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