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our crowd will do fine, because the American people nearly always get it right.

And the last thing I want to say is this. Al Gore often says in his speeches, "You ain't seen nothin' yet." And I guess maybe it sounds like a political statement. But as you know, I'm not running for anything, and I believe that. [*Laughter*] I believe that. It takes a long time to turn a country around. And we've been working on turning this country around, pulling it together, moving it forward. But you just think of that. You think about babies being born sometime the next 10 years with the life expectancy of 90 years.

Most of you are going to live to see what's in the black holes in outer space and what's in the deepest depths of the ocean. We're just that close to cracking the chemical barriers to converting biomass into fuel in an efficient way. Right now, to make ethanol or any biofuel, it takes 7 gallons of gasoline to make 8 gallons of fuel. If we get just a little more chemical progress, we'll be able to take 1 gallon of gasoline and make 8 gallons of biofuel, and when that happens, we'll all be getting 500 miles to the gallon. You can forget about worrying about that. [*Laughter*]

Look, all of this stuff is out there, which is why, by the way, these racial and ethnic and other fights and religious fights are so maddening, because it will make it possible for children in the poorest places in the world to participate in a common future. It's all out there. But we've got to make the right decision. And these elections are going to be close. We're going to be outspent. But if we have clarity, if the people know—understand what the differences are and what the consequences are, we will do fine.

So I'm putting it on you. You've been real nice to me tonight, and I shouldn't do this, but I'm putting it on you. Every day between now and the election, you will see somebody that will never come to one of these deals, and you can turn them, and you can get them to come. And I promise you, you will never have another election where it will matter more. So do what you can, and we'll have a great celebration.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:05 p.m. in the Cascade Room at the Westin Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Governor Locke's wife, Mona Lee Locke; Mayor Paul Schell of Seattle and his wife, Pam; Deborah Senn, candidate for U.S. Senate in Washington; Rick Larson, candidate for Washington's Second Congressional District; Paul Berendt, chair, Washington State Democratic Party; Edward G. Rendell, general chair, Democratic National Committee; Representative Inslee's wife, Trudi; Maria Cantwell, candidate for U.S. Senate from Washington; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea; former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa; Vinton G. Cerf, senior vice president of Internet architecture and technology, MCI WorldCom; Eric Lander, director, Whitehead/MIT Center for Genome Research; Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush of Texas; and former Secretaries of the Treasury Robert E. Rubin and Lloyd Bentsen. Representative Inslee was a candidate for reelection in Washington's First Congressional District.

## Statement on the 1999 Uniform Crime Report

*October 15, 2000*

The final 1999 Uniform Crime Report released today by the FBI confirms that for the 8th year in a row—and for the longest period ever recorded—crime has fallen all across the country, improving the quality of life and safety of American families. The report shows that overall crime, as well as violent and property crime, fell more than 7 percent from 1998 and 1999. Crime is down in communities of every region and size across the nation.

Crime rates rose steadily through much of the 1980's. Since Vice President Gore and I took office, our Nation has come together to reverse those trends. Our administration focused on giving communities more and better tools to improve public safety, including 100,000 more

police for our streets, stronger gun laws, and smart prevention. Combined with the dedication of police and communities across the country, these tools are making a major difference. The overall crime rate is at a 26-year low; the murder rate is at a 33-year low; and the violent crime rate is down to its lowest point in over two decades. We must do more to ensure that these downward trends continue. Today I call on Congress to reauthorize the COPS program to hire up to 50,000 more community police officers, send me a budget that funds our COPS program and other vital crime-fighting initiatives, and pass commonsense gun legislation to keep guns out of the wrong hands. By working together, we can continue our Nation's unprecedented success in reducing crime and make America's streets even safer.

NOTE: This statement was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 13 but was embargoed for release until 6 p.m. on October 15.

## Remarks at the Opening of the Plenary Session of the Middle East Summit in Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt

*October 16, 2000*

Well, first of all, I would like to thank you, President Mubarak, for having us all here, for providing an opportunity for the Palestinians and the Israelis to come together and to talk and for us all to try to save the peace process.

I thank His Majesty, the King of Jordan; and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who has been working very hard out here, and we're grateful for him; and my good friend Javier Solana from the European Union—for all being here.

I think it's very important that we all be quite honest and blunt with each other, but we be sober and serious about this. We're here because we would like to achieve three objectives. We want to end the violence and restore security cooperation. We hope to achieve agreement on an objective and fair factfinding process on what happened to bring us to this sad point and how we can avoid having it ever happen again. And we want to get the peace process going.

The future of the peoples involved here, the future of the peace process, and the stability of the region are at stake. We cannot afford to fail here. In order to succeed, though once again we have a situation piled high with grievance, we have got to move beyond blame. We have got to focus on what we're going to do tomorrow and the next day and the next day. We have to have a balanced, mutual disengagement, and we have to restore the security cooperation and have the confidence-building measures necessary for people to go about their business and live in peace and begin to rebuild the bonds of trust.

The only other thing I want to ask you all is just to remember before these terrible events how far we have come since September 19, 1993, when the Palestinians and Israelis signed the agreement to find a peaceful future together and resolve their differences peacefully on the lawn of the White House.

We shouldn't give it all up for what has happened in the last few weeks. And what has happened in these last few weeks reminds us of the terrible alternative to continuing to live in peace and to continuing the peace process.

President Mubarak, I am grateful to you, again. We can, if we will look to the future and proceed in a fair and balanced way, we can do what we have to do here, and we must do that.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. at the Jolie Ville Golf Resort. In his remarks, he referred to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Abdullah II of Jordan; United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan; and European Union Council Secretary General Javier Solana, High Representative for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.