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It is wrong to make our police officers risk their lives to apprehend dangerous criminals, then go to the trouble of trying them and seeing them convicted, and then have to see the same police officers face the same criminals on the street before they have received the full punishment the jury gave them. Police officers should not have to risk their lives and then stand like doormen at a revolving door of a penitentiary.

These are commonsense ideas, but they’re more. They’re the least we can do for the brave men and women of American law enforcement.

My fellow Americans, we lost too many wonderful men and women in uniform last year. We lost more last year than in any year in 6 years. Nothing we can do will ease the sorrow or soften the blow for those of you who survive them. Only God and time and the love you have for each other can do that. But you must know how much the rest of us honor them and how much we honor you. Those who gave their lives in the oldest fight of all, for right over wrong, for peace over conflict, for the safety of their neighbors and their family and their friends, in their memory, we must move forward.

I know, as all of you do, that we will never eliminate crime completely. It is not within the power of any of us to totally transform human nature. But I do believe that we can make America a better and different and safer place.

And the test would be simple for me. I believe we would honor the sacrifice of those whom we honor today if we could create an America where every time you turned on the television news, you didn’t see a report of a horrible crime leading the news, and when you did see one, you were shocked instead of numbed; you knew it was the exception, not the rule; you knew we had turned the tide and made this a basically peaceful, law-abiding, safe country for children to grow up in and go to school in and raise their own families in. That is the test by which we must measure our efforts to honor those who have served us with the last full measure of their devotion.

Until then, let me pledge to you that all of us who see you will remain humbled by your courage, know we are safer for your service, and will attempt to be faithful to the standard your sacrifice demands.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:43 p.m. on the Capitol steps. In his remarks, he referred to Gil Gallegos, president, Fraternal Order of Police, and Karen Lippe, president, Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary.

Letter to Senator Bob Dole on the Announcement of His Retirement
From the Senate
May 15, 1996

Dear Mr. Leader:

As I mentioned when we spoke by phone earlier today, you have served your country in so many ways, and you should be proud of your 35 years in Congress. On behalf of a grateful America, as you retire from the Senate, I thank you for your service.

During the fall campaign, you and I will engage in what I believe is one of the most important jobs in our democracy, as we lead a great national debate about how best to move our country into the future. I look forward to participating with you in that discussion.

Until then, I believe that the coming weeks and months can be a moment of genuine bipartisan achievement in meeting the challenges we all face together. Before you go, I look forward to working with you and Speaker Gingrich, and afterwards with your successor, to move ahead to give our people a balanced budget, welfare reform, an increase in the minimum wage and the Kassebaum-Kennedy health care reform.

As you know so well, it is when we work together that we can truly make progress for our country and for the people who sent us here.
Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the National Science Board
May 15, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:
As required by 42 U.S.C. 1863(j)(1), I am pleased to submit to the Congress a report of the National Science Board entitled Science and Engineering Indicators—1996. This report represents the twelfth in a series examining key aspects of the status of American science and engineering in a global environment.

The science and technology enterprise is a source of discovery and inspiration and is key to the future of our Nation. The United States must sustain world leadership in science, mathematics, and engineering if we are to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

I commend Science and Engineering Indicators—1996 to the attention of the Congress and those in the scientific and technology communities.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Remarks During Panel I of the White House Conference on Corporate Citizenship
May 16, 1996

The President. Thank you very much, Father O'Donovan, for giving those assembled here in 5 minutes the essence of what I got in the 4 years in my Georgetown education. [Laughter] When I was a student, I came to this magnificent old hall many times to hear other people say things I thought were very wise. I never imagined I would be here so many times myself in this position, but I am delighted to be back.

This is a peculiarly American event we're about to have today. And I'm glad that the business students from Georgetown are here, the law students, the undergraduate students. I understand this is the day after finals; that shows the level of devotion to this topic—[laughter]—that I hope the rest of us can match.

I also want to thank the business leaders who are here and the labor leaders who are here. There's a remarkable collection of people here from large, medium, and small companies, men and women, different racial and ethnic backgrounds, people who represent different kinds of unions and different work organizations, all committed to discussing this very important topic today of citizenship in the workplace.

As the nature of work and the nature of the workplace changes dramatically and we move so rapidly into the 21st century, what do we owe each other in the workplace? What do employers owe employees? What do employees owe employers? What, if anything, should the Government do to help to deal with the new challenges that we face?

We are here today for two reasons: First of all, because there are some very profound changes taking place, and if we respond to them properly, we get very good results. But even in the good results we see some paradox: our economy in the last 3½ years, a deficit that's less than half of what it was when I became President, low inflation, 8½ million new jobs, a 15-year high in homeownership, all-time highs in exports and small business formation. But still, according to studies done by both the Business Roundtable and the AFL-CIO, high levels of uncertainty in our work force, people uncer-