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tions. Because of Iraq's failure to comply fully with these resolutions, the United States will continue to apply economic sanctions to deter it from threatening peace and stability in the region.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
August 1, 1995.

Remarks on the Report on the State of American Education and an Exchange With Reporters

August 3, 1995

The President. Good afternoon. I'm glad to be here today with the Vice President and Secretary Reich, Secretary Riley, Deputy Secretary Kunin, Congressman Owens, Congresswoman Pelosi, and all these distinguished education leaders.

The Secretary of Education is going to present me his draft report on the condition of education today. And since the House is about to vote on the education funding bill, I thought it was appropriate to make a brief statement.

This is a critical time for American education for at least two reasons. First of all, everybody knows that the level of education and skills of our work force will determine their ability to get and keep good jobs and to have a secure future. Secondly, the number of children in our schools is once again rising. Today, one in four Americans is in school. The need for skills development is greater than ever, and the number of people who need it is larger than ever.

I have made a proposal on education which shows that you can balance the budget and fully fund education and training in a way that is good for the economy. It's good for the economy to balance the budget; it's good for the economy to invest in education. And it is what we owe to our young people and to older people who need further education and training to get better jobs.

Our balanced budget actually increases education $41 billion over the next 7 years. The bill being voted on today in the House does exactly the reverse. It dramatically cuts education—$36 billion. It would take 180,000 children off Head Start. It would end funding for Goals 2000, which raises standards and shrinks class size, which is terribly important. It would cut one million children who are poor out of the benefits of the Title I program. It would cut 300,000 low-income students out of Pell grants for college. It would target almost 600,000 unemployed and underemployed adults who won't be able to get job-training programs, mostly in their local community colleges, throughout this country. This is wrong. It is simply wrong.

Before this Congress, education and training have been matters of bipartisan common ground. President Bush often talked about how proud he was of increasing Head Start. This is the first time, as far as I know, in the history of the Head Start program when the Congress is poised to reduce the number of children in Head Start.

The school-to-work program is being cut. It's terribly important. There are a lot of young people who don't go to 4-year colleges who need the opportunity to get further training after high school and good jobs. And of course, what is being done to the college programs and the job training programs are simply unacceptable.

So from preschoolers to adults, this bill is a body blow to their future and a body blow to our efforts to create a high-opportunity, high-wage economy, not a hard-work, low-wage economy. This is a decision today that will affect the incomes of the American people.

The biggest problem we've still got is that we've got good economic performance, but more than half of our people are having stagnant wages. This will make the problem worse. Under the guise of balancing the budget, we are consigning millions more Americans to a more limited future. It is wrong, and I certainly hope it is defeated today.

Bosnia and Croatia

Q. Mr. President, does it help to have Croatian forces engaging the Bosnian Serbs on the western edge?

The President. Well, we have—what we have cautioned the Croatians about is widening the war. We don't want to see a widening of the war. We understand their desire to

relieve the pressure on Bihac. And of course, that is a commitment the United Nations has made as well.

So we hope that whatever is done can be done without leading to a wider war. One of the prime objectives of the United States has been to try to confine the conflict to its present dimensions.

Teenage Smoking

Q. Mr. President, do you think that smoking among youth is——

The President. I think that smoking among youths should be diminished, and the Government has a responsibility there. I'm looking at what our options are, and we'll have an announcement on it before too long.

Q. So you support that idea?

Q. Is that a yes?

The President. I think—I told you what I—I think it's a terrible problem. We've got to do something about it. It's going up when it ought to be going down. If you want to lower health care costs, increase life expectancy, and broaden the quality of life for people, reducing teenage smoking is one good way to start. There's hardly anything we could do that would have a bigger impact. The question is, exactly what should we do? I've gotten some recommendations on it, and we'll have a position shortly. I just don't have an announcement to make today.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Statement on Proposed Welfare Reform Legislation

August 3, 1995

I strongly support the Work First bill proposed by Senators Daschle, Breaux, and Mikulski. Instead of maintaining the current welfare system, which undermines our basic values of work, responsibility, and family, this plan sends people to work so they can earn a paycheck, not a welfare check. It provides the child care people need to move from welfare to work and to enable them to stay off welfare in the first place. It holds State bureaucracies accountable for real results and rewards States for putting people to work, not just cutting people off. It saves money by moving people to work, not by shipping the States more problems and less money. The Work First plan is real reform, and it should be the basis for a strong bipartisan bill.

It is time for Congress to reach across party lines and pass real welfare reform. The American people have waited long enough.

Statement on Hurricane Erin

August 3, 1995

For several days now, we have been watching and waiting as Hurricane Erin approached the Florida coast, not knowing what to expect but preparing for the worst. We thank God that this storm did not pack the catastrophic punch that others have in the past. However, it did cause considerable damage.

Our hearts and prayers go out to all who have been impacted by the hurricane. We pray for a quick recovery. To help that process get underway, I have tonight signed an emergency declaration for the State of Florida and have asked James Lee Witt, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to coordinate all efforts to save lives and protect the health, safety, and property of those affected.

There are already FEMA trucks loaded with plastic sheeting, chainsaws, generators, and other tools headed for the impacted area. Director Witt will go to Florida first thing in the morning, inspect the damage, and report back to me.

I have spoken with Governor Chiles and asked him to convey to the people of Florida our commitment to this recovery effort. I am proud of the work Governor Chiles and all of the State and local emergency workers did in preparing for this storm. As a former Governor, I know how important emergency preparedness is in saving lives and protecting property. I applaud their efforts and salute the courage and strength of all Floridians dealing with the damage caused by the hurricane.