pay raise? How are we going to do this? We should do this not just for those folks but because they can help us build a better America and better lives for everybody.

And so I say to you, we've got to pass these laws. And we have to make it an American issue. It can't be a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. It shouldn't be the Black Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, or Bill Clinton's idea. I don't care—I would gladly put any label on this you want if I thought it would pass it. I would be glad to call it the "Herbert Hoover-Warren Harding-Calvin Coolidge Economic Development Act." I will do anything to pass it. [Laughter] There is plenty of credit to go around. And I ask you to do everything you can to try to make this an American issue.

And I ask all my friends in the business community to go down to Washington, call your Members in Congress, without regard to party, and say, "Hey, you know, the President made a pretty good point there. If our markets are going to keep dropping next year, we've got problems. We need some new markets. We need someplace to put the money that has been made so it can make some more money." So I implore you to do that.

Let me just say one final thing. I don't want to make another point and make a whole other speech, but don't ever forget that we're not going to be able to get business to go into or to stay in areas where people don't have the education and skills to do the jobs that are needed. And we need the business community to keep supporting our schools, to help people who need help with adult literacy or to go back and finish high school, to mentor those kids in middle school so they'll go on to college. We can't forget that, because if we do, there will be a limit to how successful we can be.

Now, a lot of things have been said about Dr. King today. And nearly everybody has committed some portion of his "I Have A Dream" speech to memory. But I found a sentence in there that applies uniquely to us here, that I don't ever hear anybody quote, but it's very important. He said in 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, that he challenged America, quote, "to refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity in this Nation." Now today, those vaults of opportunity are richer and fuller than they ever have been. Wall Street has helped to make that so. Now what we need to do is to open those vaults up so they'll fill up even more for all of you.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. at Windows on the World Restaurant in the World Trade Center. In his remarks, he referred to Jesse Jackson, founder and president, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition; former HUD Secretary and 1996 Vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp; John J. Sweeney, president, AFL-CIO; Percy Sutton, founder, Inner City Broadcasting; Ron Burkle, owner, Yucaipa Cos., Los Angeles, CA; Richard Grasso, chairman and chief executive officer, New York Stock Exchange; H. Carl McCall, State comptroller; Weldon Latham, Jr., partner, Pittman, Potts, and Trobridge; Sanford I. Weill, chairman and co-chief executive officer, Citigroup; Emma Chappell, founder and chief executive officer, United Bank of Philadelphia; and development economist Muhammad Yunus, managing director, Grameen Bank, Bangladesh. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Dinner
January 15, 1999

Thank you very much. Robert left his cards up here, so I'm going to take them home and put them in my keepsake album. [Laughter] If he ever gets mad at me, I'll call him on the phone and read this speech back to him. [Laughter] I want to thank all of you for being here and for being there for Hillary, for me, for Al and Tipper, for our administration over all these last years and especially during the last year. I'm going to miss Steve Grossman and his team at the DNC. I thank Len Barrack. I thank Carol...
Iat the Kentucky Derby. It was an amazing event. in 1983, actually just before they got married, together now, even though our lives are consider-
don a lot of campaigning together. We did
in ’83; we did in ’96; we do a few events to-
ger to leave and come, to go as you please. 
here voluntarily, but we want you to be able
Brown; all of you will remember how sort of the last year in office of Governor John Y. gotten a chance to go back since. But it was
My Old Kentucky Home."

Hollywood, to talk to women and their children, especially their daughters, about what their lives
 ed for them ever since, whatever the issue is. [Laughter] Oh, and the horse won by three

I really admire them both for so many rea-
s. It’s not easy to do this—to sort of get
out front, get your friends here. Some of you came all the way across the country to be here
 because they asked you. And I appreciate that and hope the weather is not so bad you can’t
get back. Those of us who are in Washington don’t want anybody to be trapped here who
doesn’t want to be. [Laughter] We all came here voluntarily, but we want you to be able
to leave and come, to go as you please. [Laughter]

Finally, let me say, you can’t imagine—you
know, Al and Tipper and Hillary and I, we’ve
done a lot of campaigning together. We did
in ’92; we did in ’96; we do a few events to-
ger now, even though our lives are consider-
ably busier, and often with conflicting schedules. But I think that one of the real secrets of what-
ever success that we’ve had for the American people has been that we have really tried to
be a team; we’ve tried to be friends; we’ve tried to be family; and we’ve tried to be frank with
each other. And each person has made a unique contribution. And then we’ve tried to model that in dealing with the Democratic Party and the House and the Senate groups and all of our friends around the country that are involved in whatever initiative we’re involved in. It seems to me that’s the way people ought to live, but it turns out it’s a fairly effective way to do business.

And I think it’s fair to say that Tipper Gore has given the mental health issue more visibility than it’s ever had on the national stage, and it will have an enduring, positive impact. I think it’s clear to anybody who has looked at it that whatever even my harshest critics would have to say, that the Vice President has been far and away—not even close—the most influential person in his position over more issues, achieving more for the American people than anyone who has ever held his position in the entire history of the Republic. Not only that, as you will hear me say increasingly in the months ahead, and any mistakes we made were my fault. [Laughter]

Of course, I don’t even know how to talk about what I believe Hillary has meant to the success of our endeavors. She’s been on every continent. She’s gone to places most people in her position don’t go, both in America and beyond our borders, into little villages in Africa and Asia and Latin America and the Indian sub-continent, to talk to women and their children, especially their daughters, about what their lives can be and what we should do to help them. She’s gone all over America to save the Star-Spangled Banner and Thomas Edison’s lab and Harriet Tubman’s home and the national treasures that we believe we should hold close to our hearts as we move toward the millennium. And just a thousand other things. And she has done it under circumstances I think are probably more difficult than anyone who has ever done it before. I love her for it, but our country should love her for it as well. It’s been remark-
able.

You know, I keep hearing that books and books and books will be written on how we won seats in the midterm election in 1998. Since
the Civil War, the President’s party has only
won midterm elections under Theodore and
Franklin Roosevelt, each in their first midterm
election—and, as you heard, not since 1822, in
the sixth year. And I can save you a lot of
reading—it is not complicated. We showed up
for work every day, and we remembered who
we were working for. And we wanted power
not to just have it and exercise it against any-
body but just to use it for a little while to
advance the American people’s dreams.
It is not complicated. And we had people
like you who helped us raise enough money
that even though we were outspent by $100
million, we at least had enough to get our mes-
 sage out. And we said, “Look, we work for you.
Here’s where our country is; here’s where we’re
going; here’s what we’d like to do.” It was not
complicated.
We’re proud to be members of our party,
but we believe progress should take precedence
over partisanship. We believe unity should take
precedence over division. We believe political
power should be used with purpose to advance
the lives of people only. And if you give us
a little help, we will, now that the country is
working again—and the economy is perhaps the
best in history and the welfare rolls are the
lowest in 29 years, and the crime rate is the
lowest in 28 years, and we’ve got the lowest
peacetime unemployment since 1957—now that
the country is working again, we would like to
look to the long-term challenges of America.
We would like to deal with the aging of
America by working Social Security and Medi-
care and thinking about other things so that we baby
boomers don’t have to burden our children and
our grandchildren when we retire. We would
like to look to the flowering of our children,
the largest and most diverse group of school-
children we’ve ever had, and make sure that
every one of them has a chance to have a world-
class education.
We would like to look to the strength of our
families and make sure that they have health
care that is adequate, affordable, and quality
health care, which is why we want this Patients’
Bill of Rights. We would like to continue to
grow the economy under increasingly competi-
tive and difficult conditions. We would like to
remain the world’s strongest force for peace and
freedom and prosperity. And we think we have
the obligation to do that, which is what our
efforts in the Middle East and Northern Ireland
and Bosnia and Kosovo and other places in the
world are all about.
And if that’s what you want us to do, we’re
ready to try harder, but we need a little help.
That’s what we said.
Now, on Tuesday night I will be given the
great honor that comes to the President once
a year to report on the State of the Union
and then to amplify in greater detail what this
agenda means and what I hope we can accom-
plish in a bipartisan manner in the Congress
in the coming years. But when you go home
tonight and you ask yourselves why you came
and what you believe in, I hope—whether it
was worth your time and your money—I hope
you will be proud of what has happened in
these last 6 years. But I hope you’ll also be
determined to make the most of the days ahead.
This 6-year thing is arbitrary. It gets in peo-
ple’s minds, gets in administrations’ minds, and
they think, “Oh, well, I’m 75 percent through.”
I think there’s still 25 percent of the time left.
Just a question of how you look at it. And in
the rhythm of life, it seems to me that you
get hired to show up every day. And I get the
same daily wage now I did on the first day
I was President, so it seems to me I ought
to put in the same level of effort.
But if I could say in a more serious vein
in closing, there are many reasons that I am
a member of this party, besides the fact that
my granddaddy would turn over in his grave
if I weren’t. [Laughter] And we could talk about
that all night. But on the eve of the new millen-
num, when we’re living in a complex econ-
omy and an increasingly new world society,
when you are communicating with each other
in different ways and people are living and
working in different ways, when there are vast
prospects for us coming together with different
kinds of people, and also new threats because
of our increasing openness and interconnection
with the rest of the world, there are three basic
things I’d like for you to remember, because
I hope it says what we’re about.
One is, we honestly believe that no person
is better than any other and that every child
in this country, without regard to race or reli-
gion or station in life or circumstance, ought
to have the chance to live up to his or her
God-given abilities. And the role of government
should be to create the conditions and give them
the tools, and give their parents the support,
so that they have a chance to do it.
Two is, we honestly believe that none of those individuals can make the most of their lives alone and that our membership in a community will enrich our own lives as it enriches others. Today was Martin Luther King’s 70th birthday. Some of the most brilliant things he ever said were about the importance of community; about how, no matter how brilliant you are, no matter how strong you are, no matter how rich you are, no matter how whatever you are, your life can only take on full meaning and texture if you are part of a community. And that’s why I have worked so hard against all the divisions of the country, to make us one America.

And number three is that the essence of our democracy is that the people rule, and those of us who are elected are literally representatives of them. Whether in a representative branch of Congress or in the executive branch of the President, the power we exercise every day is not ours. We exercise it on behalf of the country as a whole. And its only legitimate purpose is to advance all those little children out there and living up to their God-given abilities, and advance our efforts to come together as one America, and to advance our efforts to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of our time.

Our administration has been about that. Every day has been a joy. Even the bad days have been an honor. And I believe America is better off. And Tuesday night I’m going to ask the country to go back to work, because we’ve still got a lot to do.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 p.m. in the foyer at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. In his remarks, he referred to event hosts Robert Altman and his wife, Lynda Carter; Steve Grossman, national chair, Leonard Barrack, national finance chair, and Carol Pensky, treasurer, Democratic National Committee; Deborah Dingell, wife of Congressman John D. Dingell; former Gov. Ann Richards of Texas; and musician Sheryl Crow.

The President’s Radio Address
January 16, 1999

Good morning. On Monday America will celebrate the birth of one of our greatest heroes, Dr. Martin Luther King. This morning I’d like to talk to you about how we can honor his legacy on that day, and all throughout the year, by rising to the call of citizen service.

This morning I’m joined by Harris Wofford, the CEO of our Corporation for National Service, a former United States Senator and, long before that, a close friend and adviser to Dr. King. Five years ago, then-Senator Wofford and Congressman John Lewis of Georgia cosponsored a bill to encourage Americans to devote Martin Luther King Day to serving in their communities. And I was proud to sign it into law. We believe that this national holiday should be a day on, not a day off, for as Dr. King once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you going to do for others?”

On Monday more than 100,000 Americans, including students, soldiers, ministers, seniors, and members of the AmeriCorps national service program, will fan out all across their communities to paint schools, clean neighborhoods, read to children. There’s still time for you to sign up. You can do so at www.AmeriCorps.org.

Now, in 1993 we created AmeriCorps to give young people a chance to serve in their communities and, in the process, to earn some money for college. We gave them a chance to serve not just for a day but all year round. And since then, 100,000 young people have taken the AmeriCorps pledge. They’ve done remarkable things. Since Dr. King’s last birthday, they’ve rehabilitated thousands of homes, immunized tens of thousands of children, tutored hundreds of thousands of students, performed millions of hours of service.

Just as important, our diverse AmeriCorps members are learning lessons that will last a lifetime. In the words of one member, “It’s unity, people working together. You don’t see color. You see people who have come together with just one purpose.” For all these reasons, I will ask Congress to increase its support for AmeriCorps this year.