

who are willing to put their lives on the line for you and die if necessary, immediately, and somebody thinks they can put a swastika on their door? Why? Why?

Because even here there are people who believe somehow their life is elevated only when they can look down on somebody else, only when they can feel superior to somebody else, only when they can be forces of division. Those are the questions that “Blowing in the Wind” was about. That’s what the song Peter, Paul, and Mary sang about. And it’s important. You may not think everything about the sixties was right, but that song asks the right questions, and we’d better not forget that.

And you know, if you look at our diversity and you imagine the world we’re going to live in, where everything is closer together, there is no nation in the world as well-positioned as the United States to reap the benefits of the 21st century, of the explosions of the information age, if we can learn to deal with the security threats; if we can learn to be more responsible not only for ourselves but for our families, our communities, and our country; if we can have the ability to develop our own capacity so we can live out our dreams.

But none of that will happen unless we first decide that we’re in this together and we have to go forward together. And you know, fundamentally, all these other issues can almost be submerged into that.

So I ask you to go out in the next 3 months and 2 weeks and talk about it. Tell about the record and tell them we were right and they were wrong. Tell them about the choice, and tell them not to forget that they’ve seen it once, it just got stopped. But most importantly, talk to people about what they want this country to look like when we stand on the edge of a new millennium—it only happens once every thousand years—and what they want America to be like when their children and grandchildren are their age. If those are the questions the voters ask, then they’ll give the right answers, and our best days are still ahead.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:17 p.m. in the Continental Ballroom at the San Francisco Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to folk singers Peter Yarrow, Paul Stookey, and Mary Travers, and former Olympians Greg Louganis and Muhammad Ali. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Senate Action on the Food Quality Protection Act

July 24, 1996

I am pleased that the Senate tonight passed the Food Quality Protection Act. Americans have every right to expect the world’s most bountiful food supply will also be the world’s safest. Earlier this month, I announced tough new measures to improve meat and poultry safety. Meeting goals I set early in my administration to strengthen our pesticide laws, this legislation is another major step forward. It puts in place a strong health-based standard, provides special safeguards for children, and protects our health and safety using the best science available. This bill demonstrates how Congress and the administration can work together to help farmers and consumers, and I look forward to signing it.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on United States Activities in the United Nations

July 24, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit herewith a report of the activities of the United States Government in the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during calendar year 1995. The report is required by the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 264, 79th Congress; 22 U.S.C. 287b).

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 24, 1996.