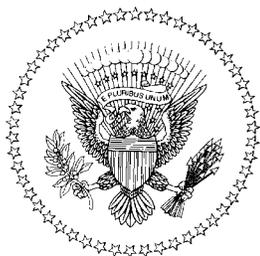


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, October 2, 2000
Volume 36—Number 39
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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, September 29, 2000

The President's Internet Address

September 22, 2000

Good afternoon. We Americans are truly fortunate to be living at such an exciting time. Computers and the Internet are revolutionizing the way we work, live, relate to each other and the rest of the world. They also have the potential to fundamentally transform and improve the way Government serves the American people. Today I want to talk about a major step we're taking toward that goal.

When I became President, there were only 50 websites on the entire World Wide Web. Today, there are almost 20 million. Under the leadership of Vice President Gore, we've made great progress bringing Government into the digital age. Instead of waiting in line, citizens can go on-line, to file their taxes, compare their Medicare options, and find good jobs. They can tap into the latest health research, change their address at the post office, and follow along with NASA's missions in outer space. And they can do it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

But with 27 million web pages of Government information now on-line and more added every day, finding the information or service you need can be frustrating. That's why I'm pleased to announce that today we're launching a new, one-stop website for Federal on-line information: firstgov.gov. It allows you, for the first time, to link to the Federal Information Service, or service you are looking for, without having to know the name of the agency or the program that offers it.

So, go to www.firstgov.gov, and you're just a few mouse clicks away from websites where you can apply for student loans or reserve a campground in a national park.

Now, when I first announced in June we would be creating firstgov.gov, I promised we would do so in 90 days. That was exactly 90 days ago. I am very proud of the Federal

employees who made this happen in Internet time. And I'm thankful to Dr. Eric Brewer of Inktomi. He's the entrepreneur who, with the help of Federal grants, created one of the private sector's most successful search engine technologies. Out of gratitude and patriotism, he developed and donated the search engine for firstgov.gov.

Now this website belongs to the American people. We've included a place for you to suggest improvements, and we're going to keep working on this site and on all of our Government websites. Firstgov symbolizes, I think, the kind of Government we need in the 21st century, one that empowers citizens to make the most of their own lives.

At the dawn of our Republic, Thomas Jefferson said, "America's institutions must move forward hand in hand with the progress of the human mind." Well, today, as the progress of the human mind races ahead, it's vital that we make sure our democratic institutions keep pace. And if we do, we can create a more perfect, more responsive democracy for the information age.

Thanks for logging on.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. from the Roosevelt Room at the White House. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on the President's Commission on Improving Economic Opportunity in Communities Dependent on Tobacco Production While Protecting Public Health

September 22, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign an Executive order establishing a new Commission to improve opportunities for tobacco farmers and their communities while continuing to protect public health. This action builds on the longstanding commitment Vice President Gore and I share to protect our children from

the dangers of tobacco use and protect individual tobacco farmers. Tobacco growers, like many other farmers, have confronted difficult economic circumstances these last few years as tobacco companies increasingly turn to foreign tobacco. We have supported several efforts over the years to protect tobacco farmers and to develop new opportunities for these growers and their communities. The Commission, which will make recommendations on ways to continue this work while protecting public health, is an important next step.

This new panel, the President's Commission on Improving Economic Opportunity in Communities Dependent on Tobacco Production While Protecting Public Health, will be cochaired by William Martin "Rod" Kuegel, Jr., the president of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association, and Matthew Myers, the president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Both are leaders in their communities with proven records on bringing grower and health groups together on issues important to both. In 1998 they worked with a coalition of grower, public health, and religious groups to issue a statement of principles outlining their shared commitment to reducing disease caused by tobacco products and ensuring the future prosperity and stability of American tobacco farmers and farming communities. The work of this important new Commission will serve to further demonstrate that the goals of reducing youth smoking and protecting American farmers can be pursued together.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Executive Order 13168—President's Commission on Improving Economic Opportunity in Communities Dependent on Tobacco Production While Protecting Public Health
September 22, 2000

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

Section 1. Establishment. (a) There is established the "President's Commission on Improving Economic Opportunity in Communities Dependent on Tobacco Production while Protecting Public Health" (the "Commission"). The Commission shall be composed of not more than 10 members to be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the President. The members may include tobacco producers and quota holders; public health experts; Federal, State, and local government representatives; and experts in agricultural economics and economic development.

(b) Two co-chairs shall be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture from the membership of the Commission. The co-chairs shall report to the President through the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Sec. 2. Purpose. The Commission shall advise the President on changes occurring in the tobacco farming economy and recommend such measures as may be necessary to improve economic opportunity and development in communities that are dependent on tobacco production, while protecting consumers, particularly children, from hazards associated with smoking.

Sec. 3. Functions. (a) The Commission shall collect and review information about changes in the tobacco farming economy and Federal, State, and local initiatives intended to help tobacco growers, tobacco quota holders, and communities dependent on tobacco production pursue new economic opportunities. The Commission may make recommendations concerning these, and any other, changes and initiatives that may be necessary to improve economic opportunity in communities dependent on tobacco production. It shall also consider the public health implications of such changes and initiatives, including the efforts to reduce youth smoking and tobacco-related health consequences in the United States and abroad.

(b) For the purpose of carrying out its functions, the Commission may hold hearings, establish subcommittees, and convene and act at such times and places as the Commission may find advisable.

Sec. 4. Reports. The Commission shall make a preliminary report to the President

by December 31, 2000. A final report shall be submitted to the President 6 months after the Commission's first meeting.

Sec. 5. Administration. (a) To the extent permitted by law, the heads of executive departments and agencies shall provide the Commission, upon request, with such information as it may require for the purposes of carrying out its functions.

(b) While engaged in the work of the Commission, members appointed from among private citizens of the United States may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707) to the extent funds are available for such purposes.

(c) To the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Agriculture shall provide the Commission with administrative services, funds, facilities, staff, and other support services necessary for the performance of the Commission's functions. Notwithstanding any other Executive Order, the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except that of reporting to the Congress, that are applicable to the Committee shall be performed by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with guidelines that have been issued by the Administration of General Services.

Sec. 6. General. The Commission shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report, but not later than 2 years from the date of this order, unless extended by the President.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 22, 2000.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 26, 2000]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on September 27. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7344—Gold Star
Mother's Day, 2000**

September 22, 2000

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's Armed Forces have stood watch over our freedom for more than two centuries. They have held posts on lonely ridges, spent long days and nights at sea, and faced danger in the skies. They have sacrificed their youth, their time, and even their lives to sustain the foundation on which our country was built and to protect the democratic values that keep our country strong and free.

The mothers of these courageous men and women have also bravely stood watch—in homes once filled with the laughter of children—and waited for word from their loved ones. When the guns of battle fell silent, many mothers' homes were once again filled with the boisterous commotion of their children returning from distant lands. But the homes of Gold Star Mothers remained silent. Their children had made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation, and Gold Star Mothers were left with the profound sorrow of their heartbreaking loss.

But America's Gold Star Mothers rose above their personal tragedy, and today they continue to stand watch over our Nation. Reaching out to improve the lives of others and to ensure that the noble contributions of their sons and daughters are not forgotten, they are powerful examples of service and sacrifice for us all. With dignity, courage, and compassion, they have worked to promote patriotism, foster peace and goodwill, and extend a helping hand to veterans and those in need. Their generosity of spirit has touched the lives of countless Americans and made certain that the selflessness their children demonstrated in service to our country remains a prominent part of our national character.

For their steadfast devotion to duty and their unwavering commitment to carrying on the proud legacy of their children, we honor these Gold Star Mothers each year. 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 has 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 Sunday, September 24, 2000, as Gold Star Mother’s Day. I call upon all government officials to display the United States flag over government buildings on this solemn day. I also encourage the American people to display the flag and to hold appropriate meetings in their homes, places of worship, or other suitable places as a public expression of the sympathy and respect that our Nation holds for our Gold Star Mothers.

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

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:46 a.m., September 25, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 26. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7345—National Older Workers Employment Week, 2000

September 22, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As a Nation, we are growing older, and so is our workforce. Today, there are 49 million workers in America aged 45 years or older—approximately 35 percent of America’s labor force—and by 2008, that number will grow to 62 million, or about 40 percent of the workforce. One in four Americans between the ages of 65 and 69 has at least a part-time job, and 80 percent of the “baby boom” generation intends to keep working past the age of 65. Increasingly, older Americans want to work, and for most, the oppor-

tunity to work adds not only to the length but also to the quality of their lives.

The abilities, experience, and strong work ethic of these older Americans are a precious resource for our Nation in today’s strong economy. With the unemployment rate at its lowest level in more than a generation, businesses urgently need to hire more workers if they are to keep pace with the demand for their products and services. Too often overlooked or underutilized, older workers offer employers a broad and diverse pool of talent.

Recognizing the importance of older workers to our Nation and our economy, the Congress unanimously passed, and I was proud to sign into law, the Senior Citizens’ Freedom to Work Act of 2000. This legislation eliminates the Social Security retirement earnings test, a provision that withheld benefits from Americans working beyond the age of 65. It allows older Americans to enjoy the extra income and personal fulfillment that work offers without being penalized, and it ensures that companies facing labor shortages will have a greater supply of experienced workers. The Act will also help our economy grow without inflation and encourage Americans to work longer, thus contributing more to the tax base and to the Social Security trust fund at precisely the time when the percentage of younger workers paying into the system will be decreasing.

Older Americans have contributed much to the life of our Nation and to the extraordinary growth and prosperity we enjoy today. We owe them our respect and gratitude; we also owe them the opportunity to continue working as long as they desire. Through laws such as the Older Americans Act, which I have called on the Congress to reauthorize and strengthen, the Age Discrimination Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and now the Senior Citizens’ Freedom to Work Act, the United States Government guarantees that opportunity. And, through the Senior Community Service Employment Program at the Department of Labor and the Administration on Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services, older workers have access to the programs and services they need to continue making their own vital contributions to the American workplace.

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 September 24 through September 30, 2000, as National Older Workers Employment Week. I urge employers across the Nation to recognize the energy and ability of older Americans and to develop new strategies for recruiting and utilizing older workers. I also encourage public officials responsible for job placement, training, and related services to intensify their efforts throughout the year to assist older workers in finding suitable jobs and training.

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

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 26, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 27. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency With Respect to UNITA

September 22, 2000

On September 26, 1993, by Executive Order 12865, I declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), prohibiting the sale or supply by United States persons or from the United States, or using U.S. registered vessels or aircraft, of arms, related materiel of all types, petroleum, and petroleum products to the territory of Angola, other than through designated points of entry. The order also prohibits the sale or supply of such commodities to UNITA. On December 12, 1997, in order to take additional steps with respect to the national

emergency declared in Executive Order 12865, I issued Executive Order 13069, closing all UNITA offices in the United States and imposing additional sanctions with regard to the sale or supply of aircraft or aircraft parts, the granting of take-off, landing and overflight permission, and the provision of certain aircraft-related services. On August 18, 1998, in order to take further steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12865, I issued Executive Order 13098, blocking all property and interests in property of UNITA and designated UNITA officials and adult members of their immediate families, prohibiting the importation of certain diamonds exported from Angola, and imposing additional sanctions with regard to the sale or supply of equipment used in mining, motorized vehicles, watercraft, spare parts for motorized vehicles or watercraft, mining services, and ground or waterborne transportation services.

Because of our continuing international obligations and because of the prejudicial effect that discontinuation of the sanctions would have on prospects for peace in Angola, the national emergency declared on September 26, 1993, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond September 26, 2000. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency with respect to UNITA.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 22, 2000.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:09 p.m., September 22, 2000]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to UNITA**

September 22, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) is to continue in effect beyond September 26, 2000, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on September 26, 1993, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions and policies of UNITA pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997), 1173 (1998), and 1176 (1998) continue to oblige all member states to maintain sanctions. Discontinuation of the sanctions would have a prejudicial effect on the prospects for peace in Angola. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure on UNITA to reduce its ability to pursue its military operations.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 22, 2000.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Remarks on Departure for Palo Alto,
California, and an Exchange With
Reporters**

September 23, 2000

Strategic Petroleum Reserve

The President. Good morning. Yesterday I directed the Secretary of Energy to exchange 30 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve over the next 30 days.

As it stands, overall heating oil inventories are more than 20 percent lower than they were last year, 50 percent lower on the East Coast, more than 60 percent lower in New England. The underlying cause of low inventories is the high price of crude oil.

The overriding purpose for our action is to increase supply and help consumers make it through the cold winter. Families shouldn't have to drain their wallets to drive their cars or heat their homes.

I'd also note that this action will result in more oil in the reserve. This is a swap. And the reserve will be replenished along with a premium, further increasing our long-term protection against energy supply disruptions. This is the right thing to do. It's good energy policy, good national security policy, and good family policy.

Today I'm announcing new actions to help make sure that heating oil is available and affordable for our families. First, I'm directing the Department of Health and Human Services to release \$400 million in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds, the largest ever emergency funding release of its kind to help families who can least bear the burden of high energy prices this winter.

Second, I'm asking the EPA to help States identify ways to use more and different kinds of home heating oil while minimizing environmental consequences. This could help to further build home heating oil inventories.

Third, I am directing Federal agencies to make early contractual commitments to purchase heating oil throughout the winter so

the wholesalers will have the confidence to build inventories in advance.

Fourth, I'm asking State public utility commissions to ensure that factories and businesses that use heating oil as a backup fuel keep adequate reserves.

And finally, Secretary Richardson will meet with the National Petroleum Council, an energy policy advisory committee, to discuss heating oil production this fall and winter. Taken together, these steps will enhance our Nation's energy security and help to cushion working families from high heating bills. It builds on our decision in July to establish a home heating oil reserve in the Northeast.

Now, we've also taken some important steps to strengthen our long-term energy policy. To ease reliance on imported oil, we've invested in new technologies to enhance recovery of domestic oil reserves, and they are quite promising. To promote clean energy alternatives, we've expanded research and development of solar, wind, biofuels, and other renewable resources.

We have also expanded research in the development of alternative forms of engines, including fuel-cell engines and engines that run on both electricity and gasoline, or electricity and other fuels. To save energy and tax dollars, we have taken dramatic steps to reduce energy use in the Federal Government, America's largest consumer. By making our Federal buildings more energy efficient, we will reduce electricity consumption by 30 percent, saving taxpayers \$800 million a year.

We've adopted energy efficient standards for appliances and forged new alliances with industry, including the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles and the 21st Century Truck Initiative. We're on track to tripling the mileage of passenger vehicles and more than doubling the mileage of medium- and heavy-duty trucks. We have made headway. But too many critical elements of our energy strategy have been chopped, blocked, or ignored by the Republican majority in Congress.

I proposed electricity restructuring legislation. They abandoned it. And for every new dollar we have sought to invest in clean, effi-

cient sources of energy, they have provided the dime.

Today I urge Congress to get off that dime and take action: take up my energy budget initiatives and tax incentives to help families and businesses buy fuel-saving vehicles and energy-efficient office buildings and homes and appliances; fully fund development and research into clean energy technology; provide clear guidelines for using home heating oil reserves when we need to; reauthorize the strategic petroleum reserve; and stop trying to make this about drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

We cannot achieve energy security by endangering the environment, denying critical funding, or delaying vital action. We ought to do something more than offer cold comfort to people who simply want a warm home.

Once again, I ask Congress for its support. We can work together. There are many things that we can do. If you look—let me just emphasize this, because it always gets overlooked every time an energy issue comes up—just look at what we have done with immediately available technologies to reduce energy consumption in the Federal Government. If we did the same thing throughout the domestic and the business sectors of the American economy, using off-the-shelf technology with a 2 year or less payoff—if we did it throughout the economy, you would see reduced reliance on foreign oil, lower fuel bills, higher productivity, and more jobs in the American economy.

But we need help from Congress to give people the incentives to do the kinds of things that we're already doing throughout the Federal Government and that many, but nowhere near enough, businesses and consumers are doing.

So I hope we can get some action on the long-term issues as well. But I believe we have done the right thing with the petroleum reserve.

Thank you.

2000 Election and Energy Policy

Q. Mr. President, I was wondering how you would respond to critics, like to Speaker Hastert, Governor Bush, who say this is really politics; this is more about the ballot box than it is the gasoline prices?

The President. Well, first I would say I doubt if they are relying on home heating oil this winter. If you look at it, the reason that the prices got so high is that the supplies got so low. And what we're trying to do here is to even out supply and price. We're in an unusual situation, I might add, where if you look at the projected price of oil for next spring, it's actually lower than it is now.

Now, what does that indicate? If people believe that the price of oil is going to go down in several months, why is it so much higher now? It must be because there is a supply shortage in the stocks and reserves. So what we decided to do, after debating this for weeks and looking at all of our options, was to have a release from the petroleum reserve, and to do it in the form of a swap. So we release the oil now, and then those who get it will replace it next spring when the oil is projected to be more plentiful and, therefore, much cheaper.

So what we're trying to do is to compensate for the fact that the stocks are too low and the price is too high now and to get the oil back into the reserve in the springtime, when the stocks are supposed to be higher and the price is supposed to be lower. I think it's plainly a prudent thing to do.

Who else had a question?

Oil Prices

Q. When do you think prices are going to come down?

The President. Well, I think—haven't they dropped almost \$3 a barrel in the last 2 days? I think they've dropped quite a bit just in the last couple of days, and former Secretary Rubin used to say, markets go up, and markets go down; it's hard for me to know. All I can tell you is, I think this is a prudent thing to do to increase stocks for the winter and to try to make sure it has a moderating effect on prices, but basically, to deal with the supply issue. And normally, in a market situation, the price will follow. That's what I hope will happen here.

But I will say again, I think it is important that we accelerate the long-term issues. But if you look at the things that are out there now that are available for us, if you look at how close we are to breaking the chemical barriers, to the efficient production of bio-

fuels, and all these other things that we're working on—if you look at how close we are to having a truly affordable, efficient fuel-cell vehicle, all these things are out there. We should be accelerating efforts into where we know the future is. And if we do that, we will reduce the number of these instances that the United States and the world will face in the future.

Thank you very much.

Martin Indyk

Q. Can you say anything about Martin Indyk, sir?

The President. No, I have nothing else to say, except I've got to go to California. If you want to come, you're welcome to do it. I think some of you are coming with me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In the exchange, reporters referred to Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush; former Secretary of the Treasury Robert E. Rubin; and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin S. Indyk, whose security clearance was suspended on September 22 for improper handling of classified information.

The President's Radio Address

September 23, 2000

Good morning. In these first fall days of the new millennium, America is basking in the glow of unprecedented prosperity, with the longest economic expansion in history. But we're not just better off; we're more hopeful, more united, and more secure.

Last year the overall crime rate fell for the eighth consecutive year, the longest continuous drop in crime on record, giving us the lowest crime rate in 27 years. Since 1993, gun violence alone has declined by more than 35 percent. But none of us believes America is as safe as it should be, and none of us should be satisfied until America is the safest big Nation in the world.

This morning I want to talk about new ways we're harnessing the power of technology to catch more gun criminals and keep guns out of the wrong hands. Recently, we saw stark evidence that the Internet is fast becoming a new outlet for illegal gun sales. This past May, two teenagers, using a forged

Federal firearms license, were able to order guns over the Internet for delivery to their home in Montclair, New Jersey. Because they used a forged license, there was no scrutiny, no background check, no questions asked. It was only because of the actions of a suspicious UPS delivery man that this scheme was thwarted.

Unfortunately, the Internet, despite all its benefits, is making it easier for guns to fall into the wrong hands. There are now 4,000 firearm sales-related sites on the Internet, and there are 80 sites where you can actually buy a gun at auction. Clearly, we must do more to ensure that every sale over the Internet is legal and that no one uses the anonymity of cyberspace to evade our Nation's gun laws.

That's why today I'm announcing that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms is launching a new website, called EZ CHECK, to prevent criminals and juveniles from using fraudulent licenses to buy firearms. The system, linked to the ATF website, allows licensed gun dealers to quickly verify that licenses presented to them for purchase or shipment of guns are valid. In addition, the ATF is proposing new measures to require gun sellers to verify licenses and report individuals who use invalid ones.

By making it easier to check the validity of gun licenses, we'll make it harder for guns to fall into the wrong hands and give law enforcement and the gun industry a new tool to put a stop to illegal sales.

EZ CHECK is a part of our comprehensive strategy to strengthen gun laws and better enforce those already on the books. In 1993 we passed the Brady law, which has kept more than half a million felons, fugitives, and domestic abusers from buying firearms. In 1994 we passed an historic crime bill, which has funded more than 100,000 additional community police officers around the Nation. The bill also toughened penalties and banned assault weapons.

Meanwhile, gun prosecutions have been rising. Federal firearms prosecutions have increased 16 percent since 1992, and the average sentence has gone up by 2 years. Since this strategy is working, it's quite curious to me that those who argue for more enforcement over new gun safety legislation are,

nevertheless, refusing to fund key elements of our \$280 million gun enforcement initiative, including funds for an additional 1,000 gun prosecutors. So I ask this Congress, don't just talk about strong enforcement; give us the tools to do the job.

I'm also calling on Congress to help prevent gun crimes from happening in the first place by passing our long-overdue common-sense gun safety measures, requiring background checks at gun shows, mandating child safety locks for handguns, and banning the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips.

We must begin this new century by abandoning the stale debate from the last one about whether it's better to strengthen gun laws or enforce existing ones. The ATF's new EZ CHECK system, combined with our unprecedented enforcement budget and our strong commonsense gun safety proposals, will do both. They'll be a major step forward in our efforts to crack down on gun criminals and save lives.

Our current prosperity gives us the chance to focus on the big challenges of the new century. Making America the safest big country in the world is a challenge big enough to be worthy of our attention and one we must meet for the sake of our future and our children.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 6:34 p.m. on September 22 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 23. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 22 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Luncheon in Palo Alto

September 23, 2000

First of all, thank you for talking a few seconds longer so I could—[laughter]—could almost finish my Indian meal. I want to thank the Doctors Mahal and their children for opening their home. Thank you, Vish. Thank you, Dinesh. Thank you, Joel Hyatt.

You know, for a long time, Joel Hyatt was the first legal entrepreneur in America. He

had this sort of legal services for the masses. He was advertising before it was fashionable. Hillary and I used to look at Joel's ad on television. She said, "You know, he was behind us at Yale Law School, but he's way ahead of us in income." [Laughter] So I'm very proud of him and grateful for his service to the party.

I would also like to thank all of those who provided this wonderful meal and the people who served it today. It's really quite a wonderful occasion for me. Back when I was a civilian and had a private life, I used to spend a lot of time in Indian restaurants, starting from—I fell in love with them when I was in England living for 2 years, where most of the impoverished college students like me ate Indian food at least four times a week. [Laughter] We figured if we couldn't be full, at least we would be warm, and we loved it. [Laughter]

I want to thank you for supporting our party, and I want to make just a few brief observations, if I might. First of all, the primary thing I have tried to do as President is to turn the country around and make the systems of our country work so that Americans have the tools and the conditions to make the most of their own lives.

If you look at the Indian-American community in this country, if you look at the phenomenal success just here in Northern California, the industry and enterprise and imagination of people will carry communities and countries a long way if governments aren't getting in the way but instead are offering a hand up. And that's basically what we've tried to do.

I'm very grateful for the partnership that I formed way back in late 1991 with a number of people in Silicon Valley who helped me to adopt good—both macroeconomic policies and to do better by the high-tech community and the information technology revolution in general. And I am very grateful for that.

I also appreciate the kind words many of you said about the opening that my administration and I have made to India and the restoration of harmonious and good relationships which were, as I said at our table, understandably a little out of kilter during the cold war when India had to relate to the So-

viet Union because of the tensions between India and China, but for more than a decade now have made absolutely no sense at all. So we are working hard on a partnership that I believe will be one of the most important relationships that the United States has for many, many decades to come.

In a larger sense, your presence here—I met one person who came through the line and said, "I can't believe it. I've been here one month, and I'm meeting the President." [Laughter] And I think that is adequate testimony to the increasing importance of mobility and openness in our global society, increasing interconnectedness, and therefore, increasing the importance of networks. Now, some people believe that networks will replace nation-states. I don't believe that, because there will still be plenty of work to be done by both. But I do believe that global networks will become more and more important.

There is a book I've been talking quite a bit about lately that—the author actually wrote me a letter last week and thanked me. But I haven't asked for any royalties or anything. [Laughter] The title of the book is "Non Zero," written by a man named Robert Wright, who wrote a fine earlier book called, "The Moral Animal."

But the argument of "Non Zero" is that even when human history seems to be regressing, in the Dark Ages, for example, in the early part of the last millennium, basically, there is a long process of increasing interdependence which has reached its apotheosis in our time; and that the more interdependent people become, the more they are compelled to treat each other in better and better ways, because the more you are interdependent with others, the more your victories require other people to have victories, as well.

So the title is a reference to game theory, but that—in a zero-sum game, in order for one person to win, someone else has to lose. In a non-zero-sum game, in order for one person to win, you have to find a way for others to win as well. And he basically argues that the present stage of economic, political, and social development is the latest and by far the most advanced example of the growth of interdependence.

And that's also, by the way, been at the heart of a lot of what I've tried to do in racial, religious, and ethnic reconciliation. I think the trick is not to get people to give up their identities but to take great pride in their identities, their ethnic and their religious convictions, but to recognize, at least in this lifetime, the ultimate primacy of our common humanity and a way of reaching across divides so—not so that we can give up our differences but so that we can celebrate them and still find a way to work together and move forward.

That's another reason I think that it's very important that you be involved in the political life of your Nation. When Secretary and Mrs. Mineta and I were riding over here, I told him that I believed that it was imperative for the next administration to do more to get Indian-Americans and others who come here from other countries involved not just in the political process but in the governmental process in appointed positions at high levels, in more boards and commissions and more advisory committees, working on more projects, because you really are making the world of the new millennium.

One of the things that I used to say earlier in the year, when our electoral prospects didn't look as good as they do now, when I would assure people that I thought that the Vice President would prevail, is that the question is not whether we're going to change. Anybody in a governmental position who advanced the proposition that things are going so well we shouldn't change, I wouldn't vote for that person.

If there had been a candidate this year running, saying, "Vote for me. Bill Clinton's a great President, and we don't need to change anything," I would vote against that person, because the underlying circumstances of life are changing so much that's not an option.

The real issue is not whether but how. Are we going to change in a way that enables us to take advantage of a unique moment in human history? Are we going to meet the big challenges this country faces? Are we going to continue to successfully integrate all the different groups of immigrants that are coming into our country? Are we going to have a policy with regard to other nations

that recognizes that their challenges are our challenges?

We actually had—Vice President Gore and I had some people in the other party making fun of us not very long ago when we said that AIDS was a security challenge. But it is. When you look at democratic African countries with infection rates hovering around 40 percent in their military, when you look at countries we've worked hard to stabilize as free societies that within just a few years will have more people in their sixties than in their thirties, when you look at wars that have been propagated and the children that have been turned into soldiers and what that's doing to the fabric of society and how the epidemic feeds that, we have to have a broader notion of what is in our security interests.

First, it's about more than military; it's about nonmilitary causes, as well. And secondly, it's about a lot of things that have to do with health and education and well-being.

Climate change, if we don't do something about it, will become a national security concern because more and more land will become unarable, and people will fight more and more over that which is. More and more countries will have water supply problems.

We're working very hard to finish up the peace agreement in the Middle East, and one of the things you never hear anybody talk about is the importance of these nations reconciling so that we can meet the coming water challenge in what is perhaps the second most arid part of the world.

So I wanted to be here not only to thank you for what you have done and thank you for what you are doing but to tell you that to me, your support for our administration and for what we're doing in this election season is a stellar example of what I think America needs to be doing more of.

When I ran for President in 1992, I had a more systematic outreach to all sorts of immigrant groups than anyone ever had. And I did it because I believed that you were important to America's place in the world as well as to America's economic growth and social health. I still believe that more strongly.

So I would just like to leave you with this. There are huge differences between the two

parties in America. There are some similarities, and that's good. We've stabilized our country over many years because we've managed to have two parties that could be broadly representative. But in the last decade, as you know, we had a much more stark ideological difference and a challenge that had to be met.

And essentially, our party now is a modern political party with a modern economic philosophy that is pro-growth, pro-high tech, pro-immigration, pro-education, but believes that the most important solutions are community-oriented solutions, the ones where everybody wins.

We believe that everyone deserves a chance, that everyone counts, and that we all do better when we help each other. And when you strip it all away, that really is the fundamental difference here. That explains the difference in our position on a Patients' Bill of Rights and theirs; our position on a drug benefit for seniors who don't have it now and theirs; our position on raising the minimum wage and theirs; our position on tax cuts so that everybody can afford 4 years of college for their children and theirs; a whole range of issues. And thank goodness, the last 8 years have given us some evidence that if you do all this within the framework of fiscal prudence and a sensitivity to the economic opportunity areas of American society, it turns out that good social policy is good economic policy as well.

So I came here, I guess, finally more than anything else, just to say thank you. This is an interesting election for me. It's the first time in 26 years I haven't been a candidate. [Laughter] My party has a new leader. My family has a new candidate. [Laughter] And I tell everyone who will listen, my new official title is not Commander in Chief but Cheerleader in Chief. [Laughter] And I'm enjoying it immensely.

I think that Hillary will be elected in New York if we can keep getting—building her support, and I think that we're going to do very well in these Senate races. I think we'll do very well in the House races. But we have to win the White House, because of the stark differences on economics, the environment, crime, education, health care. On all these issues, there are real differences.

And I hope that if we do win, and I believe we will, that you will intensify your involvement. I hope you'll continue to support the fundraisers, but I want to see more Indian-Americans in the Government, on the boards, on the commissions, coming to us with specific ideas that ought to be broadly spread, because we have only scratched the surface of the public benefits of the information revolution.

And I'll just close with this. I went to Flint, Michigan, a couple of days ago, which was the home of a lot of the early automobile factories. They still have 7, but they only have 35,000 people working in the car plants there as opposed to 90,000 people at their height.

After the Second World War, an enormous number of people, both African-Americans and European-Americans from my home State, couldn't make a living on the farm anymore, and they moved to Flint or to Detroit or to other towns in Michigan where they got jobs in the auto industry, and they became good, middle-class citizens.

So when I ran for President, everybody from my home State, it seemed like, moved to Chicago or Michigan. I won big victories in Illinois and Michigan, and the gentlemen who were running against me never did figure out why. It's because half the people who live there were born in Arkansas—[laughter]—because they literally couldn't make a living, so they went up there.

Now, Flint's gone through this enormous economic restructuring, but I went there because they have one of these community computer centers we're setting up, like the ones I saw in the little village of Nayla, for example, in Rajasthan when I was in India. But they have—in Flint—I went there for a specific reason. They had a particular emphasis on the power of the Internet and new software technology to empower the disabled, and we had this great disability rally.

But before, I went through—and I looked at the technology there and saw how people who were deaf could use it, people who were blind could use it, and I also used this laser technology that is fully activated and operated by one's eyes. And it's very important for people who are completely paralyzed or for people who are suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease, where eventually, you lose

all momentum, movement in your body except for your eyes.

The people there in Flint, Michigan, every week get an E-mail from a guy with Lou Gehrig's disease in North Carolina who is a friend of mine. And we were friends in the 1980's, and he was a young, handsome, vigorous man. And we worked on education and economic development in the South, and he was tragically stricken with Lou Gehrig's disease. He's had no movement for some time now.

In the next month or two, he will publish a book that he wrote with his eyes, thanks to the Internet. Maybe even more important, he can talk with his wife and children. And I've mastered the technology enough so that I've turned on lights and turned them off, I turned on the tape deck to listen to music and turn it off. And I finally got "good morning" down—[laughter]—but I could see how, with a couple of days' effort, particularly if you couldn't move your head, which is the primary thing that throws it out of whack—it was an amazing thing.

Stephen Hawking, the famous British physicist—and a lot of you may have read his books—is a friend of mine. And he has lived longer with Lou Gehrig's disease than any person ever recorded, as far as we know, any person in history. And he has lived longer because he has just this movement in two fingers. But he can operate a machine that has thousands and thousands of words in it, and he's memorized the order of all of them. And he came to the White House and delivered a speech on the future of time and space for Hillary in one of our Millennial Evenings that he wrote himself, put into his machine, and then pulled out with a voice box. And he is alive today because he can share what he can think and feel and know with other people.

So that is the other thing I would like to say about this. I'm glad all this money has been made here. I'm glad that our country has added all this wealth. I hope we can do a better job by bringing these kinds of opportunities to poor areas and poor people who have been left behind in our country and in other countries.

But fundamentally, the wealth itself is not an end. It's a means to an end. And what

really matters to people is their life story. Norm and Danny and I were talking about that on the way in. That's one thing I learned as a young boy from my relatives who had no money but were very wise. They said, "Just remember, there is not much difference separating the very successful from people that have had a lot of bad breaks in life. And everybody's got a story. And people should be able to live their story. They should be able to dream and live their story."

And one of the things that I am thrilled about is that this information revolution and what's happening with the Internet has the potential to lift more people more quickly out of poverty, adversity, and disability than any development in all of human history by a good long stretch.

But it will be very important for the United States to lead the way and very important—this is another big difference between the two parties. One of my greatest regrets is that the United States is—we have never succeeded in winning a big debate about what our responsibilities are in the rest of the world and how fulfilling them helps us. If we help a poor country become a middle-class country and a trading partner, it helps us. It's also the morally right thing to do.

So that is another argument, I would hope, for all of you staying very actively involved. We need to imagine what all these technologies can do and all of these new ideas that you're coming up with and all of these new companies you start, what it can do, not simply to pile wealth upon wealth but to do it by continuing to advance society, by continuing to find those non-zero-sum solutions so that we all win.

If we become what we ought to become, if we make the most of this truly magic moment, I'm convinced that it will be in no small measure because people like you played a full part in it.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:36 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to luncheon hosts Anamol and Surjit Mahal; Vish Akella, event chair, who introduced the President; Dinesh Sastry, board member, Democratic Leadership 2000; Joel Hyatt, finance chair, Democratic National Committee; and Secretary Mineta's wife, Danaelia.

**Remarks at a Barbecue for
Congressional Candidate Mike
Honda in San Jose, California**
September 23, 2000

Thank you very much. Well, I never, in my wildest dreams, thought I would be introduced by a Japanese-American wearing cowboy boots. [*Laughter*] I mean, you're the walking embodiment of one America right there. [*Laughter*] I love it. Good for you. Look, we've got to have a little fun. It's too nice. You know, we're all having a good time.

I want to thank Jessie and Surinder and the Singh family for welcoming us to their beautiful home, and for so conveniently having such a nice deck so we can all gather. Let's give them all a hand. [*Applause*] That's really great that they had us. Thank you.

I want to thank Secretary Mineta and his wonderful wife for flying out here with me today so he could be here with Mike. You should be very proud of Norm Mineta. He's doing a good job at the Commerce Department; he did a great job for you.

And I want to thank your Representatives who are here. They are some of the best in the Congress, some of the best I've ever seen, and you're very fortunate. I want to thank Anna Eshoo and Zoe Lofgren and Sam Farr. And Paul Pelosi, thank you for coming today. And we look forward to Nancy's continued progress. And I thank Senator Liz Figueroa for coming here. Thank you very much.

I want to thank all of you for coming, and I'd like to say, before I get into any substantive remarks, how profoundly grateful I am to the people of this State, and particularly the people of this community for over 8 years now—partnership and friendship and support for me and the Vice President and our administration. Some of you in this audience were here the very first time I came to Silicon Valley a long time ago, and I am very grateful to you.

I am also grateful because this has been my daughter's home for 3 years now. And I wonder if we'll ever get her back from here. [*Laughter*]

I wanted to be here today because I like Mike Honda, and I admire him, and I strongly support him, and because the stakes in this particular race are quite high.

I've done everything I could do in the last 8 years to show that a Democrat could be pro-business and pro-labor, pro-growth and pro-environmental protection, for a high-tech future and the preservation of traditional American values. And that's what I think he represents. And I can't tell you how important I think it is for Mike and so many of our other good candidates here—I'm going to southern California to help some more of them tonight—to win these House races.

I think it's very important that the American people decide what they think this election's about. I've often found in politics that what people think the election's about determines for whom they vote and how it comes out. And if somebody were to say, "Vote for me because I think Bill Clinton's been a great President, and I won't change anything," I'd vote against that person, because the world is changing.

The question is not whether we're going to change, but how we're going to change and whether we're going to use this moment of incredible prosperity and social progress to meet big challenges and seize big opportunities or whether we're going to be sort of distracted and take some of the siren songs that are being sung in this election.

You know, anybody in this audience that's over 30 years old can remember at least once in your life when you made a mistake, not because things were going so poorly but because things were going so well you thought you no longer had to concentrate. If you live long enough, you'll make one of those mistakes. I see a lot of people nodding their heads. [*Laughter*].

It is sometimes more difficult to make a good decision in good times than it is in tough times. I mean, I know the people took a big chance on me in California in 1992. I can only imagine how many people on election day in 1992 walked into the ballot box and said, "Should I really vote for this guy? He's only 46. His opponent says he's only the Governor of a small southern State." I was so naive, I thought it was a compliment, and I still do. [*Laughter*] So people think, "You know, this is a big chance." But now, give me a break. Look at what California was

going through in '92. It wasn't that big a chance. We had to do something different.

Now there is a sense of well-being, a sense of progress, a sense of possibility, a sense of confidence. But it's easy for people to lose their concentration. And I'm telling you, in my lifetime, our Nation has never had both the opportunity and the obligation to build the future of our dreams for our children and to fulfill our responsibilities around the world that we have today.

And I have so much greater appreciation than I ever did before I became President of the importance of every single seat in the House, every single seat in the Senate. Our economic plan in 1993 passed by a single vote. Everybody in the other party said it would bring on another recession, lead to a big increase in unemployment. As I said in Los Angeles a couple of weeks ago, time has not been very kind to their prediction.

But we turned the country around, and Al Gore now says the best is still out there. Now, a lot of people just think that's campaign rhetoric. I believe that. I really believe the best is still out there. But we have to decide. We have to decide that we'll meet the challenge of the aging of America so that when all of us baby boomers retire and there's only two people working for every one person on Social Security and Medicare, we won't bankrupt our children and their ability to raise our grandchildren.

We have to decide to talk about what Mike did, that we are going to give a world class education to the largest and most racially, ethnically, and religiously diverse group of schoolchildren in the history of the United States. But it's not like we don't know how to do it.

There are schools all over this State succeeding against all the odds. When I started working on school reform 20 years ago and Hillary and I started trying to rewrite the standards when I was Governor 17 years ago, people sort of had a hunch about what would work. We know now.

And you can see it in a lot of your most successful charter schools in California. You can see it in a lot of the other public schools. I was in a school in Harlem the other day where, 2 years ago, 80 percent of the children were doing math and science and reading in

an elementary school below grade level—80 percent—by any measure, a failing school. Two years later 74 percent of the kids are doing math and reading at or above grade level—in only 2 years.

Look, we can make public schools work, but we need smaller classes, modern facilities, Internet connections, well-trained teachers, high standards, and if the schools that are failing don't turn around, they have to be put under new management and change.

This is not rocket science. We now know how to do this. But we have to decide to do it. We have to make a decision. We have to make a decision. We like running a surplus instead of a deficit and having low interest rates—big decision in this election.

We could get this country out of debt in 12 years for the first time since 1835, when Andrew Jackson was President. Now, what difference does it make here? This area got about 30 percent of all the venture capital invested last year in the United States.

I received a study from my economic advisers a month ago that said if the Vice President was elected and had the support of Congress to stay on the path of paying down the debt as opposed to adopting the tax cut proposals of his opponent, plus privatization of Social Security, which costs another \$1 trillion over the next 10 years, and will take us back to deficits, it will keep interest rates a percent lower.

One percent lower interest rates means \$390 billion in lower home mortgage payments—\$390 billion—\$30 billion in lower car payments, \$15 billion in lower college loan payments, or a \$435-billion and—what does that mean—\$435 billion tax cut, keeping interest rates lower. We have to decide. Are we going to do that, or are we going to go back to the way we used to run our budget?

We have to decide whether we believe we can grow the economy and improve the environment or whether it's too much trouble, we don't want to take the chance, and so we're going to relax all these environmental regulations, repeal my order setting aside \$43 million roadless acres in the national forests, undo some of the national monuments I've set aside.

These are specific, clear choices. We have to decide whether we believe that we can have a health care system we can afford where medical professionals still called the shots instead of allowing people who don't have medical training to make these decisions. That's what the fight over the Patients' Bill of Rights is all about. It's a decision we have to make.

Now, and I can tell you I used to believe, even after I got into politics that, you know, these races for Congress and Senate sometimes could be just decided on local issues and personal feelings without regard to that. Look, I like Mike Honda. If I lived out here, I'd be for him just because I like him and because he's a Democrat. But I'm telling you, there are far bigger stakes here.

Don't take my word. Ask Anna. Ask Zoe. Ask Sam. They've been living with this. We have lived with this for 6 years. And we may never have another time in our lifetime to do this. We also, I might add, have very different views about immigration by and large.

We want to raise the H-1B visa ceiling—all of us do—a lot. But we'd like the permits to cost a little more so we could put the money into training Americans who are still here, who have insufficient skills, who also need to be part of the high-tech economy. We think that's important.

I could give you lots of other examples, but I hope that I'm making the point. Number one, you've got to go out here and convince people that didn't come today that this is a big election and no choice can be taken lightly, and that the decision you make for President and Vice President, for the Congress seats, it has to be rooted in what you want for your country and your State and your family. And I'm telling you, we may never have a chance like this again.

And the last thing I would like to say is, to echo something that's been said earlier, I think the most important difference today, based on 8 years of working at it pretty steadily now, is that our party really does believe that everyone counts, that everyone deserves a chance, and that we all do better when we work together. We believe that we live in a country that is stronger if it's a community, and we believe in a world that is becoming increasingly not only connected through the

net but interconnected through a web of mutual interdependence, and we think it's a good thing, not a bad thing.

We don't like the politics of division. We like the politics of unity. We want to try to find a way for us all to go forward together. And if you just look around the world at all the troubles that I've tried to deal with in the last 8 years that were rooted in people's inability to treat those of different races or ethnic groups or religions as equal in terms of their common humanity and if you look at all the troubles we've had in America that we need not have had, if we hadn't had such bitter partisanship in Washington, there's a pretty good argument for sticking behind our side and trying to build a stronger, more interdependent American community.

I am glad that we have people here—I'm glad we've got people here from all over the world. And if we can get along together within our borders, we can have a much more profound impact on helping people to get along better beyond our borders. If we can be good at home, we can do good around the world.

But there really is an important issue at stake here. I see it all the time, when I make the arguments for expanding trade in the global economy but doing so in a way that lifts people up and improves the environment, improves labor standards, and fights against child labor and other abusive labor conditions.

I see it when I argue that we ought to be out there aggressively reducing the debt of the poorest nations in the world, if they'll have honest governments and be good trading partners with us. I see the same thing here at home, when I argue that we ought to—we should have passed the Brady bill and the assault weapons ban like we did. We ought to close the gun show loophole and ban child trigger locks. And we ought to, not because I'm against people hunting or going and doing their sport shooting but because we have mutual responsibilities to one other, and one of those is that, together we ought to take some special effort to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and kids. That's our common responsibility.

So, that's what the Democrats amount to. We want to go into the future together. And

I just—let me just close with this story. I had an amazing day a couple days ago in Flint, Michigan. I went to one of the community computer centers that we set up. And this one—we're trying to set up a thousand around America so that people who aren't connected in their own homes or in their own businesses can come in, get training, and turn their lives around.

The one in Flint is especially focused on the needs of disabled Americans, and oh, it was quite a kick. I got to see people who were blind work in braille and then put it into the computer and have the computer speak back to them. I got to see people who were deaf work with a computer, and it spoke to those who could hear and wrote to those who couldn't. And I got to see an amazing laser technology where people who had no movement in their bodies and could only use their eyes, could use their eyes on a computer screen to turn the lights on and off in their house, to turn the music on and off on their tape deck, to write messages to their relatives.

And I actually got to use this, and I realize this is about way more than money. I've got a friend with Lou Gehrig's disease, with whom I used to work 20 years ago. He lives in North Carolina. We used to work on economic development in the South. He has no movement anywhere, except in his eyes. And in the next month or two, his latest book will be published, that he wrote with his eyes.

Now, he counts, too. He deserves a chance. We're a better country because he can live and communicate and because he has been empowered. That's what we stand for. So I want you to help Mike, because most of you know him, like him, trust him; he's your friend. But you have to understand, most people who vote on election day never come to one of these events. Most people who vote on election day, no matter how many hands he shakes, have not met the candidate.

And you, every one of you, will see a lot of people between now and the election, and you have got to talk to them and tell them this is the chance of a lifetime for America. And we can meet these really big challenges, and they ought to be for Mike Honda, and

they ought to be for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, because we believe that we all do better when we help each other.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:11 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to barbecue hosts Jessie and Surinder Singh; Paul Pelosi, husband of Representative Nancy Pelosi; and State Senator Liz Figueroa. State Assemblymember Mike Honda is a candidate for California's 15th Congressional District. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Carl Rowan

September 23, 2000

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the death of Carl Rowan, one of America's most prolific columnists and social commentators.

Carl Rowan called his autobiography "Breaking Barriers," and that was exactly what he did. He was, without a doubt, one of our Nation's most eloquent voices for human rights and racial justice. Carl's passion for progress led him from a struggling coal mining town to the U.S. Navy, where he served as one of its first African-American commissioned officers. It led him from the newsroom to the corridors of power and back again, to the pages of our Nation's newspapers.

Carl Rowan served two Presidents and represented the United States abroad. But he saw himself first and foremost as a journalist. His gentle, civil tone only heightened the power of his commentary, and he felt a special obligation not only to inform his readers but to enrich them with new ways of thinking.

Hillary and I will miss Carl Rowan and the special perspective that he shared with his Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Vivien, and their three children.

**Remarks at a Democratic
Congressional Campaign Committee
Dinner in Brentwood, California**

September 23, 2000

The President. Thank you.

Audience member. Four more years!
[Laughter]

The President. That's one song we won't sing tonight. [Laughter] Wow. Well, first, let me thank Michael and Jena and everyone who brought us all together for a perfectly wonderful evening. I think you've actually had a good time. I hope you have. I have.

And my friend David Foster, thank you for putting together that show. It was wonderful. I love Richard Marx's songs. I'm glad I got to hear Kayla. Nita was stunning. Jessica took my breath away. Those of you who love opera know there's no 19-year-old in the world who has an opera voice like that, anywhere. She's amazing.

I love the band. I like the sax player over here. [Laughter] I don't know that I like that Christian Slater can also sing and that Rob Lowe plays saxophone better than me. I don't think I like that. [Laughter] But we all had a lot of laughs tonight. And I'm grateful for what has been said and for the songs that have been sung.

But I'm especially—I'm just grateful to be here on behalf of my friend Dick Gephardt. He and Jane have been friends of Hillary's and mine a long time—and Charlie Rangel, Bob Matsui, Henry Waxman. Brad Sherman is here. I think Javier Becerra is here. Patrick Kennedy, thank you for doing such a good job. I know we've got Jane Harman, Mike Honda, Adam Schiff, Janice Nelson, and Gerrie Schipske here, at least those candidates, maybe some more.

I want to just talk to you—I won't take long tonight. But I want to ask you to do something besides give your money. So you have to listen a little bit.

You might ask yourself why, in the last year of my Presidency, when things are going so well, I would do what is now 138 events. And you might say, "Well, maybe he did a few for Hillary. He had to do that, but why did he do the others?" [Laughter]

And I told somebody the other day, this is a strange time in my life. It's the first time

in 26 years I haven't been on the ballot. My party has a new leader. My family has a new candidate. I'm kind of trading in the title of Commander in Chief for Cheerleader in Chief. [Laughter] But I like it. I like it because the whole essence of freedom and democracy is that nobody is indispensable, but the principles and the ideals and the energy and the vision of the vast masses of people, that is indispensable.

I'm doing this partly because we lost the majority because of what the Democrats were willing to do for you in '93 and '94, and the members of the other party wouldn't help them. When we adopted the economic plan and not a one of them would vote for it, they said we were raising taxes on people we weren't raising taxes on. They said we were going to break the economy and drive up unemployment and explode the deficit. And we did it in late '93. And in '94, when the voters were voting, they didn't yet know whether it would work or not.

We adopted a crime bill in '94, after we passed the Brady bill in '93 requiring handgun owners to do background checks. Then we adopted a crime bill to put 100,000 police on the street and banned assault weapons. And the NRA said we were going to interfere with the hunters. And we didn't adopt the crime bill until '94, and so when the people voted, it was—they didn't know whether they were telling the truth or not.

We tried to provide health care to all Americans. Like Harry Truman and Jimmy Carter and Richard Nixon before us, everybody who ever tried it, we got beat. We got further, actually, even than Harry Truman did, and we didn't lose quite as many seats as he did for exactly the same reason.

And I've had to listen to 8 years of misrepresentation now about what we proposed. But the people that wanted it were disappointed they didn't get it. And the people that thought it was a bad deal were inflamed. And all those things happened, and we lost the majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate in '94—because they did what was right for America.

And we've gone from a \$290 billion deficit to a \$250 billion surplus because they were willing to lay down their majority. And there were good people who gave up their careers

in Congress to turn this country around. There were good people—at least a dozen of them who lost their seats because they came from rural districts, where a lot of people had hunting licenses, and the hunters were told that their Congressman had voted to interfere with their right to go into the woods and hunt. There was nothing true about it. But the voters didn't know, and they were in a bad frame of mind. Turnout was low, and we lost a dozen Members because the NRA told the people—falsely—that the Brady bill and the assault weapons ban were somehow designed to interfere with them.

Well, it's different now. They know that the economic plan works. We've kept interest rates down and gave the country a different future. The crime rate has dropped for 8 years in a row, a 27-year low, a 35 percent drop in gun crime, and nobody has missed a day in the deer woods. *[Laughter]* It's different now.

And so part of me wants to do this because they took the bullets for what I asked them to do to make America a better place. And they had to run in 1994, and I didn't. I had until 1996. By '96, everybody said, "You know, this thing is rocking along pretty good here. We might not want to mess it up." But they paid.

Even more important, they ought to be in the majority because of the future. And that's the last thing I want to say. In 1996 we didn't win a couple of seats because people from California didn't vote when the people on the East Coast called the election for me. So a lot of people said, "Well, that's over; I won't go vote."

What I want to say to you tonight is that—I just want to echo what Dick said. In my lifetime, which, unfortunately, is now more than a half century, and most days I'm okay about that, too—*[laughter]*—but in my lifetime we have never had, at once, this economic prosperity, social progress, and the absence of domestic crisis or external threat.

Therefore, we have never had as much of an opportunity to build the future of our dreams for our children. And the real reason they ought to be in the majority is not that they were wrongly kicked out in '94, under the most adverse possible circumstances, can make it possible for me to sleep easier at

night when I leave the White House, knowing that we helped to bring them back. It's because it's the right thing for America's future.

Let me tell you what—we could actually in the next few years end child poverty in America. We could actually provide a world-class education to all the kids that live in this country. We actually know how to do it now. I've been working at this for 22 years, and when Hillary and I started out doing all of this school reform, we thought we knew what to do, but nobody really knew. Now we know.

I was at a school in Harlem the other day, a grade school, where 2 years ago 80 percent of the children were reading and doing math below grade level, and 2 years later, 74 percent of the children are doing reading and math at or above grade level—in 2 years. This can be done everywhere. This is not rocket science. We know how to do it now. Our plan will do it.

But they need small classes and modern schools and trained teachers and the Internet hookups, and they need high standards. And then the schools that aren't cutting it need to be identified and turned around or put under different management. It's not rocket science. We know how to do this now, but we have to decide whether we're going to do it.

We can make America the safest big country in the world, but we have to decide to do it. We can reverse this global warming—if you've got little kids, you better care a lot about this—and continue to grow the economy. But we have to decide to do it.

And my only worry here is that things are going so well, people may just sort of sidle through the election, thinking there are no real consequences, not understanding the choices on health care and education and the economy and the way we relate to the rest of the world. On arms control, for example, huge differences between the two parties.

So here's what I want to ask you to do. I thank you for your money. I thank you for the money you've given to Al and Joe and the Democratic Party. I thank you for the money you've given to the House. Many of you have given to the Senate candidates. A lot of you have given to Hillary. If you

haven't, I hope you will. [Laughter] I thank you for all that.

But remember, every one of you, every day, comes in contact with tons of people who have never been to one of these events, who never will go, don't know anybody in public life, but on election day they will go vote. And I would like to ask you to do something you probably have never thought of doing, which is to take some time every day between now and the election to bring this election up to somebody you know or you come in contact with and tell them why you came here tonight, why you forked over the money, why you know Dick Gephardt ought to be Speaker, why you're trying to help us win the Senate, why Al Gore and Joe Lieberman should be elected. This is very important.

America is going to change a lot in the next 8 years. When Al Gore says the best is—you ain't seen nothing yet, you may think that's just a campaign slogan. It might interest you to know that I actually believe that. We've spent a lot of time these last 8 years just trying to turn this country around. And it's like—it's why the *Titanic* hit the iceberg; you can't turn a big ocean liner around in a split second. And that's what a nation is like.

And now we've got it turned around. It's going in the right direction. And we, literally, are free to think about big things. We could get the country out of debt for the first time since Andrew Jackson was President. I mean, that's amazing, you know. Isn't it?

Now, it would require you to take a smaller tax cut, but it'll keep interest rates lower—one percent lower at least for a decade—the difference in the Republican and Democratic plans. You know what that's worth? Three hundred and ninety billion dollars in home mortgage reductions, alone—just in home mortgages, never mind the business loan, what it will do to the markets and all that.

So you need to do this, not for me, for you, for your kids, and your grandkids. Because anybody in this room tonight over 30 can remember at least one time in your life when you made a serious mistake, not because your life was going so badly but be-

cause things were going so well, you thought you didn't have to concentrate any more.

Now, anybody who's over 30 has made one of those mistakes. I mean a big one. [Laughter] Unless you've just been comatose, you've made a mistake like that. Now that's where we are. That's where the country is today. Are we going to grab a hold of this? Now, a lot of you said some very nice things, and Kenny Edmonds and his wife, Tracy, they've been real friends to me, and I appreciated him saying that I was for real. Whatever that means, that's what I've tried to be all right—for good or real.

I want to tell you something. I want to tell you what this means to me. You know, if Dick Gephardt were in the majority, we would have raised the minimum wage this year. You know what that would have meant? Ten million more people—10 million more people would be out there working and having greater dignity in their work and being rewarded for it. The richest time in the world, this Congress has not restored the minimum wage in real dollar terms to where it was 15, 16 years ago.

And if he had been the Speaker and we'd been the majority in the Senate, we'd have a Patients' Bill of Rights. You know, that sounds like a good thing, but 18 million people a year have their medical care either denied or delayed, even though the doctors want to give it to the patients because the insurance industry and the HMO's don't want to do it—18 million people. We're talking about real people here, 22 million people who have jobs because of the things we've done together, new jobs.

So you're talking about—when you hear people talking about this, there are millions of older people who need to be able to buy medicine. You know, if you live to be 65 in America, your life expectancy is 82. And the young women in this audience, because of the human genome discoveries—those of you who will have babies over the next 10 years, at least by the end of that cycle, your babies will be born with a life expectancy of about 90 years.

Now, that's the good news. But what are we going to do to make those years meaningful? How are we going to keep people healthy in those years? How are we going

to make those years not only living years but life-full years? And don't you think that somebody ought to be able to have good years, even if they're not rich when they turn 65? That's what this Medicare drug thing is all about.

You've got people out there, literally can't take medicine that has been prescribed for them without giving up what they had to spend on food today. So what I want you to understand is, these are big issues. One of the reasons that I want Al Gore to be elected is, in spite of all the people making fun of him and misrepresenting what he said about his role in the Internet, he understands the future, and he thinks about it.

All your medical records and your financial records are going to be on somebody's computer. Don't you think you ought to be able to say yes before somebody gets them? And if you get to say yes, how are we going to allow the Internet economy to continue to grow? Wouldn't you like somebody in the White House who understood that and thought about it all the time?

This is a magic moment. Believe me, the best stuff is still out there. And this is the last point I want to make. It's late, and I'm tired, and I'm jet-lagged. But I wanted to go back to what Kenny said, because Norm Mineta was riding with me up in northern California today, and he asked me why I did my politics the way I do, or how I came to be the way I am in public life.

And I said, "Well, when I was a little boy, I used to get on a bus two or three times a month and go about 80 miles down the road to my great uncle's house and sit out on the porch and listen to him talk. He had about a sixth grade education and about 180 IQ. And when I was a little boy, he used to say, 'Now, Bill, you just sit here, and when these people come up here, you listen to their stories, and you just remember everybody's got a story. And the poor man's story is about as good as a rich man's story and is not but a turn or two in life that makes a difference between one and the other.' And so I would sit there, year-in and year-out, and listen to that."

And then when I became old enough to run for public office, even when I started working in campaigns, I noticed that every

election, the people told their stories in slightly different ways, almost like there was a different song every 2 years or 4 years, always with the same theme, always using the same words, but the stories were always different.

All of you are in a unique position to make sure that this is an election devoted to America's stories being heard. If you look at all the differences between our party and the other party on all the issues, it basically comes down to this: We think everybody counts; everybody ought to have a chance; we all do better when we help each other. That's what we believe.

We believe that our independence as people depends upon recognizing our interdependence as people, that we are growing closer and closer together, that we have to reach across all the lines that divide us, that hate crimes are nutty hangovers from an earlier period where people were scared of those who were different from them or taught that they were somehow morally inferior, and that the truth is, America is the greatest place in the world today because it's the most diverse place in the world. That's what we believe.

We believe the role of Government is to give people a hand up who need it, to create the conditions and give people the tools to live their dreams. But mostly we believe we're so interdependent we need each other. And all I know is, those ideas, in practice, worked pretty well the last 8 years. It turns out that what is the right thing to do is also good economics, good social policy, good crime policy, good environmental policy.

But when you go home tonight, if somebody asks you why you're a Democrat, tell them that everybody counts; everybody deserves a chance; we all do better when we help each other; and everybody has a story.

And I will close with this. Two days ago I went to Flint, Michigan, a town I spent a lot of time in that's been very good to me. And there is a bunch of people from Flint, from Arkansas because in the forties and fifties, after the war, a lot of people in the South couldn't make a living off the land. And blacks and whites alike exploded out of there. A bunch of people came to California from

the South. A bunch of people even went back east to New York.

But in our part of the South, nearly everybody who left went to Illinois and Michigan. That's why I won those places in '92, when I ran for President. Those guys are still trying to figure out how I won those places. They don't understand. Every third voter was from Arkansas. It was easy. *[Laughter]*

So anyway, I go to Flint, which lost over half its auto employment. They went from 90,000 people working in the car plants to 35,000, and they've had to rebuild. So we put a community computer center in Flint, and Dick and I are trying to get the Congress now to approve funds to put a thousand of these across America, so that people even who don't have computers, whether they're children or older people—can at least come into these centers, at all hours of the day and night, and try to get hooked into the new world of the information economy.

The one in Flint is the best one in America that we know of for working with disabled Americans. And so I went to the center, and I saw the stuff. And then I spoke to this huge crowd of people with every conceivable disability and ability known to man. So I went in, and I saw this software program. And there was this blind woman feeding it into the computer in braille and pressing a button so it spoke back to her, and she knew that she had done the right thing. And there was a deaf person feeding it into the computer, and then it wrote back to her, so she knew it was real.

And then they took me to this laser technology made for people who are totally paralyzed or have Lou Gehrig's disease or something else that keeps you from moving anything but your eyes. And I learned how to turn lights on and off in a house, start the tape deck and hear the music. I even wrote "good morning" to the people who were with me with my eyes.

And the person there said, "You know, we get E-mails every week from a guy in North Carolina named Joe Martin who's got Lou Gehrig's disease." I said, "Yes, I know him." And I'm just going to tell you this one story, because we invest a lot to help people with disabilities access this technology. And remember, I think if they can do it and they

can live their stories, we're all better off. So here's Joe Martin's story.

When I met him 15 or 16 years ago, he was a very handsome man with a beautiful wife, who was North Carolina's representative on something called the Southern Growth Policies Board. And because I was the Governor of a southern State, we would meet and work together on how to develop jobs and education in the South. And of all the people I fool with from all the States that I worked with, I think I liked Joe Martin the best, which is sort of strange.

His brother was a chemistry professor who became the Republican Governor of North Carolina. I liked his brother, too. But you wouldn't expect that guy to be my favorite guy, but I liked him, because he was serious and he was full of energy. He was vital. He was charismatic. He was dynamic. He was constant motion. Fast forward 15 years, and he's got Lou Gehrig's disease, and he continues to go down, and he can't move.

So Joe Martin has lost all the things that I found most attractive, except the inner qualities, which have deepened. And he is a far more impressive man today than he was before.

And in about 2 months, Joe Martin will publish a book he wrote with his eyes. Every day he talks to his wife and children on that computer with his eyes. And he's still alive because he can say what he knows and what he feels to other people.

Now, I think it's a good thing that some of your tax money finances research into technologies like that and tries to spread it to other people and provides a center like that in Flint, where people can come who are disabled and get E-mails from—and he writes up there once a week. He E-mails them with his eyes. And when they know about Joe Martin, all those other people don't feel sorry for themselves anymore. I think that is a good thing.

So that's what I want to tell you. To me, this isn't very complicated. I believe that we are growing more and more and more interdependent. I believe in order to make the most of the modern world we live in and all these wonderful technologies, we have to understand that our enlightened self-interests requires us to try to make sure every

man and woman and boy and girl get to live their story, even if they have to do it with just their eyes. And I believe that the best is still out there. I nearly know the best is still out there if we make the right decisions. So thank you for being so nice to me. Thank you for all the things you said. Thank you for raising the \$4 million-plus. But remember, if every day the people in this room took a little time to make sure that everyone you know understood what was at stake and why they ought to stick with us, we'd have the celebration we want on election night, and most important, you'd have the future that your children deserve.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:44 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Michael and Jena King; music producer David Foster; musician Richard Marx; actors Christian Slater and Rob Lowe; Representative Patrick J. Kennedy, chairman, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; Mike Honda, Adam Schiff, Janice Nelson, Jane Harman, and Gerrie Schipske, candidates for California's 15th, 27th, 28th, 36th, and 38th Congressional Districts, respectively; and musician Kenneth Edmonds, popularly known as Babyface, and his wife, Tracy. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Reception for Representative Lois Capps in Pacific Palisades, California

September 24, 2000

The President. Thank you.

Audience member. Four more years! Four more years!

The President. In your dreams. [*Laughter*] No way!

The amazing thing is that Susan and Ted should be surprised that I would want to come to their backyard. I would be happy to come next Sunday, too. [*Laughter*] Is this a gorgeous place or what? I mean, amazing.

I want to thank you both for having us here and supporting one of the finest people I've ever known in public life. And I know when you have a family and your Sundays are precious, and I thank you for giving us this time and making it possible for all of us to come.

I want to thank all of you for being here. I thank Representatives Becerra and Sherman for coming to support Lois, and I thank Senator O'Connell and Kathleen Connell for being here. And mostly I just want to thank all of you for being here.

I want to say just a few words about Representative Capps. I got a little choked up when she started talking about my relationship with her family. I loved her husband very much. He was a special man, and we had a great rally in '96 in Santa Barbara and there were 15,000 or 20,000 people there with the Sun out and the ocean glistening, you know. And I thought we all were just going to levitate off the side of the world. [*Laughter*] If I had done that, it would have been the subject of another investigation. [*Laughter*] "How did he do that? What was behind that? What mysterious foreign entity financed that levitation?" [*Laughter*]

And Laura, who is standing back there, did work in the White House for many years, and she worked right behind my office, so I saw her several times a day, and she was one of the true, good souls in the White House. She kept everybody in a good frame of mind, and you couldn't act small around her, not only because she's physically big, but because she's big inside, just like her mother.

So, I'm honored to be here. But I also want to emphasize what Lois said. Now, I have worked harder in this election, I think, than any other one I've ever been in, although it's the first time in 26 years I haven't been on the ballot. [*Laughter*] This is something like the 140th campaign event I've done this year. And I've done these things for individual House Members and Senators and for a Senate and House committee and for the National Democratic Committee, which basically benefits directly Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. And of course, I've made a little extra effort in New York—[*laughter*—]—where I have more than a passing interest in the outcome of the race. [*Laughter*]

The new joke around the White House is that, now that my party has a new leader and my family has a new candidate, my title should be changed to Cheerleader in Chief, and I'm quite happy with that. But I want

you to know, first of all, I hope you remember what Lois said, and I hope you remember what Susan said about this election.

I worked as hard as I could, and Lord knows, the people of California have been good to me, from the June '92 primary to the general election in '92 to the overwhelming mandate I got here in '96. And we've worked very hard to turn this country around and to beat back the reaction to what we were trying to do that was manifest in the Gingrich revolution and the Republicans taking over the Congress and many of the extremist things that have been done over the last 5, 6 years.

And we've had a great deal of success in actually getting affirmative things done, because, as you're about to see, when the Congress gets ready to go home, if the Democrats stick with me even though we're in the minority, we get a lot of what we want. Otherwise, nobody gets to go home. *[Laughter]*

So we work all year long just to sort of keep our heads above water waiting for the last 3 weeks, and then we all sit there like calm Buddhas—*[laughter]*—waiting for the results to come in. So watch it and see if we can pull it off one more time.

But now, the American people really do have to decide. I mean, they really have to decide whether you think they're right or we are. There will be an effort at bipartisan cooperation no matter what happens in this election, because if we win the majority, it won't be so big that we won't have to work with them. We might even win the Senate back; but if we do, it will just be by a seat or so.

I do believe that the Vice President and Joe Lieberman will be elected, and they should be, because they have a better plan and they've got a better record and they've got a better direction.

But you have to understand, I know better than anybody alive now the enormous consequences of every single seat in the House and every single seat in the Senate. And I cannot even begin to tell you, especially for the House, what a difference it makes to be in the majority. Because I can give you example after example, over the last 5 years, when we had enough Republican votes, voting with our side, to do things, and because of the

way the rules work in the House of Representatives, we couldn't even get a vote on a measure, just because we weren't in the majority.

I could give you example after example where, because we weren't in the majority on these committees, amendments were put into bills weakening the environment or undermining the public health or the long-term public interests of America, where we couldn't get them out because, by the time they actually got to the floor, they were in some big defense bill or some big other bill that Lois and everybody else had to vote for because you can never explain to people at home why are you voting against education or against health care or against defense. And because we weren't in the majority on these committees, all that underbrush was in there.

And this is really important, and the American people now have to decide, because we actually have a chance, because of our economic prosperity and because crime is down, welfare is down, teen pregnancy is at a recorded low, every social indicator, virtually, is going in the right direction. We have a chance to build the future of our dreams for our kids. We can have a health care system that really serves everybody, in the ways that Lois said, with a Patients' Bill of Rights and the Medicare drug issue for the seniors. But also, we can do a lot more for people that don't have health insurance, to make it affordable for them to buy it. There are still over 40 million Americans that don't have it.

We can actually provide a world-class education for all of our kids. I've been working in education for all of our kids. It's not like—I've been working in education for 20 years, and a lot of the teachers here will tell you that there have been 20 years of hard work of trying to figure out how do you deal with a more and more diverse student body from more and more different and often very difficult home backgrounds and get a world-class education out there.

And we had a lot of ideas for a long time, but we now have lots of research that shows us how to do it. I was in a school in Harlem in New York City the other day that 2 years ago—listen to this—2 years ago 80 percent of the children in this school were doing

reading and math below grade level. Two years ago—a failing school by any standard. Today, 2 years later, with a new principal, a school uniform policy, the smallest class size policy, a strong—you know, very high standards and accountability—2 years they went from an 80 percent failure rate to 74 percent of the kids doing reading and math at or above grade level—in 2 years.

Now, that can be done everywhere. But you've got school after school after school where the kids are piled up in housetrailer out behind the buildings. You've got school after school after school in our cities where the average school building in many of our cities is 65 years old—New York City is still heating schools with coal-fired furnaces from the late 19th century—where they can't hook the schools up—the classrooms up to the Internet because the buildings won't take the wiring.

So we can do this. But we have to make a decision that we're going to make education a priority. We have to make a decision that we're going to make our health care a priority.

We have clearly proved that you can grow the economy and improve the environment. And yet, there are explicit commitments in this campaign from the other side to roll back the environmental advances of our administration. They say we're hurting the economy, so they want to relax the air rules, relax the water rules, repeal my order setting aside 43 million roadless acres in the national forests, review all the national monuments I set aside. They probably oppose what I'm going to do to protect the lands of the Big Sur today when I leave here.

And you have to decide, because if we win 12 seats in the House of Representatives, they can't do it. Simple as that. There are vast consequences here—education, health care, the environment, crime policy. Crime's gone down 7 years in a row. It will be 8 years this year, longest drop we've ever had, lowest crime rate in 27 years, gun violence down 35 percent. Now, they have said that, notwithstanding the evidence, our approach is wrong. [Laughter] "Don't bother me with the facts. We don't like what you're doing."

So, you have to decide if you want more sensible things—to keep guns out of the

hands of kids and criminals, and you want more community police on the street. Most people think this is just about the minor little combat I've had over the last several years with the NRA. That's not true. They've also promised to repeal our bill that first put 100,000 police on the street and have now put another 50,000 people. They say that's not the business of the Federal Government.

All I know is, these cities couldn't afford the cops, and since we put them on the street, they prevented crime from happening and kept more people out of trouble in the first place, and this is a safer country, and you have to be safe to be truly free. So there's a huge difference here. You have to decide. We can get this country out of debt in 12 years, unless we give away too much in a tax cut and spend another trillion dollars to partially privatize Social Security. Don't forget that in this debate. Whatever the tax cut number is, when you hear them debate, whatever the Republicans say their tax number is, it's a little bigger than they say. But you have to add a trillion dollars on top of that. Why? Because if we partially privatize Social Security and half the young people in this audience, let's say, under 50—that's young to me—[laughter]—if you're really young, you will learn, the older you get, young is somebody who is a day younger than you are—[laughter]—and half the people take their 2 percent payroll and put it in some sort of mutual fund—most of you do better; not all of you would. And then someday, we'd have to come around and pick up the pieces of the people that didn't. But they promise to give everybody the benefits they've got already under the present system if you're 55 or over. So if you take a lot of money out of the system but you still have the same payment commitments—right—you've got to put the money right back in from somewhere else.

It's a trillion dollars over a decade, plus, their tax cut. If you do that, forget it. The country is not getting out of debt. Interest rates will be about a percent higher every year for a decade. Under the Democratic plan championed by Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, if you have interest rates one point lower over a decade, do you know what that's worth to you? Compare this to the tax

cut promises they make. If you keep interest rates one point lower, \$390 billion in lower home mortgage payments; \$30 billion in lower car payments; \$15 billion in lower college loan payments. Or, if my math is right, that's about a \$435 billion tax cut in lower interest rates by continuing to pay down the national debt.

It's interesting. I never thought I'd live to see the day that the progressive party in our Nation's Capital was the more fiscally prudent one, because that's progressive politics—to give people—everybody benefits from lower interest rates. And I haven't even said how much money you'd save in business loans and how much it would do for the markets and all of that. So you have to understand there are huge consequences.

I've done everything I could do to leave this country in good shape. But when Al Gore stands up and says, "You ain't seen nothin' yet," that is not just a campaign slogan. I'm not on the ballot, and I believe that. I believe that.

And look, why do I believe that? Because we've turned the thing around. It takes a long time to turn a country around. It's like a big ocean liner, and you have to work at it steadily all the time. Why did the *Titanic* hit the iceberg? Because they couldn't turn around in a split second. They did see it coming.

So we took our time. We got this thing turned around. It's going in the right direction. But all of the great stuff is still out there.

I was just playing with Lois' grandson. You know, there are young people in this audience who will have babies over the next decade that sometime in the next 10 years, they will come home with babies that will have a life expectancy of 90 years, because of the human genome project. We will be able to predict for infants with their gene maps whether they are likely to develop certain kinds of cancers or other kinds of maladies, and we will then shortly know what kinds of things can be done to minimize—you can't eliminate risk or make people live forever—we will be able to dramatically minimize the health hazards that are predictable in our genes from birth. And when that happens, it will have the biggest boost in life expectancy we've ever seen.

That's the good news. But what are the rest of you going to do with all of us old codgers running around here in 30 years? [Laughter] We're going to have to totally rethink what old age is. We're going to have to—you know, we made a big step on it this year when the Congress voted to repeal the earnings limit on Social Security. We have to rethink this.

And we're going to have to totally rethink the nature of our obligations to our children. And we're going to have to get all this information out there and take advantage of it and still protect your privacy rights, because I don't think anybody ought to get your health records if you don't say yes. I think that's important.

So I think it would be a good thing to have somebody who was a highly intelligent nurse, who knows about education, who understands these issues in the Congress, quite apart from California and her particular district and everything else. And I think you have to really think about this. I mean, I know I'm preaching to the saved today. You wonder why am I going on, because you already are for her, right? [Laughter]

Here's why: Because this is a very tough, competitive district. We already went through one fight together in order to hold on to her seat. And most of the people who vote on election day have never been to one of these events. They've never given any money to a Republican. They've never given any money to a Democrat. They've never been to a campaign rally. Maybe they see a few TV ads. Nobody ever comes up to them personally and says, "You know, I know Lois Capps, and I'd like to ask you to vote for her, and here's why, one, two, three." Believe it or not, that does not happen to most people.

And so, I thank you for your money—[laughter]—but if you live in her district, I hope you'll take some time between now and the election to tell people this is a huge election. In some ways, this is a more important election than '92 was. It certainly is one that requires more thinking. In '92 California was in trouble; the country was in trouble. You took a chance on me, but as I was always say, hey, it wasn't that much of a chance,

because we were in a ditch, right? We had to do something different. [*Laughter*]

Now, people have to actually make a decision. What are we going to do with all this good fortune? And are we going to be disciplined and thoughtful and think about how our children are going to be living 20 years from now and do these big good things, or are we just sort of—kind of wander through and pretend like it doesn't matter?

I'm telling you, I'm not running for anything. I will not be in office. All I want to do is to give the best gift I can to my country. We cannot squander this. In my lifetime, we have never had a chance like this, to build the future of our dreams for our children, and what you need is people who are voting on election day, who understand that they have to go in there and that every vote counts.

If they call this Presidential election on the East Coast, an hour and a half before the California polls close, whether you talk to somebody to tell them it was important to go vote for Lois might turn the tide in these Congress races and whether people think it matters for them to go vote. So I just implore you, if you cared enough to come here and contribute today, care enough to take every opportunity you can between now and election day to tell people about her, about the issues between the two parties, about the Presidential race. Talk to people about it. Make them think it's important.

I think it's finally beginning to sink in on people that they've got some big decisions to make. I saw yesterday that more people have followed the Presidential election than the Olympics. That is good for the health of America, but you need to participate in that.

And I'm telling you, I've been in this business for a long time. I basically like most of the people I've known in public life, including most of the Republicans I've known—most of them I like better than they like me. [*Laughter*] But I've never known a better human being than this woman, ever. And I want you to help her.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:36 a.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Ted and Susan Harbert; State Senator Jack O'Connell; State Controller Kathleen

Connell; and Representative Capps' daughter, Laura. Representative Capps is a candidate for reelection in California's 22d Congressional District.

Remarks to the California League of Conservation Voters in Bel Air, California

September 24, 2000

Well, Ruth has given me a lot of gifts over the years, mostly tapes of great old rock-and-roll songs. [*Laughter*] But I'm very grateful for this.

And I want to thank you, Ruthie, and Fran Diamond and Wendy James. I thank Rampa Hormel and Hilda Solis for their leadership. I really want to thank Carole and Phil for letting us come to their home on this beautiful, beautiful day and share it.

I thank all the officials that are here, those who have been introduced. But I want to say again to all these congressional candidates—Michael Case, Susan Davis, Gerrie Schipske—of course, Hilda—and my long-time friend Jane Harman. Thank you for running for the Congress, to give it back to the American people and to give our natural heritage back to the future.

I want to thank you for this award but, more importantly, for your leadership on environmental and resource issues. I basically have always thought Presidents shouldn't get awards. I thought that the job was reward enough. But you know, as I get ready to move out—[*laughter*—this will look really wonderful in my home. So I do thank you. [*Laughter*]

The work we have done on conservation is among the things I'm most proud of as President. Ninety-four years ago today—exactly today—Theodore Roosevelt designated America's very first national monument, Devil's Tower, in Wyoming. He set us on a path of conservation a century ago that we are working to make stronger.

For more than 7 years now, Al Gore and I have fought to do that, most of the time with a Congress that was very hostile to our environmental objectives. We believed always that we could grow the economy and improve the environment. And we believed, in a larger sense, that if we didn't deal with

the big challenges of climate change and other pollutions, that economic growth would turn in on itself, sooner or later anyway.

So over the last 8 years, we've cleaned up 3 times as many toxic waste dumps from neighborhoods as the two previous administrations did in 12. We've taken the most dramatic steps to improve the quality of air in a generation. We've also improved the quality of our water and our drinking water with major new legislation. We made record investments in science and technology designed to reduce the threat of global warming.

You heard Ruth say some of the things we have done in California. We've had the national monuments designed to preserve the redwood forest, the coastal lands and waters. We had a big conference on preserving the oceans on the Monterey Peninsula a couple of years ago. We've begun to do some significant things to try to recover the quality of the oceans, particularly those that are near us.

There is a dead spot in the Gulf of Mexico the size of the State of New Jersey today because of pollution and runoff that will have significant adverse impacts on marine life over the long run if we don't do something to deal with it.

I was honored to create the national preserve in the Mojave Desert and to expand the Pinnacle Monuments, as Ruth said. We've done this from the Grand Canyon to Yellowstone to the Florida Everglades. And we have already set aside over 40 million roadless acres.

Today we took another big step by protecting almost 800 acres of the southern gateway to Big Sur. I'll never forget the first time I saw it 30 years ago. It's a coastline we value not just for its breathtaking views but as a home for endangered species like the steelhead trout and Smith's blue butterfly. And thanks to funds provided by the lands legacy initiative the Vice President and I have worked for, for the last several years, we are able to make this gift to the future.

I want the National Government and every community in our country to be able to have the resources to make gifts like this well into the future. That's why I have asked Congress

to provide permanent funding for our open spaces and pass the "Conservation Reinvestment Act," CRA, that would significantly boost our lands legacy initiative.

The House passed it with over 300 votes, and now we are trying to get it through the Senate. If any of you can help us, I'd really appreciate it. *[Laughter]*

I want to mention just a couple of other things, too. First, one more time, even in the teeth of an election, even in the face of evidence that the overwhelming majority of the American people support a strong environmental policy, Congress is larding up these bills, these appropriation bills, with anti-environmental riders. And the theory is that if you can just put enough amendments on enough bills, that eventually all us Democrats will get veto fatigue, and it'll be 3 hours and 15 minutes before the polls open, and everybody will want to go home to vote, at least, if not to campaign, and so they'll be able to pass their anti-environmental agenda.

Now, I say that, first, to ask the Congress, if they want to go home and campaign, to take the anti-environmental riders off the bills, because I've got nowhere to go, and I'm not running for anything. *[Laughter]* And I'd be happy to stay there until election day.

But secondly, I want to emphasize how important these congressional races are, every House seat and every Senate seat—although, at least to me, some Senate seats are more important than others. *[Laughter]*

Let me just tell you what the lives of Members of Congress are like. Okay. It's late September. There's an election in early November. People want to go home. They want to be with their constituents. The party that's in the majority gets to decide what is voted on in the committees, gets to have the votes to add these anti-environmental riders, in this case. And they hope that at some point you just keep putting these bills out and there's a defense bill. Do you want to be against defense 2 weeks before the election? There is an education bill that might have anti-environmental riders—do you want to be anti-education?—and a health bill. There may even be a good bill for the EPA and a decent budget, but it's all larded up with this stuff. Do you want to be in the position of voting for this? Now, if we had about 12

more Members of Congress who were pro-environment and we could organize the committees, this would not happen. This is a big, big, big deal.

Let me just make two other points. You know, some people in the other party have continued to try to distort some of the things that the Vice President said in his book, "Earth in the Balance." But even the oil companies now admit that all those years ago he was right and they were wrong about climate change.

The 1990's were the warmest decade in a thousand years, we now know. And we know that an extraordinary amount of the warming of the climate is due to human activity, and we know that, if we don't do something about it, sometime in the next three to five decades it will substantially change the pattern of life here in our own country. The sugarcane fields in Louisiana, the Everglades in Florida could flood; agricultural production could be forced upward in America; and whole massive stretches of farmlands could be dramatically less productive; and all of the other things that you know very well could happen.

I've already seen the change in the biodiversity on the Pacific Coast. When I was on the Monterey Peninsula, I saw some small, microscopic, almost, animal life in the bay, that just 40 years ago was 20 miles south at its northernmost point. So I'm seeing all this happen. And I just want to say that I'm working hard to deal with the present energy problem. But the real issue is, how are we going to grow the economy and save the environment over the long run?

Today, there are technologies available off the shelf that would dramatically boost productivity in America and increase output per energy input. If you don't believe me, go look at that low-income housing project out in the Inland Empire in San Bernadino, where they cut power use by more than 50 percent by simple, off-the-shelf technologies. I have been trying for 3 years to get Congress to give tax credits to accelerate research and development into conservation technologies and alternative fuels and to increase investment in that kind of research and development and to give tax credits to consumers

and to businesses to buy conservation technologies and employ alternative fuels.

Now, that's another reason you need more people in the Congress, because the President, if his party sticks with him, even if they're in the minority, can stop bad things from happening. Although as I just explained, it gets tougher as you get closer to the election. But if you want good things to happen and you believe, as I do, that there's a world of environmentally responsible potential growth out there, by investing in and betting on the fact that we can reverse the tide of climate change without all going back to the Stone Age to live, the way the other side talks—now, you've got a big choice here.

And every House seat and every Senate seat and this White House matters. Because, unlike some areas—I've got to give it to the other side, they've been quite forthright here, and I appreciate it. They've been very, very honest in saying, "I disagree with Bill Clinton. I disagree with Al Gore. Vote for us. We will repeal the 43 million roadless acres in the national forests. Vote for us. We will relax the air standards. They're too hard, and they're going to slow the economy down too much. Vote for us. We will reexamine all these national monuments."

And I could give you lots of other examples. So it's not like we don't know what the deal is here. And that's good, because that's why you have elections, so people can make choices.

But I want to say to you, it's been a great honor for me to work in the environmental area. I'm glad to know that we've had the strongest economy in history with cleaner air, cleaner water, safer food, and more land set aside than anybody since the Roosevelts. I'm proud of that.

But the huge question out there, hanging out there, is whether or not we will create out of this information technology revolution a post-industrial form of energy use, even for manufacturing, if we will unlock the last chemical step keeping us from using biofuels in an efficient way.

The scientists that work for the Department of Agriculture say, you know, you can't really take ethanol too seriously now because it takes 7 gallons of gasoline to make 8 gallons of ethanol. But they are a short step away

from a chemical advance that would enable us to make 8 gallons of ethanol from 1 gallon of gasoline. Think about it. That would be the equivalent of 500 gallons of gasoline—500 miles to the gallon in modern cars. We're so close. And you have to decide.

We need people in the White House and in the Congress that understand the future and are committed to making sure that we get out of denial here, or as my daughter's generation says, it's not just a river in Egypt. [Laughter]

And this will not be a headline issue here. Most people say this election is about the Medicare drug issue or the Patients' Bill of Rights or whether the Republican nominee's tax cut plan is too big, especially when you compare it with privatizing Social Security. You add them up, and we're back in deficits. All those things are real important.

But I'm telling you, 50 years from now, our generation will be judged on whether we met the challenge of climate change. And it is not necessary for us to go in a hut and quit making a living to do it. The technologies are there, are right on the verge of there. We can increase productivity. We can grow this economy, and we can do it. You've got to decide. Help them get elected, and help Al Gore and Joe Lieberman.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to Ruth Hunter, president, California League of Conservation Voters; Fran Diamond, member, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board; Wendy James, president, Environmental Media Association; Rampa Hormel, honorary event chair; State Senator Hilda Solis; event hosts Carole King and Phil Alden Robinson; and Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Dinner in Hidden Hills, California

September 24, 2000

Well, first of all, let me tell you what I'd like to do. I like small events like this, with fewer people. And what I'd like to do—most of what I have to say about the last 8 years

I said at the convention in L.A., and maybe you saw it, and if you did, there's nothing else I can say.

I would like to just talk for a few minutes, not long, and then just take the microphone away and have a conversation. If you've got anything you want to ask me or you have anything you want to say or if you'd like to give a speech, just feel free to do it. [Laughter]

I want to thank you, Mitch, for what you said. Thank you, Tracy, for being so good to me, and thank you especially for being so good to Hillary. It means more to me than I can say. I'm very grateful.

I want to thank Sim and Debbie, who have been great friends to me and my family. We met them through Senator Boxer, but I cannot—I don't even have the words to say how grateful I am to you for how good you've been to all the members of my family, my mother-in-law, my brother-in-law, my nephew. I feel like a bag lady around you. [Laughter]

Here's what I'd like you to think about. If somebody asks you tomorrow, "Why did you come here and give this money," what would your answer be? Besides, you know, you wanted to get in here and look at this unbelievable house. [Laughter] If I'd found this house when I was 6 years old, I never would have gone out of it. [Laughter] It's unbelievable.

But anyway, this is what I would like to say. When I ran for President in 1992, only my mother thought I could win. And I did it. It was not easy for me. I was very happy being Governor of my State. My family was in good shape. I was having a great time with my friends. But I had some very definite ideas about how our country ought to work and how we should change direction. And I was afraid that the country was really in trouble.

And I thought, well, even if I don't win, maybe we can move the country off the dime. And the first time I realized I had a chance to win was when I was in the snows of New Hampshire in late 1991, and I was going to a little town called Keene, up in northern New Hampshire. It's one beautiful, beautiful town. There's a beautiful little college there.

So I was asking these young people who were helping me in New Hampshire, I said—they said, “We’re going to go up here and have a town meeting, but you’ve got to understand there are six people running for the Democratic nomination. And President Bush is at 70 percent, but New Hampshire is a basket case, and people are hurting.” And I said, “Look,” I said, “Get to the bottom line here. How many people do I have to have at this town meeting to avoid being humiliated?” [*Laughter*] And they said 50. And I said, “Well, what if we get 100?” They said, “That’s a pretty good crowd.” I said, “What if we get 150?” They said, “It’s great”—a little town. I was fifth in the polls in New Hampshire. I had nearly negative name recognition.

But I had put out this booklet telling people exactly what I would do if I got elected, not what I would try to do. So we showed up in Keene, and 400 people showed up, and the fire marshal shut it down. And keep in mind, they didn’t—they weren’t coming there because they were committed to me. These people didn’t know who I was. They were coming there because they heard that somebody who was serious about the problems of America wanted to talk to them and listen to them and try to change the direction of the country. And I saw those 400 people—I got on the phone and called Hillary and said, “This thing may run a little further than we think here.” [*Laughter*] And so the rest is history.

But I say that to make the first point, which is that to a degree that is often underestimated, the Nation’s business is like other businesses. It really matters if you’ve got a clear analysis of where you are, a clear vision of where you want to go and if you lay out what you’re going to do. And it’s a lot easier to do the job if you get people around you who want to be on the team, and they work like crazy. It makes a difference.

The problems of the Nation yield to efforts in the same way the problems of any other enterprise does. And I think sometimes we forget that. We think that politics is somehow mysterious or its all words or whatever. It’s just not true.

And I have been very blessed and have had a great Cabinet and a great staff and

people who work like crazy and who had far less destructive ego problems and far fewer sharp elbows than the previous administration had suffered from. And I think it was partly because we actually knew why we wanted to be there. And as hard as it’s going to be to leave in many ways, that’s the way the system is supposed to work.

And so that brings me to the present moment. The only thing I ever worried about in this election was that the American people would somehow believe it wasn’t important because times were good, that somehow the consequences of their collective decisions on election day were somehow not profound.

It’s very often easier to make a good decision when you’re up against a wall than it is when times are good. Nobody over 30 years old can deny having made at least one colossal mistake in your life, not because times were so bad but because things seemed to go so well, you thought you didn’t have to concentrate anymore—nobody. If you live long enough, you make those mistakes.

So the first thing I want to say is, I’ve spent a lot of time in my life studying the history of my country. I love it very much. If you come to my office in the White House, you’ll see a lot of—you’ll see an original edition of the only book Thomas Jefferson ever wrote and two original printings of George Washington’s Farewell Address. I’ve studied this country closely.

I’m not sure we’ve ever had a time when we’ve had, at the same time, so much economic prosperity, so much social progress with the absence of gripping internal crisis or external threat. So the main issue here in this election season is, what do people believe this election is about anyway?

And I must say the preliminary indications are very, very good. Witness the different responses to Governor Bush’s speech in Philadelphia and Vice President Gore’s. Governor Bush gave a beautiful speech in Philadelphia. It was beautifully written. It was eloquent, and it studiously avoided being specific about what he would do if he were President.

Al Gore gave a very good speech in Los Angeles, which revealed who he was. But most important of all, he said—he gave a lot of respect to the American people. He said, “This is a job interview. And unlike other

job interviews, you're running for President. You have to define the job. The people want you to say what you think the job is and then what you will do."

So he said, "If you hire me, this is what I'll do." And lo and behold, he got a bigger bump out of our convention than they got out of theirs, even among people, I suspect, who weren't sure they agreed with everything he said or maybe he couldn't remember more than two or three things. He said, "This is what it's about."

So the first thing I want to say to you is, based on 8 years of experience, is that anyone who wants to be President in a dynamic time should be flexible enough to admit that he might have been wrong, flexible enough to change course, but it really matters whether you have thought through what you were going to do with this job when you get it.

It is a great comfort when the storms come and when you're in all kind of conflict and all this political stuff is happening in Washington the way it does, and people who are in the business or around it primarily for power are pulling back and forth—if you get up every day with a very clear idea of what you said you were going to do and what you believe the country needs, it is an unbelievable asset to America.

So one good reason to be for this guy is, he actually talks about what he would do if he were President in great detail, with the benefit of a unique amount of experience. Now, this may seem self-evident to you, but you go back and look at all the Presidential campaigns in the 20th century. In New Hampshire, I knew that America was moving to this because Senator Tsongas, who was from Massachusetts next door, who won the New Hampshire primary, and I got 60 percent of the vote between us in a six-way race, and we were the only two people that put out very detailed plans of what we would do.

The second thing I want to say is—what I think we should be thinking about is how we keep this thing going, first of all. What could go wrong with this economy? How do we keep it going? How do we head off the problems, maximize the opportunities? And then what are the really big challenges out there for America? Because when you have

this luxury and this kind of circumstance, you ought to be going after the big challenge.

What are we going to do when all the baby boomers retire and there's two people working for every one person drawing Social Security? What are we going to do when all of America looks like California—there's no majority race—and we have the biggest bunch of school kids we've ever had from all these diverse racial, ethnic, religious backgrounds and with different first languages. The most diverse school district, interestingly enough, is not Los Angeles or New York or Chicago; it's Fairfax County, Virginia, just across the river from Washington, where there are children from 180 different racial and ethnic groups with over 100 different native languages. And I spent a lot of time there.

What I want to say—because California has done a lot of good work in education the last few years, and I'm honored to have the attorney general and the speaker here tonight. We know something we didn't know 20 years ago, when Hillary and I started working on public schools. We actually know how to turn failing schools around. We actually know what it means to say all children can learn. I was in a school in Harlem the other day where 2 years ago, 80 percent of the kids were doing reading and math below grade level. Two years later—2 years later—in one of the poorest neighborhoods in New York City, 74 percent of the kids were doing reading and math at or above grade level—2 years.

But the one thing America has never done, ever—and there was no real penalty to it before, but there is now—we have never taken what works in some places and been able to make it work everywhere for our schools. How are we going to do that? It's a huge issue. There are lots of other issues. People used to make fun of Al Gore when he talked about global warming. Now all the oil companies admit it's real. We just got a study from one of the polar icecaps that indicates the 1990's were the warmest decade in a thousand years. I think we ought to have somebody in the White House that understands that.

So there are these big challenges. I personally think we ought to keep paying down the

debt until we get out of debt for the first time since 1835, because that will keep interest rates lower, and our growth in this 8-year period has been more generated by private sector growth than any economic recovery in the 20th century.

There are big, big things we can do. So that's the second thing. You can make your own list. But you think about the big things. That's what America ought to be focused on.

The third thing I would like to say, and I think by far the most important, is that we need, as a nation, to have, in my judgment, a unifying, a synthesizing view of human society and human history. I've always tried to bring people together. I ran for President because I hated what I was hearing out of Washington every night. There was nobody in Congress to get on television and get their 15 seconds at night on the evening news unless they were somehow coming up with a wedge issue that divided us.

But if you think about the way you run your family or your business or any other enterprise, if you spent most of your time on what divided you and none of your time trying to get together, the whole society would fall apart. And yet, national politics, because it's a long way from us and operates at a fairly high level of abstraction, at a time when people don't believe you can do anything right, there's no way to make any headway politically unless you have wedge issues.

And I think one of the signal achievements of this administration in rolling back the Gingrich revolution was to reject the politics of division in favor of the politics of unity. And you know, my political philosophy is very simple and borne of my life experience. I think everybody counts; everybody ought to have a chance, and we all do better when we help each other. That's what I believe. I actually believe that. I think it's not just good morals; I think it's good economics, good social policy.

And there's an interesting book out that I recommend, written by a man named Robert Wright, who previously wrote a book called "The Moral Animal." It was widely acclaimed. It's called "Non Zero," and it's a reference to game theory. You know, a zero-sum game is one where, in order for me to win, you've got to lose, or vice-versa, like a

golf match. One person wins; one person loses. Or the President's race is a zero-sum game. One of them will win; one of them will lose.

And Wright is not naive. I mean, he understands that there will be competitions and contests. But the argument he makes in this book is that as societies grow more and more complex and we become more and more interdependent, both within and beyond national borders, we have a greater and greater stake in finding ways to win together. And that, basically, he makes an historical argument for Martin Luther King's wonderful famous saying that, "the arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice."

That's the argument, and it's a very compelling argument. And I guess we all like books that agree with us. You know, we're all that way. [Laughter] But I have spent my whole life believing that we waste a lot of our lives by trying to lift ourselves up by putting other people down.

So if I could leave America with one wish, it would not be even for continued prosperity; it would be to find some way to get over all this stuff that we're hung up about, respect our differences, relish our differences, teach children to be proud of their ethnic, their racial, their religious heritage; but somehow understand that, underneath it all, the most important thing of all is our common humanity.

And I think it is more important than ever before, because of the scientific and technological advances we face. Because I'm just going to tell you, among the things you'll have to deal with, in the next 20 years when I'm gone: Terrorists will be able to come across national borders with chemical and biological weapons in plastic cases that won't show up on airport metal detectors. The forces of division will be able to do things. If we don't do something about the AIDS epidemic in Africa and the growing rates in South Asia and the rapidly growing rates in the countries of the former Soviet Union, it will eventually come back around to this country where we're making real headway.

If we don't do something about the total breakdown of public health systems in poor countries around the world, all these places that we're looking for to buy our products,

because we've got 4 percent of the world's people and 22 percent of the world's wealth, they're not going to have any money; they won't even have any people to buy our products. There are African countries that, within a decade, will have more people in them in their sixties than in their thirties.

So what I want to say is, look, I think the best time in human history is unfolding. I think the children in this room tonight will grow up, if we make good decisions, in the most exciting, peaceful, prosperous, interconnected time in all of human history. But nothing happens by accident. We have to decide.

Every House position matters. Every Senate seat matters, and it really matters how the White House comes out. So if somebody asked you tomorrow why you came, I hope you'll say, "Well, I think they've had a pretty good 8 years. The country is going in the right direction. I'd like to keep it going. Number two, they seem to have a pretty good idea of what they'll do if I give them the job. Number three, I want somebody that will take on big things. I don't want to blow this, certainly the chance of 50 years. And number four, I think we ought to go forward together." And that's basically the defining, enduring dream of the 20th century Democratic Party. And if I've contributed to it, I'm grateful.

But you know, this is an interesting position for me. I always tell everybody, for most of my life, I was the youngest person who was doing whatever it was I was doing. Now I go in a room, most people are younger than me. [*Laughter*] Now people look at me like I've got a leg in the grave. What's the next President—[*laughter*]. My party's got a new leader. My family's got a new candidate. I'm the Cheerleader in Chief of the country. What am I supposed to do?

I'll tell you, the thing that I really want out of all of this is just for you to make the most of it. And I'll just leave you with this one story.

I think that if I had any success, part of it was the way I was raised. I think most American people thought I was pulling—I think the people that served this dinner tonight ought to have the same chance to send their kids to college that you do. I believe

that. I believe that disabled people ought to be able to access modern technology, because I don't think their bodies ought to keep them from living however much of their dreams that they can live.

I went to Flint, Michigan. I will close with this story, because this will make the point. I went to Flint, Michigan, this week to go to one of the community computer centers we're setting up around the country in low-income areas, to try to make sure that people can access the information resources for the Internet. And I got a bunch of stuff in the budget that would put a thousand of these up.

But the reason I went to Flint is that it used to be the automotive capital of Michigan, even more than Detroit. There were 90,000 automotive manufacturing jobs there. Now, there are only 35,000. They've had to rebuild their whole economy, but they have maybe the best outreach programs to the disability community in their city of anyplace in the country.

So I saw software where blind people were working on braille and putting it into the Internet, and then the computer would speak back to them, so they know that they got the E-mail right or the message right. And I saw the deaf people working on it, and the computer would write back to them so that they could see that they had gotten it right.

And this wonderful woman said to me, "You know, I get E-mails every week from a guy in North Carolina named Joe Martin, and I understand you know him." And I said, "Yes, I do know him." I'll tell you about Joe Martin, because I think we ought to empower everybody to live like this.

In the 1980's, when I was a young Governor, I was active in something called the Southern Growth Policy Board. And it's a group of Governors and legislators and other folks, businesspeople and educators. And we worked on growing the southern economy and trying to catch it up to the rest of the country. And basically, we worked on jobs and schools; that's what we did.

One of the North Carolina delegates was this guy, Joe Martin, whose brother was the Republican Governor of North Carolina. He was a chemist, the Governor was—a chemistry professor. Joe Martin was a banker. He

was young, handsome, vigorous, had a drop-dead gorgeous, wonderful wife, great family. I loved him. He was full of energy, and he was just one of the two or three best people that I ever met in this outfit, and I worked with him for a decade. And I loved being around him.

Joe Martin, while still a young man, got Lou Gehrig's disease. That's what Stephen Hawking, the famous British scientist, has. Eventually, you lose all your movement. Hawking still can move his fingers, and he uses his computer to speak.

Now, Joe Martin has no movement anywhere. Nothing moves but his eyes. I used this laser technology now that the Internet has. You sit in front of it; they focus a camera on you; it gets your eyes on the screen; then they put the laser—it bounces off your eye. I turned lights on and off; I turned music on and off; I typed "good morning" to the people there and then pushed "speak" with my eyes and it said, "good morning."

And sometime in the next couple of months, Joe Martin is going to publish a book he wrote with his eyes. Even more important, he can still talk to his wife and kids. And so he's still got a story. I'm a Democrat because I know everybody has got a story.

I was raised by an extended family of wonderful people. Most of them didn't have any education. Most of them didn't have any money, but they taught me that everybody had a story and should be treated with dignity, and we would all do better if we helped each other. I still believe that, and with 8 years of evidence, I think it's a pretty good argument for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and Hillary and the rest of our crowd.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:27 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Mitchell Stein and Tracy S. Hampton; Sim Farar, treasurer, PAC for a Change, and his wife, Debra; Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush; State Attorney General Bill Lockyer; and State Assembly Speaker Robert M. Hertzberg. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on the Need for Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in Santa Fe, New Mexico

September 25, 2000

Thank you very much. Connie, you can drink my water anytime. [*Laughter*] Didn't she do a good job? [*Applause*] I was really proud of her. Thank you.

Thank you, Greg Neal, for welcoming us here in this beautiful, beautiful center. I'd like to thank your Congressman, Representative Tom Udall, for joining us today. Thank you, Tom, for being here. And Attorney General Patsy Madrid, thank you for being here. A little bird told me this was your birthday today, so thank you for spending your birthday with us, in a worthy cause. Santa Fe Mayor pro tem Carol Robertson Lopez, thank you for being here. I thank the members of the city council and county commission and many others who have come here. Our former U.S. attorney, John Kelly, and my college classmate, thank you for being here. I've got a lot of other personal friends here, as well as those of you who are involved in these endeavors, and I thank you.

But most of all I want to express my appreciation to the brave women in this audience who have survived the horrors and fears of domestic violence for being with us today and for being in this very public setting. Connie, I thank you for sharing your story with us and for somehow finding the strength to help other women deal with theirs.

We are here today to salute your efforts, to recognize that progress has been made, and to remind all Americans that the struggle with domestic violence is far from over. We're also here because, on Saturday night, on the very eve of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Violence Against Women Act will actually expire without congressional action.

We're here to say to Congress, we owe it to women like Connie Trujillo and millions of others and their children and families to reauthorize and to strengthen the Violence Against Women Act and to do it this week, now, before the clock runs out.

For too long, women like those who have been victimized in this room today fought a lonely battle. For too long, domestic violence was an issue kept behind closed doors, treated as a purely private family matter. Despite the fact that it usually does occur at home, despite the fact that victims are almost always women and children, domestic violence is not just a family problem that neighbors can ignore, not just a woman's problem men can turn away from. It is America's problem.

The statistics speak for themselves. Domestic violence is the number one health risk for women between the ages of 15 and 44 in our Nation. Close to a third of all the women murdered in America were killed by their husbands, former husbands, or boyfriends. Every 12 seconds another woman is beaten, amounting to nearly 900,000 victims every single year. And we know that in half the families where a spouse is beaten, the children are beaten, too.

Domestic violence is a crime that affects us all. It increases health costs, keeps people from showing up to work, prevents them from performing at their best, keeps children out of school, often prevents them from learning. It destroys families, relationships, and lives, and often prevents children from growing up to establish successful families of their own. It tears at the fabric of who we are as a people and what we want for our children's tomorrows.

For many years, when Hillary and I were living in Arkansas, we lived very close to the domestic violence shelter and center in our hometown. We spent lots of hours there, talking to the women and the children and listening to their stories. I'm very proud of the fact that after we moved to Washington, Hillary traveled all around the world to highlight the fact that violence against women and children is not an American problem. It's a global problem, with different manifestations, and in many places violent practices masquerade as cultural traditions. That is wrong.

And I have to tell you that every time I come into a setting like this, I think about the encounters that—because of Hillary's efforts—I've had with village women in remote places in Africa and in Latin America. And

it is truly chilling to think about all the different rationalizations people have cooked up all over the world to justify men beating up on women and twisting the lives of their children.

We have come a long way in the United States in recognizing that this is criminal conduct, that there may be deep-seated emotional reasons for it which treatment is a better answer for than incarceration in some cases. But it's a crime. And it's a crime against the people who suffer, against the children who are tormented by it, very often for the rest of their lives, and against the larger society that we are trying to build.

For 8 years now, the Vice President and I have tried to convey this simple message. Our message to the perpetrators is that you should be punished, and to the victims is, we want you to have safety and security. No American should live in fear, least of all in his or her own home.

The Violence Against Women Act was part of our landmark 1994 crime bill. It was the very first time in the history of America that the Nation's Government, in a comprehensive effort, joined those of you here and your counterparts all across America in standing up and making common cause on this issue.

The Violence Against Women Act imposes tough penalties for actions of violence against women. It also helps to train police and prosecutors and judges so they can better understand domestic violence, something which, believe it or not, is still a significant problem all across the United States.

It helps to train people to recognize the symptoms when they see it. It helps people, perhaps most important of all, to take appropriate, systematic steps to prevent it. The law gives grants to shelters who need more beds and better programs. It provides assistance to law enforcement, the courts, and communities, to help them respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking when they occur. It established a 24-hour, 7-day, toll-free, national domestic violence hotline, to help women get emergency help and counseling, find a shelter, report abuse to authorities. Since 1996, this hotline has given more than 500,000 people a place to call to find help when they need it most.

The act has offered hope to countless numbers of women by letting them know they are not alone. Police officers who often shy away from so-called family squabbles should now get involved. Physical violence is unacceptable in our homes.

The law's impact is no clearer than here in Sante Fe, where the act and its much needed funding has helped make the city's streets, schools, and homes safer. With the act's help, Connie and her Esperanza Shelter for Battered Families provided counseling and shelter to nearly 2,000 families last year.

With the act's help, eight northern Indian pueblo councils here in Santa Fe now have the means to give legal advice and victims counseling to Native American women and proper training to tribal police departments, courts, and prosecutors. With the act's help, the Morning Star Program in Albuquerque provides safe houses and support groups for victims and their families. All told, the Violence Against Women Act has dedicated nearly—listen to this—\$1.7 billion since 1994 to programs combating domestic violence around our Nation, including more than \$173 million this year alone.

Today the Department of Justice will award nearly \$2 million in Violence Against Women Act funds to combat domestic violence here in New Mexico, to strengthen tribal law enforcement, address child abuse and domestic violence in rural areas, and improve civil legal assistance programs.

Now, has all this made a difference? Well, thanks to your work in programs like the ones here in Santa Fe, we know that the Violence Against Women Act is having a real impact on domestic abuse. According to a recent study from 1993 to 1998, violence against women by an intimate partner fell by 21 percent. In the years 1996, '97, and '98, intimate partners committed fewer murders than at any other time since 1976, when there were far fewer people in this country.

So while we have made strides in our war against domestic violence, you only have to look around to know we've still got miles to go. We cannot turn our backs on the millions of women and children trapped in the cycle of domestic violence. We can't allow them to face a nightmare alone.

Let me say to you, this really shouldn't be a partisan issue. When Congress first passed the Violence Against Women Act, we had strong support from Republicans, as well as Democrats. This summer, in a bipartisan effort, both the House and the Senate Judiciary Committees approved extending and reauthorizing and approving the Violence Against Women Act—both Republicans and Democrats.

Why is this not law now? The committees have approved it. We have more than enough votes in both Houses to pass it. Because this issue, for reasons I cannot understand, has been used as a political football in Washington. All the congressional leadership has to do is to put it up for a vote, and it will fly through. And so again I implore the leadership of Congress not to play games with the safety and future of women and children.

I ask all of you and those who will hear this message all across America tonight: Contact your Senators and your Representatives and tell them to ask the majority leadership in Congress simply to schedule this for a vote. This is not rocket science. There is no complication here. Everybody knows what this law is. Everybody knows what it will do. Everybody knows what it has done. Yes, we're close to an election, and yes, there are a lot of things that various people want to get done in Congress between now and the end of the session when they go home for the election. Nobody wants to get anything any more done than I do, but it is wrong to delay this one more hour. Schedule the bill for a vote.

I have spent a lot of time in the last 8 years trying to make peace around the world, trying to get people from Northern Ireland to the Middle East to the Balkans to the African tribal conflicts to lay down their ancient hatreds and stop dehumanizing people who are different from them. I spent a good deal of time trying to make peace within our borders, trying to get people to give up old hatreds of those who are different from them because they're of a different race or religion or because they're gay, to give up all that.

But it is very hard for us to make peace around the world, or even around the land, unless we are first committed to making peace within our homes. And I think we

should stay at this until the day when we are truly shocked if we hear a little boy or a girl say something at school about witnessing a violent incident in their home, when it is so rare, people gasp in astonishment.

We're a long way from there. But we owe it to our kids and all the women and children who have already been injured to keep at it until we reach that day.

Thank you very, very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:32 p.m. at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center. In his remarks, he referred to Connie Trujillo, executive director, Esperanza Shelter for Battered Families; Greg Neal, director, Genoveva Chavez Community Center; and New Mexico State Attorney General Patsy A. Madrid.

Remarks at a New Mexico Coordinated Campaign Victory 2000 Reception in Santa Fe

September 25, 2000

Thank you very much. First, ladies and gentlemen, let me just thank you for coming here. I want to thank our hosts. And thank you, Diane, and thank you, Bill Sisneros, the Santa Fe Democratic chair.

I thank all the tribal leaders who are here. I thank your predecessor, Earl Potter, who is here tonight. Thank you very much. I'm glad to see you.

I want to thank Congressman Udall. He's done a great job. He's really fun to work with, and as you can see, he's sort of a high-energy person. *[Laughter]* And he has this idea which, there for a few years in Washington, I was afraid was getting altogether too rare. He actually thinks he's supposed to go back to Washington and get something done for you, instead of just—*[laughter]*—and he's really, really good, and you should be very proud of him. I like him very much.

I want to thank my friend of more than 30 years John Kelly, for running for Congress and for his service as United States attorney. And I urge you to do what you can to help him. We're just six seats short of being in the majority. And it makes a huge difference. I'll just give you an example.

Today, before I came here, I went over to a shelter for battered women and troubled children and families. And we're in this big struggle to get the Violence Against Women Act reauthorized, which ought to be an absolute laydown. And we clearly have a bipartisan majority in both Houses for this legislation.

But the leadership, for reasons I don't quite understand, has not scheduled it for a vote, and it's supposed to run out Friday night. If we had six more seats, it would have been reauthorized months and months ago. So I say to you, it's a big issue for all the New Mexico-specific reasons and also because your Nation needs it, I think, very clearly.

I'd like to say more than anything else a word of thanks to a number of people. First, on behalf of Hillary and Al and Tipper Gore, I want to thank the people of New Mexico for sticking with us for two elections and giving us your electoral vote.

And I want to say even more, thank you for how much I've learned about America and specific parts of America, from the people of New Mexico; from our friends the Sikhs, many of who were at the Indian Prime Minister's dinner the other night; from most especially the tribal leaders and those whom they represent. I was at the, you know, on the Shiprock Reservation not very long ago. And I think I'm the only American President ever to go to two Native American reservations, and I know I am the first President since James Monroe in the 1820's to invite all of the tribal leaders back to Washington to meet with me.

And I've had liaison in the White House to the Native American community since the first day I became President. And I can't begin to tell you what it's meant to me to try to work with you to meet the common challenges we face and try to help solve some longstanding problems and try to change the whole nature of the relationship between the United States and the Native American tribes.

I want to thank Tom Udall for what he said about me and my friends. You know, I have to say for my friends, I may be the only President in the entire history of the country who was literally elected because of

my friends. [Laughter] I mean, I had the lowest net worth of any President since Harry Truman when I got elected. And as my predecessor never tired of telling the American people, I was just the Governor of a small southern State. [Laughter] And when I ran, I was so naive, I thought it was a compliment. [Laughter] You know something? I still do.

And if Bruce and Alice and John Pound really thought I was going to be President in 1988, they were—that's 75 percent of the people in the country who felt that way, my mother being the other. [Laughter] But it's worked out pretty well for America.

And that's just the last thing I want to tell you. I hope you're proud of our party and proud of where we've come, compared to where we were, and proud of the fact that, if you listened to the debate, half the time they sound like us now. [Laughter] Or they kind of want to sound like us. Like they can't possibly admit that they're going to blow a hole in the deficit again, because being for a balanced budget and getting rid of this debt is now the thing to do. And I could go through a lot of other issues.

But what I'd like to remind you of is that ideas have consequences. I think sometimes we forget that in politics. We just kind of like the way it feels: Somebody looks good, sounds good, got a few good moves, gets through a press conference all right. Ideas have consequences, just like they do in every other aspect of your life.

We changed the economic policy, the crime policy, the welfare policy, the education policy, the health policy, the environmental policy, and the foreign policy of the United States. Did we make some mistakes along the way? Of course we did. Not everything turned out just the way we intended in every policy. But if you look back at every single one of those areas, we're stronger today and different than we were then.

So people need to understand that this is a very big election. I hope New Mexico will stick with Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. It's really, really important. We need you.

In the parlance of my culture, I realize I'm preaching to the saved here, so I won't belabor this. But I will tell you just, you know, what I feel, as someone who is not running for office for the first time since be-

fore some of you were born, in this room. [Laughter] Most days, I'm okay about it. [Laughter]

But, you know, we worked so hard to turn the country around and get it to this point. And this is really the first time in my lifetime we've been in a position to build the future of our dreams for our children, because our circumstances are good, because we have prosperity, social progress, the absence of pressing domestic crisis or external threat. We've got a lot of problems; that's part of being alive. We'll always have problems as long as we're alive. And we have some big, big long-term challenges.

When all us baby boomers retire, there will be two people working for every one person drawing Social Security and Medicare. We don't want to bankrupt our kids, their ability to raise our grandchildren.

We are the most racially, ethnically, and religiously diverse student population in our history and the biggest one by a good long ways, the first group of kids in the schools today, bigger than the baby boom generation, who need, even more than we did, a world-class education. We actually know now how to turn around failing schools. So the real issue is whether we intend to do it and what the National Government's role should be in that great crusade.

Tom mentioned something about environmental problems. No one denies anymore that climate change is real. We just had a fresh study last week from a huge polar ice-cap that demonstrated conclusively that the 1990's were the hottest decade in a thousand years. Now, this could have enormous consequences for every farmer in America. It could—if we don't reverse it—I worked so hard to save the Florida Everglades, and in 30 years, a bunch of it could be underwater. I mean, really underwater, not just sort of sliding along the top like today.

How are we going to grow the economy and actually reduce the environmental threats? The truth is that there is on-the-shelf technology available today that would enable us to drastically reduce our emission of greenhouse gases without having any impact, except a positive one, on our economy, and would allow us to live in more harmony with our natural environment—today.

And we are very, very close, if we continue the research, to developing automobiles that get 80 miles to the gallon, that operate on fuel cells or dual-use electricity and fuel. We are quite close to a chemical breakthrough in biomass fuels that is the equivalent of when people figured out a hundred years ago how to take crude oil and crack the petroleum molecule and turn it into gasoline, which changed the whole future of the world.

Now, the problem with all biofuels today, is it takes about 7 gallons of gasoline to make 8 gallons of ethanol. But if we get over the last chemical problem, we'll be able to make 8 gallons of ethanol with 1 gallon of gasoline. And it won't just have to be corn. It can be rice hulls. It can be field grasses. It can be nearly anything. And when that happens, it will be the equivalent of 500-mile-a-gallon cars, and it will radically change the whole environmental future of America.

Are we going to pursue these things or continue in denial? Or, as my daughter's generation says, "Remember, dad, it's not just a river in Egypt." [*Laughter*]

This is a big issue, a huge issue. And there are lots of others. Ideas have consequences. In this election for President, in the elections for Senate and the Congress, we have different economic policies. We're for a tax cut. We're for investments in education and health care, but we believe we have to keep paying down the debt to keep interest rates down and economic growth high, that we were profligate, inexcusably, in quadrupling the national debt in the 12 years before Al Gore and I came to Washington. It was wrong.

All the economic analysis I've seen indicates that the difference in the Republican and the Democratic economic proposal—they'll give you a bigger tax cut in the short run, especially if you're in an upper-income group. And once they do that and partially privatize Social Security, the non-Social Security surplus is gone, long gone. We're into the Social Security spending again. Interest rates will be about a percent a year higher over 10 years. If somebody in New Mexico wants to talk to you about tax cuts, tell them that if the Gore plan keeps interest rates a percent lower a year for 10 years, here's what it's worth to them in a tax cut:

A percent lower interest rates gives you, over a decade, \$390 billion in lower home mortgage payments; \$30 billion in lower monthly car payments; \$15 billion in lower college loan payments.

Now, if my math is right, that's a \$435 billion tax cut that goes overwhelmingly to ordinary working folks and American families, kids trying to get an education, just by keeping interest rates down. There is a huge difference. It's hard to tell through the smoke and fire of the momentary campaign. This is one of the central decisions the American people have to make: Was I right or wrong to say, yes, we're going to increase our investment in education and health care and the environment, but we're going to keep driving this debt down and we get out of the deficit, then we're going to use the surplus to keep driving the debt down? Was I right or wrong? Is it the right or wrong course for America?

Someday we'll have another recession, and we may need a big tax cut. We'll have to run a deficit because in recession, unemployment goes up, which means not as many people are paying into the Government, and expenses go up, which means there is more money going out.

But when I became President, we didn't even have any tools left to fight recessions with tax cuts and deficit spending, because we were running a deficit every year of over \$200 billion. This is a huge decision.

Now, this State has got a lot of people, I think, who are moderate Republicans and independents who think of themselves as fiscal conservatives and may find it hard to register that even after 8 years, we are the party of fiscal responsibility. And it's the right thing to do, and it's a bigger tax cut, in lower interest rates.

We have differences in education policy. We think we ought to help these States that have growing student populations with smaller classes in the early grades, with building new schools and modernizing schools. They don't believe that's the Federal Government's business. I think it's America's business. I think every kid that needs to be in an after-school program or a preschool program ought to be in it. And we've got the money to do it, and we ought to do it.

We have huge differences in health care, right? Patients' Bill of Rights, exhibit A: We're for it; they're not, really. Now, as we get close to the election and the heat turns up, they may kind of come across the goal line here at the 11th hour, and I'm hoping. [Laughter] Medicare prescription drugs: They want kind of a Rube Goldberg setup where we give some money to the poorest Americans and tell the rest of them they can buy insurance. And God bless them, I've got to give it to them, even the insurance companies—we fought so much over the last 8 years, I take my hat off to them. They have been totally honest here. They have told the Republican Congress, "Look, you cannot have an affordable private insurance program for prescription drugs for elderly people. It won't work. We can't do that."

Nevada passed a law just like the Republicans are trying to shove through in Congress—the exact same law. You know how many insurance companies have offered people above 150 percent of the poverty line insurance for Medicare prescription—for drugs? Zero. I tell you, with all the fights I've had with the health insurance companies, I want to compliment them. They have been scrupulously honest here. They have told the truth. They have said, "There is no insurance market here. Why are you doing this? We don't want to look bad when we don't offer insurance or we've got to make the premium so high nobody can buy it."

But the pharmaceutical companies are against having Medicare offer a prescription drug benefit to all the seniors who need it. It doesn't make any sense, does it? They're afraid that they'll acquire such market power, they'll be able to get prices down to where they're almost as low as they are in every other country in the world. Now, this is a big deal. These are huge differences.

And there are massive environmental differences. They have made a commitment to repeal my order setting aside 43 million roadless acres in the national forests. The Audubon Society says it's the most important conservation move in 40 years. And they are committed to reversing it. They said they may take away some of the national monuments I've set up. They say that clean air standards are too tough. We've still got a lot

of little kids getting asthma in this country because they can't breathe the air.

And goodness knows, if we haven't proved that you can clean the environment and grow the economy, then somebody hasn't been paying attention. It's good for the economy to clean up the environment. Every single time for 30 years we've raised the environmental standards, the act of raising the standards and implementing them has created more jobs than it's cost—every single time for 30 years. But we're still debating it.

So you've got to go out across this State and say, "Look, there's a different economic policy, a different education policy, a different health care policy, a different environmental policy. There is a different crime policy." They're against my program to put 150,000 police on the street and have promised to get rid of it.

Now, this is the first time ever that crime has dropped for 7 years in a row. We're at a 27-year low. The country is safer than it's been in over a quarter century. One of the reasons is that we put all those police on the street. They were also wrong about the Brady bill and the assault weapons ban. There hasn't been a single hunter in New Mexico miss a day of a season, not a day.

But even if you forget about that for a minute, they actually want to repeal the program that is putting 150,000 police on our streets, that's giving us a safer—why? They say it's not the Federal Government's business. All I know is, when people don't feel safe—that's that Violence Against Women Act we just did—if people don't feel safe, they don't have much emotional space to worry about what your economic policy is or your education policy or your environmental policy or anything else.

So I'm just asking you to go out across this State and talk to your friends around the country. Every one of you know and deal with people who never show up at events like this, have never been to a political event in their lives, but they'll all be there on election day, because they believe in America and they want to be good citizens.

And if people really understand the nature of the choice, we will win. We will win in New Mexico. We will win the Presidency and the Vice Presidency. John will win. We'll get

the Congress back, and we'll keep going forward. And I just don't want to see us give up this.

I worry. You know, sometimes it's harder to make a decision, a good decision in good times than bad times. I know people took a chance on me in '92. I know they got tired of hearing that—you know, they got worried when they heard, "He's a Governor of a small southern State, and where is it?" [Laughter] It was actually a bad strategy. I mean, think how many thousand people there are in New Mexico from Arkansas—half of Chicago, half of Detroit. It was a bad strategy. If you come from a poor southern State where people couldn't make a living after World War II, you've got kin folks in 20 States. I mean, you can't lose them. [Laughter] Anyway, I know they were worried about it. But come on, it wasn't that big a chance because the country was in terrible shape. We had to do something different.

Now people really do feel like they've got options. And there's not a person in this audience, at least who's 30 years of age or over, who cannot think of one time in your life when you made a big mistake, not because times were so tough but because times were so good, you thought you didn't have to concentrate. You can't live three decades or more without making that kind of mistake. That's what America has to avoid in this election. And you've got to go out and tell people what the differences are and what the nature of the choice is.

When Al Gore says, "You ain't seen nothing yet," that's not just a political slogan. I believe that. I do. I believe that with all my heart. I believe the best stuff is still out there. I really do believe. You know, I think within 10 years, measured by today's terms, we'll be driving cars around that get 150 miles a gallon. I believe that mothers will come home with their babies, after they give birth, with little gene cards that will tell them how to plan their future, and the life expectancy of newborns will be 90 years of age.

That's what I believe. I think this stuff is going to happen. I think technology will lift the lives of the disabled people in this country to a level never before imagined. I think we'll totally re-imagine what it means to get older. I think we'll think of people 70 and

75 as sort of middle-aged people. They'll be out doing things, you know, running marathons and stuff. [Laughter] I think all this is going to happen. It's going to be a very interesting time, if we make the right decisions.

Will there be problems? Oh, yes, there will. You'll have to worry about chemical and biological warfare and terrorists putting them in plastic containers that don't go off in airport metal detectors. There will be all kinds of challenges out there. There will be problems until the end of time. But we have a chance to make this the most peaceful, exciting, and harmonizing time in history.

And I'll just close with this. I think the most important thing about our party is that we are not interested in asserting our inherent superiority over anyone. We believe in one America. I mean really believe in it. We're glad to have people in our country who have different backgrounds, different heritages, different faiths. And we want everybody to be proud of themselves, their tribe, and their faith—everybody.

But we believe the only way we can really celebrate our diversity is if we accept the fact that our common humanity is the most important fact of life on this Earth. And so we really do believe that everybody counts; everybody should have a chance; we all do better when we help each other.

And I believe the central fact of our time is not the scientific or the information technology revolution. It is the growth of interdependence within countries and beyond national borders. We're getting more and more and more caught up in what Martin Luther King called the inescapable web of mutuality. And our party believes in it. That's what one America means.

And I honestly believe that if we just keep purging ourselves of our fears of people who are different from us, we keep looking for common ground, we keep reaffirming common values, that the best is out there. But you have to share this sort of stuff with people in this election. And you just cannot assume that because we're so much better off than we were 8 years ago and because the case is obvious to you, that everybody else will be there, because remember, the better

things are, the easier it is to stop concentrating.

So you go out and take some time every day between now and the election and share this with our fellow citizens and bring us home a great victory.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:10 p.m. in the La Terazza Room at the La Fonda Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Diane D. Denish, State chair, Bill Sisneros, Santa Fe County chair, and Earl Potter, former State chair, Democratic Party of New Mexico; John Kelly, candidate for New Mexico's First Congressional District; and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India.

Statement on the Deaths of United Nations Refugee Workers in Indonesia and in Guinea

September 25, 2000

I join all Americans in mourning the recent deaths of United Nations refugee workers in Indonesia and in Guinea.

On September 6 in West Timor, three staff members of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were brutally murdered by a rampaging local militia. One of those killed was an American, Carlos Caceres-Collazo, who was still new to the cause of helping refugees and displaced persons, but already dedicated to it, even in conditions of great danger and hardship.

Two weeks later, in the West African country of Guinea, another UNHCR staff member was killed, and a colleague abducted, by an unidentified armed group. I extend my condolences to their families and to UNHCR, which has been shocked by these tragedies. We hope that the abducted employee will be returned to safety.

These international civil servants were willing to take enormous risks and endure great hardship to protect and assist the most vulnerable refugees, displaced and war-affected people. Humanitarian workers operate on the principles of neutrality and impartiality, and it is tragic that they so frequently become the victims of willful violence themselves. We must work to end the culture of impunity that allows such violence to flourish and dedicate ourselves to strengthening the

protection of those whose mission is to help their fellow human beings.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Proposed "Medicine Equity and Drug Safety Act of 2000"

September 25, 2000

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Leader:)

In your letter, you outlined a number of health care issues that you indicated could be resolved before Congress adjourns. I want to be equally clear about my priorities and hopes for progress this fall. As the days dwindle in this session of Congress, I am seriously concerned about the lack of movement on some of our most important issues. I am, however, encouraged to learn from your letter that the Republican leadership is now committed to providing Americans with access to prescription drugs available at lower cost from other countries.

As you know, our people are growing more and more concerned that the pharmaceutical industry often sells the same drugs for a much higher price in the United States than it does in other countries, even when those drugs are manufactured here at home. This forces some of our most vulnerable citizens, including seniors and people with disabilities, to pay the highest prices for prescription drugs in the world. This is simply unacceptable.

That is why I support the "Medicine Equity and Drug Safety Act of 2000," which the Senate passed by an overwhelming vote of 74 to 21. This important legislation would give Americans access to quality medications at the lower prices paid by citizens in other nations. The Senate bill, sponsored by Senators Jeffords, Wellstone, Dorgan and others, would allow wholesalers and pharmacists to import FDA-approved prescription drugs and would establish a new safety system intended to track these imports and test them for authenticity and degradation. Before this provision could take effect, the Secretary of Health and Human Services would be required to certify that the regulations would, first, pose no risk to the public health; and, second, significantly decrease prices paid by consumers.

With these protections in place and the \$23 million necessary to implement them, this legislation would meet the test that we both believe is crucial—preserving the safety of America’s drug supply.

Although your letter implies support for legislation similar to the Senate-passed bill, I am concerned by its statement that seniors would “buy lower-priced drugs *in* countries like Canada” [*emphasis added*]. Of course, few seniors live near the Canadian or Mexican borders and even fewer can afford to cross the border in search of lower-price drugs. Moreover, policies like the House’s Coburn amendment would strip the FDA of all of its ability to monitor safety and prevent seniors from buying counterfeit drugs, putting their health in danger and their finances at risk.

I urge you to send me the Senate legislation—with full funding—to let wholesalers and pharmacists bring affordable prescription drugs to the neighborhoods where our seniors live. Though this initiative does not address seniors’ most important need—meaningful insurance to cover the costs of expensive medications—it still has real potential to allow consumers to access prescription drug discounts.

I remain concerned that with less than one week left in this fiscal year, Congress has not passed eleven of thirteen appropriations bills; Congress has not raised the minimum wage; and Congress has not passed a strong, enforceable patients’ bill of rights. And, according to your letter, the congressional leadership has given up on passing a meaningful, affordable and optional Medicare prescription-drug benefit.

I am extremely disappointed by your determination that it is impossible to pass a voluntary Medicare prescription-drug benefit this year. I simply disagree. There is indeed time to act, and I urge you to use the final weeks of this Congress to get this important work done. It is the only way we can ensure rapid, substantial and much-needed relief from prescription drug costs for all seniors and people with disabilities, including low-income beneficiaries.

On the issue of the Medicare lock-box, I have endorsed the Vice President’s initiative, which has been effectively embodied in Senator Conrad’s amendment that passed on the Labor-Health and Human Services appropriations bill. I am therefore encouraged by your commitment to passing this legislation; but we must still make all efforts to ensure that the Medicare payroll taxes in the lockbox are used solely for Medicare.

Similarly, I am pleased to learn of your commitment to pass a greatly-needed package of Medicare and Medicaid health care provider payment and beneficiary refinements. As you know, I proposed such refinements in my budget and in my June Mid-Session Review. This includes payment increases for hospitals, home health agencies, nursing homes and other providers as well as access to Medicaid for legal immigrants, certain uninsured women with breast cancer, and children with disabilities; extended Medicare coverage for people with disabilities; an extension of the Balanced Budget Act’s diabetes provisions; and full funding for the Ricky Ray Trust Fund.

Again, I am pleased to learn of your commitment to providing Americans with access to high-quality, lower cost prescription drugs from other nations. There is no reason why we cannot work together to pass and enact such legislation immediately. As we do, we should not give up on passing both a workable, affordable and voluntary Medicare prescription-drug benefit for our nation’s seniors and a meaningful patients’ bill of rights for all Americans. I will do everything in my power to achieve that end, and I look forward to meeting with you on these issues as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Richard A. Gephardt, House minority leader; and Thomas A. Daschle, Senate minority leader. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

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

September 25, 2000

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 25, 2000.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With
Respect to Iran**

September 25, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, and matters relating to the measures in that order and in Executive Order 12959 of May 6, 1995, and in Executive Order 13059 of August 19, 1997.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 25, 2000.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
Partnership For Peace**

September 25, 2000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to section 514 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236), and section 205 of the NATO Participation Act of 1994 (title II of Public Law 103-447), I hereby transmit to you a report concerning Partnership for Peace (PFP) developments through July 15, 2000.

The PFP has been an unqualified success since its establishment in 1994. As reviewed in this year's report, through the PFP, Partners have built stronger ties with the Alliance and developed closer cooperative relationships with their neighbors. The PFP, and its political component, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, have also provided a means for incorporating Partners into NATO's operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, and assisting those countries that want to join NATO to implement reforms through the Membership Action Plan process. In addition, enhancements to the PFP have provided an improved mechanism for Partners to use in developing the interoperability with NATO that will be necessary for future NATO-led Allied/Partner missions.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, House Committee on International Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 26.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on
Compliance With the Chemical
Weapons Convention**

September 25, 2000

Dear _____:

In accordance with Condition 10(C) of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of

the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the United States Senate on April 24, 1997, enclosed is the report on CWC compliance.

The report is provided in both a classified and unclassified form.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Sam Gejdensen, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 26.

Remarks on the National Economy *September 26, 2000*

Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, we're here to talk about some good news for our economy and what it means for hardworking Americans. I want to thank those on our administration team who had a lot to do with the results that I will be announcing today.

I thank John Podesta, and I thank Gene Sperling; our Council of Economic Chair Martin Baily, and the other members of the Council of Economic Advisers; Jack Lew and Sylvia Mathews at OMB and all the people at OMB and the staff at the Council of Economic Advisers; all the folks who work in the White House and those who have been part of the groups that have helped us and our economic team and the Government to achieve the results that the American people have worked for and earned.

As John Podesta just described, when we took office, the deficit was \$290 billion and rising. It was projected to be about \$450 billion this year. Twelve years of irresponsible fiscal policies had quadrupled the debt of the United States, giving us low growth and very high interest rates. Unemployment was high; confidence was low.

Al Gore and I worked hard to change that, with a strategy of fiscal discipline, investment in our people, and expanded trade. A big part of our strategy was to make sure that all the

American people could participate in the growth of our Nation. We expanded the earned-income tax credit, nearly doubling it to make sure that work pays for people who work on modest incomes.

We raised the minimum wage, passed the family and medical leave law, enacted a \$500 child tax credit, passed the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill to make sure people could carry their health insurance with them when they changed jobs, created the HOPE scholarship tax credit and other increases in college aid for the biggest expansion in college opportunity since the GI bill over 50 years ago.

Now, we all know that the American people have done a lot with these changes. We have the lowest unemployment in 30 years, the lowest female unemployment in 40 years, the lowest Hispanic and African-American unemployment ever recorded. So, the 22 million jobs and the longest economic expansion in history have truly had a broad base of benefits. The rising tide has been lifting all boats.

Today I'm pleased to announce that we have reached another economic milestone. In its annual study on income and poverty, the Census Bureau reports that last year typical household income rose \$1,072, to the highest level ever recorded, breaking \$40,000 for the first time.

American incomes have been on the rise for 5 years running now. Since 1993, when we launched our economic strategy, median family income has risen by 15 percent. That means, for the typical family, after inflation, \$6,300 more a year in real purchasing power for the things that matter most: sending their children to college; covering critical health care costs; saving for a secure retirement.

And the poverty rate has fallen to 11.8 percent, the lowest in 20 years. Since 1993, 7 million Americans have moved out of poverty, 2.2 million in the last year alone. The equality part of this recovery is picking up steam. Last year African-American and Hispanic poverty rates took their largest drop ever. Child poverty dropped more than any year since 1966, and elderly poverty fell below 10 percent for the first time in history.

The rising tide of the economy is lifting all boats. Every income group is seeing economic growth, with the greatest gains, in percentage terms, being made by the hardest pressed Americans. In 1999, as the report shows, African-American and Hispanic households experienced the biggest boosts in their incomes ever.

Today, the most important thing we can say about our economy is that it works for working families, and its success belongs to all the American people. If we stay on the path that got us here, the path of fiscal discipline, we can reach even greater heights of prosperity. If we add the new markets initiative and an expansion of the empowerment zone program the Vice President has led so ably these last years, we can extend it even further, to people and places still left behind, so that the gains we are seeing in the cities reach as far as our rural communities and Native American reservations. We can also achieve something once unthinkable. We can make our country debt-free for the first time since the Presidency of Andrew Jackson in 1835.

Months ago, I presented a budget that sticks to the path of fiscal discipline and makes critical investments in America's future, that saves Social Security, strengthens Medicare, and includes a voluntary prescription drug benefit, invests in education, and increases accountability, and pays down the debt by 2012.

Now, there's less than a week left in this fiscal year, and Congress still has not passed 11 of the 13 appropriation bills. Congress still has not raised the minimum wage or taken other initiatives to keep all Americans' lives improving, along with the economy, including a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights, voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefits, or tax cuts for college tuition, child care, and long-term care.

I was, however, encouraged this week that the Republican leadership said that they will work with me and the congressional Democrats in the face of the drug companies' opposition, to give Americans access to prescription drugs that are cheaper in other countries. I think it's wrong when drug companies sell the same drugs for a much higher price at home than they do overseas, even when

those drugs are manufactured right here in America. Some of the most vulnerable Americans, seniors and people with disabilities, are paying the highest prices for prescription drugs made in America, in the entire world.

I support the legislation the Senate has passed to right this wrong. If fully funded, the Senate bill meets my condition that the prescription drugs we import here are every bit as safe as the ones already on the shelves of America's pharmacies. With this protection in place, we can preserve the safety of our prescription drug supply and cut prices for the pharmaceuticals Americans need.

The idea has potential, as long as the leadership in Congress sees it as part of a real solution, not part of a campaign strategy. Of course, again I say, it's only part of a solution. A discount doesn't help you much if you've got more than \$10,000 in catastrophic drug costs. What you need, what all seniors need, is something that makes drugs cheaper but helps you pay for them, as well. What you need is a Medicare prescription drug benefit that is optional, affordable, and dependable.

I'm disappointed by the congressional leadership's suggestion that there's not time enough to pass such a benefit, and I disagree. Every day Congress is still in session is another day it could be working overtime to provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit and to meet our other pressing national priorities.

There is still time for Congress to raise the minimum wage; to pass the bipartisan new markets legislation; to help close the growing digital divide; to give our American children more opportunities in education; to reduce class size with more highly trained teachers; to fix crumbling old schools and to build new ones; to support after-school programs for all the children in this country who need it; and to increase accountability by requiring States not only to identify failing schools but to turn them around or put them under new management.

The remarkable success of our economy, the rising incomes, the falling poverty rates, show again how much we can achieve when we work hard, make the right choices, and work together. The American people do that every day of the year. So for just a few days, the days left in this legislative session, I hope

the Congress will work with me in that same spirit and with the same eye toward achievement.

This is a good day for America. We have proved that we can lift all boats in a modern, global, information-based economy. But we have a lot to do. The success and the progress should urge us on.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Remarks at Georgetown University Law School

September 26, 2000

Thank you very much. Father O'Donovan, thank you for giving me another chance to come back to Georgetown and for your extraordinary leadership over these many years. And Dean Areen, thank you for giving me a chance to come to the law school.

I have to tell you that when they told me I was coming into the moot courtroom—[laughter]—my mind raced back 30 years ago—almost 30 years ago. When we were in law school at Yale, Hillary and I entered the moot court competition, and it was sort of like the Olympics. There were all these trial runs you had to get through, and then you got into the finals, and you tried to go for the gold.

So we finished first and second in the trial runs, and then we got into the finals. And the judge, the moot court judge, was Justice Abe Fortas. You've got to understand, this was the early seventies; it was a sort of irreverent time. [Laughter] Fashion was not the best. [Laughter] Some of us made it worse. [Laughter] And anyway, I had a bad day. [Laughter] Hillary had a good day. I thought she should have won. But Justice Fortas thought that her very seventies outfit, which was blue and bright orange suede—[laughter]—was a little out of order for a trial. And so he gave the award to a guy, a third person, who is now a distinguished trial lawyer in Chicago. And for his trouble, he has had the burden of contributing to all my campaigns and now to hers. [Laughter] So I suppose it all worked out for the best. [Laughter]

Mr. Hotung, Mrs. Hotung, I thank you for your generosity. I loved your speech. [Laughter] And I'd like to thank you, especially, for what you've tried to do for the people of East Timor. It means a lot to me because I know how important it is to the future of freedom throughout Southeast Asia and, indeed, throughout all East Asia, that we come to recognize that human rights are not some Western concept imposed upon the rest of the world but truly are universal as the United Nations Declaration says.

East Timor is a small place, a long way from here, that many people thought the United States should not care about. And the fact that you did and continue to care about them and the enormous odds they have to cope with still is, I think, a very noble thing, and I thank you very much for that.

I'd like to thank the faculty and staff and students who are here and all the members of my administration and administrations past who are here and my friends from Georgetown days who are here. Georgetown Law School has given more talent to this administration than any other single institution in America. And I'm almost afraid to mention some for fear that I will ignore others or omit them, anyway.

But among the people in the administration who are Georgetown law grads are: my Chief of Staff, John Podesta; my White House Counsel, Beth Nolan; my Deputy Counsel, Bruce Lindsey; former White House Counsel Jack Quinn; Budget Director Jack Lew; former Trade Ambassador and Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor; Counselor to the Chief of Staff Michelle Ballantyne; Deputy Communications Director Stephanie Cutter. They're all graduates of Georgetown law. And I've had various Ambassadors and other appointees, and Lord knows who else you gave me. So I'm grateful for that.

It's also quite interesting to me that Beth Nolan's assistant, Ben Adams, and my personal aide, Doug Band, are actually working full-time at the White House. In Doug's case, he's working around the clock, because we're traveling and we're working. We haven't slept in 3 weeks. And they're enrolled right now in Georgetown law. [Laughter]

Now, therefore, I would like to make a modest suggestion, and that is that when they take their exams in December, they be judged not only on the basis of legal reasoning but creative writing. [Laughter]

I also want to credit one other person for the remarkable fidelity Georgetown students and Georgetown lawyers have had to public service over the years. My freshman philosophy teacher, Father Otto Hentz, used to say that the Jesuits are convinced there was only one serious scriptural omission on the first chapter of Genesis: God created politics, and God saw that it was good. [Laughter] You would get quite an argument, I think, from some people on that. But Georgetown has always been there for America's body politic, and we are a better nation because of it.

The Eric Hotung International Law Center Building will house work that will, in no small measure, shape the kind of nation we are and the kind of world we live in, in the 21st century.

The 20th century raised a lot of questions of lasting concerns: of ethnic and religious conflict; of the uses and abuses to science, technology, and organization; and of the relationship between science and economic activity and the environment.

But the 20th century resolved one big question, I believe, conclusively. Humanity's best hope for a future of peace and prosperity lies in free people and free market democracies governed by the rule of law.

What Harry Truman said after World War II is even more true today. He said, "We are in the position now of making the world safe for democracy if we don't crawl in the shell and act selfish and foolish." Sometimes his unvarnished rhetoric was more effective than more strained eloquence. We are, today, in a position to make the world more free and prosperous if we don't crawl in the shell and act selfish and foolish.

The scope of the challenge is quite large. In the 1990's, more people won their freedom than ever before in human history. People in nations like Russia, Ukraine, Nigeria, Indonesia now elect their own leaders. But it is just a first step. Without a strong and independent judiciary, civil society, transparent governance, and a free press to hold leaders accountable, the world's new democ-

racies easily could sink under the weight of corruption, inequity, and poor government.

I read an op-ed piece by the New York Times columnist Tom Friedman a few months ago, which captured the experience I've had in this job for nearly 8 years now when he said, "Americans were born as a nation skeptical of government." Our Constitution was designed to limit government, and then we had a decade when we were told by all of our politicians how bad government is. But the truth is that in many parts of the world today, human freedom is limited by weak and ineffective government, without the capacity to deliver the good, honor the rule of law, and provide a transparent environment so that investment can come in to lift the lives of people. Without democratic elections, laws can too easily be a tool of oppression, not an instrument of justice. But without the rule of law, elections simply offer a choice of dictators.

Building a rule of law is hard work. If you just look at our own history, you get, perhaps, the most persuasive illustration. We established our right to elect our leaders before independence. Even with independence, we still, in 1776, had no national executive, no system of courts, only a weak legislature.

The Articles of Confederation came 5 years after independence but failed. The Constitution was ratified 13 years after independence and was quickly amended. And it was not until *Marbury v. Madison* in 1803, 27 years after the Declaration of Independence, that the courts established their rights to check the power of elected leaders.

Of course, when we started, only white male property owners could vote. It wasn't until the end of the Civil War that African-Americans were treated as citizens. Women didn't gain the right to vote until the 20th century. We are still very much a work in progress, and we need to take that humbling thought into account when we give advice to others in building their future.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, it had no laws relating to private property or public elections or freedom of the press. In 1993 we launched a rule-of-law project that helped Russia draft a new civil code, a criminal code, a tax code, and bankruptcy law. We also helped Russia to separate its judicial system

from the executive branch, train judges in commercial law, support Russian law schools. It was not a panacea, but it did help to create the foundation on which Russia can build.

The same need for stronger legal institutions is apparent in China, especially because of its impending entry into the World Trade Organization, which, as all of you know, I think is a very, very good thing. It's more than an economic opportunity, because it can set China on a course that will diminish the role of government in its economy and its people's lives, while involving China in an international system of rules and responsibilities and mutual interdependence.

China will have to make fundamental changes to meet its WTO obligations: restructure its industries, publish laws that have long been secret, establish procedures for settling disputes, create a level playing field for foreign firms. China has asked us for help in developing its legal expertise and legal system. We should provide it. And I expect Georgetown will be part of that effort.

This past summer Professor James Feinerman and Professor John Jackson and other Georgetown faculty met with some 25 senior Government officials in China—from China, to advise them on structural reforms they will be making as they become fully participating members in the World Trade Organization.

Since a Georgetown law professor helped Germany draft its democratic articles of government after the Second World War, Georgetown law professors have been active the world over, helping nations to establish democratic legal structures, from Estonia to Mexico, from South Africa to Mongolia. Next summer, you will begin an international judicial, educational, and exchange program, to allow judges from other countries to come here to discuss with United States judges how to build a judiciary that is both independent and competent.

These efforts illustrate how America's experience should be put to use to advance the rule of law where democracy's roots are looking for room and strength to grow. But in many parts of the world, people still struggle just to plant the seeds of democracy. For the last decade, one of the most important and gripping such places has been the former

Yugoslavia. Eight years ago, the region was engulfed by war, caused by Mr. Milosevic's desire to build a Greater Serbia. It's easy to forget how very close he came to succeeding. If he had, it would have led to a permanent humanitarian tragedy and an end to the vision of an undivided, democratic Europe.

But with our allies, we stood against ethnic cleansing and stood by democratic forces fighting for change. From Sarajevo to Pristina, the carnage has ended. Croatia is a democracy. Bosnians are now waging their battles at the ballot box. The control of Milosevic and his dictatorship is now limited to Serbia, and this weekend, it appears, because of brave people casting their ballot, he has lost the last vestige of legitimacy.

The OSCE and the EU have concluded that this election was marred by widespread irregularity. Experienced international observers were prevented from monitoring the election. But still, the people of Serbia showed up in overwhelming numbers. And despite the Government's attempt to manipulate the vote, it does seem clear that the people have voted for change. And the question is, will the Government listen and respond?

I do not underestimate Mr. Milosevic's desire to cling to power at the expense of the people. I have witnessed it, lived with it, and responded to it firsthand. But after this weekend's vote, we should not underestimate the people of Serbia's determination to seek freedom and a different and more positive force in the face of violence and intimidation.

Neither should Americans underestimate the extent to which this vote is about Serbia, its people, and its future. Indeed, the opposition candidate also disagreed with our policy in Kosovo. I am under no illusions that a new Government in Serbia would automatically lead to a rapprochement between the two of us, and any new leader of Serbia should pursue, first and foremost, the interests of its own people. But if the will of the people is respected, the doors to Europe and the world will be open again to Serbia. We will take steps with our allies to lift economic sanctions, and the people of Serbia, who have suffered so much, finally will have a chance to lead normal lives.

I hope that day is arriving, and when it does, people of good will will, around the world, help the people of Serbia to build and strengthen the institutions of a free market democracy. Some of you in this room will be needed in that effort. The persistence of people with your expertise, the institutions of our country, especially the Georgetown Law Center, will make an enormous difference in the future.

Let me close with just one very personal thought. The law gives people a way to live together, to resolve their differences, to be rewarded when they should and punished when they're particularly destructive. But the idea is, it embodies our most fundamental values and applies it to practical circumstances so that even when we have differences, we find a way to abide a decision that is made.

It will be more and more important in the years ahead because the world is growing more interdependent. It embodies the idea, just because there are rules, that all of us are created equal and that we should be treated blindly, without regard to our race, our religion, our ethnicity, our condition of ability or disability, whether we're straight or gay, whether we're Asian or European or African or Latin American.

The whole idea of the American law, embodied in the ideals of our Constitution and continuously perfected, is that we are all equal and that we are growing more interdependent. If we were completely independent, we'd have no need for law. We'd just be out there doing our own thing. And if we weren't equal in the eyes of the law, the law would be a monster and an instrument of oppression.

So the law is our society's attempt to reconcile our deep belief in independence and our understanding that interdependence is what enables us to make progress and to give our lives more meaning. The world is more interdependent than ever before. If we can find a way for people to believe that through the law we can create an environment in which everybody is better off, in which no group or individual is seeking to make unfair gains at anyone else's expense, then the world's most peaceful and prosperous and exciting time lies ahead.

Then I'm not worried about what use we will make of the marvelous mysteries of the human genome. I'm not worried about whether some nation will abuse what they find out in the deepest depths of the ocean or the black holes of outer space. I'm not even worried about our ability somehow to find a way to deal with the terrorists and their ability to use the marvels of new technology for biological, chemical, and other weapons. We'll deal with it fine, as long as we remain committed to the integrity of the individual but the interdependence within and beyond our borders, or to go back to Mr. Truman's words, if we're not too stupid and too selfish, the best is still out there, and the law will lead us.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. in the Moot Court Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Father Leo J. O'Donovan, president, Georgetown University; Judith Areen, dean, Georgetown University Law School; Eric Hotung, Georgetown University alumnus and benefactor, and his wife, Patricia Anne Shea; President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); and Yugoslav opposition candidate Vojislav Kostunica.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Violence Against Women Act

September 26, 2000

Yesterday I called on Congress to act quickly to strengthen and reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. More than 900,000 women across the country suffer violence at the hands of an intimate partner each year, demonstrating the continuing need for this legislation. I am very pleased that today the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. This vote affirms our commitment to support the work of State and local prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and health care and social service professionals throughout the country who every day respond to women who are victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault.

It is now time for the Senate to act. Unless the act is reauthorized by September 30, authorization for critical grant programs supporting the victims of domestic violence will be in jeopardy. With over 70 sponsors in the Senate, there is no reason for delay.

Remarks Following the Premiere of “Remember the Titans”

September 26, 2000

Folks, come on. Give them a hand. [*Applause*] I just want to say two things, besides thanks to Jerry and the director and the stars, for giving us a gift. First thing is, I’ve actually had the honor, as President, of going to T.C. Williams High School. And you might be interested to know that that school district is now the most racially, ethnically, religiously diverse school district in the whole United States of America. That high school now has students whose families come from more than 80 countries and speak more than 50 languages.

And after some of the troubles at schools around America, I went out there because they are a model for the whole country and how different people relate to each other and work together and solve their problems. And it all started here with them, 30 years ago.

The second thing is, I was watching this movie, and you know I grew up in the South, where football was next to religion, except for people who were really serious about football. And I was watching this, and I was thinking back over the last 8 years and all the times I spent trying to get people in other countries to quit fighting each other because they were different and trying to get people in America to get over their differences. And I was just thinking, if only we could learn over again every day the lesson these young men, when they were young—and they’re still young to me—[*laughter*—]learned from each other.

The reason that’s so powerful is, they won a victory of the human heart. And I hope that all of us will remember the gift they gave us and keep on winning.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10 p.m. at the Uptown Theater. In his remarks, he

referred to the film’s producer, Jerry Bruckheimer, and director, Boaz Yakin. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Departure for Dallas, Texas, and an Exchange With Reporters

September 27, 2000

National Economy

The President. Good morning. Yesterday I announced that household income has reached an all-time high, and the poverty rate has fallen to its lowest level in 20 years. Today there’s more good economic news.

Eight years ago, our future was at risk. Economic growth was low; unemployment was high; interest rates were high; the Federal debt had quadrupled in the previous 12 years. When Vice President Gore and I took office, the budget deficit was \$290 billion, and it was projected this year the budget deficit would be \$455 billion.

The American people, thankfully, chose a better future. They put their support behind a new economic direction of fiscal discipline, greater investment in our people, expanded trade in our products. It’s given us the longest economic expansion in history and the strongest fiscal turnaround in memory. Record budget deficits have given way to record surpluses. And this has enabled us to do something that would have been impossible just 8 years ago. We’ve actually begun to pay down the debt.

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 \$230 billion. With this surplus, we’ve been able to cut the debt over the last 3 years by this figure.

[*At this point, the President wrote the number on a chart showing the deficit.*]

The President. Three hundred and sixty billion dollars in debt reduction over the last 3 years.

This year alone we’ve cut the debt by at least \$223 billion, the largest one-year debt reduction in the history of the United States. Like our Olympic athletes in Sydney, the American people are breaking all kinds of

records these days. This is the first year we've balanced the budget without using the Medicare Trust Fund since Medicare was created in 1965. I think we should follow Al Gore's advice and lock those Trust Funds away for the future.

We've come a long way since then and a long way since 1993. But we can go further still. If we stay on the path we're on, we can pay this debt off entirely by 2012, for the first time since Andrew Jackson was President in 1835. Paying off the debt will benefit America, just as paying off credit cards benefits the average family. It frees up money for things that matter, and it keeps interest rates lower. That will mean more investment, more jobs, lower mortgage payments, car payments, and student loan payments. This is all terribly important.

Already the benefits of debt reduction have meant about \$2,000 a year—or deficit reduction, and then debt reduction has been about \$2,000 a year in lower interest payments for home mortgages, about \$200 a year in lower interest payments for cars, about \$200 a year for lower interest payments on college loans. And if we stay on this path, rather than go back and spend all the surplus and get back into the Social Security funds, it will keep interest rates about a point lower over the next decade. That will be worth, in home mortgages alone, over \$300 billion.

So this is a very important thing to do. And I hope that we will see a continuation of this trend in this year's final end-game budget negotiations. However, the fiscal year is almost over, and Congress still has sent me only 2 of the 13 spending bills. We need to put our priorities in order and put the broad national interest above special interests.

The key to fiscal discipline, to these kinds of results, is maintaining it each year, year after year. If you look at what's happened in the last 8 years, Federal spending today as a percentage of the economy is the lowest it has been since 1966. The Federal civilian work force is the smallest it's been since 1960, down 377,000 from the day I took office.

I am concerned, frankly, about the size and last-minute nature of this year's congressional spending spree, where they seem to be loading up the spending bills with special

projects for special interests but can't seem to find the time to raise the minimum wage or pass a Patients' Bill of Rights or drug benefits for our seniors through Medicare or tax cuts for long-term care, child care, or college education.

And first and foremost, they haven't found the funds for education, for continuing to hire 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size, to build and modernize schools, to provide after-school for children who need it, and to have real accountability for failing schools, requiring them to turn around or shut down or be put under new management.

These are the things that need to be done, and I certainly hope they will be. We can finish this year in good shape. We can maintain our fiscal discipline. We can get this country out of debt and still make the right investments and have the right kind of tax cuts, but we have to work together to do it and avoid just throwing money away simply because we're close to an election.

These results today—paying off \$360 billion of the national debt, something that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago; continuing the longest economic expansion in history; knowing that we can get this done, that we can actually get the country out of debt—ought to be an inspiration for all of us to stay on the path that got us here now and in the years ahead.

Thank you very much.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, do you think there will be a final peace settlement in the Middle East before you leave office?

The President. I don't know. We're working on it.

Q. Any progress?

The President. I don't know. They're working, and they're working hard, and they're trying, and we're working as hard as we know how. But I can't say there will be; I can't say there won't. We can do it, but it will require what these difficult things always require, a remarkable convergence of both sides willing to make difficult decisions and kind of leap off into the future together. I hope we can do it.

Hate Crimes Legislation

Q. Mr. President, on hate crimes, Republican leaders have indicated there really isn't much of a chance of a bill passing this year. If that's the case, do you intend to make the issue one of your nonnegotiable priorities in the final budget talks with the GOP? And how much is your speech later in Texas designed to put pressure on Republicans on this issue before the elections?

The President. Well, I think there should be hate crimes legislation. I think they made a mistake in Texas not to pass it, and I think it's a mistake for Congress not to pass it. But we all know what the deal is here. This is not complicated. The Republican majority does not want a bill that explicitly provides hate crimes protections for gay Americans. And I think they think it will split their base or something.

All the surveys show that over two-thirds of the American people believe that no one should be subject to a crime because of who they are. And I just hope and pray we can do it. If we can't do it, what did that Senate vote mean? Was it just some stunt? I mean, they voted for it 57-42. It's not a complicated piece of legislation. It could be put on anything.

So I wouldn't give up yet. I think a majority of the House and a majority of the Senate are for it. So if it doesn't get on, it will require an effort of the leaders to keep it off. In other words, minority rule not majority rule in the Congress. I believe there's—there are Republicans in the Senate and the House who genuinely support this. I don't know how many, but enough, as you saw in the Senate vote, to get a majority, unless the leaders keep it from happening. They'll have to actually keep it from happening.

Possible Lieberman-Farrakhan Meeting

Q. Mr. President, is it realistic for the American public to expect a book on race from you before you leave office? And also, what are your thoughts about Joe Lieberman expecting to meet with Minister Louis Farrakhan to heal the racial divide between the Jewish-American community and the African-American community?

The President. I didn't understand. What did you say about Joe Lieberman and Louis Farrakhan?

Q. Joe Lieberman told me yesterday that he wanted to meet with Minister Louis Farrakhan to help ease the tensions between the Jewish-American community and the African-American community, and also to try to change what he said, the misguided statements that he made at the beginning of Joe Lieberman being announced as the Democratic Vice Presidential running mate.

The President. Well, if anybody has got the standing to do it, he certainly does. That's my objective—I don't know about the other question.

Go ahead.

President's Book on Race

Q. What about the race book, though?

The President. I don't know. I'm working hard.

Yugoslav Elections

Q. Mr. President, how do you assess the situation in Yugoslavia and the likelihood of a run-off election?

The President. Well, Mr. Kostunica and his forces apparently have said at the present time they don't plan to participate in a run-off because they're confident they got a majority. The Government's official election commission has no credibility, whatever. There are no opposition party members on it. There are no independent observers that have monitored its work. And the opposition believes it clearly got over 50 percent, and at least another NGO and other independent observers believe it did, too.

So they have to decide how to respond to this. And I think what Europe and the United States should do is to support the express will of the Serbian people, and it certainly appears from a distance that they had a free election, and somebody is trying to take it away from them. And so we'll just have to see what happens. But whatever we do, I think, should be consistent with the wishes of the majority of the people there.

Legislative Agenda/Possible Vetoes

Q. Mr. President, given what you've said today, why not just tell Congress that you

won't sign appropriations measures that grant you more funding than you even requested, as they seem prepared to do?

The President. Well, first of all, the President should never be in a position of, in effect, usurping the Congress's authority. They always add something to what I spend. I have consistently shown more fiscal discipline. But this is a question of the dimensions of it. And the Supreme Court said that I didn't have the authority for the line-item veto, and so I have—the only option I have is a meat-axe option now. And we'll just have to see whether I will be able to sustain those and what the consequences would be, and my main concern here is all the things that are left undone, all this money they're spending, but they still have an inadequate commitment, in my judgment, to education—at least based on what I've seen so far—and all these other things. The priorities of the Congress strike me as strange. I mean, look at what their—their first priority for tax cuts was something for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, and they still haven't done anything for long-term care or college tuition tax credits or child care for average Americans, and they still haven't done anything to raise the minimum wage.

So this is a question of priorities and balance. In terms of whether I would veto one, it depends on how much extra money they spend in the end and what it looks like. So I can't say that. I'd have to study the bills first.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Q. Mr. President, 8 months ago, Vice President Gore said he thought it was a bad idea to tap the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. You spoke with him last week before announcing your plans in that regard. What's your take on his change in position?

The President. Well, I think the circumstances are quite different. I didn't tap the Strategic Petroleum Reserve 8 months ago either. And as you know—I think it's been reported in the press—we had a very long and serious discussion about this, and we discussed all the pros and cons and decided that after OPEC had set a target range of \$22–28 a barrel—which most of us, certainly me and the producing countries,

thought was a reasonable range; that is, we didn't want to go back down to 13 or 12 or 10 again because that was also disruptive—that the accumulated decisions were not going to come near that target and that there seemed to be a trendline going quite high.

And so Secretary Richardson and his experts at the Energy Department argued for a couple of weeks, based on their experience and their understanding of the supply situation, that among the various options we considered—and there were three or four of them, including doing nothing right now, and others—that the most prudent thing to do is what we did.

So I essentially took the advice of Secretary Richardson and the experts at the Energy Department, after discussing it extensively with our whole economic team, including the Vice President.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Yugoslav opposition candidate Vojislav Kostunica.

Remarks at a Gay and Lesbian Leadership Council Luncheon in Dallas

September 27, 2000

The President. You've got to calm down now. We've got work to do. [Laughter] But I thank you for that welcome. And I want to thank Chuck and Jim for welcoming us. This is a really beautiful place. I love the art. I love the architecture. I love the light. This is the first time I've ever gotten to give a speech under Bette Davis eyes. [Laughter] I bet I hear about that one. [Laughter]

Thank you, Julie and Kay. I'd like to thank Ed Rendell for agreeing, after he left the mayor's job, to do this old part-time job as chair of the DNC. And my friend of many, many years Andy Tobias, who has really done a wonderful job in more ways than most people know. Thank you, Elizabeth. I thank Julian Potter, my White House liaison, and the others who are here from the White House today.

I also want to thank Brian Bond, who is the director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory

Fund. And we have one very important candidate for Congress here, Regina Montoya Coggins—[*inaudible*]. And Molly Beth Malcolm, thank you for being here, for getting on that—what was that talk show you were on last night, taking up for our side? That guy just talks louder when he starts losing arguments. You hung in there really well. [*Laughter*] You did a good job.

I want to say to all of you that this is an interesting time for America. It's a time of enormous progress and prosperity but a time of real ferment, too. And people are trying to come to grips with all the currents of change that are running through America: The Fort Worth City Council voted to extend discrimination protection to gays and lesbians; gay Dallas city councilman changes party. Good deal. Regina wants to represent the community, and the Congressman says he doesn't—not sure he does. [*Laughter*] It's a big deal. We're debating all these things.

I'm honored to have had the chance to be President at a time when all these issues were coming to the fore, and to have a record number of members of the gay community in my administration. We are fighting for the hate crimes bill, and basically, we now have a bipartisan majority in both Houses for it. We've got all the Democrats but one, and about—I don't know—12 or 13 Republicans in the Senate voted for the hate crimes bill. And we have 41 Republicans in the House who voted with about 200 of our crowd to instruct the conferees on the defense bill to leave it in there.

I was asked just before I left Washington—a couple of you mentioned it to me that one of—someone in the leadership of the Republican Congress said that he didn't think this would get to be law this year. Well, if it doesn't get to be law, it's because the leadership doesn't want it, because we've got a majority of the votes for it. So I would urge you do to whatever you can.

There's been a sea change movement. Gordon Smith, who is the Republican Senator from Oregon and an evangelical Christian, gave an incredibly moving speech in the floor of the Senate for it. I don't know if you saw it, but there was a Republican State representative from Georgia who gave a decisive speech in the Georgia legislature for the

hate crimes bill. And I don't know if you've circulated that, but it's an overwhelmingly powerful speech. And I think it could have, if we can get it around, an impact on some more Members in the House, but we've got the votes. It's just a question of whether the leadership of the Republican Party in the Congress stays to the right of the country on this issue.

The same thing is true of the employment nondiscrimination legislation. I actually hope that we might pass that this year. There are big majorities across the country for this. It is not just a Democratic issue. It is not just a liberal issue. It's not even just a gay rights issue. It's a fundamental fairness issue in America. And we get a few changes in the Congress, that will pass next time too, assuming the election for President works out all right.

So we're moving in the right direction. But we're dealing with this—this election, in some fundamental way, I think, is a referendum about whether the whole approach we've taken to our national problems in our national life is the right one. I ran for President partly because I just got sick of seeing my country held back by the politics of division, by a sense of political and economic and cultural entitlement, almost, on the part of the people who had been running things for a long time, with absolute confidence that they could divide the American electorate in ways that made their opposition look like they were out of the mainstream and not part of ordinary American life.

And it seemed to me that it gave us bad economic policies, bad social policies, ineffective crime and welfare policies, and a lot of hot air and not much results. So when the people gave Al Gore and me a chance to serve, we tried to adopt a unifying approach that would bring the American people together and that would not make choices that were essentially phony.

We believed we could cut the deficit and invest more in education and the American people, and sure enough, it worked. Today, before I came here, I announced that we would have this year a \$230 billion surplus, the biggest in the history of the United States, that we would, when I left office, have paid off \$360 billion of the national debt.

Keep in mind, the annual deficit was supposed to be \$450 billion this year when I took office. So it's gone from \$450 billion projected deficit to a \$230 billion actual surplus.

And yesterday we released the annual poverty figures, which show that poverty is at a 20-year low. Last year we had the biggest drop in child poverty since 1966, the biggest drop in minority poverty in the history of the country since we've been measuring the statistics; 2.2 million people moved out of poverty last year alone; all income groups experienced roughly the same percentage increase in their income. But in America—and the bottom 20 percent actually had slightly the higher percentage increase, which is good because they've been losing ground for many years while working hard.

So I think it makes sense to have economic and social policies that bring people together. And it's rooted in an essential Democratic belief that everybody counts, everybody ought to have a chance, and we all do better when we help each other. It's not complicated, but it turns out to be good economics.

And it turns out to be quite effective social policy. If you look—we said that we ought to put more police on the street, punish people who are particularly bad, but do more to prevent crime in the first place and keep guns out of the hands of criminals and kids. And lo and behold, it worked. Now, that hasn't stopped people from fighting us, because they're driven by ideology and control, not by evidence.

One thing I respect about our opponents, they are totally undeterred by the evidence. [Laughter] I mean, in a way, you've sort of got to admire that—"I don't care what works. This is what I believe." [Laughter] "So what if they've got the longest economic expansion in history and 22 million new jobs and the lowest minority unemployment rate recorded and the lowest female unemployment rate in 40 years. I don't care. I still want to go back to running the deficit and having a big tax cut."

"So what if keeping a half a million felons, fugitives, and stalkers from getting handguns, and not interrupting anybody's day in the deer woods, and putting 100,000 police on

the street has given us the lowest crime rate in 27 years. I still don't want to close the gun show loophole, and I want to get rid of the 100,000 cops program." That's their position. It's not just about guns; it's about police. They do not favor the Federal program that is now putting 150,000 police on the street, and they have promised to get rid of it. And I could go on and on.

"So what if 18 million Americans every single year are delayed or denied coverage by an HMO when a doctor is pleading for it. I'm still not for the Patients' Bill of Rights."

Now, I could just go on and on, but the point I want to make is, this election is about way more than gay rights. I have a unifying theory of how America ought to work. I've tried to build one America. I'm elated when the human genome project revealed we are all 99.99 percent the same, genetically. [Laughter]

I've been touting to a lot of people this new book by Robert Wright called "Non Zero." He wrote an earlier book called "The Moral Animal." The essential argument of the book is that notwithstanding all the depravity of the 20th century and the Nazis and the Communists, that essentially society is moving to higher and higher levels of decency and justice, because it's becoming more complex and we're becoming more interdependent. And the more interdependent people become and the more they recognize it, the more they are forced to try to find solutions to their disagreements, in game theory parlance, which are non-zero-sum solutions as opposed to zero-sum solutions—those are where in order for somebody to win, somebody has got to lose.

It's not a naive book. I mean, we're going to have a race for President. It's a zero-sum race. One will win; one will lose. But the general idea is that we ought to organize society in such a way that we more and more and more look for solutions in which, in order for me to win, you have to win, too. We have to find respectful ways to accommodate each other so that we can honor our differences but be united by our common humanity.

So, for me, cutting the welfare rolls in half, adding a couple million kids to the rolls of children with health insurance, being for the

hate crimes bill and the employment non-discrimination bill, being for new markets legislation to expand opportunity to people and places left behind, and continuing to get the country out of debt so interest rates stay low and prosperity stays high, so the rest of the country is secure enough to reach out to people who are different from them—which is easier to do when you're secure than when you're insecure—to me, this is all part of a unified strategy.

And I guess what I would like to ask you to do is to continue to reach out and to keep working. Never allow yourselves to be marginalized or divided against your friends and neighbors, because the progress we're making is because more and more people are identifying with our common humanity. As horrible as it was when young Matthew Shepard was stretched out on that rack to die in Wyoming, it got a lot of people's attention. And when that police commissioner from Wyoming stood up and said, "I was against hate crimes legislation before, and I was wrong. The experience of knowing this young man's family, knowing his friend, knowing what his life was like, and understanding the nature of this crime and why the people committed it has changed my life—seeing his parents stand up and talk"—obviously, not exactly a liberal Democratic activist living out there in Wyoming—[*laughter*]—talking about this whole issue in profoundly human terms has helped to change America. And they are trying to redeem their son's life by making sure that his death was not in vain.

And the American people are fundamentally good people. They nearly always get it right once they have a chance to have personal experience, if they have enough information and they have enough time to absorb it.

Now, that's why, in this election, it's important that you keep reaching out and understand that clarity is our friend. I just get so tickled watching this Presidential campaign, maybe because it's interesting for me—I'm not part of it now. [*Laughter*] Except as I often say, now that my party has a new leader and my family has a new candidate, I'm now the Cheerleader in Chief of the country. [*Laughter*] But it's sort of like—

one week we read in the press that there is something wrong with one of the candidates. Then the next week, "Oh, there's something wrong with the other." And let me tell you something. I totally disagree with that whole thing. I think we ought to posit the fact that we have two people running for President who are fundamentally patriotic, good, decent people who love their country but who have huge differences that tend to be obscured by the daily and weekly coverage of this or that flap.

And sometimes, I get the feeling that the flaps are being deliberately used to obscure the underlying reality. Now, the underlying reality is that these people have huge differences on economic policy—huge. And the Republican position would basically take an enormous percentage of the non-Social Security surplus, roughly three-quarters of it, and spend it on a tax cut. Then, if you partially privatize Social Security, that's another trillion bucks. You're into the Social Security surplus, and that's before you have kept any of your spending promises. That means higher interest rates.

We just got a study which said that the Gore plan would keep interest rates roughly a percent a year lower, over a decade, and that's worth—there's some dispute about it, but somewhere between \$300 billion and \$390 billion over 10 years in lower home mortgages and \$30 billion in lower car payments and \$15 billion in lower student loan payments. That's a big tax cut.

It also keeps the economy going. There are huge differences in economic policy, big differences in education policy. Even though both say they're for accountability, I would argue that the Democratic program on accountability is stronger, because it says we favor voluntary national exams. We favor identifying failing schools, and then having to turn them around, shut them down, or put them under new management. So there are real consequences here.

And we favor, in addition to that, which they don't, putting 100,000 teachers out there to make smaller classes and rebuilding or building a lot of schools, because you've got kids just running out of these buildings and a lot of school districts just can't raise property taxes any more.

There are huge differences in health care—a Patients’ Bill of Rights, Medicare drug program. You know, all this medicine flap, it obscures—what is the underlying reality here? The underlying reality is, we have the money to give senior citizens, who cannot afford it otherwise, a drug benefit through Medicare. And our position is that we ought to do it and that, over the long run, it will keep America healthier, make lives longer and better, and keep people out of the hospital. It’s a simple position—that if we were creating Medicare today, there’s no way in the world we would do it without a prescription drug program.

Their position is, “We ought to do that for the poorest Americans, and everybody else ought to buy insurance.” Now, half of the seniors who cannot afford their medical bills are not in the group of people they propose to cover, number one. Number two, even the health insurance companies, with whom I’ve had my occasional disputes, if you’ve noticed—I’ve got to hand it to them. They have been perfectly honest in this. They have said, “We cannot write a policy that makes sense for us that people can afford to buy.” Nevada passed the bill that the whole Republican establishment is for, and you know how many health insurance companies have offered people drug coverage under it? Zero. Now, so the evidence is not there. But like I said, I’ve got to give it to them. They are never deterred by evidence. [*Laughter*]

Now, what’s the deal here? What’s the real deal? The real deal is, the drug companies don’t want this. Why don’t they want it? You would think they would want to sell more medicine, wouldn’t you? They don’t want it because—I can’t believe we just don’t read these things—they don’t want it because they believe if Medicare provides this many drugs to this many seniors, they will acquire too much market power and require them, through market power, not price controls—there are no price controls in this; this is totally voluntary—that they believe they will have so much market power, they will be able to get down the price of these drugs a little bit and cut the profit margin.

Well, we can argue about how much more expensive drugs are here than drugs made here are in other countries—and it’s different

from drug to drug—but instead of getting into one of these sort of nitpicking deals, let’s look at the big picture. The big picture is, you can go to Canada and buy medicine made in America cheaper in Canada. Why? Because all these other—and Europe—because they impose limits on the price.

So we all, Americans, we have to pay for all the research and development for the medicine. Now, we’ve got great drug companies. We want the drugs to be developed. I personally think we ought to be willing to pay a premium. But I don’t think there’s a living person who needs the drugs who should not be able to get them. And we can do this for seniors on Medicare now—the fastest growing group of people in America are people over 80.

So it’s not just about gay rights. It’s about seniors’ needs. It’s about kids’ needs to be in decent schools, It’s about what works to make our streets safer. And then, there are the environmental issues.

Now, it’s not like we don’t have any evidence here. We’ve got the toughest clean air standards in history. We’ve got cleaner water, safer drinking water, safer food. And we set aside more land than any administration in history except the two Roosevelts, and now we’ve got the longest economic expansion in history. So that’s the evidence, right?

We also know, in terms of the present energy crisis, that we’ve been trying for years to get this Congress to give tax credits to people to buy presently available energy conservation technologies and products and that, off the shelf today, there are available products that would dramatically increase the efficiency of our energy uses. We’ve tried to put more and more money into research for new fuels, new engines, fuel cells, the whole 9 yards, without success.

What’s their approach? They still say, “Don’t bother me with the evidence. You cannot grow the economy and improve the environment, so put us in there. We will reverse President Clinton’s order setting aside 43 million acres, roadless acres in the national forests. We will review even the national monuments, may get rid of some of them. We will relax the clean air standards—because you can’t do it. Don’t bother me with

the evidence.” This is about the air gay and straight people breathe. [Laughter]

What I’m saying to you is, this is a big deal. I get so frustrated because I wish—that’s why I hope these debates serve to clarify this. I mean, I know it’s hard for them, because it’s hard for them to get up and say, “I’m sorry, I just think we ought to have dirtier air.” I mean, it’s hard. [Laughter] I understand it’s a hard sell. I understand that.

But you’ve got to understand, there are differences here that will affect the lives of real people, that will affect the kind of America this young man grows up in. That’s what these elections ought to be about. And I’m perfectly prepared to posit that they’re all good people. And I’m sick and tired of everybody trying to pick them both apart. That’s not the issue. The issue is that people—study after study after study after study shows that people who run for President, by and large, do what they say they will do.

And by the way, there was one independent study that showed that in my first term, even before all the stuff I’ve done in my second term, I had already kept a higher percentage of my promises to the American people than the last five Presidents.

Now, you couldn’t possibly win a Pulitzer Prize or a Niemann fellowship if you said that. But we ought to be better. We do not need to jump on our opponent’s personally, but we do need to make darn sure that every single person knows what the differences are. And these Congress—I’m telling you, every House seat, every Senate seat is pivotally important to the future of this country.

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. That’s one example—assume they are honorable people in the Senate and the House and the people running for the White House.

One of them believes in *Roe v. Wade*; one of them doesn’t. There’s going to be two to four judges on the Supreme Court coming up. Why wouldn’t they each do the honorable thing, that is, what they believe is right? Now, we ought to have—we’ve never had a time like this in my lifetime. We may never have another time where we’ve got so much peace and so much prosperity, where people are secure enough to talk about a lot of things we used to not talk about.

I mean, let’s face it. Here we are in Dallas, Texas, having this event, right? Because America has come a long way. Your friends and neighbors have. Your fellow citizens have. This is a different country than it was 8 years ago. So now we’ve got to decide, what do we propose to do with all this? You have friends all over the world. Most of you have friends in virtually every State in America. I am imploring you to talk to people every day between now and the election.

Regina will win if people understand exactly what the choices are. The Vice President will be elected if people understand exactly what the choices are. Hillary will be elected to the Senate if people understand exactly what the choices are. And yet so much of what passes for political discourse is designed to obscure, rather than clarify, the differences. Somebody doesn’t agree with me, let them stand up and say what they think the differences are, but let’s talk about the things that will affect other people.

Most people I’ve known in politics have been good people who worked harder than most folks thought they did and did the best they could to do what they thought was right. But we have honest differences here, in health care, education, the economy, human rights, gay rights, foreign policy. One side is for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and the other isn’t. You talk about something that could have huge consequences on your kids’ future.

So I am imploring you. I thank you for this money. We’ll do our best to spend it well. We need it. They’re going to outspend us, but we proved in ’98 we could win at a \$100 million deficit. But there’s some deficit at which we can’t win, because we’ve got to have our message out there, too. So we’ll be less in the hole because of what you’ve done today.

But you just remember this. There are a significant number of undecided voters—that’s why these polls bounce up and down like they do—and they’re having a hard time getting a grip on the election, the undecided voters are, partly because there’s not enough clarity of choice.

So I implore you. You wouldn’t be here today if you didn’t have a certain amount of political and citizen passion and courage and

if you didn't have clarity of choice about some issues that are very important to you. So I ask you, take a little time between now and the election, every day, and try to find somebody somewhere that will make a difference and give them the same clarity that you have.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to luncheon cohosts Chuck Marlett, Jim Vasilay, Julie Johnson, and Kay VanWey; Edward G. Rendell, general chair, and Andrew Tobias, treasurer, Democratic National Committee; Elizabeth Birch, executive director, Human Rights Campaign; Regina Montoya Coggins, candidate for Texas' Fifth Congressional District; and Molly Beth Malcolm, chair, Texas Democratic Party.

Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashana, 2000

September 27, 2000

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Rosh Hashana.

The High Holidays, a time of serious prayer and self-reflection, begin with Rosh Hashana. Signaling the start of a new year, Rosh Hashana asks Jews across the globe to reaffirm their relationship with God and to discover how they might better fulfill God's commandments. But Rosh Hashana is a time for celebration as well, as Jews commemorate the creation of the world and welcome the gift of a new year.

The ten days from Rosh Hashana to the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, provide an opportunity to acknowledge past transgressions and resolve to learn from them. As the shofar sounds its stirring notes again this year, I encourage all Americans to reflect on how we can help make our world a better place. As we rejoice in our many blessings, let us remember the ways that God's gifts can be used to fulfill our obligation to help others and to create a brighter future for ourselves, our families, and our fellow citizens.

Hillary joins me in sending best wishes for a memorable celebration, a meaningful pe-

riod of reflection, and a new year sweet with the promise of peace, joy, and prosperity.

Bill Clinton

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Need for Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act

September 27, 2000

Dear Mr. Leader:

I am writing to urge you to bring the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to the Senate floor this week. This bill is a top priority for my Administration.

An estimated 900,000 women suffer violence at the hands of an intimate partner each year, demonstrating the urgent need for this legislation. Since VAWA was enacted, the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services have awarded approximately \$1.6 billion in Federal grants to support the work of prosecutors, law enforcement officials, the courts, victim advocates, health care and social service professionals, and intervention and prevention programs in order to combat violence against women. We must reauthorize these critical programs immediately.

As you know, yesterday, the House overwhelmingly passed VAWA reauthorization by a vote of 415-3. In the Senate, VAWA has similar bipartisan support with over 70 cosponsors. If Congress does not act this week, however, VAWA's authorization will expire on September 30, 2000. The Senate should not delay, and I urge you to pass a free-standing version of the Biden-Hatch VAWA reauthorization bill this week. The women and families whose lives have been scarred by domestic violence deserve nothing less than immediate action by the Congress.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Letters were sent to Richard K. Arney, House majority leader, and Trent Lott, Senate majority leader. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks at a Reception for Representative Max Sandlin in Houston, Texas

September 27, 2000

Well, first of all, Max, I appreciate your thanks for the great effort I've made to help you. It's really a great effort to come here on a day like this—[*laughter*—to John Eddie and Sheridan's modest little home—[*laughter*—to be with Peter and Christie, whom I normally see on Long Island, now that I'm hanging around New York. [*Laughter*] I don't know why I didn't get here 3 hours earlier. [*Laughter*]

I am delighted to be here. I'm glad to be back in Houston. I want to thank Mayor Lee Brown, who I think is still here. If not, he was here and has got to go to an event; there he is. And I want to thank him not only for being an outstanding mayor but for his terrific service in the Clinton-Gore administration as our drug czar before he became mayor.

I also want to thank Max's colleague from Houston, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, who is here, for being here to support him. Thank you very much. And I want to thank the State representatives and other officials who are here.

But I want to say a special word; I made a passing reference to these two couples up here with Max and me, but let me tell you, I've known Peter and Christie for several years now. I remember once a couple of years ago, they were standing out—remember that—you were standing out on the street when I was driving by. Do you remember that? And I got out and said hello. And they wanted to become more active. They had gotten interested in some important environmental and health issues where they live on Long Island. They wanted to get more active in public life. And they have—I hardly know anybody that has exerted more consistent effort, have a positive impact for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and for our Democratic candidates around the country than they have over the last couple years, and I just want to thank you for doing it. It's been great. Thank you very much.

And I want to thank John Eddie and Sheridan for being such good friends of

mine. This is the second time I've been in their home. I've been once after dark and once before dark, and I liked it both ways. [*Laughter*] But they have been so wonderful to me for 8 years now, in good times and bad. And I'm very, very grateful.

I would like to thank all the people of Texas who have supported Hillary and me and Al and Tipper over these last 8 years. It was never a very easy sell here, but we actually did pretty well in both elections, under adverse circumstances. And I'm very grateful for the support I got here.

I just want to make two or three points here tonight, and I realize I'm—at a deal like this, you're probably preaching to the saved, but everybody here has friends in congressional districts in Texas that are contested and friends throughout the country in States that are contested. I had one guy ask me the other day, he said, "Why are you working so hard?" I learned that this is—I think this is the 142d event I have done for the Democrats this year, in a year when, as you know, I'm not running for anything, for the first time in 26 years. And most days I'm okay about it. [*Laughter*] I've now adopted the official title of Cheerleader in Chief, since my family has a new candidate and my party has a new leader, and I like it very much, and I've enjoyed it.

I am profoundly grateful for the chance that I've had to serve for the last 8 years. And I am very grateful if any of the ideas I had or the work I did, the fights I fought, and some of the bullets I took helped us to keep America on a progressive path and to resist the reaction that came after we won. But what I want to say to you is that sometimes it's harder for a country to make a good decision in good times than it is in bad times.

I remember back in '92, when the Republicans were trying to scare everybody about me, and they were derisively referring to me as the Governor of a small southern State, and I was so naive I thought it was a compliment. [*Laughter*] And I still do. I still do. And I thought to myself, lord knows how many people walked into polling places saying, "I wonder if I really ought to vote for that guy. I mean, he doesn't look old enough to be President"—that's before my hair turned—"and he is just a Governor of a small

southern State. I don't know if I know where it is or not. And everybody, the Republicans have got all these people saying terrible things about him. Oh, well, I'll take a chance."

I mean, come on, it wasn't much of a chance. The country was in a ditch. We had to do something different. [Laughter] And it's worked out, and I'm grateful. But what I want to say to you is that we actually changed the way things were done in Washington, and we've changed what was being done in the White House and, insofar as we could, what was being done through the executive branch of Government and with the Congress. We had a different economic policy, a different education policy, a different health care policy, a different environmental policy. We had a different crime policy, a different welfare policy, a different foreign policy. And we had a different policy toward trying to unify America, as opposed to trying to divide it, based on a simple philosophy that everyone counts, everyone ought to have a chance, and we all do better when we help each other. That's what I believe.

And I just tried to modernize those ideas to fit it with this new information global society we're living in. But when you strip it all away, it has a lot of simple meanings. For example, I believe, and I think all of you believe, that these people that served us tonight ought to have the same chance to send their kids to college that those of us who could afford a ticket have to send ours to college.

So it worked. Max told you a little bit about it. Just in the last 2 days—we were able to announce yesterday that poverty was at a 20-year low, and that minority—African-American and Hispanic poverty dropped more than ever before from one year to the next, last year, and more than in 34 years for children, that median income was above \$40,000 for the first time in the history of America.

And today we announced that the surplus this year would be \$230 billion. Now, let me tell you, when we were doing it their way, when I took office, the deficit was \$290 billion, and the projected deficit for this year, when I took office, was \$455 billion. So instead of a \$455 billion deficit, we've got a \$230 billion surplus. And when I leave office,

we will have paid off \$360 billion of the Nation's debt.

So in education, we changed the policies. Reading scores are up. Math scores are up. The dropout rate is down. College-going is at an all-time high. Are they as good as they ought to be? No where near. But I keep pushing for more accountability, more results, more rigor in identifying schools that aren't working and turning them around or putting them under new management. We can do a lot better.

But what I want you to know is, we know something we didn't know when Hillary and I started on this over 20 years ago. We actually know that you can turn around any failing school, and we know that there are people who know how to do it. I'll just give you one example. I was in Harlem the other day in a school that just 2 years ago—an elementary school—2 years ago—where 80 percent of the children were doing math and reading below grade level—2 years ago. Today, 74 percent of the kids, same kids, are doing reading and math at or above grade level.

You can turn these schools around. But you have to have high standards, rigorous accountability, well-trained teachers, small enough classes, a disciplined environment, and for the kids that come from tough neighborhoods and circumstances, they need pre-school and after-school programs and mentoring. If you've got it, you can turn them around. So we can do that. So things are going well. Now, that's point one.

Point two is, what are you going to do with the good times? The point I want to make to you is, there are a lot of big challenges out there and a lot of fabulous opportunities. When Al Gore says, "You ain't seen nothing yet," that's not just a campaign slogan. I'm not running, and I believe that. I believe the best times for this country are still out there, if you make the right decisions.

Max talked about a couple of issues. Let me just tell you, there's another thing—I'm sort of frustrated with the coverage of the Presidential campaign in the last few weeks. The press takes about a week, and they tell you everything that's wrong with Governor Bush, and they say, "Oh, my goodness, we may be too tough on him. Let's load up on Gore for a week." And then we'll have a week

or 10 days of that. And then they say, “Oh, well, maybe we’ll do that. We’ll load up on Bush a little.” Have you watched this? And it’s all about personal stuff or what they remember or how they said this, that, or the other thing.

Let me tell you something. I think it’s a bunch of bull in terms of how it affects you. Here’s what I believe. I believe you have two honorable people who love their country, love their families, and are going to do their best to do what they believe if they get elected. And I do not think America is very well served by all this rigmarole, trying to confuse people into thinking that, if you can just find which one has the worst quirks, you’ll know to vote for the other one. That’s a bunch of hooley. That’s not true.

Now, what I want to tell you is that there are real, significant differences between the two parties, and every House seat, every Senate seat, and the White House matters. And to pretend otherwise is naive and wrong and risks squandering the best moment in my lifetime to shape the future of our dreams for our children.

Look, they’ve got different economic policies, the Democrats and the Republicans. The Democrats believe we ought to give a tax cut of more modest proportion that will be focused on child care, long-term care, helping people send their kids to college and deduct the tuition, and helping people save for retirement. They believe that we should save enough money to make sure that we can invest an appropriate amount in education, health care, the environment, national defense, and—big time—keep paying this debt down until we get out of debt, in 12 years, for the first time since 1835, so we can keep interest rates down and the economy expanding. That’s what we believe.

They believe that we should give roughly 75 percent of the non-Social Security surplus, which they’ve already said we should set aside, right? When you hear them saying, “We just want to give away one in four dollars in taxes,” it’s not quite right. They believe we should give most of the non-Social Security surplus, which they say we shouldn’t touch, in a tax cut. And most of you would make more money in the short run under their program than ours.

Why are you here? I’ll tell you why I believe you’re here: because you’ve been there. And if you spend 1.6 trillion on a tax cut, and \$1 trillion to partially privatize Social Security, which is what it costs if we give the young people here 2 percent of your payroll taxes, and all these people that are 55 and over—and I’ll be one of them next year—you guarantee them the existing benefits, you’ve got to fill up the hole of people taking the money away. It costs a trillion dollars.

By the time you pay for that and the Social Security privatization, and you add inflation plus population growth to Government spending, and you take into account either party’s promises—just the Republican promises—you are way back in deficit.

What does that mean? Higher interest rates. The Council of Economic Advisers thinks the Gore Democratic congressional plan would keep interest rates a percent lower a year for a decade. Do you know what one percent lower interest rates means? It’s worth about \$390 billion in home mortgages, lower home mortgages; \$30 billion in lower car payments; \$15 billion in lower college loan payments; and a much higher stock market, a much higher rate of business investment, more jobs, and higher incomes. It’s a big difference. If you want the money now, you should be for them. If you want to keep building America, you should be for us.

But let’s not pretend that there’s no difference here. It is big and profound and deeply held by both sides. They really believe that the more you cut taxes, the more the economy grows. The last time we tried it, we wound up \$4 trillion in debt.

People ask me all the time, they say, “You had all these geniuses like Bob Rubin and Lloyd Bentsen in your economic team. What great new innovation did you bring to Washington when you became President in economic policy?” And my answer is always the same: “Arithmetic.” [Laughter] We brought arithmetic back to Washington. DC.

Now, I’m telling you, we’re just six seats away from the majority. His seat matters, not just in Texas, not just in his district; every American has a stake in seeing this economic policy go forward.

I could go through—I'll just do one more. We have hugely different health care policies. We believe in a strong Patients' Bill of Rights, and they don't. And there's a reason. It's not that they enjoy seeing the 18 million people a year—18 million people a year—who are either denied health care or have the proper health care delayed because someone—not a physician—is not sure that what they need is covered by or should be permitted by their HMO.

Now, I can say this because I have not been opposed to managed care. When I took office as President—let's get the whole truth out here—inflation in health care was 3 times the rate of inflation in the society. We were about to be swallowed up by health care costs. We had to get in there and manage the system better. But the problem with all management systems is, if you lose sight of what the primary goal is, you get in trouble in a hurry. The primary goal is not to maximize profit; it's to maximize profit consistent with the first goal, which is the quality of health care given to every single person in one of those health care systems.

There is 18 million people that are delayed or denied health care. So we say—Max and all the Democrats and our crowd—we say, you ought to have a right to see a specialist if you need it. You ought to have a right to go to the nearest emergency room. If I hear one more person tell me a story about somebody hit by a car and driving by three emergency rooms in a city before they get to one that's covered, I think I'll scream. You ought to have a right to keep the same doctor during a course of treatment, even if you change jobs. And if you get hurt by a delay or denial of service, you ought to have the right to sue. And everybody ought to be covered.

They've got this sort of Rube Goldberg scheme which says, well—theirs is not a Patients' Bill of Rights; theirs is a patients' bill of suggestions. [*Laughter*] They say, "If you don't get it, it's too bad, but we won't let you sue." Although they may be willing to get us into Federal court now—the Republicans—but they don't want to cover everybody. Their initial plan left 100 million Americans out. Now, why is that? Because the health insurance companies don't want it,

and they don't want to do anything they don't want to do.

Now, you just have to decide whether you think their management imperatives are more important or whether you think these 18 million people's health care is more important. Now, they will tell you that our plan will cost too much money. But their own Congressional Budget Office says, if our bill passes, it will cost under \$2 a month in health insurance costs. And I think it's worth about \$1.80 a month. I'd gladly pay it to know that if you got hit by a car, you could go to the nearest hospital, and you could keep your specialist. But you've got to decide.

It's the same thing on this Medicare drug thing. The fastest growing group of people in the country are over 80. If you live to be 65 in America today, your life expectancy is 82. The young women in this audience, because of the human genome project, are going to come home with babies in the next 10 years that have little gene cards with them that tell them how to maximize their life, and life expectancy will rapidly rise to about 90 years in this country.

Now, we know, with the miracles of pharmaceuticals, we can stay alive longer and live better. We also know that over half the seniors in this country have medical bills they cannot really afford. So we say, "We've got the money now. Medicare is a very efficient program with very low administrative costs. We'll run a voluntary prescription drug program through here, and we'll let everybody who needs it buy into it, with subsidies for very poor people." That's our position.

Their position is, "We'll help people up to 150 percent of the poverty level. Everybody else can buy insurance, and maybe we'll give them a little help." Now, all the fights I've had with the health insurance companies—let me say something nice about them—the health insurance companies have been completely honest in this debate. They have said to their friends in the Republican Party, "Your plan won't work. We can't offer insurance for people to buy drugs at a price they can afford to pay that's worth having. It can't be done. It won't work."

Nevada passed a bill like the one the Republicans—from the nominee for President all through the Congress—are advocating,

You know how many insurance companies have offered to cover the medical, the pharmaceutical bills of the people of Nevada since they passed the bill? Zero. Not one.

Why do they keep doing it? One thing I admire about them is, they're always undeterred by evidence. [*Laughter*] We've got a lot of lawyers in the crowd. You know other people like that. [*Laughter*] The evidence has no impact, whatever. They know what they believe, and "don't bother me with the facts." Now, why would they do that? They say, "Well, let's just help the poor folks first." Over half the people who need this help are above 150 percent of the poverty line. That's about 16 grand for a couple in America, most places, retired couple.

Why do they do that? Because the pharmaceutical companies are against our position. Why would the pharmaceutical companies be against selling more drugs and making a profit on it? Because they think—you need to know the whole story; I'll tell you the whole story—because they believe if Medicare is the purchaser of drugs for all these folks that buy into the program, it will become the biggest drug purchaser in America, and we'll have enough market power to get a better price.

Right now, American seniors pay much higher prices for drugs than people do in other countries, even if the drugs are made here. Now, like all things in life, it's not entirely—there's not all right and wrong on one side. All these other countries have price controls, and one of the reasons we've got the best pharmaceutical industry in the world is that we've invested huge amounts of your money in medical research, but they've invested a lot of theirs. And it costs a lot of money to bring new drugs to market, and they recover both the cost of the development plus the cost of manufacture, sale, and distribution from you because they can't recover any developmental costs overseas. But once they get it all out of you, then they can sell that medicine a lot cheaper in Canada or Mexico or anyplace else.

Well, we're not going to solve all that overnight, but all I know is, that is a very poor excuse for denying needy senior citizens in America their right to medicine that they've

got to have to stay alive and have a healthy life.

But you can decide—but let's not pretend there's no difference here. We're for the hate crimes legislation. They're not. The appointments on the Supreme Court will be dramatically different because these people have different views and convictions. And you have to assume that honorable people will act on their convictions if they're in a position to do it.

Study after study after study shows that, notwithstanding the relentless efforts of both parties to paint the politicians of the other party as less than honest and the happy complicity of the press in dumping on both sides, that overwhelming, Presidents do pretty much what they say they're going to do when they run. You can look at throughout the whole 20th century, and it's the truth. Sometimes you just have to admit you're wrong; sometimes circumstances change. By and large, people do what they say they're going to do.

So there are big differences here. And I just want to ask you, if you know anybody in Max's district or where another member of my administration—a former member—Regina Montoya Coggins, is running in Dallas or any of the other really contested districts here or you know people in other States that you know are close and are battleground States, you need to tell them, "Look, we've had big successes. There are big differences. People cannot be lulled into complacency, because times are good, to thinking this election doesn't matter."

I'm telling you, it's exciting out there. I think you are going to find out in the next 10 years you're going to have babies born with a life expectancy of 90 years. I think we're going to find out what's in the black holes in outer space. I think we'll find out what's in the ocean depths and things that we never dreamed before. I think that we will find a cure for Parkinson's. I think we may be able to actually reverse the onset of Alzheimer's. The kind of things that are going to happen here are unbelievable. And I think we will find ways to bring prosperity to people in places and neighborhoods that have been totally left out of this recovery, if we make the right decision.

But that's why I'm going all over the country. I worked as hard as I could to turn this country around and get it going in the right direction. But all the best stuff is still out there if we make the right decision. Every House Member, every Senate Member, the race for the Presidency—it's not about who's good and who's bad; it's not about who said this little thing or that little thing in the newspaper yesterday. It's about what they're going to do that affects your lives, your children's lives, your grandchildren's future, and what this country looks like.

And if you believe that we've had a good economy and you'd like to keep changing in this direction, if you believe that all children can learn but we ought to help them with more teachers and modern schools as well as accountability, if you believe that we ought to get rid of child poverty and that old folks ought to be able to get the medicine they need, if you believe that we can grow the economy and improve the environment at the same time—and I didn't even talk about that tonight; I can keep you here to midnight on that—if you believe that in the world we ought to be doing things like reaching out to our trading partners and building partnerships with Latin America and Africa and being responsible partners in the world, and if you really believe that we ought to be one America across all the lines that divide us, that we all do better when we help each other, you ought to stick with our side, and the best is yet to be.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts John Eddie Williams, Jr., and his wife, Sheridan; reception cochairs Peter Cook and his wife, Christie Brinkley; Mayor Lee P. Brown of Houston; and former Secretaries of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen and Robert E. Rubin. Representative Sandlin is a candidate for reelection in Texas' First Congressional District.

Remarks at a “Texas Tribute for President Clinton” in Houston
September 27, 2000

Thank you very much. I appreciate what Mayor Rendell said, once again illustrating

the complete accuracy of Clinton's third law of politics: Whenever possible, be introduced by someone you've appointed to high office. [Laughter] But I loved it.

I want to thank all of the people who are responsible for this wonderful evening tonight. Jess and Betty Jo, thank you so much; Bill and Andrea. Thank you, Garry. I thank my friend of nearly 30 years, Billie Carr, for being here tonight. And I thank all the State legislators and party officials, and especially Representatives Max Sandlin and Sheila Jackson Lee, who make my life so much easier in Washington.

I thank Lloyd and B.A. Bentsen for being here tonight. I want to tell you, I just was with another group over at John Eddie and Sheridan William's house, and I said, people are always asking me—we had all this great economic news, and they're talking about how brilliant my economic advisers were, how brilliant Lloyd Bentsen was, and how brilliant Bob Rubin and all the others were, and they said, “What great new innovation did they bring to Washington?” I always say, “What they brought to Washington was arithmetic.” [Laughter]

Lloyd and I tell them, “Where we came from, we weren't very smart, and we thought the numbers had to add up, or it wouldn't work.” [Laughter] Sure enough, it worked out all right, and the prosperity our country enjoys today is in no small measure because of the service that Lloyd Bentsen rendered to our Nation. And I thank you so much.

I want to thank my longtime friend Governor Mark White for being here. We were colleagues together back in the long ago, when we were working on improving our schools, and I think the children of Texas are still benefiting from a lot of the work you did, way back then. And I thank you for being here tonight, Mark.

And I want to thank the entertainers. I have special feelings about all of them. Red Buttons and I were together in Los Angeles at an event that we did for Hillary right before the Democratic Convention started. He was funny then; he was funnier tonight. And I was thinking, I wonder if I can tell those jokes when I'm not President anymore—[laughter]—or will I have to wait until I'm 81? [Laughter] But he was great. I loved it.

The last time he spoke, I wrote down some of the jokes. Tonight I didn't even bother to write them down. I know I can't tell them until I get out of office. I let it go. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank my friend Mary Chapin Carpenter for being here. What an immense talent she is. And she's been so generous to me and to our party over these last 8 years. I'm very, very grateful to her.

And I want to thank Billy Ray Cyrus. I, too, will never forget the day we were on the train together going from West Virginia to Kentucky. He told me his father was a local Democratic official and that, even though he'd enjoyed some success in life, he had not strayed from the path his father blazed. We had a great day on that train, and I'll never forget it. And I did ask for that song. Every time Billy Ray Cyrus sings "Achy Breaky Heart," it reminds me of one thing I heard Tina Turner say one time, singing "Proud Mary," which was her first hit. When she sang it to us in Arkansas, it was about 25 years after she recorded it, and the crowd was cheering. And she said, "You know, I've been singing this song for 25 years, but it gets better every time I do it." *[Laughter]* That's the way I feel about him. He was great tonight. Let's give them all a hand. *[Applause]*

There are people in this room tonight that I first met nearly 30 years ago. There are people in this room tonight that I haven't yet met, and I hope to shake your hand. Most of the people in this room tonight I met 28 years ago, plus, probably—almost 29 years ago—are probably immensely surprised my life turned out the way it did. *[Laughter]*

But we have been friends all this long time. And fate had it that the first time I ran for President, I had to run against two guys from Texas. And now here I am going out with another nominee of the Republican Party from Texas. And throughout it all, I have really treasured the people who have supported me and Hillary and Al and Tipper Gore and what we tried to do—there's a very large number of Texans who have actually participated in our administration and served in one capacity or another—and the warm welcome I've always received here.

So the most important thing I could say to you tonight is a simple thank you. I have

loved it every time I've been here. I'm grateful, and I'm glad we tried to win it, even when we couldn't. It's been a joy, and I thank you for that.

Now, I want to amplify a little on what Ed Rendell said. I'm working as hard in this campaign as I ever have, and I'm not running for anything. For the first time since 1974, I'm not on the ballot. Most days I'm okay about it. *[Laughter]* I tell everybody, now that my party has a new leader and my family has a new candidate, I'm the Cheerleader in Chief in America, and I'm glad to do it.

I'd just like to take a couple of moments tonight to ask you to think about the future. I am very grateful that our country is better off today, by virtually every measure, than it was 8 years ago. And I am grateful for whatever role I and our administration had in it. But I am quite sure that the stakes in this election, though very different in 2000 than 1992, are every bit as high, perhaps higher. And if you'll just give me a couple of minutes, I'll try to tell you why, because I want to ask you to do something about it, even beyond the contribution you've made tonight.

When I ran for President, I know the American people took a chance on me. My opponent, the incumbent President, used to refer to me as, after all, just the Governor of a small southern State. And back in '92, I was so naive, I thought it was a compliment. *[Laughter]* And you know what? After all this time, I still do. So I can imagine how many people in 1992 went into the polling place saying, "My God, can I really vote for that guy? He's 46 years old and may not be old enough to be President. He's just been the Governor of that little bitty State, wherever it is. All the Republicans just say terrible things about it, and every now and then the media helps them along a little bit. Maybe I shouldn't do this. Oh, it's a big chance." I just wonder how many people went in there and said, "Oh, heck, I'm going to do it anyway."

But come on, it wasn't that big a chance, because the country was in a ditch. I mean, we knew we had to change, right? *[Laughter]* Now, it's different. Now we have peace and prosperity, the absence of internal crisis or

looming, looming external threat to our existence. And people sort of feel like they're free to do whatever they want with this election.

I don't agree with that. I think I can say that, maybe with greater conviction and credibility because I'm not a candidate. I can't say it much better than I did out in Los Angeles, but I want you to know that all my life I have hoped that my country would be in the position it's in now, with prosperity and peace, where we're coming together, not being driven apart; and where we're not up to our ears in debt anymore; and we've actually got the chance to build the future of our dreams for our children. When Al Gore says, "You ain't seen nothing yet," I know it seems like a campaign slogan, but I actually believe it. I believe it, because it took a good while for us to turn this country around.

I announced today that this year we'd have a surplus of \$230 billion this year, the biggest in the history of the United States; that by the end of the year, when I leave office, over the last 3 years we will have paid down \$360 billion on the national debt. We will have reduced the debt by that much. Now, if I had come here in 1992 and said, "I want you to vote for me, and we'll balance the budget in 1997. And then in '98, '99, and 2000, we'll run surpluses, and by the time I leave, we'll pay off \$360 billion of the national debt." Keep in mind, that year the deficit was \$290 billion, projected to be \$455 billion this year. We had \$4 trillion in debt. We were spending almost 14 cents of every dollar that you pay in taxes just paying interest on that debt. So if I said, "Hey, vote for me, and I'll begin to get us out of debt," you'd say, "You know, he seems like such a nice person. It's too bad he's imbalanced." [Laughter] Nobody would have believed that. Arithmetic.

Now, we also know that, as the study showed yesterday, poverty's at a 20-year low. Now all income groups' incomes are increasing more or less the same percentage terms. Last year we had the biggest drop in poverty every recorded for Hispanics and African-Americans. We had a 34-year—the largest poverty drop for children in 34 years. Two million people moved out of poverty this last year alone. Median income for Americans exceeded \$40,000, for the first time in history.

In real dollar terms, after inflation, the average family's income has gone up \$6,300 since 1993.

Now, this is not just about money. You heard Ed Rendell talking about it. It's not just about money. One of my other laws of politics is: Whenever you hear a politician tell you this is not a money problem, 5 will get you 10 they're talking about somebody else's problem, not their problem. What do I mean by that? Work and a decent income gives dignity to life, structure to families, pride to children, and the room, the emotional as well as the financial space to do the other things that we really care most about in life.

So I want to say that I don't think all these things that have happened were an accident. We had a different economic policy, a different education policy, a different environmental policy, a different health care policy, a different crime policy, a different welfare policy, a different foreign policy, and we had a different policy about what kind of country we were going to be and whether I was going to bring this country together across the racial and religious and other lines that divide us or keep on playing the politics of divide and conquer. And I choose unity, and I think it was the right decision. That's the Democratic decision.

So here we are, all dressed up, and where are we going to go? I want to just say two things about it. Number one, even though there is no apparent internal threat and external crisis, there are big challenges out there. And we can now meet them, because we're in shape to meet them. We were handcuffed from meeting them 8 years ago. I'll tell you what some of them are and what we can do.

We've got the biggest and most racially, ethnically, religiously diverse group of school kids in the history of our country. We can give them all a world-class education. We actually know how to do it, and there are examples in virtually every State where it has been done, against all the odds. But if we want it, we have to have what I would call a standards-plus approach. We've got to have high standards and accountability. But we've also got to be able to invest in modern schools, in Internet connections, in smaller

classes, in well-trained teachers, and after-school programs for the kids that need it.

But if we're willing to do it and have accountability, we can get there. We have to decide. I think we'll pay a terrible price if we don't do it. If we do it, we will be the country of all those in the world best prepared for the global information age, because of our diversity.

Second thing, we've got to get ready for the aging of America. You live to be 65 in America today, your life expectancy is 82, highest in the world. Pretty soon, the fastest growing group of people in the world—Lloyd's going to live to be 120, but—fastest growing group of people in the world—in America are people over 80, in percentage terms.

The young people in this audience that have not had their children yet, when you have your children, if you have them over the next 10 years, starting within a couple years, young mothers will bring home from the hospital with their babies a little genome card that will be the inevitable result of the sequencing of the human genome, which I'm very proud was completed during my tenure. And I'm proud of the support we gave it, although a lot of countries worked on it and it's been worked on for years. But anyway, this little card that will say, now, your little girl or your little boy has the following genetic makeup, and there are the following problems in the gene map of your baby's body which may, for example, make it more likely for your child to develop Parkinson's disease or Alzheimer's or breast cancer. But if you do the following 10 things, you can cut the risk by 80 percent. That's going to happen. And then, pretty soon after that, they'll figure out a way to fix the broken parts of the gene, so that it won't be any time before the young people here, when they have their babies, will be bringing home children who have a life expectancy at birth of 90 years. Now, that's the good news.

But when the baby boomers retire, there's only going to be two people working for every one person drawing Social Security. And I think I can speak for my generation when I say, one of our nightmares is, we don't want our kids to go bankrupt or be unable to raise our grandchildren because of our retirement.

So we have to protect and save and extend the life of Social Security and Medicare and add that prescription drug benefit, so that old age will be good and full and active as possible, but not a burden on our children and grandchildren—huge challenge. Every advanced economy in the world's facing it.

What are we going to do about global warming, and how are we going to keep getting enough energy to do what we have to do? Will we have to have more energy in the world? Of course, we will. Will we have to conserve more? You bet we will. Can we do both and protect and improve the environment? Absolutely.

I'll give you one example. We've been funding research at the Agriculture Department on how to make ethanol energy efficient. The problem with all these biofuels is, it takes 7 gallons of gasoline to make 8 gallons of ethanol. But we're right on the verge of a chemical breakthrough that is the equivalent of what happened when crude oil was cracked chemically so that it could be refined and turned into gasoline or heating oil. And when that happens, you'll be able to make 8 gallons of biofuel off any Texas farm from 1 gallon of gasoline. And when that happens, it will be like getting 500 miles to the gallon. We're also very close to fuel cells, to alternative energy sources, which will dramatically change the future of transportation.

So, can we grow the economy, have enough energy, and improve the environment at the same time? You bet we can, but not by accident. We'll have to decide. Now, those are just three issues. I could mention a zillion more. But we have to decide.

And the thing that has bothered me about—it bothers me about all elections, but it really bothers me now, because people have got to really think about this. Everybody kind of knew what the deal was in '92. So if you had a lot of that kind of smoke-and-mirrors coverage and it was this issue this week, underlying it, everybody knew what the deal was. Were we going to change or not? And in '96 everybody knew what the deal was. Has Bill Clinton done a good enough job for us to extend his contract? That was the issue. Were we going to build a bridge to the 21st century we could all walk across?

Here we are in the 21st century. We all walked across it. Now where are we going, now that we're on the other side and we have the freedom to decide? And I will say again, sometimes it's harder to make a good decision when times are good than when they're bad. There's not a person in this room tonight over 30 years old who has not made a doozy of a mistake at least once in your life, not because your back was against the wall but because things were going so well for you, you thought you didn't have to concentrate. That is a condition of age—I can say that everybody's been there. Countries are no different. We have to decide what we are going to do with this moment of prosperity.

Last point: there are real differences. We don't have to bad-mouth the Republicans, and they don't have to bad-mouth us. They might feel like they do, but they don't. And I'll say again what I said in Los Angeles. I wish we could just all stand up and say, "Look, why don't we say between now and November 7th, we will posit that our opponents are good, patriotic, God-fearing people, who love their families and love their country and will do what they think is right? And why don't they posit the same things about us, so that we could get about the business of making an intelligent choice which requires us to understand what the differences are?"

Here's where you come in. There are real differences here, and they'll affect the lives of everybody in this room and especially the young people. And they will determine whether we will make the most of a kind of a chance a country gets maybe once every 50 years to build the future of our dreams for our kids.

Look at the economic choice. Do you like where we are and what we're doing? The Democratic plan is to have a tax cut that's focused on long-term care, child care, college education deductions, and retirement savings, that's small enough to let us invest in education, health care, and the energy and national defense and other issues we have to deal with, and still get this country out of debt in 12 years, so we can keep interest rates coming down, keep the economy going,

Their plan is to spend three-quarters of the non-Social Security surplus, and we all agree that we shouldn't ever spend the taxes you're paying for Social Security again, except for Social Security. That's what they say. They want to spend three-quarters of it on a tax cut that a lot of you here would get more money out of than ours; otherwise—if you could afford to pay the ticket tonight, you'd get more money.

[A portion of the President's remarks were missing from the transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary.]

They also want to partially privatize Social Security, which, if you're good in the stock market and you're under 40, might be good for you. But they say, if they're going to give you back 2 percent of your payroll to invest as you see fit but they're going to guarantee everybody who's 55 or over—which next year will include me—and they're going to give us what we'd be entitled to anyway. Well obviously, if you take the money out, you've got to put it back in, right? So there's a \$1.6 trillion tax cut. Then there's a \$1 trillion pay-back to Social Security. Okay, you've already spent all the non-Social Security surplus and some of the Social Security tax. And this is before you factor in Government spending going up at not only inflation but inflation plus population growth, which is done for 50 years; before you change the rules so that upper middle class people don't have their income taxed away by something called the alternative minimum tax, just by raising their income. That costs another couple of hundred billion dollars—before you allow for any emergencies—and we spent \$30 billion on the farms in the last 4 years, because the farm prices have been so low. In other words, they're taking us back to deficits.

But the good news is, you get a nice quick hit, if you're in an upper income group, of a nice tax cut, and then 3 or 4 years later, you say, "Oh, my goodness, we're back in the soup again." And then what happens? Interest rates will be higher. My Counsel of Economic Advisers says that our plan will keep interest rates a point lower, every year for a decade. Do you know what that's worth to an average person—10 years worth? It—\$390 billion in lower home mortgages, \$30

billion in lower car payments, \$15 billion in lower college loan payments, from lower interest rates. Never mind what it does for business—more loans, more jobs, more investment, and a better stock market.

So you've got to decide if you want the money now. If you want to take the money and run now, you should be for them. If you like what's happened in the last 8 years, you want us to take advantage of this to deal with the big challenges, to give a tax cut we can afford, and get this country out of debt for the first time since 1835, you should be with us. But no American should be under the illusion that there is not a stark, clear choice that will affect the lives of our children. And that's what this election ought to be about.

You take health care. We're for a Patients' Bill of Rights. At least for me, not because I'm against managed care; I was for managed care. When I became President, inflation in medical costs was going up at 3 times the rate of normal inflation. It was going to bankrupt the country. But the problem with any management system is, sometimes it forgets—any system—why you organize it in the first place. The point is not to make the most money you can. The point is to make the most money you can and spend the least money you can, consistent with the real objective, which is the health of the American people covered in the health care plan.

Now, this is a big deal. You know how many people in America today have health care their doctors recommend for them delayed or denied, every year? Eighteen million people. Now, if we pass a law that said, you've got a right to see a specialist if your doctor says so; if you get hurt, you've got a right to go to the nearest emergency room, not one clear across town that happens to be covered by the HMO; if you change jobs, but you're undergoing a cancer treatment or you're pregnant, you can stay with the same doctor until your treatment's over; if you get hurt by a bad decision, you've got a right to sue—that's our Patients' Bill of Rights. And it covers everybody.

Their Patients' Bill of Rights leaves about a 100 million people out, and they have fought the right to sue. Well, without the right to sue, it's a patients' bill of suggestions,

not a Patients' Bill of Rights. So we're for it. They're not.

Why aren't they for it? Well, the health insurance companies don't want it, and they're trying to scare us by saying that it will cost a lot of money. The problem is that their own Congressional Budget Office says it costs less than \$2 a month for insurance policy. Wouldn't you pay \$1.80 a month to make sure that if she gets hit by a car going out of here tonight, she can go to the nearest hospital? And a month later, if the doctor says she needs a specialist and an accountant says she doesn't, she gets to see the specialist? I'd pay \$1.80 a month for that. It's the right thing to do.

But we're different. We're different on this Medicare drug issue. Don't you be fooled by all the smoke and mirrors here. Let me tell you what—our position is simple. People are living longer. The older you get, the more medicine you get. If you get the right medicine and right amounts at the right time, you live longer, and you live better, and eventually you save money because you stay out of the hospital.

Their position is—their stated position is, "We can't afford to have a Medicare drug program that's voluntary but available to all seniors on Medicare. So we want to pay for people up to 150 percent of the poverty line and help other people by insurance, health insurance for medicine. And the Democrats just want a big Government program." Well look, Medicare is not a big Government program, right? We financed it. The doctors are private. The nurses are private. The health care is private, and the administrative cost is under 2 percent. It works.

Now, what's the real difference here? Their program would not help half of the seniors who need to be in this program because they can't afford to buy the medicine the doctor says they're supposed to have. Why are they really against it? Because the drug companies don't want it. Now, that doesn't make any sense, does it? Why wouldn't the drug companies want to go and sell more medicine? Most people in business like to increase their sales, not restrict them. Why is that? Because they believe that if the Government has this health insurance that covers medicine, that we'll buy so much of

the medicine that we'll be able to use our market power—this is not price controls, our market power—to keep the price of the medicine down. And they charge a lot more for medicine—made in America—in America, than they do in Canada or Europe or anyplace else.

And the Republicans want to say they want to help everybody, so they say, “Well, you can get insurance if you're over 150 percent of the poverty line.” The problem is—and here's—with all the fights I've had with the health insurance companies, I take my hat off to them. They have been scrupulously honest in this. The health insurance companies have told the Republicans in the Presidential race and in the Congress that they cannot write a policy that people can buy, that this is not an insurable thing, and that in order for them to write a policy they can justify, the premiums would be so high, nobody would buy it.

Now, the State of Nevada—the amazing thing about the Republicans is, they keep pushing this, in the face of all the evidence. I kind of admire that. Evidence has no impact on them. [*Laughter*] You know, this is about conviction. Never mind the evidence. “Yes, the Democrats got rid of the deficit, but we still want to cut these taxes until there's nothing left.”

This is really serious. The State of Nevada passed a plan just like this. You know how many insurance companies have written insurance for medicine for seniors in Nevada since they passed the plan that the Congress and their Presidential nominee recommend? Zero. Not one. Why? Because the insurance companies know this is not an insurable deal. That's why it ought to be done under Medicare.

Now, why don't they really want to cover everybody? Because they want to keep the prices up. Now, let me be fair; I'm not trying to demonize them. There's a reason they want to keep the prices up: because it costs a lot of money to develop these drugs. We spend a lot of your tax money developing medicine, and they spend a lot of money. And they know that if they can recover 100 percent of the cost of developing these drugs from you, then they can sell them cheap in Canada and Europe and still make a profit,

and they won't let them charge that much over there.

Now, I'm sympathetic. I'm proud of our pharmaceutical companies. They do a great job. But I'll be darned if I think they ought to be able to keep American seniors, who need medicine to stay alive and lengthen their lives and improve the quality of their life, away. And it's a big difference in these two parties, and I think we're right and they're wrong. And the American people ought to understand that difference, and you ought to help them understand it between now and the elections.

So these are just three examples: the economy; the Patients' Bill of Rights; Medicare drugs. There are significant and important differences on education, where we favor putting 100,000 teachers in the classroom to lower class sizes. We favor a school construction program to help lower the cost of building new schools and repairing old ones, and they're opposed to it. Both sides favor accountability, but ours is accountability-plus. There are differences on every single issue like that.

There are big issues. The next President's going to appoint between two and four Justices on the Supreme Court. These people—assume they're good people, and they believe what they say. They believe very different things about how the rights of the American people should be defined. And since they're both honorable, we have to assume that they will make appointments to the Supreme Court consistent with their convictions. It would be wrong to assume anything else.

So what does all this mean for you? It means you have got to go out of here; every one of you has got friends that live in Max Sandlin's district or one of these other districts where there's a tough fight in Texas. Every one of you has friends who live in States that could go either way in this Presidential election, and every one of you knows a lot of people who have every intention of voting but have never come to a fundraiser, have never come to a political event, have never met the President or anybody running for President. But they want to be good Americans, and they're going to show up on election day. But they follow all this static

that goes back and forth. I mean, I can hardly keep up with it, you know?

One week we're being told that Governor Bush has done something dumb and bad, and blah, blah, blah, and then we're being told, "Well, maybe the press is getting too tough on him." So the next week they really dump on Vice President Gore, and they give it to him. And then the American people are told, "Oh, he's done something terrible, blah, blah, blah." And the Democrats and Republicans, they jump which every way the press is going. They're happy or sad, so they all jump in. And the truth is, most of it doesn't amount to a hill of beans. The stuff I'm talking to you about is where the rubber hits the road. There are real differences that will change the lives of the people in this country, depending on the choices made.

So I can't do this to everybody, but you can. And if you made up your mind—you look at how many people are in here—if you made up your mind that every day between now and the election you were just going to talk to one person and explain why you were here, why you feel the way you do, and what a phenomenal opportunity we have, it would be breathtaking.

In our lifetime, we'll see babies born with a life expectancy of 90 years. We will see people cure Parkinson's and Alzheimer's and maybe even get to reverse Alzheimer's. We'll find out what's in the black holes in outer space and the deepest depths of the ocean, which may be even more surprising to us. People will be driving cars that get 80 to 100 miles a gallon or maybe even more if the biofuel thing works out.

We'll figure out how to deal with these frightening prospects of terrorists with chemical and biological weapons, allied with narcotraffickers, and all the problems. The problems will still be there. But I'm telling you, the main thing is, we ought to stick in this election and fight for clarity because we have a candidate for President and Vice President, we have candidates for Congress. We have a party with a record of 8 years proving two things above all: We understand the future, and we'll fight for it, and it's more important to us than anything else that we go forward together.

We believe everybody counts; everybody ought to have a chance; we all do better when we help each other. I was raised on that, and as modern as the Internet world is, it's still the best lesson you can take into politics, every single day. If you get clarity out there in this election, I'm not a bit worried about how it's going to come out. You make sure everybody understands it as well as you do, and we'll have a great celebration on November 7.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:52 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Edward G. Rendell, general chair, and Jess Hay, former finance chair, Democratic National Committee; Mr. Hay's wife, Betty Jo; Bill White, former chair, and Billie Carr, executive council member, Texas State Democratic Party; Mr. White's wife, Andrea; former Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro; former Secretaries of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen and Robert E. Rubin; Secretary Bentsen's wife, Beryl Ann (B.A.); John Eddie Williams, Jr., managing partner, Williams and Bailey law firm, and his wife, Sheridan; former Gov. Mark White of Texas; entertainer Red Buttons; musicians Mary Chapin Carpenter and Billy Ray Cyrus; and Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush of Texas. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Wim Kok of The Netherlands

September 28, 2000

Netherlands-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, why did you invite the Prime Minister? Is there something the United States can learn from Holland? *[Laughter]*

President Clinton. I think there are a lot of things we can learn from Holland. Let me say, first of all, it's a great honor for me to have Prime Minister Wim Kok here. He's been an outstanding leader of Europe as well as The Netherlands, and we've had a very good relationship for 8 years now. And I have admired him for many years.

I always tell everyone that it was he, not I, that was the first real Third Way leader in the world. And if you look at the success

of The Netherlands in keeping down unemployment and trying to balance work and family and dealing with the challenges that countries all over the world will face in the 21st century, it's hard to find a nation that's done more different things well. And so it's a great source of honor and pride for me to have him here today and just to have a chance to thank him for the years that we've worked together.

I'd also like to say how grateful I am for the strong support that he and his nation have given to our allied efforts through NATO, to end ethnic cleansing in the Balkans. And we've just been talking about the elections in Serbia, and I'd like to have him say what he feels. But from my point of view, they had an election; it's clear that the people prefer the opposition; and I think we should all say, in unequivocal terms, as soon as there's a democratic government over there, the sanctions should be lifted.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Kok. Well, first of all, I would like to say thank you to President Clinton for inviting me here. He was too kind, as far as The Netherlands and the Dutch Prime Minister are concerned. But I considered the President and still consider the President as a great leader of the United States who, in spite of the enormous difference in size between the United States and The Netherlands, has always been attentive and interested in developments in Europe and in our country. And this indicates that even between the very big and smaller countries, there can be really an excellent relations.

Now, on the Balkans, it was not easy for all of us, of course, to participate in the air-strikes that were necessary in order to bring an end to the genocide that was happening there. And what happened now, a few days ago in the elections, is an extremely clear signal from the electorate that they want to get rid of Milosevic. And this is, I think, the right moment for us to indicate that from the moment on when the opposition would take over that leadership, sanctions have to be lifted, because the sanctions were never directed against the people. They were not directed against the population. They were directed against their wrong leadership.

So this is a very important moment. We still have to see what will happen in the next few hours and days in Serbia. But that double message should be very clear. The people said, "We want to get rid of Milosevic." And we say, "As soon as there will be a new leadership, the sanctions will be over."

Narcotrafficking

Q. Mr. President, what do you make of the fact that Holland is still the biggest importer of ecstasy pills into this country?

President Clinton. Well, we're going to talk about that. I think we've had good cooperation, and we need to tighten our cooperation. There are things we can do about it. But part of it is a function of the fact that Holland is one of the great trading countries of the world, massive ports, and opportunity. And we just have to work harder to shut off the opportunity. I think we'll work together and do that.

Yugoslav Elections

Q. Mr. President, should Milosevic step down rather than participate in a second—rather than go forward with the second round of elections? Should he step down now?

President Clinton. If you looked at the—there are conflicting election reports. The opposition had people in each of the polling places, and they produced some pretty persuasive documentation that they won, Mr. Kostunica won. And the National Election Council had no opposition representation, met in secret, and has not documented its results. But as the Prime Minister said to me before we came out, even they certified 49 to 38; that's a pretty huge margin of victory in a national election.

But I thought the case the opposition made based on their actual numbers, poll place by poll place, were pretty persuasive, especially since it hasn't been refuted by the national commission.

Q. Did you talk about sending Dutch troops to Eritrea?

President Clinton. We haven't talked about anything else yet. We mostly just talked about Serbia. We're going to lunch and talk about the rest.

Tobacco Lawsuit

Q. Mr. President, judges dismissed half of the Government's lawsuit against the tobacco industry. Is that a disappointing blow to the Government?

President Clinton. I'm going to have a Cabinet meeting later, and I'll answer all the domestic questions then. Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 1:20 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Yugoslav opposition candidate Vojislav Kostunica. Prime Minister Kok 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 this exchange.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Cabinet Members and an Exchange With Reporters

September 28, 2000

Budget Negotiations/Tobacco Lawsuit

The President. Is everyone in? Good. Well, as you can see, we're about to have a Cabinet meeting, the primary purpose of which is to discuss the budget negotiations that will be going on now until the end of Congress.

Two weeks ago I met with congressional leaders in this room, and we pledged to use the short time left in the fiscal year to do some important things for the American people, to resolve our differences on a host of issues, to put progress over partisanship.

Since then, the Senate has passed normal trade relations with China legislation, and I applaud that. But beyond that, nothing has been done to finally raise the minimum wage, pass hate crimes legislation and a real Patients' Bill of Rights, pass a Medicare prescription drug benefit for our seniors, to enact the new markets legislation. The leadership promised action, but so far the results don't show it.

Now there are just 2 days to go in the fiscal year, and only 2 of the 13 appropriations bills have passed that are so necessary to keep our Government running. Still the Congress hasn't provided the funds to help build and modernize our schools, to continue to hire 100,000 new qualified teachers for smaller

classes in the early grades, to improve teacher quality and strengthen accountability so that we can identify failing schools, turn them around, shut them down, or put them under new management. And nothing has been done to fund the largest gun enforcement initiative in history to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children, something that Republicans have said that we ought to do more of.

Right now another important decision is pending in Congress, even as we meet here. The Congress is choosing whether or not to lower the national drunk driving standard to .08 percent blood alcohol content, a move that we know, from the experience of States that have already done it, could save hundreds of lives every single year in the United States. I know that Congress is, as always, under a lot of interest-group pressure not to do this, but I hope, for the sake of highway safety and human life, they will.

Later this week, Congress will send me a short-term budget resolution. I expect I'll sign it so that we can continue to meet our responsibilities to the American people, but I ask Congress to finish the work they were sent here to do. Let's sit down for serious negotiations on a budget that preserves fiscal discipline, invests in our people, and produces real results and real progress for America.

I'd also like to say a few words about our efforts to hold tobacco companies accountable. Today the court ruled that our case alleging the tobacco companies were engaged in fraud in marketing tobacco can go ahead, although not on the other counts. This remains a very important opportunity for the American people to have their day in court against big tobacco and its marketing practices. I urge Congress to provide the funding to allow the lawsuit to move forward and not to shield the tobacco industry from the consequences of its actions.

Thank you very much.

Minimum Wage Legislation

Q. Mr. President, the Republican leadership would like to attach certain provisions and amendments to the minimum wage bill, which are opposed by organized labor.

Would you sign the bill if it came to you with their additions to it?

The President. Well, I don't believe that we ought to lower the pay of many tens of thousands of Americans under present Federal law to raise the pay of people who plainly deserve a minimum wage. I do not believe the minimum wage should be a vehicle to wreck fair labor standards that have been well established in our law and that could not be repealed on their own.

I think some tax relief for small business is appropriate. The initial package was more than 3 times as high as the one that Congress attached when we raised the minimum wage in 1996. And if we're going to have that much tax relief, then I want to talk about what it's going to be and who is going to benefit.

But this Congress has some interesting priorities. It didn't take them any time to repeal the estate tax or to pass other big tax cuts that benefited people in very high income levels, but they can't seem to get around to raising the minimum wage. The last time we raised the minimum wage, they said that it would hurt unemployment, hurt the economy, hurt the small businesses of the country. We set a new record for small business starts every year since. We've got a 30-year low in unemployment. This is just a simple question of whether we're going to give 10 million hardworking Americans a chance to have a decent life and to take care of their children in a decent way. And I hope they'll pass it.

Yugoslav Elections

Q. Mr. President, if you're convinced, as you said a couple of minutes ago, that Yugoslav opposition has made a persuasive case that they've won the election outright, why have you not explicitly called for Mr. Milosevic to step down?

The President. Well, I thought we did say that. I think when the head of the Serb church says that he considers Mr. Milosevic's opponent to be the new President of Yugoslavia, I think it's—and when the commission that is totally under the thumb of the Government, without any outside observers, even they acknowledge that he won 49 to 39 or 38 percent, and when they have evidence that by no means all the votes for the opposi-

tion candidate were counted, I think that's a pretty good case that it's time for democracy and for the voices of the people of Serbia to be heard. And that's what I think should happen.

And as I said, when that happens, I would strongly support immediate moves to lift the sanctions.

RU-486

Q. Mr. President, the abortion drug RU-486 was approved for sale today. Is that fight finally over? And why did it take so long?

The President. Well, first of all, this administration treated that issue as purely one of science and medicine. And the decision to be made under our law is whether the drug should be approved by the FDA on the grounds of safety. And I think that they bent over backwards to do a lot of serious inquiries.

And Secretary Shalala can explain it in greater detail than me, but there's a long history here about why it took so long. But the FDA is basically doing its job. It's now done its job. And I regret that some members of the other party apparently have already tried to politicize it. I note Dr. Healey, who was the NIH commissioner under President Bush, said that she agreed with the decision of the FDA. And I think it ought to be treated as the scientific and medical decision it was, and we should respect the fact that it was a nonpolitical inquiry and that they took so long to try to make sure they were making a good decision.

Press Secretary Joe Lockhart. Thank you very much. Thank you; thank you.

Q. How do you think that affects the debate over abortion? And do you think a Bush administration will try to overturn it?

The President. Why don't you ask him that question? You should ask him that question, not me. I think that's for the people that are out there running to answer.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); Yugoslav opposition candidate Vojislav Kostunica; Serbian Patriarch Pavle, president of the Holy Synod of Bishops of

the Serbian Orthodox Church; and former National Institutes of Health Director Bernadine P. Healy. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Election in Yugoslavia

September 28, 2000

The people of Yugoslavia have spoken loud and clear in support of democratic change.

The opposition's claims to an absolute majority are backed up by certified results from the polling places. The Government's commission acted in secret and excluded the opposition. One of its top officials has resigned. The Serb Orthodox Church has recognized Mr. Kostunica as Yugoslavia's new President.

It is time for Mr. Milosevic to heed the call of the Serb people, step down, and allow a peaceful democratic transition to take place.

We have said before that as soon as a democratic government is in place, we will immediately take steps to remove economic sanctions and help Serbia with its transition.

NOTE: The statement referred to Yugoslav opposition candidate Vojislav Kostunica, and President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

Statement on the Circuit Court Decision on Affirmative Action in Federal Transportation Construction Contracting

September 28, 2000

This week in *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Slater*, the tenth circuit upheld the constitutionality of a major affirmative action program dealing with Federal transportation construction contracting. I am very pleased with the court's decision. It strongly affirms what I have consistently stated: Federal affirmative action programs are still needed to remedy past and present discrimination and can be implemented in a constitutional manner. My administration has worked very hard to mend, but not end, Federal affirmative action programs, and we are gratified that the court has validated our efforts.

Statement on Progress in Providing Health Insurance Coverage

September 28, 2000

New data released today by the Census Bureau show that the number of Americans without health insurance dropped significantly last year—the first such decline in 12 years. The 1.7 million decline in the uninsured—including over 1 million children—is making a real difference in these Americans' lives. It means that they are likely to receive needed medical care, less likely to be hospitalized for avoidable conditions like pneumonia or uncontrolled diabetes, and less likely to rely on an emergency room as their primary source of care. Clearly, access to affordable, high-quality insurance makes a difference.

I am extremely pleased with today's announcement. I believe it validates our health care and economic policies, which have helped the country begin to reverse the unacceptable numbers of uninsured in this country. I am particularly proud that the enactment of the Children's Health Insurance Program and our success in maintaining a strong economy—which led to increases in employer-based coverage—have laid the foundation for this turnaround.

Although I am pleased with today's development, there is much work to be done. The data from this report well document that the States that most aggressively conducted outreach campaigns to eligible populations have been the most successful at enrolling children. We need to encourage States that are not doing as well to accelerate their activities in reaching out to uninsured children. And we need to provide targeted programs to build on our success.

Today I want to once again call on the Congress to pass my bipartisan health care coverage initiative, including the Vice President's proposal to expand coverage to parents, as well as our initiatives that would expand coverage to 55 to 65 year olds, workers between jobs, employees of small businesses, and legal immigrants. My balanced budget shows that we have the resources to do this while still paying down the debt by 2012. It's

long past time that we take the next step towards expanding coverage and making the Nation's uninsured one of our top priorities.

**Statement on the Death of
Pierre Trudeau**

September 28, 2000

I was deeply saddened to learn today of the death of Pierre Trudeau. As Prime Minister for nearly a generation, Pierre Trudeau opened a dynamic new era in Canadian politics and helped establish Canada's unique imprint on the global stage. I know his passing will be felt by all Canadians. Hillary joins me in offering the condolences of the American people to his two sons and to the people of Canada.

**Statement on Deferring Deportation
of Liberian Refugees**

September 28, 2000

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 the involuntary repatriation of many thousands of Liberian refugees from other nations in West Africa. This would severely burden Liberia and cause instability in Liberia and in the region. I understand that Congress is actively considering a legislative fix for this problem, and I would welcome any solution that would provide relief for Liberians with longstanding ties to the United States.

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

September 28, 2000

Memorandum for the Attorney General

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

Over the past 10 years, many Liberians were forced to flee their country due to civil war and widespread violence. From 1991 through 1999, we 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 improved such that a further extension of Temporary Protected Status was no longer warranted, the political and economic situation continued to be fragile. On September 27, 1999, based on compelling foreign policy reasons, I directed you to defer enforced departure of certain Liberians in the United States for 1 year from September 29, 1999.

There continue to be compelling foreign policy reasons not to deport these Liberians at this time. In particular, there is a significant risk that such a decision would cause the involuntary repatriation of many thousands of Liberian refugees in West Africa, causing instability in Liberia and the region.

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, 2000, 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, 2000; and
2. authorization for employment for 1 year from September 29, 2000.

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

Memorandum on Transfer of Funds to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization

September 28, 2000

Presidential Determination No. 2000-31

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Transfer of Economic Support Funds, Peacekeeping Operations Funds, and Foreign Military Financing Funds to the International Organizations and Programs Account and Use of Funds to Provide a U.S. Contribution of \$29,407,000 to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO)

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 610(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is necessary for the purposes of the Act that:

- \$2.466 million in funds made available pursuant to chapter 6 of part II of the Act for fiscal year 2000;
- \$2 million in funds made available pursuant to chapter 4 of part II of the Act for prior fiscal years; and
- \$1.534 million in funds made available pursuant to section 23 of the Arms Ex-

port Control Act, as amended, for fiscal year 2000, be transferred to, and consolidated with, funds made available for chapter 3 of part I of the Act.

In addition, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(1) of the Act, I hereby determine that it is important to the security interests of the United States to furnish up to:

- \$20,307,000 in funds made available under the title II (Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2000, as enacted in Public Law 106-113; and
- \$9.1 million in funds made available pursuant to chapter 3 of part I of the Act for fiscal year 2000, comprised of \$6 million in funds transferred pursuant to this determination and \$3.1 million in funds otherwise available pursuant to chapter 3 of part I of the Act,

for assistance to KEDO without regard to any provision of law within the scope of section 614(a)(1) of the Act. 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

Remarks at a Reception for Representative Richard E. Neal

September 28, 2000

Thank you. First of all, after what Richard Neal said, if I had any sense, I would just shut up and sit down. [*Laughter*] I'm delighted to be here with you and Maureen and the whole clan of your family. And thank you, Senator Kennedy, for what you said.

I want you to know one thing about Ted Kennedy. He's a good friend of mine. I think, in a lot of ways that I could never even describe, he's been there for me and for Hillary, and he's just been wonderful. And I've just got 4 months to be President, right? Every single time, for 8 long years, I have seen him, he says hello; he is polite; he says hello—

[laughter]—then, within 30 seconds I get a card like this. [Laughter] And this card tells me what I haven't done as President that I should have done and that, if I would just do these things, the whole world would be a much better place. [Laughter]

I have all these cards. [Laughter] I must have done 90 things in the last 8 years on Ted Kennedy's wish list, and I'm still getting it. [Laughter] That ought to tell you something. He's been there a long time, but he's not tired of the job. He is still doing a great job, and I'm very proud of him. And you should be proud of him.

I'd like to thank Father Leahy, the president of Boston College, for being here. You know, I'm going to be unemployed after January, and I'm looking for somebody to ask me to come give a talk every now and then. [Laughter] They say I'll get lost on the way for 3 or 4 months because nobody will play a song when I walk in a room anymore. [Laughter] But I'm interested in it.

I'm glad that our FAA Administrator, James Garvey, has come here in support of you, Congressman Neal. And your colleague, Lloyd Doggett, from Texas, is either here or was here. He and his wife, Libby, they represent Austin, Texas, and that's a long way from Springfield, Massachusetts, but it's a great place.

And I want to thank Peter King for coming. I always wonder whether every time I appear with Peter King, how long he can use Ireland as an excuse to keep from being thrown out of the Republican caucus. [Laughter] But I want to tell you, I love this guy and his family and his mother. And these two men have been anchors for America's role in the Irish peace process and the support I've gotten in the House of Representatives. And of course, so has Senator Kennedy, Senator Dodd, and others in the Senate.

But it was, to put it mildly, a sea change in American foreign policy when I took the position I did and we got involved in the Irish peace process, and I was mildly unpopular in Great Britain for a day or two. And there are all kinds of crazy theories about it. And finally, I told the British Prime Minister, whom I actually like very much, "Mr. Major," who was Mr. Blair's predecessor, I said, "you know, this is going to be good for you be-

cause you just can't have this thing going on forever, and there are 44 million Irish-Americans, Catholic and Protestant. It's the big diaspora. And we can help Ireland if they can make peace. And you should be glad we did this. In the end, it will be good."

I think now most people in Great Britain would tell you that it was a good thing the United States got involved and tried to bring about some, first, movement and then reconciliation. We're not entirely there yet. They're having a few minor arguments about the details of the Patton report. But for those of you who care about it, you should be very grateful to the people on this stage, including your representative in Congress, Richard Neal. They were great, and we could never have done it without him.

Now, I must say, the only bad thing about the Democrats winning the majority in the House of Representatives and increasing his influence is, I hate to see Peter King cry. [Laughter] Otherwise, it would be a total unmixed blessing for America if we won the majority.

Let me say, too, how grateful I am to the people of Massachusetts for what you've done and been for me and Hillary and Al and Tipper Gore. In 1996, I got—Ted Kennedy never tires of telling me—the highest percentage of the vote in the country in the State of Massachusetts. You were good to me, and I appreciate it. And the second highest in '92, but as he always says, "Massachusetts is bigger than my home State, so I got more votes out of Massachusetts." He's always working an angle, Ted is. [Laughter] That's what I heard when I got the first letter. [Laughter]

Let me say to all of you, one of the things I admire about your Congressman, besides the fact that he's a really good person and wonderful to be around, is that he has, I think, the right kind of balance in a Representative. He cares about all the local issues. There's not a single local issue in your congressional district that can be dealt with in any way, shape, or form at the Federal level that he couldn't stand up here and give a discourse on. He cares about national policy and how it affects people who live in his district.

But he also cares about how America relates to the rest of the world and whether we are a stronger, more secure, more decent country. And he knows that that helps people all over America, including the people who live in his district. And that's about all you can ask for somebody in Congress. If everybody thought that way, if everybody worked that way, if everybody had the same willingness to work with people who have good ideas, whether they're Democrats or Republicans, and if everybody would rather get something done than have another fight and get 15 more seconds on the evening news, we'd get more done here, and we'd move even faster.

This is the first time in 26 years I haven't been on the ballot. Most days, I'm okay about that. [Laughter] My party has a new leader. My family has a new candidate. [Laughter] I'm sort of the Cheerleader in Chief in America now. But as I think about all the progress our country has made, first, I'm grateful for whatever role that our ideas and actions had in it, and our administration. But secondly, I'd just like to say that, to me, when the Vice President says, "You ain't seen nothing yet," it sounds like a campaign slogan, but I actually believe that.

The country is kind of like a big ocean liner, and it's hard to turn it around. That's how come the *Titanic* hit the iceberg. They saw it, but not in time. So we've been working for 8 years to turn this thing around. And you heard—Richard gave you all the statistics; we're going to pay off \$360 billion off the national debt before I leave office—not just get rid of the deficit—to pay the debt down.

But the question is before us here, in the national races—the race for President, in every Senate race, every House race—is, now what? Okay, so unemployment is down; poverty is down; business starts are up; homeownership is at an all-time high. The poverty rate among minorities is the lowest ever recorded. The poverty rate among women is the lowest recorded in 46 years. Unemployment rate among women the lowest in 40 years, which is truly astonishing since the participation of women in the work force is so much higher today than it was 40 years ago. Crime is at a 30-year low. Welfare is

at a 32-year low. We've proved you can improve the economy and the environment, because the air is cleaner; the water is cleaner; the food is safer. We've set aside more land than any administration except Theodore Roosevelt's, in the history of the country.

So what are you going to do with that? That's really the big issue here. I say this all the time, but sometimes it's harder to make a good decision in good times than it is to make a good decision in bad times. I'm sure a lot of people voted for me in 1992 thinking, "God, I'm really taking a chance. This guy, he doesn't look old enough be President." I didn't have gray hair then. [Laughter] "He's from this little State. I'm not sure I know where it is. His opponents all say he's terrible. I'm really taking a chance here." But you really weren't taking much of a chance, because the country was in trouble, and we had to do something different.

Now, the country is in good shape, and you have to decide what to do. There are a lot of young people here, but I think I'm confident in saying that, maybe even including Father Leahy, there's not a person in this room who's over 30 years of age who hasn't at least on one occasion in your life made a significant mistake, not because times were so tough but because times were so good, you didn't think you had to concentrate. That happens to countries as well as people.

So the reason I'm going around the country trying to help people like your Congressman and talking everywhere I can about this: I just don't want America to miss this magic moment. You heard Richard say, we can be out of debt in 12 years. Should we do it? I think we should. Why? Because if we do, if we keep paying that debt down, interest rates will stay lower; businesses will borrow more money, expand more, hire more people, raise wages more; the market will be higher. And if you keep interest rates a percent lower, it's worth about \$390 billion in lower home mortgage payments, \$30 billion in lower car payments, \$15 billion in lower student loan payments in 10 years. That's pretty good money.

We could revolutionize our schools over the next 10 years. We could have every child in a school that's functioning at a national

level of educational efficiency and excellence. We could have all the kids that need to be in Head Start, in Head Start. We could have all the kids that need to be in after-school programs and not on the street, in after-school programs getting mentoring, new computer instruction, all that stuff. We could do it.

We could provide health care coverage to all the working families in this country who don't have it. We could reverse the tide of global warming and actually increase the rate of economic growth by an explosion of the development of new engines, new fuels, and new conservation technologies in America. We could do it.

We could use the human genome project to tell every mother what her newborn baby's future health will likely be like, what all the problems are, by the time she brings the baby home from the hospital. It could change childrearing and take life expectancy, within 10 to 15 years, to 90 years. We could do it.

We could become a much greater force for ending the plagues of AIDS, TB, malaria, poverty in the world in a way that would actually increase America's wealth because we'd have better trading partners. And that's just a partial list of what we could do. I also think you're going to find out what's in the black holes in outer space and the deepest depths of the ocean, which, ironically, may be even more surprising.

But you have to decide to do it. It means you've got to make the right decisions in these elections based on economic policy, crime—you can make America the safest big country in the world. Gun crime down 35 percent; crime has dropped 7 years in a row for the first time ever. You could make America the safest big country in the world. You could do all this stuff, but you've got to decide to do it.

And I know I'm a Democrat, and I know I'm prejudiced—[laughter]—but that's the only thing I'm prejudiced about. But I think you've got a good person representing you in Congress. And I think I know now; after 8 years, I know.

And I also agree with what Richard Neal said about Ted Kennedy. He is probably the most effective legislator in the Congress, I think. I've said this before, and I like to turn

his Irish face red, but I think that I'm something of an American history buff. I think I know a little bit about the history of this country, and I believe that any historian who is well informed who had to list the 10 greatest United States Senators in the history of the Republic would have to put his name on that list. I want you to know why I said that. Because every time I say that, I earn the right to hand him a little card for something. [Laughter]

So I want you all to be happy. I want you to be happy about this good time. But I don't want you to be careless about the election. It's not so much a matter of party as it is philosophy. I really believe that this country works best when we say, "Everybody counts. Everybody deserves a chance. We all do better when we help each other."

And I'll just close with this thought. There's a new book out which is selling reasonably well, called "Non Zero," by a man named Robert Wright. He wrote a book a few years ago some of you probably read, called "The Moral Animal." And "Non Zero" is a reference to game theory. A zero-sum game is like the Presidential race: In order for one person to win, somebody has to lose. A non-zero-sum game is a game in which in order for you to win, the other person playing the game also has to win. And the argument of the book is that as societies become more and more complicated, and we become more and more interdependent, both within our Nation's borders and beyond our borders, humanity has a chance to improve and progress because we are inevitably forced to try to find more and more non-zero-sum solutions where we all win.

You know, I never thought I was right about everything. And on those important occasions—all too few—when I could work across party lines, I think I've learned some things, and America has been strengthened. I've learned some things about Ireland from Peter King. I think we made a good balanced budget agreement, because it was bipartisan. I could go through a lot of others. But this country does not need dividers. This country needs unifiers, and it needs people who have enough sense to understand the connection

between what goes on in Springfield, Massachusetts, connected to Washington, DC, connected not just to Ireland but what happens half a world away.

You're lucky enough to have a person like that in Congress. I hope you'll leave him there forever, and I hope between now and November you will share some of these thoughts with your friends not only in Massachusetts but in other States.

This is a very important opportunity for the American people to make a good decision. In my lifetime we've never had a chance like this to build the future of our dreams for our children—never. We've never had so much prosperity and social progress with the absence of internal crisis or external threat. It may not roll around again for another 50 years, so you make the most of it. And meanwhile, take care of him.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:06 p.m. at the Phoenix Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Neal's wife, Maureen Neal; Father William B. Leahy, president, Boston College; and former Prime Minister John Major and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. Representative Neal is a candidate for reelection in Massachusetts' Second Congressional District.

Remarks on the Children's Health Insurance Program

September 29, 2000

Thank you very much. Thank you. Good morning. Thank you, Debbie. She did a good job, didn't she? Let's give her another hand. *[Applause]* Thank you. I would also like to ask the rest of her family to stand: her husband, Chris; and her son, Brian; her daughter, Melissa. Let's give them a big hand there. *[Applause]* There they are. Thank you for being here.

I also want to thank the advocates, whom Secretary Shalala mentioned, and three elected officials who have strongly, strongly supported our efforts. First, in the Congress, Representative Sandy Levin and Representative Robert Underwood, thank you for your help. And Linda Cropp from the DC City Council, thank you for being here.

Let me announce, before I get to the subject at hand, that I just signed the continuing resolution which Congress sent me yesterday, necessary because our fiscal year ends tomorrow and we have to have a stopgap funding measure for the Government to run. But I hope we can now pass the remaining appropriations bills. September has come and gone, and Congress still has obligations to fulfill.

These children behind me have been back in school for a month, but we still don't have the first assignment turned in from Congress, ensuring that our schools have the resources to meet the high standards we expect of them.

Now, let's get back to this story. Deborah's story is all too common in America. There are millions of our fellow citizens, like her and her husband, who get up every day, go to work, play by the rules, and still have a tough time finding affordable health insurance.

For 8 years now, Secretary Shalala and Hillary—who I wish could be here today for this happy announcement—and I have worked as hard as we could to make sure families get more health insurance. Yesterday we had more evidence that our approach is working. The census data shows that the number of uninsured Americans fell by 1.7 million in 1999, the first major drop in a dozen years.

Nearly two-thirds of these newly insured are children, like many of those who are here with us today. Since I signed the CHIP program into law, 2.5 million children have been able to get insurance through this program. In our budget, Vice President Gore and I have proposed a family care initiative, which would take care of the second part of Debbie's statement. It would expand CHIP to cover the parents of eligible children.

If we do this, we could cover a quarter of all the uninsured children and families in America and, I might add, those that are most at risk and need the health insurance most. Parents like Deborah and Chris Bredbenner know what a difference health insurance can make—you just heard it—not just in emergencies but for routine care.

Consider the child who doesn't get treated for an ear infection, who might suffer permanent hearing loss and, certainly, while in pain, would have a harder time learning in school. Consider the toll of untreated asthma, which will cause American students, listen to this, to miss 10 million school days this year alone.

That's why we need to keep pushing forward until all our children are covered. To help accomplish this, the Department of Health and Human Services is awarding \$700,000 in grants today, to develop new and even more effective ways to identify and to enroll uninsured children. These grants will be used not only to get children enrolled but to keep them enrolled, so they can get the care they need. They will build on our recent success in improving outreach and enrollment around America.

If you look at how the States are doing with CHIP, you'll see that those with the best outreach programs have the most success in boosting the number of children covered. States like Indiana, Ohio, and Maine have done a remarkable job. I hope others will look to them for leadership.

There was a story in one of our major papers yesterday, outlining the dramatic differences in enrollments from State to State, and making it clear that the States that had the most systematic, determined effort and a strong leader, got kids enrolled, and those that didn't try as hard, didn't. This is a simple matter of systematic effort and real dedication.

I also hope that every working parent searching for children's health insurance will call the toll free number on everyone of these children's T-shirts: 1-877-KIDS-NOW.

We need to remember that the rising number of uninsured didn't develop overnight; it won't disappear overnight. In some ways, it reminds me of the challenges we faced when Vice President Gore and I took office in January of 1993. Some people said there was nothing we could do to stop the rising tide of red ink. The numbers on the national debt clock in New York were flashing so fast, people's eyes were glazing over.

But we made some tough choices: we cut some spending; we raised some money; we invested in the American people and elimi-

nated hundreds of programs we didn't need and together, we turned a \$290 billion annual deficit into \$230 billion of surplus this year. That didn't happen by chance. It happened by choice. That's what is happening now with health coverage. If we make the right decisions, if we make smart choices and see them through, we can reduce the number of uninsured people in America.

First, as I said, it's very important to recognize that the laws on the books, we believe, would enable us to ensure up to two-thirds of the uninsured children in America—8 of the 12 million—if every State did everything possible to enroll children in the CHIP program and got those who are Medicaid-eligible into Medicaid.

Second, we ought to expand CHIP eligibility to the parents of these children. It's very important.

Third, we ought to focus on another group of people that are having great difficulty getting health care, those who are over 55, but not 65, therefore are not old enough for Medicare, and many of them have taken early retirement or lost their jobs, or they're working in a place where the employer doesn't offer health insurance coverage.

We think they ought to be able to buy into Medicare, not to weaken the Medicare program. Our proposal is, give them a tax credit to defray some of the cost of buying into Medicare, so that we would, in effect, cut the cost for them of buying into Medicare but get the whole amount of money into Medicare, so that it would in no way, shape, or form weaken the financial stability of Medicare. This is very, very important.

And I might say to you, we ought to do this now, because this group is only going to get larger as the baby boomers age. Next year, exhibit A—[laughter]—the oldest of the baby boomers will be 55. For 28 years after that, you will have some portion of the baby boom generation in that 55- to 65-year-old age group. It's very, very important that we do this.

Next, Congress should pass our tax credit for small business, to strengthen their hand in negotiating quality affordable health insurance options for their employees. A lot of businesses try to offer health insurance, but as you just heard Debbie say, the cost to

them is so high, and they have to pass so much of the cost on to their employees, that many of the employees can't afford it, even if it's offered.

Next, Congress should restore Medicaid benefits to the most vulnerable of our legal immigrants, including children. A few days ago, a bipartisan coalition on the House Commerce Committee voted to pass this important measure, and I applaud them for doing so. Surely now that the committee has supported it, we can work together to restore these benefits and do it this year.

Finally, there are some other items on our agenda. The American people still need Congress to pass a Medicare prescription drug benefit, a \$3,000 tax credit for long-term care, very important for families that are caring for family members who are disabled or aging, who have long-term care needs, and a strong Patients' Bill of Rights.

When Hillary and Donna and I started working on this back in 1993, we proposed a solution that would have covered all Americans, would have the Patients' Bill of Rights, would have the provisions of the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill, would take care of children who age out of foster care. And it was too much for the system to accommodate at once, so we've gone back, piece-by-piece, trying to achieve that.

We have now the children's health insurance coverage. We've taken care of the kids that age out of foster care. We passed a bill that protects you if you get sick or if you change jobs from losing your health insurance. But we need for people to make maximum use of this law. Every child in this country, like the children standing here and like the Bredbenner kids, who is eligible for CHIP, ought to be in it. The parents who need it, ought to be able to buy into the program. We can afford this now. It's quite manageable. And we absolutely know there are only two ways that you can provide health insurance for working people on modest incomes. There either has to be some sort of subsidy from the Government, or the employers have to provide it, or you have to have a combination of both. Next, we need to deal with the 55- to 65-year-old age group. And finally, we need to deal with the fact that there are so many of our seniors who

don't have prescription drug coverage. And we need to deal with the long-term care challenge facing our country. And we need to pass this Patients' Bill of Rights that we've been working on since 1994. This is all very, very important.

The good news is, we know this approach will work. We know that the number of uninsured is going down, and I might say, we don't have the figures yet, but we know there are several hundred thousand children who, because of the CHIP program, have been enrolled in Medicaid.

So we just have to keep working on this. So I implore you to make sure every State in this country is making the most of the laws that are here and to do everything you can to get Congress, in this time of unprecedented prosperity, that enables us to do things—we could not do this 6 years ago, because we did not have the money. We now have a surplus. We can do this. We still have a reasonably sized tax cut to help people with education and child care and saving for retirement and pay this country out of debt in 2012. We have the money to keep America's economy going, to get the country out of debt, and to provide more health insurance to families like those that are represented by these children here today. We ought to do it and do it now.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Debbie Bredbenner, whose two children are covered by the Children's Health Insurance Program but who could not afford health insurance for herself.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee/Democratic Business Council Luncheon

September 29, 2000

Thank you. I don't know what I feel about getting all those golf balls. [Laughter] Is he telling me I should quit working altogether? He should at least tell me that he expects me to live long enough to lose all of them. [Laughter]

Thank you very much, and thank you for the warm welcome. I want to thank John

Merrigan, who has been a wonderful friend to me and a wonderful friend to the Democratic Party, a generous and indefatigable person. And he got us a clap for everybody else, but he really deserves a lot of the applause today. Thank you.

I thank Bill Berkley and the other chairs and the vice chairs. The only thing I don't know about that I've seen today is that story that John told about Paul Equale in the steam bath. [Laughter] I thought he was going to say that he offered to get dressed if the guy would give him \$5,000. [Laughter]

Anyway, I want to thank Jason and the staff and all the folks here from the Democratic Party—Janice Griffin, Carol Pensky, Andy Tobias, Loretta Sanchez, and Ed Rendell. And I thank Ed for his generous remarks, but he has also worked like a demon this year.

It is true that in the early part of this election cycle, when the polls didn't look so good and everybody was in sort of a constant state of hand-wringing, I kept telling Ed, I said, "Just send me out there. I'll tell them it's going to be all right," because I believed it. And as John said, I told him that every election has its rhythm, and you have to wait for it. That's true. Every election is almost like a different symphony being written by the American people, and the language is always the same, just like musical notes, but you have to go and listen to the people and hear them, the way they speak, the way they talk, the way they feel about what this is. But also, the American people nearly always get it right if they have enough time and enough information. And that's why we're all still around here after over 200 years.

I always felt, as anybody here who talked to me about it, that this election would be all right, because I knew Al Gore and because I know what the underlying realities are. I know the country is in better shape than it was, that we're moving in the right direction, that people want to keep changing in that direction. And I know, and I feel even more strongly now that Joe Lieberman has joined the ticket, that these two leaders will be very good for America. And I think the American people will agree with that on election day, and I'm very grateful.

But I know something else, too, which is that our friends on the other side suffered a time or two in this election process because they were already picking out their offices in the West Wing. You know, they thought it was over. They thought that they had won some kind of contest based on the tilt of the press for a given month or so or whatever. And I like all kinds of contests. I like sports—I don't know why; I'm not very competitive—[laughter]—I love the Olympics. I don't sleep enough when the Olympics are on. But one of the things I really love about the martial arts is that the opponents always bow to each other before the contest begins. And why do they do that? To remind them that you should always respect your adversary, never take anything for granted, and that anyone can be defeated.

What do you think the odds were on the Wyoming farm boy defeating that Russian wrestler for the gold medal? He wasn't as svelte, and he hadn't gone 13 years without losing a match. But you breathe that thin air long enough, and you lift all that heavy farm equipment and bales of hay and do all the things you do, you develop an enormous aerobic capacity—[laughter]—that all the weightlifting in the world can't overcome. And, poof! There he was.

I say that to say that this whole decision is ultimately in the hands of the American people. And make no mistake about it, they can make any decision they want. So it is well for us to remember to be like the martial artists and bow out of respect for our adversaries and for the process and then work like crazy and don't leave anything out there on the floor on election day.

I don't think I've ever worked any harder in an election than I'm working this time, for the last year. It's kind of interesting because it's the first time in 26 years I haven't been on the ballot. [Laughter] Maybe I'm just celebrating. Who knows? [Laughter] But I've enjoyed working for Al and Joe, and I've enjoyed working for Hillary and a lot of other individual House and Senate Members and for the Democratic Party and for our Senate and House committees. I know we're going to be outspent. We always are. We were outspent \$100 million in 1998. We won anyway. And the lesson of all this in public life is that

you don't have to have as much money as your opponent, but you do have to have enough to make sure your message is out and that, if there's an incoming assault, you can answer it. Then if they have more, it's nice for them, but it's not the end of the world for you. If you have a better message, better candidates, and clarity of choice, you can still win.

So I thank you for your help. And I thank you for the support you've given me these last 8 years and the opportunity that I have had to serve. I'd like to ask you to think just for a minute or two about what you're going to do when you leave here, between now and election day, because I don't think it's enough for you to contribute. I think that this is an election in which there is still some elasticity, in which people are still trying to get a handle on the issues and the candidates. Although it's beginning to settle down and settle down in a way that's good for us, we have to keep working.

And I have always had a simple theory about this election. It's not very complicated. I think if people focus on where the country was 8 years ago, where it is today, what kind of change they want, and they can keep thinking about not the stuff that occupies the daily headlines but who will make the decisions that will be best for my country, my community, and my family, and they clearly understand the honest differences—we win.

To the extent that people forget about where we were 8 years ago, where we are now, what kind of change they want, who would make decisions that are best for the Nation, the community, and the family, we have more difficulty.

Now, since I'm not running, I can say this. I get frustrated from time to time. Vice President Gore got a lot of bad press early on in the election, and then he wins all the primaries, and all of a sudden he's a genius again. John Kennedy once said, "Victory has a thousand fathers, and defeat is an orphan." Then, after our convention, he gave a terrific speech, and basically the Vice President's speech at the convention showed what I think the theme of this election was. In 1992 it was about the economy. In 2000 it's about the issues. People understand that they're hiring someone to make decisions that will

affect their lives and our future, and they want to know what you're going to do if you get the job. I think that's a very healthy thing.

And so he had a big boost there because he actually said, "If you hire me, here's what I'll do." And now you've had an interesting thing the last 3 or 4 weeks where, first of all, Governor Bush was just getting pulverized, you know, and people were saying they were the gang that couldn't shoot straight and all that. And then they want to argue about the Vice President's mother-in-law's medical bills or some—but that comes after the Bush people say, "Oh, you're being too mean to us. The press is liberal"—which they hate, which is, by the way, manifestly not true. *[Laughter]* And I don't blame them. The press shouldn't like it when people level untrue charges against them. I don't like it. You don't like it either.

So then Gore gets a little of the treatment Bush was getting. But the truth is, I think all this stuff is fluff on the surface. Let me tell you what I think. I think both these people are good Americans who love their families and love their country and will do their best to do what they believe is right, if they get elected. Now, that's what I believe. And I believe that, based on over 30 years of working in public life.

Politicians, by and large, are better people than they are made out to be. Most of them are honest. Most of them work hard. Most of them try to do the very best they can. If you want to make a good decision, you have to know what the real consequences of your choice are, not what the superficial consequences are, based on whatever the sort of issue of the day is designed to make you think that one or the other of them is too craven, too dumb, too this, too that, too the other thing. That's all a bunch of hooey.

Now, you might not want to hear this. You may want to think, "Our guy's all good. Their guy's all bad." That's a bunch of bull. Most people in public life will do their best to do what they think is right. And I believe that the Vice President and Senator Lieberman should be elected because they've got more relevant experience; they've got a record of greater success; their ideas are right, and the things they want to do will have better consequences for the American people than

their adversaries. That's what I believe. And we ought to argue that case, because that's something that means something to the American people, to every business person and working family and—[*applause*].

Let somebody else spend all their time sort of psychoanalyzing them or trying to find some bad thing or another thing to say or making jokes, or something like that. We don't have time for that. Let's talk about how this is going to affect our future.

Now, today, I have the great pleasure, as Ed Rendell said earlier—I've had three announcements this week that have made me very happy. First, we announced that this year the budget surplus would be \$230 billion. It was projected to be a \$455 billion deficit when I took office. And that was good. And over the last 3 years, we will have paid down \$360 billion on the national debt.

Then the next day we announced the poverty figures, which show that poverty is at a 20-year low. It's under 10 percent for seniors for the first time in our history. Median income in America is above \$40,000 for the first time in our history; and after inflation, income has increased by \$6,300, more than 15 percent, since 1993. And the gains in the last couple of years for the lowest income Americans and for minority Americans have been greater than the average gains in percentage terms.

Then, today I announced that in 1999, for the first time in a dozen years, we had a reduction in the number of uninsured Americans, almost 2 million fewer uninsured Americans, largely because in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program for kids of lower income working parents who were not poor enough to be on Medicaid but whose parents could not afford health insurance. And we had one of those parents there today, she and her husband and their two kids—they had a little 6 year old boy, a darling little boy with asthma, that they could never have properly cared for and kept their jobs. Because they're in the Children's Health Insurance Program, both parents are still working; both kids are doing fine. The little boy and his sister have health insurance. And there are 2.5 million of those kids out there now, in 2 years.

So the last social indicator that wasn't going in the right direction, is now. Now, there is a dramatic difference from State to State in how many kids have been enrolled, but as one of the major papers pointed out in an analysis a couple days ago, it's almost exclusively due to whether the States are making the appropriate effort or not.

So the big question is, now what? What do we do with the surplus? How do we keep the economy going? Can we continue this expansion? Can we spread its benefits to the people and places that have been left behind? Can we now take on some of the big, long-term challenges of the country? The aging of America: When all us baby boomers retire, two people working for every one drawing Social Security and Medicare. The children of America: The largest and most racially and ethnically and religiously diverse group we've ever had, can we give them all a world-class education? The families of America: Can we actually find the ways to balance work and childrearing for all working families?

There are a lot of other questions. Can we meet the challenge of global warming, which the oil companies admit is real now, and still grow the economy, something we're very sensitive to now because the price of oil has gone up? How much can we do in conservation? How much can we do with alternative energy development? Are fuel cells a realistic alternative, and when will they be in cars, and how much mileage will they get? What kind of new energy sources do we need, and how do we do it without messing up the environment? These are the things that are going to affect your life.

How are we going to continue to increase trade in the rest of the world in a way that gets the support of ordinary citizens, so we don't have a riot every time in every city, we have a meeting of the World Trade Organization or somebody else, some other international group? These are the huge questions that will shape the 21st century. Will the discoveries of the human genome, which will soon lead to a life expectancy, I believe, at birth of 90 years in America—will we be able to spread those benefits to all people and still protect the privacy rights of Americans who

will have all their medical and financial records on computers?

So I ask you to think about that. To me, this election ought to be a feast for the American people. We have worked for 8 years to turn this country around and get it going in the right direction. So now you've got the longest economic expansion ever and the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years and the lowest minority unemployment rate ever recorded and the highest homeownership in history, highest small business rate of creation in history—every year we break records—lowest crime rate in a quarter century, lowest welfare rolls in 32 years.

So what are we going to do with all this? This election should be an exuberant experience for the American people, including those that are still in distress, because they know there is something we can do about it now.

And what I want to ask you to do is to think about anything you can do between now and November to talk to the people that you know and live and work with, who will never come to an event like this but who have every intention of voting. They're good citizens. They know they ought to show up and vote. They want to make the right decision. They'll watch at least one of the debates. They'll follow this on the evening news and in the newspapers. But what is the choice here?

And we have very different views, and we ought to talk about it. We have a very different economic policy here. The Vice President wants a tax cut of about \$500 billion over 10 years. Governor Bush wants one of \$1.6 trillion over 10 years. Most of you would make more money out of the Republican tax cut. Why are you here? [*Laughter*] You've got to be able to answer that. You get more money up front out of their tax cut.

What's our argument? Our argument is, number one, we have responsibilities to our children and education and health care and the environment. We're going to have to spend more money on national defense. We've already put another \$100 billion back in defense, and Vice President Gore has promised to put, so far, twice as much as Governor Bush has. Why is that? Because we got a big benefit from the end of the cold

war, but because we had to deploy our forces in a lot of places, we cut the procurement of new weapons and old equipment back to keep up training, to raise pay, to provide for quality of life, to keep recruitment up because it's harder to recruit people into the service when they can make more money doing other things.

We want to have a tax cut the American people need and can afford, but he knows we have to invest in other things, and we should do it in the context of keeping this debt coming down, running a surplus every year until we get this country out of debt over the next 12 years, for the first time since 1835. Now, that's why you're here. That's your answer to the business people. Why? Because if you do that, as opposed to—now keep in mind, the projected non-Social Security surplus, the most liberal number is \$2.2 trillion. That's the Congress. We think it's much smaller, at 1.8. If you do a \$1.6 trillion tax cut, that leaves you \$600 billion, right, for 10 years, if all the rosy scenarios are right.

Now that, however, scenario assumes that Government spending does not grow at inflation plus population, which it has done for 50 years. If that happens, that takes away another \$300 billion. That leaves you \$300 billion. Then it assumes that we will not extend the tax credits that are in the law now, like the research and development tax credit. Since the high-tech industry has accounted for one-third of our growth, with only 9 percent of the employment, don't you think we ought to extend it? Of course we should. So we will.

And it assumes, furthermore, that as incomes grow, we won't bump up the level at which the alternative minimum tax takes effect. You really think we're going to let middle-class people start paying the alternative minimum tax, so they don't get the basic tax deductions? Of course we're not. That's another \$200 billion. That leaves you with \$100 billion left.

Then he's proposed a partial privatization of Social Security, which means all of you under X age, let's say 40, can take 2 percent of your payroll and go invest it in the market and try to earn more money than you could from Social Security. The problem is, Social Security runs out in 37 years. So as you take

yours out, I'll be retiring, and he's going to promise me that I can keep all that I'm guaranteed under the present law.

So what do you have to do? You have to fill up the hole of everybody taking their payroll tax out. That costs at least \$900 billion. So you're \$800 million in the hole before you spend a penny for education, health care, the environment, or whatever else. That's why most economic advisers believe that interest rates will be a percent lower under the Gore plan than under the Republican plan. One percent lower interest rates will have a huge impact on business loans, business investment, job growth, income growth, the stock market, not to mention \$390 billion in lower home mortgages, \$30 billion in lower car payments, and \$15 billion in lower college loan payments.

I think our economic plan is better. I hope you can argue it. It's clear to me that this is the right thing to do.

We have a different education program. Both sides are for accountability. We're for accountability-plus. We think we should hold people accountable, but we ought to give them the tools to succeed—after-school and preschool for all the kids who need it, modernize schools, 100,000 teachers for smaller classes in the early grades. People can make up their mind which one they think is better, but they need to know what the real differences are.

There are vast differences in health care policy. Look, here's what the Patients' Bill of Rights is about—and I can say this because I've actually supported managed care. When I became President—everybody has forgotten this now—inflation and health care costs were going up at 3 times the rate of inflation. It was about to bankrupt this country. We had to manage our resources better. But as someone who has supported it, I know that with any institution in society, if you're not careful, you forget about what your primary mission is. The primary mission is to save as much money as possible, consistent with the care of the patients.

So we say we ought to have a Patients' Bill of Rights, and it ought to cover everybody. They say we ought to have suggestions that don't cover everybody. And to be fair to them, they say, "We don't want to do any-

thing else to add to the cost that business bears and that people bear in health insurance." So a lot of you are interested in that. Now, their Congressional Budget Office says—not me, they say—that it would cost less than \$2 a month a policy to fully implement the guarantees of the Patients' Bill of Rights. That's what they say. I would pay a \$1.80 a month to know that when you leave this hotel room, if, God forbid, you get hit by a speeding car, you could go to the nearest emergency room and not have to pass three to get to one covered by your plan. I would pay that, and I think we should.

So that's a real difference. And we don't have to hide around—we can argue it both ways, and you should hear them. Let them say what they think. But let's not hide the differences.

This Medicare drug issue is a very interesting issue. If you live to be 65 in this country, you've got a life expectancy of 82. We know that pharmaceuticals can keep people alive longer and improve the quality of their lives. We know there are lots of people choosing between food and medicine every day. We know this.

Now, so we say, "Look, we've got the money now under Medicare." When I was elected President, Medicare was supposed to go broke last year. We've added 27 years to the life of Medicare already. We have a plan to add more. We'll have to reform it some. But we say we ought to have a voluntary prescription drug benefit under Medicare, which has 2 percent or less administrative cost, totally voluntary, but everybody that needs it ought to buy it.

They say, "Well, it might cost more than the Democrats say." I'll make the best case for their argument. They say, "It might cost more than the Democrats say. So let's cover up to 150 percent of poverty, and then everybody else can buy insurance, and we'll give them a little help." Their side sounds pretty good. And why would you deny poor people, the poorest people the right to have health insurance?

Here's the debate. Over half the people who can't afford their medicine are above 150 percent of the poverty level. That's only about \$16,000 for a couple. Over half the people who need the help are above there,

number one. Number two, after all the fights I've had with the health insurance companies, I've got to hand it to them. They have been scrupulously honest in this debate. They have told us over and over and over again, you cannot design an insurance policy that is affordable to people that won't bankrupt us on medicine.

The State of Nevada has already adopted the present Republican plan. Do you know how many insurance companies have offered drug insurance under it? Zero, not one. But I've got to give it to them. Evidence never phases them. They just go right on. I kind of admire that. [Laughter] You know, I kind of admire that. "Don't tell me about paying down the debt and 22 million jobs and all this." Say, "Here's the right thing to do. Don't bother me with the evidence." [Laughter] But the truth is, we tried their plan, and it doesn't work.

Now, here is what is really going on. What is really going on is that the pharmaceutical companies badly don't want our plan, but they don't want to act like the don't want older people who need medicine not to have it. And they've got a real problem. They do have a real problem. Here's what their real problem is. Their real problem is, they're afraid if we have a Medicare drug program and we enroll a lot of people in it, we will acquire so much power in the market that we'll be able to get drugs made in America almost as cheaply as the Canadians pay. [Laughter]

Now, to be fair to them, it is—here's their real problem. Look, I'm not demonizing them. I'm glad we've got these pharmaceutical companies in our country. I'm glad they find all these lifesaving drugs. I'm glad they provide good jobs to people. I'm glad they're here. They do have a problem. You know what their problem is? It costs a fortune to develop these drugs, and they can't sell them in other countries, except under very rigorous price control regimes, in Europe and other places. So the reason that Americans have to pay too much is, they have to recover 100 percent of their research and development costs from American consumers, because of the price controls in other countries. However, once they do that, they

can still make good money selling those drugs in other countries.

So I'm sympathetic with their problem. But there's got to be another way to solve their problem than keeping American seniors without the drugs they need. So that's the difference in our two positions. You're not going to read this in the paper very often. They all argue about this other stuff. If you strip it all away, that's the truth.

And you don't have to demonize anybody. They have a problem, and they're worried about losing the ability to recover high profit margins from American sales of drugs made in America, because they can't recover them overseas, even though once they do recover them from us, they can make a lot of money selling the drugs at discounts overseas. That's the real issue. Nobody's explained this to most Americans.

I think the Vice President is right. I think the most important thing is, take care of our people. We have tax benefits. We do a lot of medical research on our own that helps the pharmaceutical companies. So we'll find a way to solve their problem, but let's don't keep old people without the medicine they need. Provide the medicine. We can afford it. Do that, then focus on this other problem. Let's get our priorities in order. There's a big difference between the two parties, and I think we're right, and I think they're not.

But how are the American people going to know, unless somebody clarifies this? And there are lots of other examples, on the environment, on arms control. We're for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and they're not. You talk about something that could affect your kids future. This is big. This is not some sort of casual walk in the park deal here.

So here's the main point. You're leaving here. I hope you feel good about what you've done. I hope you will continue to feel good about it. I am profoundly grateful for the support you've given me and the reception you've given me today and the kind things that have been said. But in America's public life, the subject is always tomorrow, not yesterday. That's why we're still around here, after all this time. The subject is always tomorrow.

I worked as hard as I could to turn this country around and pull this country together and get us pointing together, toward tomorrow. In fact, I think the biggest difference between our party is that even though they have dramatically modified their rhetoric, and to some extent their substance—and I'm grateful for this—we're still far more committed to one America than they are. That's why we're for the hate crimes bill, the employment nondiscrimination legislation, equal pay for women, stronger enforcement of civil rights, because we think we've got to go forward together.

But the point I want to make to you is, every one of you will come in contact, probably, with hundreds of people before the election, that will never come to an event like this. And you need to promise yourself when you walk out of here today that you are going to do something every single day to make sure not that people think ill of our opponents but that they clearly understand the choice before them. And I am telling you, if everybody understands that the Democratic Party believes every American counts, everybody deserves a chance, we all do better when we help each other, we're committed to change, and here are the changes, and here are the differences—if they understand that, then the election will take care of itself.

Trust the people, but give them clarity of choice and the information they need. You can do that with more than your money. Every one of you has lots of friends. You're going to touch a lot of people between now and the election. If you do that, we'll have a great celebration November 7.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:46 p.m. at the Mayflower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to John Merrigan, chair, and Paul Equale, vice chair, Democratic Business Council; Janice Griffin, chair, Women's Leadership Forum; Carol Pensky, finance chair, Andrew Tobias, treasurer, Loretta Sanchez, general cochair, and Edward G. Rendell, general chair, Democratic National Committee; Rulon Gardner, U.S. Olympic gold medalist, super heavyweight Greco-Roman wrestling; and Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush.

Statement on the Jewish High Holidays in Russia

September 29, 2000

On behalf of the American people, I want to wish the Jewish community in Russia a happy, enriching, and peaceful New Year. People across the United States are profoundly moved by the flowering of religious life for all faiths in Russia. Jewish life, in particular, is flourishing, with synagogues and Jewish cultural centers opening in regions all across the country.

Russia's support for democratic principles, religious freedom, and inter-ethnic tolerance will have a direct impact on its standing in the international community and our ability to support Russia's international integration.

The United States stands with Russia's Jewish community as it advances the cause of religious freedom, builds a more inclusive society, and counters the forces of hatred and bigotry. In our tightly interwoven world, the advance of freedom in one country strengthens freedom everywhere. Your community's efforts are truly historic. Our hopes and prayers are with you for the coming year. *L'Shanah Tovah!*

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 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Palo Alto, CA. In the afternoon, he traveled to San Jose, and in the evening, he returned to Brentwood and Beverly Hills.

September 24

In the morning, the President traveled to Pacific Palisades and Bel Air, CA, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Hidden Hills. In the evening, he returned to Beverly Hills.

September 25

In the morning, the President traveled to Santa Fe, NM, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald L. Robinson to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

The President announced his intention to nominate for reappointment Arthur A. McGiverin and Robert A. Miller to be members of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute.

September 26

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel concerning the Middle East peace process.

The President announced the nomination of Mary Lou Leary to be Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice.

The President announced the nomination of John J. Wilson to be Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Isabel Carter Stewart to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities.

The President announced his intention to nominate James F. Dobbins to be Assistant Secretary of European Affairs at the Department of State.

The President announced his intention to nominate Betty Bumpers to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and a tornado on September 20.

September 27

In the morning, the President traveled to Dallas, TX. In the afternoon, he traveled to Houston, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving after midnight.

The President announced his intention to appoint Raynard C. Soon as a member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The President announced the nomination of John L. Palmer and Thomas R. Saving to be public members of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund (Social Security). They will also be nominated to be public members of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund (Medicare).

The President announced his intention to nominate Shibley Telhami to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

September 28

The President announced his intention to nominate for reappointment Sophia H. Hall to the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute.

September 29

The President participated in outgoing White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart's final press briefing.

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 25

Donald L. Fixico, of Kansas, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2004, vice Alan Charles Kors, term expired.

Paulette H. Holahan, of Louisiana, to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 2004, vice Mary S. Furlong, term expired.

Marilyn Gell Mason, of Florida, to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 2003, vice Joel David Valdez, term expired.

John J. Wilson,
of Maryland, to be Administrator of the office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, vice Sheldon C. Bilchik.

Submitted September 26

Betty F. Bumpers,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2001. (new position)

Betty F. Bumpers,
of Arkansas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2005. (re-appointment)

James F. Dobbins,
of New York, a Career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European Affairs), vice Marc Grossman, resigned.

John L. Palmer,
of New York, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Marilyn Moon, term expired.

John L. Palmer,
of New York, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Marilyn Moon, term expired.

John L. Palmer,
of New York, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Marilyn Moon, term expired.

Thomas R. Saving,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Stephen G. Kellison, term expired.

Thomas R. Saving,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance

Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Stephen G. Kellison, term expired.

Thomas R. Saving,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Stephen G. Kellison, term expired.

Submitted September 28

Sue Bailey,
of Maryland, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, vice Ricardo Martinez, resigned, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Holly J. Burkhalter,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2005 (reappointment).

Arthur C. Campbell,
of Tennessee, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development (new position), to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

James A. Daley,
of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to St. Kitts and Nevis and to St. Lucia, to which he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Robin Chandler Duke,
of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Norway, to which she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

George T. Frampton, Jr.,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Council on Environmental Quality, vice Kathleen A. McGinty, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

John David Holum, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Department of State (new position), to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Sally Katzen, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, vice G. Edward DeSeve, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Robert S. LaRussa, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, vice David L. Aaron, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Bill Lann Lee, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Deval L. Patrick, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Franz S. Leichter, of New York, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2006, vice Daniel F. Evans, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

W. Michael McCabe, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Frederic James Hansen, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Arthur A. McGiverin, of Iowa, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2003 (re-appointment).

Robert A. Miller, of South Dakota, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2003 (reappointment).

Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Walter Dellinger, to which po-

sition he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

David W. Ogden, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Frank Hunger, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

James Charles Riley, of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring August 30, 2006 (re-appointment), to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Donald L. Robinson, of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 2002, vice Gary N. Sudduth.

Francisco J. Sanchez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Charles A. Hunnicutt, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Barbara W. Snelling, of Vermont, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2005 (re-appointment).

Carl Spielvogel, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Slovak Republic, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Steven Clayton Stafford, of California, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of California for the term of 4 years, vice Stephen Simpson Gregg, resigned.

Isabel Carter Stewart, of Illinois, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice David Finn, term expired.

Shibley Telhami, of Maryland, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace

for a term expiring January 19, 2001, vice Thomas E. Harvey, term expired.

Shibley Telhami, of Maryland, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2005 (re-appointment).

Ella Wong-Rusinko, of Virginia, to be Alternate Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, vice Hilda Gay Legg, resigned, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

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 22 *

Statement by the Press Secretary on guests of the First Family at the White House and Camp David, MD

Released September 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Council Director Gene Sperling and Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Martin Baily on the President's announcement on income and poverty

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Mary B. DeRosa as Special Assistant to the President and Legal Adviser

Released September 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Northern Ireland peace process

*This release was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of California

Released September 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by Chief of Staff John Podesta on the national economy

Acts Approved by the President

Approved September 22 *

H.R. 1729 / Public Law 106-266
To designate the Federal facility located at 1301 Emmet Street in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Pamela B. Gwin Hall"

H.R. 1901 / Public Law 106-267
To designate the United States border station located in Pharr, Texas, as the "Kika de la Garza United States Border Station"

H.R. 1959 / Public Law 106-268
To designate the Federal building located at 643 East Durango Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, as the "Adrian A. Spears Judicial Training Center"

H.R. 4608 / Public Law 106-269
To designate the United States courthouse located at 220 West Depot Street in Greeneville, Tennessee, as the "James H. Quillen United States Courthouse"

S. 1027 / Public Law 106-270
Deschutes Resources Conservancy Reauthorization Act of 2000

S. 1117 / Public Law 106-271
Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act of 2000

S. 1374 / Public Law 106-272
Jackson Multi-Agency Campus Act of 2000

*These Public Laws were not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

2268

Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000

S. 1937 / Public Law 106-273

To amend the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act to provide for sales of electricity by the Bonneville Power Administration to joint operating entities

S. 2869 / Public Law 106-274

Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000

Approved September 29

H.J. Res. 109 / Public Law 106-275

Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes