

know that while the Government's deficit was going up and the debt was going up in the last 12 years, we were actually reducing the effort the National Government is making to support education and a lot of other initiatives, because all the money was going first to defense and then to health care costs.

What I am attempting to do with my budget and will continue to work on it every year I'm President, is to, every year, to slowly move our spending priorities back toward education, training, and technology.

In this budget, for example, we give more funds to institutions like this for worker training programs. We give much more money for Head Start for preschool kids. We do a lot of things to try to, in other words, let the Federal Government play a bigger role. But another real problem you've got, let me say, in the United States as opposed to Japan where you've got three levels of government that often operate more or less independently, the lion's share of the budget for education always comes at the State and local level.

So then, the other thing I can do is to help alleviate the burdens of the State government. Why is State government spending less on edu-

cation in California, more on uncompensated care for undocumented people coming into the country, more on exploding health care costs, often mandated by the National Government?

So if I can persuade the Congress, and if we can be wise and good enough to work out a health care program that's good for America, that brings costs in line with inflation, and then if we can compensate the States better for their costs that aren't their fault, like dealing with the immigration issues, then that will free up in California millions and millions and millions of dollars which the State could then turn around and put back into education. So we can help directly some, and we can help indirectly a lot. And I'm trying to do both those things.

Thank you. You were great. I wish I could stay longer.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. in the courtyard. In his remarks, he referred to Representatives Walter R. Tucker III and Xavier Becerra; Donald G. Phelps, chancellor, and Mary E. Lee, president, Los Angeles Valley College; and Daniel A. Palmer, former student who successfully retrained for a new career.

Remarks Endorsing the Candidacy of Michael Woo for Mayor of Los Angeles and an Exchange With Reporters in Van Nuys

May 18, 1993

The President. Good afternoon, everyone. As you know, a couple of days ago I issued a statement endorsing the candidacy of Mike Woo for Mayor of Los Angeles. I wanted to just amplify a little on that today, make a couple of comments, give Mr. Woo a chance to say something, and then answer a few of your questions.

Let me say that I know it is somewhat unusual for all these national figures to be involved in a mayor's race in Los Angeles. But that's because what happens in Los Angeles matters to America and because we can't really turn America around until we can lift the economy of California up.

I endorsed Mike Woo not because I have something against his opponent; I don't. I just like him, and I like him for some very good substantive reasons. I feel a personal affinity for

him because he supported me early in the race for President before the New Hampshire primary. And that's a part of it. But I also have been terribly impressed by what he has said to me in private about this city, about the need to bring people together across racial and ethnic lines, about the need to try some new ideas to get the economy going again.

After the riots last year and long before I was President, I came here and walked the streets of Los Angeles with Mike Woo. And we talked about the kinds of things it would take to start businesses, to attract investment, to change the framework of people's lives; the kinds of incentives that are embodied in the empowerment zone legislation that I have presented to Congress, which will provide much more dramatic and comprehensive incentives to

invest in businesses and jobs and education and anticrime initiatives in our cities than has ever happened before; the kinds of initiatives that are embodied in the national service program that I have presented, that will be embodied in the welfare reform program that is coming forward. I want to do something to help Los Angeles, southern California, and this State revive and come back.

I've assigned the Secretary of Commerce to come out here. He's been here seven times. And I want the best possible partnership to get that done. That's why I endorse Mike Woo. It is 100 percent positive feeling. I have nothing against his opponent. I just care a lot about this community. I care a lot about this State. I want to do everything I can to make it work. I think this will help. And I think the decision was an appropriate one and one I feel very comfortable with.

[At this point, Mr. Woo expressed his appreciation to the President.]

Q. Mr. President, have you ever met Mr. Riordan, and what do you know about him?

The President. I know quite a bit about him. I have met him, and I know a lot of people who are working in his campaign, as you know. And my wife has spent some good time with him. I have nothing against him. I'm for Woo. There's nothing negative here in my feelings about Dick Riordan.

Q. Mr. President, if Dick Riordan does win the election, can Los Angeles count on as close a relationship with the White House as it will have if Mr. Woo—

The President. It won't affect my attitude about Los Angeles in any way. I will work as hard as I can to help the people here, whatever the voters of this city decide to do.

But let me try to reinforce that and put it in what I consider to be the proper framework. Just like I told those students out there today at this college, whatever I do as President, whether this economy works or not depends on their willingness to prepare themselves to compete and win. In other words, they have to do certain things. I'm going to do everything I can. My Secretary of Transportation was out here just a few days ago announcing a \$1.4 billion commitment to the Red Line Mass Transit System. We're here for the duration. Ron Brown is going to be here supervising this economic program and our coordinated efforts. But

I think it will work better if there's a mayor who has a lot of good ideas about how to start businesses, how to rebuild communities, how to pull people together. I think Mike Woo's ideas are good. That's my point. It's not anything negative.

Q. Mr. President, is your prestige on the line at all because of this? You know candidates have coattails—sometimes they do, sometimes they don't.

The President. Frankly, I don't know if they ever do. If I have any coattails, it would only be because of the ideas that I share in common with Mike and the things that I hope that we can do together. I was only too happy to do this. Ultimately, in the end, the people of Los Angeles will vote the way people do everywhere. They'll vote on the merits of the issue before them.

The one thing that I hope will happen is that you will have a very good turnout. I hope the citizens of this city realize that this has a lot to do with how things work out in the future. A lot of the things that I want to do—for instance, you take this empowerment zone issue, for example. If we pass this bill through Congress, look what it will do. Say Los Angeles, a big section of Los Angeles, is selected as an empowerment zone. There will be new jobs credits and other new tax incentives for private sector people to invest in these communities and to hire people. There will be all kinds of new initiatives to facilitate investments in housing and in anticrime initiatives, and in education and training initiatives. That's good. But whether it works or not depends on how it's put together once the Federal Government makes the selection. That has to happen from the grassroots up.

So what I would say to the people of Los Angeles is, you need to vote based on what you think is best for you. The reason I think Mike Woo is the better candidate is because I know him, I know how he thinks, and I know he can figure out how to make this stuff work. And in the end, the test of our endeavors is not how well we speak or what we say as much as whether we can change the lives of people. That's the way we ought to ultimately keep score. So that's why I took this position.

Press Secretary Myers. Last question.

Q. [Inaudible]—of your administration be coming to Los Angeles and campaign on Mr. Woo's behalf?

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Well, let me tell you something. When Michael Woo endorsed me, there was not much in it for him. I mean, Michael Woo endorsed me before the New Hampshire primary, and I was still running third in California in June. So there was nothing in it for him. There was never any anticipation that there would be some political payback. He did it because he thought I had good ideas and he thought I'd be a good President.

Do I feel a personal sense of loyalty to him? You bet I do, and I'm not ashamed of that. But would I do it if I thought he wouldn't be a good mayor? Never in a thousand years. I believe he'd be a very good mayor.

Q. Mr. President, will members of your administration be coming to Los Angeles to campaign on Mr. Woo's behalf?

The President. I'm embarrassed to tell you I don't know. I've never even discussed that with them or with him. But I'm strongly in favor of him, and I know Ron Brown feels very positively toward him because we talked about him on the way in here today. This is something I want to do because I believe it's good for the people of Los Angeles. If I didn't think it was, I wouldn't do it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the courtyard at Los Angeles Valley College.

Remarks to the Community in South Central Los Angeles

May 18, 1993

Thank you. Can Ron Brown shoot a jump shot or what? But I had a good team. I want to tell you, first of all, how happy I am to be here with the Secretary of Commerce and how proud I am of the people who made the Playground a reality. I want everybody in America to know that there are people here in Los Angeles who believe that we can bring business to this area, we can put people to work, we can make things work, if you have the help you need and the support you need to bring this area back.

And I want you know that one of the things that we're working on in Washington is a law that we call empowerment zones that will help to get more people to invest in businesses like this by giving them special incentives to put people back to work where people live. You look at all the people that live up and down these streets. They're a great economic resource. They have the opportunity to spend their money if they have stores here to spend it on. They have the opportunity to support cleaning up these neighborhoods and support it. That's what you can do. I know you can do it.

And I wanted to come here today not just to have a little fun with a basketball, although I did, but to say to you and to all of America: We're going to have to rebuild this country from the grassroots up, with people who want to work

and are trying to work but who are going to get a hand up. And that's what this program is all about. We want to create all kinds of opportunities like this not only in Los Angeles but in other cities just like this. We can do it. What we've got to do is to make available money and give people the incentives who have their money to spend it here. This is an incredible untapped resource for America. If everybody in this country who wanted a job had one, we wouldn't have half the problems we've got today.

So when we leave here, Ron Brown and I are going back to Washington to go back to work to try to pass an economic program that will put you back to work. And we need your support. We need your support, but it's going to be a lot easier to be able to go back and say I've been there. I've been there time and time and time again, and I know the people there are willing to work hard and play by the rules if they just have a chance to succeed. These children's future depends upon our being able to bring these communities back. I'm going to do my best, and I need your help to do it.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

I just want to say one more thing. You asked me about a lot of issues. We could talk about them, but I want to say one more thing. I spent