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acceptable applications of cloning technology.

Unfortunately, Congress has not yet acted on this legislation. Yet, it's now clearer than ever the legislation is exactly what is needed. The vast majority of scientists and physicians in the private sector have refrained from using these techniques improperly and have risen up to condemn any plans to do so. But we know it's possible for some to ignore the consensus of their colleagues and proceed without regard for our common values. So today, again, I call on Congress to act now to make it illegal for anyone to clone a human being.

Our Nation was founded by men and women who firmly believed in the power of science to transform their world for the better. Like them, we're bound together by common dreams and by the values that will drive our own vision for the future. And our commitment to carry those enduring ideals with us will renew their promise in a new century and a new millennium. We must never lose touch with that, no matter what the reason, or we'll lose touch with ourselves as a people.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:00 p.m. on January 9 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Houston, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 10. Attached to the transcript of this radio address were copies of the President's memorandum of March 4, 1997 (WCPD, volume 33, page 281) and his message to Congress of June 9, 1997 (WCPD, volume 33, page 845) on human cloning.

Remarks on Ending Drug Use and Drug Availability for Offenders and an Exchange With Reporters

January 12, 1998

The President. Thank you very much, General. Thank you, Mr. Holder and Mr. Vice President. Ladies and gentlemen, this country's eternal quest for a more perfect Union has always succeeded when we're able to apply our enduring values to a new set of challenges. That is what we try to do around here every year. Over the past 5 years, we've done our best to bring the values of personal responsibility, community, and respect for the law to bear on the fight against crime. We've sought to be tough and smart, to punish criminals, and to prevent crime. We've put more police on the streets and taken criminals, guns, and drugs off the streets. Crime rates have dropped steadily for the last 5 years. Drug use has fallen by half since its peak 15 years ago. Teen drug use is leveling off and indeed may well be decreasing again. But we're a long way from my vision of a drug-free America.

Fighting drugs in our prisons and among prisoners is absolutely critical, ultimately, to keeping drugs off the streets and away from our children. Of all the consequences of drug use and abuse, none is more destructive and apparent than its impact on crime. Too many drug users are committing crimes to feed their habit. More than half of the cocaine that is sold in our country is consumed by someone on parole or probation. Four out of five inmates in State and Federal prisons were either high at the time they committed their crimes, stole property to buy drugs, violated drug or alcohol laws, or have a long history of drug or alcohol abuse. Parolees who stay on drugs are much more likely to commit crimes that will send them back to jail.

We have to break this vicious cycle. Common sense tells us that the best way to break the cycle between drugs and criminal activity is to break the drug habits of the prisoners. That's why we have made coerced abstinence, requiring inmates to be tested and treated for drugs, a vital part of our anti-crime efforts. We've doubled the number of Federal arrestees who've been tested for drugs, expanded testing among inmates and parolees, and tripled the number of inmates receiving drug treatment. To inmates we say, if you stay on drugs, then you'll have to stay in jail. To parolees we say, if you want to keep your freedom, you have to stay free of drugs.

Last year, I worked for and signed a bill that requires States to test all prisoners and parolees for drugs before they can receive Federal prison funds.

Today, I'm directing the Attorney General to strengthen this effort by taking necessary steps to achieve three goals. First, we have

to help the States expand drug detection, offender testing, and drug treatment in their prisons by making it possible for them to use Federal funds for these purposes. Second, we have to help States get even tougher on drug trafficking in prisons by enacting stiffer penalties for anyone who smuggles drugs into prison. Finally, we have to insist that all States find out how many of their prisoners are actually using drugs so that every year they can chart their progress in keeping drugs out of prisons and away from prisoners. The balanced budget I'm sending to Congress later this month will continue to strengthen our testing and treatment efforts. We can balance the budget and fight crime and drugs at the same time.

If we can simply break the chain between drug use and criminal activity for people who are under criminal supervision, in prison, or on parole—if we could just do that—we can go a very long way toward making our streets and our neighborhoods safe for our children again. That is what this Executive order is designed to do. I know it can work. I have seen the high rates of return from good treatment programs in Federal facilities. We can do this at the State and Federal level. If we do not do it, we will continue to see people go right back on the streets with the drug habits that got them in trouble in the first place. If we do it, the crime rates will plummet, and the drug problem will dramatically shrink.

Thank you very much. Let me go sign the order.

[*At this point, the President signed the memorandum.*]

Asian Economies

Q. Mr. President, what do you hear about the Asian—[*inaudible*]——

Q. Mr. President, what do you say about Iraq's—[*inaudible*]——

The President. I'll take them both. On the Asian issue, I received a briefing this morning from Secretary Rubin and Secretary Albright, and I've obviously kept in touch with it; I do daily. We are working hard on it. I want to emphasize that the most important thing that has to be done is that all the countries affected have to make sure they have the very best policies to have good financial institutions, proper practices, things that will inspire investor confidence. But these economies have enormous productive capacity. They have generated dramatic increases in growth for their people, and we can restore stability if the countries will take the steps that are necessary. Then the IMF reform packages have to be followed. And the rest of us need to be in a position of supporting those trends.

We're following it on a daily basis, and I believe that the path we're pursuing is the correct one.

Situation in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of Iraq's threat to block inspections by the American-led team? Are we going back to where we were last November? What can we do about this?

The President. Well, I certainly hope not. Now, of course it hasn't happened yet. But I think that it's important to make just a few basic points here.

Number one, if Saddam Hussein does this, it is a clear and serious violation of the United Nations Security Council resolution.

Number two, the United States had nothing whatever to do with selecting this team, the people on it, or its composition. The team that's there is part of a larger team of people, 43 people from 16 different countries. There are a substantial number of Americans on this team. They were picked by the person who is in charge of the inspection process because of their technical expertise. Everyone who goes there should be technically qualified, and the United States has not attempted to influence the composition of the people on the teams. But certainly Saddam Hussein shouldn't be able to pick and choose who does this work. That's for the United Nations to decide.

If they are denied the right to do their job tomorrow, then I expect the United Nations Security Council to take strong and appropriate action.

Sexual Offender Tracking System

Q. Mr. President, a few years ago you set into motion the Pam Lychner Sexual Offender Tracking and Identification Act, that you wanted all 50 States to centralize their

sexual offender records. Less than half the States and the District are into that interim computer system which is eventually going to lead to a permanent system, which caused you to sign—to send a letter to the Governors to get them off the dime.

How do you look at that effort now, when you think that sexual offenders may be falling through the cracks and only half the States are on board?

The President. Well, I think the letter I sent says it all. The truth is that the stakes here are quite high, and we have the ability, through technology, to centralize these records to get the job done. I know it requires some cost and some effort on the part of the States. We're having a similar problem with fewer States in the child support area, trying to centralize records there so we can interconnect the systems. And I know this is difficult, but it has to be done. And if it is done, we can make the country much safer.

So we'll keep pushing them. And I think most of the States, probably all of them, really want to do it. They know it's the right thing to do, and they just need to put somebody on it in each State capital and make it a priority. It can be done.

Legislative Initiatives

Q. Mr. President, there's a Republican proposal to pay for 100,000 new teachers. What do you think of that, and why haven't you proposed that yourself?

The President. Well, I have lots of proposals for the State of the Union that haven't been made yet. You don't know what I'm going to propose.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—about raising the minimum wage?

The President. What I hope we will be able to do in this session of Congress is to make education a national issue. It would please me if it could be a nonpartisan issue. We fought awfully hard and finally succeeded in getting the Congress to agree that we ought to go forward with national standards and testing to see whether our children are meeting those standards. I hope we can re-energize that movement and do a lot of other things in this coming session of Congress for education reform. And I'm looking forward to it.

I have, some weeks ago, signed off on a very ambitious agenda, only part of which has been revealed. We'll just keep working at it. And then I'll work with the Congress, and, whatever ideas they have, we'll be glad to get together and work with them.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:39 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Deputy Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr.; Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Barry McCaffrey; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Memorandum on Ending Drug Use and Drug Availability for Offenders

January 12, 1998

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Zero Tolerance for Drug Use and Drug Availability for Offenders

Crime rates in this country have dropped significantly for 5 years, and the number of Americans who have used drugs is down nearly 50 percent from its peak 15 years ago. Also, drug-related murders have dropped to their lowest point in a decade, and recent drug use surveys indicate that—for the first time in years—teen drug use is leveling off, and in some instances, modestly decreasing. All of this news is encouraging.

Nonetheless, much more can and needs to be done to continue to bring down drug use and increase public safety. With more than half the offenders in our criminal justice system estimated to have a substance abuse problem, enforcing coerced abstinence within the criminal justice system is critical to breaking the cycle of crime and drugs. My Administration consistently has promoted testing offenders and requiring treatment as a means of reducing recidivism and drug-related crime. We have worked to expand the number of Drug Courts throughout the country, increase the number of Federal arrestees and prisoners who are tested and treated for drugs, and launched an innovative "Breaking the Cycle" initiative, which is a rigorous program of testing, treatment, supervision, and sanctions for offenders at all stages of the criminal justice process. And under your leadership, the Federal Bureau of Prisons provides models of excellence in