AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

lant and vocal, we can do what we have to do.

On this President's Day, we recall the many times in our history when past Presidents have challenged this Nation from this office in times of crisis. If you will join with me, we can create an economy in which all Americans work hard and prosper. This is nothing less than a call to arms to restore the vitality of the American dream.

When I was a boy, we had a name for the belief that we should all pull together to build a better, stronger Nation. We called it patriotism. And we still do.

Good night, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Democratic Congressional Leaders

February 16, 1993

Economic Program

Q. ——apply it to everyone earning more than $250,000——

The President. Stay tuned.

Q. ——as has been reported?

Q. Mr. President, Senator Gramm says this isn't contributions from everybody, it's just raw pain.

Q. Which Gramm? [*Laughter*]

The President. I think when you see the whole program it won't be raw pain. I think most middle class Americans, when you look at the cost plus the benefits, are going to be much, much better off. It's a very progressive program. And a lot of the wealthiest American business leaders I've talked to believe that their businesses will be much better off with stable long-term low interest rates and the availability to invest and grow. And they think that the price is a small one compared to the long-term economic health of their own businesses as well as the economy.

Q. Are you going to have a second round of tax increases to pay for health care, as a memo advising your task force——

The President. Tune in.

Q. But will that be necessary——

The President. Depends on how you do it.

Q. Is it harder to cut spending than you thought it would be? Is it more difficult?

The President. We've cut quite a bit of spending. I think it is difficult to justify cutting big health care spending unless it is in the context of providing affordable health care to everybody, because you don't want to do it in a way that's really burdensome on the consumers with health care. The people we help now with Government money in health care are elderly and the poor. So we can control that spending in the years ahead but only in the context of an overall health care program. So if you take health care off the books and you take some of the debt off the books, it's more difficult to get big spending cuts. But I think we've done a pretty good job, and tomorrow night we'll outline it.

Q. How about the question-and-answer session?

The Press. Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:50 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Democratic Congressional Leaders

February 16, 1993

Economic Program

Q. Mr. President, do you think you can get Ross Perot to at least not criticize this economic plan?

The President. I don't know——

Q. Have you been in touch with him or anybody on your staff been in touch with him to try to get him on board?

Q. Do they treat you like this all the time?

The President. Tomorrow night, all the time. [*Laughter*] All the time.

Q. What a job. [*Laughter*]

Q. Mr. President, what——

The President. ——budget practices—it's truth in budgeting, truth in budgeting.