JOSEPH LOCKHART TIMELINE
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1980

1984
Lockhart is Assistant Press Secretary for Walter F. Mondale's (D-MN) presidential campaign. (*The New York Times*, 04/11/1984)

1988
Lockhart serves as the Deputy Press Secretary for Governor Michael Dukakis's (D-MA) presidential campaign. (Warshaw, p. 208)

1991
Lockhart serves as Executive Vice President at Bozell Sawyer Miller. He remains at the company until 1995. (http://www.glovergroup.com)

1996

March
President William J. Clinton appoints Lockhart as Press Secretary for the 1996 campaign. (*Omaha World Herald*, 03/12/1996)

Senator Robert J. Dole (R-KS) wins the California Republican primary and claims his party's nomination for the 1996 presidential election. On the upcoming Clinton-Dole contest, Lockhart says, "This will be an election about Bill Clinton's record and where he has taken the country" in contrast to "the lack of vision being shown by the Republican Party." (*Los Angeles Daily News*, 03/27/1996)

April
In an attack on Clinton's judicial nominees, Dole says, "A startling number of Mr. Clinton's lower court judges have demonstrated an outright hostility to law enforcement." Democrats point out that these judges have been unanimously confirmed by the Senate. Lockhart states that it is "insensitive" of Dole to choose the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing "to deliver a cynical and inaccurate speech on an issue which faces all Americans, namely crime." (*Reuters News*, 04/19/1996)


May
Dole accuses Clinton of "weakness, indecision...double talk and incoherence" on foreign policy issues, but agrees with Clinton that
China's "most favored nation" status should be renewed. Lockhart states that the campaign appreciates Dole's support on this point. (*The Boston Globe*, 05/10/1996)

Reports circulate that the Dole campaign is facing financial difficulties. Lockhart states, "If they plan to campaign as aggressively as they say they're going to, there's no way to avoid violating the [federal spending] limits, given the amount of money they have." (*Reuters News*, 05/20/1996)

Both the Clinton and Dole campaigns run television ads that focus on the personal character of the opposing candidate. Lockhart asserts the Dole campaign ads are a personal attack on the President. The Clinton campaign defends its ad as a response to the negative campaigning of the Republican Party. (*The New York Times*, 05/25/1996)

The Republican National Committee (MC) releases a commercial documenting Dole's personal history and policy positions without explicitly asking voters to vote for the candidate. Clinton's campaign believes the RNC is circumventing campaign finance laws by miming this ad. Lockhart states, "The rules are pretty clear on what the party can pay for and this appears to be one more example of their trying to evade" regulations of the Federal Election Commission (FEC). (*The New York Times*, 05/30/1996)

**June**

Dole accuses President Clinton of being a "Me Too" president who steals Republican ideas. Lockhart responds, "With no positive agenda or vision for where to move our country, we can expect to see a lot more of these desperate negative personal attacks on the President." (*St. Petersburg Times*, 06/02/1996)

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) files a complaint with the FEC stating that the Dole for President Committee has exceeded spending limits by more than $340,000. Lockhart issues a statement saying, "The ongoing violations of campaign spending law by the Dole for President Committee are made clear by the complaint filed today by the Democratic National Committee." (*US. Newswire*, 06/12/1996)

Dole criticizes the Clinton Administration for ignoring Russian arms control violations, saying its policy towards Moscow is centered upon a "misguided romanticism." Lockhart responds by saying, "Right speech, wrong decade." (*The New York Times*, 06/25/1996)

Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, begin a book tour to promote the latest version of their 1988 book, *The Doles: Unlimited Partners*. Lockhart questions where the Doles are getting the money for their book tour,
reigniting questions about Dole's campaign spending. The Dole campaign responds that the campaign itself is paying for the book tour. *(The New York Times, 06/28/1996)*

**July**

The Clinton campaign airs commercials attacking Dole's position on tobacco use. This is in response to Dole's uncertainty as to the addictive quality of nicotine. Lockhart states, "We always thought that this would be a good issue for us, but we never thought it would get raised to the highest level." *(The New York Times, 07/07/1996)*

**August**

Dole announces Jack Kemp (R-NY) is his vice-presidential running mate. The Clinton campaign seizes the opportunity to show the differences between Kemp and Dole on policy issues. Lockhart states that with this nomination, "Bob Dole has now completed his transformation from deficit hawk to economic gambler willing to bet our economic future on a reckless supply-side theory." *(The Washington Post, 08/10/1996)*

Clinton prepares to travel by train to Chicago for the Democratic National Convention. Campaign officials state that Clinton will make major policy proposals as he travels. According to Lockhart, the hope is that Clinton's travels and speeches can dominate the news by day while the convention dominates the news at night. *(The Washington Post, 08/21/1996)*

**October**

Preparing for the upcoming debate, the Clinton and Dole campaigns decide to run fewer negative campaign ads. Lockhart emphasizes that the Clinton campaign will focus on positive messages including ads on where Clinton plans to take the country. *(The Boston Globe, 10/03/1996)*

**1997**

**January**

It is reported that Lockhart will assist in the confirmation hearings of Clinton's new Cabinet members. It is likely Lockhart will focus much of his attention on current Director of Public Liaison Alexis Herman's nomination to the position of Secretary of Labor. Reporters speculate that Herman will face continuation problems due to questionable political fund-raising practices. In light of these concerns, Senate Republicans postpone confirmation hearings on her nomination pending a review of her political activities while working in the White House. *(Chicago Sun-Times, 01/26/1997; The Washington Post, 01/29/1997, 01/30/1997)*

**February**

Members of the Senate Labor Committee question why Herman received shares in a Pennsylvania Avenue redevelopment project without investing any money in it. Herman received this ownership interest in the
mid-1980s when she was not yet a government official. Senate Republicans ask whether Herman was included in the project to take advantage of any ties she might have had with local or federal Democratic officials at the time. Lockhart states that Herman did not lobby for this project. He adds that she became interested in this project through a friend. *(The New York Times, 02/14/1997)*

**March**

It is reported that Herman invited Caren Wilcox, a DNC official, to a White House briefing for business lobbyists. Lockhart states, "The DNC actively does grass-roots lobbying on behalf of the President's programs and for a DNC person to come over and attend one of these briefings is both permissible and legitimate." *(The New York Times, 03/02/1997)*

**May**

On the 23rd, White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry announces that Lockhart will replace Mary Ellen Glynn as Deputy Press Secretary the first week of June. *(U.S. Newswire, 05/23/1997)*

1998

**January**

Reporters take pictures of the Clintons while vacationing in Saint Thomas. White House officials reject suggestions that the Clintons were posing for reporters. Lockhart comments that this incident is an example of how journalists twist stories to their advantage. "All of a sudden," he tells a journalist, "our actions are under question, rather than your actions." *(The New York Times, 01/10/1998)*

**February**

Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr issues subpoenas to senior White House communications aide Sidney Blumenthal and Tony F. Lenzner, a private detective employed by the Clinton legal team. Lockhart criticizes Starr's use of subpoenas, saying, "The use of subpoena power to silence critics is outrageous." *(The New York Times, 02/24/1998)*

**March**

Lockhart accompanies the Clintons on their six-nation tour of Africa. This trip is meant to demonstrate America's friendship as well as to show the American people the need for involvement abroad. Lockhart states that 225 persons representing various media are covering the trip. *(Copley News Service, 03/27/1998)*

**June**

In a speech at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), President Clinton calls upon the states to require "technology literacy" of children in middle school. Lockhart says that the states will set their own standards but the children should learn computing skills and proper computing etiquette. *(The New York Times, 06/05/1998)*
July

The White House announces that Lockhart will succeed Mike McCurry as Press Secretary following Congress's recess in the fall. (Joseph Hayden, *Covering Clinton: The President and the Press in the 1990s*, Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2002, p. 89)

October

Lockhart officially takes over as Press Secretary for the Clinton Administration. ("Interview: Joe Lockhart, The Clinton Years," *Frontline*, PBS, 10/2000)

On the 2\textsuperscript{nd}, the House Judiciary Committee releases transcripts of grand jury testimony, FBI interviews and tape transcripts gathered by Starr on the Monica Lewinsky case. Lockhart states that "serious questions" arise about "some of the conclusions and inferences that the Starr referral reached that are not backed up by any evidence." (*The Boston Globe*, 10/04/1998)

Clinton is requested by Governor Parris Glendening (D-MD) to attend a fundraiser. The media questions Lockhart about this, emphasizing that the Governor has "snubbed" Clinton in the past. Lockhart tells the press that Clinton will help the Governor if his schedule permits. Lockhart adds that Clinton "works tirelessly for Democrats around the country to help them get elected, to help them obtain the resources they need to be competitive in elections, and to work with them to try to build support. That's no different from Maryland Democrats, that's no different for Governor Glendening." (*The Washington Post*, 10/06/1998; *M2 Presswire*, 10/08/1998)

On the 9\textsuperscript{th}, the House of Representatives launches a presidential impeachment inquiry. Lockhart states, "We don't believe the process has been particularly fair, but as we move forward it is our hope that some of that basic fairness will return." (*The Daily Telegraph*, 10/09/1998)

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde (R-IL) announces a plan to "streamline" the list of possible impeachable offenses against President Clinton. Lockhart responds that the first step should be to determine what constitutes an impeachable offense regardless of the number. He says, "Being this close to the election, it's hard to not sense that there may be some politics at work here." (*The Boston Globe*, 10/15/1998)

November

Just prior to the 1998 Mid-term elections, Lockhart attributes promising Democratic chances to the fact that the President is doing "a fine job of articulating the agenda and the issues, especially where we differ from the Republican Party." (*The Boston Globe*, 11/04/1998)
**December**

The House Judiciary Committee closes its investigation into President Clinton's fundraising during his 1996 campaign. Lockhart calls this decision another instance of the Republican Party's erratic behavior. He says, "Their actions have been chaotic, partisan and irresponsible, fundamentally limiting the President's ability to present a coherent defense." *(The Washington Post, 12/04/1998)*

With the House of Representatives discussing impeachment, Lockhart states that this turn of events needs a defense that is "serious, that doesn't attempt to lay blame on someone else, and makes a case that both on the facts and on the law and on the constitutional standards... the president shouldn't be impeached." *(The Boston Globe, 12/08/1998)*

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein fails to cooperate with the UN inspections of his weapons facilities. Lockhart gives a press briefing announcing, "At the direction Of the President, United States military forces have launched a substantial military strike against Iraq." *(M2 Presswire, 12/17/1998)*

High approval ratings for Clinton leads Lockhart to state, "I think the polls indicate that the American public has a full understanding of what the House did [referring to impeachment proceedings], that this was a partisan effort which had more to do with politics than it had to do with the Constitution, and that they did do a disservice to the House and that's why the public has reacted the way it has." *(The Boston Globe, 12/22/1998)*

**1999**

**January**

Clinton talks to the press about his budget plan to help states impose tougher drug testing and treatment policies for prisoners and parolees. Although the budget is not to be released officially until February 1st, this is the latest in a series of comments about the proposals in the budget. Lockhart jokingly dismisses allegations that the Clinton Administration is leaking the budget to the press to divert attention from the Lewinsky case. *(The Washington Post, 01/06/1999)*

Lockhart states that in the interest of fairness, it is essential to make the rules and standards for impeachment clear before the process begins. He says, "I think whether you're in a trial in the Senate or you're in traffic court, the idea that when you go and start a proceeding, that the rules and procedures and evidence and witnesses -- potential witnesses -- are not clear to you at the beginning of the process is not fair." *(M2 Presswire, 01/01/1999)*
The Clinton White House increases its criticisms of the Senate's vote along party lines to depose witnesses and against closing the impeachment case. Lockhart states, "America, looking in on this process, now understands that . . . this trial continues to go on, and the fact that the Senate continues to be diverted from [its] business, is the responsibility of the Republican majority." *(The Washington Post, 01/29/1999)*

The Senate delivers subpoenas to Monica Lewinsky, close friend and counsel Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. and Assistant to the President for Communications Sidney Blumenthal for their testimony in impeachment hearings. Lockhart states the Republican majority are attempting "to play out this process in a way that can inflict maximum political damage on the President." *(The Boston Globe, 01/30/1999)*

**February**

Lockhart states that Clinton will campaign for Democrats in 2000 in an attempt to retake control of the House of Representatives. He says, "We're going to campaign hard for Democrats over the next two years but we're also going to work with the Republicans to try to get business done." Answering allegations that this is an attempt to target those that managed the impeachment process in the House, Lockhart states this is the "way our political system works." *(United Press International, 02/11/1999)*

**March**

Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov cancels his trip to the United States while his airplane is over the Atlantic. This follows his conversation with Vice President Al Gore in which Gore informs Primakov of the breakdown of talks with Slobodan Milosevic, President of Yugoslavia. Press reports speculate that Primakov does not want to be on U.S. soil when the U.S. takes action against a Soviet ally. Lockhart explains, "We have a strong bilateral relationship with the Russians. We are engaged with them on a series of issues – economic reform, nonproliferation around the world." *(Financial Times, 03/24/1999)*

NATO allies rule out the use of ground troops in Kosovo. Lockhart states, "We can meet our military objectives with air strikes until there is a political settlement." *(Financial Times, 03/30/1999)*

**April**

Commenting on a conversation between Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Lockhart points to some areas of agreement between Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin on the Kosovo settlement, including "an immediate end to attacks on the Kosovo Albanians, withdrawal of Yugoslavian armed forces from Kosovo, safe repatriation of refugees and access of humanitarian organizations." Lockhart adds that the disagreements between the two leaders centers on the NATO missile and bombing raids on Yugoslavia. *(ITAR-TASS News Agency, 04/20/1999)*
May

Clinton proposes a postwar rebuilding effort in Kosovo. He states that the U.S. will have to work with its European allies to "rebuild southeastern Europe." There is speculation that Milosevic's government will receive this aid. Lockhart responds by stating, "I just can't imagine that as we look into the Mire, that the rest of Europe would be looking to work cooperatively with an autocratic regime that could perpetrate the kind of atrocities that have been done over the last several years."  
*(The Boston Globe, 05/14/1999)*

Lockhart acknowledges the constraints on military action in Kosovo, saying, "We are constrained by our allies. Will the public support this? Will the European public support this? I don't know if the war is calibrated, but the rhetoric is calibrated. It's a constant challenge to articulate what the U.S. interest is, why we're doing this, both in terms of NATO allies and simple right-and-wrong questions. We look at this on a daily basis."  
*(The New York Times, 05/21/1999)*

July

The Clinton Administration and the Republican leadership differ on how to use a $3 trillion budget surplus over the next decade. While most Republican leaders want to use the money for reducing taxes up to $792 billion over the next ten years, the Clinton Administration wants to use it to shore up Medicare and Social Security and to provide a tax cut of about $300 billion over the same period. Lockhart states that this is a "fundamental economic policy debate that we're engaged in right now."  
*(The Boston Globe, 07/21/1999)*

September

Twelve members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation, a Puerto Rican terrorist group, accept Clinton's offer of clemency. Lockhart states that Clinton is troubled that these members had served longer terms than others convicted of similar crimes. He adds that this pardon is not a "partisan maneuver" and is not meant to influence Hillary Clinton's bid for the Senate.  
*(United Press International, 09/08/1999)*

RNC Chairman Jim Nicholson demands that Lockhart formally apologize to John Cardinal O'Connor of New York for claiming that he supports clemency for the 16 members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation. Nicholson says that since the Cardinal has not taken any position on this issue, it is unfair to use his name in support of clemency.  
*(PR Newswire, 09/09/1999)*

Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee criticize the cost of Clinton's trip to Africa in 1998. Lockhart responds by saying that the "comments were just ignorant" and demonstrates that they were "ignorant of what the trip is about."  
*(White House Weekly, 09/27/1999)*
**October**  
Lockhart reports that the United States is disturbed by the escalation of violence in Chechnya and is urging Russia to seek peaceful ways to settle the conflict. Lockhart notes that it is not possible to solve the problem through military force. *(ITAR-TASS News Agency, 10/23/1999)*

**December**  
Lockhart states that the situation in Chechnya will not affect U.S. aid to Russia. The bulk of U.S. assistance aims at nuclear risk reduction and development of democratic processes in Russia. Lockhart states that stopping aid would be unproductive. *(ITA-TASS News Agency, 12/08/1999)*

During a briefing on the 16th, Lockhart is asked about statements that Southern Baptists issued regarding targeting Hindus, Jews and Muslims for conversion. Lockhart responds that Clinton has been "very clear in his opposition to whatever organization, including the Southern Baptists, that perpetuate ancient religious hatred." Republican House members J.D. Hayworth (R-AZ) and J.C. Watts (R-OK) demand Lockhart's resignation. Lockhart states, "It was just poorly phrased. I had no specific information about what this reporter was talking about, so I had no reason to allege that the group perpetuates ancient religious hatred. It was definitely not my intention to single out the Southern Baptists, or any group." *(The Washington Post, 12/24/1999)*

**2000**

**January**  
Russian President Boris Yeltsin resigns from office and hands power over to Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Clinton calls Putin to congratulate him on his new position. Lockhart says that President Clinton hopes that the elevation of Mr. Putin will promote democracy in Russia. *(The Washington Post, 01/02/2000; The New York Times, 01/02/2000)*

**April**  
Federal officials raid the house of the Miami relatives who have Elian Gonzalez and return him to his father. Lockhart states that the President knew the "general details" of this plan. He insists that the raid is not unconstitutional despite claims made by Republican congressmen. *(The Financial Times, 04/25/2000)*

**May**  
Former Presidents Ford, Carter, and Bush, along with President Clinton, sign a letter to request that Congress grant China permanent trade benefits. Lockhart states, "The endorsement of three former presidents should have a significant impact on members who are trying to make up their mind." Referring to this issue, Lockhart states, "The President devoted the time and resources and energy to this particular legislative issue in a way that exceeds, I think, almost any other legislative battle
that we've been in." (Futures World News, 05/09/2000; Chicago Tribune, 05/09/2000)

**June**

In response to questions on the increasing price of gas, especially in the Midwest, and accusations of possible collusion and price gouging among oil companies, Lockhart rejects the idea that gas taxes are responsible. He says, "We have to keep open all our options and cooperate with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). I'm not going to prejudge what the FTC finds." (United Press International, 06/21/2000)

Lockhart says, "There is a significantly larger surplus than was predicted in February, based on fiscal discipline employed at the White House and a strong U.S. economy." Lockhart clarifies that this surplus will be used to pay down the national debt more quickly and to "meet national investment priorities" such as Medicare. (Reuters News, 06/26/2000)

**September**

Clinton meets with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to restart peace negotiations between the two parties. Lockhart says, "Both sides, and the United States included, are focused on getting an agreement and finding a way to bridge the differences." He reiterates that the negotiations are "ongoing." (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 09/07/2000)

Lockhart states that he will leave his job as Press Secretary by October 1st. Jake Siewert, currently Deputy Press Secretary, will be assuming the role of Press Secretary. He says that he is still "trying to sort through what my next career will be." (The New York Times, 09/10/2000)

The Administration releases a list of all the guests staying overnight in the White House for the previous year. This is in response to allegations that contributors to Hillary Clinton's campaign for a US Senate seat in New York were invited as guests to the White House in exchange for their support. Lockhart states, "It is just their home and they have guests just like we all have guests." (The Washington Post, 09/23/2000)

**October**

On the 1st, Lockhart resigns his post as Press Secretary. (The Washington Post, 10/04/2000)

**November**

Lockhart joins Oracle Corp. as a senior vice president to develop the company's business strategy. (St. Petersburg Times, 11/29/2000)
JOSEPH LOCKHART SUGGESTED TOPICS
Prepared by Nitu Bagchi
Miller Center, University of Virginia, 07/13/2005

The 1996 Campaign
• When did you first meet Bill Clinton? What were your early impressions of him?
• How did you come to work for the Clinton campaign? Did you have any prior discussions with Clinton about your portfolio in this position?
• Discuss your role as Press Secretary for the Clinton campaign.
• How would you describe Clinton’s relationship with the press during the campaign?
• How did your previous campaign experience influence you during the Clinton campaign? Discuss Clinton as a candidate by comparison with the other presidential contenders with whom you have worked.
• What role did you play in the White House immediately following Clinton’s reelection?

Press Secretary
• How did you come to serve as Deputy Press Secretary for the White House? Discuss your roles and responsibilities in this position. What were the major issues that you faced in this capacity?
• Talk about your elevation to the position of the Press Secretary. How did your role as Deputy Press Secretary prepare you for the job of White House Press Secretary?
• Comment on McCurry’s tenure as Press Secretary. Did you make any changes in communicating with the press?
• Evaluate your relationship with the press. Comment on the daily briefing. Discuss the morning gaggle and other informal channels you used in your work with the press. Which White House officials played key roles in your communications with the press?
• How problematic were press leaks in this White House? Did the Press Secretary have any role in policing leaks?
• Describe the process by which you would gather information within the Administration. Comment on your level of access within the White House.
• How would you describe Clinton’s attitude towards the press? Discuss your efforts to help improve Clinton’s relationship with the press.
• Discuss the division of responsibility between the Office of the Press Secretary and other White House offices.
• Discuss the division of labor (if any) between the Press Office and others in responding to the President’s legal problems and the Starr investigation. What role did the Counsel’s Office and Clinton’s private attorneys play in setting press strategy?
• What were the major challenges that you faced as Press Secretary (Monica Lewinsky, impeachment, campaign finance, Middle East, Kosovo)?
• Discuss your decision to leave the Clinton Administration.
The Clinton Presidency in Retrospect

- Evaluate Clinton as a public leader, a legislative leader and a party leader. Compare Clinton’s leadership and communications styles to those of other politicians you served.
- What role did presidential rhetoric play in the Clinton presidency? How effective was Clinton’s use of the bully pulpit?
- Discuss the opportunities and challenges that changes in the media environment (i.e., talk radio, direct communications outside the Washington press corps) presented you as the Clinton Press Secretary. Can you identify any missed opportunities that might have led to improved relations with the press?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Clinton presidency?
- What personal traits of Clinton made it possible for him to withstand the pressures of 1998-1999? What part of his personality and temperament made him an especially effective president? What parts were problematic as president?
- What features of the Clinton presidency were missed or misunderstood by the press? How should the Clinton presidency be viewed by history?
TIMELINES

• Joseph Lockhart Timeline, prepared by Nitu Bagchi and Jessica Steiner, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 06/06/2005.

• Timeline of the Clinton Presidency, prepared by Robbie Robinson, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 05/30/2002.

SELECTED PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY JOSEPH LOCKHART

• “Joe Lockhart, Press Secretary, Discusses His Job, the Colorado School Massacre, War in Yugoslavia and the Press Corps,” The Tim Russert Show, CNBC, 04/24/1999.

• “White House Press Secretary Denies Rift between Clinton and Gore,” Larry King Live, CNN, 10/21/1999.

• “White House Spokesman Joe Lockhart Responds to NRA Attacks against President Clinton over Gun Control,” Good Morning America, ABC News, 03/16/2000.

• “What Will President Clinton’s Legacy Be?” Talkback Live, CNN, 05/01/2000.

• “Joe Lockhart on His Recent Retirement as White House Press Secretary,” Rivera Live, CNBC, 10/02/2000.