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So I say this, even though—if you're a senior and you think, "Oh, my goodness, I'm so glad that Bill Clinton didn't come to my school and give this speech 5 years ago—[*laughter*]—because they might have changed the rules and made me take all these courses," even if you think that, you should want your brothers and sisters coming up behind you to take all these courses, because it will be better for our country and for your future if we do it.

I've been told that the motto of this school is, "We expect; we believe; we achieve." Well, when I look at you, and I think of where we're going in math and science, I expect America to lead the way. I believe in you to be on the forefront of that. It's up to you to achieve.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Michael A. Durso, principal, Springbrook High School; Gov. Parris N. Glendening of Maryland; Nancy S. Grasmick, Maryland State superintendent of schools; Nancy J. King, president, Montgomery County Board of Education; Gov. Cecil H. Underwood of West Virginia; Mayor Richard Riordan of Los Angeles; Rudy Crew, chancellor, New York City public schools; Robert Moses, director, the Algebra Project; and William S. (Bill) Nye, host of the PBS children's television program "The Science Guy."

Statement on Proposed Tobacco Legislation

March 16, 1998

I congratulate the public health and tobacco producer communities for working together to promote bipartisan, comprehensive tobacco legislation that dramatically reduces youth smoking and protects American farmers and their communities. I am firmly committed to protecting farmers and their communities and have made this commitment one of the five key elements that I will insist upon before signing tobacco legislation. I hope you will continue your efforts to expand your coalition and to enact comprehensive tobacco legislation this year that protects our Nation's children.

Statement on the Death of Dr. Benjamin Spock

March 16, 1998

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Benjamin Spock. For half a century, Dr. Spock guided parents across the country and around the world in their most important job—raising their children. As a pediatrician, writer, and teacher, Dr. Spock offered sage advice and gentle support to generations of families, and he taught all of us the importance of respecting children. He was a tireless advocate, devoting himself to the cause of improving the lives of children. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.