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going forward was the important thing, and we have it, and I think they will honor it.

Q. Thank you.

The President. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The interview began at 3:44 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan; and President Jiang Zemin of China. The journalists who conducted the interview were Jim Mann for the Los Angeles Times, Dina Temple-Raston for Bloomberg Business News, and Rick Dunham for Business Week. This interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 25. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Statement on Efforts To Cut Teen Drug Use

June 25, 1998

Last week's PRIDE survey showed that we are beginning to change the attitudes and behavior of our children, and that is a step in the right direction. Today's Pulse Check shows that the work of America's parents, teachers, and public officials is far from done. America's young people need to hear a single, unambiguous message: Drugs are wrong and dangerous, and they can kill you. This survey also indicates that we must continue our efforts to toughen drug enforcement and to get hardened drug users off the street and into mandatory testing and treatment.

Statement on the Solar Energy Systems Partnership

June 25, 1998

I would like to applaud the announcement today of a new partnership to help meet the challenge of global warming by making it easier for homeowners to tap clean energy from the Sun.

Last June, I announced an initiative with the goal of placing solar energy panels on one million roofs around the Nation by 2010. Just a year later, the Department of Energy already has received commitments for more than half a million installations. This new partnership between the General Motors Acceptance Corporation and the Solar Energy Industries Association will make low-cost loans for solar energy systems available nationwide, helping us to meet our goal even faster.

This agreement demonstrates that through partnerships and the power of the marketplace, we can reduce greenhouse gas pollution while saving consumers money and creating new economic opportunities. I encourage other businesses to seek creative ways to meet the challenge of climate change. And I urge Congress to help speed this effort by funding my proposals for a solar energy tax credit and other tax and research incentives for energy efficiency and clean power.

Statement on the Supreme Court Decision on the Line Item Veto

June 25, 1998

I am deeply disappointed with today's Supreme Court decision striking down the line item veto. The decision is a defeat for all Americans—it deprives the President of a valuable tool for eliminating waste in the Federal budget and for enlivening the public debate over how to make the best use of public funds.

By permitting the President to cancel discretionary spending, new entitlement authority, and certain types of tax provisions that benefit special interests at the expense of the public interest, the line item veto would enable Presidents to ensure that the Federal Government is spending public resources as wisely as possible. For 5½ years, I have worked hard to renew our economy by putting America's fiscal house in order. In 1993 the budget deficit was projected to be $290 billion; today, we have balanced the budget, and it is running a surplus. Continued fiscal responsibility is as vital now as the day I took office. I am determined to do everything in my power to continue to cut wasteful spending, maintain fiscal discipline, and create opportunity through continued economic growth.

Remarks at the Arrival Ceremony in Xi'an, China

June 25, 1998

Mayor Feng, Governor Cheng, Secretary Li, *nim men hao.* Thank you for the key to your city and for this magnificent welcome.

Here in this ancient capital, China seems very young to me tonight, blessed with both a proud history and the promise of tomorrow. I am delighted to begin my journey in Xi'an, once the capital of China, still the heartland of the Chinese people. I was raised in the heartland of my country. I know that the character of a nation is determined by the hard-working people who live here.

Over 1,000 years ago, during the Tang Dynasty, which I have seen recreated tonight, Xi'an was perhaps the most open and culturally advanced city in the entire world. From this place, trade routes extended through Asia to Europe and Africa. And to this place, great thinkers came, spreading philosophy and new ideas that have contributed to the greatness of China.

Tomorrow, I look forward to seeing the Terra Cotta Warriors, the Old City walls, the Muslim quarter. I look forward to learning more about China's great contributions to the store of human knowledge, from medicine and printing to mathematics and astronomy, discoveries on which so much of the whole world's progress is based. And I want to see more of the new nation you are building on a scale even the emperors could not have foreseen.

The China that gave us printing now boasts fax machines, computers, and cell phones. Xi'an is home to filmmakers, Internet explorers, businesspeople of every description. Here in this city, famous for calligraphy, a new chapter in China's story is being written.

We Americans admire your accomplishments, your economy, your hard work, creativity and vision, your efforts against hunger and poverty, your work with us on peace and stability in Korea and South Asia. A new day is dawning for the Chinese people, for China's greatness lies, as always, with its people.

Our own history has convinced Americans that the greatness of any country is measured in its people, in their shared reverence for family and community, for work and learning, and in their individual thoughts, beliefs, and creativity.

Respect for the worth, the dignity, the potential, and the freedom of every citizen is a vital source of America's strength and success. In this global information age, where both economic growth and individual opportunity are based on ideas, a commitment to providing all human beings the opportunity to develop their full potential is vital to the strength and success of the new China, as well.

As I travel across China, I hope to learn as much as I can about the Chinese people, your history, and your dreams for the future. And I hope to help the Chinese people understand more of America's history, the lessons the American people have drawn from it, and the dreams we hold for the 21st century.

I believe both Chinese and Americans aspire to many of the same things, to provide for our families, to teach our children, to build our communities, to protect our Earth, to shape our own futures, and pass brighter possibilities on to our children.

There may be those here and back in America who wonder whether closer ties and deeper friendship between America and China are good. Clearly, the answer is yes. We have a powerful ability to help each other grow. We can learn much from each other. And as two great nations, we have a special responsibility to the future of the world. The steps we take over the next week can lead to far greater strides for our people in the years ahead.

Here in this city of your magnificent history, we must always remember that we, too, are ancestors. Someday our children and their children will ask if we did all we could to build just societies and a more peaceful world. Let our monument be their judgment that we did that. Let our progress include all people, with all their differences, moving toward a common destiny.

Let us give new meaning to the words written in the ancient "Book of Rites," what you call the "Li Shi": "When the great way is followed, all under heaven will be equal."