Bill Clinton: His Life

Ex-President Discusses Iraq, His Childhood & His Marriage

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Former President Bill Clinton is known to be some talker and storyteller. And in his about-to-be-released autobiography, "My Life," he keeps telling stories for nearly 1,000 pages.

In an exclusive interview with ***60 Minutes***, Mr. Clinton tells **Correspondent Dan Rather** about his difficult childhood, his political accomplishments, his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, and about how he finally told the truth to Hillary Clinton.

Mr. Clinton, one of only two presidents in U.S. history to face impeachment, also tells how he considers his impeachment battle a "badge of honor."

60 Minutes spoke with the former president at his home outside New York City, and in the towns where he grew up in Arkansas.

The 42nd president of the United States says he views his economic plan as the greatest accomplishment of his presidency.

"The fact that we were able to have 22 million jobs, and record home ownership, and lower interest rates of the people actually had the ability to do more things than ever before," says Mr. Clinton.

And what does he consider the greatest failure of his presidency?

"I'm sorry on the home front that we didn't get healthcare and that we didn't reform Social Security," says Mr. Clinton.

"And international affairs, I regret that I didn't succeed in getting Osama bin Laden. And equally, I'm sorry that I wasn't able enough to convince the Israelis and the Palestinians to make peace."

On a personal level, he says that his daughter, Chelsea's, high school graduation was the best day he had in the White House: "When I saw what she had become and asked me to speak. And I talked about what it was like to be a parent, and how I felt about her. That's probably the best day."

Mr. Clinton adds that there were a lot of great personal days, but admits that the worst day was "probably the day in August when I had to – before I testified for the grand jury when I had to talk to Hillary. My family had found out what had happened."
The president had finally told his family that he had been lying about his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

"That was just a simple day when I had to acknowledge to the people I loved most in the world

that I had failed. I had done something bad. And I hadn't felt I could tell them about it before," recalls Mr. Clinton.

"And it was an awful, because there was no -- it wasn't about comparing what I had done or what was being done to me. It was just about facing up to my failure. It was a bad day. … All my bad personal days in the White House were related to what I thought were shortcomings of my own."

But was the affair the worst thing he's ever done? "In my whole life? Oh, I don't know," says the former president. "I think I've talked about that a lot in the book. And I think I've said enough about my personal life. And I think I've honestly tried to say more about my life than I believe any public figure ever has. And probably more than anyone ever should. And I think I'll leave it at that."

Mr. Clinton says he committed adultery for the worst possible reason: "Just because I could."

"I think that's just about the most morally indefensible reason that anybody could have for doing anything – when you do something just because you could," says Mr. Clinton.

"As I said in the book, I think that's part of the problem of the people I faced and combated with. But in that moment that's, I believe, I don't think it's much more complicated than that. I just think that that's what happened," adds Mr. Clinton.

"I've thought about it a lot. And there are lots of more sophisticated explanations, more complicated psychological explanations. But none of them are an excuse. I have to say that over and over again, because I know that people will raise Cain about that. But only a fool does not look to explain his mistakes. People should try to understand why they did the things they did."

At the beginning of his 957-page book, Mr. Clinton says that he believes the roots of his successes and failures are directly linked to his years growing up in Arkansas. So ***60 Minutes*** asked the former president to take us back to his home state to learn about the problems he had growing up.

On the front porch of boyhood house in Hope, Ark., Mr. Clinton told Rather about his stepfather, Roger Clinton, the second husband that his mother, Virginia Kelley, married. His nickname, says Mr. Clinton, was "Dude," and he was an abusive alcoholic.

"I do not believe that she would have married him if he had ever abused her -- before they got married. That's something that happened afterwards," says Mr. Clinton. "But you might say that – maybe mother liked guys that were a bit rakish. She probably thought she could tame them. They liked her."

But Virginia couldn't tame Roger Clinton or stop him from attacking her with his fists, a pair of scissors, and even shooting his gun at her.

"This sounds crazy but I never hated my stepfather, Roger Clinton. Even after he pulled the trigger in here, when he was drunk, even after he beat my mother -- even after I got big enough

to stop him from beating my mother," says Mr. Clinton.

"I had some understanding that he was a good man and couldn't whip his drinking problem. And that he was full of demons that he couldn't control it and he took it out in destructive, hateful ways. I hated what he did, but I never hated him."

Mr. Clinton never told any of his friends what was going on at home. As he writes in his book, from his childhood into his adult years in politics, he has lived "two parallel lives" -- the public one everyone knew about, and a dark secret one he says he says he never talked about.

"I don't think I was conscious of it in the beginning. But at some point, when I had moved to Hot Springs, and we just kept having these violent incidents in our home, and I realized that I never talked about it," recalls Mr. Clinton. "And as far as I know, nobody knew about it. I became aware it was a conscious decision that my mother and I had made to carry on. … Yeah, carry on, and just go on and try to make a normal life."

At Hope, the former president took ***60 Minutes*** to the cemetery where both his mother and his biological father, William Jefferson Blythe, were buried – and told Rather why he always feels comfortable there.

"I never felt cemeteries were bad or morbid places. I think they're places of homecoming and keep the ties going," says Mr. Clinton.

Bill Clinton had two fathers: The abusive Roger Clinton, and Blythe, his biological father who died before Clinton was even born.
Mr. Clinton recalls Blythe's death: "Mother came home here because she was pregnant with me. And he was coming down to get her and he was killed on a highway. His tire blew out on a wet highway and he was thrown into a drainage ditch in Missouri, and he was actually not injured all that badly but he was knocked out and he drowned in the ditch."

It turns out Blythe was married three times before he met Mr. Clinton's mother. But the former president wasn't told that until after he was elected to the White House. He wasn't told because his mother didn't know either.

"You know, my mother was married five times to four men. Because she married my stepfather Roger Clinton twice, because they divorced once and then they remarried," says Mr. Clinton, pointing out his mother's grave. "My mother was widowed three times. She had a lot of sadness to her life. But she always carried on."

So did Bill Clinton. While his mother was divorced from Roger Clinton, the former president decided to change his name legally to Clinton. Why did he keep the first and second names of his biological father, William Jefferson, but not the last name?

"I think the fact that I was born without a father, and that I spent a lifetime trying to put together a picture of one also had a lot to do with how I turned out," says Mr. Clinton. "Good and not so good. But I think on balance, more good than bad. But it had a lot to do with it."

Later, when Mr. Clinton entered politics and was elected attorney general and then governor of Arkansas, there were rumors about his personal life.

When he ran for the Democratic nomination for President in 1992, a storm broke over stories of his relationship with cabaret singer Gennifer Flowers, who claimed to be Mr. Clinton's lover for 12 years.

Mr. Clinton plummeted in the polls, so in an effort to salvage his campaign, he took the risky step of doing an interview on ***60 Minutes*** in front of a huge audience right after the 1992 Super Bowl. During his interview with **Correspondent Steve Kroft**, Mr. Clinton, who was joined by his wife Hillary, denied ever having an affair with Flowers.

It took years for Mr. Clinton to admit that he was lying in that interview, and that he once had a relationship with Flowers. Even though the interview rejuvenated his campaign, he writes in his book that he was so furious at Kroft for prying into his personal life that he wanted to "slug him."

How was he able to get Mrs. Clinton to appear with him in the interview? "Oh, she wanted to go. She's tough, man. She didn't approve of what was being done," recalls Mr. Clinton, laughing.

"But you know, she thought if she was going to shoot me that it should be off camera. And she didn't think that anybody else ought to be loading the gun. What she thought was, that I was being messed with for reasons that had nothing to do with morality or family values -- and everything to do with power."

Mr. Clinton admits that he never could have become president without his wife's support. So why did he repeat the same mistake years later with Lewinsky?

"There is no explanation which is an excuse. I want to make that clear. I don't make any excuses for myself in this book. But I think it is worth trying to figure out why," says Mr. Clinton. "I was not thinking straight. It, when you ask a question that's a rational question and it's got, supposed to have a rational answer. There is no rational explanation for what I did."

In the book, Mr. Clinton makes it clear that he compounded his mistake by lying about it to his wife, child, the Cabinet, and the country.

"Basically what happened at the end of 1995, I was involved in, as I try to say in the book, two great fights. A struggle with the Republicans over the future of the country, which I won. And a struggle with my old demons which I lost," adds Mr. Clinton. "And if there had been no Kenneth Starr, if we had different kind of people, I would have just said, 'Here are the facts, I'm sorry, deal with it however you please.'"

Looking back, does he wish he had done that? "I'd like to say yes, but I can't. I don't know, because the moment was so crazy," says Mr. Clinton. "It was a zoo. It was unreal. It was like living in a madhouse."

In his book, and time and again in our interview, Mr. Clinton goes after his nemesis, Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr. He says he still believes - and is furious about it - that Starr used an investigation into the Whitewater real estate deal as a pretext to delve into the most intimate details of his personal life.

"Starr issued his final report, there were hundreds and hundreds of references to sex, and two to Whitewater. And that there was really nothing to Whitewater," says Mr. Clinton. "It was nothing. It was a deal I lost money on. I made a business investment and lost money."

Mr. Clinton also explains that he eventually settled a sexual harassment suit brought by Arkansas state employee Paula Jones, not because he was guilty, he still insists, but to make it go away. And he says that Starr came up nearly empty in what he calls an "outlaw renegade investigation." "It cost over $70 million. And we were exonerated in Whitewater, exonerated in the Vince Foster suicide, exonerated in the campaign finance reform. Exonerated in the White House travel office deal. Exonerated in the FBI file case," says Mr. Clinton.

"The judge ruled that the Jones case had absolutely no merit. There was nothing left but my personal failing. That's what people got for over $70 million. They indicted innocent people because they wouldn't lie. And they exonerated people who committed crimes because they would lie. And they did it because it was nothing but a big political operation designed to bring down the presidency."

Clinton's Fight Against Terrorism

Former President Discusses The War On Terror

Former President Bill Clinton told ***60 Minutes*** that he questioned the timing of the start of the war in Iraq, at the expense of concentrating on al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.

But did he do enough to fight al Qaeda and get Osama?

The 42nd president of the United States was in Australia when the Sept. 11 attack occurred. "I remember it vividly," recalls Mr. Clinton, who says his first thought was that "Osama bin Laden did this."

60 Minutes pointed out to the former president that the bipartisan commission looking into the Sept. 11 attacks is expected to criticize both the Clinton and Bush administrations for not preventing them. But could these attacks have been prevented?

"I don't want to comment on what happened on President Bush's watch. That's for the 9/11 Commission to do. We not only attacked his training camp in '98 and tried to get him. I signed several authorizations to use lethal force against bin Laden and his top lieutenants," says Mr. Clinton.

"We broke up about 20 al Qaeda cells. We arrested some of their people. We prevented several

terrorist incidents, including attempts to blow up planes flying into Los Angeles -- to blow up the Los Angeles airport over the millennium, to blow up sites in the Middle East as well as in the United States over the millennium," adds Mr. Clinton.

"We worked hard, and I have thought a lot about your question, and I did my best to answer that to the 9/11 commission, and I think I will let them say whether it could have been prevented."

The commission's final report is expected to be released next month. Rather asked Mr. Clinton what his response was to commission member and former Democratic Sen. Bob Kerrey's comment that he had "let pass opportunities to arrest or kill the al Qaeda leadership."

"I don't believe that is true. There was a story which is factually inaccurate that the Sudanese offered bin Laden to us," says Mr. Clinton. "As far as I know, there is not a shred of evidence of that."

Mr. Clinton denies that his decision to launch missiles against bin Laden in Afghanistan and in the Sudan was an attempt to divert attention away from the Lewinsky scandal. He also told ***60 Minutes*** that he launched the Afghanistan attack after the CIA told him bin Laden was in a training camp. It turns out he wasn't.

And what about Saddam Hussein?

"When you were President, you said the same thing as President Bush, that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction," Rather tells Mr. Clinton. "George Bush eventually invaded Iraq. You didn't. Did you make the right decision? And why didn't you make it?"

"The first President Bush, after the first Gulf War, made a decision that rather than overthrowing Saddam Hussein, the important thing was to contain his aggressive impulses. So, sanctions were imposed on Iraq and the inspections process was started," replies Mr. Clinton.

"Now when I became president in '93, I inherited that system. I actually thought it made pretty good sense. We had done a lot of good with those inspections. We uncovered more chemical and biological agents and other prohibited materials in the inspections process and destroyed them than were destroyed in the Gulf War."

President Clinton points out that when Hussein kicked U.N. weapons inspectors out of Iraq in 1998, he ordered a four-day bombing raid, but was unable to find out how many if any chemical and biological weapons were destroyed in those attacks. He says that the current President Bush should have pushed harder for new inspections.

"In terms of the launching of the war, I believe we made an error in not allowing the United Nations to complete the inspections process. Now, having said that, we are where we are," says Mr. Clinton. "And I think the most important thing now is for all of us to support a stable, peaceful, and pluralistic Iraq. And it looks to me like the administration is moving in that direction."

Does he agree with President Bush that the world is safer in terms of terrorism because U.S.-led forces invaded Iraq?

"Let me say this. I think the Iraqis are better off with Saddam gone, if they can have a stable government," says Mr. Clinton.

"There have been more terrorists move into Iraq in the aftermath of the conflict. I still believe, as I always have, that the biggest terrorist threat by far is al Qaeda and the al Qaeda network. And that the biggest long term destructive threat is the significant volume of chemical and biological agents all over the world that are not yet secure."

In his book, Mr. Clinton says he is "haunted" by the deaths of 18 Americans in Somalia, and calls the 1993 raid "a mistake." He also told ***60 Minutes*** that he's had second thoughts about his controversial last-minute presidential pardon of financier Marc Rich – and admits that, looking back, he probably wouldn't have done it.

"Mostly because of all the grief I got that came out of it," says Mr. Clinton. "But on the merits, nobody's yet made a case to me that it was the wrong decision."

The president also looks back at the collapse of his final effort to broker a new Middle East peace agreement with Yasser Arafat.

"I'm sure that all the rest of us made our mistakes along the way. But this was an error of historic proportions. And the evidence of it is, that about a year after I left office, Mr. Arafat said he wanted to deal. He said, 'I'm ready to accept the parameters for final negotiation that President Clinton laid out,'" says Mr. Clinton.

"So I don't think I need to say anything else, to show that it was a mistake. And by the time he said he wanted it, he had an Israeli government that wouldn't give it to him, and an Israeli public that no longer trusted him. It's tragic."

But seven years earlier, before the historic Oslo Peace Accord was signed, Arafat was the cause, Mr. Clinton writes, of great laughter in the White House. He described to ***60 Minutes*** what happened before the Palestinian leader and the late Israeli premier Yitzhak Rabin signed the agreement.

"It seems so easy now, oh they'd do that, but at the time, it was revolutionary. You know, the idea that they were gonna come and sign a deal together before the whole world," says Clinton.

"So the first thing we had to deal with was, were they gonna shake hands at all? And I could tell Rabin didn't want to do it. Arafat was very unpopular in Israel. And I said to him, 'Yitzak, you know you're gonna shake his hand.' And he said, 'Oh,' you know, and he went through -- I said, 'Yitzak, you gotta shake his hand. You're gonna have a billion people looking at you on television.' … So he said in his wonderful deep voice, 'All right, all right. But no kissing.' Because, you know, the traditional Arab greeting is a kiss on the cheek."

"...I figured that if Rabin, if he didn't kiss me, he couldn't kiss Rabin. So, Tony Lake, my national security adviser, who has a wonderful sense of humor, says, 'Well, I know how to do this. Now, you be Arafat. And I will be you, and you try to kiss me,'" adds Mr. Clinton, who asked Rather to shake hands with him.

"So, I shook hands … and he put his hand like this, in my elbow. And he says, 'If you've got your hand in your elbow, he can't kiss you.' So, we practiced it. … It's like an affectionate thing. Like, I'm so happy. You know? If you can fake it, good. … It's not official, but you can't get in there for the kiss. So we practiced it, and we did it."

"It's just one of theose moments when you see it and you think, 'My God miracles are possible.' And the whole world was cheering when they shook hands," says Mr. Clinton. "It was one of the most magic moments in my entire lifetime."

Truth And Marriage

President Clinton On Telling Hillary The Truth

In her book, Sen. Hillary Clinton describes the moment when her husband finally told her the truth about White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

She wrote that upon hearing the news, she could hardly breathe, was gulping for air and started crying and yelling at him asking, "Why did you lie to me?"

60 Minutes asked former President Bill Clinton to tell us about that moment, which he describes as his worst personal day at the White House.

In his book, Mr. Clinton writes about how furious Hillary was when she found out the truth.

"I had a sleepless night and woke her up and sat down on the side of the bed and just told her. And it was awful. But I had to do it," recalls Mr. Clinton.

"Because the grand jury testimony was coming up, and I was gonna tell the truth to the grand jury, and I wanted her to know before it happened. I had to tell her."

What did she say and what did she do? "I don't want to go into the details," says Mr. Clinton. "She was angry and she was mad, and she was as mad about me not telling her before. I think is – almost as mad, but that I hadn't told her about it as what I'd done."

In his book, Mr. Clinton writes about how furious Hillary was: "I woke her up in the White House early one morning. She looked at me as if I had punched her in the gut."

"Well, you know, we'd been together a long time. We started going together in 1971. And we were each other's best friends. We'd been through everything together. We knew just about everything there was to know about each other," says Mr. Clinton.

"And when you go through the kind of struggles we have, it's almost becomes inexplicable that anything would be so bad you wouldn't tell her."

"So you told her and you were in the doghouse," Rather says to Mr. Clinton. "Yeah, that's putting it mildly," says Mr. Clinton. "I was in the doghouse."

Not only had Hillary Clinton believed the lie the president told the country, she had also gone out on a limb to defend her husband in public. What was Mr. Clinton thinking at that time?

"I was thinking, first of all, I felt sick that she was having to defend me one more time. And I felt terrible. So I was worried sick that Hillary was defending me. I also believe that she told the truth. Both things were true. I did a bad thing. I made a terrible, moral error," says Mr. Clinton.

"That's true. It's also true there was a vast right wing operation. I told Hillary the only thing that I kind of hated was that she used the word 'conspiracy' because most of it was right out in the open."

Two days after Mr. Clinton told Hillary the truth, he gave his videotaped testimony to Kenneth Starr's grand jury. The tape, which was released to the news media, showed the normally confident Clinton at his worst, humiliated and embarrassed: "When I was alone with Miss Lewinsky on certain occasions in early 1996 and once in early 1997, I engaged in conduct that was wrong."

His testimony was tortured. And he used careful, legalistic language to avoid perjuring himself.

The former president writes in his book he was seething at Starr's efforts to turn the videotaped testimony into a "pornographic home movie." But he also knew that Starr's videotape might cost him his presidency and be the final straw in his relationship with Hillary.

She and Chelsea barely talked to him, and he writes that he spent months sleeping on the couch: "I was afraid that I would lose not only my marriage but my daughter's love and respect as well."

"I was worried about that. You know, my daughter is a remarkable person. But she's, you know, she has her own opinions. She has strong convictions," says Mr. Clinton. "And children also, you know, as I said in the book sooner or later every child learns that his or her parents are not perfect. But this was way beyond that and it was a big dose to swallow."

Mr. Clinton says Hillary needed time with him to decide if she would stay in the relationship.

"The first thing we had to do is just get through the days, a few days. We had to let some time pass and Hillary had to decide whether she wanted to stay married to me. And then when she decided she was willing to try, that's when we agreed that we would work together -- we'd take a day a week," recalls the former president.

"And we did. A whole day a week every week for a year. Maybe a little more. And did

counseling. And we did it together. We did it individually. We did family work. It was hard and interesting and I would say to people who have invested a lot of time in a relationship that before they give up on it it's worth trying."

Mr. Clinton said he met regularly with three ministers to help him hold his family together, and during ***60 Minutes'*** visit to Arkansas, he told us he has believed in the power of prayer since he was a child, when he went to services at the old Baptist church in Hot Springs.

"[I prayed] a lot as president. When we had a daughter, we prayed every night together. And I prayed a lot alone. All my life," says Mr. Clinton. "I didn't wait for the bad times."

But when times did get bad, Mr. Clinton says he's always been helped by the old friends he sees whenever he goes home. He says he's had his "FOBs," or "Friends of Bill" since old school days: "I've always stayed in touch with my friends. And I've known them all since I was 10 or younger. Nine or younger."

And along with his most loyal friends, there's always been an unusually dedicated band of adversaries.

Does the former president believe that people either love him or hate him? "A lot of people have hated me. I think that's right," he says. "I've always tried to change things. And people who try to be change agents are going to make people mad against the changes you're trying to make. I think secondly, I puzzled a lot of people, and confused them."

President Clinton acknowledges in his book that he got a reputation early on as being cocky and arrogant. He was only 32 when he was first elected governor of Arkansas. Looking back, was he too young to be in office?

"In some ways, yes. I was old enough to understand the issues and do the job and get a lot done, but probably not old enough to understand the best way to do things," says Mr. Clinton. "And I had, you know, I brought in a lot of young people and we were brash and we made a lot of people mad and they voted us out."

In his memoir, Mr. Clinton concedes he was voted out as governor after just one term because he tried to do too much too fast -- a mistake he thinks he repeated in his first 100 days in the White House. But in Arkansas, he ran again and was elected to five more terms as governor.

Clinton's Next Steps

Transcript Of Dan Rather's Interview With Former President

Perhaps, more than most presidents, Mr. Clinton has accumulated nicknames as the years have gone by -- Bubba, Elvis, the Comeback Kid.

"If you stay out there and you fight long enough, you make enough enemies, you'll get some of

those nicknames too," says Mr. Clinton, laughing.

Which one did he like the least? "Slick Willy," says Mr. Clinton. "I like that the least for a very good reason. No one could fairly look at my political life and say I didn't believe in anything."

On numerous occasions, Mr. Clinton tried to wiggle his way out of tough questions about his political positions and his personal life.

And some of his answers became unforgettable. For instance, does he regret saying that, when he was campaigning for president, that he had smoked marijuana but hadn't inhaled?

"You bet. Even though it was absolutely true. I tried it, and I really tried to inhale. I was incapable of inhaling," says Mr. Clinton, laughing.

"That's really what I was trying to say. And it was just one of those dumb things you say, and then you have to live with for years and years afterward."

Time and again, Mr. Clinton relates in his book, when he got into trouble, it was Hillary Clinton who bailed him out.

"There is this theory that men often marry women who remind them of their mothers. Was that the case with Hillary with you," Rather asks Mr. Clinton.

"Oh, no, Although they were both strong, I like that. I never, you know, a lot of guys don't like strong women," says Mr. Clinton.
"I always did cause my mother was strong, my grandmother was strong. But they were different as daylight and dark, Oh my God, you know, and the first time they met, it was like oil and water. …They came to not just get along, they came to adore each other."

Two years after Mr. Clinton was elected president, his mother, Virginia Kelley, died of cancer.

On the porch in Hope, Ark., Rather showed the former president a clip of what his mother had once said about her son: "We had alcoholism in our family and I think that Bill thought in his mind, thought that I hadn't been dealt the best hand in the world. And he was determined to make up for that, determined. He's just been a wonderful son, just a wonderful son."

"I never saw that," says Mr. Clinton. "Well, I tried to be a good son for her. And I tried to be a good role model for my brother. And if my mother was that close to death, and she still thought I'd been a good son, that's good enough for me. She was sure a good mother. I wasn't anything like the son that she was the mother, I'll tell you that."

Since he left the White House, President Clinton has, among other things, become a money machine, giving speeches and paying off his legal bills.

Now, he says, he wants to slow down, do more public service like his work to fight AIDS in Africa and do more to shape his legacy.

"Mr. President, do you have a sense of the lightness of being now that you're out of the presidency," asks Rather.

"Actually, I do," says Mr. Clinton, laughing. "You know, before I sat down with this, with you, I kinda dreaded this. Because I've enjoyed being a little more of a private citizen. But I spend a lot of my time today, and I'm looking forward to spending all of my time on the work of my foundation and my library."

The library is still being built on the banks of the Arkansas River in Little Rock. It's the most expensive presidential library in history. Mr. Clinton is so excited about it, it's hard to keep up with him.

"I want this to be the first serious modern American museum of the 21st century, so that's what we are trying to do here," says Mr. Clinton.

"And the last thing the children will see when they walk out is the Oval Office. They can go by and sit. We are having an exact replica of the desk, we're having everything. I'm bringing all my books, putting them up in there."

Rather tells Mr. Clinton that if he lives to be as old as the late President Ronald Reagan, there will be a State Funeral for America's 42nd president in 2039.

"There's nothing in my family history to suggest I could possibly last that long," says Mr. Clinton, laughing. "But as long as I do live, I'll find something to do. ."

He's hoping his work and his book will influence the way people view him and his presidency.

"How often do you think, no matter what I do, the first paragraph of my obituary is gonna be impeachment," Rather asks Mr. Clinton.

"As I said in my book, I will always regret the personal mistake I made. But I will always be proud that when they moved on impeachment, I didn't quit, I never thought of resigning and I stood up to it and beat it back," says Mr. Clinton.

"To me, the whole battle was a badge of honor. I don't see it as a great stain. Because it was illegitimate. On the day I die, I'll still be glad I fought them. And I'll still be glad that I beat them. And I'll still believe that it was a bogus, phony deal."