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morning with the families of the fallen and injured sailors and their larger Navy family in Norfolk.

Like the golfers here, they come from many different ethnic and religious backgrounds. Like you, they stood for our common humanity and those who want to build a world where we bridge our differences and celebrate our diversity. When you play in this tournament with honor and by the rules, respecting the character and ability of your opponents, you show the world, including those rooting hard for you, the way we all ought to live and work. You offer another rebuke, although gentle and gentlemanly, to those who believe our differences are more important than our common humanity.

I ask you to say a little prayer for those folks tonight. This is a tough day for them. Almost all those 17 sailors were very young, just beginning life's journey. But they were proud of what they did, and what they did and what their successors do today is very important. May God bless them and their families.

Now, as the honorary chairman, my first order of business is to declare this tournament officially open. Secondly, I have been informed—much against my better instincts—to declare this a no-mulligans zone. [*Laughter*] Now, I would like to invite the two captains up here to join me for a presentation and before the Cup.

Thank you very much, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:58 p.m. at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia; Tim Finchem, commissioner, PGA Tour; Ken Venturi, U.S. team captain, and Peter Thomson, international team captain; and Vernon Jordan, president, Robert Trent Jones Golf Club.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Reports of the Department of Transportation

October 18, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Department of Transportation's Calendar Year 1998 reports on Activities Under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, the Highway Safety Act of 1966, and the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act of 1972, as amended.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,

October 18, 2000.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 19.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Iraq's Compliance With United Nations Security Council Resolutions

October 18, 2000

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

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102–1 as amended by Public Law 106–113) and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am reporting on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council. My last report, consistent with Public Law 102–1, was dated July 17, 2000. I shall continue to keep the Congress informed about this important issue.

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. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 19.

Remarks to the Democratic Caucus
October 19, 2000

Thank you so much for the wonderful welcome. I want to begin by saying that it has been a profound honor for me to work with this caucus over the last 8 years. I want to thank Tom Daschle, who has been wonderful; and Dick Gephardt, whom I knew well before I became President, but we have, I think, built a great friendship, a deeper one, in these last 8 years. And I'm so proud of him.

I want to say to all of you that I believe that in these last 2 weeks and 6 days before the election, the best politics is for us to get as much done as we can for America here in the Congress of the United States. And in the process of doing that, I think what we ought to seek to do is to bring clarity to this debate.

It looks to me like our friends on the other side in Congress have adopted their Presidential strategy. Their Presidential strategy—now their congressional strategy—is cloud the issues. Things are doing well. They will get by. Our strategy should be, clarify the issues, and we'll win big. That is clearly the difference.

I was very proud of the performance of the Vice President in that last debate. I thought he was great, trying to bring clarity. But you've got to give it to the other side. As hard as we try to bring clarity, they're real good at clouding up. I almost gagged when I heard that answer on the Patients' Bill of Rights in Texas. Could you believe that? Here's a guy who takes credit for a bill that he vetoed. And then, finally, the guys that were helping him say, "If you want to be President, you can't veto a Patients' Bill of Rights, or people will look dimly on it. So you'd better let it pass." And then he was bragging about how you have a right to sue in Texas. Did you hear that? Do you know how that got in? Without his signature. He sort of—so they're real good. They cloud. And I've been reading in the press, apparently no one thinks that was an exaggeration or something that was troubling, but it sort of bothered me.

And then there is their great argument that you've done nothing about health care in 8 years. Look, when we came in, Medicare was going broke last year. Now, we put 27 years on it—I think, the longest it's been alive in 35 years—not to mention the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill, the Children's Health Insurance Program, which is what has given us a decline in the number of people without health insurance for the first time in 12 years.

Then there was the education recession argument. You know, one of the things I admire about our Republican friends is that evidence has no impact on them. [*Laughter*] And you've kind of got to respect that. They know what they believe, and they know what they're going to say, and, "Don't bother me with the facts."

What are the facts? The dropout rate's down. The high school graduation rate's up. The college-going rate's at an all-time high. Reading and math scores are up. There's been about a 50 percent increase in the number of kids taking advanced placement courses, but a 300 percent increase in Latino children taking advanced placement courses, and a 500 percent increase in African-American kids taking advanced placement courses.

Then there was that argument that—the one that tickled me the most was, "Well, the wealthiest Americans have to get tax relief, because we're giving tax relief, and what do you expect us to do? I mean, I'd just be the President. I can't make decisions about this." [*Laughter*] That was their argument, wasn't it? I mean, "Who are we to make decisions? We can't make judgments and choices. I mean, if you're for tax relief, you just sort of put it out there, and people just kind of come along and get whatever they get. But we didn't decide to give it to them. We were for tax relief, and it just happened. I mean, how could we possibly make a decision here? I mean, whoever heard of a