NBC News' Katie Couric. The first interview took place aboard an Amtrak train travelling from Baltimore to Washington, D.C.; the second took place in the First Lady's Garden at the White House.

Both interviews are featured in the NBC News program "HILLARY: AMERICA'S FIRST LADY". Air date Thursday, June 10, 1993.

HILLARY CLINTON:

I'M NOT AN EXPERT IN HEALTH CARE, I'M NOT SOMEBODY WHO HAS STUDIED IT OR EVER DONE ANY OF THE THINGS YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE IN THE SYSTEM.

BUT WHAT I REALLY WANT TO DO IS TO BE SOMEBODY WHO HELPS MAKE SURE THAT WHAT WE COME UP WITH SOUNDS REAL AND WILL WORK. I MEAN, I WANT IT TO BE UNDERSTANDABLE AND WORKABLE FOR REAL AMERICANS.

I MEAN, I KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT MY DOCTORS. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT I'LL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO HAVE THE DOCTORS THAT I FEEL MOST COMFORTABLE WITH.

KATIE COURIC:

IF YOU'RE NOT AN EXPERT IN HEALTH CARE, WHAT QUALIFIES YOU TO BE IN CHARGE OF... TO DEAL WITH SOMETHING THAT... WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ONE SIXTH OF THE NATION'S ECONOMY, I MEAN, PEOPLE COMPARE THIS TO THE NEW DEAL.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON THAT MAKES YOU CAPABLE OF SPEARHEADING THIS ENORMOUS MOVEMENT?

HILLARY CLINTON:

WELL, I THINK BECAUSE I'M WILLING TO IMMERSE MYSELF IN ALL OF THE HARD DECISIONS THAT HAVE TO BE MADE, BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO DO THAT.

AND BECAUSE I TRY TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS NOT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW ANY PARTICULAR INTEREST GROUP BUT AS A PERSON, AS A MOTHER, AS SOMEBODY WHO HAS TO USE THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM: IS THIS WHAT I WANT FOR MYSELF?

KATIE COURIC:

WHEN YOUR HUSBAND TURNED TO YOU AND SAID, HILLARY, HIL, HONEY, WHATEVER HE CALLS YOU... WHAT DOES HE CALL YOU?

HILLARY CLINTON:

OH, DIFFERENT THINGS! (LAUGHS)

KATIE COURIC:

DEPENDING ON HIS MOOD, I GUESS. BUT WHEN HE TURNED TO YOU AND SAID, I REALLY WANT YOU TO DEAL WITH HEALTH CARE REFORM, WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST REACTION? DID YOU SAY, "HEALTH CARE REFORM"? AND WHEN DID YOU ALL DISCUSS THIS?

HILLARY CLINTON:

I THINK WHAT HE DECIDED WAS, UH, HE WANTED TO DELVE RIGHT INTO THIS AND HE WANTED IT TO BE SOMETHING THAT HE GAVE TOP PRIORITY AND HE KNEW THAT IF HE HAD
SEE THE PERSON HE PUT IN CHARGE OF IT: YOU KNOW, THE FIRST THING HE GOT UP
 THE MORNING, THE LAST THING BEFORE HE'D GONE TO BED, HE WOULDN'T FORGET ABOUT

esparkman

Mon Jun 7 11:18 page 2

IT.

(SITDOWN INTERVIEW IN THE FIRST LADY'S GARDEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE BEGINS:)

KATIE COURIC:

Let's say there's a middle class guy working for General Motors. Will he have the same benefits, the same choice of doctor and pay the same money as he does now under your plan?

HILLARY CLINTON:

I can't really answer specifically, cause I don't exactly what he has or how much he pays. But, in general, most Americans will have access to a very good benefits package that provides the kind of primary and preventive health care that they need to have. And also, takes care of them with the kind of acute hospitalization that all of us fear.

KATIE COURIC:

But it is conceivable that someone could get fewer benefits and pay more?

HILLARY CLINTON:

It's conceivable. It is conceivable. But I can't really answer a kind of hypothetical question like that because what we find is that for most Americans now, they are in danger of losing all or part of the benefits that they currently have, that employers are finding it increasingly difficult to continue to pay for what they are paying for... So, even if someone were to say, "Gee, you know, here's what I've got now," they can't with any assurance in today's world-- no matter who they're employed by-- say, "And I can tell you for sure that's what I'm going to have next year."

KATIE COURIC:

We've been hearing that health care now may be delayed until September?

HILLARY CLINTON:

There's not been any decision made on that.

KATIE COURIC:

There are others who say, "There's no way you can get the budget passed and health care reform passed in one year."

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well, you know, there are a lot of people in Washington who say things can't get done.

I don't think the President buys that. I think he believes that this country has big challenges in front of it. He wants -- he wants us to address the two biggest: the economy, creating jobs and solving the health care crisis. So, that's his attitude.

COURIC: You want to see it dealt with this yr?

HILLARY CLINTON:

I think every year that we wait, the costs continue to explode. Hundreds and thousands of people lose insurance through no fault of their own. People who have insurance see their benefits cut. And I think every year we wait, we get further behind in trying to solve the problem.

KATIE COURIC:

How much is this going to cost and how are we gonna pay for it?

esparkman

Mon Jun 7 11:18 page 3

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well, I think that it's going to, actually save us money. If we do it, and we do it with the kind of discipline that I believe the President's going to propose.

KATIE COURIC:

But in the short term, it's gonna cost an awful lot of money. We've heard anywhere from thirty billion to a hundred and fifty billion dollars.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Those are just way out of line.

KATIE COURIC:

The thirty billion's way out of line?

HILLARY CLINTON:

No, thirty billion may not, depending upon what the President decides to put into it. But, it's really speculative to say exactly how much anything will cost. Because a lot of it depends on how it's phased in, how many savings we can get up front.

KATIE COURIC:

Taxes will have to be raised, won't they?

HILLARY CLINTON:

No, not really, not really.

KATIE COURIC:

You can say, unequivocally, that taxes will not be raised?

HILLARY CLINTON:

I can say, unequivocally, that the President has some options in front of him that will minimize any general kind of tax that is put on anybody in this country.

KATIE COURIC:

But to make it fair, some people will have to pay higher taxes?

HILLARY CLINTON:

No, not higher taxes. They'll have to pay premiums for insurance, that will give them the benefits that we're gonna be requiring everybody to have. They won't pay taxes to the federal government. They will pay it ...

KATIE COURIC:

It will come out of their paycheck?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Or come out of a contribution. Or however, they're gonna decide to do it.

KATIE COURIC:

Will abortion be included in the package?

HILLARY CLINTON:

I don't know. We'll have to wait and see.

KATIE COURIC:

Do you want it to be included in the package?

HILLARY CLINTON:

I think that's all up to the President at this time. We've, you know, given

esparkman

Mon Jun 7 11:18 page 4

him all the information that we can.

QUESTION:

MUCH has been said about the success of the Clinton administration riding on healthcare reform. That's tremendous pressure for you, and what seems to me to be a tremendous political risk. Wouldn't it have been easier for your husband -- or wouldn't it have been wiser -- for your husband to hire someone who could be fired, for example, if he or she failed?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well, I suppose by traditional political standards it would have been. But I guess one of the things we keep trying to get across is that my husband feels very strongly about these issues. They are not just political issues for him to be looked at on some polling data. He thinks we need to solve the healthcare problem. He doesn't want to be distanced from it. He wants to wade right into it.

Is it a risk? Sure it's a risk. Am I conscious that I could get blamed or you know be criticized? Of course. But I think that it's a risk that my husband believes is worth taking, and I agree with him.

QUESTION:

How are you held accountable if you fail?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Oh gosh, read the papers, turn on the TV. There'll be many people who are willing to jump up and down and say I told you so and point fingers. But it's not whether I fail. And even whether the President fails, it's whether the country fails.

Can that sounds kind of hokey and old fashioned. But that's the way I feel about it.

KATIE COURIC:

How do you think people feel about you being in charge? Do you think senior aids can walk up to your husband and say, "Mr. President, I think your wife is way off-base"?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well, I've heard them say that. (LAUGHTER) Sure. We have a very open relationship. You know, people have all these stereotypes in mind about, you know, how, if somebody's in this role, then, therefore, you can't treat them a certain way. I suppose there are some people who-- who may not feel comfortable. But they may not feel comfortable talking about anybody in a direct way about their opinions.

But the President really encourages that. I mean, he goes out of his way to ask everybody what they think, which is one of his great strengths, in my opinion. And I've been in lots of meetings where people have said gee, ya know, someone said, "i dont agree with that" and i've said, I don't agree with that."

And we've gone back and forth about it. I think that makes for better decisions.

KATIE COURIC:

The appointment of David Gergen as counselor to the President has been widely interpreted as a move to the center by your husband, or a return to the center, do you will. Do you endorse that? Do you think that's necessary?

HILLARY CLINTON:

esparkman

Mon Jun 7 11:18 page 5

Well, I don't think that he ever really left the center. I think that anybody who looked fairly at what he has done for the last several months would include that. But I know what the perception was.

I think that David Gergen, who's been a friend of ours for a number of years will bring a real added perspective. He does have experience in the White House. He's been in this city, which based on my short experience is a very difficult place to understand why it does what it does sometimes. And I think he'll be a good counselor which is the role that the President's asked him to play.

KATIE COURIC:

Surely it's not simply the perception that he has lurched the left as many columnists have described. I mean gays in the military, abortion rights, raising taxes rather than giving the middle class the tax break that was promised during the campaign, don't you think it's clear that he has...

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well...

KATIE COURIC:

...strayed a bit?

HILLARY CLINTON:

You know that both those first two issues were talked about in the campaign. He made it very clear where he stood on those issues. And he won the election.

And with respect to the economic package, you know, to wake up the day after the election and find out the deficit was worse than you had been led to believe, that there were a lot of tough decisions that were now made even whether because of economic changes that had occurred, required him to be responsible. And I think he's done that.

And I don't think it's left or right to say, you know, we're going to deal with the deficit, guys. We're going to cut spending, and we're going to try to invest to create jobs. I consider that pretty much down the center.

KATIE COURIC:

You left out gays in the military.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well, that was something else he talked about in the campaign. And it was never -- as best I can recall, ever made an issue. Nobody ran commercials against him. And I think he didn't see that as a left issue so much as here is our most important institution to protect this country. And there are many people in this institution who have served honorably. And even the Persian Gulf War demonstrated that.

Nobody really complained much about it during the campaign. So he moved to do it. And this great big eruption occurred. But I think he didn't view that again as something left or liberal so much as you know kind of letting people live their own lives which is a pretty good american tradition.

KATIE COURIC:

I know you had a one on one interview with David Gergen which might lead people to think, gosh, can't President Clinton hire anybody without Hillary talking to them?

HILLARY CLINTON:

1. David and I have been friends a long time. And he came over to the White House to wait for Bill to return from a trip, and we visited for about twenty

esparkman

Mon Jun 7 11:18 page 6

minutes. And then Bill came in. And we visited for about another ten minutes and then I left. And they visited for another two hours.

But he's somebody that I've known and respected for quite some time.

KATIE COURIC:

Your husband has had a tough time lately in terms of the public perception. His approval rating is lower than any post-war President at this point in his administration.

There are some people who believe had you not been in charge of healthcare, some of these embarrassing fiascos wouldn't have happened. The haircut. The travel office debacle. That had you been keeping your eye on the ball, you would be the one who could say, hey, Bill, you can't do that.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well, I think that's -- it's not squaring with any reality I know. I mean I am very committed to doing what he's asked me to do, which is to work on healthcare. And you know, a lot of these other matters are ones that, you know, things happen. You know people make mistakes. And you regret it. But you learn from it and you go on. And I think that any time you've got someone like Bill who's trying to do a lot of things because he thinks the country needs some changes to face up to its responsibilities, it's not going to be batting a thousand.

You know I mean in baseball, you win batting trophies for batting three hundred. And I think from his perspective there are a lot of tough issues that need to be taken on. And honestly I don't think he really is that concerned about his popularity except as it affects his ability to get what he thinks needs to be done.

KATIE COURIC: But those two...

HILLARY CLINTON:

...that's what he's...

KATIE COURIC:

...things are linked.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Yeah, they're linked. But you know they may be linked more in theory than in practice. Because I don't know that any President could be popular with coming in and trying to do some of the stern stuff that he's tried to do on the economy.

He took very seriously the job he was elected to do. And what he believes is that as President he's got to take the heat. That means saying look, we got to cut spending. And you know, cut spending in many instances means taking things away from people that they believe in or that they care about or even need. It's real easy up here to talk about cutting spending. But oftentimes that means cutting jobs out. It means cutting services out. He's been willing to do that. And he's been willing to say we've got to deal with the deficit. And that means we're going to have to be responsible with revenues.

KATIE COURIC:

But some of his public perception problems have nothing to do with that...about making hard choices. They have to do...

HILLARY CLINTON:

I think that underlies it..

esparkman.

Mon Jun 7 11:18 page 7

KATIE COURIC: with making bad decisions. Bad judgment... in recent weeks.

HILLARY CLINTON:

I just-- I don't-- I think that if he weren't trying to do hard things and he weren't engaged in the kind of struggle he is to get a budget that makes sense for the first time and that frankly is opposed by a lot of very powerful interests, much of the rest of this would be seen as yeah, somebody made a mistake. Somebody had a misjudgement. It's not the end of the world. It's not going to take food off somebody's table, because of a policy that was wrong. It's not going to deny healthcare to Americans.

So from my perspective, the fact that he's taken these hard things on has left him open to extraordinary attacks from a lot of people who have a lot to gain by preventing the changes he's trying to bring about.

esparkman

Mon Jun 7 11:19 page 1

SLUG	SHOW	WRITER	MODIFIED	esparkman	TIMING	LC
HRC/KC WH Tour	XSCRIPT	hbrooks	Sun Jun 6 16:19 1993	HOLD	9:50	290

These are extended excerpts of an interview between the First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and NBC News' Katie Couric, during a tour of the Family Quarters on the second floor of the White House.

The interview is featured in the NBC News program "HILLARY: AMERICA'S FIRST LADY". Air date Thursday, June 10, 1993.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well this is... the second floor. And this is one of my favorite parts of the house.

KATIE COURIC:

Boy it's beautiful.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Isn't this a beautiful...

KATIE COURIC:

Yeah.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Central corridor up here and...

KATIE COURIC:

Must be a bear, keeping this carpet clean, though, huh?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well, the maintenance and upkeep on this house is just overwhelmingly. You know things wear out so much because it's so used. You know with so many people coming in and out, there is so much, just, you know, absolute incredible movements that you know you don't even think a lot about. But just the people who work here going back and forth, the people that the President has up here.

I wanted to show you one of my favorite paintings. This is a Mary Cassatt. And one of the real pleasures of living in the White House is the art collection that has been donated and bought for the White House over the years, and Mary Cassatt's a particular favorite of mine. And this was here when I got here, and I was just so excited. (LAUGHTER)

But there is a wonderful feeling to this house. Because when you think that this is the corridor that, you know, Thomas Jefferson walked up and down and that Abraham Lincoln walked up and down.

It used to be that this was a business corridor. There were bedrooms here as well. But much of the business at the White House went on here before President Theodore Roosevelt built the West Wing. So that, for example, you would have many office seekers and government officials, perhaps, crowded up at this end of the hallway waiting for President Lincoln. And he would then have them coming in to meet with him over and over again.

...we're about to go into the Yellow Oval Room which is a formal diplomatic

esparkman

Mon Jun 7 11:19 page 2

receiving room now. Where if someone comes to visit us like the King and Queen of Spain did a few weeks ago for a very informal, get-acquainted meeting, we would bring them up here, and the President and I would sit and visit with them and their advisors. And we'd serve tea or coffee from this room.

When President Truman and his family lived here, they found so much structural repair that needed to be done that the house was just closed for several years.

The Trumans lived over at the Blair House. And one of the great additions that President Truman made was the Truman balcony which was not added until his administration. It is one of the President's and my favorite places.

KATIE COURIC:

Do you guys like to hang out here and eat dinner on a pretty night, right?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Yes, we do. We like to eat dinner. We like just coming out for a breath of air.

KATIE COURIC:

Now you didn't change this room at all, Hillary, did you?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Oh no. No, this room as you can see a very formal room for doing things like receiving guests.

KATIE COURIC:

So formal, do you ever worry about sitting on the furniture? It's so fancy.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well, but it's comfortable.

KATIE COURIC:

It is?

HILLARY CLINTON:

I've tried it all out. Because it does look quite delicate.

KATIE COURIC:

I'd always worry about spilling grape juice on the couch.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Yeah, I know I have those worries too. (LAUGHTER)

KATIE COURIC:

You're renovating a lot of the private residence.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well, we're doing some work-- There was a lot of upkeep. Mrs. Bush and I talked about that when I visited with her. And she gave me this wonderful tour. Just wear and tear. You know about every ten to twelve years, things wear out. I mean all of these great people who are filming this with us today, you know they walk back and forth carrying heavy equipment.

KATIE COURIC:

It's all your fault.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Wears things out you know. (LAUGHTER)

esparkman

Mon Jun 7 11:19 page 3

What can I say? This is not the usual house where you know you think a carpet like this would last forever. So we-- we are doing some -- some changes that had to be done. Just some regular ordinary up-to-date maintenance.

KATIE COURIC:

But also making it more in your style.

HILLARY CLINTON:

And we're doing things to you know -- that fits our furniture and our family.

KATIE COURIC:

More casual and...

HILLARY CLINTON:

A little more casual, a little more informal for the way we like to entertain. And it's-- it's been great.

KATIE COURIC:

Are you going to show us any of that maybe?

HILLARY CLINTON:

No. Because it's not ready.

KATIE COURIC:

That's all right. We'll close our eyes.

HILLARY CLINTON:

But this is one of the great views in Washington. In fact, I think it was President Franklin Roosevelt who said he loved to sit in this room and look out through the columns to the Jefferson Memorial in the distance. And you can actually see the statue of Jefferson in the middle of the rotunda, see the Washington monument. It is a very special place.

KATIE COURIC:

Boy, it's beautiful out here.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Isn't it?

KATIE COURIC:

Isn't it?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Oh I love it.

KATIE COURIC:

So you all come and have dinner here occasionally or...

HILLARY CLINTON:

Not as often as we'd like, but every so often we get a chance to do that.

KATIE COURIC:

Do you ever wake up and say wow, I'm living in the White House?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Yes. All the time. You know I-- I sometimes still don't really believe it. I think it will slowly over time sink in. But every time I turn a corner or I come out on a balcony like this and look out, I just pinch myself and think "an, I hardly can believe I'm here."

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Mon Jun 7 11:19 page 4

KATIE COURIC:

I know there are a lot of wonderful things about living here. But there are some drawbacks, aren't there?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Well, the loss of privacy and maybe even more than that the loss of mobility are big drawbacks. I mean I've had a chance a few times since we've been here to you know just put on some old clothes and go for a couple of long walks. But you don't feel free to come and go like I always did before. And my husband particularly is really restricted from doing that.

So that's hard because you know you don't want this office to interfere with your understanding of what's going on in the country and what's real to people.

KATIE COURIC:

What about times when you want to chill out, Hillary?

HILLARY CLINTON: (LAUGHS)

KATIE COURIC:

I mean your schedule is amazing. I mean here you are, you know, you're wife, mother. And then you're in charge of healthcare reform in America, no small task that. How do you relax?

HILLARY CLINTON:

Oh go for long walks, exercise, read, play cards with my...

KATIE COURIC:

Pinochle.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Daughter and...

KATIE COURIC:

Pinochle.

HILLARY CLINTON:

Pinochle.

Are you a... pinochle player?

KATIE COURIC:

I've never played pinochle in my life I wouldn't know the first thing about it.

HILLARY CLINTON:

It's a great game. And it's a game that my father taught me to play when I was really young. And then my father taught Bill. And my father taught Chelsea. So it has a lot of family meaning for us. We like to do things together, watch movies. I mean one of the real treasures of the White House is a movie theater. It's a small little movie theater. And so you know on a Friday or Saturday night we'll gather up some friends and watch a movie. And so we just try to relax the way we used to relax under these circumstances but the same we did when we weren't living here.

KATIE COURIC:

Have you seen Dave yet?

HILLARY CLINTON:

I did see Dave. And I thought it was a really fun movie. But I know now you could never keep a secret like that. (LAUGHTER)