

property; that we should eradicate measles from this hemisphere; and most important, that millions more of our children will be in school, not on the streets. We should achieve an 80-percent completion rate in primary school as we work toward our goal of 100 percent by the year 2010. Our children, after all, will have more to say about the future we are trying to create than any of the rest of us.

The people of the Americas, as the President of Uruguay pointed out to us yesterday, have launched a profound revolution in the last few years, a revolution of peace and freedom and prosperity. Here in Santiago, we embrace our responsibility to make these historic forces lift the lives of all our people. That is the future we can forge together. It is a future worthy of the new Americas in a new millennium.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building. In his remarks, he referred to the following Chilean officials: President of the Senate Andreas Zaldívar; President of the Chamber of Deputies Gutenberg Martínez; and Justice Roberto Davila, President of the Supreme Court.

Statement on the Anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing

April 19, 1998

Three years ago today the people of Oklahoma City suffered the worst act of terrorism in our country's history. It was an attack, not just on the people, a city, a State, a nation, but on what we stand for, how we govern ourselves and the values we live by. During that time, we have worked to bring to justice those who were responsible for this crime. And during that time, all America has stood by the people of Oklahoma City as they have worked to rebuild their lives. Today, once again, our thoughts are with the families of the 168 people whose lives were tragically lost. Their courage and the resilience of Oklahoma City has shown us all the full meaning of community.

Remarks on Congressional Action on Tobacco Legislation and an Exchange With Reporters

April 20, 1998

The President. Good afternoon. Today Congress returns to work and to its obligation to act on the most critical public health threat to our children. Over the next 5 weeks, this Congress has an historic opportunity to pass bipartisan, comprehensive legislation to protect our children from the dangers of tobacco. We must not let this opportunity slip away.

The facts are plain as the stakes are high: 3,000 children begin to smoke every day, even though it's illegal in every State, and 1,000 will die earlier because of it. All these children have been targeted by a massive, multimillion-dollar media campaign that preys on their insecurities and their dreams.

For decades, we now know from their own documents that tobacco companies targeted children; and for decades, the industry denied it. Now, the tobacco industry once again seeks to put its bottom line above what should be our bottom line: the health of our children. In today's newspaper, the lead lobbyist for the tobacco industry says, and I quote: "We are fighting for our life." Well, let me be clear: We are fighting for the lives of our children; we are fighting for the public health; and we are fighting against predatory practices by tobacco companies that have targeted our children.

In the days to come, the tobacco industry will doubtless raise objection after objection and will work behind closed doors to persuade Congress to pass half measures that will not reduce teen smoking. But I believe the majority of the American people and, indeed, the majority of Congress, Members of both parties in Congress, will see this for what it is—a tobacco industry smokescreen.

I ask Congress and the American people to focus on the real opportunity now within our reach. Over the past 5 weeks, Congress must move forward—over the next 5 weeks, Congress must move forward on comprehensive bipartisan legislation to reduce teen smoking by raising the price of cigarettes, putting into place tough restrictions on advertising and access, and imposing penalties