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to know that. You need to know what the real deal is when people start calling these bills. “I’m for the Hatch bill or this bill or the other bill,” you know. You need to know what the real deal is. That’s what killed that bill in Texas. That’s why James Byrd’s family couldn’t get help in Texas to pass the hate crimes bill.

Now, there are lots of other issues I could give you, but you get the idea here. And you’ve got to tell people this. If you want to keep changing in a way that keeps the prosperity going, you’ve got to pay the debt down and invest in education and health care, and you’ve got to do it in a fiscally responsible way. If you’re prepared to go back and blow a hole in the deficit and get a huge tax cut and privatize Social Security and risk it and think maybe it will work better this time than it did the last time, you can do that. But you’ve got to understand, there are differences.

If you don’t care whether you ever get the hate crimes legislation or a minimum wage increase, if you don’t care what happens to a woman’s right to choose, when two or more appointments are made to the Supreme Court, if you don’t care about the Patients’ Bill of Rights and all that, if you don’t care about the school construction initiative or the teachers or

the preschool and after-school programs, then maybe there aren’t any consequences to your vote. If you don’t care, you just vote for the one you like. And maybe we’ll win; maybe they’ll win. The race is as tight as a tick.

But if people understand what the choices are and what the impact is on them, we will win handily. So I implore you: Don’t waste a day. Talk to somebody every day. You’ve got to win the State Senate; you’ve got to win this House seat here. We’ve got to carry Colorado and America to keep the progress going.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:20 p.m. in the Upper Ballroom at the Oxford Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Wellington E. Webb of Denver; State Attorney General Ken Salazar; State Senator Ed Perlmutter; Timothy D. Knaus, chairman, Colorado Democratic Party; Kent Toltz, candidate for Colorado’s Sixth Congressional District; Representative Mark Udall; event cohosts Walter and Christie Isenberg, Merle Chambers, Hugh Grant, and Tommy and Pat Short; Comdr. Kirk S. Lippold, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. *Cole*; and Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush of Texas.

Remarks at a Reception for Former Representative Maria Cantwell in Seattle, Washington

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Thank you very much. First, I want to thank you for coming in to be with me, and to be with Maria. I want to thank you for helping her. And I want to ask you to do everything you possibly can to get every person you can possibly drag to the polls on November 7th. If our people vote and they understand the issues, we’ll win. It’s not very complicated.

I wanted to be here for several reasons. First of all, I’m profoundly grateful to the State of Washington. You’ve been very good to me and Al Gore. You gave me your electoral votes twice. And I hope you think you made a good decision, because the State’s in better shape than it was 8 years ago.

But the second reason I wanted to come here is because I feel a special debt of gratitude

and a special bond to Maria Cantwell. She was one of the people that was willing to put her whole political career on the line to turn this country around. And her opponent’s now out there running ads against her for voting to save the American economy and mischaracterizing, again, our budget in 1993. Let me just remind you, when I took office, we had a \$290 billion deficit. It was supposed to be \$455 billion this year. Instead, we have a \$230 billion surplus. Why? Because by one vote, Maria Cantwell’s vote, we turned America around. She ought to go to the United States Senate.

And let me just—I remember when they said, you know, my economic plan would be a disaster for America; all the Republicans did. They all voted against it. It was terrible. It was going

to have a recession. You know, the world would come to an end. Time has not been kind to their predictions.

And so you've got a clear choice here. You've got a clear choice in the Senate race; you've got a clear choice in the President's race; you have a clear choice in all these congressional races. Now, we made the painful decisions before. All we have to do now is be prudent and visionary. Are we going to keep investing in education and health care and pay down this debt and give the people a tax cut we can afford, targeted to middle-class people and lower income working people who need it? Or are we going to go back and do what they did before, have a huge tax cut?

And I can tell you—I will say this: In spite of how murky the Republicans have tried to be in the way they've messed up these issues, in the first Presidential debate—something that I kept waiting to see in blaring headlines in the press I haven't seen yet—the Republican nominee actually admitted that it was going to cost \$1 trillion to partially privatize Social Security. So if you spend \$1.5 trillion on the tax cut and \$1 trillion partially privatizing Social Security and several hundred billion dollars on their spending promises, we're right back in deficit.

Our program is, spend more than they will on education, invest more than they will in health care, but keep paying down this debt to keep interest rates down. That keeps the economy going, plus which, it's a huge tax cut. With lower interest rates, there's lower home mortgage rates, lower car payments, lower college loan payments, lower credit card payments, as well as lower business loans. Our deal works better.

Now, you need to go out—you need to go out and tell people this. Ask them to remember what it was like 8 years ago, and if they really want to ratify that decision or they want to reward somebody who had the courage to take America in a different direction. And I'm telling you, it was all on her shoulders. We carried that thing by one vote. And now he wants you to vote against her for getting Washington out of the dumps and bringing America back, so they can get in power and do to us what they did before? That's the argument they're making. You need to go tell people that, and don't fool around with it. It's clear.

So the first big deal is the economy. The second thing is education. We believe we ought to help build more schools and repairs schools. We believe we ought to put another 100,000 teachers in these schools, so the kids can have smaller classes. And they're not for that. We believe we ought to pass a Patients' Bill of Rights and have a Medicare drug benefit that benefits all seniors, and they're not for that, because their interest groups won't let them be.

And there's a clear choice here. Whether it's the minimum wage, the hate crimes bill, the employment nondiscrimination bill, the extraordinary efforts I'm proud to say our administration has made to try to support the Native American communities—in every single instance, their leadership has been in one place; we've been somewhere else.

So you've just got to decide here. And you need to talk to people who tell you, "Well, it may not make a difference." It does make a difference. It makes a huge difference. Somebody tells you one Senate seat doesn't make a difference, you tell them America would still be in the budget hole and still be in the economic hole if it hadn't been for every single House seat and every single Senate seat where we had the people voting for you. And Maria Cantwell was one of them, and she would be a brilliant United States Senator.

And so I'm just telling you, I have done everything I could do to turn our country around, to pull our people together, to move our Nation forward. But now we have to decide, what are we going to do with the prosperity? You know, people took a chance on me in 1992. I don't know how many people in Washington State walked into the polling place and said, "I wonder if I ought to vote for that guy." [Laughter] "You know, he's pretty young, and the President," the then-President, "said he's just the Governor of a small southern State." I was so naive, I thought that was a compliment. [Laughter] And I still do. But you know, it wasn't that big a chance, because, I mean, the country was in a ditch. We had to do something different, right?

So now we're in good shape, but we have to figure out, how are we going to include the people who still aren't part of this prosperity? How are we going to give all of our kids an excellent education? How are we going to provide access to health care for people who don't have it? What are we going to do with the

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aging of America, when there's only two people working for every one person on Social Security? We have big challenges here. And we get to decide.

But make no mistake about it. The differences are just as stark and just as clear as they were 8 years ago. And the stakes, if anything, are higher. Maybe once every 50 years a country gets to do what we can do now, where you don't have an external threat, an internal crisis, things are going in the right direction, and you get to paint the future of your dreams for your children and your grandchildren. Once in a blue moon this happens.

And you need visionary people who understand how to be fair to everybody, how to make the economy work, but make it work for everybody. And you know, there aren't many people

with the unique background and achievements that Maria has presenting themselves for public office. And there aren't many people who can stand here and tell you—and I'm telling you—that they were the deciding vote that turned this country around.

And if you like where Washington is today better than you liked it 8 years ago, there is no choice. You've got to make sure she wins this election on November 7th.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:33 p.m. in the Fifth Avenue Room at the Westin Hotel. In his remarks, the President referred to Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush of Texas. Maria Cantwell was a candidate for the U.S. Senate in Washington.

Statement on Signing the Third Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001 *October 14, 2000*

Two weeks ago the fiscal 2000 budget year ended. Since then, I have had to sign two short-term continuing resolutions to keep the Government open. Yet Congress has yet to complete and send me 8 of 13 spending bills. Last night I signed another one-week extension. Let me serve notice now: If Congress fails to meet this deadline, any further extensions must be at most for a very few days. Congress needs to finish its work and send me a budget. It should be a budget that is fiscally responsible, that reflects the values of the American people, and that invests in the future, especially in the education of our children.

I sent such a budget to Congress in February. Among other things, my budget calls for tax credits to help communities build or modernize 6,000 schools, and grants and loans for emergency repairs in 5,000 schools a year for 5 years. The need is undeniable. The average American school building is now more than 40 years old. At least 60 percent of the schools in every State are in need of repair, and some schools actually pose health risks to students. I received a letter yesterday from some of the Nation's top health organizations, including the American Lung Association and the National Association of School Nurses. They point out that in many of our

older school buildings, the air is polluted with lead, radon gas, and other substances harmful to our children's health.

These groups endorse my proposal to rebuild and repair our schools. A bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives is ready right now to pass school construction tax credits. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership continues to stand in the way and refuses to bring it to a vote. It's time for Congress to act. It's unfair to ask America's children to lift themselves up in school buildings that are falling down.

The majority party's education budget also fails to make other vital investments in education. It does not ensure the hiring of another 20,000 teachers to reduce class sizes. It denies after-school to over 1.6 million children who would get it under my balanced budget proposal. It shortchanges efforts to improve teacher quality. And it invests nothing to help States turn around failing schools or shut them down and reopen them under new management.

The continuing resolution I signed last night gives Congress 7 more days to act. That is enough time to pass a responsible budget that modernizes our schools, strengthens accountability, lowers class sizes, expands after-school, mentoring, and college opportunities for young