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by $100 million, it is because we believe, truly, that we are all God's children, that none of us inherently is better than any other, and that we don't believe, even if we are in the elite, in just the elite and their welfare. And this is not about class warfare, either. This is about whether you believe that individuals and families and businesses are better off when they're part of a fabric of a strong community, where everybody's trying to give everybody else a hand up. And if we ever do it right, there will be no more handouts. If we had enough hand ups, there would be no more handouts.

So I want you to leave here being proud of what you did tonight, but I don't want you to quit. It's a long road between now and 2000. And we're not getting much encouragement from most of our friends on the other side of the aisle in campaign finance reform, because they figured if they outdid us by $100 million in '98, maybe they can have a $200 million advantage in 2000.

But one thing we showed them in 1998, partly thanks to a record African-American turnout, one thing we showed them, it doesn't matter if they have more money than you do if you have enough to be heard. If you have enough to be heard, if you have enough to make those telephone calls and to get those doors knocked on and to send those letters out and to put those ads on and to be heard if you stand for something, if the power is not an end in itself but to be used as a gift, given for a limited period of time by the people to strengthen the common life of our country, we've proved that great things can happen.

You have done a good thing tonight for your country. I want you to think about it and continue to speak for it. And when people ask you why you were here tonight, I hope some of the words that we have said will give you an answer, because you want us to go forward together.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:12 p.m. at the National Museum for Women in the Arts. In his remarks, he referred to Robert L. Johnson, chairman and chief executive officer, BET Holdings, Inc.; musician Lionel Hampton; John Stroger, president, Cook County Board of Commissioners, Chicago, IL; Joseph J. Andrew, national chair, and Lottie Shackelford, vice chair, Democratic National Committee; and President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

Excerpt of Videotape Remarks to the to the United States Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting

June 11, 1999

The Senate majority even wants to kill our successful COPS program, the very community police who help cut crime in neighborhoods all across America. My balanced budget, on the other hand, extends our commitment to community police into the 21st century, to put even more officers on our streets, especially in the toughest neighborhoods, and give them the tools they need to make those streets safe.

Now is the time to build on our success, not to undermine it. And it's also time—high time—to do more to keep guns out of the wrong hands. But the House leadership seems intent on ignoring the lessons of Littleton, the lessons of all of our recent past. They want to water down the commonsense, modest gun bill passed by the Senate. According to news reports, the NRA is crowing that the House leadership gave them 90 percent of the new loopholes they wanted in the gun show law.

Now, clearly, there's a difference of approach here. We have a simple strategy that is already reducing crime all across America. We want more police on the street and fewer guns in the hands of criminals and children. They want more guns on the street and fewer cops. I think that's the wrong approach for America. The House leadership should heed the clear voice of the American people and stop listening to the deadly backstage whispers of the gun lobby.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 4:25 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room for later transmission to the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in New Orleans, LA. The release made available by the Office of the Press Secretary was a partial transcript of the President's remarks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 5

In the morning, the President went to Camp David, MD.

June 6

In the afternoon, the President returned to the White House. In the evening, he again went to Camp David, and later, he returned to the White House.

June 7

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia concerning the situation in the Balkans.

The President announced his intention to nominate Delano E. Lewis to be Ambassador to South Africa.

The White House announced that the President named Roger Ballentine as Deputy Assistant to the President for Environmental Initiatives.

June 8

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia concerning the situation in the Balkans.

Later, the President met with President Arpad Goncz of Hungary in the Cabinet Room, primarily concerning the situation in the Balkans.

The President announced his intention to nominate David W. Ogden to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate John E. Lange to be Ambassador to Botswana.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gilbert F. Casellas as Co-Chair to the Census Monitoring Board.

The President declared a major disaster in North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, snow and ice, ground saturation, landslides, mudslides, and tornadoes beginning on March 1 and continuing.

The White House announced that the President extended an invitation to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt for an official working visit on July 1.

The White House announced that the President sent to Congress the FY 2000 budget amendments to add funding to strengthen Embassy security and to meet the Supreme Court requirements for the 2000 census.

June 9

In the morning, the President met with author and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel in the Oval Office concerning Mr. Wiesel's visit to refugee camps in Macedonia and Albania on May 31–June 3.

The President announced his intention to nominate Franz S. Leichter to be a member of the board of directors for the Federal Housing Finance Board.

The President declared a major disaster in South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on June 4 and continuing.

June 10

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations from the Oval Office with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Gen. Wesley K. Clark, USA, Supreme Allied Commander Europe; NATO Secretary General Javier Solana; President Boris Yeltsin of Russia; Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema of Italy; President Jacques Chirac of France; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada.

The President announced his intention to appoint John Arendt, Alberto A. Sagues, and Jeffrey Wong to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

June 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Whiteman Air Force Base, MO, where he was given a tour of a B–2 bomber. Later, the President met privately with 50 base personnel and their families in Building 1117.