

Oct. 14 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000

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

people, and helps put a qualified teacher in every classroom. It should also be a budget that puts more police on the street, that enforces civil rights, ensures equal pay, expands health care, and creates opportunities for all Americans to share in our strong economy through our new markets initiative.

At this time of unprecedented prosperity, there is no reason we can't put partisanship

aside and make the investments we know will move our Nation forward, especially in the education of our children. By building stronger schools, we'll build a stronger America in the future.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 111, approved October 13, was assigned Public Law No. 106-306.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Deployment of United States Forces in Response to the Attack on the U.S.S. *Cole* October 14, 2000

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

At approximately 5:15 a.m. eastern daylight time, October 12, 2000, a small boat exploded alongside the USS COLE (DDG 67) while the USS COLE was mooring to a harbor fueling island during a refueling stop in the port of Aden, Yemen. A number of American sailors were killed or wounded, and the USS COLE suffered extensive damage. Department of Defense assets were immediately identified to provide medical, security, and disaster responses.

Later in the day on October 12, 2000, approximately 45 military personnel from U.S. Naval Forces Central Command deployed to Aden to provide medical, security, and disaster response assistance. In addition, a team of approximately 50 U.S. military security personnel arrived in Aden in the early morning hours of October 13, 2000. It is also anticipated that additional similar security elements may be deployed to the area. The security personnel will enhance the ability of the United States to ensure the security of the USS COLE and the personnel responding to the incident. Although the security personnel are equipped for combat,

their presence is solely for the purpose of assisting in on-site security. Finally, two U.S. Navy surface combatant vessels are operating in or near Yemeni territorial waters to provide communications and other support, as required. United States forces will redeploy as soon as the additional security support is determined to be unnecessary.

I have taken this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution.

I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action to assist in ensuring security of U.S. military forces and other personnel overseas.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Remarks at a Reception for Governor Gary Locke in Seattle October 14, 2000

Thank you so much. I am really glad Gary decided to have the event in this Washington.

I want to say, first of all, thanks to your wonderful attorney general. Christine, you have been a great attorney general. You have been