

Title:	President Bill Clinton visit to McClellan Air Force Base
Date:	October 3, 1993
Collection:	California Revealed
Length of interview:	Fifty-eight minutes, thirty seconds
Link to the video:	<a href="https://archive.org/details/cua_000097">https://archive.org/details/cua_000097</a>
Transcriber:	Michelle Luu, Student Assistant in Archives and Special Collections, UC Davis Library
Contact Information:	SpecColl@ucdavis.edu

Time	Transcription
00:11	[Background noise.]
01:50	Woman 1: Now, you all from Washington?
01:53	Man 1: No, we're from here in Sacramento [unclear].
02:31	[Music starts.]
04:05	[Background music cuts to the song "Even If My Heart Would Break" by Kenny G and Aaron Neville.]
04:57	[Cuts to more background noise.]
06:07	["If I Ever Fall In Love by Shai" starts to play.]
07:52	["The Heart of Rock and Roll" by Huey Lewis and The News plays then "Blame It On Texas" by Mark Chesnutt plays.]
09:31	[The marching band begins to play and then stops after one song.]
11:40	Man 2: Audio: three, two, one. [Scattered clapping.] Audio check: one, two, three; three, two, one.
12:35	[Marching band begins again.]
13:51	[Video cuts to applause.]
16:13	Man 2: Major General Phillips, Congressman Matsui, and Congressman Fazio! [Loud clapping and the marching band starts again before stopping once more.]

18:31	Phillips: If you would please, join us in singing our national anthem, led by Staff Sergeant [Clemens?].
18:44	Staff Sergeant: Oh say can you see, [Everyone starts to join in.] by the dawn's early light. What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming. Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight. O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming? And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave. O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave! [Clapping]
20:26	Phillips: President Clinton, distinguished platform guests. This is indeed a great day, McClellan welcomes you. Mr. President, we are especially pleased that you have chosen to visit your Air Force here at McClellan Air Force Base as well as our partners in defense, in technology, and in economics, and that is the Sacramento community. [Clapping.] Mr. President, we share your vision of a strong defense and a strong economy highlighted by conversion and dual use of military resources and technology transfer, and we at McClellan and the Sacramento community are aggressively pursuing your vision, for we are indeed a team. As highlighted by such agreements as our agreement with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District and our agreement with the automotive industry. We are very pleased to share your vision. To give you a very special welcome, I'd like to introduce my boss, and the Commander of Air Force Materiel Command, General Ron Yates. [Clapping.]
22:01	Yates: Thank you. President Clinton, Representative Matsui, Representative Fazio, distinguished guests, on behalf of the men and women of the Air Force Materiel Command, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to McClellan Air Force Base. In Air Force Materiel Command, we're the people in charge of building, and sustaining our nation's Air Force. Doing this means a commitment to advance technology and having a vision for the future. The world plainly saw the fruits of this commitment and vision during our involvement in the Persian Gulf where our advanced technology kept collateral damage and loss of life to a minimum, and allowed us to rapidly fulfill our nation's foreign policy objectives, and if any single system best represented to the people of the United States the triumph of our technology, it was probably the stealth fighter that sits behind us. So at this time I'd like to present you, President Clinton, with a replica of the F-117 stealth fighter as a symbol of our commitment to protecting America through leadership [applause] and aerospace engineering.
23:10	Clinton: Thank you, sir.
23:26	Yates: Our commitment to leading edge technology goes beyond just building and sustaining the world's most respected air and space force. It means taking up the president's challenge to make our technology available to solve some of the tough problems facing our society today and to boost our nation's economy as well. We're doing this by working closely with partners in industry,

	<p>government, and academia, to transfer to the civil sector, technology the Air Force has developed which can be applied to solving society's non-military problems. While our interest and drive to push this technology to the civil sector has never been greater, this is not new ground for us. In fact, I'm willing to bet that everyone here has been affected one way or another in the last twenty-four hours by at least one, if not several, technological advances that originated in Air Force laboratories or were significantly enhanced by Air Force research. I'm talking about everyday technology we now take for granted, like satellites, which relay television, radio broadcasts, long-distance telephone calls, weather forecasting, microprocessing—which we advanced when no one else was interested. Advances in composite materials which make our golf gloves and our tennis rackets, and the list goes on, and so does our work. Today, our emphasis on dual use technology has grown, and is part of our core mission. We're now using smart weapons technologies that are being used in the battle against breast cancer. Intelligent computers which we've developed to train our satellite technicians and our space shuttle astronauts are being used to boost our skills in math and reading sciences at our high-risk schools. Today, we have set up a few displays for the president to show you our latest initiatives in technology advancement. And here at McClellan, we are going to be working with the automobile industry to produce an environmentally-sound steel casting capability and a foundry of the future. This initiative which we're undertaking here will protect an industry which represents thirty billion dollars and three hundred-thousand jobs in this country. In the past decade, a thousand of those foundries have closed or moved off-shore, and we want to save them. In addition, Mr. President, [clapping] — thank you; you'll see our work on electric vehicles. We're cooperating with local governments and industries to develop vehicles, which will lead to a cleaner environment and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. And microelectronic technologies, right here at McClellan, we've been working with the California Department of Transportation to help control traffic, monitor vehicles, and will lead to intelligent highways of tomorrow. If the initiatives shown here are indicative of the type of work and partnerships taking place throughout the Air Force Materiel Command advanced technology is the cornerstone of our Air Force. Mr. President, the men and women of the Air Force Materiel Command working with our partners in industry, academia, and communities all over the country are dedicated to inventing a bright, secure, and prosperous future for our country. We're delighted to have you here today, Mr. President, to give you a glimpse of some of our work our people are doing. Now, at this time it gives me great pleasure to introduce a man who's been a great supporter of Sacramento, McClellan, and the United States Air Force: the statesman who has served the people of California's Fifth District and the House of Representatives for the past fourteen years, ladies and gentlemen, our great American representative: Bob Matsui. [Clapping.]</p>
27:29	<p>Matsui: Thank you. [Clapping.] Thank you. Mr. President, General Yates, Major General Phillips, and friends, I'd like to introduce some distinguished guests—there are many distinguished guests in this vast amphitheatre here today, but I'm going to introduce a few. First of all, we have, from the</p>

	<p>Department of Energy, the Secretary of Energy, Hazel O'Leary. [Clapping.] Secretary O'Leary. We have our State Insurance Commissioner, our own Sacramentan, John Garamendi, [Clapping.] John. And many of you recently read in the newspaper about this gentleman who's been in politics for thirty-five years, our own State Senator, Leroy Greene. [Clapping.] Leroy. Our Assemblyman, former mayor of Sacramento, and really great leader, Phil Eisenberg, Phil. [Applause.] And a former—the Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors, and one person who had a major role in helping save this base, Grantland Johnson. Grantland. [Applause.] And, of course, the Mayor of Sacramento, the person who was instrumental in saving this base, Joe Serna. [Applause.] Joe. I'm going to be brief before I introduce the next speaker. I see in the audience a number of young people. I see a great number of young people. Vic Fazio and I, in 1979 when we were elected to the United States Congress, went back to Washington and one night we were talking with each other, and we asked why we got into politics, why we got into government. It was surprising because both of us said it was John F. Kennedy that got us into politics. Because John Kennedy to Vic and myself and many others of our generation, felt that when John Kennedy was elected president, he made a call to public service when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country." [Clapping.] And all of you know, and all of you know that to make America a great nation, we need change, we need renewal, and we need constant sacrifice among our citizens, and that's what John Kennedy asked. He asked that we go to the very basic spirit of what made, and what continues to make America a great country. And it was really surprising to me back in 1980, and [camera and audio cuts]. We have another president, as John Kennedy, who asked that the best of America produce the greatest vision that this country will ever know and that is why Bill Clinton is working on healthcare reform, international trade, [clapping] and getting our budget deficit under control. Because he wants to make America the great country that our Founding Fathers envisioned it to be, and so, Mr. President, we are very, very pleased and honored that you are here in Sacramento to visit with us today. Thank you very much. [Clapping.] I'd like, now, to introduce my colleague from the Third Congressional District, a gentleman that actually was instrumental—the driving force in Washington D.C. in making sure that the 18,000 employees at McClellan Air Force Base in Northern California, was able to maintain this base. My dear friend and colleague, Vic Fazio, Vic. [Applause.]</p>
32:14	<p>Fazio: Before I have the privilege of introducing the president, I want to introduce someone else, who's on the podium today, who many of you know. He represents the First District in California, running from Del Norte County on the Oregon border to Sonoma County. He's a great new Democratic member of Congress for the great future, please welcome Dan Hamburg. [Clapping.] Let me ask you a question. Are you as excited as I am to be here today Sacramento? [Clapping.] I knew the answer would be, "Yes," and I think we all understand why. McClellan Air Force Base and this community have come together in the last year like we've never have before. This base has always been important to our economy. It's always been important to the national</p>

	<p>security of our country, but we never recognized our mutual dependence before. We've come to understand that our country's strength is in unity. National security is both military and economic strength. We know that every day, and today particularly as we focus part of our attention away from the National League race to what's happening in Moscow. We understand the importance the military will continue to play in the future world politics that all of us are caught up in, and I hope everyone here at McClellan is testimony to that fact. We appreciate all that the military has done for this country, and particularly for this region, and for that reason, I wish you please give them your thanks. [Applause.] Now we're gathered here today in a new era. For too long we've allowed problems to go unattended. Budget deficits grew, healthcare fell apart as a national problem for all of us to face. We have not stepped up to the challenges that have continued to confront us. We did not do so until a new president was elected that broke the Congress from its bipartisan gridlock and set this country on a new direction. [Clapping.] We have, for the first time, in the lives of some of you, for the first time in a long time, for many of us, an individual who has been willing to face the tough problems, who has taken every task that was handed to him, and said, "America, let's move." I want to thank this president for his vision, for his leadership, for the kind of courage he shows, for the direction he gives, not only this country, but Northern California, and those of us here in the Sacramento community. [Clapping.] Please, ladies and gentlemen, will you all express to the president how much you believe in him and support his leadership. Welcome him to Sacramento! [Clapping and whistling.]</p>
36:17	<p>Clinton: Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you! Thank you very much. Thank you! Thank you for coming. Thank you for being here. Thank you for doing what you have done for the United States. It's wonderful to be here. It's wonderful to be in Sacramento and it's great to be at McClellan and I thank you all for being here with me today. [Cheers get louder.] I'd like to say a special word of thanks to General Phillips and the people at this base, and the work they have done and the work they did with your mayor and others to keep this base alive. You are a good testimony to the wisdom of that decision and I thank you for that. I also want to thank General Yates, the Commander of the Air Force Materiel Division for flying all the way across the country to be with us today, and I want to tell you one thing: he made a real sacrifice because this is his birthday, and I thank him for spending it with us today. [Applause.] I want to say also, a special word of thanks to Congressman Hamburg, Congressman Matsui, and Congressman Fazio. [Angry chanting from the crowd off-screen.] You all ignore them, they don't want you to hear, but you want to hear this, c'mon! [Applause.] You know, most people in this country still believe in free speech, that's one of the things worth fighting for! [Applause.] I also want to say a very special word of thanks to these members of Congress who have supported our efforts to deal with the problems of America. I got interested in making that long and challenging race for president because I was worried about three things. I thought this country was coming apart, when it ought to be coming together. I thought we were going in the wrong direction economically, and we risked losing the American Dream for millions of young</p>

	<p>people, and I thought that politics had become a sideshow of shouting words instead of an instrument by which the American people could forthrightly face their problems and do something about it! I am reminded too, on this day, because of the events in Moscow and in Somalia, that we still live in a dangerous world. And I ask you to take just a few moments, once again to quietly express your support for the people who are fighting for freedom in Russia, and for the brave men and women in our armed forces, including those in Somalia today who lost their lives in a very successful mission against brutality and anarchy. My deepest condolences go to the families and the friends of those brave young Americans, and I know that all of you support them as well. [Clapping.]</p>
39:57	<p>Clinton: One of the hardest things we have had to learn as a people in the last few years is that there is now no longer an easy division between our national security at the end of the Cold War abroad and our economic and social security here at home. There is no longer an easy division between foreign policy and domestic policy and it is perfectly clear to everyone now that if we are not strong at home, we can not continue to lead the world, and so I have done what I could to help us to become stronger at home. That means, as much as anything else, as we attempt to survive this economy, we have got to focus on the economy of California, the state which has [cut off by applause] the state which has twelve percent of our nation's people, but twenty-five percent of our nation's unemployed. It is clear to me that we must take this problem, which has developed for you over a period of years, and go after it with a vengeance—[Camera and audio cuts.]</p>
41:16	<p>[Video begins to play several different clips from earlier in the video and the same moments from earlier, but from different angles.] [Audio is unclear.] [Applause loudly plays.]</p>
43:15	<p>Clinton: Only in America [applause], are the doctors who hired out to keep people well and help people who are sick, spending more and more countless hours—some of them as much as twenty-five hours—[Video cuts to another clip.] The last ten years, we've seen the work of clerical workers in the hospital grow at four times the rate of new doctors and healthcare providers. That is not happening anywhere else, why? Because while we have the finest doctors and nurses and technology and research in the world, we have a system of financing and delivering healthcare that is a nightmare. It is a nightmare for people who have lost their health insurance. It is a nightmare for people who don't get it. It is a nightmare for people who have to depend on the government to get theirs, but not all of the providers will cover Medicaid. It has been bad, and—[Voice clip cuts off.] It is a primary cause that millions of American workers will not get a raise between now and the end of the decade because all of the new profits of the company that are trying to cover their healthcare would go into the exploding costs of premiums, and only in America do we spend ten cents on the dollar in a nine-hundred-million dollar healthcare bill on paperwork that no other country has. [Video cuts to another clip.]</p>

44:27	Clinton: And is there any institution that has done a better job of opening opportunities to people without regards to race or gender. No! Why? One reason is, there is border security and support. Could the military have done its mission if they had the same healthcare system the rest of the American people have, then half of the people in the service could lose their healthcare on any given day on some accident or because of a wife, or a husband, or a child turned out to have an illness that wasn't covered in the fine print of some policy. You know it couldn't have happened, you know the rest of the American people lack security in the face of the changing times in which we live—[voice becomes unclear over the sound of applause and a woman shouting.]
45:01	Woman 2: That's right!
45:11	Clinton: Let me say—You can say to me, "Oh, you can't slow the growth of healthcare costs!" I say to them, "Look at California!" I want to thank your insurance commissioner for the work he's done with my wife's healthcare task force [unclear as the crowd erupts in applause.] [Video jumps to another clip.]
45:26	Clinton: The healthcare costs of the people who have the benefit of being in the California public employee system when the people who were providing it knew that the state was broke and didn't have a lot of money, and when there were enough people there, that they had bargaining power to get high-quality healthcare at an affordable price. What happened? The inflation right in the premiums was less than one-third of the national inflation rate in healthcare. And let me say some other things about this healthcare system, because there's been a lot of misinformation put out there. [Video jumps to another clip.]
45:57	Clinton: Healthcare is when they're real sick and it's real expensive and they show up at the emergency room. Under this plan, for the first time in history, there will be a comprehensive package of benefits which will guarantee preventive and primary healthcare services—[Video jumps to another clip.]
46:12	Clinton: — Going broke because they have disproportionate burdens, of immigrants, [unclear], or anything else. This is another important feature of this. Finally! [Clapping.] Let me say two other things. [Video cuts to another clip.]
46:29	Clinton: But there's a limit for the first time [unclear] taken away! If you don't have one, you'll get one! And you'll have more choices today. Only one in three workers in a plant with a health insurance plan has any choice in where they get their healthcare. Every American worker will be guaranteed at least three different options in the healthcare plan and that's a plus for America to give the consumers of this country more choices. [Clapping.] Finally, I want to say—[Video cuts to another clip.]
46:59	Clinton: — of doctors and nurses and others who've told us their stories. Some that we've found unbelievable! We've had doctors who are miserable, nurses who are unhappy, and the people who lost their insurance in the eleventh hour when they didn't know what was going to hit them. So, for the first time in the

	history of this country, we're gonna have a healthcare plan that has significant input on the front-end from the people who provide the healthcare, because they know the ones who have been involved with this process that we can not go on. [Video jumps to another clip.]
47:30	[Marching band plays.]
49:48	Woman 3: President Clinton! Shake my hand! Shake my hand! I love you! I love you! I just shook his hand! We love you, President Clinton!
54:03	Clinton: Wanna see this signed? Eighty miles per gallon. Top speed: one-hundred miles an hour; zero to sixty in twelve seconds.
58:30	END.