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Every year, I am reminded of the kids who aren't in the freshman class and aren't graduating. I remember every single one of them. That is the worst of times for me, to see the future snuffed out.

~Donna Shalala

The dog doesn't know the difference between Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, so I have to walk the dog early those days too.

~Donna Shalala

I am interested in getting people to use the healthcare system at the right time, getting them to see the doctor early enough, before a small health problem turns serious.

~Donna Shalala

Fear drives you and makes you better.

~Donna Shalala

By putting people around me who will calm me down and slow me down and make sure I work through an issue.

~Donna Shalala

I have to admit, in January and February I was in an absolute fuzz. I had no one on board. It wasn't that I didn't know what I was doing, but we didn't have all the pieces put together.

~Donna Shalala

We know the parental support, community support, makes a difference. It's not just the metrics of testing and putting pressure on the schools and on the teachers.

~Donna Shalala

You don't want to destroy the energy that comes out of a campaign.

~Donna Shalala

We have not yet concluded that needle-exchange programs do not encourage drug use.

~Donna Shalala

We can't afford as a nation - not because of money but because of our social fabric - to have large numbers of people who are not working.

~Donna Shalala

I'll be one of the spokespeople, one of the people who sells the Administration's plans.

~Donna Shalala

I think anyone that thought that we were coming in as a bunch of liberal Democrats to deliver more large-scale social programs was nuts. I sure didn't expect it.

~Donna Shalala

Sure, it is apparent that presidents are looking at polls, but they are also stepping up on issues. President Clinton stepped up on tobacco. He shaped the polls on the tobacco issue.

~Donna Shalala

In fairy tales, the children are saved by caring adults. We need more caring adults in the lives of our children.

~Donna Shalala

I compensate for big risks by always doing my homework and being well-prepared. I can take on larger risks by reducing the overall risk.

~Donna Shalala

What you really remember at the beginning was that you have to throw a budget together. We made some terrible mistakes at the beginning in my own budget that took us at least a year to catch up on.

~Donna Shalala

Asking the government to help you for short periods of time is different than asking the government to take care of you for the rest of your life.

~Donna Shalala

I have long ties to the women's community.

~Donna Shalala

I try to deal with my serious reading before work.

~Donna Shalala

Sex education has to do with what's in people's head.

~Donna Shalala

I've spent my whole life with people underestimating me.

~Donna Shalala

In every community, whether large or small, there are people who lead in their community in easy and difficult times.

~Donna Shalala

I think President Bush tried to step up on Social Security even though the polls showed that was unpopular. He has not been successful and backed off, but I admire people who take on big problems.

~Donna Shalala

I'm pretty disciplined and am almost always on schedule.

~Donna Shalala

The government is fully capable of delivering services. Even complex services.

~Donna Shalala

We are living longer, and we need to live better.

~Donna Shalala

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