

Week Ending Friday, April 2, 1993

Radio Address on Administration Goals

March 27, 1993

Last November you demanded a new spirit of action and an end to gridlock in Washington. Well, what you demanded is finally taking hold. The House and the Senate are now completing work on the heart of our bold economic plan for new directions: to create jobs, to increase incomes, to bring down our terrible national debt.

The actions taking place in Congress are a welcome departure from the status quo of the past. For 12 years, our Government was paralyzed by partisan gridlock, our economy caught in the grip of powerful special interests who bent the system so that they could win at our expense. Our deficits went up, and the creation of high-paying jobs went down. And good families found themselves working harder, paying more in taxes, and bringing less money home.

When you sent me and our administration here, you wanted a plan of action, and we've provided it. Our plan is based on this simple principle: The best social program is a good job, and the best way to reduce the deficit is by cutting spending and making smart investments to grow the economy.

Last week, the House of Representatives endorsed this plan. And this week, the Senate did the same, approving our budget resolution in record time, just 36 days after we took it to you, the American people.

I salute our supporters on Capitol Hill for their outstanding work. And also I want to thank Vice President Gore, who's worked tirelessly to enlist lawmakers in the cause of change. We should all be pleased that we're on our way toward putting this plan in motion.

Before the Congress goes home for Easter recess, I'm counting on them to complete their work on the plan, to finish the budget and pass our proposals to create good jobs

in the short term. The progress we've made shows we're beating the status quo. And you have given us the clout to do it.

We've come a long way in 9½ weeks. Interest rates are down. The power of investment is returning to the economy. Confidence is strong. But I won't rest until we right the economy and guarantee for future generations the prosperity that should be the birthright of every American.

We can begin with this program, because the best way to build the economy and lay the foundation for the future is to create 8 million jobs in the next 4 years and by adopting the immediate investments that will create a half a million jobs in the near term. That's what this plan does.

To create jobs and to make our economy more productive, we're planning to build and repair new roads and transit systems. We want to place hundreds of thousands of Americans in productive summer jobs and get young people the education they need while they're working. And we're challenging the private sector to create more and giving them the incentives to do it.

We want to fund future-oriented research and equip our Nation's young scientists and engineers with the skills to excel in high-technology fields. We want to convert military technology for peaceful uses that will benefit all of us and help communities hard hit by base closings and cutbacks on defense contracts. We want to retrain the defense workers put out of work by the end of the cold war. These people are patriots, and they deserve nothing less than a chance to work in civilian jobs that will earn them the kind of money they earned protecting our national defense.

Some people say these investments are unnecessary and costly. Their only alternative is to do nothing, accept things just the way they are, and hope, with no Government action in partnership with the private sector, somehow things will get better. These friends

of the status quo have tried everything in recent days to show that we don't need new investments. But they've forgotten: We tried cutting investments for years; we forgot about the human equation, the necessity to train and educate people. And guess what? We didn't get jobs.

We still have a jobless economic recovery. If this were even an average recovery, we'd have 3 million more Americans working today. Many of the jobs that were created last month were part-time jobs. And the unemployment rate is still higher today than it was at the bottom of the recession.

This job drought has put individuals and families under great stress. Americans don't want handouts; they just want a hand up, a chance to work and to provide for their own. And our plan does just that. In doing so, we'll be on our way to a real job-creating recovery that gets the incomes of American workers growing again.

We have to raise the living standards of our people now and in the long run. To keep our preeminence in the world economy, we have to create a smarter work force, with life-long learning that trains all our people for better, higher paying jobs. And we need to develop the new technologies that are farsighted, that will create the high-wage jobs of today and tomorrow. If we're shortsighted today, we'll be blindsided tomorrow.

That's why I'm working hard, not just on this economic plan, although it is the centerpiece of our efforts, but on other fronts too: from controlling health care costs and providing the security of health care to all Americans; to moving people from welfare into jobs; to correcting the way we finance campaigns, to bring the people in and move the special interests out. Each step of the way, I'm trying to listen to you. What happens on the short stretch of road between 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and Capitol Hill is only meaningful if we're acting for you and with you. This is the promise of our new plan for new directions.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was

not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters in Little Rock, Arkansas

March 29, 1993

Aid to Russia

Q. Sir, three-quarters of Americans say we're already giving enough aid to Russia.

The President. We give a lot more money than we give to Russia to smaller countries. We've got a big interest there. And I realize that the responsibility is on me to communicate to the American people any kind of pay package I propose and to justify it. That's my responsibility, and I intend to assume it.

Q. Where would you get another billion dollars, sir?

The President. We're working on the details of it. We'll be able to announce something—

Q. Are you concerned by these latest poll figures, sir, that many Americans, 75 percent of the Americans, think we already give the Russians enough?

The President. Well, foreign aid is unpopular in every country in the world, and it's always been unpopular here. And I haven't really had a chance to talk much directly to the American people about what's going on there, what our stake in it and what their stake in it is, what the American people's stake in it. The American people are smart enough to know that we can't determine the course of events in Russia all by ourselves. They know that. But we can have an impact on it. And my job as President is to convince the citizens of this country that they have an immediate and personal interest in the outcome of events. I think I can do it, and I'm going to do my best.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:05 a.m. outside the U.S. Male barbershop. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.