

Since my first days as President, we have worked hard to help parents better balance the demands of home and work. One of the ways we've tried to do that is to give parents better tools to make immediate but informed judgments about the shows their children watch, the music they hear, the video games they play. We've worked hard to give parents new tools like the V-chip, which by the end of next month will be in half the new television sets sold in America and will help parents to block violent programming from their living rooms. We've also made progress on parental screening for the Internet and ratings for Internet game sites.

But we must do more. We must ensure that children are not the targets of violence in marketing. That's why last week I asked the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to study the extent to which the video game, movie, and music industries market violence to children and whether those industries are abiding by their own voluntary systems of regulation.

For rating systems to work, they must also be enforced, not simply by watchful parents but by retailers at the point of sales and theater owners at the multiplex. The great thing about the multiplex is that there's a movie for every member of the family, but not every movie is for every member of the family. When you drop them off, you shouldn't have to worry about your G-rated kids getting into violent or suggestive R-rated movies. Too often children do get past the ticket counter, unescorted and underage.

I'm pleased to announce today the theater owners are clearly drawing the line. The Nation's largest group of theater owners has asked—has agreed to ask young people for ID's at R-rated movies. From now on, parents will know that the R-rating means what it is supposed to mean—restricted, no one under 17 without a parent or guardian, and no exceptions.

Last month, when I challenged the theater owners to step up to this responsibility, I could only have hoped that they would respond so quickly. So again, let me applaud Bill Kartoizian, his organization, and all their members for doing their part. I know we have parents here representing the PTA, and

I want to thank them for coming, and I know they join me in applauding this action.

Let me also say that I hope that, as the recess ends, the Congress will do its part. Next week the House will take up important legislation already passed by the Senate to help prevent youth violence by common-sense measures to keep guns out of the hands of children. They closed the deadly gun show loophole, required that safety locks be sold with every handgun, banned the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips, and banned violent juveniles from owning guns as adults. I strongly urge the House not to riddle this legislation with loopholes, or to delay, but to pass the law, and pass it quickly.

Let me also say I hope others will follow the lead of the theater owners. In our growing national campaign to prevent youth violence, none can stand aside; none should stand in the way. In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to move forward as one nation, striving to build that better future we all want for our children.

Now, I'd like to ask Bill Kartoizian to tell us more about the steps the theater owners have agreed to take. Let's give him a big hand.

Mr. Kartoizian.

[At this point, William F. Kartoizian, president, National Association of Theatre Owners, made brief remarks.]

Situation in the Balkans

Q. Mr. President, are you optimistic on Kosovo?

The President. Well, I'm hopeful. You know, we're going to have—we've got to have the military meeting and work out the details. But the G-8 statement is good.

Q. And how quickly could the peacekeepers go in, do you think?

The President. Well, they're working out the details—I hope shortly, we will know.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:55 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

**Statement on the Resignation of
Janet Yellen as Chair of the Council
of Economic Advisers**

June 8, 1999

I am sorry to learn that Dr. Janet Yellen intends to resign as Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers. Her extraordinary intellect and keen grasp of domestic and international economics have contributed enormously to the formation of my administration's policies in critical areas ranging from Social Security, health care, and the budget to trade and international financial architecture. Janet has been a consistent advocate for sound economic policy, and she has been an important contributor to the extraordinary economic progress we have made in recent years. I wish her and George the very best as they return to private life.

**Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring
President Goncz**

April 8, 1999

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the White House. And a special welcome to President and Mrs. Goncz, members of the Hungarian delegation.

Exactly 150 years ago, in 1849, a young Congressman from Illinois, serving his first and only term in the U.S. House of Representatives, offered a resolution supporting the Hungarian people's struggle for independence and democracy. At that time, the leader of the Hungarian freedom movement, of course, was Lajos Kossuth. The Congressman was Abraham Lincoln. The bonds between our citizens, based not only on the large number of distinguished Hungarian-Americans in our country but also on our shared aspirations for freedom and democracy, have very deep roots.

I would like to say a special word of thanks to Congressman Tom and Annette Lantos, and others who have helped them, because they are responsible for the fact that a bust of Kossuth now stands in the rotunda of our Capitol.

Ralph Waldo Emerson called him "the angel of freedom." He was only the second non-American—Lafayette being the first—to

address both Houses of Congress. Crowds greeted him wherever he went. He was a true American hero.

Mr. President, like Kossuth, you taught yourself English while you were in prison, at a time when you had just escaped a death sentence and faced a life term because you stood for liberty. Later, you translated the works of many great writers: Edith Wharton, Thomas Wolfe, William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, Arthur Miller, James Baldwin, John Updike, Alice Walker. And at least two I think are here tonight: William Styron and Susan Sontag. These translations offered Hungarians a window on the West and earned you many admirers at home. This work is just one part, but it is a vital part, of your contribution to ending the division of Europe.

I even noted in preparing for this that you translated into Hungarian President Bush's 1988 campaign biography, "Looking Forward." [*Laughter*] Now by the time Al Gore and I published our book, "Putting People First," in 1992, you were already President of Hungary and, unfortunately, too busy to translate this profoundly important work. [*Laughter*] At least I choose to believe that is the reason you did not choose to translate it. [*Laughter*]

In this decade, your own works have been translated and published in English, your plays performed in the United States. They are a brave set of explorations of political conflict and war, freedom and betrayal, the struggle for daily survival and dignity in the face of adversity. Americans have absorbed these works as we have watched you lead your nation, deepening freedom there and promoting human rights and ethnic tolerance around the world and especially in your own region.

The only Hungarian head of state to make an official visit to Romania in this century, you told the joint session of Parliament there that ethnic minorities enrich their nations and "form a valuable connective link in strengthening relations" between nations.

Your vision of people living together and nations living together, resolving differences peacefully, drawing strength from their diversity, treating all people with equal dignity, this will form the basis of a better future for

Europe and the world. It is at the heart of what we have been trying to do in our efforts to reverse ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and to build a southeastern Europe in which all people can live together in dignity and freedom.

Now, Mr. President, normally when I propose a toast to a visiting head of state, I say something like, "cheers." I have been advised by the State Department that the Hungarian word for "cheers" is, and I want to quote from the memo I got—[laughter]—"practically impossible to pronounce correctly." [Laughter] I have accepted their considered judgment. [Laughter] So, instead, I would like to salute you and Mrs. Goncz with the words that greeted Kossuth on streamers all across New York City on the day he arrived in America: *Isten Hozta. Welcome.*

I ask all of you to join me in a toast to President and Mrs. Goncz and to the people of Hungary. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:35 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Maria Zsuzsanna Gonter, wife of President Goncz. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Goncz.

Opening Remarks at a Roundtable Discussion on Increasing Trust Between Communities and Law Enforcement

June 9, 1999

Thank you very much. Madam Attorney General, Secretary Slater, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Congressman Greg Meeks, Mayor Williams, and other distinguished panelists in the gathering. Let me say I will try to be brief because I want to get to the roundtable discussion, but there are one or two things that I want to say.

First, I thank all of you for coming here. This is a truly extraordinary group of Americans, people who don't always see eye to eye on issues, sitting down for a real heart-to-heart conversation about something that is profoundly important to all of us. And I thank you for that.

Second, before we get into this whole issue about the safety and security of our communities, I'd like to say a few words about an-

other important law enforcement issue that is breaking today in Washington, involving our efforts to keep guns out of the wrong hands. Just before the Memorial Day recess, the United States Senate passed a bill designed to close the dangerous gun show loophole, to require that safety locks be sold with every handgun, to ban the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips, and to ban violent juveniles from owning handguns as adults. Now the House of Representatives will take up such legislation.

According to reports in the morning paper, the House leadership has decided to bypass the Judiciary Committee and just report out a bill that dramatically waters down the provisions in the Senate. It is a bill plainly ghost-written by the NRA. I think it is wrong to let the NRA call the shots on this issue. They've been calling the shots on this issue for decades now, and we have failed to do what is manifestly in the interest of our children and our community.

Now, I don't know what else to say about this. But if the American people care about it, if we can still remember Littleton—it hasn't even been 2 months—then we ought to speak up and be heard. This is a classic, horrible example of how Washington is out of touch with the rest of America, and it is time that the rest of America corrected it.

Now, why are we here? For several years now, crime has been going down in nearly every category, in virtually every community in America. In the areas where it is highest, or was highest several years ago, there is no question that one of the reasons, and perhaps the principal reason, that crime has dropped so much is that communities all across our country have put more dedicated community police officers on the street, working the neighborhoods, knowing families, knowing children, going the extra mile to help prevent crime in the first place.

Now, that has worked very well on the whole. But we also know that we have a major problem, which in some places has gotten worse as our communities have grown increasingly diverse. While public confidence in the police has been growing steadily overall, people of color continue to have less confidence and less trust and believe that they