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THE CHOICE '92

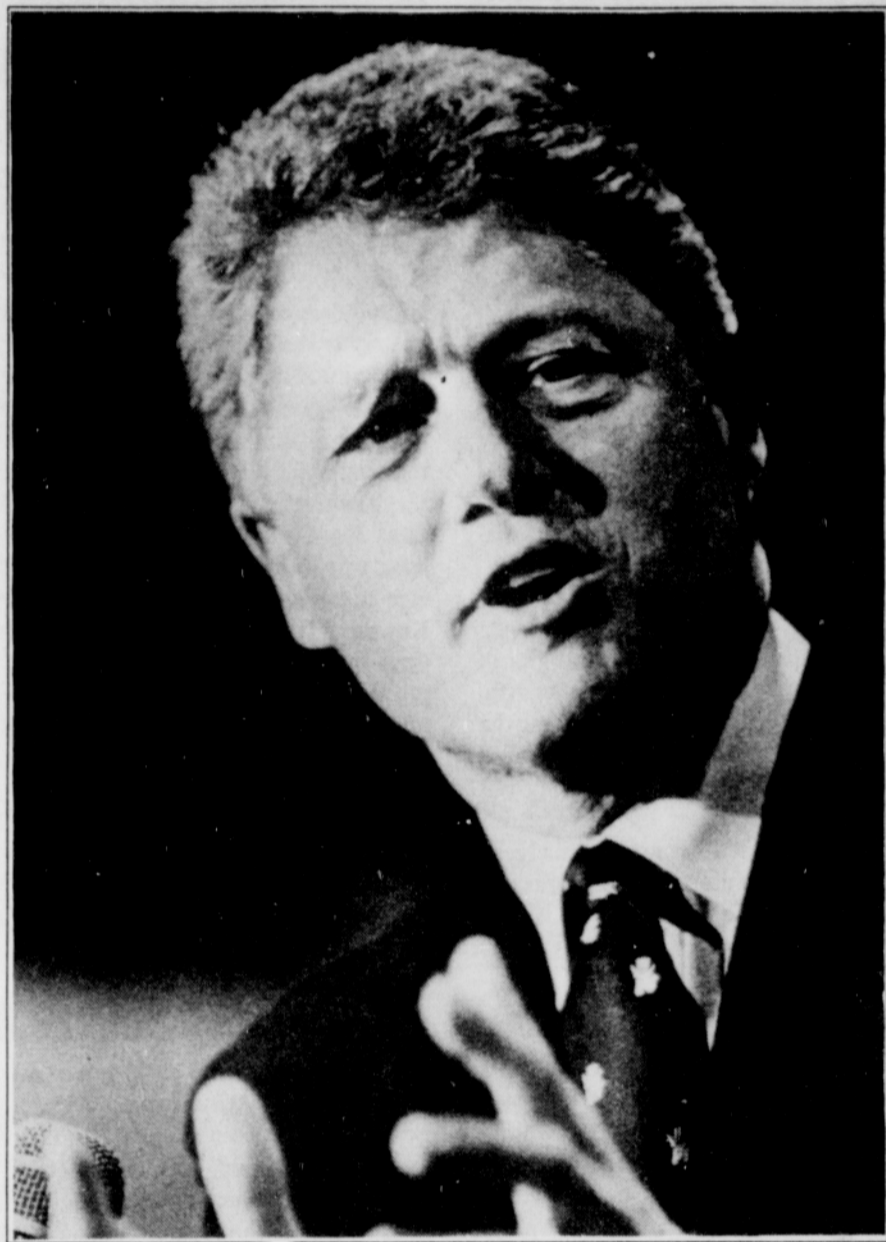
In "The Choice '92," a special two-hour PBS Election '92 broadcast, airing Wednesday, October 21, at 9 P.M. (check local listings), Frontline presents in-depth biographies of the two major presidential candidates--Republican George Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton. Correspondent Richard Ben Cramer, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *What It Takes*, a book about the six men who ran for president in 1988, examines the public careers and private lives of these men, searching for clues to their character and the patterns of behavior that could predict their handling of the problems confronting the United States at the end of the Cold War.

"This film reveals the root of the personal power and overweening ambition that brought these two men to our ballot this November," says Cramer. "Though one was bred with the high expectations of the Eastern establishment in the 1920s, and the other with the unease of a troubled family in a rural community at the end of World War II, both men developed the conviction that they could bend the world to their will. And this is the story of how such confidence is made."

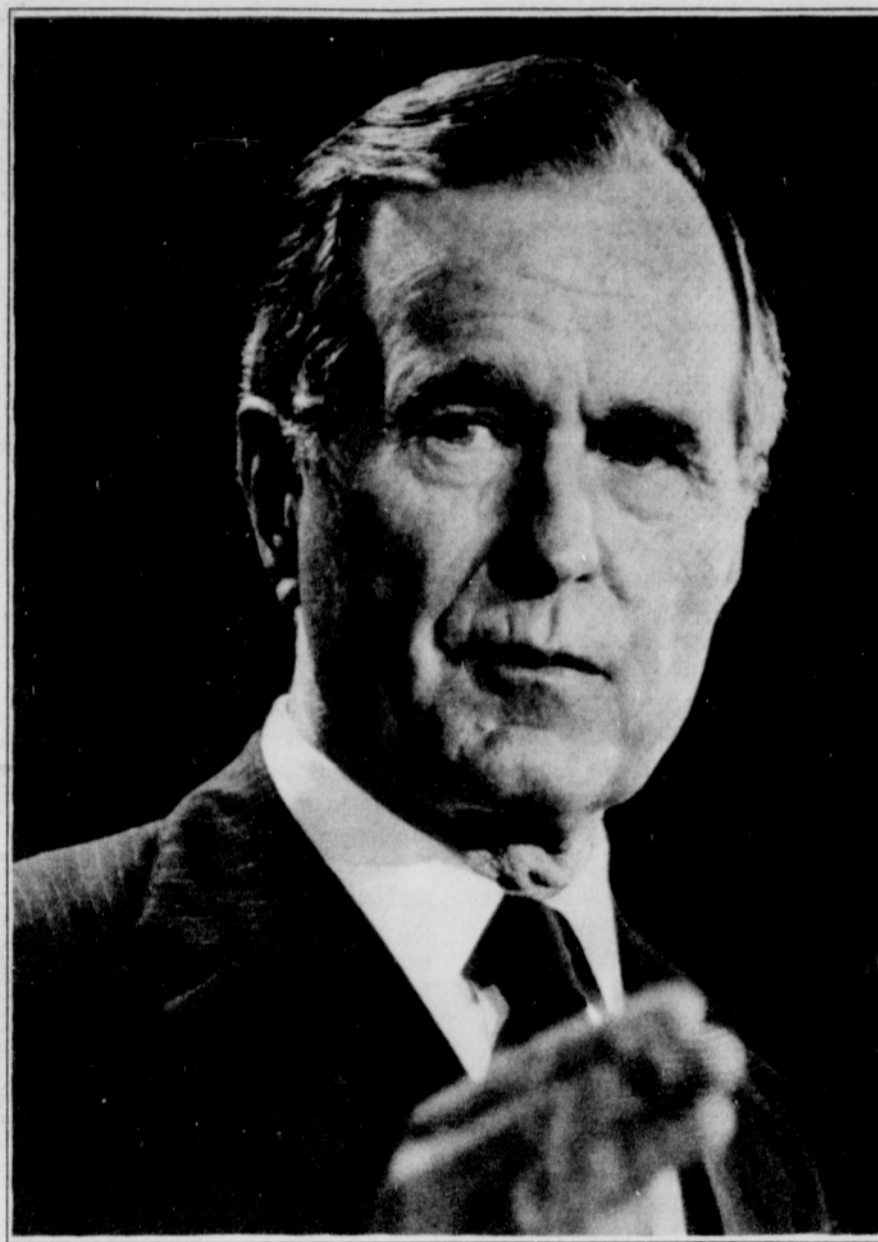
"The Choice '92" interweaves the stories of these two candidates, beginning before World War II in the heart of Wall Street where Prescott Bush, George Bush's father, was a partner at Brown Brothers, Harriman. That investment banking firm was home to such eminent internationalists as Averell Harriman and Robert Lovett--part of the so-called "wise men" who would quietly guide America's role in the world for a generation.

Prescott Bush's life offers a window into his son George, who clearly emulated his father. Prescott Bush would go to Yale, join its secret Skull & Bones society, play first base on the Yale baseball team, leave school for war, abandon a successful international business to run for Congress--all things his famous son would later do. "Dad was always a towering figure in George's thinking," recalls Bush's brother Jonathan. "I think he particularly cared to emulate Dad.... We were in awe of my father."

By 1946, George Bush had returned to the U.S. from the Pacific theater, a genuine hero of World War II. That same year, Bill Clinton was born in Hope, Arkansas. The story of Clinton's childhood could not be in more sharp contrast: a father who died before Clinton was born, an alcoholic stepfather, strife in the home, an education in one of the most remote backwaters of America. "Bill was too adult in a way," says family friend Dale Drake. "He took on more than he should have." Yet at fourteen years old, Clinton's ease in political situations--the smile, the slap on the back--was emerging in his run for student council. "The Choice '92" weaves the stories of these two men and their ambitions forward through the 1960s. As George Bush turns from the oil business to electoral politics in Houston, the young Bill Clinton leaves Arkansas for an Eastern education and on to Oxford as a Rhodes scholar. Here, "The Choice '92" examines Clinton's decision to avoid the Vietnam



Presidential Candidate Bill Clinton



President George Bush

draft and George Bush's embrace of the right wing during the Goldwater era. "I don't even remember how it came up," says the Reverend John Stephens, recalling Bush's 1964 senate race, "but he just said, 'You know, John, in that election, I took some of the Far Right positions that I thought I needed to get elected, and I regret it, and I hope I'll never do it again.'"

In the 1970s, as Bush abandons electoral politics for a career of Republican appointments in Washington, Clinton returns to Arkansas to begin the lightning political career that soon makes him the youngest governor in the country. But by the decade's end, George Bush has lost his battle for the Republican presidential nomination, and Clinton has been defeated after his first-term attempts at dramatic political reform in Arkansas. "Bill Clinton's staff was the most abrasive staff that any governor put together in his first term," says Frank White, Arkansas governor from 1980-1982, "and I think he not only irritated the business community of Arkansas, but he irritated a lot of legislators."

The Clinton biography examines the crushing impact of his defeat following his unsuccessful reforms during his first term as governor and the transformation of his political style as he battles for education reform in 1982-1983, and, currently, his controversial relationship to business in his impoverished home state. "We Arkansans sent out a signal to business," says Max Brantley, the editor of the Arkansas Times. "Said, 'Hey, come take advantage of us.' And they did."

The Bush biography examines his political revival when Ronald Reagan chooses him as a running mate in 1980, his "invisible years" as vice president when he courts his "ten thousand closest friends" who would become his political base, and concludes with his fierce 1988 campaign and two defining moments of his presidency: his response to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and his response to the Los Angeles riots. "He's constantly at conflict between his core philosophy which is essentially to do very little and not to make things worse--that's his core instinct," remarks Dan Goodgame, the White House correspondent for Time magazine, "and his political calculation which is that you have to give the appearance of doing more."

These biographies are to be told through interviews with the people who know the candidates best, like President Bush's brother Jonathan, Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, and intimates from Bush's Greenwich, Andover, and Texas years. For Clinton, interviews include his mother and his chief of staff, Betsey Wright. The film also includes the more skeptical voices of journalists, and political opponents who have clashed with the candidates.

"At the very moment in the campaign when the record and character of the two candidates have become completely blurred," says Frontline executive producer David Fanning, "this program attempts to see them whole again, to give the voters in the heat of the campaign, an evening to stop and look carefully at the qualities and abilities of these two men and to grapple with the real choice to be made on November third."

"The Choice '92" is produced by Frontline producer Thomas Lennon, whose most recent films include "Coming from Japan," an investigation of the Japanese electronics giant Matsushita, and "Seven Days in Bensonhurst," an examination of the aftermath of the racial murder of Yusuf Hawkins, a young black man in New York. He also produced "Scandalous Mayor," a biography for the PBS series *The American Experience* about the legendary Boston politician James Michael Curley.

The senior producer for "The Choice '92" is Michael Sullivan, the correspondent is Richard Ben Cramer.

Frontline is produced by a consortium of public television stations: KCTS Seattle, WGBH Boston, WNET New York, WPBT Miami, WTWS Detroit. Funding for Frontline is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and public television viewers.

Frontline is closed-captioned for deaf and hard of hearing viewers. "The Choice '92" is part of PBS's Election '92 programming. The executive director of PBS Election '92 is Arnold Labaton. The executive producer of Frontline is David Fanning.

Concordia/American Honda Youth Basketball Awards Banquet



The Mark Miller family enjoying themselves at Concordia American Honda Youth Basketball Awards banquet

More than 2000 people attended the Concordia/American Honda youth basketball banquet on Saturday, September 26, 1992 at the J.J. North restaur-

ant on NE Halsey. Commissioner James Johnson acted as the Master of Ceremonies and his colleague, Ralph Stevens gave a

short inspirational speech, directed at the youth, in which he encouraged them to stay in school and stay away from drugs.

This year's league commenced in July and the youth played six games. According to Commissioner Johnson, whose wife also served as a coach, next year's plan call for beginning the league in April, with expansion to maybe 200 boys, ages 10-14 and possibly a girls league. This year, two girls, Rosezell Adkins and Oleitra Jackson played with the boys.

While each player received a certificate, suitable for framing and a 4" high trophy, special awards went to two players on each team. The Heisman awards (for best all-round player) went to Mathew Ashpole (Boston); Aaron Depiazza (Los Angeles); Eli Ware (Cleveland); Gerry Taylor (Phoenix); Tarik Smith (Chicago); Andre Baker (Portland); Tyrone Hammick (San Antonio) and Benjamin McKelvey (Golden State). Additional awards went to Scott Wynkoop (Los Angeles)-Sportsmanship; Willie Bowers (Cleveland) Best Team Player; Nacem Hall (Phoenix)-Leadership;

Mclenon Toliver (Boston)-Most Improved for the junior league and Jermain (Portland)-Leadership; Archie Jones (Golden State) Sportsmanship; Doug Smith (San Antonio) Best Team Player and Keith Vega (Chicago) Most Improved for the senior league.

Certificates were also given to Shera Green, Dianne Lamberth, Tiffany Lamberth, Yvonne Adkins, Rosezell Adkins, Kim Thomas, Bill DeWitt, Deanna Johnson, Dean Harris, Jesse Jackson, Preston Thomas, Tanaira Johnson and Eric Tomlinson. The Portland Observer also received an award for its assistance.

Special thanks were given to coach Joel Schultheisz and his staff of Paula Politte and Dan Birkey from Concordia College.

The eight coaches for the teams this year included Lisa Johnson/Chris Brown (Phoenix); Duke Johnson (LA Lakers); Terry McMurry (Boston); Gary Thomas Frank Ross (Cleveland); Leonard Lamberth Anthony Lamberth (San Antonio); Gorge Owens (Portland); Gary Pratt/Shawnte Sims (Golden State) and Cedric Walker (Chicago).

"Each player received a certificate, suitable for framing and a 4" high trophy."

State Takes Aim At Tax Refunds

About 14,000 people who owe money to the state for food stamp overpayments will be getting letters this month, letting them know they will lose their federal tax refunds if they don't pay the debt.

The state is mailing the notices to people who received too many food stamps either because of fraud or incorrect information they provided when applying for the program. The overpayments, which average \$500 and span the last four to five years, must be repaid to the state.

"Oregon is one of nine states that will be able to seize federal tax refunds intended for people who owe money to the food stamp program," stated Phil Yarnell, head of AFS Recovery Services Section. "This will be a particularly effective tool to obtain money from people who have moved out of state and are ignoring our collection letters."

People receiving the notices will have 60 days to pay or set up a payment plan, or their names will be turned over to the Internal Revenue Service. If they are due a refund on their 1992 federal income taxes, it will be sent to AFS rather than to the individual.

AFS estimates it will turn over debts worth \$7 million to the IRS and hopes to collect \$1 million of that.

The collection rate is not higher, according to Yarnell, because many of the people owing money do not file tax returns and often, when people do qualify for refunds, the amount doesn't cover what is owed to the state.

Until now, AFS has been allowed to seize federal tax refunds only for past-due child support. Under an agreement between the IRS and the Food And Nutrition Service (the federal agency responsible for the food stamp program), a limited number of states can now begin making food stamp collections through federal returns.

Recovery Services Section has obtained state income tax refunds in the past to repay money owed by food stamp recipients. In 1991, \$497,000 was collected from state refunds, part of the \$2.35 million in total collections for food stamp overpayments. Under federal law, the state can keep 10 percent of its collections for overpayments due to client error and 25 percent for those due to fraud.

Over 115,000 households receive food stamps in Oregon with the average family receiving \$157 in benefits. The entire cost of the coupons is paid by the federal government, as well as half of the cost for AFS to administer the program.