

Waco vs. Oklahoma City

This is the text of the "Oklahoma City" speech that Bill Clinton made on April 19, 1995, after the bombing.

This is the text of the "Waco" speech that Bill Clinton **should** have made on April 19, 1993, after the siege. He didn't make the speech.

Washington D.C., April 19, 1995

The bombing in Oklahoma City was an attack on innocent children and defenseless citizens. It was an act of cowardice, and it was evil. The United States will not tolerate it, and I will not allow the people of this country to be intimidated by evil cowards. I have met with our teams which we assembled to deal with this bombing, and I have determined to take the following steps to assure the strongest response to this situation.

First, I have deployed a crisis management team under the leadership of the FBI, working with the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, military, and local authorities. We are sending the world's finest investigators to solve these murders.

Second, I have declared an emergency in Oklahoma City and, at my direction, James Lee Witt, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is now on his way there to make sure we do everything we can to help the people of Oklahoma deal with the tragedy.

Third, we are taking every precaution to reassure and to protect people who work in or live near other federal facilities. Let there be no room for doubt. We will find the people who did this. When we do, justice will be swift, certain, and severe. These people are killers, and they must be treated like killers.

Finally, let me say that I ask all Americans tonight to pray. To pray for the people who have lost their lives, to pray for the families and the friends of the dead and the wounded. Pray for the people of Oklahoma City. May God's grace be with them. Meanwhile, we will be about our work. Thank you.

Washington D.C., April 19, 1993

The siege in Waco was an attack on innocent children and defenseless citizens. It was an act of cowardice, and it was evil. The American People will not tolerate it, and they will not allow themselves to be intimidated by evil cowardly federal agents. I have met with our teams which we assembled to deal with this siege, and I have determined to take the following steps to assure the strongest response to this situation.

First, I have deployed a crisis management team under the leadership of Amnesty International, working with the U.N. International Court of Justice, the National Council of Churches, and local Branch Davidians. We are sending the world's finest investigators to solve these murders.

Second, I have declared an emergency in Waco and, at my request, the Director of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights is now on his way there to make sure we do everything we can to help the people of Texas deal with the tragedy.

Third, we are taking every precaution to reassure and to protect people who work in or live near other religious facilities. Let there be no room for doubt. We will find the federal agents who did this. When we do, justice will be swift, certain, and severe. These agents are killers, and they must be treated like killers.

Finally, let me say that I ask all Americans tonight to pray. To pray for the Branch Davidians who have lost their lives, to pray for the families and the friends of the dead and the wounded. Pray for the people of America. May God's grace be with them. Meanwhile, we will be about our work. Thank you.

...the hypocrite's crime is that he bears false witness against himself. What makes it so plausible to assume that hypocrisy is the vice of vices is that integrity can indeed exist under the cover of all other vices except this one. Only crime and the criminal, it is true, confront us with the perplexity of radical evil; but only the hypocrite is really rotten to the core.

—from *On Revolution* [1963], chapter 2, by Hannah Arendt (1906-1975)

Old forms of government finally grow so oppressive that they must be thrown off even at the risk of reigns of terror.

—from *Essays on Education* [1861], by Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)

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