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I don't have an answer; this is not a set-up deal. I never thought about it until I realized I was going to come do this panel. I have given a lot of thought to what our gift to the next century ought to be in terms of our approach to the arts. And yes, I'm glad I stood up for the NEA and the NEH, and I won a political battle—fine. It's one percent of the more.

What should we do with this one percent of the money? If we want more than this, what case should we make for getting more? What would we do with it? And in a larger sense, what should our mission be in terms of the public role of the arts, particularly for our children? What arguments could we make to make the schools have it a priority again?

I see something like the Harlem Boys Choir or all these incredible arts programs in New York or whatever, and I feel two things: I am exhilarated, like we all are, but then I wonder how many other little kids are going out there to some other school every day where they still don't even have a music teacher. And what about them?

That's not an argument not to do what's being done, but I would invite you—a lot of you know so much more about this than I do, but I'm telling you, I've been in school after school after school after school where the buildings are old, and they can't be maintained, and they shut down the music and arts programs, and they shut down, by the way, all the recreational programs except for the varsity sports, which I also think is a mistake.

People are whole people. Even poor kids—you talked about this—it's hard to say, "Why spend money on the arts when you have problems with welfare and poverty and all that?" Because poor people need their spirits nourished. Most children are not all that conscious of being poor unless they're genuinely deprived or brutalized. But when they grow up, they remember experiences that lift their spirits when they're young.

So I guess what I'm saying is, we need an affirmative strategy. We played good defense, and we won—big deal. How would you go to a conservative Republican group in town X and argue that this investment ought to be made either in the National Endowment of the Arts or in the community, or that the arts and music programs ought to be restored and here's why. That's what we need now, and that's what we ought to be doing now. We shouldn't be playing defense with this issue.

I mean, so what? You won a fight in Congress over one percent of the money. It was very important symbolically because it gave dignity and strength and integrity to your efforts, and I'm very glad we fought it. It also makes a lot of difference to some programs in the country. But we need an affirmative strategy for the next century.

And I hope one of the things that will come out of this seminar is that some of you will come out of this being willing to work with our Millennium Project and with the White House generally to get off the defense and get on offense. And I don't mean to hurt anybody else. I don't see this as necessarily a big political winner for us. I'm not interested in the politics of this. I'm just talking about what's right for the children and the future of this country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in Plaza One at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Glenn D. Lowry, director, The Museum of Modern Art.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Line Item Vetoes of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998

November 1, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (Public Law 105–65; H.R. 2158). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government

functions, and will not harm the national interest.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 1997.

NOTE: The reports detailing the cancellations were published in the *Federal Register* on November 4.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Line Item Vetoes of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998

November 1, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (Public Law 105–66; H.R. 2169). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 1997.

NOTE: The reports detailing the cancellations were published in the *Federal Register* on November 4.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Dinner on Amelia Island

November 1, 1997

Thank you very much. Please be seated. We're going to reverse the order tonight, and I'm going to introduce the Vice President because you've all heard me speak before—[*laughter*]—because I need to save my voice to campaign for our candidates in New Jersey and in New York tomorrow. [*Applause*] Thank you.

Let me once again thank all of you for coming. I hope you have enjoyed this. I certainly enjoyed it today. I was glad to meet with the various panels, and I enjoyed Governor Romer's speech at lunch very, very much. Didn't he do a terrific job?

Ladies and gentlemen, 6 years ago when I began running for President, I wanted to win the election to change the country, and I felt very strongly that we were not preparing America for the 21st century and that our party needed to break the logjam not only with a set of new policies but with a set of new ideas. I thought the political debate had become, frankly, stale and, at least to someone like me, governing a State out in the country, often completely meaningless.

I believed we had to move the debate toward what was good for the future, not the past; what would support positive change, not the status quo; what would bring us together, not divide us; and move away from the old left-right, liberal-conservative and, frankly, outdated name-calling and labeling that dominated national politics. Six years later, we've made a lot of progress, not only in moving the country to a better place but in changing the nature of political debate.

I very much hope that the simplistic antigovernment, reactionary approach had its last gasp in the Republican congressional victory in 1994. The fact that we beat back the "Contract With America" and signed the right kind of welfare reform, got a balanced budget with the biggest investments in education and health care since 1965 and that we're moving forward in a way that brings the country together around the ideas of opportunity, responsibility, and community that we have espoused now for a long time is deeply encouraging to me.

The fact that all around the world now people are beginning to talk in the same terms—the First Lady is in Great Britain today; she's been in Ireland. I, frankly, was very flattered that Tony Blair's campaign was often compared to ours and that the so-called New Labor movement has a lot in common with what we've tried to do here. I believe all over the world countries that are serious about helping people make the most of their own lives, assuming a leadership role in dealing with the challenges of the modern world are going to have to basically adopt similar approaches.