on the industry if it continues to sell cigarettes to children. We can do that and protect the tobacco farmers at the same time.

The legislation now moving through the Senate, authored by Senator McCain, which was voted out of committee on a nearly unanimous bipartisan vote 3 weeks ago now, is a strong step in the right direction. This is not a time for half measures; that simply won't reduce teen smoking, and it will only play into the tobacco industry's hands. It is a time for the kind of comprehensive approach to the problem that Senator McCain's legislation takes.

We have an opportunity and an obligation now to put aside politics, to turn aside the pleas of special interests, to act in the interest of the health of generations of our children. I call on Congress to do so, and I look forward to working with them in good faith over the next few weeks.

***Q.*** The suggestions that Speaker McCain—rather not, McCain—pardon me.

***The President.*** Is he running for Speaker? [*Laughter*]

***Q.*** No, but perhaps he should. Speaker Gingrich wants to water down the bill and House Republicans; there have been those suggestions. What's your reading of Speaker Gingrich's position, and what position should he take?

***The President.*** Well, let me say, before his recent comments I had been encouraged, because he basically said that he would not permit us to take a stronger position than he did. I was concerned by his reported comments; you know, I wasn't here in the country. I didn't hear them; I didn't see the context of them. But I certainly hope that he will return to his former position.

We need this to be a bipartisan effort. We need everybody working together. And we can do this. We can work through all the differences that are out there, and we can pass a bill that will clearly, dramatically reduce teen smoking. We can do it. And we got fresh evidence from the Journal of the American Medical Society—American Medical Association, showing that the role of advertising on children and their smoking habits has been even greater than peer pressure. We've got all this evidence out there and we know what to do; we know how to do it; we can do it. And I'm just hoping and praying that we will.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:13 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

## Statement on the Energy Star Buildings Label Program

*April 20, 1998*

I extend my congratulations to the owners and managers of three of America's greatest landmark buildings for pledging to dramatically cut their energy use—an important step to protect our environment. The Empire State Building and the World Trade Center in New York, and the Sears Tower in Chicago, are long-time symbols of American enterprise and ingenuity. Today they become symbols of leadership and responsibility in ensuring that our Nation tackles the challenge of global warming. These skyscrapers are again hitting new heights by leading the way in curbing the pollution that contributes to global warming.

These American landmarks are charter members of the administration's new Energy Star Buildings Label program—a vital part of our plan to put the Nation on track to curb global warming. Their owners are voluntarily committing to cut their energy use up to 30 percent, thereby reducing the burning of fossil fuels and the related carbon dioxide pollution that causes global warming. These buildings will save energy, save money in electricity bills, and protect the true bottom line—the environment we leave our children.

I call on all commercial building owners and managers across our Nation to take the same responsible, common-sense, cost-effective step to help meet our most pressing environmental challenge. If all commercial buildings became Energy Star Buildings, we would save $25 billion a year and achieve over 10 percent of the carbon dioxide reduction needed to meet our Kyoto target.

I am sure the American people join me in thanking the following building owners and managers who have signed up as charter members in our new Energy Star Building Label program: the Port Authority of New

York and New Jersey; the Helmsley-Spear, Inc.; the Rockefeller Center Management Corp.; TrizecHahn Office Properties, Inc.; LaSalle Partners; the Durst Organization; Amerimar Enterprises, Inc.; MagneTek, Inc.; the Trane Company; Rudin Management Company, Inc.; Tooley and Company; Cushman and Wakefield; Harwood Pacific Corporation; and the General Services Administration.

## Proclamation 7084—National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 1998

*April 20, 1998*

*By the President of the United States of America*

***A Proclamation***

Every day, thousands of Americans become victims of crime. Many suffer physical injury, and most experience emotional scars that may never fully heal. And all victims of crime, and their families and friends, often remain troubled by feelings of vulnerability and concerned about their personal safety.

Five years ago, my Administration made a commitment to take back our streets from criminals and to combat the crime and violence that affects so many Americans. With the Crime Act, the Brady Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and other tough legislation, we have put into action a comprehensive anticrime strategy that includes community policing, antigang programs, and strong penalties for criminals.

Our strategy is working. Crime rates across the country are at a 25-year low. Violent crimes and property crimes have decreased, and the murder rate is down dramatically. While we can take pride in this progress, we cannot afford to become complacent. We must build on the anticrime programs we have put into place if we are to win the war against crime.

As part of our continuing efforts, this year the Department of Justice is awarding more than $135 million in grants under the Violence Against Women program to help State and local authorities reduce domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. These funds will enable communities to train more police, hire prosecutors, and provide assistance to the victims of such crimes. Earlier this month, after thorough study, the Secretary of the Treasury concluded that we should ban more than 50 kinds of modified assault weapons because they accept large-capacity military magazines. By keeping these weapons off our streets and out of the hands of criminals, we will take another crucial step toward halting the scourge of gun violence that has taken such a tragic toll on America's children and families.

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we call to mind those whose lives have been so abruptly and often violently changed. This annual observance is also a powerful reminder of the extraordinary capacity of our citizens to face adversity and overcome it. Across America, victims of crime have refused to become victims of a criminal justice system that too often ignores or compromises their rights while protecting the rights of criminals.

With courage and determination, crime victims and their dedicated advocates have succeeded in winning constitutional amendments in 29 States that guarantee such fundamental rights as protection from further harm, which includes keeping victims and accused criminals in separate rooms during court proceedings; the right of victims to call upon law enforcement if they feel they are being harassed or intimidated in connection with a pending case; and the right to be notified of a convicted criminal's release from incarceration. And after decades of advocacy, a proposed Federal constitutional amendment for victims now lies before the Congress. We have the opportunity—and the responsibility—to amend the United States Constitution to ensure that the rights of victims are honored in every court throughout our Nation.

This year, our observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week coincides with the anniversary of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. That tragedy brought home to an entire Nation the extraordinary suffering and grief that can be rendered by a single, senseless, criminal act. In remembering the many victims of this brutal crime, let us pledge to sustain our efforts to reduce violent crime, to provide comfort and support to its