

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor’s Note: The President was in Las Vegas, NV, on October 1, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, October 1, 1999

**Proclamation 7226—Gold Star
Mother's Day, 1999**

September 24, 1999

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

For generations, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces have answered our Nation's call to service. In the air, on the sea, and across the world's battlefields, they have fought with valor and determination so that we might continue to live in freedom. The blessings of liberty and peace we know today have been paid for with the lives of those who never returned home.

The Gold Star Mothers of America know the price of freedom all too well. They have experienced one of life's greatest joys in becoming a parent and have endured one of life's greatest sorrows in losing a son or daughter. The spirit of sacrifices made by our fallen warriors lives on in the hearts of our Gold Star Mothers.

Their sacrifice lives on as well in the work Gold Star Mothers perform in communities throughout our country, working with disabled veterans and their families, nurturing patriotism in a new generation of young Americans, reaching out to others who have lost a child in the service of our Nation, and ensuring that the contributions of their own sons and daughters are never forgotten. The generous and compassionate work of Gold Star Mothers is a powerful legacy of service that they carry on in loving memory of their children.

We have a profound obligation to honor the service and sacrifice of these remarkable women as we honor their children. That is why the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895), has designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day" and authorized

and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 26, 1999, as Gold Star Mother's Day. I call on all government officials to display the United States flag on government buildings on this day. I also urge the American people to display the flag to hold appropriate meetings in their homes, places of worship, or other suitable places as a public expression of the sympathy and the respect that our Nation holds for its Gold Star Mothers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 28, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 29. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Remarks at a Democratic National
Committee Dinner**

September 24, 1999

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, you can see I'm a little hoarse tonight. I lost my voice coming back from New Zealand; then I got it back today, and I'm losing it again. It's 10 o'clock on Friday night, and you've heard me give this speech before. [Laughter]

I'll never forget, once I went to hear Tina Turner, that great political philosopher—[Laughter]—in a concert, and she sang all of her new songs since she made her comeback, about 10 years ago. And then at the end she

started singing “Proud Mary,” which was her first hit 25 years ago. And everybody went nuts—25 years ago or 10 years ago—everybody went nuts. And they were clapping, and she walked up to the microphone and she said, “I’ve been singing this song for 25 years. And it gets better every time I sing it.” [Laughter]

So I won’t keep you long. But let me join the Vice President in thanking Bob and Arlene, Bob and Clarice for hosting this dinner. I always love to come back to this beautiful home; I’ve been coming here for years. I would never tire of it. I thank Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend for being here, for being our friend, and for being, I believe, by any measure, the finest Lieutenant Governor in the United States—for her ideas and her actions. [Applause] Thank you.

I thank Joe Andrew, Roy Romer, Beth Dozoretz, Andy Tobias, my good friend Mayor Archer, all the officials of the Democratic Party. And most of all, I thank you.

Now I want to give a brief but, maybe, unconventional speech here. I want to sort of unpack where we are, what the Vice President said, what Bob and Bob said—all the nice things they said about our record and all that—what it really means for where we are and where we’re going, because that’s what matters.

When I asked Al Gore to become my Vice Presidential partner, we put out a book called, “Putting People First.” And a lot of experts said we were crazy. They said, “This whole thing is crazy; these two guys are the same age”—I look 100 years older than him now. [Laughter] They said, “These two guys are the same age; they come from States that border each other; they more or less think alike; this is nuts. Why are they doing this?”

Then we put out this book. And as evidence of the sort of cynicism of the political process, people said, “Now this is really nuts. Here they put out this book; they’ve given all these specific commitments to the American people; and, you know how politics is, they’re not going to do any of this. Then this book will be used to beat them over the head with.”

You never hear about our book, do you? Do you know why? Because a respected

scholar of the Presidency says we have kept a higher percentage of our commitments than the last five administrations, even though we have given far more than any. Now why is that? And not because—is it because we’re more honest than they were? No. It’s because we thought through what we believed, and analyzed where we thought the country was; and said, okay, if this is true then, therefore, we have to do these things.

We’ve got to get rid of this deficit; we’ve got to expand America’s business; we’ve got to bring opportunity to people who don’t have it; we’ve got to invest in education. We had ideas. And we were following on 12 years of the Reagan/Bush era, which was premised on two great ideas. One was that the Government was the problem—you remember all those speeches—America’s in trouble because the Government is the problem—1980.

The second was the interesting proposition that we would balance the budget and grow the economy forever if we just cut taxes and increased spending. Shall I say it again? [Laughter] That’s what they thought. So we didn’t believe that. We just said, let’s go back to arithmetic and get America ready for the modern world. And it worked, and you’ve talked about that.

Now, in 1998—I want to talk about a little more arithmetic—we won seats in the Congress in the midterm elections for the first time since 1822, in the sixth year of a Presidency, because people like you gave us enough money to get our message across, even though we were outspent \$100 million. Doesn’t matter how much money they have, if you’ve got enough. [Laughter] Right? We had enough.

We need your help now. And what I want to say to you is, that’s all that matters now. We’ve got to have enough. Because when young people come up to me and say, “I’m interested in politics, Mr. President. What should I do, and how should I do it?” I always say, “Well, if you run, try to make sure that on election day, everyone who votes against you knows exactly what they’re doing.”

And if you think about it, that’s what democracy should be. If everybody knows what they’re doing, and you lose, you can’t gripe.

You are making sure, with your contributions, that when people vote, they'll know what they're doing.

The other thing I want to tell you is, you should be of good cheer. You should be optimistic. You should be confident. Why? Because we've got a good record. You just heard we've got good plans for the future. And because most Americans aren't thinking about this yet, and all the pundits that want you to believe it's all over are the same crowd that have buried me 9 or 10 times already. [Laughter] You should be of good cheer.

Normally, at a time like this, you would expect a reasonably close election, and I believe it will be reasonably close. And I believe we'll win. And that's what I really believe is going to happen, because we've got a good record, good ideas, and because right now, people think they want change. And what they need to understand is, we want change, too. I would vote against the Vice President if he said, "Vote for me, and I'll do everything that Bill Clinton would do." I would say, "I'm sorry, Al; I can't vote for you."

This country's still around here after 223 years because we keep changing. We're constantly reimagining ourselves and exploring new possibilities. That's why we're still here. So that's not the question. The question is not, are we going to be for change? The question is, what kind of change are we going to be for? And you need to go tell people that.

Are we going to build on what we have done, that's brought all these good things in America, and deal with the aging of America? Are we going to deal with the fact that in 30 years we'll have twice as many people over 65, when all the baby boomers retire—two people working for every one person drawing Social Security—and use this period to fix Social Security and Medicare?

Are we going to deal with the global economy and what it means for us, and not squander this money until we pay down the debt? We could have this country debt-free in 15 years for the first time since 1835 and leave all the borrowing for the private sector. Lower interest rates, more jobs, higher incomes, lower car payments, home mortgage payments, college payments—we could do that.

The Democrats are supposed to be the liberal, progressive party. Why should they be for a debt-free America? Because average people are better off if the interest rates are lower, and inflation's lower, and growth is higher.

He's got ideas that would make this the safest big country in the world. It's really important. I'm proud, you know—I'm on my way out, so I tell everybody we've got the lowest crime rate in 26 years. And that's good; it makes me sound good. But the truth is, about all we have done is to restore this country to basic sanity. The country is still too violent. There's still too many crazy people out there with guns killing innocent people, walking into churches, and doing all this stuff that's going on.

We've got a plan to put more police where they ought to be, take reasonable measures to keep guns out of the wrong hands. They'll turn our crime policy back over to the NRA. And it'll get worse. That's just one example.

So the issue is not—and you need to talk to people about this—the issue is not, are we going to change? The issue is, what kind of change are we for?

I'm really proud that we thought ideas were important and that we worked to implement them. The Vice President's votes will become famous as the election wears on, and everybody will know that, as he points out, every time he votes, we win. And he voted and we won the economic plan. And he voted and we won in the Senate the right to close the loophole in the Brady bill affecting the gun shows.

But he also ran our technology policy, that led to the Telecommunications Act, which has produced already over 300,000 high-wage jobs. He managed our empowerment zone and enterprise community program, which is—well, ask Mayor Archer about it. Ask Mayor Archer. Detroit—don't take my word for it; on the way out of here, before you go out, just go ask him. Detroit's unemployment rate today is one-half of what it was on the day we were elected in 1992. One-half. Part of it's their brilliant mayor, but part of it is the empowerment zone program.

Now, I say that to say ideas matter and making sure people know about them matter. And I want you to go out there and talk about

them. But I think our ideas are right. I think we ought to stay out of debt and pay this debt down. I think we ought to keep trying to improve the environment and grow the economy. I think we were right with the family and medical leave law; we ought to keep working to help people balance work and family.

I think we ought to keep trying to build a community and be for this "Employment Non-Discrimination Act" and be for the hate crimes legislation, because I think that when everybody who's law-abiding can work together, we do better in a global society, and people are happier, and life is more interesting. And that's what we're for. And you need to be in a good humor about this.

I thank you for giving this money. We can make sure that everybody who votes knows what they're doing. But you need to go out and repeat these arguments and be of good cheer.

Let me tell you one other thing. Except in Iowa, New Hampshire, and Washington, DC, most people aren't thinking about the Presidential election yet. In Conway, Arkansas, they're worried about the price of cattle.

But they will worry. Their minds and their hearts will kick in. And almost every time, the American people get it right. If we do our job, they'll get it right. That's why we're still around here.

So trust them. Stay with us. Consider it a privilege to give; we consider it a privilege to serve. We're going to give this country its best days in the 21st century.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Robert and Arlene Kogod and Bob and Clarice Smith; Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend of Maryland; Joseph J. Andrew, national chair, Roy Romer, former general chair, Beth Dozoretz, national finance chair; Andy Tobias, treasurer, and Mayor Dennis W. Archer of Detroit, general cochair, Democratic National Committee. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

September 25, 1999

Good morning. With only 5 days left in the current fiscal year, Congress still has a lot of work to do. For almost 7 years now, Vice President Gore and I have pursued a new economic strategy that focused on fiscal discipline, expanding trade in American products and services, and investing in our people and new technology.

The results are now clear. The past 6½ years have produced the longest peacetime expansion in history: more than 19 million new jobs; rising wages; the lowest unemployment, welfare, and crime rates in a generation; the highest levels of homeownership ever; a balanced budget; and the largest surplus ever. It has given the American people more money in their paychecks, lower interest rates for homes and cars, more help through efforts like the HOPE scholarship to open the doors of college to all. We're on a path of progress and prosperity. The American people want it to continue.

That's why 2 days ago I vetoed the Republicans' risky \$792 billion tax plan. It was just too big, too bloated; it would place too big a burden on our economy and run the risk of higher interest rates and lower growth. Also, it didn't add a day to the Social Security Trust Fund or a dollar to Medicare. And it would have forced cuts of nearly 50 percent in everything from education to health care to the environment to veterans programs to national security, even in air traffic safety.

It would have created an untenable choice for the Congress: these irresponsible cuts on the one hand; or on the other, diverting ever more funds from the Social Security surplus and from debt reduction. We said, all of us did just a few months ago, that we shouldn't spend the Social Security surplus anymore.

Today I say again to the congressional majority, we don't have to do that. I gave them a plan to expand the life of the Social Security Trust Fund 50 years, to extend Medicare over 25 years, and add prescription drug coverage, to invest in education and other priorities, to provide an affordable tax cut, and

still to pay down the debt and make us debt-free as a nation for the first time since 1835.

But the congressional majority continues on a track that doesn't adequately fund America's real priorities, while already spending large amounts of the Social Security surplus, instead of preserving it for debt reduction. A month ago their own Congressional Budget Office estimated they'd used \$16 to \$19 billion of the surplus for Social Security, and steps they've taken since then have only made it go higher. They have used what the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and others have called budget gimmicks to give the impression that they have simply created \$17 billion out of thin air.

At the same time, they're still not providing nearly enough for education and other vital priorities. In fact, the very same day I vetoed their budget-busting tax plan, they passed a bill out of committee that would seriously undermine our efforts to strengthen education. It would eliminate our effort to hire 100,000 quality teachers and reduce class size—something they themselves endorsed last year at election time. It would deny hundreds of thousands of young people access to after-school programs. It would eliminate our mentoring program, which is designed to get poor children into college. It doesn't improve or expand Head Start. It cuts the successful America Reads program, which now involves students from a thousand colleges going to tens of thousands of our young children to make sure then can read. It cuts our efforts to connect all our classrooms and schools to the Internet by the year 2000. And, again, there's not any funding for our plan to build or modernize 6,000 schools. All this at a time when we need to be doing more, not less, to prepare for the 21st century—for what is now the largest group of schoolchildren in our history.

There's a better way. The Republicans should work with us to create a budget that pays for itself with straightforward proposals like our tobacco policy. They should work with us to create a real Social Security lockbox that would devote the entire surplus to debt reduction from Social Security taxes and extend the life of Social Security until the middle of the next century—something their plan doesn't do.

Thursday I asked the Republicans to work with me on bipartisan Medicare proposal, to modernize Medicare and provide voluntary prescription drug benefits and keep it solvent until 2027. Following a meeting with my advisers, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Bill Roth, has agreed to engage in serious discussion on meaningful Medicare reform.

I'm reaching out to the Republicans to engage with us on Medicare. I want to do the same on education, on Social Security, on paying down our debt. We owe it to the American people to give it our best efforts. The results could make the 21st century America's best days.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:27 p.m. on September 24 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 24 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks on Departure for New Orleans, Louisiana, and an Exchange With Reporters

September 27, 1999

National Economy

The President. Good morning. In a few moments I will be leaving for Louisiana. But before I depart, I want to say a few words about the course we're charting for America's future.

Seven years ago, when I ran for President, it was a time of low growth, high interest rates, and high unemployment, a vicious cycle, driven by deepening deficits. Irresponsible policies had quadrupled our national debt and risked our future. Vice President Gore and I took office determined to change all that. We put in place a new strategy for the new economy, one founded on fiscal discipline, expanded trade, and investment in our people and modern technology.

The success of that strategy now is clearer than ever. By balancing the budget, we put in motion a virtuous cycle of budget surpluses, low interest rates, and low unemployment. For business, this makes it easier to

invest, to create jobs, wealth, and opportunity. And for working people, lower interest rates makes it easier to own a home, afford a car, send a child to college.

Today we received more good news that our strategy is working. According to the Office of Management and Budget, this year's budget surplus will be at least—I'm going to write this in; enjoy it—at least \$115 billion. This triple-digit surplus is larger than projected, larger than last year's, and larger, in fact, than any dollar surplus in the history of the United States. It is a landmark achievement for our economy. And when you consider where we were just 7 years ago, it's as great an American comeback as the Ryder Cup was yesterday. It is further proof that we're on the right road to prosperity.

Our Nation has come a long way in a short time. In 1992 the budget deficit was \$290 billion, projected to rise above \$400 billion this year. Instead, as you can see, we have posted back-to-back surpluses for 2 years in a row and, believe it or not, that's the first time this has happened since 1957. Now, in 1957, well, that was the year John Lennon first met Paul McCartney, and the Braves won the World Series—not the Atlanta Braves, the Milwaukee Braves.

Our prosperity now gives us an unprecedented opportunity and an unprecedented responsibility to shape America's future by putting first things first, by moving forward with an economic strategy that is successful and sound, and by meeting America's long-term challenges. In that spirit, I have asked the Republicans in Congress not to throw in the towel, but to work with me and congressional Democrats to do the work the people elected us to do—to save Social Security with a lockbox that extends in solvency until 2050, to strengthen and modernize Medicare with a long-overdue prescription drug benefit, to invest in world-class education for our children, and to protect important priorities, from national security to the environment and agriculture, to medical research and modern technology, to investment incentives for rural and urban areas that have not yet been touched by our prosperity.

We can do all that and still have an affordable tax cut for the middle class and pay down our debt so that by 2015, we are debt-

free for the first time since 1835 when Andrew Jackson was President. I will work with members of both parties to fulfill these fundamental obligations to our people and to our future. I hope they will work with me.

Thank you very much.

Appropriations Legislation Veto

Q. Mr. President—

Q. Will you veto Republican spending bills if they exceed the caps?

The President. Well, I gave them a budget, of course, that did not break the caps, but it would require them to raise some revenues from tobacco. But the main thing that I would say is, I want them to work with me to meet our fundamental priorities. We can give the American people an honest, credible budget that extends the life of Social Security and Medicare, meets our responsibilities in education and other important areas, and leaves us free to pay down that debt and to put America on a target to be debt-free in the next 15 years. I hope they will work with me in that spirit.

We have to come together and work together to get anything done, and we can do that. I cite these examples over and over again, but the Welfare Reform Act in 1996, coming on top of the initiatives we had taken in the previous 3 years has now given us the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years. And the Balanced Budget Act completed the work of the economic package of 1993, and we now have this \$115 billion surplus. So the American people know we can do things together, and that's how we're going to have to do this.

Social Security

Q. Do you still plan to offer a plan to reform Social Security? The White House had promised more than a year ago that there would be one after the last election.

The President. We have met several times, as you probably know, at various levels with Members in the House, and we have tried to get close to an agreement on that. The reason I said what I said today is that if they would just agree to my plan on paying down the debt and then dedicating a few years of the interest savings by locking up the Social Security taxes, which would happen a few years in the future, but if they

would agree to do that, then that, alone, would extend the life of Social Security to 2050, which would take us out beyond the life expectancy of all but the most fortunate baby boomers. So I would hope that at least we could do that.

Obviously, I would like to do more, and we're still working on that. But at the minimum, we could do this.

Working With Congress

Q. Sir, there's every indication Republicans will not work with you. But in the meantime, where does the American taxpayer stand in this battle between your rock and their hard place?

The President. Oh, I think if the past is any measure, one way or the other, the taxpayers are going to be all right, because we can do pretty well by conflict, I suppose, and eventually drag this out to where we've at least got a decent education budget and we're still paying down the debt. But they have to work with me if we're going to extend the life of Medicare and Social Security and do some of these other very important things.

I'm not pessimistic; we've still got plenty of time. I know it's almost the end of the fiscal year, but they know how to extend that; they've done that several times by passing a continuing resolution, and there's still plenty of time to do this, and I hope they'll do it with me.

Indonesia-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, will our relations with Indonesia remain the same while they're torturing the villages?

The President. Will their what?

Q. Will relations with Indonesia remain the same as the villages are being tortured—torched, torched, sorry.

The President. They've already been somewhat altered, as you know, by the cessation of military cooperation, and obviously, our relationships with them will have to be dictated by the course of their conduct. As you know, they have a somewhat unusual system where they have elections. They had elections several weeks ago, but they still haven't settled on who the new leader of the country will be.

This is a time of great instability and uncertainty for them. We should stand against those actions which violate human rights and which are wrong, but we should also hope that both stability and humane policies will be returned to Indonesia as soon as possible. It is a very large country with 200 million people, the largest Muslim country in the world and capable, as we have seen periodically over the last few years, of enormous progress and capable of playing an important, positive role in the future of Asia, and that's what I hope and pray will happen. But it will require responsible leadership from Indonesia, as well as appropriate responses from the United States and others.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:11 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Beatles Paul McCartney and the late John Lennon.

Remarks at Sophie B. Wright Middle School in New Orleans, Louisiana

September 27, 1999

Thank you. Thank you so very much. My good friend Congressman Jefferson—I want to say more about him in a minute—and to his wonderful wife, Dr. Andrea Jefferson. Senator Landrieu, thank you for your friendship and support. Mayor Morial, you were very kind to talk about the role that we play in helping to lower the crime rate in New Orleans, but it never could have happened if we hadn't had a visionary mayor down here who made the most of the policies that were there.

Colonel Davis, thank you for taking on the challenge of educating the children of this parish. To Gail Glapion, thank you very much for what you said. And Scott Shea, thank you. And Brenda Mitchell, the leader of our teachers, and especially to our principal, Charlotte Matthew, thank you for leading this school and for making me feel so welcome here.

And I want to say a special word of thanks to all the people of Louisiana. As Congressman Jefferson said, in 1992 and 1996 you gave your electoral votes to Bill Clinton and

Al Gore, and we are profoundly grateful, and we've tried to be worthy of them.

I also want to thank the McDonogh High School Band. I want to thank them for being here. The rest of you are hot—they're in those band uniforms. I used to be in one, and I know how hot they are. And I want to thank them for being here.

One other thing I'd like to say about this school, I want to compliment this school on your school uniforms. I like them, and I'm glad so many schools in this parish have them. I've been trying to promote them all across America for years now, and I thank you for that.

You know, folks, I may have visited more schools than any President in history. I've certainly tried to. And I have never met a child that couldn't learn or a school that couldn't do better and be turned around. There is a student standing behind me, and I don't want to embarrass her, but I want her to raise her hand—named Nonya Grove, who scored at the 95th percentile on the science portion of the Iowa basic skills test. Good for you.

Let me tell you, too, I have been in schools in all kinds of places—I've been in schools—I went to a junior high school in Chicago in a neighborhood with the highest murder rate in the city, which was, therefore, the highest murder rate in the State. But there was no violence in the school; there were no weapons; there were no problems. Hundreds of parents came to the school every week, and there were no dropouts, and almost all the kids went on to college. Why? Because they had a good plan, and they worked it hard. And they believe that all kids could learn.

Now, the Federal Government does have an obligation to help you. And I want to thank Senator Landrieu and Congressman Jefferson and Senator Breaux and the others in your delegation and our party who have supported what we have tried to do to help the States, to help the States adopt higher academic standards in the Goals 2000 program, to help them crack down on drugs and gangs and violence. And last fall we fought to get a downpayment on 100,000 new highly trained teachers to lower those class sizes in

the early grades, as Congressman Jefferson wants to do.

Already 108 more teachers have been hired in this parish. And your parish got \$12 million under the E-rate program that the Vice President developed—have cut the cost of hooking up every classroom in America to the Internet by the year 2000.

Now, what we've done in education is a part of an overall strategy to bring America back. We balanced the Federal budget and have a surplus of \$115 billion this year.

When I took office, we were deep in debt 7 years ago, and we had high unemployment rates, high welfare rates, and high crime rates. We were committed to economic reform, welfare reform, reform of the criminal justice system, and education reform. Now we've got the longest peacetime expansion in history, over 19 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment rate in 29 years, the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years, the lowest crime rate in 26 years, the first time we've had two budget surpluses in a row in 42 years, when I was young enough to be in this school.

The question is, what are we going to do with our prosperity? You know we've got a lot of challenges out there. And you know as well as I do that the modern economy requires more education from all people. We've got the largest student population in the history of our country, and we will never do what America ought to do until every child in America can live up to his or her God-given potential.

Last week the congressional majority in the other party in the House unveiled an education budget that was \$3 billion below what I asked for—no money to finish hiring the 100,000 teachers; no money to help modernize or build 6,000 schools—I know you need that now. We need—it can be hot out here, but every school ought to be air-conditioned in Louisiana, and I know they're not. It would deny access to hundreds of thousands of children to after-school programs, so important to improving learning and keeping that juvenile crime rate down—keep kids in school, off the street, and out of trouble—that's very important—and many other programs.

Now, Congressman Jefferson had it right. We have to demand more of our schools and

invest more in them. Our balanced budget calls for spending \$200 million to help schools turn around if they're not performing well or shut them down and let parents choose other public schools if they don't turn around. But it is wrong to blame the kid, and it's wrong not to give the schools a chance. And we know these schools can be turned around if they have the resources and a good plan and they work the plan.

We've got to do better in Washington, and that's my job. But I was, 12 years, Governor of your neighboring State of Arkansas. And I know—I know—how important education is. You know, as President, the future of our children is the most important thing of all. But I have to pursue it in many ways. I have to preserve the national security. I have to work on making sure that we have Social Security and Medicare in a solid way, so that when the baby boomers retire, it doesn't bankrupt our kids and their ability to raise our grandkids. But if you're the Governor, the most important thing you ever have to do is see to the education of our children.

Now, here's why I know Bill Jefferson cares about that. He was too modest to say this, but he was born very poor in a small town, and his parents and his teachers and his school helped him work his way all the way to Harvard University. Then he married a wonderful woman who is even smarter than he is. *[Laughter]* And they have had five magnificent daughters who have all had brilliant academic careers, four of them already gone through Harvard. Why? Because they had a good plan. They believed in education. They had parents and teachers and schools and students, and they worked at it steadily.

So, no matter what I do as your President, you still need in Louisiana a Governor you know will fight for more teachers, for better teacher training, for better pay, for smaller classes, and for modern school buildings, for high standards and strong support.

I can tell you, he's fought with me every step of the way in Washington. When we had to vote in 1993 to bring down the deficit and increase spending in education, and I said we had to balance the budget, but we weren't going to cut education. We were going to do more, all the members of the other party were against me. The bill carried by one vote.

To a major extent, the economic prosperity America enjoys today belongs to one vote, and it carried in one vote. If Bill Jefferson hadn't been in Congress and voted the right way, we might not be standing here today.

So let me say, I don't want him to leave, especially while I'm still in Washington. *[Laughter]* But he really can do even more good in Baton Rouge. And remember, twice he was voted the Outstanding State Legislator in the Louisiana Legislature. He's fought for you in Washington; he'll fight for you and our children's education in Baton Rouge. And I am honored to be here with him today at this wonderful school.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in the courtyard. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Marc H. Morial of New Orleans; Col. A.G. Davis, USMC, (Ret.), New Orleans superintendent of schools; Gail M. Glapion, president, and Scott P. Shea, vice president, New Orleans Parish School Board; Brenda Mitchell, president, United Teachers of New Orleans, and Representative Jefferson's daughters: Jamila, Jalila, Jelani, Nailah, and Akilah.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Representative William J. Jefferson in New Orleans

September 27, 1999

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, I've had a wonderful day here. I don't think I've ever had a bad day in New Orleans. *[Laughter]* And I'm honored to be here with Bill and Andrea, with Vic and Fran Bussie. And Vic, you've done a lot of great things in your life, but you haven't given many better talks. That was very, very good.

I'm honored to be here with your bright young mayor, who has established such a fine record and has recently joined the ranks of the happily married. *[Laughter]* We're proud of him for that, too.

Let me say to all of you—I was just sitting here listening to what everybody else was saying, wondering if I could offer any unique perspective. I first came to New Orleans 50 years ago—I hate that. *[Laughter]* I was just a little boy. My mother was in nursing school here. And one of the most vivid memories

of my lifetime was seeing my mother kneel by the side of the railroad tracks and cry when I went home with my grandmother, because she had been widowed early, before my father—before I was born. My father died 3 months before I was born. And she came down here to get some education so she could support me.

I came back here when I was 15 and a budding musician. [*Laughter*] And they wouldn't let me in anyplace to hear anybody—[*laughter*]—because I was so young. And I saw—I never will forget this—I was walking away from my mother and I saw Al Hirt sitting there in some big English limousine, reading a newspaper, and he was going to go in and perform. I knocked on his window, told him who I was, and said I had come all the way down here from Hot Springs, Arkansas, and all I cared about was music. I didn't want to drink anything; I didn't want to gamble; I didn't want anything; I just wanted to go hear him play. He took me in and put me on the front table. It's funny what you remember, isn't it?

I've never forgotten that, and that sort of embodies the generosity that the people of this city and this State have exhibited to me throughout my life. And you did give Al Gore and me, Hillary and Tipper, and our administration the electoral votes of the people of Louisiana twice, and I'm profoundly grateful for that.

I want to say three or four things I think you ought to think about in this election. When I became President, I ran a long, hard campaign. I was written off for dead three or four times along the way—and three or four dozen times since. [*Laughter*] But Bill Jefferson was one of my first supporters. I remember the first time I came here, when the Jeffersons had me in their home. I met their beautiful, brilliant daughters, and their family members—many of whom are here today. The Congressman's father is here, mother-in-law is here, many others here.

And we went through that campaign, and I found that, to a remarkable degree, we shared the same philosophy. We were proud members of the Democratic Party, but we didn't like the fact that our party had been a part of the leadership of 12 years of Republican Presidents when we had the majority

in the Congress, and together they quadrupled the debt of the country; and that we were in a terrible recession. Interest rates were high. Unemployment was high. Wages had been stagnant for more than a decade. We didn't like the fact that people thought because we believed in the United States Constitution and we were against racial discrimination, that somehow we were soft on crime or we thought able-bodied people shouldn't work instead of being on welfare.

We thought that the Democratic Party, and African-Americans in general, had been twisted and distorted and used as political whipping boys in campaigns. And we thought Washington was divided by gridlock, and we wanted a change.

So I said, give me a chance to change America, to change the direction of the country, change our party, to change our leadership in Washington. I have a simple philosophy: I want America in the 21st century to be a place where every person, without regard to race, creed, gender, or anything else, has a chance to live up to his or her God-given potential. I want America to be a place where we're all coming together, not being driven apart. And I want America to be the world's strongest force for peace and freedom and justice and prosperity.

And my strategy for getting there is to do everything I know how to do to give opportunity for all, demand responsibility from all Americans, and create a community of all Americans. That's what we said we'd do.

Now, in 1992, it was an argument. And the people decided to give me a chance, even though I was, in the rather disparaging characterization of the incumbent President, just a Governor from a small Southern State. [*Laughter*] The people decided to give me a chance. They bought our side of the argument.

By 1996, there was no argument anymore because the results were beginning to pour in. And now, in 1999, I can look back and say with gratitude and thanks and humility that it has worked out. The results speak for themselves. We have the longest peacetime expansion in history; 19.4 million jobs; the lowest unemployment rate in 29 years; the lowest welfare rate in 32 years; the lowest crime rate in 26 years. Today I announced

that this year's surplus will be \$115 billion, the first time in 42 years we've had a surplus 2 years in a row.

And I say that to make this point—and along the way, by the way, with the HOPE scholarship and other financial incentives, we've opened the doors of college to virtually every American. The air is cleaner; the water is cleaner; the food is safer; 90 percent of our kids are immunized against serious childhood diseases for the first time; 100,000 young Americans have served in AmeriCorps, in their communities all over this country, including this one, and earned some money for college. And we've been a force for peace and freedom throughout the world. And I'm proud of that.

What's that got to do with this? Well, I'll just give you a few examples. And what's that got to do with the Governor's race, even if it has something to do with our record? And I'll give you a few examples of that.

Number one, all this started with one vote in August of 1993. The economy started getting better after the election, as soon as I announced my economic plan. But it did not get voted on in Congress until August, because it was fairly controversial. I had cut hundreds of programs but dramatically increased education. And I asked the wealthiest Americans to pay more taxes, and cut taxes on 15 million Americans who were working for modest wages, lower wages, with children in their home.

And there was a lot of controversy, and the Republican Party in Congress decided that they would vote against this to the person, that they would not give me one vote, and that they would tell everybody it was a just a tax increase, even though they knew only a tiny fraction of Americans were going to have one.

Now, that bill passed by one vote in the United States Senate—Al Gore's vote. And it passed by one vote in the United States House of Representatives. If Bill Jefferson hadn't voted for that, it wouldn't have happened, the recovery probably wouldn't have occurred, and none of us would probably be standing here today doing this. So I am grateful to Bill Jefferson.

I'm grateful to him for supporting our agenda to reach out to other countries—to

Latin America, to Africa—to expand trade of American products, to build up the Port of New Orleans, to bring us closer to other people in other countries. I'm grateful to Bill Jefferson for supporting the anticrime agenda that Mayor Morial talks about all the time: get guns out of the wrong hands; put more community police on the street; give our kids something good to do.

And I'm grateful to Bill Jefferson for supporting my education agenda every step of the way, including our plan to hire 100,000 more teachers to get class size down in the early grades—something he's running on; our plan to build or modernize 6,000 schools, which would include his commitment to air-condition the schools that don't have it. Our plan to triple the number of our young people who are eligible for after-school programs; set high standards for failing schools, and if they don't turn around, let the parents go to another public school with their kid, but help the schools turn around.

We can do that. I've seen that all over America. I'm telling you, I've been in the schools in the worst neighborhoods you can imagine in terms of adversity, and I've seen children learning at a high level because of what was done in the school.

So, yes, I'm grateful to Bill Jefferson. And a lot of what we enjoy today came as a direct result of policies he supported that he played a critical role in bringing to bear.

The second point I'd like to make to you is that I believe I'm the only person in this room who has actually been a Governor. I know something about this. *[Laughter]* And I did it quite a long time. I served 12 years. I served for 12 years and would have served for 14 if the people hadn't elected me President. *[Laughter]* And I'm telling you, I loved every day of it. It is a wonderful job—if you love people and if you care about good schools, good jobs, and creating strong, healthy, vibrant communities.

We have done more in the education area probably than any administration, certainly since the Johnson administration. But most of the money for schools and most of the direction for schools, by State constitutional law, comes from the State—in every State in America. So it is very important.

You know, education is very important to me, personally, and to Hillary and to all of our administration. But the President has to protect the American people in many ways—the national security has to come first, and then you have to deal with a whole range of other issues. But a Governor has no more important job, none, than education.

And a Governor also has to be able to get people together to really get things done. What you want in a Governor is somebody who is smart, committed, with a good heart, who is passionate about what he or she believes but is not particularly partisan. And I can tell you, Bill and I—we all came out of State Government; he and I both did. We're both, frankly, mortified by how partisan that crowd is in Washington. [*Laughter*] I mean, I always tell him there's plenty of things for us to argue about in the next election, but the people give us a paycheck every 2 weeks to show up for work in the meanwhile. And we're not supposed to fight about everything; we're supposed to work out things and get things done. That's the sort of person he is.

And he has a lot of friends in the Congress who are Republicans because they know that he has not responded in kind to the harsh partisanship of their leaders and that he is still willing to work with people of good will to get things done. You cannot be a good Governor unless you are both open to people in both parties but absolutely aggressive in what you believe and what you want to achieve. You need both an agenda and an ability to bring people together. He can do that. And I did this for 12 years; I'm telling you, this is important, and he can do it superbly well.

The other thing that has not been mentioned—Vic talked about his service in the legislature—he was twice voted, twice, the best member of the Louisiana Legislature. So he knows about this job.

The last thing I'll say is this, and I think it's important. I want to thank Anne and Stan and Chris Rice for having us in this magnificent facility. But this facility used to be an orphanage, and I got to thinking—Hillary and I had a very moving event at the White House this week to celebrate our attempts to move people—kids—from foster care into adoption, and all the work we've done over

the last 7 years—one thing we have done, by the way, on a bipartisan basis—to speed up adoptions. And I got down here today, and when I was over at the school, a woman stopped me and said, “Mr. President, thank you for helping to fix the adoption laws. I just adopted two children.” So we've worked on this.

Now, I want to say that I want you to think about this as a place where children once lived who had no family. This man knows what it's like to have a difficult time. He knows what it's like to have the support of a good family. He knows what it's like to build a good family, and he and his wife have five magnificent daughters who have done superbly well because they have good parents and a good home.

In the end, having now served 12 years as a Governor and 7 years as President, I can tell you, a lot of times you have to make decisions that nobody is smart enough to make. A lot of times decisions come to me that, no matter how smart I think I am, I cannot think my way through. And all you can do is pray to God to give you the wisdom to do it, and listen to your heart, not your head.

So the last thing I'll say is, remember everything—the man has proven he's had the courage to take a tough decision. He cast a decisive vote on the most important bill that brought us the prosperity we enjoy today. He has wide experience in State Government. He has the capacity to get people together. He clearly has the right agenda. There is no more important agenda for Louisiana's future than getting the education up to world-class levels.

But when it's all said and done, what really counts is, do you have a good heart. Keep in mind, 50 years later I still remember my mother loved me enough to kneel down on those railroad tracks and cry when I had to go away. When it's all said and done, you don't remember first and foremost in the last moments of your life the honors you had, the riches you had; you remember who you liked and who you loved, how it felt when the seasons changed, and what it felt like to be really, really important, to matter in the

lives of other people. The people of Louisiana will matter to Bill Jefferson if he is the Governor.

I agree with what has been said. You should only vote for him if you think he'd be the best Governor. But if you think he'd be the best Governor and you let him be defeated, it would be a terrible thing, because the children here, the children of this State deserve the very best person they can get in experience, in mind, and in heart.

Thank you. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the Green Velvet Ballroom at St. Elizabeth's Orphanage. In his remarks, he referred to luncheon hosts Anne and Stan Rice and their son, Christopher; Representative Jefferson's father, Mose, mother-in-law, Bernice Green, wife, Andrea, and their daughters Jamila, Jalili, Jelani, Nailah, and Akilah; Victor Bussie, president emeritus, Louisiana AFL-CIO, and his wife, Fran; and Mayor Marc H. Morial of New Orleans.

Statement on Action Against Global Climate Change

September 27, 1999

I commend the hundreds of mayors and other local officials across the country who today are committing themselves to the fight against global climate change. The communities they represent understand that the threat of global warming is real. They also understand that we can begin to address this threat through actions that both help our environment and save money for taxpayers, consumers, and businesses. Today's pledge will help encourage other communities across American to do their part to meet this global challenge.

Regrettably, even as ordinary citizens, local leaders, and a growing number of leading corporations are taking action, many in Congress are ignoring the mounting evidence of global warming and thwarting commonsense efforts to address it. I urge Congress to fully fund my proposed package of investments to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies for the 21st century—including the proposed Clean Air Partnership Fund, which will provide grants to State and local governments for projects that reduce both greenhouse gases and pollutants

like soot, smog, and air toxics. Finally, I call on Congress to withdraw all appropriations "riders" aimed at strangling programs that save energy, save consumers and businesses money, and reduce global warming pollution.

I look forward to working with local leaders to meet this pressing environmental challenge, and I applaud their leadership and dedication.

Statement on the Death of Oseola McCarty

September 27, 1999

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the passing of Oseola McCarty of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Ms. McCarty is a true American hero. In 1995 she donated \$150,000 to the University of Southern Mississippi for scholarships for needy students. The extraordinary thing about this gift was that Ms. McCarty accumulated the money from working 75 years washing and ironing people's clothes.

I had the pleasure of awarding this extraordinary woman the Presidential Citizens' Medal for her extraordinary act of generosity. While we mourn her passing, Oseola McCarty's commitment to the dignity of work, her belief in the power of education, and her extraordinary generosity ensure that her memory will live on for generations to come. Our country needs more people like her, who don't just talk about responsibility and community but who live those values everyday.

Statement on Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States

September 27, 1999

Today I directed the Attorney General and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to defer for one year from September 29 the deportation of certain Liberians who are present in the United States on that date. This action is aimed at promoting stability in Liberia and west Africa. In particular, I am concerned that a decision by our Government to deport Liberians who have enjoyed the protection of our country for many years

could cause governments in west Africa to deport many thousands of Liberians in their own countries. This would severely burden Liberia and threaten the fragile peace that has been recently achieved in west Africa. Furthermore, this action preserves the status quo for these Liberians while the Congress actively considers legislative relief for them.

**Memorandum on Measures
Regarding Certain Liberians
in the United States**

September 27, 1999

Memorandum for the Attorney General

*Subject: Measures Regarding Certain
Liberians in the United States*

Over the past 10 years, many Liberians have been forced to flee their country due to civil war and widespread violence. From 1991 through 1999, we have provided Liberians in the United States with Temporary Protected Status because of these difficulties. Although the civil war in Liberia ended in 1996 and conditions have improved such that a further extension of Temporary Protected Status is no longer warranted, the political and economic situation continues to be fragile. There are compelling foreign policy reasons not to deport these Liberians at this time, including the significant risk that such a decision would cause other countries in West Africa to repatriate involuntarily many thousands of Liberian refugees, leading to instability in Liberia and potentially threatening peace along the Liberian border.

Pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States, I have determined that it is in the foreign policy interest of the United States to defer for 1 year the deportation of any Liberian national who is present in the United States as of September 29, 1999, except for the categories of individuals listed below.

Accordingly, I now direct you to take the necessary steps to implement for these Liberians:

1. deferral of enforced departure from the United States for 1 year from September 29, 1999; and

2. authorization for employment for 1 year from September 29, 1999.

This directive shall not apply to any Liberian national: (1) who is ineligible for Temporary Protected Status for the reasons provided in section 244(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; (2) whose removal you determine is in the interest of the United States; (3) whose presence or activities in the United States the Secretary of State has reasonable grounds to believe would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States; (4) who voluntarily returned or returns to Liberia or his or her country of last habitual residence outside the United States; (5) who was deported, excluded, or removed prior to the date of this memorandum; or (6) who is subject to extradition.

These measures shall be taken as of the date of this memorandum.

William J. Clinton

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With
Respect to Angola (UNITA)**

September 27, 1999

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) that was declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 27, 1999.

**Remarks at a Dinner for
Representative William J.
Jefferson in New Orleans**

September 27, 1999

The President. Thank you very much. First of all, like everyone else, I want to thank

the Davises for having us in this magnificent home. And thank you for the tour through all the art and all the books and all the history of your life. It was fascinating. And I didn't steal any books or artwork. [Laughter] And I can't afford the discount price, either. [Laughter] But it's really wonderful, and we thank you for having us here.

Q. What about the golf—

The President. I'm getting there. [Laughter] I want to thank the mayor for making me so welcome in New Orleans and tell you that he has done a truly magnificent job. New Orleans has had one of the biggest drops in violent crime of any major city in America under his leadership. And I applaud him for that.

I would like to thank Sheriff Harry Lee, who is back there, for many things—being my friend for a long time. But you should know that he came with a group of people from Louisiana to the White House and stayed 2 days this week and provided good cajun cooking for the annual congressional picnic, with all the families there—and the annual press picnic. And while he is a strong supporter of mine, he did not taint the food of any of the Members of Congress of the other party—[laughter]—or any of the hostile press members. [Laughter] He was totally generous to everybody.

I want to thank the people who came from out of town here—Tommy Boggs, my good friend; and my friend Mack McLarty, the former Chief of Staff and Special Envoy to the Americas. We're all glad to be in New Orleans tonight, and we only wish we didn't have to go home.

And I thank Bill for running for Governor. I didn't thank him in the beginning because I didn't want him to leave the Congress. You know, whenever you run for an office like this and you run against an incumbent and times are good, you wonder and worry. But I have seen, myself, a marked movement in the polls and enough to justify your investment here tonight.

So I just want to make some substantive points that have nothing to do with politics. First of all—they have to do with policy more and people—and, incidentally, a political campaign.

First of all, my handicap on my home course is a 12. [Laughter] And that's what it is and that's what I play, even—[laughter]—unless I play a strange course from long tees, and sometimes I play to a 14. But otherwise, I normally play to a 12, and that's about what I shoot.

Secondly, I do most of my music in my music room. Hillary built me a music room on the third floor of the White House, in a little end room. And I have saxophones there from all over the world, from China, Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic, two magnificent horns from Germany, two from France, three from Japan, and goodness knows where else. Then I've got a bunch of American horns. And I play a 1935 Selmer, and I have a 1915 Buescher soprano saxophone. So I've been into this a long time, and that's where I play, because it's so far away I can't hurt anybody else's ears. [Laughter] So I don't take it on that plane with me when I go. And I do have one at Camp David. And if you have any other questions, I'll try to answer them. [Laughter]

But let me make some points very quickly—and I want you to know why I'm here tonight. Bill Jefferson started with me in 1991, when I was running for President—and nobody but my mother thought I could win—well, my wife did; no one else, those two. And we did it because we thought that the country couldn't go on the way it was, with this sort of gridlock in Washington where 12 years of the previous administrations had quadrupled the national debt, and they basically had reached an accommodation with Congress where every year we would embody President Reagan's idea that if you cut revenues and increased spending, you would balance the budget. It defied basic arithmetic; it didn't work in 1981, and it didn't work in 1991. And in between we quadrupled the national debt, and we got big, big increases in interest rates and high unemployment. The unemployment rate in Louisiana when I took office was about 7½ percent, I think, and it's 4.2 percent today.

So we said—we had been involved with this sort of new Democratic movement. And we thought the Democratic Party had to prove that you could be pro-business and pro-labor; that you could be for equality and

education and for high standards; that you could be for growing the economy and improving the environment; that you could be for respecting individuals and people of all different races and ethnic groups and religious groups, and still believe that what binds us together as Americans is more important than what divides us.

In other words, we felt that American politics had fallen into this sort of liberal/conservative, right/left, business/labor, environment/economy. Everything was one way or the other, and nobody was ever getting anything done, and the country was getting deeper in the ditch. And our social divisions were deepening.

And I know that the previous President, with whom I had a very cordial, personal relationship, vetoed the Brady bill to do background checks because the NRA wasn't for it and the Republicans had to be with them; and then vetoed the family and medical leave law because some people in the business community said, "Well, that's an anti-business measure"—even though, clearly, one of the biggest challenges that we have is to balance work and family.

So I really believed—and I had some of the same arguments with my friends in our party. If this whole business is about having to make choices between these two things, we're going to leave America the loser. And the evidence was pretty compelling in 1991—we had high unemployment, stagnant wages, terrible recession, and increasing social division. And so I asked Bill and a number of other people in Louisiana to help me run for President, when I was, in the words of my predecessor, just a Governor from a small Southern State. And the people gave us a chance. They gave Al Gore and me a chance. And they basically listened to our argument about putting people first, and they said, "We'll try it." But it was just an argument; they didn't know.

By 1996, we were reelected, and with a much bigger margin of victory in Louisiana—thank you very much—because it wasn't an argument anymore; it was an established fact. You didn't have to argue anymore; you knew whether this was working or not, and it was.

Now we're nearly 7 years into it, 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ years, and the facts make the case. We have almost

19 $\frac{1}{2}$ million new jobs, the longest peacetime expansion in history, the lowest unemployment rate in 29 years, the lowest welfare rates in 32 years, the lowest crime rates in 26 years. This year we announced that this year's budget surplus was going to be \$115 billion, and it's the first time in 42 years we've had 2 years of budget surpluses in a row.

Now, those are facts. And while the economy has been growing, I signed the family and medical leave law, and millions of people have taken advantage of it. Every year we've had a record number of new small businesses. I signed the Brady bill, and 400,000 people with criminal backgrounds or mental health histories haven't gotten handguns. And not a single hunter or sports person has been inconvenienced, but a lot of lives have been saved.

The air is cleaner; the water is cleaner; the food is safer. We've tripled the number of toxic waste dump cleanups. And the economy has grown, not been hurt, by strengthening our commitment to the environment. Ninety percent of our kids are immunized against serious childhood diseases. And the HOPE scholarship gives virtually a universal tax credit that opens the doors of college to anybody who will work hard enough to go.

This country is moving in the right direction, because of the ideas that we shared. And one of the reasons that I would go anywhere for him is that none of this would have happened, in my judgment, if we hadn't enacted the economic plan of 1993, which helped to cost us the Congress in '94 because people knew that it was controversial. We cut spending and raised taxes both, and everybody was mad and nobody felt the benefits yet. And it passed by one vote.

So if he hadn't been there to vote for it, or if he had said, "You know, I come from Louisiana; it's a conservative State," and he'd taken a dive, none of us would be here tonight, because I wouldn't have been reelected; the economy wouldn't be in good shape; and we'd all be singing another tune. But he was there because he knew it was the right thing to do. And he supported our crime package and all the other initiatives.

So I think his philosophy is right, and I know he's got the courage of his convictions. That's the first thing.

The second thing that I would like to say is that every election is about where you're going, not where you've been. I love to tell this story, but when I was Governor I used to go out to the State Fair every year and have Governor's day. And I'd just sit there in some little booth in one of the big pavilions. Anybody that wanted to come up could come up and say whatever they wanted. In 1990 I had been Governor for 10 years, and we had an election coming up. So this old boy in overalls, who was about 75 years old, comes up to me and he says, "Well," he said, "Bill, are you going to run for Governor again?" I said, "I don't know; if I do, will you vote for me?" He said, "Yeah, I guess so. I always have." And I said "Well, aren't you sick of me after all this time?" He said, "No, I'm not—but," he said, "nearly everybody else I know is." [Laughter] And I got kind of hurt, and I said, "Well, don't you think I've done a good job?" He said, "Sure, but you drew a paycheck every 2 weeks, didn't you? That's what we hired you to do." And it was a stunning insight.

So every election is not about yesterday; it's about tomorrow. Yesterday is important because it's evidence of what you'll do tomorrow.

So what are we going to do with all this prosperity? And what's still out there? And what does that got to do with this Governor's race? Number one, I believe with all my heart we need to use this time to deal with the long-term challenges of this country.

What are they? The aging of America. The baby boomers like me—I'm the oldest of the baby boomers—people between the ages of 35 and 53 are in the baby boom generation. We retire—we're much bigger than any other group our age except until these kids that are in school today. Thirty years from now there will be twice as many people over 65—twice as many—two people working for every one person drawing Social Security.

Now, with the surpluses, now is the time to deal with the challenge of Social Security and Medicare, to add a prescription drug coverage to the Medicare program—we'd never start Medicare without prescription drugs today—to lengthen the life of the Social Security Trust Fund until 2050, anyway, to get through the lifetimes of the baby boom

generation. That's what we've got to do. It's the first thing we ought to do.

The second thing we need to do is to recognize that not everybody has been a part of this economic recovery. And we need to keep working to get more investment to people and places that haven't had it yet, and to keep this expansion going.

So I want to do two things. Number one, I want to give the same tax incentives to investors to invest in America we give them to invest in the Caribbean or Latin America or Africa or any other place in the world. I like those incentives to invest overseas in poor countries, but we ought to give the same incentives to people to invest in poor neighborhoods, poor communities, the Mississippi Delta, the Indian reservations, the inner cities in the United States of America. That's very important. If we can't bring investment and jobs to these places now, we will never get around to doing it. This country has never had greater prosperity.

And the other thing that we have to do, in my judgment, is not to squander this surplus. We need to save enough of this surplus to lengthen the life of Social Security and Medicare and to pay down the debt. Do you realize that this country could be out of debt in 15 years for the first time since 1835, when Andrew Jackson was President? Just think about—here in New Orleans, you think about how long ago that is—a guy that got to be President because he won the Battle of New Orleans in 1814, a guy that got to be President because of a battle he won in 1814 was the last person to have this country out of debt.

But in a global economy, it's a good deal. Why should liberals be for a debt-free America? Because money moves around the world in a hurry. That's what happened to Asia. You remember a couple years ago when they all went belly up at once. And if a government is not borrowing money, that means you get to borrow money for lower cost, your interest rates are lower. Lower business rates means more jobs and higher incomes. Lower personal rates means lower house loans, lower car loans, lower college loans, lower credit card payments, a longer, more protracted, more prosperous future for America. That's

important. And all that could be done entirely by the Federal Government.

But the third big challenge cannot be. The third big challenge is doing right by the children of this country, and, specifically, giving them all world-class education. Do you believe all kids can learn? I do. Do you believe we need to challenge them to do better? I do. Do you believe we need to identify failing schools and require them to turn around and do better, or shut them down and let the kids go to other schools? I do.

I'm not for vouchers because we don't put enough money in the schools in the first place. So if you give vouchers, you take a relatively large amount of money away from the school budget for a relatively small number of people. That's why I'm not for it. But on the other hand, I think to just justify the status quo is wrong.

So I've offered the Congress a plan which would say you can have your Federal money for education, but if you want it, you've got to have a plan to hold schools accountable for the performance of their students, to turn around failing schools or shut them down, but we're not going to blame the kids for the failures of the system. We're going to give you some money to turn these schools around, and we're going to triple the money we give for after-school programs, which will help you keep the crime rate coming down. Won't it?

Now, this is where we come to the Governor's race. No matter what I do, under the American system and the constitution of every State, the primary responsibility for education is vested in the State. And most of the money for education is paid by taxpayers to the State or to the local government. Today, in a global economy, with modern technology, more education is critical. And yet, it is more difficult than ever in America because our student bodies are more and more diverse. I mean, today I saw people from at least four different ethnic groups in that little group of school children you had gathered up for me today—just looking at the faces of those kids.

Believe it or not, in the Alexandria school district, across the river from the White House, in Virginia, there are kids from 180 different racial and ethnic groups whose par-

ents speak a hundred different languages, in one school district.

Now, that means we have work to do. And there is no more important responsibility for the Governor. If I were a citizen of Louisiana, if I were back home just voting in Arkansas—I hate to ever be a single-issue voter, but I would be almost completely a single-issue voter in a Governor's race, based on the person I thought was most likely to do the most for the schools of my State, because if these kids don't have the education they need, nothing else the rest of us do will matter for their future. It is the most important thing.

Last point—I'm the only person here who has been a Governor, and I did it for 12 years, and I loved it every day. And I did not get tired of it. I didn't get bored with it. And when I left to go be President, I was having more fun being Governor before I started running for President than I had ever had in my whole life. It's a wonderful job.

And if you like it, if you like people, if you like to work hard, if you believe in good schools and good jobs, and if it thrills you to get things done for your State, it's a wonderful job. But to be really good at it, you need to be passionate about your convictions, and you need to have a real vision you'll fight for. But you can't be too partisan and mean-spirited. You've got to be someone who can get people together, work with all kinds of different people, and convince people that your vision is the right one. And when other people have a good idea, then do that, too.

That's the kind of person Bill is. That's why he was voted the "Best Legislator" in the State legislature two different times when he was a State legislator. And I can tell you as someone who has done this job for 12 years, he has the right temperament. He has plenty of sense. He has a magnificent wife to keep his head balanced and to help remind him that education is his first priority—[laughter]—and he has years and years and years of knowledge and skill in getting things done, including in the Congress, that money can't buy and that you can only get by living the way he has lived.

So I think what you ought to do is go out there and say, listen, to everybody—he hasn't asked anybody to vote for him because of

his race. All he has asked is that nobody votes against him because of his race. All he said is—he wants to treat everybody the same and give every child the chance to live up to his or her God-given capacities.

But I'm telling you, if you look at a man's life, his record, his personal skills, and what the State needs at this time, and how it fits with what we're doing to move America into the 21st century, I can hardly think of anybody who is as well qualified, remotely, as he would be to be the Governor not only of this State but any State. You're lucky to have him running, and I hope you'll keep helping him.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:50 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Arthur Q. and Mary Wineman Davis; Mayor Marc H. Morial of New Orleans; Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee; lobbyist Tommy Boggs; and Representative Jefferson's wife, Andrea.

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority Under the Immigration and Nationality Act

September 24, 1999

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Delegation of Authority Under Sections 212(f) and 215(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 212(f) and 215(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 1185(a)(1)), and in light of Proclamation 4865 of September 29, 1981, I hereby delegate to the Attorney General the authority to:

- (a) Maintain custody, at any location she deems appropriate, and conduct any screening she deems appropriate in her unreviewable discretion, of any undocumented person she has reason to believe is seeking to enter the United States and who is encountered in a vessel interdicted on the high seas through December 31, 2000; and

- (b) Undertake any other appropriate actions with respect to such aliens permitted by law.

With respect to the function delegated by this order, all actions taken after April 16, 1999, for or on behalf of the President that would have been valid if taken pursuant to this memorandum are ratified.

This memorandum is not intended to create, and should not be construed to create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, legally enforceable by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, officers, employees, or any other person, or to require any procedures to determine whether a person is a refugee.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 28.

Remarks at a Breakfast With Religious Leaders

September 28, 1999

Thank you very much and good morning. I, first of all, would like to thank you for the invocation and let you know that, as with many other Americans, we have been thinking about you and your people in your church.

Hillary and I welcome you here today. As you know, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore are normally here, but he is often otherwise occupied these days. [*Laughter*] And I hope you will forgive their absence. They really wanted to be here.

I would like to thank Secretary Shalala, Secretary Riley, Jack Lew for being here. I would also like to thank Barry McCaffrey, the Director of our Office of National Drug Control Policy. And to those of you who come nearly every year, welcome back. To those of you who are here for the first time, welcome. We are delighted that you are all here.

I have looked forward to this day every year for as long as I have been President and we have been doing this. All of you know that, if you've come to some of the others,

that each one of these days has been special. And, as in the 1990's, as America has grown more involved with the rest of the world and more diverse, because of our history of religious liberty and the way our Constitution has worked, more and more religious convictions and affiliations have flowered in our country. And you can look around this room today—see, it would be very unusual if you could have this kind of gathering in any other country in the world. And for that I am profoundly grateful.

Last year was one of the most difficult years in my life, and this occasion, because it has come to mean so much to me, was a very difficult one. For those of you who were part of that, I want to express my particular appreciation. I'd like to say a special word of thanks to my good friend Reverend Wogaman and to Gordon MacDonald—I think he is here back there—and to Tony Campolo, who is not here, who have kept their word to meet with me over the last year, both to help me and to hold me accountable. And I have kept my word to meet with them and to work with them.

I would like to say only this about that: I have been profoundly moved, as few people have, by the pure power of grace—unmerited forgiveness through grace—most of all to my wife and daughter, but to the people I work with, to the legions of American people, and to the God in whom I believe. And I am very grateful to all of you who have had any role in that, and I thank you.

I also want you to know that we are continuing our work. It is interesting and not always comfortable, but always rewarding. And I hope you will pray for us as we do.

What I would like to talk about today, following up on what Hillary said when she welcomed you here, is what we can do together to deal with the question of violence, particularly against our children. And I would like to talk about it first of all to say we've been trying to work out what the proper relationship is between religious individuals and religious groups, and government activity, since we got started as a country.

We've been working on this for a long time now. It probably will always be a work in progress. We don't want to discourage people

who are in public office from pursuing their own religious convictions and from stating them, but we must beware, as those of us who are Christians are warned, of practicing piety before others in order to be seen by them. We must be humble in this endeavor and work together.

We also must recognize that there will always be differences of opinion, honestly held and earnestly pursued, about what is the proper role for the government, what is the proper relationship between church and state, in the well-timed and well-used American phrase. But it seems to me that there is kind of an emerging consensus about the ways in which faith organizations and our government can work together, both at the national level and at the State and local levels, in a way that reinforce values that are universally held, and increase the leverage of the good things that the government is funding.

I could just mention one or two. Some of you are involved in faith-based organizations that have received funding for AmeriCorps slots. We now have thousands of young volunteers who have worked in AmeriCorps through various faith-based organizations rendering community service. I don't think that's a violation of the Constitution's establishment clause, and we sure have helped a lot of people out there. And I feel good about that.

Some of you have worked in organizations which have helped poor families move from welfare to work, in a way that reinforces not only the value of work but the value of family, which is even more important. And that's a continuing challenge for us, but I'm encouraged by the progress that has been made there.

Many of you have been involved with us in our efforts to advance the cause of religious freedom at home and around the world. I don't know if Bob Seiple is here today, but I'm very pleased about what we're doing in that, and I'm grateful for the work that you have—those of you who have helped us with that. And that continues to be a concern of mine in many places throughout the world, and I think it will continue to be something the United States will have to work and work and work on.

If you have followed—and I'm sure almost all of you have—the recent troubling events in East Timor, you know that there is a religious as well as an ethnic element to what is going on there and to the difficulties.

And finally, let me say that as we move toward the millennium, I have been very moved by the way many faith-based organizations have engaged and challenged those of us in public life to reawaken our responsibilities to poor people, both within and beyond our borders.

A couple of people on the way in today mentioned the global initiative to reduce dramatically the debt of the poorest nations in the world. And I was very pleased by the recent moves that the IMF and the World Bank have made in that direction. The United States has pushed very hard for it. It is an entirely appropriate thing to do. But I have to tell you, I don't want this to wind up being like our dues to the United Nations. Now that we have advocated this and gotten everybody else to agree to it, we have to pay our fair share. So I hope all of you will help us pass the legislation through Congress to do that.

There is also much, much more we need to do here at home, especially for our children. And I think one of the most wonderful experiences I've had as President was taking my so-called new markets tour around the country—to Appalachia, to the Mississippi Delta, to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, to many of our inner-city areas. And I intend to continue to do these for the remainder of my term, to highlight what we can do, what more we can do to try to get investment and opportunity and alleviate poverty among people who have not felt the warm glow of this economic prosperity of ours. And there are still altogether too many of them. *[Applause]* Thank you.

But today I want to just focus just for a few minutes, and then we'll have breakfast, and then we'll have a talk about it—but I wanted to ask you to think about this. And that's why I'm so grateful to our pastor, for his invocation, and for, after what he's been through, for coming here and sharing with us today.

All the rage in Washington today is we finally succeeded in getting, I think, the gen-

eral public interested in the so-called Y2K problem. You know, we live in a world that is dominated by computers, and now we're trying to make sure we're Y2K ready and everybody just has all these horrible scenarios of what might happen when the computers turn to 2000 and all the old computers revert back to 1900 and what might happen. We've been working on this steadily. The United States has worked very hard here, and we've worked very hard to help other countries throughout the world, and especially to avoid any disasters in military operations, in airline operations, things that could really have a profound impact on us.

But I think at this prayer breakfast today I would like to say that there is more to getting ready for Y2K than fixing the computers. And when this kind of seminal event occurs it gives us the opportunity to ask ourselves what it would take to be really ready for the year 2000.

I don't think it's good enough for us to enter the new century as the most prosperous and powerful country in the world, with the lowest unemployment rate in 29 years and the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years and the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years and the longest peacetime expansion ever. That's all very impressive, but I think it's worth noting, as I have on occasion before, that when Alexis de Tocqueville came here over 150 years ago and traveled around America and he noticed how profoundly religious our people were, even though we had no government religion—and in fact, government could not interfere with it—he thought we were the most religious people on Earth. And after he had done a good deal of his tour, de Tocqueville wrote a powerful sentence. He said, "America is great because America is good." Not rich, not powerful, certainly not perfect, but good.

And the question I think we ought to focus on today is, are we good enough? And if we wanted to be better, what's the most important place to start? I think this is especially important when it comes to children. There's too much trouble in too many of their lives. Even here, the trend lines all look good. You have teen pregnancy, divorce, drug abuse, poverty, all going down in America. That's

the good news. The bad news is that by comparative standards, all these problems are still far too rampant, and there are too many children with troubled lives.

We could spend all day talking about those things. But today I would like to ask you to focus on this problem of violence, which has dominated so many of our headlines in the last 2 years. Now, even here, you could say it's a mixed picture. It's true we have the lowest crime rate in 26 years, the lowest murder rate in 30 years. But it's also true that the crime rate in this country is way too high, much higher than virtually any place else.

It is true that we have seen over the last 2 years a rash of high-profile shootings, often with children as both the victims and the perpetrators. The mass killing of innocent people I think has been the most painful thing that Hillary and I and Al and Tipper Gore have had to deal with in the discharge of our public responsibilities—the bombing in Oklahoma City; the school violence at Littleton and so many other places; the dragging death of James Byrd in Jasper, Texas; the torture death of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming; the murder of Won-Joon Yoon outside his church in Bloomington, Indiana, on the Fourth of July, and the other killings in that spree by a deranged young man who had been a member of a so-called church of white supremacy. There were the office killings in Atlanta and the family killings associated with it; the shootings at the Jewish community center in Los Angeles; the killing of a Filipino postal worker in that spree; of course, the recent murderous rampage at Wedgewood Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Now, some of these crimes were motivated by hatred of the victims, because of their race, their religion, their homosexuality. I think we must do more to prosecute such crimes. I hope Congress will soon send me the hate crimes legislation. But some of these crimes do not fit into the category of hate crimes. The murderers were in the grip of some evil force or mental illness.

And, in addition to these high-profile crimes where children were involved, we should never forget a couple of other things. Thirteen children die in this country every day from gun violence. And because they die in ones and twos, in tough neighborhoods

and difficult streets, sometimes they're not the lead story; sometimes they're not any story on the evening news. But their numbers add up. And some of you minister to the families of those children.

Beyond that, children die with truly alarming frequency in this country from accidental gun deaths. Yesterday I was in New Orleans, and this whole big neighborhood was just almost groaning with grief over the death of a much-beloved 4-year-old child who shot himself to death playing with a loaded gun he found in his own home.

Now, can we say America is good enough if we still have the highest murder rate in the world and—listen to this—and the rate of accidental shooting deaths for children under 15 in the United States is 9 times higher than the rate for the other 25 industrialized nations in the world combined?

Now, if you go back to what de Tocqueville said, that America is great because America is good, and then you realize somehow we've managed to make the most of this incredibly complex, modern economy, it seems strange, if the murder rate is higher here and the accidental death rate is exponentially higher, why is that? Is that because we're not good, but we're evil? Is it because we're not smart, but we're stupid?

We kind of laugh uncomfortably, but it's worth thinking about. I say the answer to those questions is, of course not. Some people say, well, the reason this happens is we're just not tough enough on offenders, whether they commit crimes with guns or let kids get guns or don't take good enough care of their guns, that we just ought to punish people more. But the truth is we have longer sentences and we keep people in jail longer and we've got a higher percentage of our people behind bars than I think all the countries in the world but one.

So that's not a very good explanation. And I have concluded long since that the truth is we're in the fix we're in because we don't do enough to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children; because we don't do enough to lead our children away from violent paths into positive paths; and because we don't do enough to intervene in the lives of people who are disturbed, angry, unstable, and mentally ill before it's too late.

In all of these areas, I believe that people of faith could do more to help those of us in public life, to give our children back their childhoods. And I will be very brief about that, and we'll have breakfast and we'll go on with our discussions. I say that because to those who say, well, this is about evil, of course, that's right; but most of you believe that evil is a darkness within us all that just metastasizes and explodes in a few. If America is to be good, at least according to my faith, we must do more to prevent and overcome evil with good.

And so it's not enough to say that shootings in Los Angeles and Atlanta were evil, or the rampage in Fort Worth was evil. Praying and working for peace is good. Starting grassroots campaigns against youth violence, as we're now trying to do all across the Nation—that's good. Putting more uniform community police officers in our most dangerous neighborhoods is good. These gun buy-back programs that are springing up across the country that we're trying to help finance here, they're good. And I believe passing commonsense gun legislation to keep guns out of the wrong hands is a good thing to do.

I am convinced that the faith community can play a major role in protecting our children from violence, in supporting commonsense gun legislation, in participating in our campaign against youth violence, in forming community partnerships to identify and intervene in the lives of people before it is too late.

On this last point, I had a very good talk with the pastor of the Wedgewood Baptist Church just a few days ago. You know, so many of your places of worship and your organizations have good counseling and outreach programs. But they're not necessarily connected to the mental health networks and the social service networks and the law enforcement networks in your community. And I'm convinced a lot of these people are known to be profoundly disturbed by others well before they go out and kill people. And somehow—and also a lot of these people—especially this is true of men, I think—are still really hung up about asking for help. I know about that. That's a hard thing for men to do. I know about that.

And I think there are a lot of people who would maybe be less reluctant to ask for help from someone like you than to show up at the social service office of the government, or walk right through the front door of a psychiatrist's or a psychologist's office. And we need to think about this. There is no big magic national solution for this, but I have examined this.

There are many of you here from New York City. There was a profoundly disturbing article on the cover of the New York Times Sunday magazine a few months ago about the breakdown of the mental health network. It was talking about New York, but it could have been a story about any State in America. It just happened to be about New York. And I think that this is something we need to give serious attention to and something I think we could get strong bipartisan support in Congress to work with you on.

The other day I was talking to Mrs. Gore about this. You all know how interested she is. And I had Senator Domenici from New Mexico in the White House on a totally other, different issue, and I talked to him about it. And I said, you know, we've got to do something about this. And he looked at me and said, "You know, a lot of these people are mentally ill, but we're not reaching them in time, and people know that they're troubled before these things happen."

So I ask you to think about this. I think that we have to do more. We've got to do everything we can and much more than we have to protect our children and to give them back their childhoods. If you think about it, we can hardly do more to make America's spirit Y2K ready.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Rev. Byungchill Hahn, pastor, Korean United Methodist Church, Bloomington, IN, whose parishioner, Won-Joon Yoon, was murdered near the church on July 4; spiritual counselors Rev. J. Philip Wogaman, Rev. Gordon MacDonald, and Rev. Tony Campolo; Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Robert A. Seiple; and Rev. Albert R. Meredith, senior pastor, Wedgewood Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit of Turkey and an Exchange With Reporters

September 28, 1999

The President. Let me say it's a great pleasure and an honor for me to welcome the Prime Minister here to the White House. I would like to begin by expressing my deep appreciation to Turkey for the outstanding leadership exhibited during the crisis in Kosovo and the role Turkey played working with our NATO Allies there.

But we have much to discuss today, including the progress in dealing with the aftermath of the earthquake; the improving relationships between Turkey and Greece and the European Union; questions involving Cyprus, human rights, economic reform, many other things. But this meeting is occurring in an atmosphere of hope and a positive atmosphere that recognizes not only our long-time strategic partnership with Turkey but recent developments and this Prime Minister's leadership. And I appreciate it very much.

Oil Pipeline in Turkey

Q. —on the pipeline issue. Are you planning to help Turkey about that?

The President. Well, you know, we feel very strongly about the pipeline. We've made that very clear and unambiguous, and we will continue to support it.

Q. Are you going to give more aid?

The President. You had a question?

Cyprus

Q. Yes, Mr. President. What would you like to see from Turkey to see some progress in Cyprus? Do you need to see some movement from the Turkish side?

The President. Well, what we've been working for all along is the resumption of U.N.-sponsored talks without preconditions. And we hope that somehow we can find a way to get there.

Q. How about more aid?

Turkey and the European Union

Q. Mr. President, Washington watches very closely Turkey's relations with the EU,

and from your perspective, what are the major obstacles barring Turkey from having better ties and full membership?

The President. Well, first of all, I believe that there has been some progress. There's been the change in attitude in some of the European capitals about Turkey's integration into EU. I think that the actions that have been taken to improve relations with Greece have helped. I think some of the actions on human rights have helped. And I think more movement in those directions will eventually get the results that Turkey wants.

You know, the United States—from the first day I got here as President, almost 7 years ago, I have strongly supported Turkey's integration into Europe—into the economic structures of the European Union as well as, obviously, in NATO and other networks. I think it's very, very important to the future of the world, particularly the critical part of the world that you occupy. But we have to make some progress on these other issues. And I think we're moving in the right direction.

Kosovo

Q. Mr. President, if the Kosovars opt for independence, will that be a betrayal of our reason for going in there? And are we supporting independence?

The President. Well, we have supported for Kosovar, and we continue to support—for Kosovo, excuse me—autonomy, which is not protected autonomy because of the conduct of the Serbs and the government of Mr. Milosevic. And that continues to be our position. We need to do our best to implement the agreements that we have made within the policy framework that both NATO and the United Nations have approved. And we intend to do that.

Press Secretary Joe Lockhart. Thank you very much, everyone.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:55 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on James D. Wolfensohn's Decision To Serve a Second Term as President of the World Bank

September 28, 1999

I am very pleased that Jim Wolfensohn will serve a second term as World Bank president. During a precarious period for the world economy, Jim has shown a true passion for helping people who live in the poorest countries of the world weather the financial crisis and making sure they have a voice in decisions that affect them.

Jim's hands-on style has served the World Bank well. He has traveled to more than 100 countries to see for himself what is working and what needs to be done to create jobs, improve education, fight hunger, and attack diseases like AIDS. And he has shown an abiding commitment to reinventing the World Bank—to make sure that it is equipped to meet the challenges of globalization. In addition to improving governance and broadening participation, he has been working hard to improve transparency and clamp down on corruption.

His leadership, imagination, and deep moral commitment make him an outstanding choice for the World Bank as it enters the next century.

Statement on Education Appropriations Legislation

September 28, 1999

Today the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations committee passed a spending bill that fails to invest in key initiatives to raise student achievement. While its funding levels are better than those of the House version, the Senate bill still falls short of what we need to strengthen America's schools. It does not guarantee a single dollar for our efforts to hire quality teachers and reduce class size in the early grades. It cuts funding for education technology and underfunds such efforts as GEAR UP and after-school programs. And it does not provide funding to turn around failing schools.

To develop world-class schools, we need to invest more and demand more in return.

We need accountability from our schools—and from our Congress, too.

In addition, the reduction in funding for the social services block grant could severely undermine State and local efforts to provide child care, child welfare programs, and services for the disabled. By failing to fund the family caregiver initiative, the bill also withholds critical aid to families caring for elderly or ill relatives. The legislation also shortchanges public health priorities in preventive and mental health and underfunds programs that would give millions of Americans improved access to health care.

If this bill were to come to me in its current form, I would have to veto it. I believe, however, that we can avoid this course. I sent the Congress a budget for the programs covered by this bill that provided for essential investments in America's needs, and that was fully paid for. I look forward to working with Congress on a bipartisan basis to ensure that this bill strengthens public education and other important national priorities.

Statement on Returning Without Approval to the House of Representatives the "District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2000"

September 28, 1999

H.R. 2587, the "District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2000," approves local funding and provides for targeted Federal funding for the District of Columbia that we all support. The bill includes essential funding for District Courts and Corrections and the DC Offender Supervision Agency and makes some progress towards providing requested funds for a new tuition assistance program for District of Columbia residents.

However, I have decided to veto this bill because Congress has added a number of unacceptable riders that prevent local residents from making their own decisions about local matters. Congress has interfered in local decisions in this bill in a way that it would not have done to any other local jurisdiction in the country. For example, this bill bars the District from spending its own funds to seek voting rights for the citizens of the District of Columbia. Congress should not impose

such conditions on the District of Columbia. And it is wrong for some in Congress to threaten to cut funding that would fight crime, expand educational opportunity by providing tuition assistance, and improve children's health simply because they are unwilling to let the people of the District of Columbia make local decisions about local matters, as they should under home rule.

Message to the House of Representatives Returning Without Approval the "District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2000"

September 28, 1999

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval, H.R. 2587, the "District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2000." Although the bill provides important funding for the District of Columbia, I am vetoing this bill because it includes a number of highly objectionable provisions that are unwarranted intrusions into local citizens' decisions about local matters.

I commend the Congress for developing a bill that includes requested funding for the District of Columbia. The bill includes essential funding for District Courts and Corrections and the D.C. Offender Supervision Agency and goes a long way toward providing requested funds for a new tuition assistance program for District of Columbia residents. I appreciate the additional funding included in the bill to promote the adoption of children in the District's foster care system, to support the Children's National Medical Center, to assist the Metropolitan Police Department in eliminating open-air drug trafficking in the District, and for drug testing and treatment, among other programs.

However, I am disappointed that the Congress has added to the bill a number of highly objectionable provisions that would interfere with local decisions about local matters. Were it not for these provisions, I would sign the bill into law. Many of the Members who voted for this legislation represent States and localities that do not impose similar restrictions on their own citizens. I urge the Congress to remove the following provisions ex-

pediciously to prevent the interruption of important funding for the District of Columbia:

- *Voting Representation.* H.R. 2587 would prohibit not only the use of Federal, but also District funds to provide assistance for petition drives or civil action that seek to obtain voting representation in the Congress for residents of the District of Columbia.
- *Limit on Access to Representation in Special Education Cases.* The bill would cap the award of plaintiffs' attorneys' fees in cases brought by parents of District schoolchildren against the District of Columbia Public Schools under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In the long run, this provision would likely limit the access of the District's poor families to quality legal representation, thus impairing their due process protections provided by the IDEA.
- *Abortion.* The bill would prohibit the use of not only Federal, but also District funds to pay for abortions except in those cases where the life of the mother is endangered or in situations involving rape or incest.
- *Domestic Partners Act.* The bill would prohibit the use of not only Federal, but also District funds to implement or enforce the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992.
- *Needle Exchange Programs.* The bill contains a ban that would seriously disrupt current AIDS/HIV prevention efforts by prohibiting the use of Federal and local funds for needle exchange programs. H.R. 2587 denies not only Federal, but also District funding to any public or private agency, including providers of HIV/AIDS-related services, in the District of Columbia that uses the public or private agency's own funds for needle exchange programs, undermining the principle of home rule in the District.
- *Controlled Substances.* The bill would prohibit the District from legislating with respect to certain controlled substances, in a manner that all States are free to do.

- *Restriction on City Council Salaries.* The bill would limit the amount of salary that can be paid to members of the District of Columbia Council.

I urge the Congress to send me a bill that maintains the important funding for the District provided in this bill and that eliminates these highly objectionable provisions as well as other provisions that undermine the ability of residents of the District of Columbia to make decisions about local matters.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 28, 1999.

Remarks on Presenting the Arts and Humanities Awards

September 29, 1999

The President. Thank you very much. Thank you so much, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome. I want to welcome all of our honorees here; Bill Ivey and all the people from the National Endowment for the Humanities; Bill Ferris and all the people from the National Endowment for the Arts; the people from Library and Museum Services; Members of Congress. I have seen Senator Wellstone and Congressman Houghton, Representative Morella and Nadler. There may be others here.

I want to thank the people of our shared homeland, the Irish band and the step dancers, for doing such a wonderful job today. I thought they were great. If George Mitchell doesn't get us over the final hump in the last steps of the Irish peace process, I may just send them back until everybody—[laughter]—is smiling so much they can't think of anything other than ending the conflict.

I'd also like to thank the wonderful strings from the Marine Corps for doing such a great job for us here today.

In one of his final speeches, President Kennedy said he looked forward to an America which rewards achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business; an America which commands respect throughout the world not only for its strength but for its civilization. Today we recognize an extraordinary group of Americans who have strengthened our civilization and whose

achievements have enriched our lives through the songs they sing, the stories they tell, the books they write, the art they shape, the gifts they share.

Eighteen women and men, one educational institution, all having defined in their own unique ways a part of who we are as a people and what we're about as a nation as we enter a new century in a new millennium.

First I present the National Medal of the Arts winners.

Irene Diamond, one of America's leading patrons of the arts, has dedicated her life to discovery. As an early Hollywood talent scout, she discovered Burt Lancaster and Robert Redford. For that alone, some people think she should get this award. [Laughter]

As one of the movie industry's first female story editors, she discovered the script that became "Casablanca." I believe when the film industry issued its list of 100 greatest films, "Casablanca" only ranked second, Irene, but some of us voted for it number one. [Laughter]

As the president of the Aaron Diamond Foundation, she helped fuel the path-breaking research that led to the discovery of protease inhibitors, which are now helping people with HIV lead longer and healthier lives. As a generous supporter of the arts, she has given more than \$70 million to help more Americans discover the magic of theater, dance, and song.

It has been said that discovery consists of seeing what everyone has seen and thinking what no one has thought. We are all far richer for the vision, the insight, and the discoveries of this most precious Diamond.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lt. Col. Carlton D. Everhart, USAF, Air Force Aide to the President, read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. The Reverend C.L. Franklin, then pastor of Detroit's New Bethel Baptist Church, was a powerfully emotional preacher. But one Sunday in 1954 it was the heavenly voice of a 12-year-old that brought the congregation to its feet. The voice belonged to his own daughter, Aretha, the woman now idolized throughout the world as the Queen of Soul.

No matter where she has traveled, she has never left behind the sound of those Sundays in church. You could hear it ranging over four full octaves when she sang Dr. King to heaven and in electrifying performances at our Inaugural celebrations. You can hear it in every one of her nearly 50 albums, and I am so grateful that she has allowed me to hear it time after time here at the White House.

Aretha's voice once was designated a natural resource of the State of Michigan. [Laughter] She will probably never know how many people whose lives she has enriched, whose hearts she has lifted, how many people she gave a spring in the step that would not have been there, and brought sunshine to a rainy day and tenderness to a hardened heart.

Today we honor her for all she has given with the magnificent talent God gave her. Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Michael Graves is a rare individual who finds equal wonder in things both large and small. As one of our century's most important designers and architects, he has said he gets as much pleasure planning a large building as he does designing a spatula. [Laughter]

So it's little wonder that Michael Graves' work can be found from our shopping malls to our National Mall, from an award-winning office building to a tea kettle, to the creative scaffolding around the Washington Monument—which, I might say, has enriched the lives of every person in Washington, DC—[laughter]—and made those often stuck in what is now America's most crowded traffic patterned city have their time pass a little better; Michael Graves has created art that surrounds our lives.

He calls himself a great practitioner, but in some ways his challenge is more daunting than that of a physician. As Frank Lloyd Wright once said, "After all, the doctor can bury his mistake,"—[laughter]—"but the architect can only advise his client to plant vines." [Laughter] The only thing that grows and covers Michael Graves' work is our admiration, appreciation, and respect.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. When it comes to training in the performing arts, the Juilliard School stands alone. Juilliard has cultivated the genius of artists of world renown. We hear it in the flawless voice of Leontyne Price, in the virtuoso violin of Itzhak Perlman, the narrative jazz of Wynton Marsalis, the uninhibited humor of Robin Williams.

But Juilliard does more than develop the skills of gifted artists. It instills in every student the obligation to share that talent with others through performances in hospitals, nursing homes, hundreds of free shows every year at the Lincoln Center.

In honoring the artist in society, Juilliard opens the doors of art to the world. We honor it today for all it has done and all it will do in taking the best and making them even better.

I'd like to ask Dr. Joe Polisi, the president of the Juilliard School, to come forward, and I'd like to ask the Colonel to read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Norman Lear has held up a mirror to American society and changed the way we look at it. From Archie Bunker's living room in Queens to Fred Sanford's junkyard in Watts, he has employed the power of humor in the service of human understanding. His departure from traditional, two-dimensional television characters was risky. It showed the enormous respect he has for the judgment, the sense, and the heart of the American people.

He gave us something real. He tackled issues head on. Archie Bunker, after all, was the best argument against his own bigotry. By laying it out unvarnished, Norman Lear took it apart and, in the process, made us laugh out loud. His commitment to promoting understanding and tolerance extends far beyond the screen. As founder of People For the American Way and the Business Enterprise Trust, he continues his work to deepen freedom, defend liberties, and reward social responsibility.

The first time I ever met Norman Lear was in early 1981, shortly after the Presidential election of 1980, in which I became

the youngest former Governor in American history. [Laughter] Norman Lear invited me to come talk about a project with him in New York, and he took me to a play on Broadway that he produced. We went to opening night. It closed 3 days later. [Laughter] We are here today because the intervening years have been kinder to both of us. [Laughter] I'm not sure Archie Bunker would approve, but Meathead would be proud and so are we. Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. When she was 7, Rosetta LeNoire broke both her legs, actually, doctors broke them for her. She was born with rickets; it was the only way the bones could grow in place. Her godfather Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, said that dancing could strengthen her legs and took her on the road.

She moved on to success—Broadway, film and, of course, television, where we remember her as Mother Winslow on "Family Matters" and Nell Carter's mother on "Gimme a Break." But with all her talent and drive through the years, discrimination was never far behind. So Rosetta did more than dream of a theater with no color bar, she actually built one.

For more than 30 years, the AMAS Musical Theatre in New York City has been a place where performers are judged by the caliber of their skills, not the color of their skin. As a courageous child, Rosetta learned that sometimes you have to break things to put them in the right place. Today America thanks her for breaking barriers to set our Nation right.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. In 1967 Harvey Lichtenstein was given an impossible task, to breathe life into the Brooklyn Academy of Music, a neighborhood relic on the verge of being razed for tennis courts. Not only did he save the academy, he turned it into one of the most important avant-garde institutions in the entire world.

In his 32 years as a charismatic impresario, visionary, and father of the Brooklyn Acad-

emy of Music, he sparked the stunning careers of Twyla Tharp, Philip Glass, Mark Morris, so many other artists Manhattan had overlooked. He launched the wonderful new Next Wave festival and the BAM Opera. He proved that art challenges can also be wildly popular.

He truly changed the way we think. Although he just made his curtain call at the Brooklyn Academy, we know he will continue to be New York's stellar steward of the arts.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Lydia Mendoza's unique musical career spans most of the entire course of the 20th century. She recorded her first song in a San Antonio hotel room in 1928. More than 70 years and a thousand songs later, her legacy is as wide and deep as the Rio Grande valley.

Lydia learned much from the oral tradition of Mexican music that her mother and grandmother shared with her. In turn, she shared it with the world, becoming the first rural American woman performer to garner a large following throughout Latin America.

With the artistry of her voice and the gift of her songs, she bridged the gap between generations and cultures. Lydia Mendoza is a true American pioneer, and she paved the way for a whole new generation of Latino performers, who today are making all Americans sing.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. In late 1949, in the coffeehouses of San Francisco, a young classically trained singer named Odetta fell in love with folk music and found her true voice. Soon she began recording unforgettably soulful albums and touring the world's great stages. In the words of one early admirer, "She has such a strong voice and presence that I am left with the irreverent but irresistible feeling that if she had been the captain of the Titanic, the ship would not have sunk." [Laughter]

For 50 years now Odetta has used her commanding power and amazing grace not

just to entertain but to inspire. She has sung for freedom with Dr. King, lifted the pride of millions of children, shaped the careers of young performers like Joan Baez, Bob Dylan and Tracy Chapman. She is the reigning queen of American folk music, reminding us all that songs have the power to change the heart and change the world.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart, read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. It started out as just another odd job for this aspiring artist, researching the artistic possibilities of plaster used to cast broken bones. "I had my wife cover me head to foot in the stuff," he said. "Once it dried, I broke out of it, breaking the mold in the process; then I put it back together. It was white, spectral, full of elusive potential, just what I had been after."

George Segal's art may be inanimate, but more than a few of us have had to look twice just to be sure. *[Laughter]* His silent creations speak volumes about the human condition and give life to the spaces where they are displayed. His sculptures at the Franklin Roosevelt Memorial of the Depression breadline and the fireside chat transport us back to that time and place.

Through all of his work, George Segal has brought elegance to the everyday and mystery to the commonplace. Decades after his first experiments with plaster, he continues to break the mold.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. George Balanchine once told audiences not to analyze ballet. "Words cannot describe it," he said. "You cannot explain a flower." So it's impossible to explain the radiance and grace of Maria Tallchief.

She leapt from Oklahoma's Osage Indian territory to the center stages of the world. Her partnership with Balanchine transformed the ballet world for the ages. She was his inspiration for the title role in the "Firebird." She was the first Sugarplum Fairy.

A reviewer once said that hers will always be the story of ballet conquering America,

but also, I would add, the story of America conquering ballet.

Maria Tallchief took what had been a European art form and made it America's own. How fitting that a Native American woman would do that. With magic, mystery, and style, she soared above all.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. And now, ladies and gentlemen, for the National Humanities Medals.

Patricia Battin is saving history. The high acidic content of paper threatens to destroy millions of old books, but she has led the national campaign to raise awareness about this challenge and preserve the genius of the past.

As the first president of the Commission on Preservation and Access, she has helped to spur America's libraries and archives to transfer information from so-called brittle books to microfilm and optical disks. As a result, more than 770,000 books have already been preserved. She's also one of our Nation's leading authorities on changing learning patterns of the digital age. From 19th century books to 21st century technology, Patricia Battin is strengthening our storehouse of knowledge for the future.

Thank you for saving the knowledge of the past for the children of tomorrow.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. When it comes to the struggle for peace, justice, and freedom, Taylor Branch literally has written the book. With vivid prose and clear-eyed detail, his two volumes on the Martin Luther King years recount a man and a movement that changed America for good. As Taylor has said, "It is really the story of ordinary people who took risks to enlarge freedom. And we have a much better country for it."

Those aren't just Taylor Branch's words; they also reflect his life. Growing up in segregated Atlanta, Taylor Branch saw discrimination everywhere he looked. But through it all, he also saw something else, an America

where we heal our racial wounds, celebrate our differences, and move forward together.

We grew up in the same sort of South, affected by the limits, the longing, and the language of race, in all of its myriad manifestations. I met Taylor Branch 30 years ago this month. I knew then he was a remarkable young man. And I must tell you, I am very proud of the gifts he has given America in the years since.

In an early sermon, Dr. King said, "After one has discovered what he is made for, he should seek to do it so well that no one could do it better." Anyone who has read the work of Taylor Branch knows, no one does it better.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. More than two decades ago, Jacquelyn Dowd Hall explained to an elderly woman why she wanted to tape her memories. After listening closely to all of Professor Hall's words, the senior citizen looked up and said, "I understand. You don't have to be famous for your life to be history." That became the motto of the Southern Oral History Program directed by Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, and the rest is truly history.

The program, centered at the University of North Carolina, rings with the voices of millworkers who have lost their jobs, civil rights leaders marching for freedom, ordinary folks building their communities. And I might add, there is a young person from Arkansas by the name of Clinton whose voice is on one of those tapes who was on the verge of something really big, losing his first election. *[Laughter]*

Anyone who grew up in the South knows that no book can capture the color and the vibrancy that you hear in the everyday conversations on Main Street, in general stores, on the front porches, and the backyards. So all of us, whether we are from the South or not, can say thank you, Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, for capturing that unique and wonderful voice, for recording history through the lives of ordinary people, and, in so doing, for making history.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. He was born in Anoka, Minnesota, but we know him as the man from Lake Wobegon. A town with a name derived, he tells us, from the Native American phrase meaning, "We sat in the rain all day waiting for you,"—*[laughter]*—a place he confesses, settled by pioneers who had stopped a little short, having misread their map but refused to admit it. *[Laughter]* Well, Garrison Keillor has never stopped short. Just ask the Governor of Minnesota. *[Laughter]*

Millions of listeners plan their weekends around his "Prairie Home Companion." It's always blaring on the radio in the White House. No one wants to miss a minute of his homespun humor, homegrown music, and stories of hometown America. And he never leaves it behind.

Today when I shook hands with Garrison he said, "Well, I understand that you had a cancellation and had to put me in at the last minute." *[Laughter]* I didn't have the heart to tell him how sorry I was that Rush Limbaugh couldn't make it today. *[Laughter]*

With imagination and wit, but also with a steel-trap mind and deep conviction, Garrison Keillor has brought us together and constantly reminds us how we're all connected and how it ought to keep us a little humble.

We all have a little Lake Wobegon in us, and our homes will always have a place for Garrison Keillor, our modern-day Mark Twain.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. While studying to be a newspaperman in a small Texas town, Jim Lehrer worked nights at a bus depot calling out departures and arrivals over a microphone. You might say that's what he had to do for politicians after he assumed his position on television. *[Laughter]* He learned to speak clearly, be polite, stick to the facts, traits that would become his signature style as one of the most respected and beloved figures in American broadcast journalism.

When sound bites and sensationalism began taking over TV news in the early 1970's, he teamed up with broadcaster Robin MacNeil to start a nightly newscast that offered the opposite: long, in-depth stories and interviews on the serious topics of the day; a show where guests are treated as guests; viewers are treated as intelligent; viewpoints are treated with respect.

Novelist, playwright, journalist, moderator of Presidential debates, asker of hard and probing questions—[laughter]—in a deceptively civilized way—[laughter]—Jim Lehrer is a modern man of letters who has left us a gift of professionalism and civility, of true learning and the enlargement of our citizenship by his work.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. John Rawls is perhaps the greatest political philosopher of the 20th century. In 1971, when Hillary and I were in law school, we were among the millions moved by a remarkable book he wrote, "A Theory of Justice," that placed our rights to liberty and justice upon a strong and brilliant new foundation of reason.

Almost singlehandedly, John Rawls revived the disciplines of political and ethical philosophy with his argument that a society in which the most fortunate helped the least fortunate is not only a moral society but a logical one. Just as impressively, he has helped a whole generation of learned Americans revive their faith in democracy itself.

Ladies and gentlemen, Margaret Rawls will accept the medal on behalf of her husband.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Any time we look at all that Steven Spielberg has managed to create on film, we know that that is what God put him here to do. Like Orson Wells, he was a true cinematic prodigy. He shot his first movies at the age of 12. By the ripe old age of 35, he was already one of our most gifted storytellers, with "Close Encounters," "Raiders of the Lost Ark", and "E.T." But when

his insatiable moral and imaginative hunger drove him to create such resident masterpieces as "Schindler's List," one of the most important movies of the 20th century, and the remarkable, "Saving Private Ryan," we saw that he was an astonishing historian, as well.

On top of his creative mastery, Steven has devoted enormous time and resources to preserving Holocaust testimonies, supporting righteous causes, unleashing the power of entertainment and technology to help seriously ill children to heal.

Steven Spielberg could have gotten the National Medal of the Arts, but I think he would want most to be remembered for his contributions to humanity. I also want to thank him for all the many times that he and Kate and their wonderful children have enriched our lives and all the things he tells me that keep me thinking.

Today I was talking to Steven and he said, "How are you," and I said, "I'm doing pretty good for an older guy." He said, "Yes, but did you see that article that says that our children, certainly our grandchildren, will live to be 150?" And I got to thinking that—Hillary talked Steven into making the movie that we will show at the American Millennial Celebration on The Mall on New Year's Eve, as we see the turning of the millennium. And Steven has agreed to create this 18-minute movie of the century—100 years in 18 minutes, so we'll feel like we're 150. [Laughter] He always finds a way to make it work.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Long before "Fences," before "Seven Guitars," before "Two Trains Running," before his two Pulitzers, August Wilson wrote an essay. He was in high school, and his teacher refused to believe that a black student could have produced something that good. Disgusted by the low expectations of his teacher, August Wilson took refuge in the library. This is what he said: "I found books by black writers and realized I could do that. I could have a book on a shelf."

From the dimly lit library stacks to the bright lights of the stage, he has chronicled the African-American experience throughout

the 20th century, decade by decade, with epic plays of dreams and doubts, humor and heartbreak, mystery and music.

Years ago, August Wilson asked a friend and fellow writer, "How do you make your characters talk?" His friend replied, "You don't; you listen to them." America is richer for the listening voice, and the landmark drama of August Wilson.

Colonel, read the citation.

[Lieutenant Colonel Everhart read the citation, and the President presented the medal.]

The President. Ladies and gentlemen, we thank you for sharing in this celebration and being a part of this last arts and humanities awards ceremony of the 20th century. On behalf of our Nation, I thank our honorees for all they have done for us, and I thank you all for supporting their work, for helping to shape our society, lift our spirits, expand our boundaries, and share our gifts with the world.

Thank you, and goodbye. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:55 p.m. at Constitution Hall. In his remarks, he referred to former Senator George J. Mitchell, who chaired the multiparty talks in Northern Ireland.

Remarks to the Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank

September 29, 1999

Thank you very much, Secretary Summers, President Wolfensohn, Chairman Acharya, Director Camdessus, Vice President Fall, Secretary Anjaria.

Let me begin by saying how very grateful I am to be here with all of you. I appreciate the generous introduction. Some of you may have heard me say this before, but the introduction that Secretary Summers just gave me is an illustration of one of my unbending laws of political life: Whenever possible, be introduced by someone you have appointed to high office. *[Laughter]* It is much easier because he's done such a superb job, and I thank him.

Let me say, all of you know that a year ago we were here in a time of crisis, perhaps the most severe financial crisis in the global

economy since the end of the Second World War, a grave challenge to the IMF and the World Bank. Thanks to the hard work that you and your countries have done, economies that were sliding down are rising again.

We have also worked hard, as Secretary Summers said, in the wake of these crises to prevent future ones, to respond more quickly and effectively, to lessen the toll they take on ordinary citizens. We have intensified our efforts to construct a global financial architecture that is stable and strong in the new conditions of the new economy.

Still, those who were hit by this crisis were hit very hard, and many are still reeling. People lost jobs and businesses and dreams. So this can only be considered a continuing challenge for us, certainly not a time for complacency. We have more to do to restore people's faith in the future and to restore their faith, frankly, in the global economy and in global markets. Therefore, we have more to do to reform the global financial foundation upon which the future will be built.

As we approach the 21st century, we must also ask ourselves, however, is it enough just to fix the market that is? Should we accept the fact that, at a time when the people in the United States are enjoying perhaps the strongest economy in their history, 1.3 billion of our fellow human beings survive on less than a dollar a day? Should we accept the fact that nearly 40 million people—after the green revolution, when most of us discuss agriculture and food as a cause for international trade conflicts because we want to fight over who sells the most food, since there are so many places that can produce more than their own people need—are we supposed to accept the fact that nearly 40 million people a year die of hunger? That's nearly equal to the number of all the people killed in World War II.

Are we supposed to accept the fact that even though technology has changed the equation of the role of energy in the production of wealth; even though technology has changed the distances in time and space necessary for learning and for business as well as educational interchanges—are we supposed to face the fact that some people and nations are doomed to be left behind forever?

I hope we will not accept that. I hope we will start the new millennium with a new resolve: to give every person in the world, through trade and technology, through investments in education and health care, the chance to be part of a widely shared prosperity, in which all the peoples' potential can be developed more fully. This is the challenge of the second half-century of the life of the IMF and the World Bank. And for me, it is a personal priority of the highest order.

Open trade already has improved the prospects of hundreds of millions by marketing the fruits of their labors and creativity beyond their borders. In this way, both the IMF and the World Bank have played a vital role in helping more nations to thrive. We need you to work with the WTO to build a rules-based framework for global trade. We need you to help developing countries provide education and training to lift wages and to establish social safety nets for tough transitions.

I applaud the strong commitment you've made at these meetings for concrete manifestations of support. We all must work to keep the economies we have influence over open and trade growing for developing and industrial powers alike.

In 2 months, I want to launch a new type of trade round in Seattle at the WTO ministerial. I want this round to be about jobs and development. I want it to raise working conditions for all. I want it to advance our shared goal of sustainable development. By breaking down barriers to trade, leveling the playing field, we will give more workers and farmers in those countries that are struggling for tomorrow—and in leading industrial nations, as well—more opportunities to produce for the global marketplace.

In Seattle, I hope we will pledge to keep cyberspace tariff-free, to help developing countries make better and wider use of technology, whether biotechnology or the Internet. I hope we will pledge to open markets in agriculture and industrial products and services, creating new activities for growth and development.

I hope we will also work to advance the admission of the 38 developing countries who've applied for WTO membership. And

I hope we'll keep working to give the least developed countries greater access to global markets. Here in the United States, I am working hard to persuade our Congress to pass my trade proposals for Africa and the Caribbean Basin this year.

But the wealth of nations depends on more than trade. It also depends on the health of nations. Last week at the United Nations I committed the United States to accelerating the development and delivery of vaccines for AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other diseases which disproportionately afflict poor citizens in the developing world.

At the same time, we must help these nations avert the health costs and pollution of the industrial age, using clean technologies that not only improve the environment but grow the economy. Institutions like the World Bank play a special role here. Your energy strategy is a very good start, and I thank you for it. I urge the Bank to continue setting aggressive targets for lending that promotes clean energy. It is no longer necessary to have industrial-age energy use patterns to grow a modern, powerful economy. In fact, those economies will emerge more quickly with more sustainable development strategies.

Some of you in this room, a minority still, are nodding your heads "yes" as I say this. If you believe it, we must work together to achieve it. These efforts must be part of a broader approach that ensures the integrity and openness of emerging economies. Last Saturday the G-7 finance ministers outlined specific safeguards for Russia and called for comprehensive review by the World Bank and the IMF to make sure that funds are used appropriately in high-risk environments. The United States will continue to insist on such accountability.

For many developing countries, however, there is a greater obstacle in the path to progress. For many of them, excessive and completely unsustainable debt can halt progress, drag down growth, drain resources that are needed to meet the most basic human conditions, like clean water, shelter, health care, and education. Debt and debt relief are normally subjects for economists. But there is nothing academic about them. Simply put, unsustainable debt is helping to

keep too many poor countries and poor people in poverty. That is clearly why the Pope and so many other world leaders from all walks of life have asked us all to do more to reduce the debt of the poorest nations as a gift to the new millennium, not just to them but to all the rest of us, as well.

Personally, I don't believe we can possibly agree to the idea that these nations that are so terribly poor should always be that way. I don't think we can, in good conscience, say we support the idea that they should choose between making interest payments on their debt and investing in their children's education. It is an economic and moral imperative that we use this moment of global consensus to do better. I will do everything I can to aid this trend. Any country, committed to reforming its economy, to vaccinating and educating its children, should be able to make those kinds of commitments and keep them.

In June, at the G-7 summit in Cologne, the world's wealthiest nations made an historic pledge to help developing nations. The debt relief program we agreed upon is a big step in the right direction, dedicating faster and deeper debt relief to countries that dedicate themselves to fundamental reform. This initiative seeks to tie debt relief to poverty reduction and to make sure that savings are spent where they should be, on education, on fighting AIDS and preventing it, on other critical needs. It will help heavily indebted poor countries to help themselves and help to build a framework to support similar and important efforts by the IMF, the World Bank, and international financial institutions.

More than 430 million people could benefit from this effort. In Bolivia, for example, debt relief could help the Government nearly double the people's access to clean water by 2004. In Uganda, it could allow health and education spending to increase by 15 percent between 1998 and 2001—50 percent, excuse me. Rural development expenditures there would more than double. That's why we all must provide our fair share of financing to global debt relief.

Last week, to make good on America's commitment, I amended my budget request to Congress and asked for nearly \$1 billion over 4 years for this purpose. We must keep

adequate assistance flowing to the developing countries, especially through the International Development Association. I'm encouraged by the financial commitments made by some of the other donor countries this past week. And I call on our Congress to respond to the moral and economic urgency of this issue and see to it that America does its part. I have asked for the money and shown how it would be paid for, and I ask the Congress to keep our country shouldering its fair share of the responsibility.

Now, let me make one final commitment. Today I am directing my administration to make it possible to forgive 100 percent of the debt these countries owe to the United States when—and this is quite important—when needed to help them finance basic human needs and when the money will be used to do so. In this context, we will work closely with other countries to maximize the benefits of the debt reduction initiative.

We believe the agreements reached this weekend will make it possible for three-quarters of the highly indebted poorest countries, committed to implementing poverty and growth strategies, to start receiving benefits sometime next year—actually receiving the benefits sometime next year.

If we do these things as nations, as international institutions, as a global community, then we can build a trading system that strengthens our economy and supports our values. We can build a global economy and a global society that leaves no one behind, that carries all countries into a new century that we hope will be marked by greater peace and greater prosperity for all people.

We have before us perhaps as great an opportunity as the people of the world have ever seen. We will be judged by our children and grandchildren by whether we seize that opportunity. I hope and believe that we all will do so.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:07 p.m. in the main ballroom at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to James D. Wolfensohn, President, World Bank Group; Mahesh Acharya, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Michel Camdessus, Managing Director,

Cheikh Ibrahima Fall, Vice President and Corporate Secretary, and Shailendra J. Anjaria, Secretary, International Monetary Fund.

Statement on Signing the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, FY 2000

September 29, 1999

Today I signed H.R. 2490, "Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, FY 2000", a bill that contains several important improvements in family planning and child care. This bipartisan bill will give people who work for the Federal Government access to more affordable child care and flexibility in family planning. It will require health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) that provide prescription drug coverage to provide prescription contraceptive coverage as well, while providing an exception for plans that object to this requirement on religious grounds. The bill also gives Government agencies new flexibility that will allow them to make child care more affordable for lower-income Federal employees. While this bill is not perfect, it does show that we can make progress when we work in a bipartisan fashion.

NOTE: H.R. 2490, approved September 29, was assigned Public Law No. 106-58.

Statement on Signing the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2000

September 29, 1999

I have signed into law today H.R. 2490, the "Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2000," which provides \$13.7 billion in discretionary budget authority for programs in the Department of the Treasury, the United States Postal Service, the General Services Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Executive Office of the President, and several smaller agencies. I commend the Congress for producing a bipartisan bill that allows us to continue the IRS reform effort and the national youth anti-drug media campaign and

to fund important law enforcement efforts and other programs.

The bill provides \$12.4 billion for the Department of the Treasury, including \$132 million for violent crime reduction programs. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is funded at \$8.2 billion. I believe that these funds will strengthen the IRS's ability to provide timely and accurate data for American taxpayers. The bill also includes \$144 million for the Earned Income Tax Credit compliance initiative and \$250 million for Year 2000 conversion requirements for IRS computer systems. Law enforcement bureaus within the Department of the Treasury are funded at \$3.4 billion. I am pleased that the Congress has fully funded my request for the expansion of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative.

The bill provides \$185 million for the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) national youth anti-drug media campaign. This money will enable ONDCP's national media campaign to continue its effort to change youth attitudes about drug use and its consequences. The campaign is a model public-private partnership, exposing 90 percent of all 9- to 17-year-olds to anti-drug messages at least four times a week.

I am pleased that the enrolled bill requires health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program that provide prescription drug coverage to provide prescription contraceptive coverage as well. I am also pleased that the enrolled bill allows agencies to use appropriated funds to support day care centers at Federal facilities. This provision should improve the affordability of child care for lower-income Federal employees.

Several provisions in the Act purport to condition my authority or that of certain officers to use funds appropriated by the Act on the approval of congressional committees. My Administration will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court's ruling in *INS v. Chadha*.

Section 622 of the Treasury/General Government Appropriations Act prohibits the use of appropriations to pay the salary of any employee who interferes with certain communications between Federal employees and

Members of Congress. I do not interpret this provision to detract from my constitutional authority and that of my appointed heads of departments to supervise and control the operations and communications of the executive branch, including the control of privileged and national security information.

I urge the Congress to complete action on the remaining FY 2000 appropriations bills as quickly as possible and send them to me in an acceptable form.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 29, 1999.

NOTE: H.R. 2490, approved September 29, was assigned Public Law No. 106-58.

Statement on Signing the Extension of the Airport Improvement Program Act

September 29, 1999

I am pleased to sign S. 1637, the “Extension of the Airport Improvement Program Act,” releasing the final \$290 million of FY99 funds for the Federal Aviation Administration’s Airport Improvement Program (AIP). These funds will help communities across the country finance critical projects to enhance airport safety and capacity and reduce noise. Some \$71 million of the AIP funds will go to help lessen the growing problem of airport-related noise, by insulating nearby schools and residential neighborhoods and other noise mitigation efforts. These and other efforts by the Federal Government will mean that, by next year, only 600,000 Americans will be adversely affected by aircraft noise, compared to the 2.3 million Americans who faced that problem in 1995. A significant portion of the funds released today will go to help smaller airports, which have fewer financial resources and are more dependent on Federal assistance to meet their capital requirements than are larger airports.

NOTE: S. 1637, approved September 29, was assigned Public Law No. 106-59.

Memorandum on Funding for the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization

September 29, 1999

Presidential Determination No. 99-42

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Use of \$18.1 Million in Unallocated Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs Funds for a U.S. Contribution to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO)

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2364(a)(1) (the “Act”), I hereby determine that it is important to the security interests of the United States to furnish up to \$18.1 million in funds made available under the heading “Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs” in title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999, as enacted in Public Law 105-277, for assistance for KEDO without regard to any provision of law within the scope of section 614(a)(1). I hereby authorize the furnishing of this assistance.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Proclamation 7227—100th Anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars

September 29, 1999

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As a free Nation, we must always remember that our achievements in peace have been built on the sacrifices of our veterans in war. We owe a profound debt to brave Americans like the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who knew their duty and did it well—even at the

risk of their freedom and their lives, and we are proud to honor the VFW as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Each VFW member has given double service to our Nation by answering the call to duty in the Armed Forces and by joining the VFW. Whether raising the morale of our men and women in uniform, helping veterans receive their much-deserved benefits, providing scholarships for our youth, or bringing hope and help to families and communities in need, these veterans have upheld the highest standards of service and citizenship. Perhaps most important, they are the living reminder of the countless men and women who have served and sacrificed throughout past decades to defend our Nation and preserve the liberties we hold so dear. VFW members and their fallen comrades have carried the torch of freedom both at home and in distant lands, and America remains forever grateful.

We have a solemn responsibility to ensure that all our veterans enjoy the quality of life they deserve. On Veterans Day last year, I was proud to sign into law the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act. This legislation improves a wide range of benefits and programs, including an increase in compensation payments to veterans with disabilities as well as benefits to the survivors of Americans who died serving our country.

The small groups of Spanish-American War veterans who first banded together in 1899 could not have envisioned that their numbers would grow to more than two million strong, or that the VFW would come to have such an enormous positive influence on the lives of generations of veterans, their families, and communities throughout our Nation. As we celebrate the centennial of the VFW, we honor these veterans for all they have done to build a proud past for our Nation and to ensure a brighter future for us all.

Recognizing the contribution of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to the continued strength of our country and success of our democracy, the Congress, by H.J. Res. 34, has called on the President to issue a proclamation in observance of September 29, 1999, as the "100th Anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars." On this day, let us reflect with pride on our great country and remem-

ber with gratitude the contributions of the many loyal and courageous veterans who have given so much of themselves both at home and around the world to preserve our freedom.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 29, 1999, as the 100th Anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I urge all Americans to recognize this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:23 a.m., October 1, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 4.

Remarks at the Arts and Humanities Awards Dinner

September 29, 1999

The President. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the White House. A special welcome to all of our honorees of the National Medals of Arts and Humanities. The nice thing about this evening, apart from being here in America's house slightly before we celebrate its 200th birthday, is that there are no speeches and lots of entertainment—[*laughter*]—unless, of course, Mr. Keillor wants to substitute for me at this moment. [*Laughter*] I'll be living down that crack I made about him for the rest of my life. [*Laughter*]

I want to say again, as I did today and as Hillary did, that this is one of the most enjoyable and important days of every year to us, because it gives America a chance to recognize our sons and daughters who have enriched our lives, made us laugh, made us think, made us cry, lifted us up when we were down. In so many ways, all of you have touched so many people that you will never know. But in all of them accumulated, you

have made America a better place; you've made the world a finer place.

And as we look to the new century, I hope that as time goes on we will be known more and more for things beyond our wealth and power, that go to the wealth and power of our spirit. Insofar as that happens, it will be because of you and people like you. And it was a privilege for all of us to honor you today.

I would like to ask all of you here to join me in a toast to the 1999 winners of the Medal of Arts and the Medal of Humanities.

[At this point, the participants drank a toast.]

The President. And welcome. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to humorist Garrison Keillor, recipient, National Humanities Medal.

Statement on Signing the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2000

September 30, 1999

I have signed into law H.R. 2605, the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2000," which provides \$21.4 billion in discretionary budget authority for the programs of the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, and several smaller agencies.

The Act provides necessary funding to maintain my Administration's commitment to ensuring the safety and reliability of our Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear testing. The Act also provides funding to develop and protect the Nation's water resources.

I am disappointed that the Congress has not included full funding for my request for the Spallation Neutron Source, for additional safeguards and security reforms at the Department of Energy laboratories, or for research and development of renewable energy sources. I am also disappointed that the Congress has provided no funding for the Next Generation Internet and Information Technology Initiatives. Also, I note that the bill contains language that prohibits the Army

Corps of Engineers from studying the full range of options for salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest. I will continue to work with the Congress on this important national priority. Finally, I am disappointed that the Congress has not enacted my Harbor Services Fund proposal, which would provide a stable source of funding for port and harbor activities and free up funds for other priority projects and programs. My Administration will work with the Congress on options for financing and increasing support for these initiatives in the future.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 29, 1999.

NOTE: H.R. 2605, approved September 29, was assigned Public Law No. 106-60. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 30.

Remarks on Signing the Continuing Resolution and an Exchange With Reporters

September 30, 1999

The President. Good afternoon. I wanted to talk to you before I leave for New York about two developments affecting our economy and the progress we are making to build a stronger one.

Today we have further evidence that our economic strategy of fiscal discipline, investment in our people, and expanded trade is working. In the 12 years before I came to Washington, irresponsible policies here quadrupled our debt. That led us to high interest rates and high unemployment, stagnant wages, and low growth. The Vice President and I came here determined to change all that, to put the American people first and give them the tools to turn around the American economy.

Over the last 6½ years, the results speak for themselves: the longest peacetime expansion in history, more than 19 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 29 years, the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years, the first back-to-back surpluses in 42 years, the largest surplus and the highest homeownership in history.

Today I am pleased to announce another economic milestone in the implementation of this strategy. In its annual study on income and poverty in America, the Census Bureau reports that a typical household income rose \$1,304 in just one year, from \$37,581 in 1997 to \$38,885 in 1998. That's a 3.5 percent increase in a year, tied for the largest since 1978, allowing American families more money for things that matter, sending their children to college, buying a home, purchasing a car, saving for retirement.

The report also shows that since we launched our economic plan in 1993, median family income is the highest it has ever been, increasing from \$41,691 in '93 to \$46,737 in '98. That's over \$5,000 more that hard-working families can put to good use. But the best news is that these gains finally are being shared with all groups in America, from the wealthiest to the poorest.

In the 1980's, most working families saw their incomes stagnate, with the worst performance at the bottom of the economic scale. In the last 5 years, finally, we have stemmed the tide of rising inequality, and this new report documents the strong income growth among all groups of people.

This broadbased growth has helped to lift millions of hardworking families out of poverty. The report shows that the poverty rate fell to 12.7 percent. That is the lowest poverty rate since 1979, the lowest rate in 20 years.

While we still have room for improvement, the African-American poverty rate is now at its lowest level on record; the Hispanic poverty rate its lowest level in 20 years. And we know that 4.3 million Americans were lifted out of poverty last year because of our expanded earned-income tax credit, which was a critical part of the economic reform plan in 1993. It is now, inexplicably to me, under attack by some in Congress.

Our economy is now working for all the American people, and it has to continue. That brings me to my second point.

Today is the last day of the current fiscal year. Because the Congress has not finished its work, it must send me a continuing resolution, a temporary spending measure to keep the Government working for 3 more weeks. But it should be sending me spending bills

that meet the great challenges and opportunities before us, that protect and strengthen Social Security, that strengthen and modernize Medicare with prescription drug coverage, that make vital investments in education, national security, the environment, medical research, and other critical areas, and that enable us to pay down the American debt so that we can pay it off, for the first time since 1835, over the next 15 years.

Now, a few minutes ago, just before I came out here, I signed that continuing spending bill, not because I wanted to, but because it was the only way to prevent another Government shutdown. Months ago I presented a responsible budget plan that pays for itself, invests in education, saves Social Security and Medicare, puts us on the path to paying America out of debt by 2015*. Regrettably, the majority in Congress, the Republican majority, has chosen to disregard the way I put this budget together and to disregard the path of fiscal discipline.

Instead of making the difficult choices to finish their work and crafting a responsible budget, they've resorted to gimmicks and gamesmanship, like using two sets of books and designating the fully predictable census, for example, as emergency spending.

But they're doing something else that troubles me more. To disguise the fact that they're spending the Social Security surplus, the congressional majority wants to delay earned-income tax payments to nearly 20 million families. Now, the income and poverty figures I announced earlier show that 4.3 million Americans were lifted out of poverty last year, twice the number that were lifted out of poverty by the earned-income tax credit before we expanded it in 1993.

We've worked hard to eliminate barriers to families who are working their way out of poverty. We've got record numbers of people moving from welfare to work, often at very modest wages, eligible for this earned-income tax credit. Delaying their EITC payments would put one more roadblock in their way.

* White House correction.

So let me be clear: I will not sign a bill that turns its back on these hardworking families. They're doing all they can to lift themselves out of poverty, to raise their children with dignity. I don't think we should be putting more roadblocks in their way. Delaying the earned-income tax credit payment is more than a gimmick. It is an effective tax increase on the most hard-pressed working Americans.

Now, one of the most interesting developments of the last week in this budget fight, which as I said, I was hoping would not be a fight and I still hope will be resolved—but one of the most interesting things to me about this last week is that the Republican majority actually launched an ad campaign that plays the worst kind of politics with this issue. Instead of spending their time creating an honest budget, they're spending millions of dollars creating phony ads to accuse the Democrats in Congress, who are in the minority, of doing what the Congressional Budget Office, their own Congressional Budget Office, says they are doing. That is, spending the Social Security surplus.

In fact, just yesterday, the very day they were announcing these misleading and unfair ads, their own Congressional Budget Office sent them a letter that shows they are spending \$18 billion from the Social Security surplus. Now, I can't help noting that these are the same people who told us they could spend all this money and cut taxes \$792 billion, and never touch the Social Security surplus.

Let's back up and look at where we are here, really. I had a lot of difficult decisions in my budget. I had a cigarette tax; I had a tax on polluters to clean up toxic waste dumps. Why did I put that in there, knowing it would be controversial? Because there was a general consensus here that with the second year of a budget surplus, we ought to move as quickly as possible to divide the surpluses, if you will, the Social Security from the non-Social Security, and that we would move this year to try to stop spending Social Security funds that the Government had been spending since 1983, at least since 1983, when the revenues were raised.

And so we all said, "Okay, let's try to do it this year." And so, I knew it would be hard,

but I said, "Okay, I'll do my part. I'll try to do this. But we're going to have to make some tough decisions here if we're going to meet the need of people in both parties—the investment priorities."

Then they said, "No, we don't want to do that." The Republican majority said, "No, we don't want to do that. We don't want a cigarette tax, and we don't want to ask the polluters to pay more for the toxic waste." Once they said that, to be fair, there was no way they could avoid at least one more year of spending Social Security funds.

Now, that's where we are on this. That's really what's going on. And there is another way. We don't have to do this. We don't have to get into an ad war where they accuse us of doing what they're doing, that their own Congressional Budget Office says they're doing. And they don't have to act like if they get caught doing it, they've, in effect, committed a felony.

There was a decision they had to make. When we decided we were going to try to get out of spending Social Security funds this year, instead of next year, they had to make a decision. And the decision was to close corporate loopholes, deal with the toxic waste dumps by asking polluters to pay more, and raise the cigarette tax. If they weren't willing to make that decision, they were going to be in the pickle they're in now. Now, that's what happened.

It doesn't have to be this way. We can work together. We can fashion a budget that builds on our economic prosperity and eliminates the public debt by the year 2015 and extends the life of the Social Security Trust Fund to 2050, past the life expectancy of the baby boomers, rendering this momentary debate completely irrelevant by dealing with the long-term security of the country. And that is what we ought to do.

I also would say it is profoundly important that we fund the right kind of education budget that has 100,000 teachers, that supports our efforts to mentor poor kids and get them to college, that supports our efforts to help young people read, and that gives our kids access to after-school programs; that doesn't undercut our efforts to connect all the classrooms to the Internet next year, that helps us to build or modernize 6,000 schools,

that helps us to have some real accountability so we get what works and we stop funding what doesn't.

That's the other big, outstanding question in this budget debate that has nothing to do with what the ads are about: What kind of education policy we're going to have; what kind of future are we going to give our kids. Then there's the whole criminal justice issue which we've argued about since 1994, that we've got the lowest crime rate in 26 years, but it's still too high, and I want to fund another 50,000 police to go out there in the most dangerous neighborhoods to prevent crime from happening in the first place, through the community policing program.

So that is what I wanted to say. We don't need gimmicks in the budget, and we don't need gimmicks on the airwaves. What we need to do is to roll up our sleeves and go to work together and make decisions and tell the American people why we made them and what they are and what the long-term consequences are.

The Congress now has 3 weeks to finish the job the American people sent them to Washington to do. I will work with Congress on a budget that honors our commitments, that protects Social Security and Medicare. If we work together to meet these objectives—keep in mind, if we work together to meet these objectives, we could pass a long-term budget that not only gets us out of debt by 2015 but actually has an affordable program for middle-class tax relief.

But this argument that's being held now, and this sort of ad war is, I think, the worst kind of—first of all, it's misleading. And secondly, it's a waste of time and money. What we need to do is to roll up our sleeves and do the job the American people sent us here to do.

So, thank you.

Korean War Massacre

Q. Mr. President, what's your reaction to the Associated Press report of a massacre of hundreds of refugees by American servicemen during the Korean war? There is—a dozen veterans of that war are quoted as corroborating this account. Do you think there should be an investigation?

The President. Yes. The most important thing you need to know about that is—I was briefed on it this morning—is that Secretary Cohen has said that he wants to look into this. He wants to get to the bottom of it. He wants to examine all the available information and evidence. And he has assured us that he will do that. And that was his immediate instinct, too. And I appreciated it.

2000 Presidential Election

Q. Mr. President, the Vice President seems to be in some political trouble, despite the good economic numbers that you cite. Mr. Bradley, former Senator Bradley, has out-raised him in the last quarter. I would like to know whether you counseled him to move his headquarters, whether you thought he panicked, and why you think that people like Senator Moynihan say that he can't be elected—Senator Moynihan who, of course, backs Mrs. Clinton.

The President. I gave you enough time to put all of your little twists in there, didn't I? [Laughter]

First of all, let me say I think it's a good decision, the decision he made to move his headquarters to Tennessee. I suppose I think that because I had such a good experience when I stayed home and close to my roots. We discussed it a long time ago. But I can tell you I'm absolutely—he called me yesterday morning, he said that he had made a decision to do this. And we had not discussed it in, I don't know, a good while. I'm absolutely—he told me a week or so ago that he was thinking about some things that he thought would help his campaign and make it more consistent with the kind of message that he wanted to convey to the American people and the kind of campaign he personally wanted to run. And he announced those three decisions yesterday, and I approve of all of them. I think they were good decisions. And I think they'll get good results. And the most important thing is, he made them, and he believes in them. And that's all you can do in one of these campaigns.

Q. What's the problem? Has it been you? Has it been the record of the administration?

The President. Well, first of all, I think he's, by all reports I get, he's personally doing

quite well out there, and I think he will continue to do well. So I don't have the same take on it you do. I'm not a political analyst anymore. I have to stay here and do my job. But the only thing I would say is, when you run for President, you need to know what you want America to look like, and then you need to have good ideas, and you need to try to share them with people in a way they can relate to. And I believe he'll be—I believe he'll do quite well.

Keep in mind, we're a long way from the end of the road here.

Tax Policy and Federal Spending

Q. On the budget, if the Republicans won't give you the taxes you want, what's the alternative? Cut back on the spending you want? How do you get out of this pickle?

The President. Well, the alternative is, just mechanically—if they won't raise money, the alternative is, you either have to say—well, let me say what the alternative is not, first. The alternative is not their gimmicks, and then we'll come up with our gimmicks, and we'll all see who can out-gimmick someone else. That is not the alternative.

The alternative should be that we decide we're going to cut back on the spending for a year. Or if it's too severe—and from what we hear out there in the country from—and what we know about the needs of education, what we know about what we both want to do to help restore our ability to recruit in the military and help our military families with a pay increase there, what we know in a number of other areas—if we decide to spend this money together, if we jointly agree on it, and it won't allow us to have a divided surplus, which keep in mind, we want to do this year, then both parties need to agree on that.

Now, I strongly prefer to go on and get out of the Social Security surplus this year. And what I proposed is not all that onerous—I mean, dealing with—the corporate loopholes I proposed to close, the cigarette tax, and the toxic waste dump fees. That's not all that bad. You could always compromise. You could raise less and spend a little less.

But my point is, the most important thing is, we should be straightforward with the American people about this, and we

shouldn't try to get them all tied up in knots and pretend that something is going on that isn't. We know we are going to now have, in the future years, a surplus that will—except when we have economic downturns—but on average, a surplus that will be large enough, projected, that we can meet the future needs of education, the environment, national security, out of non-Social Security revenues.

Now, this is a—let me remind you all, this is a new development. When we were in the deficit spending mode all during the eighties—all of you know this; you wrote about it a lot—the deficits were made to seem smaller than they were because Social Security revenues were in surplus over Social Security payments. They are still in surplus over Social Security payments, but now other revenues are in surplus over other spending this year.

But the '97 budget caps were very tight; they were for the teaching hospitals; they were for a lot of other things; they were when it comes to continuing to improve education. And we do need to spend some more on national defense, as all of you know—at least I feel that way, and the Republicans do, too, because of the problems for the military families and some modernization problems. So this whole question that there is just so much agitation on and all these ads filling the airwaves, it's really about the fact that when they started looking at their budget, they couldn't get out of the Social Security funds until next year either unless they were willing to raise some money this year from the cigarette tax, from closing corporate loopholes, or the toxic waste dumps.

So all I'm suggesting is, we need to sort of stop misleading the American people—they need to, with their television ads—and we need to sit down and work this out and figure out what's right for the people, make the right disciplined choices and go forward.

Q. Mr. President, you said you need to sit down and talk, and yet there are some Republicans on the Hill who make it clear that that's the last thing they want to do, is to sit down with the White House and start negotiating. What is the status—

The President. That's the last thing they want to do.

Q. Right.

The President. Yes, that's right.

Q. So what is the status of communication right now, and how can you get out of this if you all don't start communicating?

The President. Well, I don't think we can if we don't start communicating. But all I'm telling you is—they've had a debate, apparently, within their caucus in both houses about whether we ought to join hands and do the, evidently, right thing for the American people, and also be candid about this budget problem that they have—because they're philosophically opposed to raising the cigarette tax and they don't want to close any corporate loopholes right now. We've just got to figure out if there is a resolution to that. And then there are those who believe that they can somehow create this whole other issue, spending the Social Security surplus, and then say that they're not doing it, we're doing it, even though they're in the majority and they approve all the money; or they can say, well, I made them do it somehow. That's what's going on here.

So there are people who believe in their caucus that somehow they can make some big political issue out of this. And then there are those who want to get something done. I had a long talk with a committee chairman yesterday, and I won't identify him for fear of hurting him. But we talked a long time about how we need to make an honest effort to resolve the differences between where they are and where we are on the areas within his jurisdiction.

So I think there is a difference of opinion. I think a lot of them would like to just show up for work tomorrow. And that's what I hope we'll do.

Japanese Nuclear Accident

Q. Has Japan asked for American help in dealing with its nuclear accident? And how would the United States treat such a request?

The President. Well, first of all—and I should have said this the very first thing—we are all very concerned, and our thoughts and prayers are with the people in Japan today because of this uranium plant accident. You can only imagine how difficult this must be for them, quite apart from whatever the

facts are. This is going to be a very hard day for the people of Japan.

And we are doing our best to determine what, in fact, has happened and what assistance we can give. And we will do whatever we possibly can that will be helpful to them. And we will try to be as comprehensive and prompt about it as possible.

Mortgage for New York Residence

Q. Mr. President, what about your mortgage, sir? Do you now understand why some people felt that it was improper for you to arrange a mortgage with a loan guarantee from Mr. McAuliffe? And are you now planning to get a different kind of mortgage?

The President. Well, I will stay with what Mr. Lockhart has told you about that. We had just a day or two to get that house; a lot of people wanted it for the same reason we liked it. A lot of people like the house. It's a nice place. We liked it. So we did what was necessary to secure it.

Now, we're going to close on it in a little more than a month. And if we change the financing between now and then, we'll let you know as soon as we do. But we did not do it before we got an opinion from the Office of Government Ethics about the mechanics of it, and that it did not constitute a gift under Federal law.

Q. Why wouldn't Bowles and Rubin help?

The President. They were—I don't have anything to say about that. McAuliffe called me the first thing when I was talking to him, and he said, "Look, if you can get somebody else to do it, fine." I think because—everybody thought it was a legitimate business arrangement. No one thought there was anything wrong with it, all the people I talked to about it, and all the people anybody else talked to about it.

I think some people didn't want to do it because they know they live in a world where they live in the Larry Klayman political press world in which what's true is not as important as whether you can be dragged around; you have to spend a lot of money you don't have or you'd rather not spend for reasons that have nothing to do with anything that's real.

It's like this television ad campaign, to go back to the budget issue. There is the rest of the world and the way it works and the

way people view things, and then there is the way a lot of things around here work. And so I don't—anybody that's ever been through it knows that's true.

You're all smiling because you think, I wonder if the President made a mistake by committing the truth in that last remark. I can see you all smiling and thinking that. [Laughter] So all I can tell you is, I feel good about where we are on it. We're going to close on it in a month, and we're excited about it. And if we change the financing, we'll let you know.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:55 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Larry Klayman, chairman, Judicial Watch, Inc.; former Chief of Staff to the President Erskine B. Bowles; former Secretary of the Treasury Robert E. Rubin; and Terence McAuliffe, loan guarantor of the First Family's residence Chappaqua, NY.

Remarks at the National Education Summit in Palisades, New York
September 30, 1999

Thank you very much. Good afternoon, Governors, education leaders, business leaders. I am delighted to be here. I thank my good friend, Governor Hunt, for his remarks. This year marks the 20-year anniversary from the time you and Secretary Riley and I started working together on education.

I want to thank Governor Thompson for his interest in this, and so many other issues. Tommy Thompson is the first Governor who told me that he thought that he could really move, literally, every able-bodied welfare recipient in Wisconsin to work. And I think they've had a 91 percent drop in the rolls. He nearly got it done. Congratulations, that's an amazing achievement.

And I want to especially thank Lou Gerstner and all the business leaders here, because you kept the idea of the summit alive and understood the importance of consistent and systematic followup with the Governors, with the educators. I am very grateful to you for doing this. Most people like you do a project like this for a year or 2 and then they

forget it and go on to something else. And you haven't done it, and I'm very grateful.

And for all of you who were here 3½ years ago, who stayed involved in this, I thank you.

Governor Hunt—I was watching him on the monitor outside—talked about the issuance of the “Nation At Risk” report 16 years ago, the meeting we had 15 years ago. The first National Education Summit was in Charlottesville 10 years ago this week. And some of us were there then. President Bush, his Education Department, education leaders from around the country, we were all together. And we came together to embrace the concept and specifics of national education goals.

At the second summit, here in Palisades 3½ years ago, we supported the idea that every State should set standards. At this third summit I hope we will embrace with equal fervor the idea of accountability, for only by holding educators, schools, students, and ourselves accountable for meeting the standards we have set will we reach the goals we seek.

We have made significant progress, particularly in the ideas governing the way we look at this. More and more we're leaving behind the old divisions between one side saying “We need more money,” and the other side saying “We shouldn't invest any more money in our public schools, it's hopeless.” By and large, there is a new consensus for greater investment and greater accountability, greater investment and higher standards and higher quality teachers to help students reach the standards; holding the schools accountable for the results. That's the agenda of Achieve, the agenda of our administration, clearly the right agenda for the United States.

I think it is another mark of progress and something that many of you in this room can feel profoundly both proud of and grateful for, that 10 full years after Charlottesville and now more than 16 years after the issuance of the “Nation at Risk” report, there is still a passionate sense of national urgency about school reform and about lifting education standards. And there are people who get up every day full of energy about it, not cynical, not skeptical, not jaded, not tired, still eager to learn. People in Governors' offices, people

in the schools of our country, business leaders, education leaders of all kind.

This is quite an astonishing thing. You cannot think of a single other issue that has had this long a life at this level of intense commitment. And I think it is a tribute to the love of the American people for their children, a tribute to the understanding of the American people of the importance of education in the global economy, and a sense that we know that we have both the largest and the most diverse student population in our history.

But if you just think about how people get tired of political issues, how everybody is supposed to want to read something new in the paper or seeing something new on the evening news, month-in and month-out, and you think about how long ago it was when Governor Caperton there decided to make all of his elementary students computer literate; how long Governor Engler has been in office; how long ago it was that Secretary Riley and Governor Hunt and I started fooling with all this—and the country is as hot to do the right thing, to improve the education of our children today as it was the day after the “Nation At Risk” report was issued. And that’s a great source of comfort to me, and reassurance. And the business leaders, the educators, and the political leaders here in this room and like-minded people throughout this country deserve a lot of credit for that.

When I came to Washington 6½ years ago, all of you know that the number one problem I had to deal with was the deficit, because we quadrupled the debt in 4 years, interest rates were high, the economy was stagnant. We had to cut hundreds of programs, and we were determined to try to do it in a way that would increase our investment, not decrease our investment in education at the national level, and to do it in a way that, spearheaded by Secretary Riley, to give you more flexibility, but also to focus on the pressure points of reform that would likely give us the greatest returns.

I am very grateful that we have seen our deficit of \$290 billion turn into a surplus of \$115 billion. This year we’ll have the first back-to-back surpluses in 42 years. And today we learned we have the lowest rate of poverty

in America in 20 years. I am very grateful for that. But I’m also grateful that during this period we were able to early double the Federal investment in education, to help you provide your children and your schools with more of the tools they need. We’ve increased early childhood investment through Head Start. We’ve opened the doors of college wide by basically modeling a national version of Georgia’s HOPE scholarship and providing tax credits for beyond the first 2 years of high school.

We have increased Pell grants and established education IRA’s. We’ve begun to organize an army of tutors. We now have a thousand colleges and universities, I believe in every State in the country, involving themselves in America Reads, to try to make sure all 8-year-olds can read when they finish the third grade.

We’ve made an enormous amount of progress, and a lot of you have been active on this, in hooking up every school and library in the country to the Internet and with the e-rate making sure that the poorest schools can afford to participate in the information superhighway.

Last fall we fought for and won a bipartisan consensus to make a downpayment of 30,000 teachers, on getting 100,000 more teachers out in the country to lower class sizes in the early grades. And we have supported a huge increase in the number of charter schools in America. When I became President in January of ‘93 there was only one charter school in the whole country, in the State of Minnesota. There are now 1,300.

We’re in New York; the New York Legislature, I think, just authorized the establishment of the first charter schools here. In California, they just took the cap off the number of charter schools that they could have. We still have a lot of interest in magnet schools and other public school choice initiatives along with the other debates on this subject. But I think that we are well on our way to having 3,000 charter schools in the United States by next year, which is the goal that I set for our administration when we started down this path 6 years ago.

Now, in addition to what we’ve done, what’s more important is what you’ve done and what the country’s done. We have made

truly remarkable progress in the standards movement, thanks in no small measure to the leadership of Governors and those of you who gathered here 3½ years ago. Our Goals 2000 legislation and the reforms in Title I we made have supported that. Today, almost every State has standards for what children should know in English, math, science, history, social studies. Next year, virtually every State will be testing students to see if they're meeting the standards.

Now, that is all very good news. My friend, Hugh Price, who is sitting back there to my left, leader of the Urban League, recently observed that people didn't talk much about standards and test scores 50 years ago because the output of the schools, whether it was good, bad or indifferent, more or less matched with the demands of a blue collar economy that needed strong backs more than well-developed minds. The problem now is that the economy has changed much faster than the schools.

People used to say, "You know, the schools just aren't what they used to be." The problem may be that too many of our schools are too much like they used to be, but the world the children move out into is not at all as it used to be. And that, of course, is what a lot of you are trying to help to change.

Now, as we move into this period of not only having standards but having accountability—that is consequences for the failure to meet them—there will be people who will, first of all, be elated at the evidence of improvement, which you can see all over the country where such things have been done from California to Houston to Chicago to Dade County to many other places in the country. Then there will be those who will want to shrink back because they fear the adverse consequences of failure and many people really don't believe all kids can learn. I think it would be a mistake to give into those fears.

And one of the things that I would hope will come out of this summit, Lou, is that all of you, in encouraging accountability, which is, I know, something you believe in, ask people not to be afraid when there are consequences.

I just saw the results in New York City, where the first group of children have

gone—didn't score at the appropriate level. They went to summer school. Many that went to summer school are being prompted, but a few that went to summer school aren't, and all the ones that refused to go aren't.

And there may be some mistakes made. But as long as we send the message to these kids that "We're doing this for you. This doesn't mean there's something wrong with you, but we'll be hurting you worse if we tell you you're learning something when you're not. We'll be basically participating in a fraud which, ultimately, will cost you more personally, psychically and, of course, eventually financially, than any pain that comes in the moment."

But in order to do this, this whole issue will have to be really taken out of and kept out of the closet. Governors will have to look dead in the eye of some child that was held back and say, "That's okay, you can do it," and lift them up. We won't have to pretend that there will never be a moment of pain for anybody in any of this.

And similarly, business people and Governors will have to know that we have done everything we absolutely can to give every kid we can the chance not to be taken down by the system. It's one of the things that I liked about Chicago, where the summer school now for the children that don't make the grade is now the sixth biggest school district in the entire United States of America—the Chicago summer school, the sixth biggest school district in America. Why? Because they don't want to brand the kids as failures when the system didn't do for them what it should have.

And Secretary Riley and I have met with parents whose children have been through the system there, including parents of children who were held back and had to go to summer school. I have been into a poor neighborhood there where virtually all the kids had to go to summer school in a couple of the classes. And because they believed the system is honest and because they believe that the purpose of what is being done is not for some politician or educator to look tough or run up numbers in the polls or, say, have some easy sloganeering answer, but the purpose is to make sure these kids learn what they need to learn to have good lives, they

support it. They support the standards. They support the mandatory summer school. They support what's being done in the after-school programs.

And it will happen everywhere in America. But we all have to commit the truth about this. And we can't pretend there will never be any painful consequences. But where there are painful consequences, all the Governors can do a world of good by going into those schools and say, "I'm doing this because I want you to have a good life. I'm doing this because it's not too late for you. This is just the beginning of your life. I'm doing this because your teachers and your principals and your parents and the business leaders in this community, we care about your future, and we're going to make this work." And I hope we can do that.

Let me just say very quickly, I think we have to have these basic standards in every State, and we have to make it possible, as Achieve has recommended, not only know whether the standards are being met but to give the parents some comparative information about how children in other States and other nations are doing. I think we have to recommit ourselves to extra support.

And Congress, when I sent this Education Accountability Act to Congress, saying that school districts accepting Federal money must ensure that teachers know the subject they're teaching, have reasonable discipline codes, empower parents with report cards, have a strategy—and I think this is very important—to turn around failing schools or close them down and, finally, a strategy to end social promotion that empowers children who aren't making the grade through the after-school programs, the summer school programs, and all the rest.

Now, we're having a big argument in Washington on the budget today. I don't want to get into a partisan rerun of that, but let me just say this: We can have the kind of budget we need that will help you to do what you need to do without—and we can meet the budget targets without coming up short in education, whether it's for Head Start or more teachers or the initiative to help States build and modernize 6,000 new schools or the American Reads program or this Gear Up program, all of which the Con-

gress supported last year, by the way, to help mentor kids that are in trouble in junior high school, to try to get them into college by getting them over that rough patch. So I hope we can get that done.

I also wanted to say, emphasize something that I think is very important, our budget would provide \$200 million to help you turn around low-performing schools. I believe that it is not enough to say, no social promotion, strict accountability, and even summer school and after-school programs for kids, unless there is a strategy to turn around the low-performing schools. And I know that in North Carolina and in several other places where this has been done—I mentioned them earlier, Houston, Dade County, Chicago, and there are other places—but there is evidence now—we don't have to question this either—there is a lot of evidence that these low-performing schools can be turned around.

I went to an elementary school in Chicago, in the Robert Taylor housing project, where the reading scores had tripled and the math scores had doubled in 2 years. Were they on a low base? Yes. Were they where they ought to be? No. But does it prove you can turn things around, even in the most adverse circumstances? Absolutely. So I think that if we're going to have genuine accountability for standards, it is important that we have something to turn the schools around.

And again, I say—a lot of people in Congress don't want to adopt this accountability standard for Federal funds because they say that we shouldn't impose that on you. But I think all of you know that the five elements in the Federal bill were basically ideas we got straight out of local school districts and States. They weren't something that Dick Riley cooked up. It was something that the Education Department developed based on the proven experience and results of local school districts and States.

Finally, let me just give you something to feel good about again, at the end. In 1996, there were only 14 States with measurable standards. Today there are 50. That's the good news. Here's why you ought to focus on accountability. In 1996, there were only

11 States with systems that identify and sanction low-performing schools. Today there are only 16. This is the hard part.

But again, I say, we've got to give the schools the tools they need to do the job. And the Federal Government has an important role to play. We don't provide an enormous amount of the total funds for schools, but that amount was slipping for a while, and we got it going back up now. And I feel very strongly, as the Secretary of Education, that with the largest student population in history and with all this educational evidence about the benefits of smaller classes and with the imperative of ending the practice of social promotion, finishing the work of 100,000 teachers, helping you to build or remodel 6,000 schools so they'll be modern, and doing these other things are quite important.

Now, let me just make one other point. I'm encouraged by the movement to standards in the 3½ years since you had your last summit here, and you should be, too. That's a rather astonishing move. And it shows what can happen if you meet in an environment where you've got business and education and the political leadership working together, and Republicans and Democrats leave the party labels at the door, and everybody just works on what's good for the kids.

But this is the hard part. It's not an accident that we've gone from 16 to 50 standards and 11 to 16 in genuine accountability. It's hard. But you also can take a lot of pride in the fact that you have evidence, even in big urban areas with a lot of trouble, where this has worked. And the consequences are good.

Now, last February when the Governors were in the White House, I just noted that it took 100 years for laws mandating compulsory, free elementary education to spread from a few States to the whole Nation. When it comes to this accountability agenda, will we follow the model of the last 3½ years with standards and go from 16 to 50 in a hurry, or will we go back to the model of the earlier time? I think all of you know what we ought to do.

And I will say again, I think the fact that we have the largest number of children in our public schools in history, I think the fact that they are more diverse than ever before

in terms of their backgrounds and their languages is a godsend for us for the 21st century in a global society if, but only if, we prove not only that they can all learn but that we can teach them all. We know they can all learn from—you can do a brain scan and determine that. That's always been—that's the wrong question. The question is, can we teach them all, and are we prepared to do it, and are we prepared to have constructive compassion for their present difficulties by having genuine accountability and also heartfelt support.

The reason that there is still so much enthusiasm for all this after—10 years after the Charlottesville Summit, 16 years after the "Nation at Risk," 20 or 30 years after all the Southerners figured out that it's the only way to lift our States out of the dirt—is that everybody knows that deep down inside it's still the most important public work.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:40 p.m. in the Watson Room at the IBM Palisades Executive Conference Center. In his remarks, he referred to North Carolina Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr.; Wisconsin Gov. Tommy G. Thompson; Louis V. Gerstner, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer, IBM Corp.; former Gov. Gaston Caperton of West Virginia; Gov. John Engler of Michigan; and Hugh B. Price, president and chief executive officer, Urban League.

Memorandum on Counter-Drug Assistance to Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Panama
September 30, 1999

Presidential Determination No. 99-43

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Drawdown Under Section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act to Provide Counter-Drug Assistance to Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Panama

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(2) (the "Act"), I hereby determine

that it is in the national interest of the United States to draw down articles and services from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense, military education and training from the Department of Defense, and articles and services from the inventory and resources of the Departments of Justice, State, Transportation, and the Treasury for the purpose of providing international anti-narcotics assistance to Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Panama.

Therefore, I direct the drawdown of up to \$72.55 million of articles and services from the inventory and resources of the Departments of Defense, Transportation, Justice, State, and the Treasury, and military education and training from the Department of Defense, for Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Panama for the purposes and under the authorities of chapter 8 of part I of the Act.

As a matter of policy and consistent with past practice, my Administration will seek to ensure that the assistance furnished under this drawdown is not provided to any unit of any foreign country's security forces if that unit is credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights unless the government of such country is taking effective measures to bring the responsible members of that unit to justice.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress immediately and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Proclamation 7228—National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 1999

September 30, 1999

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Across America today, women are living challenging, fulfilling lives, skillfully balancing the responsibilities of work, family, and community, and making plans for a bright future. But for thousands of these women each year, the diagnosis of breast cancer shatters the pattern of everyday existence. For millions more, the fear of such a

diagnosis casts a shadow across their lives. This year alone, an estimated 175,000 new cases will be diagnosed, and more than 43,000 women will die from breast cancer.

Despite these tragic statistics, we are beginning to see real progress in our national crusade against this disease. The breast cancer mortality rate in the United States has steadily declined over the past 10 years, and currently 2 million American women are winning the battle against this cancer.

Our steadfast commitment to breast cancer research is finally bearing fruit and has led the way to new preventative treatments. Last year, the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) landmark Breast Cancer Prevention Trial revealed that there were 49 percent fewer reported diagnoses among women who took tamoxifen. In another promising effort, researchers are looking at an alternate drug to see if we can achieve the same results but with fewer side effects.

Researchers are also conducting studies to determine if other medications can provide an effective weapon in our war against breast cancer. The Food and Drug Administration has recently approved the use of a new drug that has proved to be effective in the treatment of patients already in the advanced stages of this disease. Studies indicate that the drug may benefit 25 to 30 percent of women with advanced breast cancer. Encouraged by these findings, the NCI has rapidly expanded its study to include earlier stages of breast cancer and the treatment of other cancers, such as ovarian cancer.

We have also made promising strides in promoting the early detection of breast cancer, which is critical to prolonging patients' lives. A recent survey conducted by the NCI and the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) showed that 88 percent of women 65 years of age and older had undergone at least one mammogram during their lifetime—a 25 percent increase from 1992. Of the women who had a mammogram, 80 percent received their most recent test within the past 2 years, and more than 75 percent knew of Medicare's mammography coverage. The NCI and HCFA hope to build on this progress through their joint campaign to raise women's awareness of the importance of regularly scheduled mammograms and the

availability of Medicare mammography benefits.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also played a vital role in combating breast cancer by providing access to screenings for medically underserved women. Authorized by the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act of 1990, the CDC's early detection program provides breast and cervical cancer screening services for women who might otherwise not receive them, such as older women, women with lower incomes, and women of color. This program has provided nearly 1 million mammograms, resulting in the diagnosis of more than 5,800 breast cancer cases.

Having lost my own mother to this devastating disease, I know all too well the pain and hardship that breast cancer inflicts on women and their families. I urge all Americans to join me in the crusade to prevent, treat, and ultimately eradicate breast cancer. By building on the breakthroughs we have achieved in research, prevention, and treatment and by promoting continued education and awareness, we can ensure that millions of women can look forward to longer lives and a brighter future.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 1999 as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon government officials, businesses, communities, health care professionals, educators, volunteers, and all the people of the United States to publicly reaffirm our Nation's strong and continuing commitment to controlling and curing breast cancer.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 4, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 5.

Proclamation 7229—National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 1999

September 30, 1999

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As Americans, we define ourselves in many ways—not only by our families and communities, but also by our work; not only by who we are, but also by what we do for a living. Millions of Americans with disabilities, however, do not share that experience because their path to the world of work has been strewn with barriers. At a time when the unemployment rate in our Nation is at the lowest level in a generation—4.2 percent—a staggering 75 percent of Americans with disabilities remain unemployed, even though the vast majority of them want to work.

One of the greatest barriers to employment for people with disabilities is that, under current law, they often become ineligible for Medicaid or Medicare if they work. That is why I have challenged the Congress to pass the bipartisan Work Incentives Improvement Act. This proposed legislation would extend Medicare coverage for people with disabilities who return to work and improve access to health care through Medicaid. No American should ever be forced to choose between health care coverage and employment, and this legislation will help ensure that no one has to make that choice.

In addition to fully funding the Work Incentives Improvement Act, my Administration's proposed budget includes a \$1,000 tax credit to help people with disabilities offset the cost of special transportation and other work-related expenses. We are also seeking to double our investment in such assistive technology as braille translators, mobile phones, and voice recognition software that give disabled citizens the tools they need to make the transition to work. And in June of this year, I signed an Executive order to expand employment opportunities for people with psychiatric disabilities and set an example for the private sector by ensuring that the Federal Government's hiring and promotion standards are the same for these

workers as they are for people with mental retardation or severe physical disabilities.

Next year our Nation will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 25th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—the two landmark pieces of legislation that transformed our country's disability policy and set a standard for other nations around the world. However, putting an end to negative attitudes and shattering destructive stereotypes will require the concerted efforts of all sectors of society. Until we integrate Americans with disabilities as full participants in our social fabric, we will never reach our employment goals.

This year, in addition to rededicating ourselves to breaking down employment barriers, we will highlight the achievements of people with disabilities in areas such as journalism, entertainment, and the arts. People like journalist John Hockenberry prove that a wheelchair need not be an obstacle to traveling the world to report breaking news. Artists like blind sculptor Michael Naranjo and deaf painter Alex Willite illustrate that having a disability can be the vehicle for advancing the arts in novel ways. Performers like Laurie Rubin, a classically trained vocalist, show us that blindness need not prevent one from taking the great stage of the opera.

To recognize the enormous potential of individuals with disabilities and to encourage all Americans to work toward their full integration into the workforce, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 121), has designated October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 1999 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I call upon Government officials, educators, labor leaders, employers, and the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that reaffirm our determination to fulfill both the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and

ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 5, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 4.

Proclamation 7230—National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 1999

September 30, 1999

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Most families provide a nurturing web of relationships where children learn to love and respect others and themselves and absorb the values that will shape them as adults and citizens. But for millions of Americans, family life has become a battlefield where women, children, and sometimes the elderly become casualties. The tragedy of domestic violence touches all our lives by weakening families, leaving emotional scars as devastating as physical ones, and creating a destructive cycle of violence where those who were abused as children may become abusers themselves.

My Administration has taken important steps to reduce domestic violence by creating a system that punishes offenders and provides victims with the information and assistance they need to escape destructive family environments. The cornerstone of this effort has been the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which was part of the historic Crime Bill I signed into law in 1994. This landmark legislation combined tough new penalties for offenders with funding for much-needed shelters, counseling services, public education, and research to help the victims of violence.

We also have established a toll-free National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE) where staff responds to as many as 10,000 calls each month; worked to raise awareness in the workplace and among

health care providers about domestic violence; and more than tripled resources for programs to combat violence against women. To build on the success of the VAWA and the Crime Bill, in May of this year I unveiled my proposal for additional legislation—the 21st Century Crime Bill—that will reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and toughen penalties for those who commit violent crimes in the presence of children.

We have increased funding for State maternal and child health programs that include child protection and family preservation services. We have worked with the Congress to pass legislation that strengthens law enforcement, enhances child predator tracking and protection mechanisms, and supports child abuse prevention efforts in State and local jurisdictions. And, at the end of last year, we launched the Children Exposed to Violence Initiative (CEVI), designed in part to reform Federal and State laws to provide swift and certain punishment for those who commit child abuse and neglect. CEVI will also strengthen local programs in hopes of reducing the number of children who are exposed to violence or become victims of violence themselves; it will also encourage alliances that include government as a partner with schools, communities, parents, and other family members in an effort to prevent child abuse.

We can take heart in our progress and at the outpouring of concern and compassion we see for the victims of domestic violence. Whether members of the law enforcement community, health care professionals, educators, religious and community leaders, policymakers, or concerned private citizens, Americans have united in the crusade against domestic violence. With increased awareness, strengthened prevention, and communities united in common cause, we are making the reduction of domestic violence a reality and the dream of ending it one day a possibility.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 1999 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I call upon government officials, law

enforcement agencies, health professionals, educators, community leaders, and the American people to join together to end the domestic violence that threatens so many of our people.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 4, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 5.

**Executive Order 13138—
Continuance of Certain Federal
Advisory Committees
September 30, 1999**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Each advisory committee listed below is continued until September 30, 2001.

(a) Committee for the Preservation of the White House; Executive Order 11145, as amended (Department of the Interior).

(b) Federal Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health; Executive Order 12196, as amended (Department of Labor).

(c) National Partnership Council; Executive Order 12871, as amended (Office of Personnel Management).

(d) President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans; Executive Order 12900 (Department of Education).

(e) President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities; Executive Order 12876 (Department of Education).

(f) President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities; Executive Order 13021, as amended (Department of Education).

(g) President's Commission on White House Fellowships; Executive Order 11183, as amended (Office of Personnel Management).

(h) President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology; Executive Order 12882 (Office of Science and Technology Policy).

(i) President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities; Executive Order 12367, as amended (National Endowment for the Arts).

(j) President's Committee on the International Labor Organization; Executive Order 12216, as amended (Department of Labor).

(k) President's Committee on the National Medal of Science; Executive Order 11287, as amended (National Science Foundation).

(l) President's Committee on Mental Retardation, Executive Order 12994 (Department of Health and Human Services).

(m) President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports; Executive Order 12345, as amended (Department of Health and Human Services).

(n) President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee, Executive Order 12382, as amended (Department of Defense).

(o) Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee; Executive Order 12905 (Office of the United States Trade Representative).

(p) President's Export Council; Executive Order 12131, as amended (Department of Commerce).

Sec. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive order, the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act that are applicable to the committees listed in section 1 of this order, except that of reporting annually to the Congress, shall be performed by the head of the department or agency designated after each committee, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 3. The following Executive orders, or sections thereof, which established committees that have terminated and whose work is completed, are revoked:

(a) Executive Order 13017, as amended by Executive Orders 13040 and 13056, establishing the Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry;

(b) Executive Order 13038, establishing the Advisory Committee on Public Interest Obligation of Digital Television Broadcasters, as amended by section 5 of Executive Order 13062, and Executive Orders 13065, 13081, and 13102;

(c) Section 5 and that part of section 6(f) of Executive Order 13010, as amended by section 3 of Executive Order 13025, Executive Order 13041, sections 1, 2, and that part of section 3 of Executive Order 13064, and Executive Order 13077, establishing the Advisory Committee to the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection;

(d) Executive Order 13037, as amended by Executive Orders 13066 and 13108, establishing the Commission to Study Capital Budgeting;

(e) Executive Order 13050, establishing the President's Advisory Board on Race;

(f) Executive Order 12852, as amended by Executive Orders 12855, 12965, 12980, 13053, and 13114, establishing the President's Council on Sustainable Development; and

(g) Executive Order 12961, as amended by Executive Order 13034, establishing the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses.

Sec. 4. Sections 1 through 4 of Executive Order 13062 are superseded.

Sec. 5. Executive Order 12131, as amended, is further amended by adding in section 1-102(a) a new paragraph as follows: "(9) Department of Energy."

Sec. 6. Executive Order 13115 is amended by adding the Department of the Treasury and the Office of National Drug Control Policy to the Interagency Task Force on the Roles and Mission of the United States Coast Guard, so that the list in section 1(b) of that order shall read as follows:

- "(1) Department of State;
- (2) Department of the Treasury;
- (3) Department of Defense;
- (4) Department of Justice;
- (5) Department of Commerce;
- (6) Department of Labor;

- (7) Department of Transportation;
- (8) Environmental Protection Agency;
- (9) Office of Management and Budget;
- (10) National Security Council;
- (11) Office of National Drug Control Policy;
- (12) Council on Environmental Quality;
- (13) Office of Cabinet Affairs;
- (14) National Economic Council;
- (15) Domestic Policy Council; and
- (16) United States Coast Guard."

Sec. 7. Executive Order 12367, as amended, is further amended as follows:

(a) in section 1, the text "the director of the International Communication Agency," is deleted;

(b) in section 2, delete the first sentence and insert in lieu thereof "The Committee shall advise, provide recommendations to, and assist the President, the National Endowment of the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services on matters relating to the arts and the humanities. The Committee shall initiate and assist in the development of (i) ways to promote public understanding and appreciation of the arts and the humanities; (ii) ways to promote private sector support for the arts and humanities; (iii) ways to evaluate the effectiveness of Federal support for the arts and humanities and their relationship with the private sector; (iv) the planning and coordination of appropriate participation (including productions and projects) in major national cultural events, including the Millennium; (v) activities that incorporate the arts and the humanities in government objectives; and (vi) ways to promote the recognition of excellence in the fields of the arts and the humanities."; and

(c) in section 3(b), add the following sentence after the first sentence: "Private funds accepted under the National Endowment for the Arts' or the National Endowment for the Humanities' gift authority may also be used to pay expenses of the Committee."

Sec. 8. Executive Order 12345, as amended, is further amended by deleting the first sentence of section 2(b) and inserting in lieu thereof the following three sentences. "The council shall be composed of twenty members appointed by the President. Each member shall serve a term of 2 years and may

continue to serve after the expiration of their term until a successor is appointed. A member appointed to fill an unexpired term will be appointed for the remainder of such term."

Sec. 9. This order shall be effective September 30, 1999.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 30, 1999.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:23 a.m., October 1, 1999]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on October 4.

Executive Order 13139—Improving Health Protection of Military Personnel Participating in Particular Military Operations

September 30, 1999

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 1107 of title 10, United States Code, and in order to provide the best health protection to military personnel participating in particular military operations, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. Military personnel deployed in particular military operations could potentially be exposed to a range of chemical, biological, and radiological weapons as well as diseases endemic to an area of operations. It is the policy of the United States Government to provide our military personnel with safe and effective vaccines, antidotes, and treatments that will negate or minimize the effects of these health threats.

Sec. 2. Administration of Investigational New Drugs to Members of the Armed Forces.

(a) The Secretary of Defense (Secretary) shall collect intelligence on potential health threats that might be encountered in an area of operations. The Secretary shall work together with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure appropriate countermeasures are developed. When the Secretary considers an investigational new drug or a drug unapproved for its intended use

(investigational drug) to represent the most appropriate countermeasure, it shall be studied through scientifically based research and development protocols to determine whether it is safe and effective for its intended use.

(b) It is the expectation that the United States Government will administer products approved for their intended use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). However, in the event that the Secretary considers a product to represent the most appropriate countermeasure for diseases endemic to the area of operations or to protect against possible chemical, biological, or radiological weapons, but the product has not yet been approved by the FDA for its intended use, the product may, under certain circumstances and strict controls, be administered to provide potential protection for the health and well-being of deployed military personnel in order to ensure the success of the military operation. The provisions of 21 CFR Part 312 contain the FDA requirements for investigational new drugs.

Sec. 3. Informed Consent Requirements and Waiver Provisions.

(a) Before administering an investigational drug to members of the Armed Forces, the Department of Defense (DoD) must obtain informed consent from each individual unless the Secretary can justify to the President a need for a waiver of informed consent in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 1107(f). Waivers of informed consent will be granted only when absolutely necessary.

(b) In accordance with 10 U.S.C. 1107(f), the President may waive the informed consent requirement for the administration of an investigational drug to a member of the Armed Forces in connection with the member's participation in a particular military operation, upon a written determination by the President that obtaining consent:

- (1) is not feasible;
- (2) is contrary to the best interests of the member; or
- (3) is not in the interests of national security.

(c) In making a determination to waive the informed consent requirement on a ground described in subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section, the President is required by law to apply the standards and criteria set forth

in the relevant FDA regulations, 21 CFR 50.23(d). In determining a waiver based on subsection (b)(3) of this section, the President will also consider the standards and criteria of the relevant FDA regulations.

(d) The Secretary may request that the President waive the informed consent requirement with respect to the administration of an investigational drug. The Secretary may not delegate the authority to make this waiver request. At a minimum, the waiver request shall contain:

- (1) A full description of the threat, including the potential for exposure. If the threat is a chemical, biological, or radiological weapon, the waiver request shall contain an analysis of the probability the weapon will be used, the method or methods of delivery, and the likely magnitude of its affect on an exposed individual.
- (2) Documentation that the Secretary has complied with 21 CFR 50.23(d). This documentation shall include:
 - (A) A statement that certifies and a written justification that documents that each of the criteria and standards set forth in 21 CFR 50.23(d) has been met; or
 - (B) If the Secretary finds it highly impracticable to certify that the criteria and standards set forth in 21 CFR 50.23(d) have been fully met because doing so would significantly impair the Secretary's ability to carry out the particular military mission, a written justification that documents which criteria and standards have or have not been met, explains the reasons for failing to meet any of the criteria and standards, and provides additional justification why a waiver should be granted solely in the interests of national security.
- (3) Any additional information pertinent to the Secretary's determination, including the minutes of the Institutional Review Board's (IRB) deliberations and the IRB members' voting record.

(e) The Secretary shall develop the waiver request in consultation with the FDA.

(f) The Secretary shall submit the waiver request to the President and provide a copy to the Commissioner of the FDA (Commissioner).

(g) The Commissioner shall expeditiously review the waiver request and certify to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (APNSA) and the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology (APST) whether the standards and criteria of the relevant FDA regulations have been adequately addressed and whether the investigational new drug protocol may proceed subject to a decision by the President on the informed consent waiver request. FDA shall base its decision on, and the certification shall include an analysis describing, the extent and strength of the evidence on the safety and effectiveness of the investigational new drug in relation to the medical risk that could be encountered during the military operation.

(h) The APNSA and APST will prepare a joint advisory opinion as to whether the waiver of informed consent should be granted and will forward it, along with the waiver request and the FDA certification to the President.

(i) The President will approve or deny the waiver request and will provide written notification of the decision to the Secretary and the Commissioner.

Sec. 4. Required Action After Waiver is Issued. (a) Following a Presidential waiver under 10 U.S.C. 1107(f), the DoD offices responsible for implementing the waiver, DoD's Office of the Inspector General, and the FDA, consistent with its regulatory role, will conduct an ongoing review and monitoring to assess adherence to the standards and criteria under 21 CFR 50.23(d) and this order. The responsible DoD offices shall also adhere to any periodic reporting requirements specified by the President at the time of the waiver approval. The Secretary shall submit the findings to the President and provide a copy to the Commissioner.

(b) The Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, make the congressional notifications required by 10 U.S.C. 1107(f)(2)(B).

(c) The Secretary shall, as soon as practicable and consistent with classification requirements, issue a public notice in the *Federal Register*

describing each waiver of informed consent determination and a summary of the most updated scientific information on the products used, as well as other information the President determines is appropriate.

(d) The waiver will expire at the end of 1 year (or an alternative time period not to exceed 1 year, specified by the President at the time of approval), or when the Secretary informs the President that the particular military operation creating the need for the use of the investigational drug has ended, whichever is earlier. The President may revoke the waiver based on changed circumstances or for any other reason. If the Secretary seeks to renew a waiver prior to its expiration, the Secretary must submit to the President an updated request, specifically identifying any new information available relevant to the standards and criteria under 21 CFR 50.23(d). To request to renew a waiver, the Secretary must satisfy the criteria for a waiver as described in section 3 of this order.

(e) The Secretary shall notify the President and the Commissioner if the threat countered by the investigational drug changes significantly or if significant new information on the investigational drug is received.

Sec. 5. Training for Military Personnel. (a) The DoD shall provide ongoing training and health risk communication on the requirements of using an investigational drug in support of a military operation to all military personnel, including those in leadership positions, during chemical and biological warfare defense training and other training, as appropriate. This ongoing training and health risk communication shall include general information about 10 U.S.C. 1107 and 21 CFR 50.23(d).

(b) If the President grants a waiver under 10 U.S.C. 1107(f), the DoD shall provide training to all military personnel conducting the waiver protocol and health risk communication to all military personnel receiving the specific investigational drug to be administered prior to its use.

(c) The Secretary shall submit the training and health risk communication plans as part of the investigational new drug protocol submission to the FDA and the reviewing IRB.

Training and health risk communication shall include at a minimum:

- (1) The basis for any determination by the President that informed consent is not or may not be feasible;
- (2) The means for tracking use and adverse effects of the investigational drug;
- (3) The benefits and risks of using the investigational drug; and
- (4) A statement that the investigational drug is not approved (or not approved for the intended use).

(d) The DoD shall keep operational commanders informed of the overall requirements of successful protocol execution and their role, with the support of medical personnel, in ensuring successful execution of the protocol.

Sec. 6. Scope. (a) This order applies to the consideration and Presidential approval of a waiver of informed consent under 10 U.S.C. 1107 and does not apply to other FDA regulations.

(b) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government. Nothing contained in this order shall create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 30, 1999.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 4, 1999]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 5.

Memorandum on Pakistan and India *September 30, 1999*

Presidential Determination No. 99-44

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Agriculture

Subject: Pakistan and India

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President of the United States, including

under section 902 of the India-Pakistan Relief Act of 1998 (as enacted in Public Law 105-277), to the extent provided in that section, I hereby waive until October 21, 1999, the sanctions and prohibitions contained in sections 101 and 102 of the Arms Export Control Act, section 620E(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and section 2(b)(4) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, insofar as such sanctions and prohibitions would otherwise apply to any credit, credit guarantee, or financial assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture to support the purchase of food or other agricultural commodity.

The Secretary of State is hereby authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 1.

Memorandum on Fiscal Year 2000 Refugee Admissions *September 30, 1999*

Presidential Determination No. 99-45

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on FY 2000 Refugee Admissions Numbers and Authorizations of In-Country Refugee Status Pursuant to Sections 207 and 101(a)(42), Respectively, of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and Determination Pursuant to Section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act, as Amended

In accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the "Act") (8 U.S.C. 1157), as amended, and after appropriate consultation with the Congress, I hereby make the following determinations and authorize the following actions:

The admission of up to 90,000 refugees to the United States during FY 2000 is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest; provided, however, that this number shall be understood as including persons admitted to the United States during FY 2000 with Federal refugee

resettlement assistance under the Amerasian immigrant admissions program, as provided below.

The 90,000 admissions numbers shall be allocated among refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with the following regional allocations; provided, however, that the number allocated to the East Asia region shall include persons admitted to the United States during FY 2000 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988, as contained in section 101(e) of Public Law 100-202 (Amerasian immigrants and their family members); provided further that the number allocated to the former Soviet Union shall include persons admitted who were nationals of the former Soviet Union, or in the case of persons having no nationality, who were habitual residents of the former Soviet Union, prior to September 2, 1991:

Africa	18,000
East Asia	8,000
Former Yugoslavia	17,000
Kosovo Crisis	10,000
NIS/Baltics	20,000
Latin America/Caribbean	3,000
Near East/South Asia	8,000
Unallocated	6,000

The 6,000 unallocated numbers shall be allocated as needed to regional ceilings where shortfalls develop. Unused admissions numbers allocated to a particular region may be transferred to one or more other regions if there is an overriding need for greater numbers for the region or regions to which the numbers are being transferred. You are hereby authorized and directed to consult with the Judiciary Committees of the Congress prior to any such use of the unallocated numbers or reallocation of numbers from one region to another.

Pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2601(b)(2), I hereby determine that assistance to or on behalf of persons applying for admission to the United States as part of the overseas refugee admissions program will contribute to the foreign

policy interests of the United States and designate such persons for this purpose.

An additional 10,000 refugee admissions numbers shall be made available during FY 2000 for the adjustment to permanent resident status under section 209(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1159(b)) of aliens who have been granted asylum in the United States under section 208 of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1158), as this is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest.

In accordance with section 101(a)(42) of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)) and after appropriate consultation with the Congress, I also specify that, for FY 2000, the following persons may, if otherwise qualified, be considered refugees for the purpose of admission to the United States within their countries of nationality or habitual residence:

- a Persons in Vietnam
- b Persons in Cuba
- c Persons in the former Soviet Union

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress immediately and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

The Attorney General
The Secretary of Health and Human Services

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 1.

Remarks on Departure for Las Vegas, Nevada, and an Exchange With Reporters

October 1, 1999

Japanese Nuclear Accident/Social Security Benefits Statement

The President. Good morning. This morning before I leave for California, I would like to talk about two issues briefly; first, the tragic nuclear accident in Japan. I have just spoken with Prime Minister Obuchi to express our sympathy to those who have been affected, and our readiness to help in any way we can.

He told me the Japanese authorities have been able to bring the situation under control, and he thanked me for the outpouring

of support from the United States. Over the last day we've been providing information to Japan on our experiences in dealing with similar incidents in the United States, and making available our experts in atmospheric monitoring and any other areas that might be useful.

Secretary Richardson has been meeting with his counterparts in Russia and discussing ways we can all coordinate our assistance with them. Japan has been our friend and our ally, and we're ready to work together to address the situation and to prevent future accidents.

I would also like to talk about a new important step we're taking to help more Americans make their retirement years more secure. Through war and peace, from recession to expansion, our Nation has always fulfilled its obligation to older Americans. Thankfully, it's hard to remember the time when growing old usually meant growing poor. It seems impossible to believe, but in many cases, retirement before Social Security meant being sent off to long, lonely years of dependence. The normal aches of aging were accompanied by the unbearable pain of becoming a burden on one's children. That's why Social Security means so much to the life of our Nation. For almost 65 years now it's been an unshakable covenant among generations, between workers and retirees, between the disabled and the able bodied.

But too many Americans, when planning their retirement, take too little account of Social Security. Of course it's hard to fully plan for tomorrow if you don't know where you stand today. Most Americans receive annual statements of their earnings, their savings, and their private pensions. Until today, however, they've never received annual statements on Social Security, the largest source of income for many, many elderly Americans.

I am pleased to announce that today the Social Security Administration is launching a new effort to help workers know what they can plan on, what they can count on, and if need be, what they can rely on during retirement. One hundred twenty-five million American can now look forward to annual estimates of their Social Security benefits. The first half million mailings go out today. This new Social Security statement will help

more Americans understand what Social Security means to them. It will form a vital part of any family's financial planning and help more Americans chart a course to retirement that is clear and secure.

For many Americans Social Security, along with savings and pensions, is the foundation of retirement security. It's a rock-solid guarantee. In this time of prosperity we have our best chance yet to see that it remains so. I hope we will do so and extend the life of the Social Security Trust Fund. I will continue to do all I can, not only to strengthen Social Security but also to strengthen and reform Medicare for the next century. To fulfill our obligation not only to our older Americans but to their children and their grandchildren. Thank you very much.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Q. Mr. President, do you believe the FBI is being operated professionally, and what makes you think that?

The President. You already know the answer?

Q. You made a comment about it the other day.

The President. No, I think—I made a comment, I believe, in the context of the Waco situation. And there is now a provision for Senator Danforth to look into it. I think that was the appropriate thing to do. That was, of course, agreed on by both the Attorney General and Director of the FBI. And I think that is the way that it should proceed.

Several years ago, as you know, the FBI director was set up in a different way by Congress, given a term of years, and essentially, I think, it was designed to insulate it more from the executive branch generally, although the Attorney General clearly still has supervisory responsibilities there. And I think that under these circumstances what I have said is all I should say. And I think that both Mr. Freeh and the Attorney General did the right thing in asking for this independent review. I don't think there is much more to say about it.

Republican Budget Proposal

Q. Mr. President, what do you make of Governor Bush's comments that House Republican leaders should not balance the budget on the backs of the poor?

The President. Well, I was delighted to see that he, or that any prominent Republican, finally had joined our position on this. We've been saying this since the proposal was first floated. What they propose to do is unconscionable, and basically, instead of those people getting their tax returns on time like other Americans do, they would get it once a month, and it would cost them a lot of money not only in—they would actually lose some money and then the rest of the money they would get much later in the year. I think it's wrong, and I intend to do everything I can to stop it. And I believe I can stop it.

But I will also say, as I said yesterday, that this is a difficult thing for the Republicans because unlike us, they don't want to provide reasonable offsets so that we can begin this year to segregate the Social Security surplus from the general revenue surplus and not dip into the Social Security surplus any more. That requires good, firm decisions with reasonable offsets, and we've given them to the Congress. And I hope that the reaction across the country to their idea to raise taxes on the poor will provoke them to reconsider the offsets we have offered.

Let me emphasize again, however, that this only underscores my judgment that I did the right thing in vetoing their tax cut. They can't even pay for this year's spending without getting into the Social Security surplus. They certainly couldn't pay for this year's spending, the spending it will necessitate in the years to come, and the tax cut on top of that.

Japanese Nuclear Accident

Q. Mr. President, are you confident that the kind of accident that happened in Japan can't happen here in America, or do you think that some additional steps need to be taken?

The President. Well, I've asked our people to look at that, the appropriate authorities, to take a look at that. We had a similar incident in this country, I was informed yesterday, I think about 30 years ago. I think

that's right. I wish I had the specifics. But we had a general conversation about it, and I said that I thought that we ought to have all of our people learn everything we could about what happened there, analyze our systems here, and make sure we've done everything we can to protect ourselves.

There was a pretty good level of confidence that we had done that, yesterday. But I think that when something like this happens we realize we live in a world where perfection eludes us, and we've got to keep working on this. So that's what I've asked to be done.

I also think, by the way though if I could just reemphasize, that this should again sensitize us to the importance of issues of nuclear safety. And if I could just mention one; once again I'm in a dispute with a majority of Members of Congress over this Yucca Mountain Facility in Nevada. And my feeling that at the time it was selected, there was some science in there but perhaps some politics too, since Nevada is a small State and I have wanted not to see this issue politicized but to bend over backwards to make sure we do everything we can to deal with the nuclear safety issue before we adopt this course. I still feel that way.

I hope that generally all Americans will want to see us proceed in every area where we're dealing with nuclear safety.

Social Security and Federal Spending

Q. Mr. President, given the political crossfire over dipping into the Social Security surplus fund why don't you take the lead and invite GOP leaders down to the White House to discuss reasonable offsets and, as a last resort if need be, agree to spend money together?

The President. Well, I am certainly willing to talk to them, and we are, as I'm sure you know, we're trying to keep the lines of communication open. And I hope that there will come a time when we can get the leaders of both parties in Congress together and agree on a future course. I think that is important.

But they have to be also willing to have that sort of discussion first, and we're working on it. I'm very hopeful that they will decide that, as is usually the case in the United

States, that doing the right thing for the American people is the best politics.

They have decided that the right thing to do is to spend money that goes beyond the budget caps of '97, which is certainly understandable, particularly in the Medicare area, that they are too tight and that it would go beyond what the non-Social Security surplus is. As I said yesterday, that has been the case at least since 1983 when the last Social Security reform was done and the revenues of Social Security came in, but no one really noticed it because we were always running a deficit.

Then the Congress decided, and I agreed, that it would be a good thing, since we now project surpluses, to segregate out these two. That's a good thing. But they found out that they had committed to do it a year before they could do that and meet their spending goals.

So, there are three choices here. Either really do harm to the country by not making some of these investments, which they don't want to do and I don't either; or cut some things that I think would be a big mistake, like education or our responsibilities around the world; or find reasonable offsets; or otherwise make a principled agreement and tell the American people what we're doing; or look for the gimmicks.

And I think they've got to move away from the—they chose the third alternative, gimmicks plus television ads, to try to blame us for doing what they are, in fact, doing. And I just think that's a mistake. I am perfectly willing to work with them and talk with them and tell the American people, whatever decision we wind up making, what we did and why if we can reach a principled agreement.

Yesterday, at least, it looked to me like they wanted to stick with the course they're on. I think it's a big mistake, and I think eventually we'll get where we need to go and do the right thing. And they will find when we do, that politically it's almost always the best politics to do the right by the country.

Florida A&M Bombings

Q. You've been sounding out against terrorism and there is a quiet story coming out of Florida, Florida A&M—have you heard about the bombings at Florida A&M? And

there is supposedly a conclusion today to that situation. What are your thoughts? There have been several bombings at Florida A&M.

The President. Well, I would like to know more about the source of them, whether they're racially motivated, whether they're politically motivated. When I do, then I think I should make a statement. Obviously we deplore violence of any kind and bombings, by their very nature, are terroristic. But I would like to know more about what the roots of it are or what we believe they are, and then I will be glad to say more.

Q. Were you made aware of the incidents before this week?

The President. Just in the general way that you've described them, but no more.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:59 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan; former Senator John C. Danforth, Special Counsel investigating the Justice Department's role in the 1993 siege in Waco, TX; and Gov. George W. Bush of Texas. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on Rental Assistance Vouchers

October 1, 1999

The Department of Housing and Urban Development yesterday released \$280 million in rental assistance vouchers to help 50,000 families in 35 States move from welfare to work. These housing vouchers are an integral part of our efforts to reform welfare, reward work, and provide affordable housing for low-income families. They will help families move close to a job, reduce a long commute, or secure more stable housing that will help them get or keep a job.

Today, our economy is strong, incomes are up, and poverty is at the lowest rate in 20 years. But there are still more than 5 million low-income families who need affordable housing. That is why I have asked Congress for an additional 100,000 rental assistance vouchers to meet the critical housing needs of families moving from welfare to work, the homeless, and the elderly. As Members of

the House and Senate meet in conference to debate this year's budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, I want to underscore my strong commitment to this initiative. Congress should not turn its back on families that are playing by the rules and moving from welfare to work. A budget without new vouchers would short-change the American dream.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 25

In the morning, the President went to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, for his annual physical.

September 27

In the morning, the President traveled to New Orleans, LA, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frank H. Cruz and Ernest J. Wilson III to be members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The President announced his intention to appoint Richard H. Brown as a member of the Advisory Committee on Trade and Policy Negotiations.

The President announced his intention to appoint Sara Castro-Klaren, Hoyt H. Purvis, and Lee Williams to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Canada on October 8, to address the Forum of Federations in Mont Tremblant and to meet with Prime Minister Jean Chretien in Ottawa.

The White House announced that the President will attend the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, on November 18–19, vis-

iting Bulgaria before the summit and Italy and Greece after the summit.

September 28

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles Manatt to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate Avis Thayer Bohlen to be Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Arms Control at the Department of State.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alan C. Kessler and LeGree S. Daniels to be members of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ronnie Fern Liebowitz as a member of the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors.

September 29

The President announced his intention to appoint Richard N. Zare as Chair and Sandra M. Faber and Jay Patel as members of the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science.

The President announced his intention to appoint Marvin E. Johnson and John G. Wofford as members of the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

September 30

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Palisades, NY, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph R. Crapa to be Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The President announced his intention to appoint John Gage, Nancy E. Pfund, and Susan R. Collins as members of the Web-Based Education Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Martin E. Marty as a member of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

October 1

In the morning, the President traveled to Las Vegas, NV, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Palo Alto, CA.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 27

Gerald V. Poje,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of 5 years (reappointment).

Submitted September 28

Gary L. Ackerman,
of New York, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-fourth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Thomas L. Ambro,
of Delaware, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, vice Walter K. Stapleton, retired.

Frank Henry Cruz,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2006 (reappointment).

Peter T. King,
of New York, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-fourth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Richard Linn,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, vice Giles S. Rich, deceased.

Charles Taylor Manatt,
of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Dominican Republic.

Quenton I. White,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years, vice John Marshall Roberts, resigned.

Submitted September 29

Skila Harris,
of Kentucky, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2008, vice William H. Kennoy, term expired.

Glenn L. McCullough, Jr.,
of Mississippi, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2005, vice Johnny H. Hayes, resigned.

Withdrawn September 29

Skila Harris,
of Kentucky, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2005, vice Johnny H. Hayes, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on September 23, 1999.

Glenn L. McCullough, Jr.,
of Mississippi, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2008, vice William H. Kennoy, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on September 23, 1999.

Submitted October 1

Avis Thayer Bohlen,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Arms Control) (new position).

Joseph R. Crapa,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Jill B. Buckley.

LeGree Sylvia Daniels,
of Pennsylvania, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2007 (reappointment).

Greta Joy Dicus,
of Arkansas, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Forty-third Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

William A. Halter, of Arkansas, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2001 (new position).

Alan Craig Kessler, of Pennsylvania, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2008, vice J. Sam Winters.

J. Stapleton Roy, of Pennsylvania, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the personal rank of Career Ambassador, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research), vice Phyllis E. Oakley.

Norman A. Wulf, of Virginia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Forty-third Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart and Dr. Connie Mariano on the President's physical

Released September 27

Statement by the Press Secretary: Presidential Travel to Bulgaria, Turkey, Italy, and Greece

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Clinton Visit to Canada

Released September 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Prepared text of remarks by National Security Adviser Samuel R. Berger at the Africare dinner

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Third Circuit

Released September 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Released September 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director Jack Lew, National Economic Council Director Gene Sperling, and Council of Economic Advisers Chair Martin Bailey on the continuing resolution and Census Bureau income and poverty statistics

Statement by the Press Secretary on National Security Adviser Samuel R. Berger's meeting with Jose Alexandre Gusmao (Xanana), president of the National Council for the Timorese Resistance

Advance text of remarks by National Security Adviser Samuel R. Berger on the challenges in Kosovo at the U.S. Institute for Peace

Acts Approved by the President

Approved September 29

H.R. 1905 / Public Law 106-57
Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2000

H.R. 2490 / Public Law 106-58
Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2000

S. 1637 / Public Law 106-59
To extend through the end of the current fiscal year certain expiring Federal Aviation Administration authorizations

H.R. 2605 / Public Law 106-60
Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2000

H.J. Res. 34 / Public Law 106-61
Congratulating and commending the Veterans of Foreign Wars

1886

Administration of William J. Clinton, 1999

Approved September 30

H.J. Res. 68 / Public Law 106-62
Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes

Approved October 1

S. 380 / Public Law 106-63
To reauthorize the Congressional Award Act