

them, led by Katie Couric, have come to Washington this weekend to speak out and rally against colorectal cancer.

For 8 years now, the Vice President and I have made the fight against cancer one of our top priorities, nearly doubling funding for cancer research and treatment. We've also accelerated the approval of cancer drugs while maintaining the highest standards of safety. We've strengthened Medicare to make prevention, screening, and clinical trials more available and more affordable. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Senate voted to fund our proposal to provide health coverage to uninsured women with breast and cervical cancer.

These efforts are paying off. Earlier this year we learned for the first time that cancer deaths in the United States are no longer rising. We need to build on that progress by encouraging more early detection and treatment. Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cancer killer in America. The good news is that caught soon enough, more than 90 percent of the cases can be cured. That's why in 1998 Hillary helped to launch the first national campaign against colorectal cancer, much as we've been working for years to defeat breast cancer.

Our family, like so many American families, knows all too well the terrible toll cancer can take, and we want to do everything we can to help others avoid that loss. Today I'm announcing several new actions in the war against cancer. First, the National Cancer Institute will invest \$30 million over the next 5 years to help doctors expand and improve screening procedures for colorectal cancer. We need to address the chronic underuse of these lifesaving tools, and this new investment will encourage physicians to make regular use of the most effective procedures.

Second, we're launching a new initiative to educate Medicare beneficiaries about the importance of regular checkups and cancer screenings. Beginning next year, every senior and every American with a disability using Medicare will get a screening reminder, starting with one on colorectal cancer, every time they go to their doctor or use Medicare's toll-free hotline.

Third, I'm urging Congress to pass bipartisan legislation that expands Medicare to in-

clude more sophisticated colorectal cancer screening tests for people over the age of 50. Congress should not adjourn before sending me this legislation. They should also pass my proposal to eliminate all cost-sharing requirements for colorectal screening and other preventive procedures under Medicare. If we take these steps, we'll remove major barriers to older Americans getting the preventive care they need.

And finally, once again I ask Congress to pass a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights, one that ensures that cancer patients, along with all patients, have access to the specialty care they need. It's time to put progress before partisanship and get people the medical care they need and deserve.

While the war against cancer is not yet won, we all have reason for new hope. Even as I speak, scientists are fast unlocking the secrets of the human genome, and revolutionary treatments are sure to follow. As they do, Americans should know that we'll do everything necessary to safeguard their privacy and to outlaw genetic discrimination in both employment and health insurance.

In the meantime, we must all stand watch against cancer, even if that means confronting at times our worst fears. None of us will ever die of embarrassment, so go to the doctor and get that screening done. Remember, with early detection, quality care, love from our families, and the grace of God, we can all lead longer, healthier, and better lives.

Thank you.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:13 p.m. on October 6 in the East Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 7. In his remarks, the President referred to Katie Couric, cohost of NBC's "Today Show" and cofounder of WebMD Rock 'n Race to Fight Colon Cancer. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 6 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Telephone Remarks to a Rally for Representative Julia Carson

October 7, 2000

Let me say, first of all, I'm just sick I can't be there. But I think you know that for the

last 2 days I've been up day and night, literally. I was up all night last night because of the continuing violence in the Middle East and the responsibility the United States has to do everything we can to get things calmed down and get back to the peace process. Nothing else would keep me away.

I want to say to all my friends in Indiana, you ought to be very proud of Joe Andrew. He has done a great job with the DNC. And I think I can speak for every Democrat outside Indiana; we are proud of Bart Peterson and thrilled that he is the mayor of Indianapolis.

I want to thank Governor Frank O'Bannon for working so closely with me, and Lieutenant Governor Kernan and your attorney general. And I want to tell you that I've known Evan Bayh since he replaced me as the youngest Governor in America, and he and Susan do you great credit in Washington every single day. I have no doubt that the future is unlimited for him.

Most of all, I want to tell you that there is nobody in Congress I like any better than Julia Carson. She is one of a kind. And when she kind of sidles into a room and takes a stand for education or children or moving people from welfare or poverty into work, everybody listens to her. And she's acquired an unusual amount of influence in Congress in a very short time because she deals with people so effectively and she has such credibility and she's so compelling when she makes a point. I've just sort of learned to do what she asks me to do without her having to argue it now. [Laughter]

I'd like to just make a simple argument tonight in Indiana, because you've got a lot of Republicans there, but the Democrats are doing better. Why are the Democrats doing better? Because you deliver.

And I just want to say to you that, you know, this is the first time in 26 years I haven't been on a ballot at election time. So I'm telling you this as a person who, within a matter of 4 months, will be like most of you out there, just another American citizen. This country is in good shape. We are moving in the right direction. We are better off than we were 8 years ago, and we need to keep changing in the right direction. That is the strongest argument for why every election

this year is important, every Senate seat, every House seat, every governorship, and of course, most important of all, the election for President and Vice President.

Now, in Indiana, you've done well because people have seen you produce results. And I want you to go out there, between now and election day, and ask everybody you know in Indiana and in the States bordering Indiana, all of which are critical to our success, to remember what it was like 8 years ago. Look at what it's like now. That's because we changed the direction of the country. We've got a better economic policy, a better education policy, a better health care policy, a better environmental policy, a better foreign policy. And we need to keep changing in that direction.

And people need to understand that once in a lifetime, maybe once in 50 or 60 years, a country gets a chance to do what we've got to do now, with all this prosperity and progress and confidence, with no crisis at home and no threat to our security abroad. We've got a chance and a responsibility to build the future of our dreams for our kids, and we need to put in office people who are committed to that. Every voter needs to understand there are real differences between our party and theirs and our candidates and theirs, starting at the top and going all the way through.

We've got a different economic policy. We want to keep paying down the debt, give people a tax cut we can afford to send their kids to college, to save for retirement, for child care when they're working, for long-term care when they've got their folks or disabled children living at home with them. But we've got to have enough money to invest in education and pay down the debt.

They offer everybody a bigger tax cut, but that and their privatization of Social Security plan and their promise to spend will put us right back in deficits. The Democratic Party is the fiscally responsible party in America today. That will keep interest rates lower, and every American will have lower home mortgages, car payments, credit card payments, college loan payments. Businesses will borrow money for less, and they'll create more jobs and higher incomes.

If you want to keep this prosperity going, vote for the Democrats. That's the message that you've got to get out there all over America.

But if you look at all the other areas where we're different—we're for a real Patients' Bill of Rights, and they're not. We're for a Medicare prescription drug program that every senior who needs it can buy into on a voluntary basis, and they only want to help half the people who need the medicine. Their plan won't work. It has already been tried in one State, and they keep on doing it. It's wrong. We are the party that wants to help provide the medicine that our seniors need and deserve, and every American needs to understand that. Every American needs to understand that we are the party for smaller class sizes and modern schools and after-school and summer school and preschool programs for the kids who need it and a tax deduction to pay for the cost of college tuition so that everybody's child can have 4 years of college. That's the Democratic Party, and people need to know that, and I want you to help them know that.

And for all of you there, the most important thing I want you to do is make sure Julia Carson wins an overwhelming reelection. She's a wonderful woman and a great Representative in Congress.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:25 p.m. from the Residence at the White House to the rally at the Indianapolis Colts Complex in Indianapolis, IN. In his remarks, he referred to Joseph J. Andrew, national chair, Democratic National Committee; Gov. Frank O'Bannon, Lt. Gov. Joseph E. Kernan, and State Attorney General Karen Freeman-Wilson of Indiana; and Senator Bayh's wife, Susan. Representative Carson is a candidate for reelection in Indiana's 10th Congressional District.

Statement on Returning Without Approval the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2001"

October 7, 2000

Today I vetoed a deeply flawed energy/water appropriations bill that threatens major environmental harm by blocking our efforts

to modernize operations on the Missouri River. This antienvironmental rider would not only jeopardize the survival of three threatened and endangered species but would also establish a dangerous precedent aimed at barring a Federal agency from obeying one of our Nation's landmark environmental statutes.

Additionally, this bill funded scores of special projects for special interests. It failed to provide sufficient funding for priorities in the national interest—including environmental restoration of the Florida Everglades and the California-Bay Delta, and our strategy to restore endangered salmon in the Pacific Northwest. It also failed to fund efforts to research and develop nonpolluting sources of energy through solar and renewable technologies that are vital to America's energy security.

I urge Congress to quickly produce an energy/water bill I can sign.

Message to the House of Representatives Returning Without Approval the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2001"

October 7, 2000

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval, H.R. 4733, the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2001." The bill contains an unacceptable rider regarding the Army Corps of Engineers' master operating manual for the Missouri River. In addition, it fails to provide funding for the California-Bay Delta initiative and includes nearly \$700 million for over 300 unrequested projects.

Section 103 would prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from revising the operating manual for the Missouri River that is 40 years old and needs to be updated based on the most recent scientific information. In its current form, the manual simply does not provide an appropriate balance among the competing interests, both commercial and recreational, of the many people who seek to use this great American river. The bill would also undermine implementation of the