let us leave here rededicating ourselves to meet the other challenges that face us, to keep this economic recovery going, to keep this partnership between business and labor and a partnership with Government going, to keep working until every American can have the education and training opportunities he or she needs to compete and win, to keep working until we turn the terrible situation we have in health care around where we’re spending more and covering less.

This is the only advanced country in the world that spends 40 percent more than everybody else, and we’re still losing people with health insurance. There are 5 million people in working families just like yours who had health insurance a year ago, 5 years ago, who don’t have it today.

My friends, we can do better. And until we do better, we will pay the price.

And let us continue our efforts to change the way the political system works. We need more examples of what we had with the crime bill, where we broke through gridlock and a few brave Republicans stood up to their leadership and said, “The American people want a solution to the crime problems. It’s not a partisan problem. It’s an American problem, and we’re going to work on it together.” We need that in other examples as well. We need the Congress to pass the laws reforming the lobbying practices and the campaign finance practices in Washington, to help to free people to make the courageous decisions that have to be made.

And finally let me say this, and I want to close with this because I want you to think about this as you leave. We’ve got to get out of here, or we’re going to raise health care costs by staying in the rain too long. [Laughter] We can create more jobs. We can empower you to seize those jobs. But unless we get back to good, old-fashioned American values of working together in partnership, we’re still not going to do what we ought to do. Everybody is for change in general, but they can always find a reason to be against it in particular. Believe me, there will never be a bill in Congress that is perfect, because we are not perfect people. There is always some reason we can find to say no, to turn away from tomorrow, to be divided from our friends and neighbors.

This Bath Iron Works is coming back because Stoney and Buzz and all the other people put aside their differences to find something they could say yes to. This is going to happen in America because this administration is working with the tools we have to rebuild the American economy in partnership, not sitting on the sidelines and not promising you miracles but promising you progress.

And I ask you as you leave here today to reward people in public life who will say yes to America, who will look for ways to come together, not be divided, who will ask you to be courageous enough to face the tough decisions. That’s the real way to make sure we have a 21st century where the rain brings the sunshine.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. at the Bath Iron Works shipyard. In his remarks, he referred to Tom Donahue, secretary-treasurer, AFL-CIO; George Kourpias, international president, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM); Duane (Buzz) Fitzgerald, president and chief executive officer, Bath Iron Works Corp.; John (Stoney) Dionne, president, IAM Local S6; John E. Baldacci, Maine State senator; and Dennis L. Dutremble, president, Maine Senate.

Statement on the Observance of Rosh Hashana, 1994
September 5, 1994

Warm greetings to all who are celebrating Rosh Hashana in this promising year of renewal.

The high holidays, the most solemn and hallowed days of the Hebrew calendar, mark the beginning of a new year. Jews around the world pause to reassess their lives and their relationships with others and with God. Most important, Rosh Hashana celebrates change—bidding farewell to an old year and welcoming the new.
During last year’s high holy days, the world rejoiced as Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat took the first brave steps toward peace in the Middle East. This year, in the same courageous spirit, we have seen new, bold steps in the peace process. Together, we watched the determined leaders of Israel and Jordan turn away from the sorrow of generations of hostility, blood, and tears to embrace the promises of hope and prosperity.

As the shofar sounds this Rosh Hashana, let it be a summons to build on this long anticipated foundation—a summons to nourish the seeds of peace that have finally been planted on both sides of the River Jordan.

Best wishes to all for a joyous Rosh Hashana and a peaceful new year.

NOTE: A message identical to this statement was also made available by the White House. Rosh Hashana was observed on September 6.

Statement on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 1994

September 6, 1994

I am pleased to extend greetings to all who are observing Yom Kippur, the most solemn of Jewish holidays.

The holy day of Yom Kippur recognizes that all human beings are capable of transgression and of atonement. Judaism teaches that every person, from time to time, fails to act in accordance with his or her highest principles. Yom Kippur offers worshippers the chance to seek forgiveness for sins committed during the past year and to reassess personal behavior. Beyond this, the Day of Atonement urges the repair of torn relationships and encourages treating all people with kindness. It is a day intended for rectifying mistakes and for recommitment in a journey leading from thought to deed.

As we strive to recognize changes that must be made in our own lives and for our entire world, we turn to each other for the strength we seek. Though the challenges of our world are formidable, and ancient animosities are not easily overcome, the past year has shown us time and again that peace is within our power.

Let this day serve as a call to make the changes in our lives and in our communities that peace and prosperity require. Let us rededicate ourselves to caring for others and to teaching our children the lessons of compassion. In the spirit of reconciliation and renewal that were so evident in the Israeli-Jordanian peace initiative, let us work toward building a brighter world for the generations to come.

Best wishes to all for an observance full of meaning and hope.

NOTE: A message identical to this advance text was also made available by the White House. Yom Kippur was observed on September 15.

Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony for the All-American Cities Awards

September 8, 1994

The President. Thank you very much, and welcome to the Rose Garden on this beautiful day. I want to acknowledge the presence of Secretary Cisneros, who was once director of the National Civic League and whose city, San Antonio, a few years ago was an All-American City under his leadership. Congresswoman Johnson, Congressman Borski, Congressman Blackwell, Congressman Thomas, and Congressman Sharp are here.

I also want to say a word of special appreciation for the National Civic League because this is its centennial year. When the league was founded, Theodore Roosevelt said, “There are