AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

or their region of the country? Who do you believe is more likely to get quality, affordable health care for all Americans, and say to the HMO's and to the managed care people, ''We want managed care, but we don't want accountants making decisions doctors should make. We want people to get in the emergency room, to see the specialists, to have quality health care when they need it.'' The answer is John Edwards. And I'm honored to be in North Carolina with him tonight.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:15 p.m. in the Governor W. Kerr Scott Building at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the Arab League Boycott of Israel

July 30, 1998

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the request contained in section 540 of Public Law 105–118, Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1998, I submit to you the attached report providing information on steps taken by the United States Government to bring about an end to the Arab League boycott of Israel and to expand the process of normalizing ties between Israel and the Arab League countries.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 30, 1998.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 31.

Remarks on the National Economy and an Exchange With Reporters

July 31, 1998

The President. Good morning. I want to thank the Vice President, Mr. Bowles, and our economic team for joining us today to talk about the continuing strength of our economy and what we have to do to make it stronger as we move toward a new century.

Five and a half years ago, we set a new strategy for the new economy, founded on fiscal discipline, expanded trade, and investment in our people. Today our economy is the strongest in a generation. While the latest economic report shows that growth in the second quarter of 1998 was more moderate than the truly remarkable first quarter, it shows that our economy continues to enjoy steady growth. So far this year, economic growth has averaged 3.5 percent. This is growth the right way, led by business investment and built on a firm foundation of fiscal discipline.

We've also learned today that since I took office the private sector of our economy has grown by nearly 4 percent, while we have reduced the Federal Government to its smallest size in 35 years. Wages are rising. Investment and consumer confidence remain high. Unemployment and inflation remain low. Prosperity and opportunity abound for the American people.

In the long run, we can keep our economy on its strong and prosperous course. Our economic foundation is solid. Our strategy is sound. Still, we know from events that, more than ever, the challenges of the global marketplace demand that we press forward with the comprehensive strategy we began 6 years ago.

First, we have to maintain our fiscal discipline. This week marks the fifth anniversary of the 1993 economic plan that charted our course to a balanced budget and reduced the deficit by over 90 percent by the time we signed the Balanced Budget Act in 1997. This fiscal discipline has had a powerful, positive impact, driving interest rates down, pushing investment to historic levels, creating a virtuous cycle of economic activity that has helped cut the deficit even further. We must hold a steady course, and we should not spend a penny of the surplus until we have saved Social Security first. Fiscal discipline helped to build this strong economy; fiscal recklessness could undermine it dramatically. We must use these good times to honor our parents and the next generation by saving Social Security first.

Second, we must continue to invest in the American people. Five years ago I said we had to close two gaps, one in the budget and