

done everything I know to do. Last August, we put out these rules, and we said they have got to stop this. But after we do all that, there's still you. Right?

Think about it like Jackie Robinson. And so all of us, we're like the guys that own the ballteam, right? We're supposed to make everything all right so you have a chance to play baseball, except what we're trying to do is make everything all right so that the chances are very high that you won't be tempted to smoke.

But it's still up to you. That's why I'm here today, because I can sit in Washington and work all day and all night long and make this speech until I'm blue in the face and unless the children of this country band together and show solidarity with each other and help each other resist peer pressure and stand up for your future and understand that your body is the most prized gift you've been given along with your mind and your spirit, nothing I do will amount to a hill of beans. That's why I'm here, because you have to take responsibility for your future. We can give you the opportunity. You have to seize it. And I want everybody in America on the news tonight and anybody who hears about this to know that in this school, you children are setting an example for the rest of America's young people. I am proud of you, and I want you to remember it tomorrow when you're not wearing that T-shirt.

And I want you to remember this, too. Even with no barriers, not everybody's going to be able to play baseball like Jackie Robinson did. I still remember when I was—I was 10 years old before I ever got a television. But Jackie Robinson had 2 years left in baseball and I got to watch him on television. I still remember that.

Even with golf more open to more and more kinds of people, with 2,500 minority children in a golf program in Houston, Texas, for example, very few people are going to be able to drive the ball 320 yards consistently. But you can all have some dream. And everybody's life has real meaning and every one of you has to figure out what that dream is going to be for you. But no matter what it is, you've got to do just what the champions do: You have to believe you can do it and think about it and visualize it. You have to

work for it. You've got to get a good education, and you've got to take care of your mind and your body. And if you do, you'll be a champion, no matter what you do and no matter whether you're famous or not.

You think about it. This country has one President, for example, and 260 million other people. Now, if tomorrow we had to do without one President or all 260 million other people, it would be a pretty easy choice, wouldn't it? You'd say, "I like you, President Clinton, but I'm sorry, you'll have to go." [Laughter] "The rest of us are going to stay."

The greatness of America is in all the people. It's in the billions and billions and billions of decisions they make every day. And you're making them for your life, and your future and your country. I am very proud of you. But don't you ever forget this: Have your dreams and live for them, but take care of yourselves. Take care of yourselves. Your body is a precious gift. And you have set an example today that I can only hope and pray that every young person in this country, that all of them will follow.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the gymnasium at Andries Hudde Junior High School. In his remarks, he referred to student Ayana Harry, and William D. Novelli, president, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

### **Remarks at a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Luncheon in Brooklyn**

*April 15, 1997*

Thank you very much. Congressman Rangel said, "I guess I can't say 'break a leg,' can I?" [Laughter] Actually you could. They told me if I had broken my leg I would have healed quicker.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank all of you for being here. I want to thank Martin Frost for his tireless work on behalf of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. I thank Dick Gephardt for the wonderful work that he has done with me over the last 4 years and few odd months as majority leader, as minority leader, and I hope in January of 1999, as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with your help.

To give you an idea of what this Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee did and what our candidates did in 1996, it is worth noting that even though they were out-spent often by breathtaking margins in the last 10 days—unimaginable amounts in some of the seats—with only 9,759 votes spread across 10 congressional districts, the Democrats could be in the majority today. That's how close that election was. And therefore, your presence here today and your support for them is very important.

I am proud of the things that Mr. Gephardt mentioned. I'm proud of the fact that in 1992 we said we would turn this country around and change the direction of the country, and we did. I'm proud of the fact that we changed the economic philosophy that dominated Washington for a long time, that we reversed trickle-down economics and instead said, "We're going to reduce the deficit and invest in our future. We're going to expand trade and make it more fair."

And the results, I think, are pretty impressive. We've got an unemployment rate today that's the lowest it's been in many, many years, and the unemployment rate today is a full percent and a half below the average—the average of the two decades before I took office. So we're working together; we're moving forward.

I am proud of the fact that with the leadership of a lot of the Members of the Congress in this room we've taken a serious step instead of just hot-air talk in trying to make our streets safer and our futures brighter for our young people. We had the biggest drop in crime the year before last that we've had in over two decades. We haven't gotten the 1996 statistics yet, but all the indications are that they continue to go down. We are moving in the right direction on that.

And I am very proud of the fact that, again, with the leadership with a lot of New Yorkers in this room, we have put education first on America's domestic agenda again. And I'm very proud of that.

I'm going to do my best to keep doing the public's business, and I will do my best to do it in a fair and open way with the Members of both parties in the Congress. But I can tell you, if you look around the room at the people who are here, and you ask your-

self, what are the great challenges of the 21st century for America: can we keep the American dream of opportunity for all who are willing to work for it alive; can we give our children a world-class education; can we deal with the health care and the safety needs of all the poor children who come from different cultures who are in our country and give them a chance to make their full contribution; can we preserve an American community that's one America and still have an enormous amount of respect for the racial and ethnic and religious differences we have among ourselves? Because if we can, then we are clearly the best positioned country in the world for the new century.

You have to ask yourselves, who would I like to take the lead in answering those questions and in fashioning the answer. And I know what that answer is for me; I know what that answer is for you. And your presence here today will help the American people make a good decision in 1998.

I'd also like to thank the Members of Congress from Brooklyn and the people of Brooklyn for hosting us here today. I have consistently done very well in Brooklyn, as the Members never forget to tell me, and I am very grateful for that. And I am honored to be in this beautiful, beautiful place, and I hope to stay and look around a little bit.

I'm going to Queens tonight to Shea Stadium to watch the Mets and the Dodgers play and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's breaking the color line in baseball. And I'd just like to say one final word about that. It's all the more appropriate I think coming as it does right after Tiger Woods' record-shattering performance in the Masters. But it's important to remember that you had, I think, the two great ingredients of a good society at work in both places. In the case of Jackie Robinson you had people who were willing to end discrimination and an owner who was willing to give him a chance. But you also had a highly disciplined, profoundly dignified, greatly talented ballplayer who was prepared not only physically but also emotionally and mentally to do what had to be done.

The same thing happened in the Masters last week. And I often believe—have said this and I will say it again because I believe it—

I think that the elections that really matter in this country are genuinely determined by questions people ask not only about us but about themselves and how they view themselves in the world in the future we're going into.

And I will say this in closing: I believe that the efforts of Martin Frost and Leader Gephardt and all the members of the New York delegation in 1998 will be successful. If we can get the right kind of balanced budget passed in the Congress, if we can continue to stand up for what's right for America, and if we can make sure the American people are asking the right questions in 1998 of our society and of themselves—if that happens, I am not worried about the outcome of the elections, and more importantly, I'm not worried about the future of our country.

Again, let me say I'm profoundly grateful to New York and grateful to Brooklyn and glad to be here, and thank you for helping the DCCC.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:24 p.m. at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Martin Frost, chairman, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

### **Proclamation 6989—National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

*April 15, 1997*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Americans in communities across the country join together to honor victims and survivors, to remember their pain, and to recognize their many contributions to improving our criminal justice system and helping others affected by crime. It is also an occasion for us to acknowledge our significant progress in securing crucial rights and services for crime victims.

As we reflect on the events of this past year, we think of all our fellow citizens who became victims of crime on our streets, at home, in our neighborhoods, in our schools, in our workplaces, and even in our sacred

places of worship. We remember the images of dozens of mostly African American churches being consumed in flames, and we recall church leaders and their congregations, representing all denominations and races, reaching out to invite healing and rebuilding—not in isolation, but in an extraordinary spirit of community and unity. We also remember the many contributions of crime victims in pioneering crime prevention programs in our schools and working to strengthen our laws and to enlighten all of us about the needs of all crime victims.

Through the dedicated efforts of crime victims and their advocates, criminal justice workers, and responsive legislators, we have made important strides in the struggle against violence. The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 allocated an increase in resources for criminal justice programs, deploying thousands of new police officers on our streets. The Brady Bill has prevented over 225,000 felons, fugitives, and stalkers from buying handguns since it was enacted. And the Community Notification Act, known as "Megan's Law," is helping us protect our most vulnerable citizens by informing communities of the presence of convicted pedophiles. With community notification, we are working to prevent cases like that of the Act's namesake, Megan Kanka, a 7 year-old who died at the hands of a repeat sex offender released into an unsuspecting community. With these and other preventive measures, we've managed to reduce the rate of violent crime for 5 straight years and to restore hope of reaching our goal of a peaceful America.

We can also take heart in our efforts to assist victims in need of justice and healing in the aftermath of violent crimes. The Violence Against Women Act, a historic and comprehensive plan targeted at ending crimes against women, has provided much-needed services to countless domestic violence victims and their children. Likewise, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, established last year, has responded to more than 73,000 calls for assistance from around the country. As a result of over \$500 million in deposits to the Federal Crime Victims Fund in fiscal 1996, the States will receive more than three times as much in Federal