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Foreword

During the first half of 1998, America crossed an historic threshold. Six years after we put in place a new economic strategy, America's economy continued to reach new heights. Most dramatically, the Federal budget deficit—a number once so incomprehensibly large that it had 11 zeros—became merely zero. By May, we were projecting the first budget surplus since Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. This seismic shift, from an era of deficits to an era of surpluses, was the result of 6 years of hard work by the American people, and of tough choices made in Washington. The new era of budget surpluses would mean new opportunities and new challenges, and it would demand a new national debate about how best to use our hard-won prosperity. In my State of the Union address I sought to launch and frame this debate with four words: save Social Security first. I believed we had a duty to use the fruits of our prosperity to prepare for the challenges of the 21st century.

In this time of great public controversy, I redoubled my efforts to focus on America's true priorities. I proposed a national effort to help reduce class size in the early grades by hiring 100,000 new teachers and by building or modernizing 6,000 schools. I called on the Congress to pass a patients' bill of rights for the 160 million Americans in managed health care plans. And as part of my initiative on race, we held conversations across the country, bringing citizens together across lines of race, religion, and ethnicity to build one America.

It was a time when we moved forward to build new institutions and strengthen and advance America's values and leadership abroad. In Geneva, before the World Trade Organization, I set out a vision for a new international trading system. I said such a system must be more open and dynamic, but that it must also honor our values by ensuring that spirited economic competition among nations does not become a race to the bottom in environmental protections, consumer protections, or labor standards. In the first-ever tour by an American President of sub-Saharan Africa, I met with President Mandela of South Africa and witnessed firsthand the workings of a new democracy in which former oppressed and former oppressor sit side by side in a unity government, and traveled to some of Africa's emerging countries, from Ghana to Uganda. On my trip to China, I spoke to the Chinese people about the meaning of freedom. I said America believes that individual rights, including the freedom of speech, association, and religion, are universal, and that the Chinese government's actions in Tiananmen Square in 1989 were wrong. I also emphasized the interests both our nations could further by engaging with one another. And in Northern Ireland, the people agreed to an historic peace accord, raising hopes that decades of violence will come to an end. Around the globe, we saw the good that can come when America fulfills its mission as the strongest force for peace and freedom.

William Clinton

Preface

This book contains the papers and speeches of the 42d President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period January 1–June 30, 1998. The material has been compiled and published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. In instances when the release date differs from the date of the document itself, that fact is shown in the textnote. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy: Remarks are checked against a tape recording, and signed documents are checked against the original. Textnotes and cross references have been provided by the editors for purposes of identification or clarity. Speeches were delivered in Washington, DC, unless indicated. The times noted are local times. All materials that are printed full-text in the book have been indexed in the subject and name indexes, and listed in the document categories list.

The Public Papers of the Presidents series was begun in 1957 in response to a recommendation of the National Historical Publications Commission. An extensive compilation of messages and papers of the Presidents covering the period 1789 to 1897 was assembled by James D. Richardson and published under congressional authority between 1896 and 1899. Since then, various private compilations have been issued, but there was no uniform publication comparable to the Congressional Record or the United States Supreme Court Reports. Many Presidential papers could be found only in the form of mimeographed White House releases or as reported in the press. The Commission therefore recommended the establishment of an official series in which Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks of a public nature could be made available.

The Commission's recommendation was incorporated in regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, issued under section 6 of the Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. 1506), which may be found in title 1, part 10, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

A companion publication to the Public Papers series, the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a more timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. Beginning with the administration of Jimmy Carter, the Public Papers series expanded its coverage to include additional material as printed in the Weekly Compilation. That coverage provides a listing of the President's daily schedule and meetings, when announced, and other items of general interest issued by the Office of the Press Secretary. Also included are lists of the President's nominations submitted to the Senate, materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary that are not printed full-text in the book, and proclamations, Executive orders, and other Presidential documents released by the Office of the Press Secretary and published in the *Federal Register*. This information appears in the appendixes at the end of the book.

Volumes covering the administrations of Presidents Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush are also included in the Public Papers series.

The Public Papers of the Presidents publication program is under the direction of Frances D. McDonald, Managing Editor, Office of the Federal Register. The series is produced by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Gwen H. Estep, Chief. The Chief Editor of this book was Karen Howard Ashlin, assisted by Brad Brooks, Anna Glover, Margaret A. Hemmig, Maxine Hill, Michael Hoover, Alfred Jones, Jennifer S. Mangum, Michael J. Sullivan, and Karen A. Thornton.

The frontispiece and photographs used in the portfolio were supplied by the White House Photo Office. The typography and design of the book were developed by the Government Printing Office under the direction of Michael F. DiMario, Public Printer.

Raymond A. Mosley
Director of the Federal Register

John W. Carlin
Archivist of the United States

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Cabinet

Secretary of State	Madeleine K. Albright
Secretary of the Treasury	Robert E. Rubin
Secretary of Defense	William S. Cohen
Attorney General	Janet Reno
Secretary of the Interior	Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of Agriculture	Dan Glickman
Secretary of Commerce	William M. Daley
Secretary of Labor	Alexis M. Herman
Secretary of Health and Human Services	Donna E. Shalala
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Andrew M. Cuomo
Secretary of Transportation	Rodney E. Slater
Secretary of Energy	Federico Peña
Secretary of Education	Richard W. Riley
Secretary of Veterans Affairs	Togo D. West, Jr.
United States Representative to the United Nations	Bill Richardson
Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency	Carol M. Browner
United States Trade Representative	Charlene Barshefsky

Director of the Office of Management and Budget	Franklin D. Raines Jacob J. Lew (acting, effective May 20)
Chief of Staff	Erskine B. Bowles
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Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers	Janet Yellen
Director of National Drug Control Policy	Barry R. McCaffrey
Administrator of the Small Business Administration	Aida Alvarez
Director of Central Intelligence	George J. Tenet
Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency	James Lee Witt

Administration of William J. Clinton

1998