

programs so that every child will be able to read well and independently by the end of the third grade. It should help bring out of school youth back into a learning environment. And it should support our new mentoring initiative to reach out to young people and encourage them early to stay in school, learn their lessons, and go on to college.

Small classes, trained teachers, modern schools, high standards, public school choice and more—this is a plan that can revolutionize education in America. But the Republican majority in Congress hasn't even passed the annual education investment bill yet. When it comes to education, Congress simply must not settle for an incomplete. I ask the Republicans in Congress to join the Democrats to put progress over partisanship, and send me a full education investment bill.

Remember, the budget Congress must now finalize will be the last complete budget of the 20th century. We cannot pass up this golden opportunity to invest wisely now to help all our children seize the promise of the century to come.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on the Attack on Matthew Shepard

October 10, 1998

I was deeply grieved by the act of violence perpetrated against Matthew Shepard of Wyoming.

The Justice Department has assured me that local law enforcement officials are proceeding diligently to bring those responsible to justice. And I am determined that we will do everything we can and offer whatever assistance is appropriate.

Hillary and I ask that your thoughts and your prayers be with Mr. Shepard and his family, and with the people of Laramie, Wyoming. In the face of this terrible act of violence, they are joining together to demonstrate that an act of evil like this is not what our country is all about. In fact it strikes at the very heart of what it means to be an American and at the values that define us

as a nation. We must all reaffirm that we will not tolerate this.

Just this year there have been a number of recent tragedies across our country that involve hate crimes. The vicious murder of James Byrd last June in Jasper, Texas, and the assault this week on Mr. Shepard are only among the most horrifying examples.

Almost one year ago I proposed that Congress enact the "Hate Crimes Prevention Act." Our Federal laws already punish some crimes committed against people on the basis of race or religion or national origin, but we should do more. This crucial legislation would strengthen and expand the ability of the Justice Department to prosecute hate crimes by removing needless jurisdictional requirements for existing crimes and by giving Federal prosecutors the power to prosecute hate crimes committed because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender, or disability. All Americans deserve protection from hate.

There is nothing more important to the future of this country than our standing together against intolerance, prejudice, and violent bigotry. It is not too late for Congress to take action before they adjourn and pass the "Hate Crimes Prevention Act." By doing so, they will help make all Americans more safe and secure.

Statement on the Death of Clark M. Clifford

October 10, 1998

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the death of Clark Clifford, an American statesman who helped shape half a century's struggle for freedom. From his first days by President Truman's side as a young naval aide, to his wise counsel to President Carter, he was someone upon whom Presidents could rely for judicious and effective advice. When his wisdom and experience were needed, which was often, he offered it with charm, grace, and a certain humility. As Secretary of Defense at a critical time under President Johnson, he helped to begin the search for peace in Vietnam. His legacy of public service is notable in our history. Our