

Government's electronic commerce strategy. Further, I am directing that executive department and agency heads report back to the Vice President and me through this inter-agency group every 6 months on their progress in meeting the terms of this directive.

**William J. Clinton**

### **Message to Internet Users on Electronic Commerce**

*July 1, 1997*

I have today approved and released a report—"A Framework for Global Electronic Commerce"—setting out my Administration's vision of the emerging electronic marketplace and outlining the principles that will guide the U.S. Government's actions as we move forward into the new electronic age of commerce. The report also suggests an agenda for international discussions and agreements to facilitate the growth of electronic commerce.

The invention of the steam engine two centuries ago and the harnessing of electricity ushered in an industrial revolution that fundamentally altered the way we work, brought the world's people closer together in space and time, and brought us greater prosperity. Today, the invention of the integrated circuit and computer and the harnessing of light for communications have made possible the creation of the global Internet and an electronic revolution that will once again transform our lives.

One of the most significant uses of the Internet is in the world of commerce. Already it is possible to buy books and clothing, to obtain business advice, to purchase everything from gardening tools to high-tech telecommunications equipment over the Internet. This is just the beginning. Trade and commerce on the Internet are doubling or tripling every year—and in just a few years will be generating hundreds of billions of dollars in sales of goods and services. If we establish an environment in which electronic commerce can grow and flourish, then every computer can be a window open to every business, large and small, everywhere in the world.

Governments can have a profound effect on the growth of electronic commerce. By their actions, they can facilitate electronic trade or inhibit it. Government officials should respect the unique nature of the medium and recognize that widespread competition and increased consumer choice should be the defining features of the new digital marketplace. They should adopt a market-oriented approach to electronic commerce that facilitates the emergence of a global, transparent, and predictable legal environment to support business and commerce.

The report I released today raises a number of important issues that must be addressed by governments worldwide as this electronic marketplace emerges. I have had it added to the White House home-page on the World Wide Web ([www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)). I call upon all Internet users—both in government and in the private sector—to join me in seeking global consensus and, where necessary, agreements on the issues raised in our report by December 31, 1999, so that we may enter the new millennium ready to reap the benefits of the emerging electronic age of commerce.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: The President's message appeared on the White House Home Page under What's New: Framework for Electronic Commerce. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

### **Remarks on Behalf of the Public Service Campaign for Educational Excellence in Baltimore, Maryland**

*July 2, 1997*

Thank you very much. Thank you, Bud Selig, Peter Angelos, Jim Hunter. To Norm Augustine, the chairman of Lockheed Martin and our Educational Excellence Partnership and to Cal Ripken, who is the very embodiment of excellence.

Ladies and gentlemen, excellence in baseball requires teamwork, hard work, and setting high standards of excellence. So does ex-

cellence in education. The Educational Excellence Partnership, including all-star athletes, businesses, Governors, and teachers, are pitching in to help our children aim high. The young people here behind me from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America embody the kind of future we're trying to build for them.

I want to thank all of you out there who have worked hard to set high standards, not only for your own children but for the other children in your community. I want to thank Cal and Kelly Ripken for the outstanding contribution they are making to literacy here in Baltimore. And I want to urge all of you to rededicate yourselves to the idea that every one of our children can learn, and we will not get into the 21st century with the future we want for them until we expect every one of them to learn and we give them the ability, the tools, and the support they need to learn.

We are very fortunate that outstanding major league baseball players, along with business leaders like Norm Augustine, have supported this public service campaign for educational excellence. I want you to watch these ads now, and I hope you will heed them. I hope you will support my call for national standards of excellence in reading and math and go back home and think about what you can do to make sure that every one of our children is as devoted to excellence in education as the baseball players we'll enjoy watching today from the Phillies and the Orioles are to excellence in their sport.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE. The President spoke at 3:01 p.m. at home plate at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. In his remarks, he referred to Bud Selig, acting commissioner of baseball; Peter Angelos, owner, Baltimore Orioles; Jim Hunter, WBAL Radio sportscaster; and Cal Ripken, Orioles third baseman. Following the President's remarks, those in attendance viewed the public service announcements on educational excellence, featuring prominent baseball players.

## **Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 1997**

*July 2, 1997*

I am pleased to join my fellow Americans across the nation and around the world in celebrating Independence Day.

Looking back across two centuries, we still marvel at the courage and vision of our nation's founders. With clear eyes and staunch hearts, they fashioned a new form of government for our new country, a government that honors human dignity and protects individual rights. They devised a democracy strong enough to endure through the ages, yet flexible enough to meet new challenges and achieve new dreams. And in doing so, they made America a beacon of hope for generations of people around the world who cherish liberty and justice.

We have much to celebrate on this Independence Day. The journey our nation began more than 220 years ago has brought us to a time of peace and prosperity, a time of unprecedented opportunity to realize the full potential of all our citizens. As heirs to the freedom and equality bequeathed to us in the Declaration of Independence, it is now our responsibility—and our privilege—to build on that legacy and to ensure that America's promise holds true for all our people.

As we join with family and friends to commemorate another Fourth of July, let us resolve to make America a land where prejudice and discrimination have no place; to recognize that the values and ideals we share are more powerful and enduring than any force that would divide us; and to enter the twenty-first century as the "more perfect Union" first envisioned by our founders two centuries ago.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes for a wonderful Fourth of July celebration.

**Bill Clinton**