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strength and the power to take control of their own lives.

I think it's important that the people of America know, all the people of America know, that in our cities where people have many problems, most of the people who live there are good, God-fearing, law-abiding, hard-working people who are doing things like this to help their friends and neighbors and who want things to work better.

So my commitment to you is to do what I can as President to help you succeed here, in your church and on your streets. And I hope that all Americans on this Thanksgiving, including many Americans like me and Hillary and our family who have more than they could ever have asked for, will take some time out to work, as you are working, so that other people who don't have so much can also have something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving and throughout the year.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

[*At this point, the President and Mrs. Clinton were presented with T-shirts.*]

The President. Let me say one other thing, Reverend Wiley. I like this church also because you've got a husband and wife team here who are both pastors, both pastors of this church, and making this thing work as a family, along with your distinguished father who preceded you in the pulpit. Reverend Wiley, it's good to see you. And we like to see people working together like this and all of you doing that. I appreciate it and respect it very much. Thank you for your service and your ministry. I'll wear this jogging. Thank you.

Brady Bill

Q. Mr. President, did you get a deal on the Brady bill?

The President. It looks like the Brady bill is going to be passed any minute, and I am very happy. Right before I left to come over here, it appeared that an agreement could be reached between Senator Mitchell and Senator Dole to end the Republican filibuster of the Brady bill. I am elated. It is a wonderful Thanksgiving present for the American people. It will enable us nationwide for the first time in history to check people who are trying to buy handguns for their age, for their mental health history, for their criminal history. It will be a beginning in what must be a long and relentless assault on the problems of crime and violence in this country. And we are beginning. It's a great Thanksgiving present, and next year I look forward to passing the crime bill and to continuing to do this work for as long as I'm in this job. It's very important.

We're going to rebuild the families, the neighborhoods, the communities, the schools, and safety and security, from the grassroots up. This is the first step. I am very happy. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:46 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Dennis and Christine Wiley, pastors, Covenant Baptist Church.

Teleconference on the Passage of the Brady Bill and an Exchange With Reporters

November 24, 1993

Q. How soon do you think for the signing, Mr. President?

The President. Early next week, I hope. We're working on it.

Q. And what about the compromise? Were you satisfied with the kind of compromise the Republicans want to bring to a vote?

The President. They asked for the right to bring it to a vote and to know that it wouldn't be vetoed if they could pass it. We all agreed, all of us together, that that was acceptable.

Q. Do you think the Republicans were afraid to go home to their districts this weekend without reaching some kind of agreement?

The President. I think the American people would have been real disappointed if Congress had gone home without this bill. And I think they'll be very happy now. It's a great Thanksgiving present.

[*At this point, the telephone conversation began.*]

The President. Hello, Senator Mitchell, how are you doing? Mr. Speaker?

Senator Mitchell. [*Inaudible*]

The President. You sure are. I told you last night, see.

Senator Mitchell. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Well, we are delighted. I am here with the Vice President, Attorney General Reno, and Jim and Sarah Brady in the Oval Office, and we're all happy as can be. And we thank you very much for a wonderful session of Congress and a wonderful ending.

Senator Mitchell. [*Inaudible*]—back to health care next year.

Speaker Foley. A lot of work to be done next year, Mr. President, we're going to look forward to working with you on.

The President. And we're ready to roll, and we're very grateful to you. Have a good Thanksgiving and a good Christmas.

Speaker Foley. I'd like to put on Bob Michel here just to say a word to you.

Senator Mitchell. And Bob Dole as well——

The President. Please do.

Senator Mitchell. ——without whose cooperation we could not have achieved this result today.

Representative Michel. Hi, Mr. President, this is Bob Michel speaking.

The President. Hello, Bob.

Senator Dole. Bob Dole——

The President. Hi, Bob. Thank you both very much.

Senator Dole. Well, we think it was kind of a capstone of the whole session to get the Brady bill behind us. As I indicated yesterday, I thought we could do it if we just hung in there.

The President. Well, it worked out and all of us are very pleased and very grateful. And I'm especially glad that we're ending this session on two measures where there was substantial bipartisan support for the progress that we're making. And I'm very appreciative of it, grateful to both of you. I hope you have a good holiday.

Senator Dole. Same to you, Mr. President.

Representative Michel. Yeah, thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. Take care of that shoulder, Bob.

Representative Michel. [*Inaudible*]—I would have to agree with the assessment. It got confrontational at times, but it's nice to leave in an amicable mood when we're talking the same language. We'll be back next year.

The President. Can't wait to see you.

Representative Michel. Happy Thanksgiving to both you and Mrs. Clinton.

The President. Thank you.

Speaker Foley. Goodbye, sir.

The President. Goodbye, Mr. Speaker.

Senator Mitchell. Okay, thank you again, Mr. President. Have a good Thanksgiving.

The President. Thank you, Senator Mitchell.

Senator Mitchell. Talk to you soon.

The President. Bye-bye.

[*At this point, the telephone conversation ended.*]

The President. I would just like to say before we leave, on behalf of the Vice President and the Attorney General and myself, that we believe very passionately in the Brady bill, as all of you who were involved in the campaign know, that I spoke about it at every campaign stop and every country crossroads in this country. But none of this would have ever happened if it hadn't been for the courage and dedication and constancy of Jim and Sarah Brady. They worked for 7 years for this day. This is their victory, and I'm glad to be a small part of it.

And I hope that it means what I believe it does, which is that the American people are serious about our doing something about mindless violence, about the terrible conditions under which our young people are laboring, where so many of the children are being shot, weapons of mass destruction that they shouldn't even have in the cities or anywhere else in this country. And I hope this is the beginning of our effort to rebuild the fabric of this country from the grassroots up.

Our administration is dedicated to that. The Attorney General has spent her life working on it. And if this is the beginning of what I think it is, then the entire Nation owes Jim and Sarah Brady even more than for the Brady bill; they have changed the focus of our Nation. It's high time. It took them too many years to do it. What a wonderful Thanksgiving for them. And we are thankful for them. Thank you very much.

James Brady. Thank you, Mr. President. [*Inaudible*]

[*At this point, Sarah Brady thanked the President and Members of Congress for their help in passing the Brady bill.*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Former White House Press Secretary James Brady was wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. His wife, Sarah, is head of Handgun Control, Inc. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Nomination for Commander in Chief of the United States Southern Command

November 24, 1993

I am pleased to announce that I have nominated Lt. Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey to succeed Gen. George A. Joulwan as Commander in Chief of U.S. Southern Command and for promotion to the rank of General, United States Army.

Lieutenant General McCaffrey has had a long and brilliant career spanning nearly three decades. He has served our Nation proudly in four combat tours and in seven foreign nations. As commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division, he deployed the division to Saudi Arabia and led it on combat missions essential to the success of Operation Desert Storm. In addition, his performance in sensitive and demanding staff positions in Washington, including his current role as Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Staff, has distinguished him as one of our Nation's foremost military analysts and strategists. He has fully demonstrated both the military expertise and political acumen needed to fill one of our most strategically important postings.

I have asked Lieutenant General McCaffrey to apply his considerable talents to enhancing the important security relationships we have developed with our neighbors in the region, to refining the role of the U.S. Southern Command in hemispheric affairs, and to continuing the outstanding work done by General Joulwan. I have the utmost trust and confidence in his ability to do so.

Statement on the Technology Reinvestment Project

November 24, 1993

We're putting the people and expertise that helped America win the cold war to work on restoring America's industrial competitiveness. We are bringing together private industry, State and local governments, and community colleges to form technology deployment alliances. Together they will see to it that small manufacturers have access to the latest and best information, techniques, equipment, and know-how.

The TRP's industrial outreach program is designed to promote the best in American manufacturing practices and expertise. We mean to recreate in industrial America the same success that the agricultural extension programs had in making America number one in agriculture. The States have pioneered programs to apply technology to industrial needs. With a Federal partner, these programs can help smaller defense firms adjust and compete in commercial markets. The goal is a simple one: more jobs for American workers.

NOTE: This statement was part of a White House announcement on naming a second group of awards in the technology reinvestment program.

Statement on Signing the Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1993

November 24, 1993

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 3167, the "Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1993." This legislation will provide the unemployed and their families with important assistance by extending eligi-