

# FOIA MARKER

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**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records

**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting

**Series/Staff Member:** Lowell Weiss

**Subseries:**

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**OA/ID Number:** 17194

**FolderID:**

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**Folder Title:**

Arab American Institute 5/7/98

**Stack:**

**S**

**Row:**

**92**

**Section:**

**2**

**Shelf:**

**7**

**Position:**

**3**

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. draft	Insert to Speech to Arab-American Institute (1 page)	5/6/1998	P5

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
Speechwriting  
Lowell Weiss  
OA/Box Number: 17194

### FOLDER TITLE:

Arab American Institute 5/7/98

2006-0470-F

wr641

### RESTRICTION CODES

#### Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

#### Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Lowell Weiss

Presidential Speech Files

May 1998 –  
October 1998

ENCLOSURES FILED OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS 17194

NADA 14431

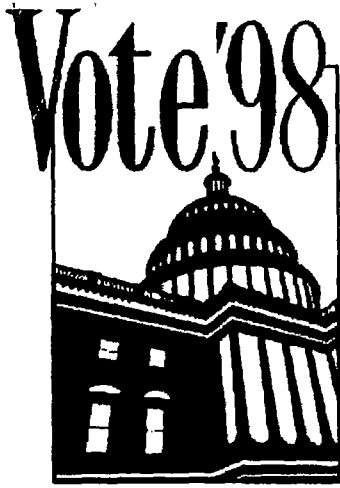
Christine Stanek  
66614

Tom Countryman  
NSC  
69128

67035

12E67

PRESERVATION PHOTOCOPY



A Winning Strategy

*Forum Agenda*  
*Spencer*

**Arab American  
National Leadership Conference**

**MAY 7 - 10, 1998**  
**Grand Hyatt Hotel**  
1000 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
(202) 582-1234

**PROGRAM**

**Thursday, May 7**

- |                                       |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 9:00 – 10:45 am and<br>5:00 – 8:00 pm | Registration  | Grand Hyatt, 3B Level<br>Constitution Foyer   |
| 10:15 am – 3:00 pm                    | Registration  | Foyer of The Gold Room<br>2168 Rayburn House Office Building<br>Independence Avenue & S. Capitol Street, SW |
| 11:00 – 12:00                         | <i>Congressional Visits</i>   | Capitol Hill  |
| 12:00 – 2:00 pm                       | <i>Luncheon</i><br><b>Forum with Members of Congress</b> 2168 RHOB<br><i>Co-chairs</i> <b>Senator Spencer Abraham (R-MI)</b><br><b>Representative Nick J. Rahall II (D-WV)</b>  | The Gold Room   |
| 2:00 – 3:00 pm                        | <i>Plenary Session</i><br><b>Arab Americans and Legislative Priorities on the Hill</b><br><i>Panelists</i> <b>Randa Fahmy Hudome, Counselor</b><br>Senator Spencer Abraham<br><b>TerriAnn Lowenthal, The Rothleder-Lowenthal Group</b><br><b>Gregory Nojeim, Legislative Counsel</b><br>American Civil Liberties Union<br><b>Frank Sharry, Executive Director</b><br>National Immigration Forum |   |
| 3:00 – 4:00 pm                        | <i>Plenary Session</i><br><b>105<sup>th</sup> Congress and Middle East Peace</b><br><i>Panelists</i> <b>Hisham Melhem, Bureau Chief, As-Safir</b><br><b>Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-IN)</b>  | The Gold Room   |

**Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA)**  
**Dr. Shibley Telhami, Anwar Sadat Chair for**  
Population, Development and Peace,  
University of Maryland

4:00 – 5:00 pm *Congressional Visits*

5:15 pm Buses return to Grand Hyatt, 10<sup>th</sup> Street entrance.

5:30 pm **Arab American Leadership PAC** Grand Hyatt  
**Reception** (rsvp required) Arlington Room

5:45 – 6:45 **Arab American '98 Candidates Reception** Roosevelt, Cabin John

7:00 pm Dinner Independence Ballrm.  
Address by  
**President William J. Clinton**

Post-dinner remarks  
**The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr.**

**Friday, May 8**

8:00 am – 10:00 pm Registration Grand Hyatt, 3B Level  
Constitution Foyer

9:20 am Buses leave hotel, 10<sup>th</sup> St. entrance for White House

10:00 – 11:30 am **White House Briefing** Old Executive Office Building, Rm. 450  
17<sup>th</sup> St. & Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
**Samuel Berger, National Security Advisor**  
– **Maria Echevestes, Director of Public Liaison**  
**Eric Holder, Deputy Attorney General**

11:45 am Buses return to Grand Hyatt hotel, 10<sup>th</sup> Street entrance

12:15 – 2:00 pm **Media Commentary on the 1998 Elections** Constitution CDE  
*Panelists* **Bill Press, CNN**  
**Ed Rollins, Political Consultant/Commentator**  
**John Zogby, pollster**

2:15 – 3:30 pm	<i>Plenary Session</i> <b>Arab American Civil Rights: When Stereotypes Become Policy</b> <i>Respondents</i>	Constitution AB <b>Mary Berry</b> , Chair US Commission on Civil Rights <b>Bill Lann Lee</b> , Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Department of Justice
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<b>Governor Roy Romer</b> , General Chair Democratic National Committee	Constitution AB
4:30 – 5:00 pm	<b>Jim Nicholson</b> , Chair Republican National Committee	Constitution AB
5:00 – 6:30 pm	<b>An Ethnic Roundtable</b> <b>Ron Cruz</b> , Portugese American Leadership Council <b>John Kromkowski</b> , Executive Director, National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs <b>Karen Narasaki</b> , Director, National Asian and Pacific American Legal Consortium <b>Lisa Navarette</b> , Deputy Vice President, National Council of LaRaza <b>Fred Rotondaro</b> , Executive Director, National Italian American Foundation <b>Hilary Shelton</b> , Deputy Director, NAACP Washington Office	Constitution AB
7:30 pm	<b>Reception Forum</b>	Bridge Room

### Saturday, May 9

8:15 am – 8:00 pm	Registration	Grand Hyatt, 3B Level Constitution Foyer
8:30 - 9:30 am (concurrent)	AAI Board Meeting – Directors and Governors PAC Business Meeting	Wilson/Roosevelt Cabin John/Arlington
9:45 -- 11:00 am	<b>Vote '98: An AA Political Agenda</b>  <b>Overview of '98 Elections</b> <b>Chuck Todd</b> , Managing Editor, <i>Hotline</i>  <b>Campaign and Party Work</b>	Constitution AB



**Sunday, May 10**

10:00 am –  
2:00 pm

Palestinian American Congress Board Meeting and Elections

Constitution CDE

speaker names in bold are confirmed

# AAI And Its Mission

To:

Christine  
Stamok

Ignore this →

**AAI was formed to make Arab Americans politically effective in American society through their participation in local school boards and commissions, city councils and state legislatures, as well as congressional and presidential elections.**

THE ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE (AAI) WAS FOUNDED IN 1985 TO NURTURE AND encourage the direct participation of Arab Americans in political and civic life in the United States. Previously, Arab American organizations had focussed their efforts on defending the community's civil and human rights, and on advancing a balanced U.S. foreign policy towards Arab and Islamic countries. However, the lessons learned in those struggles constantly reinforced one essential pre-condition for success: we needed access to the political system at all levels—access that is gained primarily from working in the political process at the grassroots.

AAI was formed to make Arab Americans politically effective in American society through their participation in local school boards and commissions, city councils and state legislatures, as well as congressional and presidential elections. The Institute also conducts research on public policy issues and U.S.-Middle East affairs.

AAI serves Arab Americans who want to be active in the U.S. democratic system, and those who benefit from that participation at home and abroad. We draw on the experiences of hundreds of elected and appointed Arab Americans—mayors, state senators, city managers, county commissioners, party chairs, and members of Congress—and on the active leadership of organized Arab American communities. This leadership network provides the backbone of the Institute's programs and works with us to continually develop a broad strategy to reach a central goal: effective Arab American participation in our country's political mainstream.

## What We Do

AAI is a non-profit, bipartisan national leadership organization based in Washington, D.C., just three blocks from the White House. To plan and carry out its political empowerment agenda of building leadership and fostering community participation, AAI works with key groups of Arab American leaders who are active on the local, state and national levels:

**The Arab American Leadership Council (ALC)** is the only national network of elected, appointed and party officials of Arab descent in the country. Organized in 1989 under the leadership of AAI, the Council promotes Arab American service in public and political life through technical and financial support for candidates, endorsements of government appointments and policies at every level, and liaison with the national parties.

**The National Policy Council** is the Institute's advisory body of key supporters and volunteer leaders who assist in planning AAI's political and policy strategies. Complementing the experience in public office of the ALC membership, NPC members represent the Institute's leadership in local Arab American communities. They help establish priorities and implement programs at the grassroots. AAI benefactors residing in the U.S. are also represented on the NPC.

**Arab American Democratic and Republican Clubs** are locally organized groups of party activists and committee members who coordinate Arab American involvement in local campaigns and party decision-making. Often structured by city or county jurisdiction, these clubs serve as local "caucuses" for Arab Americans who are active in party politics. They provide a network for the Institute's training programs in the convention delegate process, party elections, and campaign skills.

**The President's Circle** was launched in 1995 to offer a range of specialized services to the Institute's network of major donors both in the United States and abroad.

Remarks of  
Vice President Al Gore

Arab-American Institute  
Washington, DC  
November 9, 1995

WARREN -  
PAYS COMMENTS  
DIRTY TO  
SPEECH WRITERS.  
GOD

**(Acknowledgments from advance)**

I spoke here last year, and you invited me to return. From that, I can conclude only this: you were terribly moved by my reputation for . . . excitement . . . flamboyance . . . charisma.

But being Vice President has its advantages. I've been able to work closely with President Clinton -- and together we've accomplished so much: important work on reinventing government, protecting our environment, and preparing for the future. And I know these efforts will be rewarded decades from now, when a small child sits on my knee, looks up at me with awe in his or her young eyes, and says, "Grampa, tell me again about the time you went on David Letterman."

It's important to laugh in times like these, because tonight in our homes, our communities here in America and throughout the world, there is sadness.

Sadness because a man of peace -- our dear friend Yitzhak Rabin -- has been martyred by an assassin's bullet.

Sadness because a father, a husband, and a grandfather has been taken away from those he loved, and who loved him.

And sadness because yet again, fear and extremism have taken root in the fertile soil of youth, turning a young man who might have led a life of righteousness into an agent of death and of hatred.

But though we weep for Yitzhak Rabin, and for peace, and for the lost promise of youth, we also must temper our grief with hope.

All of us who watched his funeral on Monday saw that as in life, even in death Yitzhak Rabin summoned former foes to the table of peace.

Countless leaders from around the globe gathered to stand with their friend as he was laid to rest amid the pines and cypresses of Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. Bravely, they journeyed from Egypt, from Jordan, from Turkey, Oman, Bahrain, Morocco, and Qatar to the

ancient city of Jerusalem. As Muslims, as Jews, as Christians, as children of God and as his pilgrims for peace, they came to mourn for their lost brother, and to stand tall for the cause that Yitzhak Rabin gave his life.

The world was made nobler this week as visionary men such as King Hussein spoke of Prime Minister Rabin as his brother, and likened him to his martyred grandfather. Our lives were all made richer as President Mubarak for the first time came to Jerusalem to remember his friend, and to recommit himself to the cause of peace.

Tonight, all who have suffered from the pain of hate, and the terrible sting of intolerance, of misunderstanding, and of misrepresentation must stand united for the cause of justice and understanding. We must join together as citizens of this great land, and stand with those who are the peacemakers around the world.

That's what we're doing in Haiti, South Africa, and Northern Ireland. Now, U.S. leadership has delivered the best chance for peace in Bosnia since the war began. Important talks are underway in Dayton, Ohio between the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia. America's mediating team reports progress toward a peace settlement -- but many difficult issues need to be resolved.

If a peace agreement is reached, NATO must help secure it, and America, as NATO's leader -- must participate. Otherwise, our partners may turn their backs on Bosnia as well. A hard-won peace could be lost to a future of despair, to a weakened NATO, to America's leadership in Europe undermined.

America has led the way to a cease-fire and to the negotiations now underway in earnest. We have a responsibility to do our part in its implementation. Our values and our interests demand nothing less -- to stop the outrageous slaughter; to prevent war from spreading, to help build a united Europe at peace.

America's destiny is to lead, not to retreat. And as we work to secure peace abroad -- we also must redouble our efforts to bring the blessings of peace, of tolerance, and of prosperity to all our citizens here at home -- in Detroit as in Los Angeles, in Oklahoma City and here in Washington D.C.

Domestic progress -- like international peace -- is precarious. But President Clinton has made an extraordinary beginning -- opening the path to progress and opportunity for all our citizens. Look at all he has accomplished:

- \* Almost 8 million new jobs.
- \* Across the nation, the unemployment rate has dropped to 5.5 percent -- down from 7.5 percent when President Clinton took office.

\* After years of neglect, we're cleaning up the nation's fiscal mess. \$1 trillion in lower deficits over 7 years. That's \$15,000 of reduced federal debt for every family of four in America.

\* We've cut taxes for 15 million working families with modest incomes.

\* We've cut taxes for 95 percent of small businesses, because we know that they're the greatest source of jobs and stability for local communities.

We've gotten our economic house in order. We've recharged the great American jobs machine. Now we've got to protect our future, to ensure that everyone has fair shot to get ahead. And that means investing in our people -- equipping them with the tools they need to succeed.

A lot of our national leaders in the past few years have sought the title of "Education President?" Here's what *this* President has done:

\* Head Start; Goals 2000; technology in the classroom.

\* School-to-work apprenticeships, so our young people can move smoothly from the classroom to a job with a future.

\* Safe and Drug-free schools

\* Student Loan reform. Direct lending. College loans.

No wonder Jack Anderson -- who doesn't make a habit of complimenting Presidents -- concluded that Bill Clinton is the real Education President.

But we don't just have to prepare our people for a new century. We have to prepare our government to face the future. And after years of hearing others complain about big government, we're doing something about it. We're reinventing how the federal government works -- making it leaner, without making it meaner.

\* Today, there are 163,000 fewer positions on the federal payroll. And by next year, the federal government will be smaller than at any time since the Kennedy Administration.

\* Business Week/Social Security Administration's customer service.

But as I said, progress is always precarious. The road of change is a hard road. Obstacles meet us at every turn. Just look at what the Congress is trying to do:

At the very moment what people earn depends on what they learn . . . this Congress wants to cut college loans and on-the-job training for young people.

At the very moment Americans want to end welfare as we know it . . . this Congress has gone to new extremes -- proposing to deny benefits to . . . get this . . . Americans who are citizens, but who were born in other nations. Imagine: legitimate, legal citizens of the United States! It's disgraceful . . . and, yes, unAmerican.

At the very moment mothers and fathers are working harder than ever . . . this Congress wants to raise taxes on working families -- not to close the deficit, but to provide tax breaks for the very wealthy.

At the very moment Americans are demanding a government and an environment that are clean . . . this Congress wants to roll back environmental protections -- and let the lobbyists for the polluters rewrite our environmental laws.

At the very moment older Americans are concerned about their health care, and families want to lend their aging parents a helping hand . . . this Congress wants to make drastic changes, deep cuts, to Medicare.

It just makes no sense. But once again, there's a silver lining in this cloud. Extremists can illuminate what the rest of us have in common.

And Arab-Americans have always exemplified that common ground: demanding opportunity, taking responsibility. Working your way into America's mainstream. Starting small businesses. Building your communities. Sending your kids to college.

President Clinton came to office to preserve and fortify those values, values that Arab-Americans put into practice every day.

The President is committed to expanding the middle class and shrinking the underclass . . . to rebuilding our cities, reviving our neighborhoods, and restoring our families. Every time an Arab-American merchant is murdered, the values of hard work and individual initiative are betrayed. So we've been fighting crime with the smartest, toughest crime bill in history. We believe in the three Ps: Police. Prevention. Punishment.

The President is committed to the American ethic of tolerance . . . of respecting diversity and drawing strength from it . . . and to fighting the ugly nativism of the far right. Who can forget that in the aftermath of Oklahoma City bombing, Arabs were almost instantly blamed? . . . Even though the person eventually apprehended was a white man born and bred within America's borders.

Of course we need to fight terrorism at home. Of course we need to track down and punish people who commit terrorist acts. But we've got to do it in a way that doesn't violate the very civil liberties we're fighting for when we battle terrorists.

President Clinton has committed himself and his team to moving America forward.

But he can't do it alone. For every two steps we move forward, it often seems we're forced one step backward. The path to opportunity, it seems, is often littered with obstacles. But we can't turn back. That's why the President has enlisted Arab-Americans in the march -- cabinet officers like Donna Shalala . . . White House staffers like Tom Kalil ~~and~~ Julia Moffet and . . . and from my own staff, Greg Simon ~~and~~ Holly Carver.

Rob Malle

We've got to move forward together. And with your help, we can.

*Salam halakem* ("sah-LAHM ah-LAY-kumm"). [NOTE: The translation of this well-know Arabic phrase is "Go in peace."]

###

Draft 5/7/98 4:30pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**TALKING POINTS FOR ARAB AMERICAN**  
**INSTITUTE DROP-BY**  
**WASHINGTON, DC**  
**May 7, 1998**

**Acknowledge:** Jim and Eileen Zogby; co-sponsors Elie Abboud [ee-LEE ah-BOOD] and Fuad Ateyeh [foo-ADD ah-TEE-yah]; Rep. Hinchey; Rep. Sununu; your excellencies, the ambassadors and dignitaries who are here tonight.

**As Jim just told you, I love getting advice from his mother.** She's got a wonderful read on the world -- her son John, the renowned pollster, has nothing on her. Of course, I'm also grateful for Jim's advice over the years. His is a voice of calm and clarity -- no matter how heated or muddled the issue.

**Jim tells me I am the first sitting President to address an Arab-American conference.** I am proud to have that honor tonight. I have come here, in part, to congratulate you on the way the Arab-American community has found its voice. You are speaking out -- and being heard -- on a wide range of important domestic issues, not just on the Middle East. A record number of Arab-Americans are now running for, and serving in, the U.S. Congress. Even the newest Yemeni immigrants -- once poor farmers, now small-business owners -- are achieving their rightful share of the American Dream.

**I have also come to talk with you about how we can work together, at the end of the 20th century, to prepare for the challenges of the next.**

**First, we must help all Americans see our diversity as our greatest strength.** Together, we must work to build one America. To be sure, there is old, unfinished business between black and white Americans, but every ethnic group in America has its own stories to tell. I know that this community, in particular, has often felt the sting of stereotype. I am grateful to Jim [Zogby] and others here tonight who have played a major role in our Race Initiative.

And I am pleased that you are now working with Jewish Americans and members of several European ethnic groups to organize six regional forums on race and diversity over the coming year.

**Second, we must bring the spark of enterprise and jobs to every corner of this nation.** Our economy is the strongest in a generation -- with a record number of small-business starts in each of the past five years -- but we know that not every American has had a chance to reap the rewards. The Arab-American community understands the power and dignity that comes with owning one's own business. Let us work to spread this kind of opportunity throughout America.

**Third, we must build the best education system in the world -- not just universities, but elementary and secondary schools.** For generations, Arab-American families have made education their number-one priority -- and today, an Arab American is more than twice as likely than the average American to hold an advanced degree. To succeed in the next century, we must make education our nation's number-one priority -- with smaller classes, better teaching, higher standards, expanded choice, more discipline, and greater accountability.

**Fourth, we must continue to lead the world toward peace and freedom.** In Northern Ireland, representatives of all the major parties have reached an historic peace agreement to put an end to that long and tragic conflict.

All Americans should take a special measure of pride that the talks in Northern Ireland were chaired by George Mitchell, the former Majority Leader of the United States Senate, who is also, of course, of Lebanese descent.

And now we must regain the momentum for peace in the Middle East. As you know, we have been working hard on this issue since the beginning of my Administration, and we are working especially hard right now. For several years, Palestinians and Israelis have been traveling down a difficult road toward peace. The Oslo Accords, the Hebron Agreement, and the open dialogue they established were important breakthroughs, bringing the possibility of peace closer than ever before.

I want to regain that momentum. We have a strategic opportunity to get the process moving again and to move forward toward peace. Difficult choices must be made by Palestinians and Israelis alike. The U.S. cannot impose a solution, but we can try to help the parties find common ground and a return to dialogue.

That is why I am sending Ambassador Ross back to Israel tonight -- to go the extra mile to help the parties seize this opportunity. Peace will bring invaluable benefits for all the people of the region. Arabs and Israelis alike. This is a goal that all Americans can work and pray for.

###

To: Christine Stanek  
Fr: Claudette Shwiry  
Re: MAY 7 DINNER VIPS

Members of Congress

Maurice Hinchey (D-NY)  
John Sununu (R-NH)

Former US Ambassadors

Amb. David Mack  
Amb. Robert Pelletreau  
Amb. Roscoe Suddarth  
Amb. Sam Zakhem

Arab Ambassadors

**Bahrain** H.E. Muhammad Abdul Ghaffar  
**Egypt** H.E. Ahmed Maher el Sayed  
**Kuwait** H.E. Mohammad Sabah al-Sabah  
**Lebanon** H.E. Mohamad Chatah  
**Mauritania** H.E. Ould Sid Ahmed  
**Morocco** H.E. Mohamed Benaissa  
**Qatar** H.E. Saad Mohamed Al Kobaisi  
**Saudi Arabia** HRH Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz  
**Sudan** HE Mahdi Ibrahim Mohamed  
**Syria** H.E. Walid al-Moualem  
**Tunisia** H.E. Noureddine Mejdoub  
**United Arab Emirates** H.E. Mohamed al-Shaali

Chief Representative, Palestinian National Authority, Hasan Abdel Rahman

Embassy representatives: Jordan  
Yemen

Other foreign dignitaries

HRH Prince Turki bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

(also HRH Prince Moataz bin Saud Al-Saud [he's chief representative in Washington for the Saudi National Guard] but his rank is lower than HRH Prince Bandar, the Ambassador)

Faisal Hussein

Other US Government

Mary Francis Berry, Chair, US Civil Rights Commission  
David Satterfield, Dept. of State  
Robert Shiffer, USIA  
Patsy Thomasson, Dept. of State

Other: Alma and Michael Brown



worries about

. Iraqi

Saudi Arabian

ould know what

s a minaret.

bout God, and  
horse.

veness complete.



### Freedom

Better a stray dog than a caged lion. *Syrian*

The free man is a slave to his desires, but a slave is a free man when his desires are satisfied. *Medieval Arabic*

The potter attaches the handle to the jug on any side he pleases. *Lebanese*

Every monkey has its chain. *Syrian*

### Friends and friendship

He who is for you is for you, and he who is against you is against you. *Arabic*

No path is steep that leads to a friend. *Arabic*

From the hand of a friend a stone is an apple. *Arabic*

An old friend is like a ready saddled horse. *Afghani*

The man without a spoon will burn his hand. *Arabic*

Business comes in ounces, friendship comes in pounds. *Turkish*

Man will travel a mile to visit the sick, two miles to mend a quarrel, and three miles to see a friend. *Arabic*

Bring your hearts together, but keep your tents separate. *Arabic*

Beware of your enemy twice, but beware of your friend a thousand times. *Syrian*

Your real enemy is your best friend. *Maltese*



She whose father is a goldsmith wears a necklace of gold. *Arabic*

*See also* Skills

### Traditions

O God, do not trim a single custom from us! *Arabic*

Old silk is better than new wool. *Arabic*

### Transience

Lak! lak! cries the stork, and his days are gone. *Turkish*

There is no security in three things: the sea, the Sultan and time. *Arabic*

The moth whirls and whirls, and is then consumed by fire. *Tunisian*

In the end, everything is consumed by moths. *Arabic*

There is no security in either time or money. *Tunisian*

Sleep follows the drawing of the breath just as it follows the rocking of the cradle. *Persian*

Everything in this world is cut short, except the long speech. *Arabic*

### Travel

Travel is a blessing. *Arabic*

Only with travel can a man ripen. *Persian*



# A

## Ability

Ability has no school. *Turkish*

## Abstinence

Practice abstinence, for riches will not last. *South Lebanese*

A lean man who is not hungry is harder than brass.  
*Arabic*

## Acceptance

When everyone tells you you are an ass, thank God and  
bray. *Moorish*

## Acquaintances

First befriend the dog. *Maltese*

He whom you know is better than he whom you do not  
know. *Tunisian*

(*Note* A similar Tunisian proverb goes 'The worst of  
those whom you know is better than the best of those  
you do not know.')

*See also* Companions, Friends



### Acre

What does Acre care for the swell of the sea? *Lebanese*

### Actions

The planting of one tree is worth the prayers of a whole year. *Turkish*

Good deeds cut off tongues. *Arabic*

In haste is regret, in slowness peace. *Tunisian*

### Adaptability

~~That which bends does not break.~~ *South Lebanese*

Throw a man into the sea and he will become a fish.  
*Tunisian*

~~He who changes his ways loses his happiness.~~ *Syrian*

### Advantage

The foot that is too swift must be cut off. *Judaeo-Arabic*

### Advice

Good advice is worth a camel. *Lebanese*

Seek advice from the old, and then do the opposite.  
*Tunisian*

Too much advice gives rise to enmity. *Tunisian*



Ask ad  
thousan  
*Lebanese*

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How

**T**here are about 3 million Arab Americans, and as a community, we've been demonstrating our loyalty, inventiveness, and courage on behalf of the United States for over 100 years. Here are just a few of the more famous ones—people you may know!



George Mitchell  
Former Senate Majority Leader

### You talk about courage...

How about America's and the world's first jet ace? He was the Korean War hero, U.S. Air Force Col. **James Jahara**. In World War II, Army officers like Maj. Gen. **Fred Safay** fought alongside Gen. Patton, and Brig. Gen. **Elias Stevens** served on Gen. Eisenhower's staff. And in 1944, one of our Navy's ships, the destroyer escort USS Naifeh, was named in honor of an Arab-American hero—Navy Lt. **Alfred Naifeh** of Oklahoma. More recently, West Point graduate and 4-star Gen. **George Joulwan** commanded both the U.S. and NATO forces in Europe.



Pat Danner  
Congresswoman from Missouri

Some of us work in our nation's capital, like 20-year-veteran Congressman **Nick Joe Rahall II** of West Virginia, and Congresswoman **Pat Danner** (Missouri), Congressmen **Ray LaHood** (Illinois) and **John Baldacci** (Maine), and new Congressmen **John E. Sununu** (New Hampshire) and **Chris John** (Louisiana). There's also U.S. Senator **Spencer Abraham** of Michigan. Today, the first Arab American ever appointed to a U.S. Cabinet position is the Secretary of Health and Human Services, **Donna Shalala**.



Spencer Abraham  
U.S. Senator from Michigan



John Sununu  
Former New Hampshire Governor and White House Chief of Staff

On TV, one of CNN's political commentators is the former White House Chief of Staff and Governor of New Hampshire, **John Sununu**. America's longest-serving White House Chief of Protocol was Ambassador **Selwa Roosevelt**. **Thomas A. Nassif**, her assistant, also served as U.S. Ambassador to Morocco. A special Presidential envoy was the late Ambassador **Philip Habib**. A 50-year veteran with United Press International is the dean of the White House press corps—feisty **Helen Thomas**, who's covered eight presidents since 1961.

Others who have served in high elective office include former U.S. Senate Majority Leader **George Mitchell** (D-ME), former U.S. Senators **James Abourezk** and **James Abdnor**, both of South Dakota; former Congressional members **Mary Rose Oakar** of Ohio, **George Kasem** of California, **Abraham Kazen, Jr.** of Texas, and **Toby Moffett** of Connecticut. **Victor Atiyeh** was the popular governor of Oregon.



Helen Thomas  
Dean of White House Press Corps

Arab Americans are grocers and governors, physicians and farmers, Indy 500 champs and taxicab drivers, financiers and factory workers, bakers and bankers, salesmen and senators, TV stars and TV repairmen, teachers and preachers, Heisman Trophy-winning quarterbacks and neighborhood sandlot heroes. Name it, and an Arab American has probably done it.



Donna Shalala  
Secretary of Health & Human Services

*Lowell Weiss*

## For example, the Heisman Trophy-winner who threw

the "miracle touchdown" pass for Boston College some years back was **Doug Flutie**. He was the first American college quarterback to pass for 10,000 yards. Today, he's a superstar in the Canadian Football League. And Flutie is no fluke! There's also NFL quarterback **Jeff George** and NFL coach **Rich Kotite**. Don't forget former linebacker for the Chicago Bears and NFL Hall-of-Famer, **Bill George**, or former Cleveland Brown **Abe Gibran**. The former owner of the Miami Dolphins was **Joe Robbie**.



Doug Flutie  
Heisman Trophy  
Winner

In pro basketball, there's **Rony Seikaly** of the Orlando Magic. In college basketball, UCLA's fiery coach, **Jim Harrick**, took his team to the NCAA playoffs eight years in a row, winning the national championship in 1995. And the late **George Maloof, Sr.** owned basketball's Houston Rockets. Major League baseball player **Ine Lehoud** played with the Boston Red Sox. And **Fred Saigh** once owned baseball's St. Louis Cardinals.



Rony Seikaly  
NBA Basketball Star

In auto racing, **Bobby Rahal** won the Indy 500 in 1986, later becoming the all-time earnings champ among Indy car racers. The founder of the Professional Bowlers Association is **Eddie Elias**. In the ring, **Petey Sarron** won the world featherweight championship in 1936-1937; while **Zuhair "Steve" Mansour** was weightlifting's Grandmaster of the World in 1990. And a three-time U.S. national chess champion is Seattle's **Yassir Seirawan**.



Bobby Rahal  
Race Car Champion

## Among America's activists,

can you think of two people who have saved more lives than the founder of MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), **Candy Lightner**, and America's—and probably the *world's*—foremost consumer advocate, **Ralph Nader**? Back in 1960, **Ralph Johns**, a key white participant in the civil rights movement, encouraged the famous Woolworth 'sit-in' at a lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Getting down to business: the founder of an international, billion-dollar engineering firm, Jacobs Engineering Group, is **Dr. Joseph Jacobs**. A former chemist with dozens of patents became Armand Hammer's successor as Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Occidental Petroleum—**Dr. Ray Irani**. **Najeeb Halaby**, former head of the Federal Aeronautics Authority, was CEO of Pan-American Airlines. After trotting the globe for Ford Motor Company, solving problems and directing new ventures, **Jacques Nasser** is now President of Ford Automotive Operations (all world-wide car, truck and components operations combined in one entity). **John Mack**, president of one of America's largest investment banking firms, Morgan Stanley Group, built it into a global powerhouse—which merged with Dean Witter to form the world's biggest securities company. An internationally respected financial expert and economic forecaster is **Dr. Ray Jallow**. **Paul Orfalea** founded the world's biggest international chain of copying service stores, Kinko's; while **Waleed** and **Malik Ali** founded MPI, the world's largest home-video distributor of documentaries.

Entrepreneur **Tony Ismail** founded the Alamo Flag Company in Dallas and built it into the largest retailer of flags and related items in the U.S. today. Wood-working furniture maker **Sam Maloof**, whose quality pieces are in demand, has had many of his creations exhibited in museums.

Turning to law, the Texas lawyer who won the biggest settlement in U.S. history, on behalf of Pennzoil (\$10 billion dollars!), is one of this country's most successful attorneys, **Joseph D. Jamail**. In the famous "zoot suit" trial of the 1940's, **George Shibley** defended unjustly-accused Mexican-Americans in Los Angeles.

## In entertainment,

Canadian-born singer-songwriter **Paul Anka** became one of America's first pop teen idols. The late ukelele-plucking, falsetto-singing **Herbert Khaury** became famous as "**Tiny Tim**." And in the world of rock, there was the late, legendary **Frank Zappa**. On the West Coast, **Dick Dale** was the "King of the Surf Guitar." One of today's stars is singer-dancer **Paula Abdul**. And the first teenage singer ever to have her first two singles both hit Number One is **Tiffany**.



Paul Anka  
Singer and Songwriter

Speaking of music, two of America's landmark shows on radio were created by two Arab-Americans, **Don Bustany** and yours truly—"American Top 40" and "American Country Countdown." Recently, I added "Casey's Top 40", "Casey's Countdown" and "Casey's Hot 20."

On Broadway, playwright **Fred Saidy** wrote two classics, *Finian's Rainbow* and *Bloomer Girl*. Opera prima donna **Rosalind Elias** hit the high notes at the Met. And, for avant-garde "Dancer of the Year" in 1992, *The New York Times* picked a 20-year Broadway veteran with the Paul Taylor Company; he's **Elie Chaib**.



Lucie Salhani  
First Woman to Head a TV Network: Fox

Turning to television, **Lucie Salhani** became the first woman to head a television network, as chair of Fox Broadcasting Co., then of United Paramount Network. Among TV directors, two Arab Americans have each helmed over 300 episodes for the

networks. **Asaad Kelada** has done numerous pilots for series like "Family Ties" and episodes of "The Facts of Life", "Who's the Boss?", "WKRP in Cincinnati", etc. After directing Broadway hits like "Sweet Charity", "Mame" and "The Unsinkable Molly Brown", **John Bowab** switched to TV and has directed "Soap", "Benson", "Bosom Buddies", "The Facts of Life", and the last season and a half of "The Cosby Show."

## SUPER-FACT:

Did you know that the highest-rated episode in television history was the last episode of "M\*A\*S\*H"? And who played the role of not-so-crazy Corporal Klinger for its entire 11-year run? A talented Arab American from Toledo, Ohio, **Jamie Farr**.



Jamie Farr  
Corporal Klinger on "M\*A\*S\*H"

On NBC-TV, "Saturday Night Live's" bandleader for many years was guitarist **G.E. Smith**. (His family's Lebanese name, Haddad, means 'blacksmith'!)



Danny Thomas  
Comedian, Actor, and Humanitarian

The best known Lebanese in America was also the founder of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital—the late, great comedian and actor **Danny Thomas**. His son is a television and film producer and multi-E Emmy winner for "The Golden Girls" and other TV shows—**Tony Thomas**. Danny's daughter is Emmy

Award-winning **Marlo Thomas**, the first actress ever to play a single, independent young woman living apart from her parents in a TV series, "That Girl."



Marlo Thomas  
Award-winning Actress

The leading man who starred in the movie "Flashdance" was **Michael Nouri**, later seen in TV's "Love and War" sitcom. **Tony Shalhoub** and **Amy Yasbeck** appeared in the hit

sitcom "Wings"—the first time two Arab-Americans have been featured in the same TV series. Amy also played Maid Marian in Mel Brooks' film "Robin Hood: Men in Tights"; while Tony co-starred in the 1996 film comedy "The Big Night". Crusty but soft-hearted Mel in TV's "Alice" was portrayed by the late **Vic Tayback**. One of the co-stars of the series "Empty Nest" was **Kristy McNichol**. A star of TV's "Head of the Class" was once picked by People magazine as one of the "50 most beautiful people in the U.S."—**Khrystyne Haje**.



Vic Tayback  
Mel on "Alice"

Two other fine movie and television actors who also starred in popular TV dramas are **James Stacy**, who played the title role in "Laramie", and **Michael Ansara**, who played Cochise in "Broken Arrow."

An award-winning comic actress from San Diego played a fun-loving nun in the "Sister Act" films, **Kathy Najimy**. Currently she Co-stars as Olive, a Lebanese-American, in NBC-TV's "Veronica's Closet" with **Kristie Alley**. Lovely **Salma Hayek** has also lit up the big screen (in "Fools Rush In") and the small screen (in cable-TV's movie, "The Hunchback", as the gypsy, Esmeralda).



Kathy Najimy  
Award-winning Actress-Comedian ("Sister Act")

The former head of Carolco Pictures, handling the Rocky, Rambo and Terminator films, was "billion-dollar producer", **Mario Kassar**. The producer of the epics "The Message: The Story of Islam" (a biography of the Prophet Mohammed) and "Lion of the Desert", not to mention all the blockbuster "Halloween" chillers, is **Moustapha Akkad**.

The director of Jim Carrey's loony comedy hits "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective" and "Liar Liar", as well as Eddie Murphy's "The Nutty Professor", is **Tom Shadyac**. (He also co-wrote "Ace Ventura".)

One of show business' legendary talent managers was **George "Bullets" Durgom**, who, through the years, managed Jackie Gleason, Sammy Davis, Jr., and

Marilyn Monroe, to mention a few. Two of today's top recording artists have husband-managers of Syrian descent: **Emilio Estefan** manages and produces wife Gloria, while **René Angéllil** manages his discovery, wife Celine Dion. The cinematographer who designed Cinemobile—the first customized van for filming on location—while working on the TV series "I Spy" was **Fouad Said**. For this achievement, he received a Technical Academy Award in 1970.



Michael Nouri  
Actor (Flashdance and  
"Love & War")

Among other Oscar winners: Best Actor for the movie "Amadeus"—**F. Murray Abraham**. Winner for Best Screenplay Adapted from Another Medium—his novel, "The Exorcist"—**William Peter Blatty**. The first woman to receive an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay—for "Thelma and Louise"—**Callie Khouri**. For Best Song—"Last Dance" from "Thank God, It's Friday"—composer **Paul Jabara**. And set decorator **Emile Kuri**, nominated eight times for films like "Mary Poppins", won the Oscar twice—for "The Heiress" and Disney's "20,000 Leagues under the Sea".

## In the world of fashion,

the prestigious CFDA Menswear Designer of the Year Award for 1990 and 1991 went to Arab-American **Joseph Abboud** of New York. He's the only designer to win the award two years in a row.

Staying with apparel a moment, **J.M. Hagggar** of Hagggar Slacks manufactures more men's slacks than anyone in the world. In addition, **Farah Brothers** manufactures men's and women's slacks; and **Malooof Brothers** manufactured Mod-O-Day women's dresses.

For an inspiring success story, try that of writer-lecturer on business and success, **Nido Qubein**! When he

came to the United States as a teenager, he could barely speak English. He went on to become president of the National Speakers' Association and the youngest member inducted into the International Speakers' Hall of Fame.

In education, **Jack Shaheen**, Emeritus Professor of

Mass Communications at Southern Illinois University, and author of books like *The TV Arab*, is CBS News' consultant for the Middle East. Columbia professor **Edward Said** is a well-known literary and social critic, as well as a respected music reviewer, whose column appears in *The Nation*. For many years, **David Adamany** was the President of Wayne State University in Detroit.



Edward Said  
Literature and Music  
Critic and Author

The 1990 Pulitzer Prize for biography (*Jackson Pollack: An American Saga*) went to the author of three other national bestsellers as well—writer-publisher **Steven Naifeh** of South Carolina.

## In science and medicine,

one of America's most famous pioneers is Houston heart surgeon, **Dr. Michael DeBakey**, who invented the heart pump. Today he's Chancellor of Baylor University's College of Medicine. The winner of the 1990 Nobel Prize for Chemistry is Harvard's **Dr. Elias Corey**. Geologist **George A. Doumani's** explorations helped prove the theory of continental drift; he has a mountain peak named after him in Antarctica. Another American geologist, **Farouk el-Baz**, born in Egypt, helped plan all the Apollo moon landings and later pioneered the use of space photography to study the Earth.

Finally, the courageous astronauts who lost their lives aboard the space shuttle *Challenger* included several racial and ethnic groups: African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic-American, Anglo-American, Jewish-American—and Arab-American: schoolteacher, **Christa McAuliffe**.

**Arab Americans are grocers and governors, physicians and farmers, Indy 500 champs and taxicab drivers, financiers and factory workers, bakers and bankers, salesmen and senators, TV stars and TV repairmen, teachers and preachers, Heisman Trophy-winning quarterbacks and neighborhood sandlot heroes. Name it, and an Arab American has probably done it.**

## We've all heard this quote before:

"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country" ...a famous quote by an Irish American President—John F. Kennedy—that inspired an entire generation.

These words were first written by, among others, the Arab-American author of *The Prophet*, **Kahlil Gibran**. And that sentiment, so beautifully expressed by Gibran more than 70 years ago, has inspired Americans of all heritages.

**WE ARAB AMERICANS AND OUR FAMILIES ARE PROUD OF OUR HERITAGE AND PROUD TO BE AMERICANS.**

It's this pride that keeps us all asking, "What can we do for our country?"—the good old U.S.A.



*Casey Kasem*

Arab  
American  
Institute  
Foundation

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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
TALKING POINTS FOR ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE DROP-BY  
WASHINGTON, DC  
May 7, 1998

**Acknowledge:** Jim and Eileen Zogby; co-sponsors Elie Abboud [ee-LEE ah-BOOD] and Fuad Ateyeh [foo-ADD ah-TEE-yah]; Rep. Hinchey; Rep. Sununu; your excellencies, the ambassadors and dignitaries who are here tonight.

As Jim just told you, I love getting advice from his mother. She's got a wonderful read on the world -- her son John, the renowned pollster, has nothing on her. Of course, I'm also grateful for Jim's advice over the years. His is a voice of calm and clarity -- no matter how heated or muddled the issue.

Jim tells me I am the first sitting President to address an Arab-American conference. Well, it's about time.

Today, I have come here, in part, to congratulate you on the way the Arab-American community has increasingly found its voice. You are speaking out -- and being heard -- on a wide range of important domestic issues, not just on the Middle East. A record number of Arab-Americans are now running for, and serving in, the U.S. Congress. Even the newest Yemeni immigrants -- once poor farmers, now small-business owners -- are achieving their rightful share of the American Dream.

I have also come to talk with you about how we can work together, at the end of the 20th century, to prepare for the challenges of the next.

First, we must help all Americans see our diversity as our greatest strength. Together, we must work to build one America. To be sure, there is old, unfinished business between black and white Americans, but every ethnic group in America has its own stories to tell. I know that this community, in particular, has often felt the sting of stereotype. I am very pleased that you are now working with other ethnic groups to organize six regional forums on race and diversity over the coming year.

*Support for  
those  
newly  
working  
of bond  
cooperation*

Second, we must bring the spark of enterprise and jobs to every corner of this nation. Our economy is the strongest in a generation, but we know that not every American has had a chance to reap the rewards. The Arab-American community understands the power and dignity that comes with owning one's own business. Let us work to spread this kind of opportunity throughout America. [small bus & shops]

Third, we must build the best education system in the world -- not just universities, but elementary and secondary schools. For generations, Arab-American families have made education their number-one priority -- and today, a remarkable percentage of Arab-Americans hold advanced degrees. To succeed in the next century, we must make education our nation's number-one priority -- with historic investments in reducing class sizes, adding skilled teachers, repairing

*Double the  
national  
average*

*standards,  
choice* →

crumbling schools, enhancing discipline, raising academic standards.

**Fourth, we must continue to lead the world toward peace and freedom.** In Northern Ireland, representatives of all the major parties have reached an historic peace agreement to put an end to that long and tragic conflict. All Americans should take a special measure of pride that the talks in Northern Ireland were chaired by George Mitchell, the former Majority Leader of the United States Senate, who is also, of course, of Lebanese descent.

**And now we must regain the momentum for peace in the Middle East.** As you know, we have been working hard on this issue since the beginning of my Administration, and we are working especially hard right now. For several years, Palestinians and Israelis have been traveling down a difficult road toward peace. The Oslo Accords, the Hebron Agreement, and the open dialogue they established were important breakthroughs, bringing the possibility of peace closer than ever before.

**But today, the Middle East is again pervaded by mistrust, suspicion, and, more than anything else, disappointment.** I want to regain the momentum. We have a strategic opportunity to get the process moving again and to move forward toward peace. This historic moment should be seized to advance peace. Difficult choices must be made by Palestinians and Israelis alike. The U.S. cannot impose a solution, but we can use our influence to find common ground and a return to dialogue.

**That is why I am sending Ambassador Ross back to Israel tonight -- to go the extra mile to exploit this opportunity.** The world is weary of a struggle that has gone on for too long. The impasse affects all of our dealings with the Arab world, and the long-term security of the region. Israelis can live in security, and Palestinians can live as a free people. These two goals are not incompatible.

###

Draft 5/7/98 10:30am

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
TALKING POINTS FOR ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE DROP-BY  
WASHINGTON, DC  
May 7, 1998**

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###

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References: Batten, Jack. *Honest Ed's Story* (1972); *Who's Who*, 1989



Mitchell, George J(ohn)

Aug. 20, 1933—United States Senator from Maine. Address: b. 176 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510; h. South Portland, Maine 04106

The meteoric rise of George J. Mitchell from his appointment to a United States Senate vacancy in May 1980 to his election to the post of Senate majority leader on November 29, 1988 is unequaled in the history of the upper chamber in this century, except for the career of Lyndon B. Johnson. A protégé of former senator Edmund S. Muskie, Mitchell has been active in Democratic politics for more than a quarter of a century, but few Americans outside Washington or Maine had ever heard of him until, under the spotlight of the Iran-Contra hearings in 1987, he emerged as a reasonable, plain-spoken antidote to the dramatic testimony of Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North. Although Mitchell may lack the parliamentary skill of his predecessor, Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, and has never chaired a full committee or steered to passage any significant legislation, he is widely respected for his mastery of the technical details of environmental issues and for his vigorous eight-year crusade against acid rain. He is respected, too, by the opposition because of his instinct for compromise and sense of fair play. "George goes out of his way to reach accommodations, if it can be done," observed Maine's other senator, Republican William S. Cohen, who is a close friend of

Mitchell's. He "can be adversarial, but in the best sense of the word; you won't see any low shots from George Mitchell."

George John Mitchell was born in Waterville, Maine on August 20, 1933, one of the five children of George J. and Mary (Saad) Mitchell. His father, an orphan of Irish immigrants, was raised by a Lebanese-American family and worked as a janitor at Colby College in Waterville. His mother, a Lebanese immigrant, worked the midnight shift in woolen mills for nearly thirty years. A brilliant student, Mitchell attended St. Joseph's grammar school in Waterville and Waterville High School, where he made the basketball team but never became a star like his brothers, Johnny, Paul, and Robbie. He also was an altar boy at the Arab-language Maronite Catholic Church in Waterville. On his graduation from high school in 1950, he enrolled at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, where he played guard on the basketball team. After earning a bachelor of arts degree from Bowdoin in 1954, he served in the United States Army. During the latter half of his two-year hitch, he was stationed with the Counterintelligence Corps in Berlin. Following his discharge with the rank of first lieutenant, Mitchell worked his way through the Georgetown University Law Center and was admitted to the Maine and Washington, D.C., bars in 1960.

Promptly hired as a trial attorney in the Antitrust Division of the United States Justice Department, Mitchell resigned his post in 1962 to become executive assistant to Democratic senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine—an association that was to culminate in Mitchell's appointment to the Senate eighteen years later. In 1965 Mitchell left Muskie's staff to enter into private practice as a partner in Jensen, Baird, Gardner, Donovan, and Henry in Portland, Maine. Although he remained with that firm for twelve years, he often took time off to work on Democratic party affairs, often as a supporter of Senator Muskie. From 1966 to 1968 he served as chairman of the Maine State Democratic Committee. When, in 1968, the Democratic presidential nominee, Hubert H. Humphrey, chose Muskie as his running mate, Mitchell was named deputy director of the vice-presidential campaign.

Following the Democratic defeat in that year, Mitchell was appointed to the Commission on Party Structure and Delegate Selection, which, under the chairmanship of Senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota, set out to reform party rules to include more women, minorities, and young people at the expense of party veterans. He led the faction that was opposed to a quota system mandating prescribed numbers of women and minority delegates at the next convention. Following a stint as assistant attorney for Cumberland County, Maine in 1971, Mitchell served as deputy director of Muskie's ill-fated campaign for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination. After the nominee, George S. McGovern, was soundly defeated that fall, Mitchell ran for chairman of the Democratic National Committee but lost out to Robert S. Strauss of Texas.

## MITCHELL

In 1974 Mitchell defeated Joseph E. Brennan in Maine's Democratic gubernatorial primary and seemed an odds-on favorite to do the same to the Republican candidate, James S. Erwin, in the general election. In a stunning upset, however, James B. Longley, a Lewiston insurance executive and chairman of a study group created to examine ways to make state government more efficient, undermined Mitchell's strength among blue-collar voters and siphoned off enough Republicans from Erwin to become the first independent elected governor of Maine since 1880. Mitchell came in second, with 37 percent of the vote, to Longley's 40 percent. Erwin got 23 percent.

Mitchell resumed his law practice in Portland and, having served on the Democratic National Committee since 1968, was named to its executive committee in 1974. He resigned from the committee in 1977 after President Jimmy Carter, on the recommendation of Senator Muskie, appointed him United States attorney for Maine. Two years later, again at the urging of Senator Muskie, he was appointed judge of the United States District Court for Northern Maine. He had been presiding in Bangor for less than a year when President Carter appointed Muskie secretary of state, freeing up his Senate seat. Once again, Muskie used his influence to further Mitchell's career, this time by prevailing upon Governor Joseph E. Brennan, whom Maine voters had returned to office in 1978, to appoint Mitchell to serve out his unexpired term in the Senate. "I had forty-eight hours to make the decision," Mitchell told Nancy Perry of the *Portland Press Herald* (July 25, 1988). "Being a United States senator is a rare opportunity, but I knew it would be a difficult election."

Mitchell was expected to lose the seat to Republican David F. Emery, a popular four-term congressman, in 1982. On May 7, 1981, a day Mitchell looks back upon as the worst of his career, a Maine newspaper poll revealed that he was running thirty-six points behind his Republican challenger. Emery sent out letters to veterans touting his own 92 percent House rating by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and deriding Mitchell's zero rating, but he failed to mention that Mitchell had been in the Senate only a month when the VFW ratings were compiled and thus had had no chance to vote on a single issue on which the ratings were based. Condemned in all quarters for distorting Mitchell's record, Emery never got his campaign back on track after that. In a major staff realignment, he hired two of Senator William S. Cohen's top aides and described Mitchell as an aloof figure unconcerned about the needs of common people. Mitchell blamed Cohen's former aides for the nastiness and mudslinging of the Emery campaign and hinted that his staff might reciprocate when Cohen came up for reelection in 1984. Nevertheless, Mitchell won handily, 61 percent to 39 percent, reflecting a massive 58 percent shift in voter sentiment in eighteen months. The distrust between Mitchell and Cohen engendered by that campaign evaporated with the passing of time, and the two

men have since become close friends and collaborators.

In the Senate Mitchell established a liberal voting record that often was at odds with the Reagan administration. Having served as a federal judge, albeit briefly, he was alarmed by a 1981 speech by Attorney General William French Smith that warned the federal courts to heed the "ground swell of conservatism" made evident by the 1980 election and to abandon "subjective judicial policymaking." Mitchell joined the American Bar Association, Common Cause, and others in condemning Smith's remarks as a threat to judicial independence. "The federal courts in this country," Mitchell reminded his colleagues, "were created as an independent branch of government that would be immune from the immediate political pressures that properly are brought to bear on the legislative and executive branches. . . . [They] represent our only branch of government with the insulation from political winds essential to protect, when necessary, unpopular views and politically unrepresented minorities." Mitchell also lined up against the Reagan administration in opposing the following: prayer in public schools; curbs on abortion; a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget; funding for the Strategic Defense Initiative; deployment of the MX missile; a resumption of chemical weapons production; and aid to the Contra rebels fighting the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. In 1986 he voted against the confirmation of Justice William H. Rehnquist as chief justice of the United States Supreme Court and joined in overriding President Reagan's veto of sanctions against South Africa.

As a member of the Finance Committee, however, Mitchell was more supportive of the administration, and he and Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey were the two Democrats working most closely with the Republican chairman, Robert W. Packwood of Oregon, to fashion the sweeping tax reform act of 1986, which cut both tax rates and deductions. What emerged from the committee was a two-tiered tax structure that streamlined the tax code and lowered rates but also eroded the progressivity of the income tax, thus benefiting the affluent disproportionately. In order to tip the balance more in favor of the middle class, Mitchell led a floor fight to impose a third top tax rate of 35 percent. Fearful that the whole package would unravel if members began tacking on amendments, Packwood opposed the Mitchell proposal, which was buried by a vote of seventy-one to twenty-nine.

As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Mitchell made his mark on the environment issue early on in his Senate career by introducing in 1981 the first bill to control acid rain. Since that time he has repeatedly tried and failed to persuade senators from coal-producing states that sulfur dioxide, which spews from power plants and factories and falls to the ground as acid rain, is polluting drinking water, destroying aquatic life, and corroding human lungs. Writing in *National*

close friends and collabo-

established a liberal vote at odds with the Reagan served as a federal judge. Formed by a 1981 speech by William French Smith that urged to heed the "groundswell evident by the 1980 election" "subjective judicial joined the American Bar Association, and others in Congress as a threat to judicial independence in this country," "alliances," "were created as a government that would mediate political pressures to bear on the legislative

... [They] represent our sentiment with the insulation to protect, when necessary, and politically unrepentant also lined up against them in opposing the following: curbs on abortion; a ban on requiring a balanced Strategic Defense Initiative MX missile; a resumption of production; and aid to the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. Against the confirmation of a justice as chief justice of the Court and joined in overruling a veto of sanctions against

Finance Committee, however supportive of the administrator Bill Bradley of New Democrats working most can chairman, Robert W. In fashion the sweeping tax cut both tax rates and deductions from the committee was that streamlined the tax but also eroded the pro-tax, thus benefiting the affluence. In order to tip the middle class, Mitchell proposed a third top tax rate of 35 percent. The whole package would be tacking on amendments to the Mitchell proposal, which ranged from seventy-one to twenty

Environment and Public Health made his mark on the Senate in his career by his first bill to control acid rain. Repeatedly tried and failed in coal-producing states to stop power plants from spewing into the ground as acid rain, destroying aquatic life. Writing in *National*

*Parks* (July-August 1987) magazine, Mitchell cited testimony before his subcommittee on environmental protection in which health professionals unanimously warned that current levels of air pollution threaten the lives of children, the elderly, asthmatics, and others with respiratory problems. "The price of our continued inaction increases every year," Mitchell wrote. "The American Lung Association estimates we are spending \$16 billion per year on health-care costs associated with air pollution. We are spending another \$40 billion in decreased worker productivity. Damage to buildings, statuary, often irreplaceable monuments, and other materials is approximately \$7 billion per year."

In 1984 Mitchell won committee passage of a bill requiring midwestern coal-burning states to finance the reduction of sulfur dioxide emissions by 42 percent, but it died on the Senate floor. The next year he tried to compensate selected victims of toxic waste with a provisional fund administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, but the measure failed to pass by a narrow forty-nine to forty-six margin, largely because of fears that such a fund, once created, would evolve into a permanent and expensive program. Despite such failures, Mitchell remains committed to environmental issues, particularly the reduction of acid rain.

In late 1984 Mitchell was appointed chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, which was charged with winning back control of the Senate in 1986. Amid widespread skepticism of his ability to turn around a fifty-three-to-forty-seven Republican advantage, Mitchell raised a war chest of \$12.4 million, nurtured a field of strong candidates, and brought fifty-four Democratic senators into the 100th Congress. He was rewarded with an honorific appointment as deputy president *pro tempore* of the Senate, a post created as a tribute to Senator Hubert H. Humphrey in 1977 and vacant since his death. With the Democratic takeover of the Senate, Mitchell was regarded as a strong contender to ultimately succeed Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia as majority leader.

In 1987 Mitchell was named one of the eleven senators on the Select Committee on Secret Military Assistance to Iran and the Nicaraguan Opposition, the so-called Iran-Contra Committee, chaired by Democrat Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii. Despite his extensive legal and political background, Mitchell later confessed to having been thoroughly bewildered at times by the Byzantine intricacies of the covert arms-for-hostages deal undertaken by the Reagan administration and by the conflicting testimony of White House aides. What disturbed him most, however, was the testimony and personality of Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, who, while striking an emotional chord in the American people, seemed to confuse patriotism with loyalty to administration policy.

Mitchell was especially irked by North's plea for Contra aid "for love of God and love of country." He brooded for days on how he could best respond without getting bogged down in a te-

dious exchange with North or his lawyer. Taking the advice of Harold C. Pachios, a Portland attorney and an old friend, Mitchell decided to focus his summation on North's definition of patriotism. "Of all the qualities which the American people find compelling about you," Mitchell said to North before a national television audience, "none is more impressive than your obvious devotion to this country. Please remember that others share that devotion and recognize that it is possible for an American to disagree with you on aid to the Contras and still love God and still love this country just as much as you do. Although He is regularly asked to do so, God does not take sides in American politics. And in America, disagreement with the policies of the government is not evidence of lack of patriotism." As he spoke, the packed hearing room fell silent, and his office phone lines came alive with calls of support. Mitchell was equally impressive in a nationally televised response to President Reagan's address on the Iran-Contra scandal.

With Senator Cohen, who also served on the committee, Mitchell wrote *Men of Zeal: A Candid Inside Story of the Iran-Contra Hearings* (1988), which *Publishers Weekly* (July 22, 1988) recommended as "a clear exposition of the chronology, probable motivations and the broader implications of Iran-Contra." The authors admitted that the committee left many questions unanswered, including the precise roles played by Vice-President George Bush, CIA director William J. Casey, and the Israeli government. They blamed the scandal on "an excess of zeal and contempt for those who held different views."

In April 1988 Senator Byrd announced that he was stepping down as majority leader. Entering the race for the leadership post were Senator Inouye, a solemn, dignified veteran whose image was tarnished a bit by a lackluster performance as chairman of the Iran-Contra Committee; J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, a shrewd parliamentarian who, as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, controlled legislation important to a diverse group of senators but whose ties to oil and gas interests disturbed some; and Mitchell, a relative newcomer whose liberal voting record seemed somewhat of a liability in the wake of the recent presidential election but who enjoyed the support of the unusually large Democratic class of 1986, all of whom owed their seats at least partly to Mitchell's campaign direction.

On the first ballot in caucus on November 29, Mitchell surprised observers by drawing twenty-seven votes, just one shy of victory, to fourteen apiece for Inouye and Johnston, both of whom promptly withdrew in favor of Mitchell. "They wanted more than a parliamentarian or legislative manager," Democratic senator Thomas A. Daschle of South Dakota observed in explaining Mitchell's victory. "They wanted someone who could work effectively with the diversity in the chamber. But, more than that, they were looking beyond the chamber for an effective, articulate national

## MORRIS

spokesman, someone who could frame issues and project what the new Senate is and ought to be." Mitchell wasted little time in reaching out to his rivals, appointing Inouye chairman of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee and naming Senator John Breaux of Louisiana, who had managed Johnston's campaign for the Democratic leadership, chairman of the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee for the 1990 elections. Meanwhile, on November 8, 1988, Mitchell himself was reelected to the Senate by a four-to-one margin over Jasper S. Wyman.

Although Mitchell does not pretend to have the parliamentary expertise of the legendary Senator Byrd, he is equally well grounded in the issues and is at ease on the television interview programs that his untelegenic predecessor scrupulously avoided. In an interview with Susan F. Rasky of the *New York Times* (December 3, 1988), Mitchell stressed that he was sensitive to the complaints of the younger members that the long hours and frequent night sessions undermined their family life and that the archaic rules of the upper chamber should be modernized, but he reassured veterans that he had no radical plans in mind. "I like the traditions that make the Senate unique," Mitchell said, "and I did not seek the position of majority leader to change the Senate."

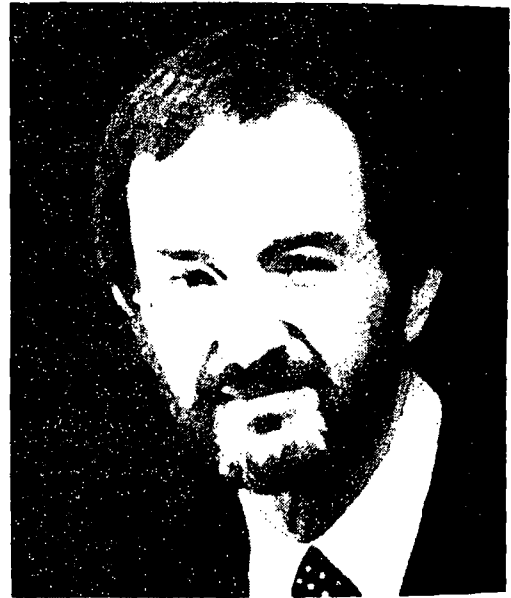
In his maiden speech as majority leader, in January 1989, Mitchell fleshed out his agenda. "The New Deal and the Reagan reaction to it are over," he declared, in calling for a "new social contract" between the government and the people that is fair, pragmatic, and affordable. He called on President Bush (with whom he had become friends when the two shared Air Force Two on weekend trips to Maine during the Reagan years) to fashion a "credible" budget "based on realistic assumptions." Besides acid-rain controls, the majority leader promised Senate action on childcare, an increase in the minimum wage, further restrictions on the lobbying activities of former government officials, campaign finance reform to curb the influence of political action committees, and a new youth corps of domestic volunteers whose work will earn them credit for education aid.

Mitchell met with Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney in Ottawa on June 28, 1989. Among the topics they discussed was a clean-air plan unveiled by President Bush on June 12, which called for major reductions in smog, acid rain, and toxic industrial emissions. Although he said Bush's plan was not extensive enough, Mitchell nevertheless praised it as a "dramatic and welcome change in administration policy."

Some Democrats are already talking about Mitchell as a presidential contender in 1992. "I live among a nest of Republicans," former senator Muskie was quoted as saying in the *Portland Press Herald* article, "and they really swear by Mitchell. He is one of the most respected members of the Senate. I see him on a national ticket. He has that charisma."

George J. Mitchell has been described as soft-spoken, scholarly, sincere, keenly competitive, and judicial in temperament. Behind his owl-like aspect and serious demeanor is a ready wit and gifted raconteur. He enjoys playing tennis and an occasional game of cribbage with his brothers, and he is an avid fan of the Boston Celtics and the Boston Red Sox. He and the former Sally L. Heath were married on August 29, 1959. Recently divorced, they have a daughter, Andrea, who is a social worker near Boston, Massachusetts.

*References: N Y Times A p1+ N 30 '88 pors; Almanac of American Politics, 1988; Politics in America (1988); Who's Who in American Politics, 1989-90*



**Morris, Edmund**

May 27, 1940 - Historian; writer. Address: b. c/o Georges Borchardt, Inc., 136 E. 57th St., New York, N.Y. 10022; h. 240 Central Park South, New York, N.Y. 10019

Edmund Morris, the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of Theodore Roosevelt, was chosen to be President Ronald W. Reagan's authorized biographer in October 1985, nearly one year into Reagan's second term. In return for promising not to publish the biography until at least two years after the end of Reagan's presidency, Morris was granted a level of access to information, ranging from monthly interviews with Reagan to attendance at high-level staff meetings, that was unprecedented for a person not on the White House staff. A bidding war for the book ensued immediately among

**Today, I have come here, in part, to congratulate you on the way the Arab American community has increasingly found its voice. You are speaking out -- and being heard -- on a wide range of issues that go well beyond concerns over the Middle East. A record number of Arab Americans are now serving their country in Congress. Even the newest Yemeni immigrants -- once farmers, now small business owners -- are achieving their rightful share of the American Dream.**

**I have also come here to talk with you my thoughts about how we can work together, at the end of this century, to prepare for the most important challenges of the next.**

**First, if we are to succeed in the new century, we must come to see our diversity as our greatest strength. We must build one America. To be sure, there is old, unfinished business between black and white Americans, but the classic American dilemma has now become many dilemmas involving many races and many ethnicities. I know that this community, in particular, has often felt the sting of stereotypes.**

**Second, we have to prove that we can bring the spark of enterprise and jobs and opportunity to every corner of this nation. Good economy, but not everyone is benefitting yet. Power of owning one's own business.**

**Third, we have to prove that we can buildt the best education system in the world -- not just universities, but elementary and secondary schools. For generations, Arab Americans have seized on education**

**Fourth, we must continue to lead the world for peace and freedom. In Northern Ireland, as you know, leaders have signed an accord that may finally bring peace to a land long-plagued by hatred and ~~war~~. All of us, of course, are grateful to George Mitchell, his parents TK, for his remarkable role in forging that accord.**

**The progress in Northern Ireland should give us hope for regaining the momentum we had in the Middle East.**

*Conflict agreement*

*8 parents  
Savior*

Draft 5/6/98 4pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
TALKING POINTS FOR ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE DROP-BY  
WASHINGTON, DC  
May 7, 1998**

**Acknowledge:** Jim and Eileen Zogby; hosts Elie Abboud [ee-LEE ah-BOOD] and Fuad Ateyeh [foo-ADD ah-TEE-yah]; Rep. Hinchey; Rep. Sununu; and the many distinguished ambassadors who are here tonight.

**As Jim just told you, I love getting advice from his mother.** She's got a wonderful read on the world -- her son John, the renowned pollster, has nothing on her. Of course, I'm also grateful for Jim's advice over the years. His is a voice of calm and clarity -- no matter how heated or muddled the issue.

**Jim tells me I am the first sitting President to address an Arab-American conference.** Well, it's about time.

Race Initiative. Oklahoma City.

regional dialogues

**I would also like to talk with you about the prospects for peace in the Middle East.** As you know, we have been working hard on this issue since the beginning of my Administration, and we are working especially hard right now. For several years, Palestinians and Israelis have been traveling down a difficult road toward peace. The Oslo Accords, the Hebron Agreement, and the open dialogue they established were important breakthroughs, bringing the possibility of peace closer than ever before.

**But over the past year, the process has lost momentum.** The Middle East is again pervaded by mistrust, suspicion, and, more than anything else, disappointment. We must reverse this trend. We must regain the momentum we had. There should be no illusion that peace will be easy. Difficult choices must be made by Palestinians and Israelis alike. The U.S. cannot impose a solution, but we must use our influence to find common ground and a return to dialogue.

**I have forcefully expressed my views to Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat.** I hope they can serve as the basis for an agreement that would let us move forward next week to the beginning of permanent-status negotiations. The world is weary of a struggle that has gone on for too long. The impasse affects all of our dealings with the Arab world, and the long-term security of the region. Palestinian self-determination and Israeli security are not incompatible.

\*

**Lebanese community. Christian and moslem.**

**Oklahoma City. One of the most painful things that happened to us. Arab americans remember the guilt. Denied the opportunity to participate. Mourn. Had to look over shoulders.**

**restore hope. Understands that we all sat on white house lawn and watched with joy. Builders for Peace.**

airport profiling. INS, FBI.

tumor on adrenal gland.

Jim Zogby: 429-9210. 3:10 pm.

achievements within arab-american community you'd like the president to recognize?

Domestic issues aai members have been particularly supportive of  
how old is mother? Still offering advice.

\* We have to prove that we can bring the spark of enterprise and jobs and opportunity to every corner of this nation, so we can say everybody has got a fair chance in America.

\* We have to prove we can build the best education system in the world -- not just universities, but elementary and secondary schools. And we've got to prove we can live together as one America.

\* The other thing we have to do that I hope to persuade the American people I'm right about -- I'm having a mixed record of success according to all the polls -- is we have to continue to lead the world for peace and freedom. We have to continue to expand trade. We have to continue to stand up in places like Bosnia and Northern Ireland and Haiti. And the Secretary of State is in London today working for peace in the Middle East. This is an interdependent world, and our success depends upon our ability to be good, responsible partners.

Now, we know what we will look like, but what will we be like? Can we be one America respecting, even celebrating, our differences, but embracing even more what we have in common? Can we define what it means to be an American, not just in terms of the hyphen showing our ethnic origins but in terms of our primary allegiance to the values America stands for and values we really live by. Our hearts long to answer yes, but our history reminds us that it will be hard. The ideals that bind us together are as old as our nation, but so are the forces that pull us apart. Our founders sought to form a more perfect union; the humility and hope of that phrase is the story of America and it is our mission today.

To be sure, there is old, unfinished business between black and white Americans, but the

classic American dilemma has now become many dilemmas of race and ethnicity. We see it in the tension between black and Hispanic customers and their Korean or Arab grocers; in a resurgent anti-Semitism even on some college campuses; in a hostility toward new immigrants from Asia to the Middle East to the former communist countries to Latin America and the Caribbean --even those whose hard work and strong families have brought them success in the American Way.

Now, when there is more cause for hope than fear, when we are not driven to it by some emergency or social cataclysm, now is the time we should learn together, talk together and act together to build one America.



## Dr. James J. Zogby Biography

Dr. James J. Zogby is President of the Arab American Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based organization which is the political and policy research arm of the Arab American community. In 1993 he was asked by Vice President Gore to lead Builders for Peace, an American private sector committee to promote business investment in the West Bank and Gaza, and has been a member of a number of Presidential delegations to the Middle East.

In 1994 Dr. Zogby was appointed to the Democratic National Committee, where he serves on the Resolutions Committee. He is also Co-convenor of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee.

A lecturer and scholar on Middle East issues, U.S.-Arab relations, and the history of the Arab American community, Dr. Zogby appears frequently on television and radio and his commentaries on the Presidential elections are aired over the Middle East Broadcasting Company, a London-based television network. He also hosts a popular weekly call-in program, "A Capital View," on the ANA television and radio network. Dr. Zogby also writes a weekly column on U.S. politics for the major newspapers of the Arab world, including *Ash-Sharq Al-Awsat* (London/international), *Arab News* (Saudi Arabia), *Al-Ahram* (Egypt), and *Al-Qabas* (Kuwait). His columns and articles also have appeared in a number of other major newspapers, both in the Arab world and the United States.

Dr. Zogby has testified before U.S. House and Senate committees, has been the guest speaker on a number of occasions in the Secretary's Open Forum at the U.S. Department of State, and has addressed the United Nations and other international forums. He is a board member of Middle East Watch, a human rights organization, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

For the past two decades, Dr. Zogby has been involved in Arab American issues. A co-founder and chairman of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign in the late 1970s, he later co-founded and served as the Executive Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. In 1982 he co-founded Save Lebanon, Inc., a private non-profit, humanitarian and non-sectarian relief organization which funds health care for Palestinian and Lebanese victims of war, and other social welfare projects in Lebanon.

In 1984 Dr. Zogby was vice-chair and deputy campaign manager for fundraising of the Jesse Jackson for President Campaign, and introduced Jackson's name for nomination at the 1984 Democratic National Convention. In 1988, he was a member of the Democratic Party's National Platform Committee. He was successful in inserting a plank in support of Lebanon's unity, security and territorial integrity. He also led the first ever debate on Palestinian rights at the National Democratic Convention in Atlanta. In 1989, he served on the National Executive Board of the National March for housing. He has been a member of the District of Columbia Martin Luther King Commission for the past seven years.

Dr. Zogby received his doctorate from Temple University's Department of Religion, where he studied under the Islamic scholar, Dr. Ismail al Faruqi.

Dr. Zogby is married to Eileen Patricia McMahon and is the father of five children.

May 6, 1998

**NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION DINNER**

DATE: May 7, 1998  
LOCATION: Grand Hyatt Hotel  
TIME: 8:15 pm  
FROM: Maria Echaveste  
Christine Stanek

**I. PURPOSE**

To acknowledge the contributions of the Arab American community to this country and re-affirm the Administration's initiatives as they relate to the community.

**II. BACKGROUND**

This is a bi-annual Arab American leadership conference that is hosted by the Arab American Institute. This year it is being held in conjunction with the National Arab American Business Association and the Palestinian American Congress. The conference, "Vote '98: Races and Issues for the Arab American Constituency", is a forum focusing on the Arab American community's participation in this year's elections and the policy issues that impact the community. Arab American leaders throughout the country will be in Washington, DC to attend this conference.

This is the first time in your presidency that you will address an Arab American audience. This community is extremely supportive of your education initiative as they view a quality education the key to their success. Their civil right's concerns include harassment by police officers and FBI agents and screening in airports. The Arab American Institute has been extremely active on your Initiative on Race including participating in the White House Hate Crimes Conference and the regional Advisory Board meetings. They are also working with an ethnic coalition that is hosting six regional conferences in conjunction with the PIR on race relations.

This dinner is part of a full weekend of events. On Thursday, the participants will spend the day on the Capitol hill with their members of

Congress. There will be a White House briefing on Friday featuring Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder discussing civil rights issues and the NSC discussing foreign policy initiatives.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

#### Greeters:

Malek Abboud  
Naim Azar  
Samia Farouki  
Maher Hanania  
Bassam Khawam  
Najat Arafat Khelil  
Samir Mashni  
Fadwa Naji  
George Salem  
Helen Samhan  
John Zogby

#### Stage Participants:

Dr. Jim Zogby, President, Arab American Institute  
Elie Abboud, Chairman and President, National Arab American Business

Association

Elie was seated at your table for the Leah Rabin\Shimon Peres luncheon

Fuad Ateyeh, President, Palestinian American Congress

Fuad attended your August 6, 1996 Arab American roundtable meeting

### IV. PRESS PLAN

Open press

### V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

You will be greeted by Board Members of the three host organizations

Proceed to the Stage with Jim Zogby, Elie Abboud and Fuad Ateyeh

Jim Zogby will introduce you.

You give brief remarks.

Work the rope line after remarks.

**NOTE:** Rev. Jesse Jackson will be making post-dinner remarks but will not be present at the event while you are there.

**VI. REMARKS**

Provided by speech writing

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Skin + Telescope

Aug 97

Dressler

Agenda

Edwards  
Opp.  
One America

6/9/21  
Tom  
Contingent

decc. 521  
jck. 520

Arab-A

Sept.

Jim Zogby -  
met w/ Pres. early

San Diego -  
used comments & L

→ Jim Zogby ←

Arab grocer.

discrim.  
against  
seen as  
terrorists

involved  
all  
along  
regional  
dialogue  
on race  
initiative

✓

When did UP  
Speak to them?

Jim Zogby  
will  
introduce

Jesse Jackson  
will be there  
post-dinner  
speaker

RETURN TO POLITICS: [NORMAL](#) || [LOW-GRAPHICS](#)**EXTRA!**

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## Clinton says U.S. can't impose solution in Mideast peace talks

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WASHINGTON (May 8, 1998 09:38 a.m. EDT <http://www.nando.net>) -- Rejecting GOP claims that he was siding with the Palestinians, President Clinton defended his proposal for Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank while insisting that the United States "cannot impose a solution."

Clinton sent his special envoy, Dennis Ross, back to Israel on Thursday, and said he hoped to jump-start peace talks in the Middle East and "simply regain the momentum that has been lost in the past few months."

But suggesting some flexibility in the U.S. position on withdrawals, he said, "What we are trying to do is to get the parties over a hurdle so they can get into this final status talks so we can stay on the timetable established a few years ago by both the Palestinians and the Israelis to finish the whole thing by this month next year."

He made his remarks Thursday night in a speech before an Arab American Institute conference -- the first time a sitting president ever has addressed such an Arab American meeting.

"I'm surprised, frankly, and also disappointed," Clinton said after getting a long standing ovation from several hundred people gathered in a hotel ballroom. "Because the Arab American community has made an enormous contribution to this country."

Congressional lawmakers, led by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., are accusing Clinton of bullying Israel into giving up more West Bank territory than Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says it is safe to turn over to the Palestinian Authority. Administration officials dismissed the claim as playing politics.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright this week said Clinton would hold a meeting in Washington on Monday if Israel agreed to the U.S. proposal, which calls for Israel to make a 13 percent withdrawal from the West Bank over a 12-week period in which Palestinians would introduce new measures to fight terrorism. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has accepted the 13 percent figure.

A Washington meeting would begin negotiations on a final settlement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. In Jerusalem, however, Netanyahu said, "I don't know if we will get to Washington by Monday because there are a lot of issues left open."

A senior administration official in Washington acknowledged there was little time for Netanyahu to act but said it was worthwhile to keep the deadline intact. Even if the deadline was missed, "it would take us an awful lot to give up on this process," the official said.

In his speech Thursday night, Clinton urged the Palestinians and Israelis not to miss this opportunity to reach a settlement.

"Difficult choices have been made and will have to be made by Palestinians and Israelis alike," Clinton

said. "And we cannot impose a solution, because we, even you, will not have to live out the consequences. But we must, we must try to help find enough common ground to return to the dialogue."

The White House said the U.S. terms would not be relaxed. "Secretary Albright has made clear, and we would reiterate, we are not going to water down our ideas," White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said.

Administration officials, however, said Ross would explore with Netanyahu how Israel could meet the U.S. target, suggesting there was flexibility in how to achieve the goal. State Department spokesman James Foley said Ross would discuss possible "refinements" to break the deadlock and permit the Monday talks to take place.

On Capitol Hill, Democrats and Republicans continued to debate Clinton's policy. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said the GOP should "give these negotiations a chance to succeed before rushing to criticize."

But Sen. Connie Mack, R-Fla., said, the administration "is making a major mistake ... by publicly pressuring the state of Israel." He said it would be wrong to "force an agreement which would in fact be a false peace."

From the president on down, the administration stressed that it was Netanyahu who asked the United States to support jumping ahead to so-called permanent status negotiations. If Netanyahu balks now, administration officials reasoned, he will have to shoulder the responsibility for prolonging the impasse.

Ariel Sharon, Israel's minister of national infrastructure who is known for his hawkish views, said he could not accept "dictates" when it comes to Israel's "vital security problems." Sharon's comments, at a symposium sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, echoed remarks Wednesday by Netanyahu in criticizing the U.S. position.

In an embarrassment for the White House earlier Thursday, Hillary Rodham Clinton said she supported creation of a Palestinian state. Clinton spokesman McCurry said that did not reflect the president's belief that Israel and the Palestinians should resolve the issue themselves.

By **EUN-KYUNG KIM**, Associated Press Writer



**What does Buddy know that you don't?**

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Do you have some feedback for the Nando Times staff?

Draft 5/7/98 4:30pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**TALKING POINTS FOR ARAB AMERICAN**  
**INSTITUTE DROP-BY**  
**WASHINGTON, DC**

**May 7, 1998**

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
5-7-98

cc:

Laura Capps

**Acknowledge:** Jim and Eileen Zogby; co-sponsors Elie Abboud [ee-LEE ah-BOOD] and Fuad Ateyeh [foo-ADD ah-TEE-yah]; Rep. ~~Hi~~; Rep. ~~S~~; your excellencies, the ambassadors and dignitaries who are here tonight.

MEMBERS OF : ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
NAT'L ARAB AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOC  
PALESTINIAN AMERICAN CONGRESS

**As Jim just told you, I love getting advice from his mother.** She's got a wonderful read on the world -- her son John, the renowned pollster, has nothing on her. Of course, I'm also grateful for Jim's advice over the years. His is a voice of calm and clarity -- no matter how heated or muddled the issue.

**Jim tells me I am the first sitting President to**  
**address an Arab-American conference.** *Surprised but* I am proud to  
have that honor tonight. I have come here, in part, to  
congratulate you on the way the Arab-American community  
has found its voice. You are speaking out -- and being  
heard -- on a wide range of important domestic issues, not  
just on the Middle East. A record number of Arab-  
Americans are now running for, and serving in, the U.S.  
Congress. Even the newest Yemeni immigrants -- once  
poor farmers, now small-business owners -- are achieving  
their rightful share of the American Dream.

1ST PRESIDENT

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**I have also come to talk with you about how we can work together, at the end of the 20th century, to prepare for the challenges of the next.**

**First, we must help all Americans see our diversity as our greatest strength. Together, we must work to build one America. To be sure, there is old, unfinished business between black and white Americans, but every ethnic group in America has its own stories to tell. I know that this community, in particular, has often felt the sting of stereotype. I have tried to warn us that I am grateful to Jim [Zogby] and others here tonight who have played a major role in our Race Initiative.**

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
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And I am pleased that you are now working with Jewish Americans and members of several European ethnic groups to organize six regional forums on race and diversity over the coming year.

**Second, we must bring the spark of enterprise and jobs to every corner of this nation.** Our economy is the strongest in a generation -- with a record number of small-business starts in each of the past five years -- but we know that not every American has had a chance to reap the rewards. The Arab-American community understands the power and dignity that comes with owning one's own business. Let us work to spread this kind of opportunity throughout America.

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other ~~...~~  
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**Third, we must build the best education system in the world -- not just universities, but elementary and secondary schools. For generations, Arab-American families have made education their number-one priority -- and today, an Arab American is more than twice as likely than the average American to hold an advanced degree. To succeed in the next century, we must make education our nation's number-one priority -- with smaller classes, better teaching, higher standards, expanded choice, more discipline, and greater accountability.**

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*Again Cong We  
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Mayou*

**Fourth, we must continue to lead the world toward peace and freedom. In Northern Ireland, representatives of all the major parties have reached an historic peace agreement to put an end to that long and tragic conflict.**

All Americans should take a special measure of pride that the talks in Northern Ireland were chaired by George Mitchell, the former Majority Leader of the United States Senate, who is also, of course, of Lebanese descent.

*Today I met w/ women who have lost sons + kids in troubles w/leg to help ea other + others in pain to work for peace, inner peace + peace among the tribes*

~~And~~ Now we must regain the momentum for peace in the Middle East. As you know, we have been working hard on this issue since the beginning of my Administration, and we are working especially hard right now. For several years, Palestinians and Israelis have been traveling down a difficult road toward peace. The Oslo Accords, the Hebron Agreement, <sup>*the Peace Sign in Wash DC 1993*</sup> and the open dialogue they established were <sup>*improved. see coop*</sup> important breakthroughs, bringing the possibility of peace closer than ever before.

I want to regain that momentum. We have a strategic opportunity to get the process moving again and to move forward toward peace. Difficult choices must be made by Palestinians and Israelis alike. The U.S. cannot impose a solution, but we ~~can~~<sup>must</sup> try to help the parties find common ground and a return to dialogue.

That is why I am sending Ambassador Ross back to Israel tonight -- to go the extra mile to help the parties seize this opportunity. <sup>to move to final status talks (per to her reading of 18 for now for resolutions of the UN, etc.)</sup> Peace will bring invaluable benefits for all the people of the region. Arabs and Israelis alike. This is a goal that all Americans can work and pray for.

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5-7-98