million immunization program, are you prepared
to compromise with the Republicans in the Sen-
ate to scale back the stimulus package to some-	hing a lot less than you had originally hoped
do? The President. Well, I think, I'd like to know
how many more Americans they want to keep
out of work. I mean, what is their position? That's basically what it amounts to. I mean, all
this business about there being the potential
for abuse in the community development block
grant program, that is a smoke screen, and this
is politics. So they're going to have to decide.
I want to put as many people to work as I
can. They're going to have to decide how many
people they're determined to keep out of work.
And I'll do everything I can to pass the best
bill I can.

But let's not talk about compromise. Let's
strip all this rhetoric away. This is about whether
you want to reduce the unemployment rate in
America by another half a percentage point for
a very modest amount. And they don't. For
whatever reason, they don't. They want more
people to stay out of work. So they just have
to decide. I guess, how many people we can
put to work and what we can do. And I'm
going to do the best I can to get the best
program I can. I'll be discussing it this week.

Whenever we use the word compromise, let's
talk about what's really at stake. The Repub-
licans had 12 years in which unemployment
went down only when they were exploding the
deficit and increasing the defense budget. Now
we're reducing the defense budget. What is it
that we propose to replace it with? We must
have some investment. We must have some jobs.
We must have primarily the overall program
that we've already passed. But I think we need
to strike a match to the job engine in America,
and that's what I'm trying to do. And I'll do
the best I can. I'm going to create as many
jobs as I can.

Q. Well, Mr. President, what are you pre-
pared to do to make sure that your program
gets through Congress?
The President. We're working—look, we've
got a majority in both Houses. The American
people, I think, are astonished to find out that
41 Senators, 41 percent of the Senate can shut
the whole place down. And they've just got to
decide, as I said, how many people they want
to keep out of work and how many people we
want to put to work. And I think we can work
something out. I'm hopeful that we can. I know
that there are people in that Republican Senate
bloc that want to vote for a good stimulus pro-
gram. I know they do. I hope they'll be released
to do it.

Bosnia

Q. Mr. President, have you rejected the rec-
ommendation of your commission that force be
used in Bosnia?
The President. I saw that story. That commis-
sion has not made a report to me yet. We didn't
ask anybody not to talk to the Congress. We
just asked that policy recommendations not be
made to the Congress before a commission that
came out of the executive branch made final
recommendations to me. We have not received
a final report from them.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:07 a.m. in the
Oval Office at the White House. The National
Preschool Immunization Week proclamation of
April 9 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this
volume. A tape was not available for verification
of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the White House Easter Egg Roll
April 12, 1993

Good morning, everybody. I want to welcome
all of you here to the White House for the
Easter egg roll and the Easter egg hunt. I want
to say a special word of thanks to the sponsors
who made this possible and say how wonderful
it is for all of us here to see the children,
especially for me and for Hillary.

And I want now to introduce the First Lady,
who is the hostess for this event, to say a few
more words about it. But let me again say how
very, very grateful we are to see all of you
here. This is a children's day for America at
Remarks at the Technology Reinvestment Project Conference

April 12, 1993

I want to welcome you to the first of five White House briefings on the Technology Reinvestment Project, a key part of my defense reinvestment and conversion initiative. I’d like to thank the organizations that are hosting this event, the Northeast Midwest Institute and the New York Academy of Sciences, as well as the 10 States that are participating. You’re in good hands today with Energy Secretary Hazel O’Leary and our science adviser, Jack Gibbons. They’re here to kick off the event. A superb team lead by Gary Denman, the Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, or ARPA, and Fred Bernthal, Acting Director of the National Science Foundation, will fully brief you on the Technology Reinvestment Project and answer all your questions.

With the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the end of the cold war, we’ve been undertaking substantial cuts in defense expenditures, and they will continue while still maintaining a flexible and effective military force. Now we can turn our attention to other national needs.

But the adjustment to lower defense spending is still painful for many communities and workers and firms. An estimated 60 percent of the total loss in defense-related jobs between 1991 and 1997 will occur in only 10 States. Those of you here today represent communities and companies that face the challenges of moving to a civilian economy.

Defense conversion is one of my highest priorities. It’s one of the reasons I ran for President in 1992. We simply must act to ease the pain of defense downsizing, while capturing the great potential that defense workers and firms offer to meet pressing national economic needs. And we have to do it quickly.

Last month, I announced a $20 billion 5-year initiative to reinvest in workers, communities, and companies harmed by cuts in military spending. The plan provides immediate help for hard-hit defense workers and communities, as well as long-term investment in our Nation’s industrial technology infrastructure. The reinvestment and conversion initiative will redirect $375 million this year alone to helping defense workers and military personnel hurt by cuts. They’ll receive job training, employment services, and transition assistance to help them put their skills to work in a new setting.

We’re also targeting assistance to communities that are hard hit by defense drawdown. Through programs in the Department of Commerce and the Department of Defense that provide grants and revolving loans, we’re helping these communities identify new sources of economic strength that will create new jobs. These defense workers and the communities will succeed in adapting only if we have an expanding industrial base. The Technology Reinvestment Project, a key component of my conversion plan, will play a vital role in helping defense companies adjust and compete.

I’ve given this project another name, Operation Restore Jobs, to signify its ultimate mission, namely, to expand high quality employment opportunities and to enhance demonstrably our Nation’s competitiveness. This project has generated enormous interest in the 4 weeks since I announced it at a Westinghouse plant outside Baltimore. More than 8,000 people have called our 1–800–DUAL–USE hotline. Many of you who have placed those calls are here today. Others plan to attend one of the briefings to be held later this week in Detroit, Orlando, Dallas, and Los Angeles.

As this enthusiastic response demonstrates, the Technology Reinvestment Project marks a new way of doing business. First, it begins a