know they do, agree with the direction that we've taken in the last 8 years.

About two-thirds of the people support what we're trying to do. They just can't bring themselves to vote for us in an election. [*Laughter*] That's the truth. That's the truth. And so this is very important, because I've worked as hard as I could to get the country turned around. It's been 50 years since we've paid down the debt 3 years in a row. If we keep going—if we keep going, in somewhere between 9 and 12 years, depending on what judgments are made by my successors in the Congress and the White House, America could be out of debt for the first time since 1835. And I can't tell you what that means.

In a global economy where we compete for every dollar with people all over the world and where, so far, we've been doing so much better than everybody else—we keep buying more than we're selling—to pay that debt off guarantees a whole—all these young people here, we'll give them 20 years of lower interest rates, a stronger economy, higher productivity, a whole different future. That's just one example.

So I'm going to try to be a good citizen, and I'm going to try to help work on the things that I worked on as President as a private citizen but to do it in a way that doesn't get under foot of the next President. And I have loved doing this. But the most important thing is that people like you stay active in our party and keep pushing us to be thinking about tomorrow. Just keep pushing us toward the future, keep moving, and keep reaching out like a magnet.

And again, I would like to thank Ben. I would like to thank Bob Kerrey for the 8 years that we have worked together, President and Senator, and the many years of friendship before that. I want to thank Peter Hoagland, who came down from Washington with us today, for the years that we worked together when he was a Congressman from Nebraska.

I want to say to you that the best days of this country are still out here. We've had 8 good years, but if we build on it instead of reverse it, it's just going to get better.

But keep in mind, I will say again: It's more important that the people be pushing toward tomorrow than who has a particular office. As long as we're open to the proposition we have to keep working; and we have to keep working together; everybody counts; everybody deserves a chance; we all do better when we work together. That's what the Democrats believe, and if we keep doing it, we're going to be just fine.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:38 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to Vinod Gupta and Laurel Gottesman, reception hosts; and Senator-elect Ben Nelson of Nebraska, and his wife, Diane. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on the Death of Representative Julian C. Dixon

December 8, 2000

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Congressman Julian Dixon. Julian was a champion for the people of his district, his State, and our Nation. In his 22 years in the United States Congress, Julian worked tirelessly for his district, served with distinction on the appropriations and intelligence committees, was a powerful advocate for the people of the District of Columbia, and worked hard to make sure that the voices of the less fortunate could always be heard. He was a kind, gentle man who earned the admiration and respect of all who knew him. I saw that recently when we visited a wonderful diner in his district together. I will miss him, and I join all Americans in honoring Julian Dixon for this lifetime of service to his country. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Bettye, his son, Cary, his family and many friends.

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

The President's Radio Address

December 9, 2000

Good morning. Eight years ago this week, I brought together leading minds from all around our country for my first economic summit. The challenge then was immediate and clear: The deficit was $290 billion and rising; 10 million Americans were out of