

with full and free access to all the sites, so they can root out whatever else needs to be destroyed and then continue to monitor suspect sites. It's up to Saddam to make that happen. If he doesn't, we must be—and we are—prepared to act. As we speak, the British aircraft carrier *Invincible* is patrolling the waters of the Persian Gulf with America's 5th Fleet. United with our allies abroad, we are also united here at home. I thank the many Republicans and Democrats who have expressed strong support for our stand against this menace to global security. No one should doubt our resolve.

Throughout the 20th century, the alliance between the United States and Britain made all the difference between tyranny and freedom, chaos and security. Now, we are turning to face the challenges of a new century. And together, we will again prevail.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 6:40 p.m. on February 6 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 7. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

### **Statement on the Accident Involving United States Aircraft in the Persian Gulf**

*February 7, 1998*

Defending America's interests is difficult, dangerous work—and our men and women in uniform bear that burden every day. Nowhere is their service more important than in the Persian Gulf.

I was saddened to learn that one of our Marine Corps F/A-18 pilots, Lieutenant Colonel Henry G. Van Winkle II, lost his life yesterday in the skies over the Persian Gulf. Lieutenant Colonel Van Winkle was there as part of America's commitment to back up our determined diplomacy with force as we work to prevent Saddam Hussein from threatening the world with weapons of mass destruction.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones—and with all our men and women in uniform around the world as they serve and sacrifice every day to keep Americans safe and America strong.

### **Remarks at the Festival at Ford's Theatre**

*February 8, 1998*

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. First let me say that Hillary and I, as always, have had a wonderful evening. We look forward to this every year.

I want to thank my special friend Whoopi Goldberg. God's Property was wonderful. I thank all the other magnificent performers who were here tonight. I thank Tricia Lott and Peatsy Hollings, for the work that they do, and all the other sponsors of this extraordinary evening. And a special thanks to you, Frankie, for giving 30 years of your life to a worthy and great American cause.

I also want to thank you for honoring the First Lady tonight. She has worked very hard for the last 5 years and continues to work for the arts and for the preservation of our national treasures, like Ford's Theatre. That's a special focus of our millennium project. And she convinced me that it's something all Americans should do for the 21st century.

President Kennedy once wrote that art is the great unifying and humanizing experience. We are here in Ford's Theatre in the shadow of President Lincoln's memory, a President who gave his life for the unity and the fundamental humanity of our Nation. And these wonderful young people have just sung a song that, for everyone my age, will live forever. John Kennedy was killed when I was a senior in high school; Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy when I was a senior here at Georgetown. Those of us who grew up as children in a time when our national life meant unity and humanity will be forever grateful for the spirit of Abraham Lincoln and what is embodied in this magnificent theater.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:45 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to comedienne Whoopi Goldberg; gospel music group God's Property; event cochairs Tricia Lott, wife of Senator Trent Lott, and Rita L. (Peatsy) Hollings, wife of Senator Ernest F. Hollings; and Frankie Hewitt, producing artistic director, Ford's Theatre Society. The festival was videotaped for later broadcast on the ABC Television Network as "A Gala for the President."

**Remarks at Georgetown University**  
*February 9, 1998*

Thank you very much. A special thanks to those of you who had to wait all night to get in. [Laughter] Hope you won't be disappointed. [Laughter]

Mr. Vice President, Father O'Donovan, to all the groups here who are concerned with Social Security, especially to Congressman Penny and the Concord Coalition, and John Rother and the AARP, I thank you all for being here.

I thank Senator Bob Kerrey, who when he cast the decisive vote for our budget in 1993 said that he would do so only if I were also committed to dealing with the long-term structural problems of Social Security, to heal the deficit there as well. I thank Gene Sperling and the members of my staff who've worked with us on this. And thank you, Mannone Butler, for embodying what this struggle is all about. Weren't you proud of her? She did a great job, I think. [Applause] Thank you very much.

When I first ran for President 6½ years ago now, I came to this hall to set out my vision for 21st century America and a strategy for achieving it. Often in the years since, I have come back here to discuss our Nation's most demanding challenges. And on many occasions, but none more relevant than today, I have recalled the assertion of my freshman professor in the history of civilization course, Carroll Quigley, that the distinguishing characteristic of Western civilization in general and the United States of America in particular is what he called, "future preference": the idea that the future can be better than the present or the past; that each of us has a personal, moral responsibility to work to make it so, to plan for it, to work for it, to invest for it.

There is no better example of that principle for the strength of America than the opportunity and the duty all of us as Americans have now to save Social Security for the 21st century. So today I return to discuss what we have to do to achieve that and why it is so important.

You know, there was a recent poll which said that young people in the generation of the students here felt it was far more likely

that they would see a UFO than that they would draw Social Security. [Laughter] And others may think that it's a long way off, as Mannone said, and the Vice President said he thought it was a long way off.

A couple of days ago I went to New Mexico to visit our national labs; you may have seen the story. And our national labs at Los Alamos and Sandia and Lawrence Livermore, where we do a lot of the research that not only helps us to preserve the security of our smaller and smaller nuclear arsenal but helps us to deal with our environmental questions and a lot of other fascinating challenges of the future—but anyway—after I finished this, I had lunch with a few of my friends, including a man that I went to Georgetown with. And at the end of the lunch, he whipped out this photo and gave it to me, and we were sitting in a park together, about a week after I graduated in 1968. And I looked at that photo, and I said, "My goodness, where did all the time go? It seems like it was yesterday to me."

I say that to make this point: It may seem a long way away from the time you now—where you are until you need retirement. It may seem a long way away before most of your parents need retirement, but it isn't. And great societies plan over long periods of time so that individual lives can flower and take root and take form. And that is what we have to do today.

Social Security is a lot more than a line in the budget. It reflects some of our deepest values, the duties we owe to our parents, the duties we owe to each other when we're differently situated in life, the duties we owe to our children and our grandchildren. Indeed, it reflects our determination to move forward across the generations and across the income divides in our country, as one America.

Social Security has been there for America's parents in the 20th century, and I am determined that we will have that kind of security for the American people in the 21st century. We are entering this new millennium, the new century, with restored confidence; the information age, a growing global economy, they're changing the way we live and work. And the scope and pace of change, well, it may seem commonplace to those of