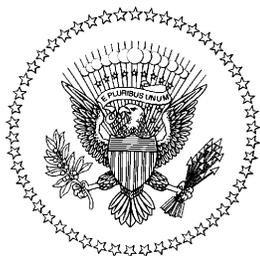


Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



Monday, February 26, 1996  
Volume 32—Number 8  
Pages 313–364

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**Editor's Note:** The President was in Santa Monica, CA, on February 23, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under

regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Week Ending Friday, February 23, 1996

**Remarks Prior to a Roundtable  
Discussion on Floods in Wilkes-  
Barre, Pennsylvania**  
*February 16, 1996*

Thank you very much. Well, Jim, I was looking at the pictures behind me while you were talking, trying to visualize what you all have been through. And I want to just begin by thanking you and everyone who worked with you for the way you handled this, and also the people of this area for the way they handled it.

Governor, Congressman, Mayor, we're all honored to be here with you. I'm here, obviously, along with the James Lee Witt and a number of people from the Federal Government who were privileged to work with you. We have Dave Sharma from the Department of Transportation, a number of people here from SBA, General Genega from the Corps of Engineers, and Martin Lancaster, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works. And I'll have more to say about them in a moment.

I think all of you know that the Governor and your two United States Senators who had to go back to work and Congressman Kanjorski, and Congressman Holden and I, along with our FEMA Director, James Lee Witt, just toured Parkin Street with the mayor. And I must say I was very moved by the spirit of the people there. They told me some of the stories and I went over to the place where the water came out and I saw the damage there to the canal.

I have—I followed this problem with great interest, and, of course, even though I was a long way away and not in public life then, I have very vivid memories of that 1972 flood. Everyone in America saw it unfolding and saw the suffering that all of you went through. And I want to say that I know there were other places which really suffered in the Wyoming Valley. We have people here, I think, from Plains, Avoca, and Shickshinny

and Lycoming County. There was, I think, the Governor told me—I think you had 12 people lost their lives in this flood. So I just want to say to all the people of Pennsylvania how much I appreciate what you went through.

I also—in these natural disasters I never cease to be amazed by the courage and ingenuity and stamina people show. I just met a—when I was out West I met a man who was a retired employee of the public utility in this little town where I visited. He was a Norwegian immigrant well up into his sixties, and to help the town deal with the aftermath of the flood, he worked for 8 hours on a jackhammer with a cracked rib. And that's the sort of thing that you see all over America.

I want to compliment Eric Malone here who is, as I understand it, only 19, and he used his jet ski to pull five people from the Juniata River. I couldn't even stay on a jet ski. [*Laughter*] And I'm impressed that he got himself and others on. I thank Jean Wilde for coordinating the evacuation of Mercy Hospital and the work that you are continuing to do. And I thank you, sir. I can't believe that you evacuated 100,000 people. For those of us who were not here when this flood occurred, we saw the pictures, but I don't think that the dimensions of it hit home in the rest of America until it was announced that you were actually evacuating 100,000 people. We saw the pictures of all of these people leaving their homes. It made a profound impact on everyone.

We want to continue to do our part at the national level through all of the Federal agencies. FEMA has already invested \$35 million in response and recovery effort here, and that number will continue to climb. The Small Business Administration, I believe, has already approved about \$11½ million in home and business loans. The Corps of Engineers is here, and the fact that Martin Lan-

caster and Bill Coleman are both here is very encouraging to me.

To date, the Department of Transportation has allocated \$11 million to help repair roads that were damaged by the floods, and today I am pleased to announce—I talked to Secretary Peña just before coming here—that we will provide another \$10 million for that purpose. That will give you \$21 million to deal with the roads. And FEMA is going to give this city another \$400,000 to repair the damage along Parkin Street to the canal.

But that, I think, is just the beginning. I think the Federal housing assistance to the State, Governor, will run somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10 million for the people who have had their homes damaged. And I'm sure there will be more.

One of the things that you mentioned that I wanted to emphasize is that in 1993, after we dealt with the impacts of the terrible flooding in the Middle West, and the Governor was still in Congress then—you remember, we changed the law to permit, I think, up to 15 percent of the total losses in any given State to be used for the State to develop a mitigation plan to avert such things happening again. And we estimate that you will probably have somewhere in the neighborhood of \$15 million that you can put into mitigation.

And so I would urge you to make maximum use of that, to come up with whatever plans you can to avert this from happening again. And, of course, that would be over and above the work that the Corps of Engineers has now agreed to do. And I think Congressman Kanjorski announced this last night. But I want to emphasize that the Corps has now agreed to move forward with a contract that can be done now that this preliminary agreement has been made, and we can start work on that this year to make sure that the Wyoming Valley will never be subject to a flood like that which came in 1972. And I think that's very important.

And I believe they're prepared to provide some extra protection as well. I know—the Governor and I were talking about the other communities in this area and in the State that were damaged by the flood. I think FEMA has already made available about \$2½ million to local governments, and as you need

it there is more available there to help the local governments try to deal with the problems that they sustained in the flood.

So the main point I want to make to you is, I am grateful to all of you for what you have done, and we will do our part. And the thing that I am determined to do is to see that we stay with you until all the work is done, until you've returned to normal, until you've got everything back the way it ought to be. And we'll stay all the way through.

I've already said more than I meant to. I'd like to spend some time now hearing from the rest of the people around the table if you want to tell me how you think we should do that.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 noon in the chapel at King's College. In his remarks, he referred to Jim Siracuse, emergency management director, Luzerne County; Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania; Mayor Thomas McGroarty of Wilkes-Barre; and William Coleman, Deputy Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### Remarks to the Community in Wilkes-Barre

February 16, 1996

**The President.** Thank you very much.

**Audience member.** We love you!

**The President.** Thank you.

**Audience member.** Hillary, too!

**The President.** Thank you very much.

I want to begin by saying that Patrick Murphy did not have the easiest job in the world today and that all of his fellow students who stood up and cheered him may have made it a little harder even. [Laughter] But he hung in there, and he did it very well. And he spoke powerfully about this community and his people. I think we ought to give him another hand. [Applause]

Father Lackenmier, I want to congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of King's College. You know the Vice President was in Pennsylvania just a couple of days ago to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first computer, ENIAC, over in Philadelphia. So Pennsylvania now has three 50-year-olds: ENIAC, King's College, and me.

When your president said that King's College was 50 and so was I going to be 50 this year, I looked out at all the students, and I thought, it looks a lot better on you than it does on me. *[Laughter]*

I was delighted to be here today to review the flood damage and hear a progress report with your two United States Senators, with Governor Ridge, with Congressman Holden, who is also here and does a very fine job for his district and Congress, and with Congressman Kanjorski who spoke today so well. I can tell you there aren't very many people in the Congress that are as effective, as persistent, downright nagging—*[laughter]*—in advancing the interests of the people of their district as Paul Kanjorski. You are very well served. He is always nice, he is always dignified. But he is utterly relentless in your behalf, no matter what the issue is.

And I want to congratulate your young mayor, Mayor McGroarty. It's been a long time since I met a public official with so much energy and enthusiasm. I don't know if he ever sleeps. And if we could bottle whatever it is he has and reproduce it, we wouldn't have to build any power plants in America for 10 years. *[Laughter]* I think he's got a great future.

I also want to thank all the Federal officials who are here with me, and in particular, the gentleman who is behind me, James Lee Witt, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, who's been spending more time with you and more time in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho than he has in Washington, DC, in the last several weeks. He is the kind of person, I think, that reflects the very best in our National Government—the true spirit of public service.

And all of the Federal officials here, including the local representatives of all of these agencies, I want to thank them as well. They have enjoyed having the opportunity to work with you in this difficult time.

I'd like to say one more word about Patrick Murphy, because it makes the point I want to make. I'm not going to make fun of him anymore. When this disaster was imminent, he and his brother, J.J., led fellow students to help fill and pile sandbags. A lot of other young people did that as well. Some of the young AmeriCorps volunteers who were in-

troduced, our national service volunteers, also worked on that program. As a lot of you know, the AmeriCorps program is now headed in Washington by your former Senator, Harris Wofford, who also helped to create the Peace Corps.

I want to say that we need to find ways to multiply the spirit shown by Patrick Murphy, by the AmeriCorps volunteers, by the students of King's College, if we're going to meet our country's challenges. A couple of days ago I was out in Washington State and Oregon, viewing the floods there; you may have seen the films. And I went into the home of a 70-year-old man. He and his wife had literally just lost everything they had. He was hard of hearing, and he even lost his hearing aid in the flood; the water washed it away. And I thought to myself, how do you start over when you're 70? I was walking down the street toward this man and I thought, how will he feel when I come there?

And he said to me, "I'm so glad to see you, and I've never met a President before, but maybe it wasn't time. This is the first time I've ever been able to invite a President into a home with an indoor swimming pool." *[Laughter]*

You know, this is a pretty great country. And the man went on and introduced me to his wife and his two daughters and his granddaughter. And he was raving about how all of his friends and neighbors came to his aid. And they were talking about a man I later met who was a retired utility company employee, a naturalized immigrant from Norway, who had worked 8 hours with a jackhammer—well up in his sixties—with a cracked rib.

I don't know if any of you have ever tried to hold a jackhammer in the proper place before, but it isn't easy if you're young, strapping, strong, and you can breathe well.

But I was looking at all these people—we were having this talk and when I left this man's home, I said, "I'm really impressed with your sense of humor and the way you and your wife are handling this." He said, "As awful as it is," he said, "it's wonderful. Look at how we're all behaving." He said, "Don't you wish we could be this way all the time?"

So I say to the people of the Wyoming Valley, to all the communities that were hurt so badly, to the people in the rest of Pennsylvania who suffered so greatly—all of the members of the families of people who lost their lives and those who have suffered heart-breaking losses—our country has been very moved by your spirit and by what you have done. Our country has been very moved by individual examples of courage.

Just a few moments ago, I was meeting in a roundtable with some people who worked in this flood and some of your local officials. I met young Eric Malone, who is behind me—a 19-year-old world champion jet skier who lives just outside Altoona who found out you could run a jet ski in a raging flood, and saved a lot of lives as a result and risked his own life. And I thank him for doing that. I asked him if he would give me a ride on his jet ski. But only on a calm lake. [Laughter]

I want to thank Dr. Christopher Breiseth, the president of Wilkes College, who is with us today—[applause]—some of his students are there, I guess—for the difficult work he had to do in evacuating his school. I want to thank Jean Wilde from Mercy Hospital, who evacuated people there. And, you know, you always think of a hospital taking people in. Can you imagine the psychological pressure of evacuating a hospital, the one place every community looks to be a pillar of strength and security and hope? I want to thank Jim Siracuse, the Luzerne County Emergency Management Director, who coordinated the evacuation of 100,000 people.

I'll tell you, folks, when something like this happens, because news is instantaneous, I've become just almost like another American. I get most of my information off of breaking television news. And all of America was watching you and pulling for you, and we never knew, I don't think, how serious this was even with all the gushing water we kept seeing until we learned that you had to evacuate 100,000 people. That got America's attention.

There are so many others I would mention if I knew them or if we had the time. I just want to say that I applaud all of you who looked beyond your own needs to help others and to help people get through this crisis.

You have really shown us, as that elderly gentleman in Washington said, that America can rise to its challenges and show its best self. And I thank you for that.

I do want to say something to all the people in Pennsylvania who tried to be good friends and good neighbors to those who suffered losses. Mr. Witt and I worked together for years in Arkansas where I was the Governor. We saw whole, little communities buried in floods. We've rescued people off the roofs of their house. We have a State with the highest per capita incidents of tornadoes in the country. I have seen whole communities decked by tornadoes. I have seen wind blowing so hard that literally thin sheets of paper were going so strong they pierced the bark of trees. I've seen trucks in the tops of trees and houses moved half a block off their foundations with the foundations apparently untouched. And, of course, I have seen a lot of people who lost everything.

And I would just say this: For all the wonderful things you have done, it's important to remember that the people who really sustained great losses were more or less in shock for the first several days after it occurred. And a lot of the most difficult times will come now and maybe even a week or two or a month from now. So I ask you to remember that, because this is something the Federal Government can't do, that one-on-one personal commitment it takes to get people all the way through a tragedy.

I will say this: I know that the work of rebuilding and repairing this State is not over when the flood waters go down or when the emergencies have passed. And I do want to assure you that we will do everything we can to continue to do our part until this State and all its communities are completely rebuilt. I know that about 32,000 people registered for help through FEMA at the 800 number or one of our disaster centers, that we've had over 19,000 home inspections already, that more than \$23 million in payments have been applied for and dispensed through the disaster housing program.

I want to compliment Denise Ginger, who is also up on the stage with me. She was at our roundtable, and she got her check within 2 days of her home inspection. And there it was, and she wasn't sure what it was for,

because there it was 2 days later. And she was such an honorable person she would not cash that Government check until she made absolutely sure what it was for. I told her if we had a million more Americans like her, we wouldn't have any problems in this country. And I thank her. Stand up there. Thank you. [Applause]

We have approved more than 600 small business loans worth about \$10½ million to help small businesses and individual homeowners and renters and nonprofit organizations and some not-so-small businesses as well. The Department of Transportation has now committed over \$20 million. I told the mayor today that we were going to give him \$400,000 to fix that canal along Parkin Street where I was to make sure that it doesn't break again and that it is still protection against the floods.

We are going to keep working with you until this job is finished. That's what we did in working with Florida and California and the States along the Mississippi River. And we want to do what Congressman Kanjorski says; we want to prevent these problems from coming again.

In 1993 in the wake of those horrible floods, those 500-year floods in the Middle West, the Congress passed legislation that I strongly supported to enable us to take up to 15 percent of the value of the disaster payments to the State when something like this happens to be spent on mitigation to try to protect people against it recurring. I said today I was very encouraged by my conversations with the Governor. When we get a Pennsylvania State plan, we will look forward to putting that money in here, and we want to see people protected from having to go through this again. So far as we can, we will work with you until that job is done as well.

I'd like to close with a few words that refer to some of the things the president of this college talked about in his opening remarks. If you look at what happens in this flood, you know that when our country works together, we never lose. If you ask me what is the lesson that you have learned most clearly in the last 3 years and a few weeks as President, I would have to tell you that that is the lesson I have learned. The era of big Government is fading. We now have

the smallest Federal Government we've had in 30 years.

All big organizations are going through changes. We see that everywhere. It's part of the information and technology revolution that's going on. We don't need large, big, centralized bureaucracies to solve grassroots problems, or to perform big, national functions; we know that. But that does not mean that we can go back to a time in America where people were simply left to fend for themselves.

One of the great and enduring contributions of the Catholic Church to this country are the Catholic charities and the mission you see in every Catholic college and university in this country of service, of understanding that we are all stronger when we help each other to live up to our God-given capacities; and that is something every American must remember as we move into this new age.

We are working to balance the budget in Washington. We should do that. We never ran a permanent deficit in this country just all the time until about the early eighties. We've cut the deficit in half in the last 3 years and we ought to finish the job; but we ought to do it consistent with our values, which include our responsibilities to each other, to our parents, to our children, to families who have disabled children. That's what we ought to do.

If you look at the challenges that I tried to set before our Nation for the future in the State of the Union Address, in every single instance, there is something for everyone to do, including your Government; it should be smaller, but it should not be weak. When the floods come, you don't want FEMA and the Small Business Administration and the Department of Transportation to be weak.

When we argue to open markets so our people can get a fair deal in selling their goods and services abroad, you don't want a trade program that is weak. And when people tell you that Government is inherently no good, just remember this: In the last 30 years, we have spent one-half of your money, one-half of the taxes that you've paid to the Federal Government on three things: national defense, Social Security, and Medicare.

What did you get for that? We won the cold war; the poverty rate among elderly people was cut in half; and if you live to be 65 and you start drawing Medicare in America, elderly people have the longest life expectancy of any group of elderly people in the entire world. I think we got our money's worth.

Part of my college education was paid for by a national defense education loan. I was proud to pay it back on time with interest, but I was proud to get it, too. I think America was better off because people in my generation were able to get help to go to college. And these young people today live in a time when the percentage of a family's income, a middle-class family's income, required to finance a college education is far greater than it was when my generation went to college.

So I say to you, we should invest in scholarships for children who need it. We should invest in the college loan program. We should do that. I have sent a budget to the Congress consistent with the balanced budget plan that will let a million young people engage in work-study programs so they can help to work themselves through college and that would give our families a tax deduction for the cost of college tuition up to \$10,000 a year. I think that's the kind of thing we ought to have.

So I ask you to think about these challenges that we face. How are we going to build stronger families and give every child a childhood? How are we going to guarantee quality education to all Americans? How are we going to declare or develop a system for economic security for working families?

You know, this is an amazing economy we have. We have more new businesses started every year than ever before. The last 3 years, every year broke a record. We have more new self-made millionaires than ever before; not people who gave them anything, people who used the opportunities of this age. But we also have more than half of our wage earners working harder without ever getting a raise. And we have in a lot of big companies people who got downsized in these corporations who now don't know what they're supposed to do, and we have to find things for them to do.

So what we have to do is to find a way consistent with our values to keep the economy going, to keep creating more jobs, but to do it in a way that enables every American working family to benefit from that, consistent with our values. And we know if we grow together that we'll all be better off.

If everybody has a chance, we're all better off. That's the kind of thing I want you to think about. Every single challenge, you have to ask yourself: What should I be doing about that; what should my community be doing about that; can my church, can my synagogue do something about that; should my State do something about that; should my Nation do something about that, whether it's a challenge for more jobs or safer streets or a cleaner environment, or working to keep the world more peaceful and secure for our children and their future? We have to do everything we can to work together. And I'm doing what I can to see that this Government continues on its course of reform and does more every day to earn your trust and respect.

But I just want to say this: Did you ever notice how there are no cynics in a flood? There are no cynics in a tornado? There are never any cynics in a natural disaster? Why? Cynicism is a luxury you cannot afford when you have work to do. One of the things I want to say to you is that these young people and their enthusiasm today, and those four young people doing their service through AmeriCorps, that's what makes this country great. The spirit of people, like this young man, he could have said, "I'm 19 years old. I've got 60, 70 years to live. I like riding my jet ski and winning prizes. Why should I risk my neck putting that jet ski in a raging river?" He could have stayed home. And no one would have ever known the difference. No one.

That is the way we ought to live every day. I really bothers me when I hear people say, "Well, they don't believe in our country and we can't make progress and everything's not going to get better and none of these people we put in office are any good." That's a bunch of bull. And it's a lousy excuse for inaction. It's a lousy excuse for inaction.

Just remember something. I have one opportunity that none of you can ever have unless you get to be President, and it has noth-

ing to do with me. Whenever I leave the borders of the United States of America, and I go to other countries, and I see people cheering, they are not cheering for Bill Clinton, they are not even cheering for the President, they are cheering for America.

I cannot possibly convey, I don't have the words to tell you what it feels like to represent all of you and to be the country in the eyes of people from other lands. But I can tell you this; they know we're a pretty great place. John Kennedy said once in the middle of the cold war that freedom has many difficulties and our country was far from perfect, but we never had to put up a wall to keep our people in. And I want all of you to remember that.

I believe that the young people at this college are facing the greatest future, the greatest age of possibility our country has ever known. But every one of us knows that we have enormous challenges. There are a lot of people fulfilling their dreams, but we have to make the American dream available to everybody willing to work for it. There are a lot of people who are doing well, but there are still things that are dividing our people when we ought to be pulling together and being united.

And when you are tempted to give up on your country or to give up on yourself or to give up on your community or to give up on some problem you're facing in your family, remember this flood. And remember how people just showed up and did what they were supposed to do. Remember how courage seemed ordinary and how cynicism was a luxury nobody could afford. And if you can recapture that, then your community, your State, and your Nation will have a future that is better than anything that has happened so far.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. in the gymnasium at King's College. In his remarks, he referred to Patrick Murphy, student government president, and Rev. James Lackenmier, president, King's College. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

## **The President's Radio Address**

*February 17, 1996*

Good morning. Today I want to talk about what we need to do in Washington to make our democracy work better for all Americans so that we can meet our challenges together and take advantage of the enormous possibilities of our future.

In my State of the Union Address, I outlined seven challenges we face as we move into the future, challenges we must meet if we are to keep the American dream alive for all our people and unite our country around our shared values.

The first six challenges are challenges we all face together: strengthening our families and giving all children a good childhood; providing better educational opportunities for all Americans; enhancing the economic security of all our working families through greater access to health care, secure pensions, lifetime education, and more good jobs; fighting crime and gangs and drugs so that all Americans can feel safe again, so that crime is the exception, not the rule; protecting our environment; maintaining our world leadership for peace and freedom. These challenges we must meet together as partners.

The seventh challenge is really America's challenge to all of us in public service. It is a challenge to continue to reinvent our Government so that it works better and costs less, and to make our democracy work better for the American people by limiting the influence of special interests and expanding the influence of our people.

Today I'm in New Hampshire, where citizens will exercise their responsibility as voters in the first primary of the year on Tuesday. It's no secret that even here in New Hampshire, with its proud tradition of town meetings and studied debate over the issues, people want all of us in politics to clean up our act. The fact is, organized interests have too much power in the halls of Government. These influence groups too often promote their own interest at the expense of the public interest. Too often they operate in secret. Too often they have special privileges ordinary Americans don't even know exist. And elections, where ordinary voters should have

the loudest voice, have become so expensive that big money can sometimes drown those voices out.

Yet we have made progress in the last 3 years. Shortly after I took office, I implemented the toughest ethics code on executive officials in our history. Senior appointees are barred from lobbying their own agencies for 5 years after they leave, and they can never lobby for foreign governments. In 1993 we repealed the tax loophole that lets lobbyists deduct the cost of their activities. And early last year, Congress finally passed a law that applies to Congress the laws they impose on the private sector.

Last June I met with Speaker Gingrich in Claremont, New Hampshire, for a town meeting. The very first question we took was from Frank McConnell, a retired steelworker, who wanted us to launch a bipartisan effort to clean up politics and curb the power of special interests through passing campaign finance reform. I'm meeting Mr. McConnell later today to thank him and to bring him up to date. Last year Congress answered my call to stop taking gifts, meals, and trips from lobbyists. In December I signed a bipartisan bill to bring lobbyists out from the darkrooms and into the bright light of public scrutiny. That's half of what Mr. McConnell asked us to do.

When this law's first deadline approached earlier this week, lobbyists were pouring into registration offices for the very first time to let the public know who they are, what they do, who pays them, and how much. This is a tough law. It's good for the American people. I'm proud to have signed it. And I congratulate the Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, who voted for it. Now we have a chance to finish the job, to make the way we finance campaigns work better, too.

Two distinguished United States Senators have sponsored a sensible campaign finance reform bill that can serve as a foundation for real reform. John McCain is a Republican Senator from Arizona. Russ Feingold is a Democratic Senator from Wisconsin. On many issues it's fair to say that Senator McCain and Senator Feingold don't see eye-to-eye. But they do know this: The health of our democracy goes way beyond partisan

politics, and it's high time to reduce the influence money has on elections.

The McCain-Feingold bill includes limits on spending, curbs on the influence of PACs and lobbyists, and an end to the soft money system. The bill will discourage the attack ads that have become all too common by requiring candidates to take responsibility for putting them on the air. Perhaps most important of all, this bill provides free TV time for candidates so that they can talk directly to citizens about real issues and real ideas.

All these campaign finance reform ideas are ideas I embraced back in 1992 when I was running in New Hampshire. Now, as we work to reform campaign finance, we must do everything we can to ensure that we open, not limit, the political process. Our goal is to take the reins of our democracy away from big special interests, from big money, and to put them back into the hands of ordinary Americans, where they belong.

Our bottom-line test should be: Will our efforts make our Government more representative, not less representative? Will reform make our elected representatives more likely to promote the public interest, even when it conflicts with powerful special interests?

We have an historic opportunity to renew our democracy and strengthen our country. If we truly believe in a Government that puts ordinary Americans ahead of the powerful and privileged, then we must act and act now. I call on Members of Congress from both parties to follow through on what Frank McConnell asked of the Speaker and me: Let's put politics aside, work together, and get this done. If you take pride in our democracy, as I know all of you do, then let's pass a bipartisan campaign finance reform bill now and give the American people something all of us can be proud of.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:19 p.m. on February 16 in the Map Room in the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 17.

**Telephone Remarks to the  
Community of Rochester, New  
Hampshire**

*February 17, 1996*

I'm sorry I'm not there, but I'm on the way. We spent 2 hours on the runway in Washington today, waiting for a weather clearance. If you'll wait for me I'll be there. I'm looking forward to it.

I know between Jeanne Shaheen and everybody else that's there you can find plenty of people to speak until I get there. Just tell old stories and reminisce, and I'll be there as quick as I can.

Thank you. Good-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. aboard Air Force One while en route to Pease International Trade Port. In his remarks, he referred to Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire State senator.

**Remarks to the Community in  
Rochester**

*February 17, 1996*

Thank you very much. Thank you for waiting. Thank you. I can see that someone was up to a lot of mischief before I got here. [*Laughter*]

Let me say that I was all dressed up and ready to go at 7 a.m. sharp this morning, and they said I couldn't leave the White House until 8 a.m. because of the weather. And when I got to the airport we sat there for another 2 hours. But I knew that I would wait for you if you would wait for me, and I thank you for being here. I'm glad to see you.

I want to thank the Rochester Middle School rock and jazz band for playing and for playing "Hail to the Chief." Give them a hand there. [*Applause*] I want to thank the Spaulding High Red Raiders, the boys and the girls basketball teams, who gave up their practice yesterday to prepare this. Thank you very much.

I thank my friend, Jeanne Shaheen, for her leadership here in New Hampshire and for that wonderful introduction and what she embodies. I want to thank George Stephanopoulos and my old friend David

Matthews for warming the crowd up before I came. I want to say thank you to the mayor, your deputy mayor, your county attorney, my old friend, George Maglaris, who was here earlier and, I think, said a few words; all the others who spoke before. I'd also like to acknowledge two friends of mine from 4 years ago who aren't here today, Mayor Roland Roberge and his wife, Lorraine. I miss them and I know you remember them well here in Rochester.

I know someone before I came here mentioned it, but 4 years ago, I made 75 scheduled appearances and countless more unscheduled appearances in New Hampshire in just the last 6 weeks of the campaign, from New Year's Day forward. And not very far from here, at the Dover Elks Club, I gave what became a rather famous speech, because I said that I was trying to give the election for President back to the American people and back to the people of New Hampshire, and that if you would give it to me, I would be there for you 'til the last dog dies.

I have come here today to give you an accounting of that pledge and to ask you to look to the future; and to ask you to bring all this incredible enthusiasm with you into this election year as citizens; and to ask you, yes, to go out and vote in the primary on Tuesday for Bill Clinton for President of the United States.

I brought a straightforward vision to this job. I wanted to see the American dream available for all Americans, not just a few. I wanted to see our country continue to be the world's greatest force for peace and freedom. And I wanted to see our country coming together, not being divided for cheap, short-term political reasons. I said that I thought the only way we could achieve that is if all of us worked for more opportunity, all of us showed more personal responsibility, and all of us made a real commitment to build an American community.

Well, in the last 3 years, here's where we are; the good and the not so good. Look at the economy. We have the lowest combined rates of unemployment and inflation in 27 years; almost 8 million new jobs; home-ownership at a 15-year high. We're moving in the right direction.

The unemployment rate in New Hampshire is less than half of what it was on Election Day in 1992. And the commitments that I made to you helped that to occur. I said we would cut the deficit in half, and we did in 3 years. I said we would have 8 million more jobs, and in only 3 years we had 7.7 million more jobs. We're going to make that record and beat it by a good long ways this year. I said that we would expand trade in a fair way, and now, for the first time in years our exports to other countries are growing faster than imports into America and creating good jobs for the United States of America.

I said that we would invest in new technologies, that we would expand educational opportunity, and that we would find a way to protect the environment and grow the economy. That's the only way you can do it in the long run, and that's exactly what we have done.

I asked you to give me a chance to try to give America a more secure future and a more peaceful, more democratic world. And the fact that there are no nuclear missiles pointed at any American children for the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age is evidence of that commitment kept.

And I am proud of what the United States has done to stand up against terrorism; to limit the spread of dangerous weapons; to work for a ban on all nuclear testing; to stand up for peace in the Middle East and in Haiti and in Northern Ireland and in Bosnia today, where our brave soldiers are fighting for peace. I am proud of them.

And we are coming together around our basic values. In this country as a whole, the crime rate is down, the welfare rolls are down, the food stamp rolls are down, the poverty rate is down, the teen pregnancy rate is down. And I am proud of the work that we have done with our crime bill, with promoting welfare reform, with being tougher on child support enforcement, the kinds of things that we have done to support good family values, to bring people together, and to help our country work again. I am proud of that. And you should be proud that those things are going in the right direction.

But any full accounting, my fellow Americans, would require us to look at the full picture. Isn't it perplexing that we could have

almost 8 million new jobs, that your unemployment rate could be cut by more than half, and that people could still feel economic insecurity? Why is that? Who would have believed we could have this many more jobs and more than half the American people would still be working harder without a raise? Who would believe we could generate this many more jobs and still the great companies of America would be downsizing—their stock price goes up, but their middle-aged middle managers trying to send their kids to school go off, and what happens to them?

Who would believe that we could bring the crime rate down, but that violence among juveniles would go up? Who would believe that drug use could go down, but that casual drug use and rampant illegal cigarette smoking among juveniles would go up? What explains this? How could things be so good on the one hand and still have these troubling elements?

Look at the rest of the world. Everybody ought to know that peace is better than war, that economic competition is better than terrorism. But here we are on the brink of a new peace in the Middle East and my friend, the Prime Minister, is murdered. Here we are on the brink of a new peace in Ireland and, foolishly, the peace is broken by a bomb. Here we are on the brink of making our people safer than ever before, but we know that none of us are free from terrorism generated at home and abroad.

So we are moving in the right direction, but there are challenges we have to face. How did this happen? It is happening because I see now more clearly even than I did when I came here 4 years ago that we are going through a period of change more profound than anything the American people have experienced in 100 years. About 100 years ago, we moved from mostly being a people who lived in rural areas to mostly living in towns and cities. We moved from being people who mostly made their living on farms to being people who mostly made a living from factories and the economic opportunities that factories generated.

Today we are moving from people who mostly make a living based on information and technology. We are moving into a period where, no matter where people live, they op-

erate all over the world because of technology and computers. We are moving in a period where we sell things, our goods, our services, and our money throughout the world.

And this great uprooting has created an enormous age of possibility for the American people. The young people in this audience will have an opportunity to do more things to live out their dreams than any generation of Americans ever has. But whenever things change this much there is bound to be dislocation, uncertainty, people who worry about whether they will be a part of that future. And whenever that happens, it is our common responsibility as Americans to make sure, as I said 4 years ago, that everybody who will work for it has access to the American dream, that we do it together, and that we continue to be the great beacon of hope and freedom and peace that this country was meant to be. That is our mission, and we still have to fulfill it.

And in the State of the Union Address I said that the most important lesson I have learned in 3 years as President is something I knew when I took office, but something I now feel in my bones and the very fiber of my being. And that is, when we are together we are never defeated, and when we are divided we defeat ourselves. We have to go forward together. We have to work these issues through together. We have to seize these opportunities together. We have to face these challenges together.

That is what the balanced budget debate is all about. I hate these big deficits. We cut the deficit in half in 3 years. We do have to finish the job, but we have to do it together, which means we have to honor our responsibilities to our parents and to our children through Medicare and Medicaid; to the future through investments in education and the environment. We have to remember that all among us deserve a chance at the present, and all among us deserve to have our children have the kind of future they deserve. That is how we must balance the budget.

And let me just say that I told you here in this county 4 years ago that I did not believe that Government had the answer to all the problems, that I was not a Democrat who favored big Government bureaucracies. Look

at the record. The United States Government is 205,000 employees smaller today than it was the day I took the oath of office. It's the smallest it's been in 30 years. At the end of this year, it will be the smallest it's been since John Kennedy was the President of the United States of America.

We are getting rid of unneeded regulations and unneeded programs and unneeded bureaucracies. But just because we don't need a big Government doesn't mean we need a weak one. Just because we don't need a big Government to solve all of our problems doesn't mean we can go back to the time when Americans were left to fend for themselves, when people were told "you're on your own." We have to do this together.

And if you look at the challenges we faced in moving to the 21st century and meeting our mission of guaranteeing the American dream for all and maintaining our leadership and bringing the American people together, you can see it. What are those challenges?

One, we have to strengthen our families and give all children a childhood. Yes, it begins with parents. But it also includes things like having the American National Government help as we did last week when the telecommunications bill gave parents the V-chip so they can decide whether their children should see this mindless violence on television.

We have to make sure we educate everyone for the 21st century. Yes, it begins with parents and teachers and local schools. But we need a national effort to see that all of our classrooms and all of our libraries are hooked up to the information superhighway by the year 2000. And we need—it is in the Nation's interest to see that every child who wants to go on to college can do it with a scholarship, with a loan, and, I believe, with a tax deduction for college tuition for the parents.

We have to see—we cannot ask parents to wait for their children to achieve economic security. If people are out there working hard, they deserve to be able to raise their children and have a stable, secure life.

And, yes, it begins with people's willingness to work and to learn and to acquire new skills, but it is legitimate for the Government to say, we're going to give all working families

access to health care. And there is a bill that would prevent—[*applause*—there is a bill before the Congress today, before the Senate, that would say insurance companies can't cut you off when you change jobs; insurance companies can't cut you off if someone in your family gets sick. That's what insurance is for.

It is a simple bill. It has 45 Democratic and Republican cosponsors. It's been voted out of the committee unanimously. But because the insurance lobby is holding it up, we cannot bring it to a floor vote. It is out of the committee. It will pass. It should pass the Senate. It should pass the House. It is an American bill. It's in America's interest. We ought to do it for the people of the United States.

Yes, people have to take care of themselves, but we ought not to let our Government once again go back to the time when companies could raid their workers' pension funds. Instead, it should be easier for small businesses to take out pensions for their employees and for themselves.

Yes, people ought to have to get retraining if they need it, but we ought to make it easier. I have asked the Congress to get rid of dozens and dozens of these training programs and create a pool—to create a GI bill for America's workers. Just give a simple training voucher to anybody who loses their job and let them decide where to spend it and how to spend it at the nearest and best educational institution.

We have to continue the fight against crime. Even though the crime rate is going down, you know it's too high. It is still too high. When will we know we have won that fight? When you turn on the television news and you see a report of a crime and you're surprised. That's when we know. When you're surprised. When once again it is the exception rather than the rule. When people do not feel afraid on their streets, or for their children in their schoolyards. We have to continue that.

That means we cannot, we cannot, reverse our commitment to put 100,000 more police officers on the street. It means we should not walk back on any of our anti-crime initiatives. But let me say this in New Hampshire: I know it wasn't popular here when I signed

the Brady bill and when I signed the assault weapons ban. And I know what the hunters were told. But let me say this, let me say this, in my home State we just had a great duck season. And in New Hampshire you just had a great deer season. And I'll bet you anything every hunter that wanted to shot deer in New Hampshire and ducks in Arkansas with the same gun they had last year. They did not tell you the truth. I'll tell you who doesn't have guns: 41,000 criminals who couldn't get them because we passed the Brady bill.

Let me say this: For a very long time in America our commitment to the environment was a common bipartisan commitment. It has only recently become partisan. My fellow Americans, we must make it bipartisan again by the vote and the voice of the American people in this election. We cannot afford the illusion of believing that the only way we can grow this economy is to destroy our natural resources and undermine our future. All the evidence we have indicates that that is a fool's choice that we will pay for dearly. And we have evidence that is overwhelming that we can create good new jobs by having the right kind of environmental protection. I will not weaken our commitment to preserve and protect the environment of this country.

Nor will I walk away from the responsibilities of this country in the world of today and tomorrow to lead for peace and freedom. No one else can do this. We have to do the right thing, and the right thing makes us more secure. We can be hit by terrorists from anywhere. It is the right thing to stand up against terrorism everywhere. We have to stand for the things we believe in.

And finally, let me say this: we have got to make democracy work. And all these other challenges—you say it starts with the citizens and ends with the Government. In this case it starts with the Government and ends with the citizen. I have worked hard. We have passed tough new lobbying laws, as I pledged we would in '92. We have eliminated the tax deduction for lobbying in Washington, as I promised we would in 1992. We have applied to Congress the laws they impose on the private sector, as I said I would try to do in 1992.

There are two more things we have to do. The Congress should give me the line-item veto they have been promising. And we should join hands, as the Speaker and I did when we shook hands in Claremont not very long ago, and finally pass a bipartisan campaign finance reform bill to give elections back to the people of New Hampshire and the people of the United States of America.

But it ends with you. It ends with you. There is no call—they say a politician is never supposed to disagree with the majority at election time, but I'm going to tell you something: There is no call for the cynicism, for the negativism, for the apathy that so many express today.

Yes, it is true that we have not solved all the problems in the last 3 years, but what I said was—in Dover 4 years ago—that the Presidency is the most important hiring decision the American people ever make. If you vote for me, I won't solve all the problems, I won't give you a miracle, but I will give you movement. You won't have to worry about whether I'm working every day, caring about you every day, or making progress.

My fellow Americans, by any standard we have made progress. But most important is what will we do tomorrow, what is your vision of the future, and are you willing to do something about it. Cynicism is a very cheap excuse for inaction, and it is ultimately frustrating and unrewarding. It guarantees the failure of democracy.

So I ask you again to participate in democracy. They say, well, there is no opponent in the primary. Oh, yes there is. Cynicism is our opponent. Apathy is our opponent. Division is our opponent. The siren song of simple answers that are wrong is our opponent. And you should know that, whatever anybody says, this is still the greatest country in human history. Most people would give anything to be in your shoes around the world today. And this system will work if you will make it work. This system will work if you will make it work.

All my life I have been driven by the conviction that it is simply wrong, it is wrong when any person is deprived of the opportunity to live up to the fullest of their God-given potential. I now know more strongly than I ever had that it is also wrong to believe

for a moment that we can ever become all we ought to be unless we do it together.

And so I say to you, I have tried to be there for you. I have loved the opportunity to be your President. I am grateful beyond words for the chance you gave me in New Hampshire when everybody who was an expert said it was over. I am grateful. But I do not want you to reelect me based on what we have done, or even based on your personal feelings. I want you to do it because the only way you and your children and your community and your State and your country are going to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow is if we do it together, together 'til the last dog dies.

God bless you, and thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the gymnasium at Rochester Community Center. In his remarks, he referred to Harvey E. Bernier, Jr., mayor, and Sandra Keanes, deputy mayor; Lincoln Soldati, county attorney, and George Maglaris, county commissioner, Strafford County.

### **Remarks to the Community in Keene, New Hampshire**

*February 17, 1996*

Thank you. Thank you for waiting in the cold. I waited on the runway for 2 hours this morning in Washington for the weather to clear so that I could come, and I was hoping you would wait for me.

Mayor Russell, thank you for those wonderful remarks about your beloved city. Senator Blaisedell, thank you for your support and your statement and your service. And Jennifer Durling, thank you for reminding us all what this election is all about: you and people like you, your future, and your country's future. Thank you for doing such a good job. Let's give her another hand. *[Applause]*

I am delighted to be back in Keene. I thank the high school band and the choir for doing so well today. I was in the band in high school; I can tell you they are freezing to death over there. *[Laughter]* It's not easy to play the national anthem on a warm day, and they did it on a cold day. Let's give them another hand; they were great. *[Applause]*

You know, I know the movie "Jumanji" was filmed here. And I know one of the big-

gest scenes was an elephant stampede right up this street. And I decided I'd better get up here before it's too late and we had another elephant stampede. *[Laughter]*

I have such wonderful memories of this community. I was last here in 1994 at the Markem Company, but all of you know I came many times in 1992. And the first time I had an inkling that we might actually go on to victory was the night I had one of my town meetings in Keene before they were the thing to do, and we rented a hall or got one, anyway, that was supposed to be big enough for 150 people, and everybody was hoping we make the room look almost full. And over 400 people showed up that night. Some of you were there. And I thank you. You gave me heart then to go on, and I thank you for being here now.

I also want to say a special word of thanks to the people of Keene for being so good to Hillary when she was here recently at her rally. On my desk at the White House I've got one of those buttons that says "I'm Keene on Hillary." And since I am, it's only appropriate for me to have it there.

My fellow Americans, you all know that New Hampshire gave me the chance to become President of the United States. And even more important, in all the many visits I had here in 1992—and I just counted before I came up—there were 75 separate scheduled events in New Hampshire between January 1st and election day in 1992. You taught me a lot about America, about America's dreams and challenges, America's hopes, and America's concerns. And because you did in this town square, in those rooms, and the town meetings, you helped me to do my job better. So before I say anything else, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity I've had these last 3 years to work for you. I thank you.

In 1992, I came here with a straightforward vision for our country. I wanted us to go into the 21st century with every American who was willing to work, having a chance to live the American dream. I wanted us to go into the 21st century together, not divided, and the leader of the world for peace and freedom.

I believed then and I believe now there is a simple strategy. We have to create oppor-

tunity. We have to insist on responsibility. And we have to believe in our common destiny. We have to go forward together. I am tired of seeing this country divided for short-term political gain. We are strong when we are together. We are never defeated when we are together.

When I came here to New Hampshire, I said I had an economic strategy for America. If you would vote for me, we would cut the deficit in half, institute an investment plan that would create 8 million new jobs, open the doors of trade to American goods and services. In the last 3 years, we have cut the deficit in half. I have another year, but we have almost 8 million jobs already. The unemployment rate today in New Hampshire is less than half what it was in 1992. And for the first time in a long time, our exports to other countries are growing faster than their imports here. America is on the move.

I said if you will elect me I will try my best to reassert the values that made this country great: to strengthen our families, to be tougher on crime, to reform welfare to value family and work, and to try to bring us together. And in the last 3 years, the crime rate is down, the welfare rolls are down, the food stamp rolls are down, the poverty rate is down, the teen pregnancy rate is down. America is on the move.

And I am so grateful that our country has been able to be a force for peace and freedom around the world. More than anything else I am grateful that now there is not a single nuclear weapon pointed at any American citizen. I am grateful for the role we have played for peace, from the Middle East to Northern Ireland to Haiti, and, yes, I am grateful for the brave Americans who are defending peace in Bosnia today. And I know you're all proud of them as well.

But what I have to say today is you're entitled to a complete report, because you know in your bones this is an unusual time. How could we have 8 million new jobs, how could we have in New Hampshire an unemployment rate below 4 percent and people still feel uncertain about their present and their future? Because half or more of our people are still working harder without a raise. Because a lot of companies are downsizing and laying people off. Their stock prices go down,

but their people go out. What happens to them?

We all know that there are still profound social problems in our country that must be addressed. And we know this is still a dangerous world, as we have been visited in the last 3 years with terrorism in our own country and we've seen it in Japan and in other countries as well. We've seen that there are enemies to peace everywhere when the great Israeli Prime Minister is murdered and madness returned when the building was blown up in England, trying to shatter the peace in Northern Ireland. Everywhere in the world we are safer than we were, but we are not free of difficulty.

Why is this? I want you to understand that very clearly. I believe that we are having these changes and these perplexing times with all the good things happening, but challenges remaining, because this is the time of the most profound change our country has experienced in 100 years. Not since we moved from being primarily a rural people to people who live mostly in towns and cities, when we moved from being primarily a people who made our living on farms to being a people who made a living mostly on factories and the activity that created, have we been through such change.

We are now going into an economy dominated by information and technology, where work is ever more mind and less muscle. We are going into a world where global markets for goods and services and money forced us all to compete in ways we never had to compete before. And wherever there is a great uprooting, there are lots of opportunities that we can celebrate. Just for example, in the last 3 years, there have been more new jobs created by businesses owned by women alone than have been laid off by the Fortune 500.

But there are those who do well and those who are not doing so well, who are not positioned yet to win in this new age of possibility. I believe with all my heart that the young people in this audience today will have an era of greater possibility to live out their own dreams than any generation of Americans has ever enjoyed if we meet the challenges of the present and if we do it in the right way.

And so I've come here today to ask for your support, not because of the warm personal feelings I feel, not because of the many friends I have in this audience, not even because of the achievements of this administration, but because of the challenges that lie ahead and because we dare not face those challenges unless we are willing to face them with vision and to face them together. That is why I seek your support.

Look at the discussion in Washington over balancing the budget. I'm for balancing the budget. When I showed up in Washington, the debt of this country had been quadrupled in 12 years. We cut it in half in 3 years, just like I told you we would in 1992. And we have to finish the job, but we have to do it in a way that is consistent with our values and consistent with our interests. That means we must do it in a way that honors our obligations to our parents, to our children, to our environment, and to our future.

We do not need to eliminate the AmeriCorps program to balance the budget. And it would be wrong to do so. We do not need to cut environmental protection by 30 percent. And it would be wrong to do so. We do not need to deprive good, hard-working families who have children with disabilities of the support that Medicaid gives them. And it would be wrong to do so. And we do not need to change the Medicare program that has given us senior citizens with the highest life expectancy of any senior citizens in the entire world and break that down. It is not necessary to balance the budget, and we should not do so.

Now, let me tell you what I think we will do. I believe we will keep that deficit coming down. I believe there's a national consensus for balancing the budget. And I want you to look ahead as I asked in the State of Union Address at the challenges of the future and to ask what you should do and what I should do. That is what this election is all about. Don't let anybody kid you about anything else. Elections for President are still about you. They're about you and your family and your dreams and your challenges and your future. And don't you ever let anybody take an election away from you. Make it about your future.

Our first challenge is to strengthen our families and to help all children recover their childhood. That's what the Family and Medical Leave Act was all about. That's what providing more opportunities for Head Start is all about. Yes, most of it has to be done by people in their individual families. But the rest of us have a responsibility, too. I am proud of the fact that the Vice President and I insisted on the inclusion of the V-chip in the telecommunications law to give parents the right to decide whether their children watch hours and hours and hours of mindless, destructive violence on television for years and years and years.

We have got to provide all Americans the opportunities that Jennifer spoke about. We live in an age where education matters more than ever before. Just last week there was a new study saying that the difference 15 years ago between the earnings of high school graduates and college graduates was about 20 percent, and now it's 80 percent. I believe that we have an obligation to open the doors of college education to every person in America who wants to go.

We should increase the Pell grant program, not reduce it. We should maintain a direct college loan program that gives young people the chance to borrow the money they need to go college and pay it back as a percentage of their income so they will never be discouraged from borrowing that money and going on to college. And if we are to have a tax cut, the best tax cut we could give America is a deduction for the cost of college tuition for every family.

We have to meet a challenge today that won't wait for tomorrow to help every American family willing to work for it achieve a greater measure of economic security. If we're going to see people changing jobs more and more, if we want to keep the dynamism of this economy and still support families who work and want to raise their children, there are a few things we have to do. Number one: we ought to make it possible, if we can't have health insurance for everybody, at least everybody ought to have access to it. You shouldn't lose your insurance when you change jobs. You shouldn't lose your insurance because somebody in your family gets sick. There is a bill before the Senate today

that has almost 50 Republican and Democratic cosponsors. It has been voted out of committee unanimously. But the vested interests do not want it voted on on the floor. We should say to the United States Senate: Pass that bill, send it to the House; pass it and send it to the President. America deserves it.

We should guarantee the integrity of the pension systems in America. We dare not go back to the time when companies were allowed to raid their workers' pensions for other short-term gains. And we ought to make it easier for small business people, like the people who work up and down this street, to take out a pension for themselves and their employees. Less costly, more secure; we have got to do that.

And, finally, when people lose their jobs, instead of having to go through this array of programs to find out whether they qualify for training, I propose a "GI bill" for America's workers. Collapse all the programs, put the money in the bank, and give every unemployed worker a voucher. Let the worker decide where to get the training. Cut the bureaucracy, increase the training, put people back to work at higher wages. That's what we need to do here.

And let me say one other thing. To me, among the greatest heroes in this country are the people who work 40 hours a week and do their best to raise their kids and only make the minimum wage. If we do not raise the minimum wage, this year it will drop to a 40-year low in terms of what it will buy. There is always a lot of talk in Washington about family values. It's hard to raise a family on \$4.25 an hour. Let's raise the minimum wage.

We have got to take our streets back from crime. I am glad the crime rate has gone down, but we all know it's too high. You know when we'll know this problem is whipped; when you turn on the television news and you see the report of a crime and you are surprised. We have got to make crime the exception, not the rule in America again. We must not repeal the crime bill's requirement to put 100,000 police on our streets. And we dare not go back on the other provisions of the crime bill.

I know here in New Hampshire where, like my native State of Arkansas, there are a lot of people who love to hunt. When we passed the ban on assault weapons, when we passed the Brady bill, there were hunters who were frightened into opposing our policies, who were told that their guns were going to be taken away. Well, we just had a great duck season in Arkansas and a great deer season in New Hampshire, and not a single hunter lost their guns. They were not told the truth. But I'll tell you who did lose their guns. Over 40,000 criminals could not buy guns because of the Brady bill. We are not going to repeat it.

We must meet the challenge of keeping our environment clean and safe and even better for the next generation. We must discard this crazy notion that the only way we can grow the economy is to destroy the environment. It is not true. We can grow the economy by preserving the environment. That used to be a bipartisan commitment in America, and if you vote for Bill Clinton and Al Gore, the environmental Vice President, you will send a message that will make the environment a bipartisan commitment of America again.

Even in this time when it is tempting to say we have no challenges beyond our borders, I ask you to remember that this great country of ours is looked to all across the world to stand up for decency and peace and freedom. I ask you to understand that we have certain responsibilities because no other nation in the world can do the things we are called upon to do.

I have not sought to make America the world's policeman, but I have not permitted America to withdraw from the world. Where we can make a difference and where it is consistent with our values and our interests, we cannot be policemen, we cannot withdraw, but we can be the world's greatest peacemaker. And that is exactly what we are trying to do today.

These are all challenges that begin with you, but involve your Government in a partnership. But there is another challenge we must meet that begins with us and involves you in a partnership. Here in this square of Keene, let me say our seventh great challenge is to make our democracy work again,

to give you a Government that costs less and works better, and demands and deserves your trust and your confidence and your participation at election time.

Let me say that just a few months ago I was in Claremont with Speaker Gingrich, and we shook hands on a commitment to try to reform the political system when we were asked by a man who came down to be with me here today, named Frank McConnell—Frank, where are you? Where's Frank? There he is. He is the guy that asked Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton to join together to clean up the political system, to pass lobby reform and campaign finance reform. Let's give him a hand. *[Applause]*

Well, we did half of it. We passed a very good lobby reform bill, and believe me, the lobbyists are flooding the registration offices. They are getting this information for the first time on the people they are working for, how much money they're spending, and what they're trying to get done. It's a good law, and I'm proud we did it. And I compliment the Republicans and the Democrats for doing it. But we need to finish the job.

Two distinguished United States Senators—a Republican from Arizona, John McCain, and a Democrat from Wisconsin, Russ Feingold—who disagree on a lot of things, but understand that the health of our democracy must be put ahead of partisan politics, have sponsored a campaign finance reform bill. And we ought to pass it, and pass it now, because of Frank and because of you.

This bill includes the things I talked to you about in 1992. It limits spending. It curbs the influence of PACs and lobbyists. It ends the soft money system. Most important of all, it would recreate the kind of town meetings that New Hampshire made famous, because it would give the candidates free air time. No more negative ads dominating politics but open air time and honest discussions of the issues. We need campaign finance reform, and we need it now.

But let me tell you something else we need; we need you. We need you. I want you to go out Tuesday night. You say, well—or Tuesday in the daytime—and vote. You say, "You don't have an opponent, Mr. President." Oh, yes, I do. Oh, yes, I do, and so do you. Our opponent is cynicism. It is nega-

tivism. It is apathy. It is division. It is short-term gain instead of the long-term interest of the country. Those are our opponents.

Remember, when we're united we never lose; when we're divided we defeat ourselves. Cynicism is a cheap cover and a poor excuse for inaction by the American citizens. Don't tell me your vote doesn't make a difference. It does. It does. If you voted for Bill Clinton and Al Gore 4 years ago, you got the family and medical leave law, you got national service, you got a better college loan program, you got more kids in Head Start, you got a halving of the deficit, you got policies that contributed to the growth of jobs in America. You did make a difference, and it will make a difference.

You dare not permit the American people, your friends and neighbors, who would never think of coming out here on a cold day and standing here like you are, fall victim to this kind of skepticism and cynicism. It has no place in America.

Let me tell you, I know people say the Government would mess up a one-car parade and nothing good ever happens, but I just gave you a list of things good that happened. And let me tell you something else. In his new book, my friend James Carville points out something that every American should know. In the last 30 years, we have spent one-half of your tax money on just three things: defense, Social Security, and Medicare.

Now, what did you get for it? We won the cold war. There are no missiles pointed at America's children. The elderly poverty rate has been cut in half, and if you live to be 65, senior citizens in America have the highest life expectancy of any group of seniors in the world. I think we got our money's worth. We can make a difference when we work together and when we determine to do things. If we meet the challenges of the future the way we met those three challenges, this country's best days are ahead of us.

You can do it. Go Tuesday. Stand up for your country. Fight for your future, and determine that we are going to do this together.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:55 p.m. in the Keene central square. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Pat Russell; Clesson Blaisedell, State

senator; and Jennifer Durling, student body president, Keene High School.

## Remarks to the Community in Manchester, New Hampshire

February 17, 1996

**The President.** Thank you so much. Didn't Jason Sabatino do a great job? And thank you, Donna Soucy. And to New Hampshire College Board Chair Bob Morine, and all the people here from New Hampshire College, I'm glad to be here with the Penmen. I congratulate you on the success of your basketball and your soccer teams. And I now know that enthusiasm is one key to that success. It's wonderful to be here with you.

Let me also ask you to join with me in giving a warm round of applause to the Salem High School band. We thank them for playing. This is the second time they played for me in 2 weeks; I feel like we're on a road tour together. *[Laughter]*

I want to tell you how wonderful it is to be here. I have been in Rochester and Keene today. I have been in Concord and Nashua and Bedford and Salem on the last trip I was here. And this is my second trip to Manchester just in the last couple of weeks. It has been a wonderful experience for me. I can also tell you that when the First Lady was here a couple of weeks ago, she had a wonderful time. And I thank all of you who have been so supportive of her. And I thank all those who have come out to see the Vice President and who supported his efforts and our administration to protect the environment and promote technology.

This is a remarkable experience, the New Hampshire primary season. You might ask, well, what are you doing here? *[Laughter]* I'm here for two reasons. One is, when I was elected President, I told the people of New Hampshire that I would not forget, that I would not stop coming back, that I would be here again and again, and I have been.

And I wanted to be here to say, secondly, I do have an opponent Tuesday in the election. It's cynicism and apathy. It's the division of our people that comes up too often at election time. And those are the real opponents that you have. So I came here to ask you

for the last time to go to the polls Tuesday and vote for Bill Clinton for President of the United States in the primary.

Now, let me say—you were cheering so loud, let me finish—I want to say—I said, for the last time in a primary. [*Laughter*]

I want to talk to you tonight—this is a rally. We're all going to have a good time. I want you to cheer and enjoy yourselves, but I want to be just a little serious tonight as well, because the people of New Hampshire have a unique opportunity every year that a lot of our—every 4 years—that some of our citizens never have. The country is vast and heavily populated. And when people are running for President in most places they have to go from tarmac to tarmac. They don't have the opportunity to visit the towns, to have the meetings, to see people face to face in the way that all people seeking public office ought to.

I also want to thank the people of New Hampshire, not only for the incredible boost they gave me at a difficult time 4 years ago but for the educational opportunity I received, being able to go to those communities, being able to run a grassroots campaign, having town meeting after town meeting after town meeting, just listening to people tell me their life stories, tell me their hopes, tell me their dreams, tell me their concerns. I have learned a lot.

**Audience member.** [*Inaudible*—for '92. We're still waiting for—*inaudible*].

**The President.** I might say to you—I believe in free speech. That's right. Wouldn't you like—

**Audience member.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** Let me point out something, if I may. Let me point out something. Let me point out something.

**Audience member.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** Thank you.

Abridging my right of free speech is not the best way to get a positive response from me or anyone else. What is the truth? What is the truth? What is the truth? What is the truth?

**Audience member.** [*Inaudible*—doctors—AIDS—

**The President.** Let me ask you this. Would you consider at a time of declining public spending a 30-percent increase in re-

search action? Would you consider, at a time when hundreds of programs are going by the boards and I'm fighting my heart out to save student aid programs and other opportunity programs that affect all Americans, would you consider a huge increase in treatment funds for people with AIDS action, not words? Would you consider the most serious effort in 40 years to give health care coverage to all Americans, including people with AIDS, action, not words?

Let's look at the facts. Would you consider a yearlong effort to save the Medicaid program which allows people who are HIV positive to work, to be constructive citizens, against what the Congress has tried to do, action, not words? Would you consider the appointment of the first AIDS Director ever, and having the first AIDS conference ever, action, not words? I think you would.

So you might ask, why is this demonstration going on at our rally instead of their rally? Now, this is New Hampshire. You heard them; you heard me. Now, let's go back to the agenda of the evening.

You know, when I came here 4 years ago, and I looked into the faces of all the people who were here, the unemployment rate was over seven points—

**Audience member.** Poll that now—*[inaudible]*.

**The President.** I've got an idea. Why don't you pretend he's not here and listen to me, and then you'll defeat him.

I told you then that our country had to have an agenda for the future if all of you were going to be able to participate in the American dream, if we were going to come together and not be divided, if we were going to maintain the leadership of this country. I said if you voted for me I would not promise you miracles, but I would promise you progress, that we would move.

In the last 4 years, the unemployment rate in this State has been cut by more than half. This country has almost 8 million new jobs. The deficit is half what it was. Trade is at an all-time high. We are selling more of our products overseas than people are selling to us again. Americans are competing in this world.

We are coming together. The crime rate is down. The poverty rate is down. The wel-

fare rolls are down. The teen pregnancy rate is down. We are coming together as a country, and we are the strongest force for peace and freedom in the world, from the Middle East to Bosnia, to Haiti.

But this is also a perplexing time. No time is free of difficulty. Do you ever ask yourself, those of you who are in college particularly, how could it be that New Hampshire has an unemployment rate under 4 percent, the country has almost 8 million new jobs, and yet, millions of people still feel uncertain in their lives. They're worried about being laid off in one of these big corporate downsizings, or they're worried about continuing to work harder and harder and never getting a raise. They're worried whether they can afford a college education for their children, or if they'll lose their health insurance if someone in their family gets sick.

How can this happen? It is very important that you understand why. It is happening because your country is undergoing the biggest period of change in 100 years. Not since we moved from the rural areas to living primarily in cities and towns, not since we stopped making our living largely on the farm and mostly in the factory have the American people seen such change in the way they work and live. Now we are moving into an economy dominated by technology and information, and the longer we go into the future, the less it will matter where you live because you'll be able to access everybody else through the information superhighway.

We are living in a world dominated by world markets for goods, for services, and for money. And what that means is that there are incredible new opportunities in this world for Americans, more than at any time in the history of the country, for those who are prepared to take advantage of them. But if those who aren't prepared to take advantage of them, or those who have the misfortune of being downsized, it is not a rosy picture.

What we have to do today is not to reverse the policies of the last 3 years. We are moving in the right direction. What we have to do is to bear down until every American has the opportunity to succeed. And we have to do it together.

If you ask me what one lesson I have learned as President in the last 3 years, it is this: Whenever we are together as a people, we never lose; and when we permit ourselves to be divided, we defeat ourselves. We must solve these problems and meet these challenges together.

Now, it is in that context that I want you to see your responsibilities as citizens. In the State of the Union Address, I said, again, I want to balance the budget, but we have to do it together in a way that is consistent with our values and consistent with our interests. That means that I want to balance the budget. After all, the debt was quadrupled in the 12 years before I moved to Washington. We have cut it in half in 3 years.

But I want us to do it together. That means that, yes, we can balance the budget, but we don't want to do it in a way that violates our obligations to our parents or to our children or to the future. What does that mean? Don't wreck the Medicare program. Don't weaken the Medicaid program. The people that are here to demonstrate tonight, the people they represent, they need Medicaid. They deserve it. They deserve the right to work and to be here as long as possible.

And balance the budget, yes. But what is the purpose of balancing the budget? To give our young people a stronger future. Therefore, don't balance the budget by cutting back on the student aid program or by cutting Head Start or by abolishing the national service program. That is not the way to balance the budget.

What is the purpose of balancing the budget? To make us more secure in the future. Therefore, do not balance the budget by cutting environmental protection by 30 percent and undermining the future of this country.

We can do this. We have identified more than enough savings to balance the budget and to provide a modest tax cut. We must not sacrifice our values or our future to do it. We must not.

But I want to say this to you: When you think of your decision in this election, of course, I want your support. But I don't want you to support me just because of my affection for New Hampshire, even though it's enormous. I don't want you to support me just because of the record we have estab-

lished, although clearly we are moving this country in the right direction. I want you to be with me because I will be with you as we go together into the future to meet our challenges.

You know, we have seven great challenges. We have to strengthen our families. We have to educate all Americans. We have to provide economic security to every family in this country willing to work for it. We have got to preserve the environment and grow the economy. We have got to abolish forever from our thinking this destructive idea that we can only expand economically if we undermine our environment. The truth is, we can only grow over the longrun economically if we find ways to preserve our environment and put people to work doing it.

We have got to continue the fight against crime and violence. Even though the crime rate is down, it is too high. Everybody knows it. If you saw what we did in Manchester when I was here a few days ago, with the local police, in a neighborhood that is now a freer neighborhood where people can walk the streets at night and children can play safely in the schoolyard—that's what we have to do everywhere. We should not turn our backs on it until we have finished the job.

And I ask for your continued support in meeting the challenge of leading the world toward peace and freedom. I know Americans wonder sometimes whether it is really necessary for the United States to do some of the things that we have done when I have been in office. And I know some of them have not been popular. But the people of Haiti just had the first peaceful transfer of power in almost 200 years of history. The people of the Middle East have undergone the awful agony of having the Prime Minister of Israel assassinated. But they are moving determinedly toward peace and freedom and partnership with us.

We see it all across the world. And tonight, while we are here in this wonderful, warm gym, our men and women in uniform in Bosnia are in the cold Bosnian winter standing up for humanity around the world.

Finally, we have to meet the challenge of making our democracy work. You have to have a Government that works better and costs less. You have to have a Government

that earns your trust, and you have to be worthy of your legacy as citizens. We need the line-item veto. We need campaign finance reform, and we need it now.

But of all these challenges, I want to say here at this college, with its rich heritage, we must, we must, open the doors of learning to every American for a lifetime. And let me just say, I come to you with a record and an agenda. We have had a clear strategy, high standards, high expectations, high technology, and high levels of opportunity and grassroots reform. That has been the strategy of this administration. We have expanded Head Start. We have given schools money and flexibility they never had before to try to meet high national standards. We have dramatically expanded college loans and scholarships, and we must do more. But it is not enough.

And if you continue this administration, here is what I want to do. I want, first, to make sure that every school, every classroom, every library in this entire country is hooked up to the Internet, to the international—information superhighway by the year 2000.

Second, I want to open the doors of college education to every single person in this country who wants to go. I want to maintain the loan programs. I want to expand the Pell grants. I want to keep national service. And I want to expand work study to a million students in this country working their way through college. And if we are going to have a tax cut, let's have the best tax cut of all, a tax deduction for the cost of college tuition.

Finally, let me say, at New Hampshire College, called the Penmen, something you know. You understand the economy. You know that more and more jobs are being created by small businesses. But you know more and more people my age are being laid off by big ones, being asked to start over again when they're trying to send their own children to college. You know more and more people are struggling in jobs where they never get a raise and they would have to have new training to get that raise.

So I say to you that college cannot just be for the young, and training cannot just be for the young. One of the things that I have proposed to do is to take all these Government training programs and collapse

them into a big pool of money, and give every unemployed and underemployed person in this country a simple voucher they can take to the nearest college to get whatever training and education they want.

We built the opportunities we enjoy today through the GI bill after World War II for the returning soldiers. Today we need a "GI bill" for all those American workers who are working harder and harder just to hang on. They need to be lifted up. They need to be able to go forward. We need to support them as well.

Let me say the most important thing I have to say to you tonight is, whatever we do, we have to do it together. The era of big Government is over. I told you that 4 years ago, that I was not a Democrat who believed in preserving the status quo and every bureaucratic program that ever existed. And I can report to you tonight that under our administration we now have the smallest Federal Government in 30 years. To find more money for the programs that need our investment—the health care programs, the medical research programs, the education programs, the technology programs—we have eliminated hundreds of other programs. We have closed thousands of offices. There is no big Government.

But just because we don't have a big Government anymore doesn't mean we need a weak Government and that we can go back to the time when people were told to fend for themselves. That is wrong. It will not work.

When business people in New Hampshire 4 years ago asked me to make more credit available to them so they could borrow money again to keep their businesses going and create jobs, and we did it, we didn't do it with a weak Government. When I went just a few days ago out to Washington and Oregon and Idaho to deal with the terrible floods that are gripping those people, they don't want a weak emergency management agency. You don't want a weak Government. You don't want a weak student loan program. You don't want a weak Pell grant program. You don't want a weak national service program.

We don't have to have bureaucratic inefficiency to have strength and partnership. That

is what we have to have. But let me say to you, a partnership is a two-way street. Yes, your Government has let you down, and I've tried to change that. I've made it smaller and more efficient. I've done everything I could to do that. We have addressed the problems that were before us with everything from the family leave law, to the Brady law, to the college loan law, all the initiatives we have taken.

But we also know that we have to make you trust the Government more. So we passed a tough lobby reform law, a law to apply to Congress the laws they impose on the private sector; a law that stops lobbyists from having tax deductions for the cost of lobbying, for a change. We are moving in the right direction.

Yes, we need to do more. Yes, we need the line-item veto. I hope Congress will give it to me soon. We need it. They promised it, and I want it. And, yes, we need campaign finance reform, and we need it now to put you back in the driver's seat.

But if you think about all those other challenges—if we're going to strengthen our families and give childhood back to all children; if we're really going to have a world-class system of education that offers opportunity to everybody; if we're really going to provide economic security for every family willing to work for it; if we're really going to make our streets safer and our environment cleaner; and if we're going to continue to lead the world toward peace and freedom—in the end this is a democracy—you are the most important players. You have to do your part. That's why I'm asking you to vote on Tuesday, and even more of why I'm asking you to fight the cynicism and the negativism and the division and the turnoff that so many citizens express.

I'm going to tell you something. We had an interesting little exchange here, but I honor these people that came here to demonstrate. At least they care about something. At least they show up. At least they make their opinion known. At least they're fighting for something. They're standing up just like you are. Just like you are.

And I want to tell you, make no mistake about it, there's one thing I can do that none of you can do. I can go abroad to represent

all of us. And when I do, it is a feeling I can't even put into words for you, because I'm no longer Bill Clinton, and I'm not even really the President. You just become the United States. And you realize what a very great country this is, what we stand for and what we can do.

No one has been more willing to be critical of Government that doesn't work than I have. But for people to go around and say, "It doesn't matter what I do; it doesn't matter how I vote; it won't make any difference"—it does make a difference. It does make a difference. You got the family and medical leave law, the Brady bill, a doubling of tax breaks on low-income working people. You have a whole new economic strategy. You've got the deficit cut in half. You've got a telecommunications law now that provides for honest opportunity for everybody to compete in this brave new world in a way that advances the public interest, all because of the votes in the last election. It does make a difference.

But more importantly, it bothers me when I hear people say that our Government is intrinsically bad and every penny is wasted. My friend James Carville has written a book which I commend to you in which he says that in the last 30 years we have spent half of your tax money on just three things: national defense, Social Security, and Medicare. Now you decide if you got your money's worth. What happened? We won the cold war, and there are no missiles pointed at the United States or any of its people tonight.

In spite of the fact that most people over 65 live on very modest incomes, we have cut the rate of poverty among our seniors in half because of Social Security. And, most important for the present budget debate, if you live to be 65 in this country, our seniors have the highest life expectancy of any group of seniors in the entire world. So I think we got our money's worth. And it shows you what we can do when we go together and when we work together and when we stand together.

Now, don't let anybody fool you, folks. It's just like I said 4 years ago. This election is fundamentally about you and your families, your children, your future, your dreams, and your challenges. It belongs to you. And you

have to seize it. The first thing you got to do is show up, be heard, and be counted. The second thing you have to do is to go to your friends and neighbors and get them to do the same thing.

And then what you have to remember is—I will say it again—no country like this has ever existed. Look around this room. Just look at each other. Look at all the differences that leap out at you, the differences in age, the differences in physical condition, the differences in racial and ethnic background. Look at it all. And it all works when we realize that we must go forward together.

I believe more strongly than anything else—you've got to decide—I am telling you there is no challenge out there we cannot meet. But we all got to show up. We have to put all our players on the field. And I want you to start Tuesday. Say to yourselves, your friends, your neighbors, we are going to go out there and take a stand for our future, and we are going to do it together.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:11 p.m. in the gymnasium at New Hampshire College. In his remarks, he referred to Jason Sabatino, student body president, and Donna Soucy, Manchester alderman.

### **Message on the Observance of Presidents' Day, 1996**

*February 17, 1996*

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Presidents' Day, 1996. I am pleased and proud that so many of our citizens gather at this time each year to celebrate our nation's rich history and to pay tribute to the office of the Presidency.

America has been blessed with many great and good leaders over the past two centuries. The Presidents we honor with special pride on this day—George Washington and Abraham Lincoln—accepted the burdens of their office at moments of great national challenge and set a shining example for those who were to follow.

As the first President of the United States, Washington played a vital part in defining the role of the Presidency in America's government and national life. With courage and

vision, he ensured the steady course of American democracy and, in relinquishing his office at the appointed time, established the peaceful transition of power that has become the envy of other nations around the world.

Abraham Lincoln preserved the Union that Washington helped to create. He guided America through four years of painful and bloody conflict, and at the end of his Presidency, we were still one nation under God, and government “of the people, by the people, and for the people” had not perished from our land.

But Presidents alone cannot ensure America’s success or preserve our freedom for future generations. It falls to each and every citizen to take part in the great experiment of American democracy. As we face the unknown challenges and exciting possibilities of a new century, let us renew our resolve to participate actively in the process of government, to stay informed and committed, and to educate our children about the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. In this way we will keep faith with the great men whose service and sacrifice we honor on this day.

**Bill Clinton**

### **Statement on the Railroad Accident in Silver Spring, Maryland**

*February 17, 1996*

Today all Americans extend our thoughts and prayers to the families of the people who died in the train crash last night. We are working hard to find out what caused this tragedy.

Several young men and women who died were Job Corps trainees, returning from a training center in West Virginia—taking a journey of personal responsibility. They were working hard to better themselves, and we salute their lives as we mourn their deaths.

### **Statement on the Death of Pat Brown**

*February 17, 1996*

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of Gov. Pat Brown’s death.

I am very grateful for the warm friendship and wise counsel he generously extended to me, and for what he meant to America.

More than any other individual, he built modern California, with its great universities, highways, and vital water system.

He loved people, and he loved politics. Always positive and optimistic, he believed in the promise of America, and he brought out the best in people, because they knew he was committed to their future.

He was blessed with a wonderful wife and five children, who carried on his traditions of public service. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bernice, Jerry, Kathleen, Barbara, and Cynthia, and Pat Brown’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May his great heart and good spirit be with them always.

### **Remarks at a Democratic Dinner in Nashua, New Hampshire**

*February 17, 1996*

Thank you very much. Please relax. [Laughter] I have had a wonderful day today, the second wonderful day in just 2 weeks in New Hampshire. And to all of you who had anything to do with that day or the one before, to all of you who helped me in 1992 in the primary and then to win this State in the general election, which surprised everybody in the world, I want to thank you.

I thank chairman Joe Keefe and your vice chair, Mary Chambers, and my dear friend Anita Freedman, and Keith Regli and the other officers of the Democratic Party, and your DNC members, Terry Shumaker and Stephanie Powers and Ambassador Bruno—it has a nice ring to it, don’t you think—[laughter]—for their service to our party. And I want to say a special word of thanks to Congressman Dick Swett and John Rauh for being willing to fight and struggle to guarantee that we win that United States Senate seat for the Democrats in November.

Somebody asked me this morning when I was coming up here what in the world I was doing going to New Hampshire. They said, “You don’t have an opponent.” I said, “Well, for once I’d like to win the New Hampshire primary.” [Laughter] “And it

seems that this might be a good opportunity, so I thought I would go up and try.”

When I was a young fellow, when I ran for Governor the first time, I had my—sort of unfortunate thing that happens to anyone in public life, where you plan something, and you think it’s going to be so wonderful, and it doesn’t make any news because something else happens on that day. And that happened to me. I had helped all these tomato farmers in my hometown—my home State—in a little town in south Arkansas who were working, legal migrant workers to improve their conditions, to give them decent places to live, and in the process to be sure they could get a permit to get these people to help them. And it saved this little town that was going to otherwise dry up and blow away.

So they invited me to town one day when I was campaigning for Governor. And unbeknownst to me they had decided to have a parade in my honor. And they had a banner over the street. There are about 400 people in this town. It was hardly a metropolis. It was sort of your standard Arkansas or New Hampshire town. But I was blown away. I mean, you know, I was 32 years old. I thought it was pretty hot stuff to have a parade down the street. [Laughter]

And the whole—the high school band, the schools let out, the high school band led me down the street. Everybody was laughing and screaming and crying for joy. And the next day there was not a single word about it in the newspaper—[laughter]—because something else happened in the Governor’s race. So I spent the next umpty-dump months until the election saying you should have seen the crowd in Hermitage. [Laughter] People made fun of me. They’d say every time, you know, “Just punch him and he’ll automatically say, you should have seen”—like one of those toy dolls—“you should have seen the”—so for the rest of my life I’ll be saying you should have seen the crowd in Keene today in New Hampshire.

At first when I arrived there, you know, because I waited so long this morning—I got up at a quarter to six and I was ready to go at seven, and they said we couldn’t leave until 8 a.m. And then we got to the airport, and they said we couldn’t leave. And we stayed there for 2 hours while the winds

whipped across the runway, and they wouldn’t let me take off. And we were very late to Rochester, but at least they were warm, and I call in and say I’m coming, please wait, and they did, and it was quite wonderful.

But when I got to Keene, they’d been standing out in the cold for an hour and a half. And at first I thought they’ll have to leave. They won’t be able to take it. And then when I saw the crowd, and I thought, my God, they’re frozen there, they can’t leave if they wanted to go. [Laughter] Then I realized that, sure enough, they actually believed in what we were all doing, and they were there to stand up for what they believed in and to fight for a better future. And it was very—[applause].

Let me say to all of you one thing I said 4 years ago that everyone needs reminding of now. These elections are not about the candidates; they’re about the people. The Presidential election is nothing more or less than the most important hiring decision the American people can make. And ultimately, the hiring decision must, therefore, turn on whether the employers show up to make the decision, first of all, and secondly, on what their vision is for where they want our common enterprise to go.

When I came here 4 years ago, I was concerned that our country was not changing as fast as we should change or moving in the right direction, given what I thought the future was going to present; that we were neither going to seize the opportunities or meet the challenges of the 21st century. And I had a very simple message, which I still share and think about every day. I believe it is wrong for any person to be deprived of the opportunity to live up to the fullest of their God-given abilities. I believe everybody should have a chance to work for the American dream.

I believe it is wrong for this country to be divided in artificial ways, in ways that make us all less than we ought to be. And I believe it would be a tragedy if we were to walk away from the responsibilities that we have now, having won the cold war, to lead the world toward greater peace and prosperity and freedom. I believed then and I believe now that we have to pursue a simple

strategy in which we work together to create more opportunity, in which we work together and demand more responsibility from ourselves and from each other, and in which we create in this country a genuine spirit of community.

I do not believe, as I told you 4 years ago, that the answers to all of our challenges can be found in Government, nor do I believe Government is at all points even the most important player in our great national drama. But neither do I believe we can go back to the time when the American people were told they should just fend for themselves. That would be a terrible mistake. And down deep inside, almost every American knows that would be a terrible mistake.

A couple of days ago I flew out to Washington and Oregon, and I'm sure you've seen on the television the absolutely horrible floods they have been enduring. And I went into one of the little towns in Washington State, just across the Oregon border, that had been badly flooded out. And I rode around town with the mayor, who had been the police chief for 20 years or something before he got elected mayor. There's 3,300 people in this town. And these folks were just, you know, like most folks here. And he took me to a block that had been wiped out. And we went into a home of a 70-year-old couple who had been married for, I don't know, nearly 50 years. They had lost every single thing they had except a few pictures and a couple of pieces of furniture. The man was hard of hearing, and he had even lost his hearing aid in the flood. The water just rushed it away.

But when I showed up to meet this fellow, he said "You know, I'm 70 and I've never met a President. It was nearly worth losing my home to do it." [*Laughter*] And he said, "Besides that, you know, it's fitting because now I can show you to my indoor swimming pool." [*Laughter*] It was unbelievable. How can this man laugh? He's lost everything.

I saw another man well up into his sixties, a retired employee of a utility company who was a Norwegian immigrant, naturalized citizen, who worked in that flood for 8 hours with a jackhammer with a cracked rib. Now I don't know if any of you have ever tried to hold a jackhammer where it was supposed

to go, but it's not easy on a good day if you're big, strapping, strong, and know what you're doing. And I thought about that. And he did it without a second thought. It was just his duty.

And I saw all these stories that you always hear whenever there's a natural disaster. But the most important point I want to make to you is, on the way out this 70-year-old man said to me, he said, "Boy, I'm glad you came, and I've enjoyed talking to you." But he said, "Don't you think it's too bad that we don't behave this way toward each other all the time?" And that's what I want to say to you.

This is a very great country. I know we get down; we get frustrated. But when I talk to other world leaders, they often ask me, they say, "Oh, we see these opinion polls about how Americans say the country is going in the wrong direction, or they're pessimistic, or they don't believe in their political system." And they say, "After all, you have the highest job growth rate, the highest rate of new business creation, the greatest amount of opportunity for individuals, the lowest deficit as a percentage of your income, and the strongest sense of security and defense of any country in the world. How could your people be down?" I know this is a perplexing time.

When I was here 4 years ago, if I had told you, for example, that 3 years from now I'll come back and in only 3 years I will have kept my commitment to cut the deficit in half, and I'll be almost there on our commitment to provide 8 million new jobs—we're at 7.7 million—and credit will be more readily available than it used to be; and the Small Business Administration will cut its budget by 40 percent and double its loan volume; and we will start selling more products abroad than we are importing from abroad, so at least the growth rate in exports will be greater than growth rate in imports. We're closing the gap. And the unemployment rate in New Hampshire will be under 3½ percent; it will be less than half of what it was at election time last year, but there will still be uncertainty out there about our economy because of the downsizing of big companies and because there's still a lot of people who are working hard and never get a raise; and because there's still people who can't afford to have health insurance for their families,

you would have found that hard to believe, I think.

It is happening because we're living in a very different world that is absolutely exploding with opportunities and still full of challenges. That's why I talked as I did in the State of the Union.

And you could say that the answer is to run away from the world. We'll just pretend the modern world's not happening. We'll put a wall up around America, and we'll just run away from it. But that won't work. The answer is to run through the barriers until everybody can have the opportunity now that most people do but a lot of people don't. That's the answer.

Technology, for example, is a mixed blessing for people who can't access it, but it's an unmixed blessing for all of our students. When I was in Concord the other day, a couple of days after they'd connected all the classrooms in the city to the Internet, and I saw in, I think, the school with the lowest per capita income in the city, all these kids that were taking computer equipment home at night and working on it, I realized that technology for them was a great equalizer.

When I was in Union City, New Jersey, a couple of days ago, a school district that was almost closed down by the State, a district with low per capita income, a lot of immigrants, and I saw that a partnership between the government, the school district—Bell Atlantic had put a computer not only in every school and classroom but in every home so that immigrant parents were e-mailing the principal to find out how their kids were doing, all of a sudden this desperately poor school had a higher attendance rate, a lower dropout rate, a higher graduation rate, and higher test scores than the State average in one of the wealthiest States in the United States of America. We can make this new world work for all Americans. And that's what I am trying to do.

There's no point in my reiterating here for all of you, because you keep up, what I said in the State of the Union. I outlined what I believe are the challenges for the future and how I want to balance the budget. I'm not against balancing the budget. We—our administration, the Democrats, the Demo-

cratic Party—cut the deficit in half alone. And don't you ever forget it—alone.

And we took a lot of other tough decisions. But we have to do this in a way that is consistent with our values, with our obligations to our parents and to our children, with our obligations to the environment and to our future. That's what we have to do.

And we have to face the challenges of the future. And we have to be willing to take tough decisions. But when we do, and we turn out to be right, we shouldn't be ashamed to go tell people we did the right thing, it was unpopular. I'll just give you one example, because one of your Congressmen paid a terrible price for it.

We got beat up pretty bad for the Brady bill and for the assault weapons ban. And a lot of good, rural people, who work hard and are honest citizens, were driven away from our party in the November 1994 elections because they were convinced that we were out to take away their right to have their weapons to go hunting. Well, as I have said all over New Hampshire, we had a great duck season in Arkansas, and you had a good deer season in New Hampshire, and everybody that wanted to went out and shot their ducks and their deer with the same gun they did last year. So the people that told those folks that we were messing with them were not telling them the truth.

They did not lose any guns. But I'll tell you who did lose guns: There were over 40,000 criminals who could not get guns because the Brady bill is the law of the land.

So it makes a difference. It makes a difference that the family and medical leave law passed. It makes a difference that we doubled the tax break for lower income working families so nobody works full-time and is still in poverty if they have children in the home. These things make a difference. It makes a difference that we improved the student loan program, extended it to more people, made it easier to repay, and still cut the default rate in half.

It makes a difference that the welfare rolls are going down, and we're giving States a lot more permission to move people from welfare to work, but we're also collecting record amounts of child support payments

for parents and their children. These things make a difference.

It makes a difference to your children's future that there are no nuclear weapons pointed at the children of the United States for the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age. And I thank Chairman Keefe for what he said about the efforts of the United States in the Middle East, to Haiti, to South Africa, to Northern Ireland. And now in this cold winter, the men and women of our Armed Forces are in Bosnia helping to stop a war of madness and to bring peace and decency and honor back to that war-torn land. And I'm proud of them.

What I want to say to you is that we know what we have to do, and we know what we believe in. And now the American people know that all the old clichés—tax and spend, soft on crime, weak on welfare—that it's all a bunch of bull. And that—[*applause*]*—*weak on defense, no concern about foreign policy—all that's a bunch of bull. But what is not a bunch of bull is that this country has enormous opportunities and enormous challenges. And we can only meet them together. And we need our Government not to be a big bureaucratic obstacle to progress. We need it to be an entrepreneurial, creative, vigorous, but strong supporter and partner of progress. That's what we need.

And you know, I've been telling this ever since I read it in James Carville's book, but—[*laughter*]*—*and it's not funny even. But I had never thought about it until I read it in the book, that people always bad-mouth Government. You know, we've been doing it since we started. I mean, it's as old as the Founders. After all, half our people came here to our shores to get away from oppressive government. And the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the whole thing is set up to keep Government from treading on us too much.

So if we're not careful we just uncritically act like every governmental action is messing up a one-car parade. But the truth is, in the last 30 years, half of your tax money has been spent on just three things: Social Security, Medicare, and national defense. Did you get your money's worth? We won the cold war. The elderly poverty rate was cut in half. And if you live to be 65, our seniors have the long-

est life expectancy of any country in the world. I think we did what was required of us, and we got our money's worth.

Where would we be today without the Head Start program? I was just—where would we be today without the student loan program, without the college aid program? I was just at New Hampshire College and the chairman of the board there told me that 90 percent of the students at that school are getting Federal aid to help them go to college. That's a good investment. We're going to get our money back. They're going to make us stronger.

And so I ask you to do what you can to get a surprising vote out on Tuesday, just to stand up for what is good and decent and positive and right about this country, and for what is necessary to be done so that we can become all we ought to become. I ask you to go out there because we do have a big opponent. It is cynicism. It is the willingness to believe that public life is always the lowest common denominator, that nothing matters, really, in the end.

It is the vulnerabilities to those strategies that would divide us when we desperately need to be united. Those are our enemies. And frankly, that's not a Government problem. Cynicism in any form in human endeavor is a cheap, lousy excuse for inaction by the person who has the luxury of being cynical.

In Portland, Oregon, the other day when they told them that the city of Portland was going to be flooded because the floodwall would not hold, in one day, 1,000 people showed up and built the floodwall another foot and a half higher. They had no luxury, no time, no effort, no opportunity to be cynical. And I go back to what that old man said, "It's just too bad we can't act like that all the time."

And that's what I want you to do Tuesday. That's what I want you to do between now and November. I want you to recover the spirit, the genius of the New Hampshire town hall meeting, of all those visits we had in 1992. I want you to make people believe again that they can make a difference. Because if we're going to be partners, it all begins with the citizens.

Harry Truman said when he went home to Independence that he was going to now have the most exalted title you could have in the United States, the title of citizen. This is a State where citizenship has a reputation of being honed to a fine art. It's a State now where people are being given an opportunity to see that there are now alternative visions of change for the future, very different roadmaps to the future. If 1992 was about change versus no change, 1996 is about two very different visions of change.

I have done my best to be there for you, as my old saying goes, 'til the last dog dies. But now you have got to be there for your friends and for your neighbors. I am telling you, I know, I have seen the world as it is, and I believe I understand where it is going. We are on the verge of the era of greatest possibility our country has ever known, but we have very serious challenges that we have to meet to get there if everybody is going to have their shot at the American dream and if we're going to go there together.

I believe we will. I know I am an optimist, but when I look at you, when I looked at the faces that I saw today in those three stops I made before I got here, when I know what is really in the heart of the American people, and when I understand that we've been around for nearly 220 years because most of the time we do the right thing—if you will go out there and do what you can, yes, it will advance the cause of our party but far, far more important, it will advance the future of our country and these children that are here.

Do it. Do it for me. And one time, let me win the New Hampshire primary. [Laughter]

God bless you, and thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:19 p.m. at the Sheraton Tara Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to George Charles Bruno, U.S. Ambassador to Belize.

### **Statement on the Terrorist Attack in London, United Kingdom**

*February 19, 1996*

It is with great sadness that I once again express my condolences to the victims of an

IRA bomb in London. These cowardly acts of terrorism are the work of individuals determined to thwart the will of the people of Northern Ireland. They want peace. I condemn these acts of violence in the strongest possible terms and hope those responsible are brought swiftly to justice.

Over the last 17 months, the people of Northern Ireland have tasted peace and grown accustomed to the blessings of a normal life. We must not let the men of the past ruin the future of the children in Northern Ireland. The Irish and British Governments are engaged in intensive efforts to move the peace process forward. I strongly believe that is the path to follow.

For our part, we will continue our dialog with the Irish and British Governments and the parties to support their efforts to restore the cease-fire and find a lasting and just peace. We look forward to the summit expected at the end of the month between the Irish and British Governments. I am hopeful they will find a way to peace.

### **Remarks on the Observance of Eid al-Fitr**

*February 20, 1996*

On behalf of all Americans, I want to extend my personal greetings to the entire Muslim community here in the United States and around the world as it celebrates the Eid al-Fitr.

This week marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. It is a time for rejoicing and celebration, but it is also a time for reflection and rededication. On this occasion, let us rekindle our commitment to the cause of peace among all the peoples of the Earth. If we are dedicated in our belief and constant in our labor, we can build a better future, one of cooperation, understanding, and compassion, for ourselves and for our children.

Let us also remember the values of family and community, as well as our responsibility for those who are less fortunate, ideals that lie at the heart of Ramadan. These principles of personal commitment to faith and to society truly are universal values.

So as the new Moon ushers in this holy celebration, let me say to all who follow the

faith of Islam here in the United States and around the world the traditional greeting: *As-Salaamu Alaykum*, may peace be with you, and may God grant you health and prosperity now and in the years ahead.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at 5:26 p.m. on February 16 in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. This transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 20.

**Remarks at the Swearing-In of  
Kweisi Mfume as President of the  
National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People**  
*February 20, 1996*

Thank you very much, Myrlie Evers-Williams, for your introduction, for your remarks, and most importantly, for your willingness to take on what appeared to be a thankless and could well have been a no-win situation in seizing the helm of the NAACP and helping to bring it to this moment of great celebration and unity. The entire Nation is in your debt, and we thank you.

To the distinguished Members of Congress, the mayors who are here, the clergy, members of the administration; to the young people who have performed, and the family of Congressman Mfume. Kweisi told me today before we came out that this is a celebration of rebirth and renewal. And the Vice President and I were standing there amidst his—four of his five strapping young sons; the other is in school or he would be here, showing that he still has his priorities in order. [*Laughter*] He said, "This is going to be a celebration of rebirth and renewal. And so I have given this over to the young people and to Roger Wilkins." [*Laughter*]

And I must say, as I heard Jaimie speak, and as I heard Jason speak for the Arkansas contingent here, and as I heard Ayinde speak—by the way, I memorized that poem, and I never spoke it half that well—and then I heard the Morgan State Choir sing, I thought this really is about rebirth and renewal and energy and youth. And I kept cutting my speech shorter and shorter. [*Laughter*]

I just want to make a couple of brief points. This country does still need the NAACP. Oh, we are here in the Justice Department today because of what the NAACP has meant to us. When I was the age of these young people here, I can remember what it was like, still, to have a church burned in your home State, to have people intimidated away from pursuing their legal rights.

We are here because of what the NAACP has meant to America. To me and to Al Gore, growing up as white southerners in the South, we loved the NAACP. It made us believe that something good was going to come at the end of the civil rights struggle. It made us believe that we could all live together and grow together. But we know today in this age of incredible possibility for our country, when we have the African-American unemployment rate in single digits for the first time in 20 years, 100,000 new African-American owned businesses—we know still that more than half our people are working harder just to keep up.

We know still that, as we glory in these young people being in college, that the college-going rate is going up, but the college-going rate among young people who come from the poorest fifth of our families has leveled off and going down because of the costs. And we know we must never go back to the days of the black church bombings, the other terrible acts of racial terrorism.

And so I want to say, too, we need the NAACP today not only because there are still economic problems and elementary social divisions. We have to do everything we can to see that we determine, in this Justice Department, who created these recent crimes and all of us stand together against any kind of return to that.

Let me say as I look across this crowd and I see so many people—I don't want to call names, but I want to say just one thing about our public life. I see Reverend Jackson and Mrs. King and Dexter and Congressman and Secretary Kemp standing there, sitting there. One of the men who wanted to replace me in the Presidential election this year had to undergo the agony of having leaflets passed out against his Asian-American wife. That is wrong. We still need the NAACP, and no party can tolerate that sort of thing. And none

of our people should. We're all the same in this country, and we still haven't learned that yet.

If you look at where we are and where we're going, we can never create opportunity for all Americans who are willing to assume the responsibility to seize it unless we determine to go into the future together. That's what the NAACP must remind us of. That is the great lesson of America, and unfortunately, not every American has learned it yet. And until we all learn it and live by it, we will need the NAACP.

Let me also say that when Kweisi called me to tell me that he was going to take this job, in the words of the old country song, I didn't know whether to kill myself or go bowling. [Laughter] I had become almost emotionally dependent upon him being in the Congress—[laughter]—supporting me when I needed it, reprimanding me when I needed it, whether I knew it or not. [Laughter] I never have much time for television, but whenever I channel-surfed and saw him doing his talk show on television, I always stopped and marveled at how well he related to all those different kinds of people. He is a uniquely gifted man, with a personal history that shimmers with the promise of America and the possibility of personal renewal and the virtue of never giving up on yourself or your family or your common possibility.

I can't help but say that in the continuing struggle we have to rescue our young people. When you see these young people, you know there is nothing that they cannot do. And when you see so many others we are losing, when the crime rate goes down in America, the juvenile violence rate goes up, when drug use goes down in America and drug use among juveniles goes up, you ask yourself, there's got to be something wrong here when not all of our children—don't do this and don't have these opportunities and don't shimmer with their own energy and integrity and possibility. That's what Kweisi Mfume will help to bring to America through the NAACP.

Because he is a Congressman from Maryland and we have so many of his colleagues here, I think we must also say that a lot of our hearts were broken when those eight

young Job Corps trainees from Maryland perished in the train crash just a few days ago. Like most of you, I sat there, a helpless citizen, watching it on television, thinking about all of the promise of those children. But let me remind you that they were given a chance, and we should remember them and honor them by determining to give every child who needs a chance the chance they were given. And that is why we need the NAACP and why we need Kweisi Mfume to lead it. We should honor that.

Let me finally say that his constituents have given him the greatest recommendation possible for this job in what is going on in the effort to succeed him. [Laughter] You can tell how good a person is by whether others want to do what he once did or she once did. We had a mayor in my home town once spend his entire term offering to fix parking tickets in nongrammatical ways. And when he left office, it took us months to find anyone to run. [Laughter]

When he announced he was leaving, 32 people showed up. [Laughter] It's almost impossible to sort out the election process. It's a great tribute to the standard of public service set by this Congressman. I am laughing about it; I am dead serious: 28 Democrats and four Republicans showed up because they know it means something to represent the American people in the United States Congress because of the way he represented the people of his district.

So I say to you, my fellow Americans, as someone who is in the personal debt of the NAACP, and as your President, we need the NAACP. I thank every person here who worked with Myrlie to bring it back together to this point, to shed the old baggage and to go forward with a clear mind and a free heart. And I thank my good friend Congressman Mfume for his willingness to lay down his political career for even higher public service.

It is a wise choice. It will give us a better future. And we are all here to celebrate as I ask the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals, Judge Harry Edwards, to come forward and administer the oath to the new president and CEO of the NAACP.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:38 p.m. in the Great Hall at the Department of Justice. In his remarks, he referred to Myrlie Evers-Williams, chair, board of directors, NAACP; Roger Wilkins, author and professor, George Mason University; Jaimie Smith, student, Baltimore School of the Arts; Jason Hines, student, Morgan State University; Ayinde Jean-Baptiste, student, Whitney Young Magnet High School; civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson; Coretta Scott King, widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dexter King, his son; and former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp.

### **Statement on the Balkan Peace Process**

*February 20, 1996*

This afternoon I met with my senior national security team to review the situation in Bosnia. I received a report on this weekend's meeting in Rome with the Presidents of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia.

I am pleased that in Rome, the Balkan leaders recommitted themselves to keeping peace on track. The parties pledged to resume contacts with the NATO-led Implementation Force, to reunify Sarajevo on schedule, to release all remaining war prisoners, to remove any remaining foreign forces, to cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes, and to strengthen the Bosnian-Croat Federation and reunify Mostar.

I have instructed my foreign policy team to continue efforts to convince all the parties that their Rome commitments must be implemented faithfully and without delay. The road to peace is a hard road, but it is the right road. We are proud to be part of the NATO force, and I am pleased to be meeting with NATO Secretary General Solana today.

While serious problems remain, it is important to keep the situation in Bosnia in perspective. After nearly 4 years of war, peace will not take hold overnight. We should not lose sight of the remarkable progress that has been made since Dayton. The cease-fire is holding. The zones of separation are in place. And in Sarajevo, once a dying city haunted by snipers and shells, the markets are filled. People are back on the streets. Builders are repairing shops and small businesses in the

center of town. Sarajevo has come back to life, with a future for all of its people.

These are the kinds of tangible benefits that will help give all the people of Bosnia a greater stake in peace than in war. Tomorrow, I am sending to Capitol Hill a supplemental appropriations request for \$820 million to support IFOR and its mission. This includes \$200 million to assist the essential process of civilian implementation—specifically, economic reconstruction and reform, deployment of international police monitors, and demining. I will work with Congress to secure these funds as quickly as possible. The sooner the Bosnian people recover the blessings of a normal life, the surer the chances for a peace that endures.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the enormous dedication of Assistant Secretary Holbrooke, who has spearheaded the peace effort for us since last August. As Ambassador Holbrooke steps down, I want to thank him for his service to our Nation. The people of Bosnia and American people owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude. My new Special Adviser for Implementation of the Dayton accords, Ambassador Robert Gallucci, one of our most experienced and successful diplomats, joined our meeting today and will continue our mission of moving the peace process forward.

### **Message to the Senate Transmitting the Convention on the Law of the Sea Fisheries Agreement**

*February 20, 1996*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, with Annexes ("the Agreement"), which was adopted at United Nations Headquarters in New York by consensus of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish

Stocks on August 4, 1995, and signed by the United States on December 4, 1995. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Secretary of State with respect to the Agreement.

The Agreement represents a considerable achievement for the United States in promoting better stewardship of living marine resources. It strikes a sound balance between the interests of coastal States in protecting offshore fishery resources and those of States whose fishing vessels operate on the high seas. If widely ratified and properly implemented, the Agreement should significantly improve the prospects for sustainable fisheries worldwide.

The Agreement builds directly upon, and strengthens, the fishery provisions contained in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention"), which I transmitted to the Senate for advice and consent on October 6, 1994. As such, the Agreement further reflects the central role of the Convention in governing the maritime relations of the international community.

Perhaps more than any other nation, the United States stands to benefit from widespread adherence to this Agreement. The Agreement will help to ensure that the harvesting of fish by vessels of other nations in waters beyond our exclusive economic zone does not undermine our domestic management of fisheries within U.S. jurisdiction. In addition, by promoting sound conservation practices generally, the Agreement can restore and maintain productive ocean fisheries for the benefit of American consumers and for U.S. fishing vessels wherever they operate.

With regard to disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Agreement, I intend to choose a special arbitral tribunal constituted in accordance with Annex VIII of the Convention, as recommended in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Agree-

ment and give its advice and consent to its ratification.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
February 20, 1996.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting the Report of the  
National Endowment for Democracy**  
*February 20, 1996*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to the provisions of section 504(h) of Public Law 98-164, as amended (22 U.S.C. 4413(i)), I transmit herewith the 12th Annual Report of the National Endowment for Democracy, which covers fiscal year 1995.

As the report demonstrates, the National Endowment for Democracy remains at the forefront of our efforts to expand and consolidate democratic gains around the globe. The strong bipartisan support the Endowment continues to receive reflects our Nation's steadfast commitment to the promotion of democracy.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
February 20, 1996.

**Exchange With Reporters Prior to  
Discussions With President Leonid  
Kuchma of Ukraine**  
*February 21, 1996*

**1996 Election**

**Q.** Pat Buchanan said today congressional Republicans shouldn't cut Medicare and veterans' benefits. Do you agree?

**President Clinton.** Good for him.

**Q.** What's your reaction to what happened last night? There seems to be a split in the Republican Party.

**President Clinton.** Well, first of all, I'm very gratified by what happened in the Democratic primary last night. I haven't seen the final numbers, but we may have made history there, even for an incumbent Presi-

dent without appreciable opposition, compared to anything that's happened in the last 50 years if the vote holds up. And we had a good turnout, too. And I think that's evidence that what the American people really want is someone who will take a positive approach to the future, bring us together and come out with the continuing movement, continuing ideas that will bring us together and move us forward.

So I'm satisfied with the election, and I'm going to let the Republicans and the pundits deal with their business. You know, this country doesn't need another pundit, and I need to go on and be President.

**Q.** Are you surprised by the Republican outcome, Mr. President?

**President Clinton.** I had no—I didn't know what to expect. Since I didn't know what was going to happen, I couldn't be surprised.

**Q.** Do you regard Mr. Buchanan as too extreme to be a mainstream candidate?

**President Clinton.** I regard this whole process as one for the Republicans to work out. I'm going to be President and go out there and tell the people what I'm trying to do and what I would do if given a greater opportunity to do it. And I'm not going to get involved in their business or yours. That's your business and theirs.

#### **Ukrainian Aircraft**

**Q.** A question for Mr. Kuchma. Mr. Kuchma, are you commenting at all on the allegations that aircraft from state-owned factories in your country have gone to the Cali cartel for their use?

**President Kuchma.** First of all, it was owned not by the state but by a company. And I think that the aircraft not only of Ukraine but of all other countries are used on the same basis all over the world. They are used on the basis of leasing.

And I think that the Colombian side should take all the responsibility on that, and, in fact, I have instructed so that to find all the reasons and all the deepest backgrounds of that issue, though I don't think there was any blame on our side.

I think that international mechanisms should be worked out so that we face less issues of this sort of misuse of aircraft and

so on and so forth. So we are always asked this sort of question only after their usage, but we have to do everything possible to prevent this usage and so that to avoid this sort of asking. Though, according to our information, our aircraft are not involved in this sort of affairs.

**President Clinton.** Thank you all. Have a nice day, you guys. You have a decent day outside. Why don't we have a national recess? [Laughter]

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]

**President Kuchma.** I would like to add one thing to that question, that our Secret Service has addressed yours so that you consider this issue together.

**President Clinton.** Let me say to our friends in the Ukrainian press, it's a great honor for me to have President Kuchma here. The United States is strongly committed to a sovereign, independent, prosperous Ukraine.

I admire the difficult and courageous steps that President Kuchma and Ukraine have taken toward democracy and economic reform. I know this has been a difficult time, and I want to see the world community, including the United States, do everything possible to support Ukraine in its efforts to maintain democracy and to restore real prosperity and opportunity to the people.

**President Kuchma.** It's a pleasure to listen to such nice words addressed to Ukraine and its people. And I'd like to confirm the only thing that from the very beginning the United States have always been a guarantor for economic and political transformations in Ukraine, the guarantor for building and shaping all the civilized, democratic society in Ukraine. This is our priority assignment, and we are happy to be together with the United States in this respect.

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:20 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

**Remarks on the Unveiling of the Domestic Violence Hotline and an Exchange With Reporters**

*February 21, 1996*

**The President.** Thank you, Candice. Thank you, Secretary Shalala. Thank you, Senator Kennedy, Senator Leahy, Representative Conyers. I want to thank Bonnie Campbell for doing such a great job as the Director of the Violence Against Women Office at the Justice Department. And I thank the Attorney General and Associate Attorney General John Schmidt and the others at Justice who have supported this endeavor for the first time. I want to thank you, Ellen Fisher, and your entire team for your hard work and your leadership. We are counting on you.

I want to thank all the brave women in this audience who have survived the horrors and the fears of domestic violence and who have gone on to work, like Candice, as advocates. And I want to thank the men and the women who are here today, some in law enforcement, some in other walks of life, who are here because they believe in this effort and they want to support it.

I was just sitting here thinking how many of you had the same reaction to Candice that I did. She sort of stepped up here and started talking, it sounded like another ordinary speech—I've done thousands of these now in the last 22 years—and it was almost hypnotic, just a calm, even-voice narrative that seemed almost unbelievable except for those of you who have lived through it so often.

When I gave the State of the Union Address and asked the American people to look beyond the present battle over the budget to the real challenges facing our country, not just our Government but our country, I pointed out that our first and foremost challenge now and perhaps forever will be to have good, strong families and to give childhood back to all the children in this country. Most of us have known the joys of—some of the joys of family life. And anybody who's been in a family knows that none of them are perfect. But there's a world of difference between a family with its joys and its problems and a family terrorized by violence and abuse.

For all the economic problems facing poor children in America, I would rather them be poor in homes with loving parents than have their childhoods robbed by violence in their homes. So I say again to all of you, this is not a women's issue; this is an issue for families and for children and for men as well. And it is an American challenge that we have to face.

This issue has been swept under the rug for too long. We have tried to take it out into the daylight, to let people talk about it, to give people a chance to find courage in the efforts of others and to know where they can find help. That's what the Violence Against Women Act in the 1994 crime bill was all about. And again, I thank Bonnie Campbell and all those at Justice who have supported those endeavors.

It's also what our efforts in the crime bill to train people locally to be more sensitive to this are all about. We're making progress now. We're actually getting a core group of police officers and prosecutors and judges who really understand this problem and how it should be dealt with. This past September, Federal prosecutors used the Violence Against Women Act to help ensure that a man convicted of severe violence against his wife was actually sentenced to life in prison. So I think that we need to continue this effort.

The second thing we need to do is to make sure that women who are struggling to take control of their own lives know how to do it. And for all the reasons that Secretary Shalala said, this number—this hotline will make a difference to women everywhere, whether they're isolated in rural areas, whether they're in big cities without enough money for a quarter for a telephone call—everywhere that people can see this number they will be able to use it.

So I guess what I'd like to do now is to wrap up my remarks and say that we're really, all of us, here for people who aren't here. And my greatest hope about this press conference is that people out there across America will see it tonight or hear about it, and if they are victims of domestic abuse or if they suspect that someone they know and care about is a victim of domestic abuse, they

will pick up the phone and call this number—1-800-799-CARE.

**Secretary Donna Shalala.** SAFE.

**The President.** SAFE, I mean. [Laughter] I can't read. Maybe it will get overused and we'll have to have two. [Laughter]

If this hotline—if one person does this and it saves their lives, if one person winds up safe, it will have been worth the effort. But all of you in this room know that it's not one person, that there are thousands and thousands and thousands of people out there.

I'm going to be very interested to see what the report is after 1 month and 2 months and 3 months. And I'm going to ask to get a report: how many calls, how many people out there, feeling alone and lonely and bereft and abandoned will dial that; how many people will commit to memory 799-SAFE and dial it, because I believe that all of us, even those of you who are advocates, may well be surprised by the sheer numbers, the volume of calls.

So I ask you as you leave today to reaffirm our common commitment to an end to domestic violence; to reaffirm our common commitment to saying to people, you must not raise your hand in violence against members of your family in your home; and to reaffirm our commitment to get this number everywhere. I want schoolchildren to know that there is a 1-800-799-SAFE. I want every police officer to know there's a 1-800-799-SAFE. I want every mayor to know it. I want every church leader to know it. I want it to be emblazoned in the synagogues and all the houses of worship in America. I want people to know this number. This is a way that we can bring the marvels of modern technology to solve a very old problem in a profoundly human way.

So again, I say, I thank all of you for your efforts. As you know, it means a lot to me personally. But it will only count if everyone in America who needs to know this number, knows it; and if everybody who needs to know it, knows it and feels that they can use it; and then that the people on the other end of the line do their job. I'm convinced that people on the other end of the line will do their job. [Laughter] And I'm convinced those of you who are out there in the fields will continue to do your job.

So I ask you to celebrate today, but remember, there's a lot of doctors and teachers and police officers and others that we need to gather into this great American family committed to doing away with this problem. I think—I will say again, if we can do this, and then we can make some progress on the real issue, which is getting every man in America to make a personal pledge never to raise a hand in violence in the home, this is a problem that America has that can actually be solved. And I think all of you are going to hasten the day when we do it.

Thank you very much.

**Q.** Mr. President, Can we have a question on this topic, sir?

**The President.** Yes.

**Q.** Following up on what the speaker said, could you or your family or your mother have benefited from a service like this when you were growing up, considering the problems that were in your household?

**The President.** The honest answer is, I don't know. I think that—I think yes because at that time in our country's history, most women were too embarrassed to talk about it. They didn't know that anybody else—they didn't know if anybody else had the problem, and if they did, they had no way of finding out who they were. And I think that the sense of shame, the ambivalence that maybe somehow this must be partly my fault or this is my burden to bear, that this is not anything that I can get out of—I think that's how it would have been most helpful.

I had a—my mother was one of the most remarkably resilient and self-reliant people I knew, but I think she came of age at a time when women in America simply didn't know that there was any way out of this. And I bet you there's still a lot of women out there who just don't know that there's any way out of this. So I would think that would have been the most important thing that would have helped us.

Thank you.

**Audience member.** May I ask you a question also?

**The President.** Sure.

**Audience member.** I wonder if you could just take a moment and speak to the fact that with the billions of women who are battered, those that are the least addressed are those

that are deaf, and that there is also a TDD line—

**The President.** Oh, I'm sorry.

**Audience member.** —and maybe a special thank-you to Senator Kennedy for seeing that that happened. [Laughter]

**The President.** Thank you. Would you like to say something about it?

That's the TDD line, and for the last couple of years we've done some things to point out what telephone technology is doing to bring communication to the deaf. And this TDD line is 1-800-787-3224.

I thank you for mentioning that.

Thank you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:38 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Candice Slaughter, domestic violence victim, and Ellen Fisher, hotline director.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Budget Rescissions**

*February 21, 1996*

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

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report three rescission proposals of budgetary resources, totaling \$820 million. These rescissions offset the emergency FY 1996 Defense supplemental appropriations, which support the Bosnia peace implementation force. The rescissions affect the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

### **Remarks to the White House Conference on Empowerment Zones**

*February 22, 1996*

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President, Hannah and Vinnie and the congressmen, the mayors, county officials, and others here. Can you believe the Vice President—[laughter]—asked me in front of all of you about this trade deal? [Laughter] I figured that

the—you know, in this league there's only two teams. [Laughter] Nobody on their team I want to trade him for. [Laughter] I'm a lot more worried about the other team treating him like a free agent, making him an offer he can't refuse. [Laughter]

I want to say to Vinnie Johnson, all of us saw him play on television with Detroit, but I was in my very first term as Governor of Arkansas when he was a star at Baylor. So I want to say here in front of all of you, I forgive him for all the points he scored against my team—[laughter]—when I was trying to succeed at everything, in every endeavor.

I thank him; I thank Hannah for their stunning examples. I want to thank the Vice President and Secretary Cisneros and Assistant Secretary Cuomo and Secretary Glickman and all the people in our other Departments who have worked to make this community empowerment effort a success.

I had believed in this concept long before I became President, long before I ran for President. But to make it work in the way that it has worked required an incredible amount of planning and discipline and followup and effort. And I must say, I have been pleased beyond my wildest dreams not only with what you have done but with the role that our administration has played and the role that they have done. The idea and the passing of the law in Congress was only the first step, and had they not done such a superb job in the followup—all the people on the Community Empowerment Board, but beginning with those I mentioned and starting first and foremost with the Vice President, this would not have happened. So I want to thank them for what they did.

I also want to say, just before I get into my remarks about you, the Congress is coming back next Monday, and in the weeks since they've been gone you can see that sometimes partisan activities lead to inattention to the public's business. Now we've got a real opportunity for action between now and Easter when the Congress goes out for its next recess, and I think it's time that we here got down to doing our work the way you are doing your work in your communities. It's time to deal with the unfinished business of this country: to continue to create oppor-

tunity, to continue to give people like you the opportunity to take responsibility for your own lives, and to build our American community, to grow this economy in a way that will help you to succeed.

That means we should act now—not later but now—to pass a 7-year balanced budget plan that is consistent with our values and our interests: that protect Medicare and Medicaid, our investments in education and the environment, that gives a modest tax cut to those who really need it, and that grows our economy. It means we ought to act now to pass real welfare reform that elevates work and family and protects children and gives people a chance to make the most of their own lives.

You want to know what kind of welfare reform I want? You just heard her speak up here. That's what this country needs.

We ought to pass the health care reform bill now before the Senate, unanimously voted out of the committee, Republicans and Democrats alike for it. The labor unions are for it. The National Association of Manufacturers are for it. The chamber of commerce is for it. Why has it not been voted on? The health insurance lobby is against it. Everybody else is for it. It's a simple little bill. It says if we can't find a way to give everybody health insurance, at least everybody ought to be able to afford health insurance, and people shouldn't lose their insurance just because someone in their family gets sick or because they have to change jobs. That bill, the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill, should be passed immediately to help the American people.

I heard Vinnie say he was going to give his employees a 401-K plan. There are a lot of small businesses that simply cannot afford pension plans for their employees now because of the laws that exist. One of the things in our balanced budget plan—it's a top priority of the White House Conference on Small Business—would make it much easier for the small businesses in your community empowerment zones to take out retirement programs for themselves and their employees. We ought to pass that right away.

And I'll tell you something else we ought to do when they come back. We ought to raise the minimum wage. You know, I believe

if we raise the minimum wage, you'd have people coming out of welfare looking for work even more intensely than they are now. If we don't raise the minimum wage, it will fall to a 40-year low this year in terms of what it will buy. You know, it's hard to raise a family with children on \$4.25 an hour. And yet, that's what a lot of people are trying to do. Now if we want to value our families and value work, we ought to do it. We ought to do it now.

We ought to pass antiterrorism legislation that has been languishing for a year almost. And we ought to enact real campaign finance reform. There is a lot for Congress to do. And this can be an era of genuine bipartisan achievement for our country. It's the only way we can achieve anything since the Congress is in the hands of the Republicans, but we need Republicans and Democrats to vote for things, and the White House is in the hands of the other party. We can do that.

What we really need to do here is to behave the way you are back home. What we really need to do is to adopt a model that you have had to adopt back home, get all kinds of people together, different people, different walks of life, different parties, different attitudes, different outlooks, and bring everybody's strengths to the table and prove that we can create an era of possibility for everyone.

You know, sometimes people say to me when I give these speeches, "Well, what exactly is it that you believe? What is your philosophy of how people ought to work together and how this country ought to work?" And you're it. I mean, basically, this is how I think we ought to approach all of our major challenges. If you want to know how I think we should work and what Government should do, look at what we have done to work with you to basically empower you to work together to take control of your own destinies, to help individuals and families and neighborhoods and communities make the most of their own present and their own future.

I said in the State of the Union Address that these enormous economic changes, our movement to an information and technology age, into a global economy, have created an age of possibility for untold numbers of

Americans. But as all of us know, it is a strange and different time.

None of us have ever lived through a time of this much economic change before. The last time this happened was a hundred years ago when we moved from an agricultural to an industrial society. So none of us have the experience of knowing what this is like. But what is going on is we are exploding opportunities at a record rate, and half our people feel like they are stuck in idle. And there's a reason for that.

I mean, if I had told you 3 years ago—suppose I had given the following Inaugural Address, how would you have responded: “My fellow Americans, in 3 years we'll cut the deficit in half; have 8 million new jobs; have 3 years in a row of record new formations of small businesses; record new self-made millionaires, not people who were given it; we'll have the lowest combined rates of unemployment and inflation in 27 years; homeownership will be at a 15-year high; we will have record exports—for the first time in 10 years our exports to other countries will be growing faster than their imports to us; and after 3 years, half the American people will be making the same thing they were making 3 years ago.”

You would have said, “That guy is on another planet,” right? [*Laughter*] Those things don't follow, but that's exactly what happened. And that's why you see these different stories coming out about the economy, and people taking a different tack on it and the rhetoric of the election season, because the good news is true and so is the bad news.

And what is causing that is this great uprooting, this time of change we're going through where more and more work is more mind and less muscle; where this fine lady and her son do computer programs and work out the software to help the empowerment zone work in their community; and more and more work is being created by people like Vinnie, small-business people in highly flexible interpersonal relationships with fewer layers of bureaucracy. And more and more people who used to be in big structural bureaucracies are finding themselves downsized, which is a cruel way of saying you're middle-aged and out of work.

And so it is the best of times for America, except for the people who don't quite fit into all the changes when the gears don't quite mesh. And obviously, if you look across America, economically, you will see that there are essentially three big problems. There are places where the recovery hasn't hit, where the unemployment rate is still too high and people want jobs and don't have them. There are the people who are working harder and harder just to keep up because they haven't gotten a raise. And then there are people who happen to be in certain sectors of the economy where they're being downsized, and it's taking them a much longer time to find another job making what they were making before with the same level of benefits.

So the challenge, the economic challenge for America is not how do we put up a wall and walk away from the world, but how do we capture the dynamism of the good sectors of the economy, all these great things that are happening, and spread it to the rest of the economy so that everybody has opportunity again; so that when you talk about how the country's doing, you're talking about how everybody can do and not just how some can do.

The same thing is true on the social front. If you look at it, 3 years ago I would not have believed that in 3 years we could have the crime rate, the poverty rate, the welfare rolls, the food stamp rolls, the teen pregnancy rolls all dropping. But that is good. That's the good news. They're all going down. The bad news is, in most places they're still too high.

And the really troubling thing is that if I had told you this 3 years ago—what if I had given you this speech. “My fellow Americans, in 3 years the rate of drug use in our country among people between the ages of 18 and 34 will be going down, and the crime rate in America will be going down, but the rate of casual drug use among people under 18 will be going up and random violence among people under 18 will be going up.” You would say, “Wow, how did that happen?”

It's the same story on the social front. We have not—we have not succeeded in revitalizing our institutions, our neighborhoods, in strengthening our families and reaching oth-

ers. There are still too many of those kids out there raising themselves, with nothing to say yes to and people not touching them and working on them. That's what you're trying to do.

Now there is no way a Government program alone can either deal with the issue of opening up opportunity for all who will assume responsibility for it, or solving all the social problems. And not only that, no big bureaucracy is particularly effective anymore. This Government is much smaller than it was when I took office, 205,000 smaller. It's the smallest Government we've had in 30 years. But that does not mean, as the Vice President said, it does not mean that the answer to America's issues and America's challenges is going back to a time when people were left to fend for themselves or that we need a weak Government. What we need is a kind of partnership embodied by this endeavor, community-based efforts where everybody does their part. That's what we have tried to do and that is what you are doing.

And I just want to tell you that I am grateful to you for the progress you have made. And I want you to continue, and I want this model to sweep the country.

The solutions to America's real challenges, economic and social challenges, have got to be community driven. The private sector has got to be an integral part. The Government—it's not like the Depression—the Government is broke. We have some money to invest in education and training, to invest in environmental protection, to invest in new technologies, to invest in infrastructure, but we got to get rid of this deficit. So we can't go out and just hire everybody that doesn't have a job. The private sector has got to do that. And we have to have the right kind of partnership to get them involved so that we have 10,000 stories like the one Vinnie told today, or 100,000, or a million, or however many it takes to bring opportunity back to everybody in this country.

The third thing we've got to do is to have Government at every level doing its part. The most important thing, I will say again, about this whole empowerment zone process, I think, is not that we broke 13 years of gridlock to finally pass it into law in 1993 in the budget, it is that after we did that,

over 500 communities applied to participate. And even the ones that were not selected wound up being richer and better off because they had to get together and ask themselves, what is our vision for this community and what is my responsibility and what is your responsibility to achieve that vision, and how are we going to do it together?

We cannot afford to be divided anymore. We can't afford to sit home passively and read the papers every day and watch the news every night and be upset about what's not happening and blame somebody else. Instead, we're going to go out and meet together and work together and change it together. If everybody in America would do that, we would be on the way toward the American dream for all of our people in the 21st century—just what you've done.

The first round of the empowerment zone's Enterprise Community Initiative was so successful that more than \$8 billion in additional commitments of investment in these areas have been made from the public and private sector in addition to the money that was committed by the Federal Government. That is amazing. One hundred and five communities were chosen in the first round. You heard Vinnie Johnson's story: Detroit alone has attracted \$2 billion in local private sector investment commitments, creating hundreds and hundreds of jobs. We can do that everywhere.

In Los Angeles, Federal funds helped to set up a public-private partnership to form the largest community development bank in the Nation. We know—this country, your country has funded banks in developing nations to make loans to people with far fewer assets, skills, and capacities than we have in the American inner cities. And we have put those people back to work and given them a stake in the future and strengthened the economy of other countries. It is unconscionable that we don't do it in this country. Every community should have one of those.

In one of the smallest and poorest communities in the Mississippi Delta, two new manufacturing plants are coming to Itta Bena, a town that had never had one before. We can do that everywhere. One of the things that we ought to do in this budget debate is to make sure that we leave in the commit-

ment of a modest amount of money to establish these community development financial institutions everywhere. If it works in Third World countries, it will work in the rural and urban areas of America that have been left out. Stay with it. We have to do it.

And let me say that most of what we are talking about here—all of what we are talking about here—need not be a partisan issue. Every American, Republican and Democrat alike, independent, Green Party, whatever, there's nobody in America that says, "I've got a real vested interest in keeping that crime rate up," except people we want out of the way. There's no one in America that says, "I've got a vested interest in keeping more mothers on welfare. I've got a vested interest in keeping our schools substandard." Nobody's giving these speeches.

Fiorello LaGuardia once said, there is no Republican or Democratic way to clean the streets. No one in America says, "I've got a vested interest in making sure that that playground a block down from my apartment house never has a net on the basketball goal."

This is basic human values. When we fail to give every person a shot at the American dream, when we fail to grow the economy, when we fail to build up the potential of the American people, and when we fail to work together, we all lose. And when we do it, we all win.

This is not a question of class warfare. Americans don't resent successful people. They admire successful people. Americans want people who are successful to be rewarded. We do expect successful people to do what Vinnie's done, that sometime in their lives to give a little something back to help other people succeed. But nobody resents success.

The only time resentment comes into our society is not when people who are successful have more; it's when people who don't have more never have a chance to do better. That is the problem here. People want their own chance to do better. And we have an obligation to give it to them, and that's what this whole empowerment zone enterprise community endeavor is all about.

Now let me say that I believe that you have made round one a phenomenal success. There are many other rural and urban and

Indian Nation communities that I believe deserve a chance. And so let me say, when the Congress comes back I'm going to urge them to do one more thing; I'm going to ask them in this budget negotiations to give us a round two so that others have a chance to do what you have done.

If we are going to have tax relief, we will never give so little tax relief and have spent so little money to have such a big impact, to generate so much private sector and other public sector investment in any other way as we will with this. There is more bang for the buck here than anything else we could do. And I believe we should do it.

I also want to say that I want to challenge, again, every community to come together and devise your own rebirth. There are other ways for communities to work with us. For example, if the Baltimore empowerment zone can develop a plan to transform 600 acres of abandoned industrial land into an eco-industrial park, imagine how many other acres can be reclaimed. If the Kentucky Highlands empowerment zone can create a cooperative to get credit to farmers, imagine how other farmers and businesses could be helped if only credit were available. If other communities have done this kind of thing to help themselves, why can't every community do the same thing?

We want to do everything we can to help everybody in America be a part of the kind of comprehensive strategy for the future embodied in the empowerment zones in the enterprise communities, taking on tough jobs like reclaiming abandoned industrial sites, improving access to capital and making homeownership easier, working with the communities with which we are working and those with whom we are prepared to work. We are beginning to clean the environment in our cities by taking a commonsense approach.

And I wish I had a chance to talk about 10 of these examples, because they're all so thrilling to me. But there are literally hundreds of thousands of old, neglected industrial sites now popularly called "brownfields," that can be redeveloped, as Baltimore is doing. Protecting our environment in the urban areas can go hand-in-hand with redevelopment. It can create jobs and at the same

time make more people want to live in the cities of America again.

Finally, let me say we have to do more to create housing that will encourage vibrant neighborhoods in our inner cities and rural areas. You know, cities used to be places where teachers and firefighters and police officers wanted to live, and they can be again if we can help communities to develop good, affordable housing.

If we really want all of our communities to be revitalized again, we not only have to create opportunities for poor people, we have to make the environment so that middle class people will want to live in them again and that the poor and the middle class will live side by side, as they did in the neighborhoods when I grew up. We have to do that. We have to be committed to helping all Americans achieve this large part of the American dream known as homeownership.

I'm very proud of what Secretary Cisneros has done with dwindling resources at HUD, working with the private sector to see homeownership reach a 15-year high this year, and we have to do more. We proposed to reclaim tracts of vacant or blighted land and to renovate whole neighborhoods, to bring back to the city hard-working middle-income families, to stimulate business and private investment. We want to work with private sector and other investment to create scores of livable, inviting, inner-city neighborhoods.

Homeownership initiatives now are working in Detroit, Buffalo, in San Antonio and New York and Baltimore. I say again, let us build on our success. Homeownership is one of the best ways to empower local residents, to give them a stake in the community and to increase the bonds that tie people together. It means commitment. If we have any hope of bringing success back to these inner cities, we have to have people there who care and who are committed. Homeownership can help us achieve that goal as well.

Together, I believe we can find the kind of long-term solutions we need. But I will say again, if we really have a vision of all-American communities—where there are good jobs, where there are businesses that are flourishing, where the streets are safe and the environment is clean and the families are stable and the schools work to educate and

prepare all children—it begins, not so much with any specific initiative as with you, with people like you who are committed to working together, to working in an honest, forthright way. And it ends with having the kind of partnership that you have achieved with each other and with every level of government and with the private sector. The difference is the way you are doing this and your understanding that you cannot succeed unless you work together.

So I ask you when you leave here to continue to prove that we can do this. And I ask you to join us in reclaiming more of our distressed communities, and spreading the message throughout America that there is no challenge facing this country we cannot meet if we will get rid of our cynicism, get rid of every excuse for inaction, get rid of the notion that we have the luxury of blaming other people for our problems instead of working together to solve them together. That's what you have done. That's what you can give to all America.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:46 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Mayflower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Vinnie Johnson, former Detroit Piston basketball player and chairman of Pistons Packaging, and Hannah Oakman, public information officer, Philadelphia/Camden Empowerment Zone.

### **Remarks Announcing the Nominations for Chairman, Vice Chair, and Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and an Exchange With Reporters**

*February 22, 1996*

**The President.** Good afternoon. As we seek to sustain economic growth, there is no more important institution in our country than the Federal Reserve. Its decision can help determine whether businesses can borrow and grow, whether families can buy a home, and whether our financial system is sound. Its independence and its professionalism are an important safeguard for our economy.

Over the past 3 years, my administration has had a respectful and productive relationship with the Federal Reserve. During this time, we have done our job to help grow this economy, first by cutting our deficit in half and, secondly, by increasing important investments in education, technology, and defense conversion.

The Fed, in turn, has done its job making independent and professional judgments on monetary policy. Together our efforts have helped to create a climate for sustained economic growth, the lowest combination of unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rates in 27 years. This relationship has worked.

Today I am pleased to announce my decision, first, to reappoint Alan Greenspan as the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. He brings his years of experience as a prominent economist and, I might add, a leading Republican and a career capped by 8 years of service as the Chairman of the Federal Reserve. During his tenure he has inspired confidence and for good reason. He has worked with our administration to safeguard the stability of global financial markets, recognizing that today even temporary difficulties in one corner of the globe can have far-reaching effects in another. And more importantly, his decisions have helped us to work toward a period of sustained economic growth.

I'm also proud to announce my intention to nominate two distinguished economists to join Chairman Greenspan at the Fed. First, I am nominating Dr. Alice Rivlin as the Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve Board.

As a founding Director of the Congressional Budget Office, a senior fellow at Brookings Institution, and president of the American Economics Association, she is one of our Nation's foremost experts on how to keep the economy growing. And as my Director of the Office of Management and Budget, she has been my strong right arm as we have cut wasteful spending and moved toward a balanced budget.

I have come to deeply value her independence. She always calls it as she sees it. And I know from working with her for 3 years that her ultimate test is how the decisions we make affect the lives and the future of ordinary American citizens.

Alice Rivlin has the right combination of mind and heart to serve our country well as the Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve. I will miss her, and I appreciate her willingness to take on this new responsibility.

For the position of member of the Federal Reserve Board I am today nominating Laurence Meyer. Dr. Meyer is a professor of economics at Washington University. He is renowned as one of our Nation's leading economic forecasters. This year he received the annual award as the most accurate forecaster among blue-chip economists, an award he also won in 1993. Because of that, his economic forecasts are closely listened to at both OMB and CBO. Now, that is no small feat. [Laughter] He consults widely for American businesses, and his judgment and experience will serve our Nation well at the Federal Reserve.

If we all continue to do our part and the Federal Reserve continues to be strong, forthright, and resolute, we can create a climate for sustained growth and prosperity for the American people for years to come. I look forward to working with these nominees, and I hope the Senate will give them speedy and favorable consideration.

Thank you, Mr. Greenspan. Alice, Dr. Meyer, thank you very much.

### **Senate Confirmation**

**Q.** Do you have any guarantees from the Senate, Mr. President?

**The President.** I don't know that there are any guarantees left in this old world, but I feel quite confident that this team of people will be confirmed.

### **Economic Growth**

**Q.** Mr. President, do you think these three people will be able to engage in the kind of debate you were talking about in New York last week?

**The President.** I do. And I feel good about it. After all, what should our objective be? Our objective should be to achieve the maximum sustainable economic growth in our country, consistent with not letting inflation get out of hand. And the Fed can't do that alone. The rest of us have to do our part, too.

I think balancing the budget is an important part of it. I think bringing the benefits of education and technology to all the members of the work force who are stuck in stagnant wages now is a very important part of it. I think creating incentives to invest in the areas where there aren't enough jobs of any kind, in the inner cities and the rural areas, is an important part of it. That's what our empowerment zone meeting today is about. And I think paying some special attention to all those people who have been downsized and trying to devise ways that will speed their reentry into the job market at appropriate levels is an important part of it.

So no one can do this job alone, but I think that the truth is that we're entering a new economy, and it's a subject that ought to be open to honest debate. I was encouraged by the comments that Chairman Greenspan made in his two appearances before the Congress in the last couple of days. And I feel good about this group of distinguished Americans being in the positions for which I have nominated them.

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President.** Thank you.

**Q.** Can we ask Dr. Rivlin a question?

**The President.** Sure.

**Q.** What level of growth would you like to see, Dr. Rivlin? [Laughter] And Dr. Meyer as well if you could.

**Alice Rivlin.** A sustainable level consistent with low inflation. [Laughter]

**Q.** Dr. Rivlin, could we ask, have you had a change of heart? Didn't you indicate just recently that you weren't really interested in this job?

**Dr. Rivlin.** Yes, I did. [Laughter]

**Q.** Is the President persuasive or—

**The President.** I haven't lost all my powers of persuasion. [Laughter] Battered and bloody though I may be, I can still, once in a while, make a good argument. [Laughter] Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:47 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Drug Producing and Drug Transit Countries

February 22, 1996

Dear Mr. Chairman: (Dear Ranking Member:)

In accordance with the provisions of section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), as amended, I have determined that the following countries are major illicit drug producing or drug transit countries: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Jamaica, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam. These countries have been selected on the basis of information from the March 1, 1995, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report and from other United States Government sources.

No countries on the 1995 list have been removed from the list this year. I have added Belize and Cambodia to the list for the following reasons:

**Belize.** In my letter of February 2, 1995, which removed Belize from last year's list of major drug-producing countries, I stated, "We will be watching to determine whether it becomes a major transit point for drugs moving to the United States." I did so because Belize's geographical location south of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula makes it an ideal strategic drug transshipment point for U.S.-bound cocaine shipments. The country's long, unprotected coastline, large tracts of rain forest, many inland waterways and large unpopulated areas make Belize an inviting feeder site for moving drugs into the mainstream Mexican trafficking routes that carry the bulk of South American cocaine to U.S. markets. Despite a demonstrated commitment to cut off access to these routes, the Government of Belize lacks the human and material resources to

control its borders adequately. In earlier years, the British Defense Forces stationed in Belize were a partial deterrent to drug traffic, though cocaine transited the country even then. Their withdrawal in late 1994 cleared the way for new trafficking opportunities.

There is little doubt that traffickers are exploiting Belize's vulnerable anti-drug infrastructure, particularly as other countries have strengthened their counternarcotics efforts. The very factors that make Belize attractive as a backdoor to the Mexican cocaine route to the United States preclude a precise estimate of the volume of drugs transiting Belize. But it is clear from a number of airdrops off Belize's coast and important seizures that the trafficking organizations view it as a valuable transit point. Mexico's disruption of the large jets carrying multi-ton loads of cocaine ("cargas") has made Belize even more attractive as a feed-in point for U.S.-bound cocaine.

While shipments transiting Belize are smaller than those entering Mexico directly, they can still be sizable. For example, in a single operation in 1995, Belizean authorities seized more than half a ton (636 kilograms) of U.S.-bound cocaine and arrested two Colombians and a Belizean believed to be connected to the Cali cartel. In all of 1995, Belizean authorities seized a total of 840 kilograms of cocaine, which probably represents only a small fraction of the cocaine actually finding its way to the Mexican conduit to the United States. Moreover, this route is not new, since Belizean authorities reported seizing 850 kilograms of cocaine in 1993, and 650 kilograms in 1990. Consequently, I am now adding Belize to the list as a major drug transit country.

*Cambodia.* Over the past year we have seen numerous indicators that the heroin trafficking problem in Cambodia is severe. Newly formed and under-trained drug enforcement units have made large seizures of heroin. Cambodian police and customs sources have uncovered narcotics cases that involve

the Cambodian military and police. Narcotics-related corruption also seems to be a problem in government and business circles. Cambodia shares borders with Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam—all countries on the list of major drug producing and drug transit countries.

The Cambodian government formally acknowledged that drug transshipment was a significant problem in a royal decree establishing an interministerial committee against narcotics signed by the King on September 7. The head of the Phnom Penh Municipal Counternarcotics Bureau has stated to the press that as much as 600 kilograms of heroin is smuggled through Cambodia each week. While we have no evidence to corroborate this figure, which seems high, seizures in Cambodia give us reason to believe there is a significant volume of heroin transiting the country. On August 11, the Cambodian Customs Service seized 71 kilograms of heroin hidden in a speedboat in Koh Kong province. This is the largest seizure ever made in Cambodia and one of the largest made in Southeast Asia this year. Two west African traffickers apprehended by the Cambodian authorities in July have admitted smuggling heroin to the United States and other destinations.

The extent of narcotics-related corruption suggests that the overall drug transshipment problem in Cambodia may be even greater than recent seizures suggest. There have been investigations and arrests involving both police and military suspects. Local police were arrested in the 71-kilogram heroin seizure in Koh Kong province. In August, Thai police arrested several Cambodians including members of the Cambodian military for attempting marijuana smuggling. For all the reasons listed above, I believe it is appropriate for Cambodia to be added to the list as a transit country.

*Major Cannabis Producers.* While Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, the Philippines, and South Africa are impor-

tant cannabis producers, they do not appear on this list since I have determined that in all cases the illicit cannabis is either consumed locally or exported to countries other than the United States, and thus such illicit cannabis production does not significantly affect the United States. (FAA 481(e)(2) states that a country that cultivates and harvests more than 5,000 hectares per year of illicit cannabis falls within the definition of a “major illicit drug producing country,” unless I determine that such illicit cannabis production does not significantly affect the United States.)

*Turkey and Other Balkan Route Countries.* Turkey and its neighboring countries play a key role as a major transit route for much of the Southwest Asian heroin moving to Western and Central Europe along the so-called Balkan Route. We know that some of this heroin also flows to the United States, but thus far our information has been limited and we have traced only relatively small quantities. We will be looking further into this issue over the next year. Insofar as we determine that heroin transiting Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece, the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Croatia, the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, or other European countries on the Balkan Route significantly affects the United States, I will add such countries to the list.

*Cuba.* We still do not have sufficient evidence that Cuba plays an active role in the drug trade affecting the United States to add it to the list at this time. However, Cuba’s geographic location and evidence of some movement of drugs around the island indicate it could become a target for greater trafficking activity in the future.

*Central Asia.* During 1995, we conducted probe efforts in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, traditional opium poppy growing areas of the former Soviet Union. These probes did not show significant opium poppy cultivation. If on-going analysis reveals cultivation of

1,000 hectares or more of poppy, I will add the relevant countries to the list.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Claiborne Pell, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Mark O. Hatfield, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Lee H. Hamilton, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and Bob Livingston, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 23.

### **Remarks to Employees of McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach, California**

*February 23, 1996*

Senator Boxer, Congressman Horn, Mayor O’Neill, Mr. Stonecipher, Mr. Kozlowski, Betty Cavanagh—I’m glad she cleared up how old she was when she came to work here. I thought I’d have to charge McDonnell Douglas with violating the child labor laws. [*Laughter*]

I also thank you, Betty, for the ribbon and for the hug. That’s the most fun I ever had hugging a Republican. [*Laughter*] I want to thank you—seriously—all of you for being here and for the work you’ve done. Before I go forward I think we should all give a hand to the Lakewood High School band who played for us today and did such a fine job. Thank you very much.

Let me say I value the jacket; I value the wonderful model of the plane I flew to Bosnia; I value this ribbon, and I will save it always; but most important, I value the hard work that all of you have done to make the C-17 possible and to make our country stronger.

The C-17 is the finest military transport plane in the world, or as I said in non-jargon, the best moving van in the world. It was forged with an extraordinary partnership between the Department of Defense and the workers and management here at McDonnell Douglas to cut costs, to increase effi-

ciency, to make the C-17 program a model for public-private sector teamwork.

When I became President I had advocated the C-17. It was obvious to me we needed it for our national defense. There were people in Washington who said the program was in trouble and could not be fixed. Well, you fixed it, and because you fixed it, our country is stronger today. And we all owe you a deep debt of gratitude. Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, a few weeks ago in my State of the Union Address, I tried to look with you into the future to describe the seven challenges our Nation will have to meet if we're going to provide the American dream for all of our people who are willing to work for it in a new, highly competitive global economy dominated by information and technology and if we're going to pull our country together here at home and, finally, if we're going to continue to lead the world for peace and freedom and prosperity.

Those challenges were: building stronger families; providing better educational opportunities to all Americans; strengthening the economic security of this country through more good jobs and access to affordable health care, secure pensions, and lifetime training; taking back our streets from crime and gangs and violence and drugs; continuing to protect our environment while we grow the economy; reinventing our Government so that it is smaller and less bureaucratic but stronger when we need to be strong; and finally, continuing to lead the world for peace and freedom and prosperity.

If you look at what we have come here to celebrate today and if you consider the work being done here on the civilian aircraft that Mr. Stonecipher mentioned, it represents a number of those challenges being met in the way that I believe America has to meet all of its challenges, not by pointing fingers at one another but by working together.

We have here an example of America doing what is necessary to preserve our security and to lead the world. It happens also to provide a large number of people good jobs and security for their families. Where the civilian aircraft are being made, we have a good example of America leading the world toward prosperity and providing economic

security for families. And in both places it happened because there was a partnership.

Why do we have a strong defense today? To defend our immediate interests and our borders, but also because we learned in the 20th century that if we want to keep America free and safe we have to stand up for freedom and safety and security and peace and prosperity around the world. We can't be the world's policeman. We can't be everywhere. We can't do everything. But when we can make a difference and when it is consistent with our values and our interests, we have to try. That's what the effort in Bosnia is all about.

It's also true that if we are going to live in that kind of world where people like you have a chance to have good jobs because we engage in and do well in global competition, we have to reach out and not retreat. We have to break down walls, not build them up. That's why those jobs are on the other side of this pavement.

Later today I will meet with the new Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Hashimoto. Our relationship is beginning to work better than it ever has because we are beginning to work together for common goals. Our partnership is the strongest force for peace and freedom in the Asian Pacific region. We've worked on a lot of issues that you now don't have to worry about, from getting North Korea to give up its dangerous nuclear program, the thing I was told was the number one security problem facing our country when I became President; to Bosnia, where the Japanese are helping, even though it's a long way from home for them; to tackling the new threats that know no borders, drug trafficking, global crime and terrorism, which sadly, has affected both the Japanese and the American people.

It is in this environment that you have to see the discussion about our trade relations. So often when I hear people talk about trade, they act as if there are only two alternatives: We just open our borders and let what happens happen, or we close our borders because we think we're not being treated fairly. There is another alternative, and it's the right one. We should be pushing for free but fair trade, for tough but fair trade.

We have concluded over 200 trade agreements since I've been in office. We've worked hard to get contracts like the one that will benefit McDonnell Douglas or the sales of commercial aircraft to Saudi Arabia. With Japan alone, we have concluded 20 agreements, covering everything from auto parts to medical equipment with a simple premise: If the United States' markets are open to Japanese products, Japan's markets should be open to America's products.

In the last 3 years jobs in this country related to exports to Japan have increased by over 20 percent, 167,000 new American jobs. In California, more than a quarter of a million jobs depend upon trade with Japan. For the first time in history, rice farmers in California can sell rice in Japan. We are moving in the right direction.

We have got to continue to take the right path. If you want your country to lead for peace and freedom and prosperity, the answer is neither to be uncritically in favor of free trade, nor to be for pulling up the rug and closing our borders. The answer is to be for trade that is free and fair so everybody has a fair chance to grow in the global economy. That is what our country should stand for.

Let me say again, we can only do that if we do what you did here, to turn this program around and make it the finest transport airplane in aviation history. We have to do it together. If you ask me what is the single most significant lesson I have learned as your President in the last 3 years, it is simply this: Whenever we work together and grow together and live together and learn together, America never loses. And when we are divided, we defeat ourselves. We must do better at working together. That is the answer to our future.

When I became President and I had advocated the C-17 and problems became apparent in the program, there were those who said, "Why don't you just abandon this? After all, the cold war is over. We're downsizing the military. Just forget about it. Walk away from it." It seemed to me that the fact that we were downsizing the military made a stronger argument for the C-17. The more we have fewer forces more concentrated in

fewer areas, the more we need the kind of airlift capacity that is given by this plane.

The fact that we are in the post-cold-war era, where we need to move people in a hurry in unpredictable ways under very difficult circumstances shows that we did the right thing, you and I and our friends in Congress in both parties, to stand up for the C-17.

I thank Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein, Congressman Horn, Congresswoman Harman, who is not with us today but who has fought for this program, and all others who made it a bipartisan American effort to say that we have to have the capacity to project America's power quickly and decisively and safely.

This plane has delivered on its promise to the American people. We've had airlifters before that could carry very heavy loads over long hauls, and we've had airlifters before that could land on the most primitive airfields in the worst weather conditions. But we have never had a plane that could do both things until the C-17.

And let me say I wish every single one of you, because you worked so hard to build this plane, could have had the same experience I had to fly in the plane under conditions that would test its capability. When I visited our troops in Bosnia who are doing such an extraordinary job to help peace take hold there, the plane I usually fly on—that other Air Force One—[*laughter*—]—was too big to land in Tuzla. And so I flew into Aviano, Italy, and took my C-17 as Air Force One for the day.

The first thing that impressed me was the plane's remarkable cargo capacity. Between my staff, the members of Congress—there were a huge number, almost 40, I think; I can't remember, a lot anyway—security and the press—and there was a really large number of press; some of them are back here with us today—there were more than 100 people sitting on those hard, red-molded, plastic seats. [*Laughter*] I must say I wish someone my size could become the test for those seats in the future. [*Laughter*]

We also carried two Army Humvees, lots of bags of mail, 210 cases of Coke, and 5,000 Hershey bars. [*Laughter*] And there was a lot of room to spare. Not only that, even with

all the press and the politicians there, the plane carried all the hot air that we could generate in that long flight. [Laughter]

I spent a lot of time on the flight deck talking with the crew and seeing what the C-17 can do. The loadmaster, Chief Master Sergeant Mark Smith, told me about his pride in the plane and its capabilities. Those crews are your best advertisement. They are grateful to you. You made their work possible. You made it more fun, and you made it safer. And they all talk about it.

He reminded me about how skeptical people were that we would risk the C-17 in an environment as hostile as Bosnia. He said, "Mr. President, people didn't really think you'd give us these planes." We allocated 12 to the Bosnian mission. They said, "We didn't think you would give us these planes. I mean, it's new. It's expensive." And I said, "Well, that's why we built it. I thought we were supposed to use it, not show it."

As you know, the fog can be very bad in Bosnia, so we had to fly over Tuzla the first time, go to Hungary, have our meetings in Hungary, see the troops there, come back to Tuzla. They told us that the weather was getting so bad we absolutely had to get out of there. We were coming close to nightfall. Our plane was parked near the middle of the runway. We only had about 4,000 feet of tarmac on which to take off.

The aircraft commander, Major Frederick Cianciolo, said we wouldn't even need half that much. I thought he was kidding. [Laughter] I thought he was kidding. He said, "Buckle up, Mr. President." He then threw 160,000 pounds of thrust into those four Pratt & Whitney engines. Twelve seconds and 1,800 feet of runway later we were in the air, thanks to you.

The C-17 has only flown 25 percent of the missions in Bosnia, but it has carried over 40 percent of the cargo and more passengers than any other transport. At the very start of the operation, you remember terrible weather and flooding held up the construction of the Sava River Bridge, the main land link for our troops to Bosnia. I might add, the engineers who did that did a magnificent job, too. It's the longest bridge span built like that since World War II.

So we had to load the pontoons onto flatbeds, and we rolled them onto the C-17's. The plane set down near the Sava. The flatbeds rolled off. The bridges were built, and our troops could move into Bosnia.

This past fall when Hurricane Marilyn devastated the United States Virgin Islands, the C-17 was the only aircraft in our fleet able to land oversized cargo on undersize runways. C-17's flew 18 percent of our relief missions, but delivered 30 percent of the supplies, 30 percent of the medicine, 30 percent of the housing materials. Thousands of people came to see the C-17 as the savior from the skies. These exploits are fast becoming legendary, thanks to you.

Now let me just say a few words, if I might, about those of you who work here. As I have said before, after the first C-17's rolled off the production line, there were genuine concerns about cost overruns and scheduling delays. Everyone shared them, including people here at McDonnell Douglas. But you pitched in, and you turned the program around instead of throwing up your hands and giving up.

Working side by side with the Air Force, you made a great plane even better, and you did it for less. Now the fly-away cost of the C-17 has been cut in half. The C-17 parked behind me is the 12th aircraft in a row—I want to say that again—the 12th aircraft in a row you have produced, not on schedule but ahead of time. And we thank you.

Just today, the Air Force delivered to McDonnell Douglas a contract for the production of the last 8 of the 40 C-17's originally requested, a contract worth \$1.8 billion. Because of your extraordinary efforts and the exceptional performance of the C-17, I have today sent to Congress a letter seeking approval of a multiyear procurement for another 80 C-17's. This will be the longest and the largest multiyear defense contract ever. It will be worth more than \$14 billion to McDonnell Douglas, and more than 18,000 jobs for the State of California. It will save our taxpayers nearly \$1 billion because we're ordering all the planes we need at once, instead of a few at a time.

Let me say a word of thanks to some of the people who made this possible, starting with Major General Ron Kadish, the Air

Force's C-17 program director; Rudy de Leon, who is over here with me, our Under Secretary of the Air Force; Harry Stonecipher, and your program manager, Don Kozlowski; and to the Members of Congress who supported this program so strongly. All of you have done a job very well.

And let me say, I want you to remember—if you don't remember anything else about today except how many more planes you're going to build—[laughter]—how you turned the program around. The partnership between Government and McDonnell Douglas, the partnership between management and labor, the understanding that there was a mission to perform, that it had to be performed by everybody pulling together and working together.

And I want you to think about every single challenge your country faces. Just look around the sea of faces here today. Is there another nation where the head of the nation's government could go and speak to a group like this and see so much diversity in the crowd among the workers? I think not. Is there another place where you could see so many people from so many different backgrounds, so many different walks of life, so many different religious faiths, working together toward a common goal? What you did here and the way you did it is a model for the way America must meet the other challenges we face.

We have a clear choice facing us in every single area of human endeavor. If you want everybody in your country to be able to have a good job and raise a strong family; if you believe everybody ought to be able to send their children to good schools; if you think everybody should enjoy the benefits of a clean environment; if you believe people ought to have safe streets and that they shouldn't have to worry about their children and their children's teachers being shot at the way the poor man in Los Angeles was wounded just a couple of days ago; if you believe that this country has to continue to lead the world toward peace and freedom, then you must understand that every single challenge we have has to be met the way you met the challenge of the C-17. When we pull together, when we work together, when we have a clear mission, we never lose.

You won for America, and America can win in the future.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. on the east ramp at Building 54. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Beverly O'Neill of Long Beach; Harry Stonecipher, chief executive officer, Don Kozlowski, president, C-17 program, and Betty Cavanagh, employee, McDonnell Douglas; and Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Message to the Congress Transmitting Budget Deferrals and Rescissions**

*February 23, 1996*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report three new deferrals and one revised deferral, totaling \$3.6 billion, and four rescission proposals of budgetary resources, totaling \$140 million.

These deferrals affect the International Security Assistance programs as well as programs of the Agency for International Development. The rescission proposals affect the Department of Defense.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
February 23, 1996.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **February 17**

In the morning, the President traveled to Portsmouth and Rochester, NH. In the afternoon, he traveled to Keene and Manchester. In the evening, the President traveled to Nashua and then returned to Washington, DC.

**February 20**

In the evening, the President met with NATO Secretary General Javier Solana in the Oval Office. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Clinton/Gore campaign workers in New Hampshire to thank them for their work in the State primary.

**February 21**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia.

In the afternoon, the President attended the 50th birthday celebration of Associated Press reporter Terry Hunt in the White House Briefing Room.

**February 22**

The President announced his intention to nominate John E. Pepper as a member of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

The President announced his intention to appoint James A. Unruh as a member of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

**February 23**

In the morning, the President traveled to Long Beach, CA, where he met with the Long Beach Naval Shipyard Reuse Group at the McDonnell Douglas plant. In the afternoon, the President traveled to Santa Monica. In the evening, he met with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan at the Sheraton Miramar Hotel.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of North Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a winter storm February 2-9.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm, ice, and flooding February 1-12.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Montana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and ice jams beginning February 4 and continuing.

The President announced that he concurred with Secretary of the Interior Bruce

Babbitt's decision to appoint John Garamendi to serve as Special Representative for the Guam Commonwealth Negotiations.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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**Submitted February 20**

Mark Edwin Emblidge, of Virginia, to be a member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a term expiring September 22, 1998, vice Susan Ann Vogel, term expired.

Alberta Sebolt George, of Massachusetts, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 1998, vice Ruth K. Watanabe, term expired.

Mary Dodd Greene, of Texas, to be a member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a term expiring October 12, 1998, vice John Corcoran, term expired.

Henry McKoy, of North Carolina, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring February 9, 2002, vice William H.G. Fitzgerald, term expired.

Joaquin F. Otero, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Martin John Manley, resigned.

David A. Ucko, of Missouri, to be a member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 1999, vice Eunice B. Whittlesey, term expired.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**


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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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**Released February 20**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, Transportation Secretary Federico Peña, Federal Railroad Administrator Jolene Molitoris, and Federal Transit Deputy Administrator Grace Crunican on the Transportation Department response to the railroad accident in Maryland

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's meeting with NATO Secretary General Javier Solana

**Released February 21**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Director of the Justice Department Office of Violence Against Women Bonnie Campbell on the domestic violence hotline

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's meeting with President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the U.S.-Ukraine agreement on commercial space launch services

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's request for funds to support the Bosnian peace process

**Released February 22**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Adviser Laura D'Andrea Tyson on the nominations for the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve System

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on action of the Government of Angola and UNITA to implement the Lusaka Protocol

**Released February 23**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on disaster assistance for North Carolina

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on disaster assistance for Alabama

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on disaster assistance for Montana

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's request for funds to support the Middle East peace process

Transcript of a press briefing by U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale on the President's meeting with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**


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NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.