

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, September 6, 1999
Volume 35—Number 35
Pages 1669–1687

Contents

Addresses and Remarks

- Drunk driving, radio remarks—1682
- New York
 - Democratic National Committee dinner in Bridgehampton—1675
- Receptions honoring First Lady
 - Cazenovia—1683
 - Syracuse—1685
- Saxophone Club reception in East Hampton—1673
- State comptroller's annual lunch in Skaneateles—1678
- Victory 2000 dinner in East Hampton—1670
- Radio address—1669
- Turkey, earthquake relief, radio remarks—1681

Proclamations

- Contiguous Zone of the United States—1684

Statements by the President

- Bosnia-Herzegovina National Day, announcement—1682
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, cease-fire agreement—1682
- "Futurework" report—1682

Supplementary Materials

- Acts approved by the President—1687
- Checklist of White House press releases—1687
- Digest of other White House announcements—1686
- Nominations submitted to the Senate—1687

Editor's Note: The Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents is also available on the Internet on the *GPO Access* service at <http://www.gpo.gov/nara/nara003.html>.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under

regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Week Ending Friday, September 3, 1999

The President's Radio Address

August 28, 1999

Good morning. This week students all over the country are getting ready for the first day of school. Like every year, parents will send their children off to school with new backpacks and fresh hopes that they'll get the world-class education they need and deserve. Today I want to talk about our continuing efforts to strengthen and renew our Nation's public schools, by encouraging more choice, competition, and creativity.

For more than 6½ years now, Secretary Riley and I and our whole administration have worked hard to raise standards, raise expectations, and raise accountability in every public school in America. I have advanced a comprehensive plan to strengthen and renew our Nation's schools and education agenda for the 21st century—from reducing class size to improving teacher quality, from modernizing and rebuilding thousands of schools to finishing the job of connecting every library and classroom to the Internet, from putting an end to social promotion to expanding after-school and summer school programs.

We've also worked hard to promote the creativity, competition, and accountability that can turn around failing schools and make our good schools even better. That's the big reason I've encouraged States to pass charter school laws and urge communities all across our country to give charter schools a chance.

Charter schools are innovative public schools started by educators, parents, and communities, open to students of every background or ability. But they're freer of redtape and top-down management than most of our schools are, and in return for greater flexibility, charter schools must set and meet the highest standards, and stay open only as long as they do.

Also, charter schools don't divert taxpayer dollars from our public school system; in-

stead, they use those dollars to promote excellence and competition within the system. And in so doing, they spur all our public schools to improve.

I am proud of the progress we've made so far. When I was first elected President, there was only one charter school in the entire country. This year there will be more than 1,700 of them. We're well on our way to meeting my goal of establishing 3,000 charter schools nationwide in the first year of the new century.

For an increasing number of families, charter schools are the right choice. In fact, there are now waiting lists at 7 out of 10 existing charter schools, as more parents realize that more innovation and creativity can produce good results for their children.

Let me give you just one example. When Bowling Green Elementary School in Sacramento ranked third from the bottom in its district, parents and teachers decided they had to do something to take control and turn the situation around. So they set up a charter school there. Since becoming a charter school, Bowling Green has seen student performance soar—with greater gains in test scores than any other school in the school district.

The charter school movement is a real grassroots revolution in education. We must do everything we can to support it. Today I am pleased to announce nearly \$100 million in funding for charter schools all around America. These funds will help teachers and parents open new charter schools in 32 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

They will help existing charter schools hire more well-trained teachers, buy more books, computers, and educational software, and ensure that classrooms are safe and accessible for all students. Finally, these funds will help charter schools develop accountability systems to measure whether they are meeting or exceeding State standards.

Charter schools are living proof of what parents and teachers can do to reinvigorate public education. Investing in them means investing in accountability and excellence and a much better future for our children.

But just as our children are returning to class, the Republican leadership's risky tax cut plan would undermine these investments by forcing deep and irresponsible cuts in education and other important national priorities. So, as Congress comes back to Washington, let's remind them what the creators and the students of America's charter schools already know: We're all accountable for our children's future, and an investment in it is our best investment in all our future.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Edgartown School in Martha's Vineyard, MA.

Remarks at a Victory 2000 Dinner in East Hampton, New York

August 28, 1999

Thank you. Let me thank all of you for the wonderful welcome you have given to Hillary and to me, and to the cause that we come here to advance tonight for the Democratic Committee and for the Senate Campaign Committee and for our prospective candidate from New York over here. [*Laughter*]

This is a very special night for me for many reasons. Most of you—and perhaps some of you know this, but Liz Robbins has been a friend of Hillary's and mine for about 20 years now. And she and Doug have brought a lot of light into our lives, and I want to thank them for opening their home to us. You know, this is kind of a—if you've ever hosted one of these deals—[*laughter*—you know, the nice wears off after about 10 minutes, and you start thinking about it. And you think, "If it's a bust, I'll be humiliated; and if it's successful, they'll destroy all the hedges." [*Laughter*] So I think we ought to give them a hand and thank them for doing this. [*Applause*]

I also want to thank all the people who—starting with the folks—the singer—and the Turtle Crossing restaurant for donating the food, and all the people who served us here

tonight. Thank you all very much for what you've done. I appreciate it very much.

We have mentioned our New York State chair, Judith Hope, and Governor Romer and Joe Andrew and Beth Dozoretz and Andy Tobias, all the people from the DNC, I thank them.

I'm very grateful to the Members of Congress who are here—to Senator Torricelli and Senator Lautenberg and Congressman Forbes; and Congresswoman McCarthy, who had to leave. I'd also like to acknowledge a presence that you won't be hard to find in the former Congressman, Tom McMillan from Maryland, and the former Chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness. Thank you, Tom, for being here. And Mark Green, the New York City comptroller, thank you very much, Mark, for being here—the consumer advocate.

And I love Phoebe Snow. And she has been so good to me, and so good to the Democratic Party, and she has sung a lot of different songs. Those of you who know a lot about American gospel and music may know that "His Eye is on the Sparrow" was perhaps Martin Luther King's favorite hymn.

But if you think about it, it's a pretty good reason for being a Democrat, because our eye is on the sparrow, and all the other people around, and we figure—most of us who can afford to be under this tent tonight—that if they do well, God has given us enough gifts that we're going to do just fine. If ordinary folks do well and the conditions of the country are good, then those of us who have the resources and have been gifted with certain talents and certain training, we're going to do very well. And so the hymn was a good setting for our meeting here tonight.

I will be very brief. I want to make a case for our party in the coming election. I think that the First Lady made a pretty good case for herself—[*laughter*—but I'd like to say a word or two about that. And I want to talk about you and what you're going to do between now and November of 2000. And I'll do it quickly.

When I was elected in 1992, the people of New York and the people of the United States took a chance on me and Al Gore, because they were worried about the direction of the economy and the direction of the

society and the fact that we were becoming more divided when we should become more united. And we made an argument and said we would challenge the country to change. And the country took a chance.

And when we moved to Washington, we challenged the Democrats to take the lead in restoring fiscal responsibility. I didn't think you could ever be the progressive party in the country if the wheels were running off the economy. And we quadrupled the debt in 10 years, 12 years. And interest rates were too high. And so we challenged our Democratic Party.

We challenged the Democratic Party to take the lead in ending a welfare system that was dysfunctional. We challenged the Democratic Party to put a human face on the global environment, but not to walk away from global trade. And we asked the Republicans to discard their hatred of government, and their blind faith that the only thing that would ever matter was having more tax cuts. And we asked them to abandon wedge politics.

I think it is very interesting—when the history of this era is written and people write the history of New York politics, it will be very interesting that New York gave us two party switches based on principle: Carolyn McCarthy switched from the Republican to the Democratic Party and ran for Congress—and ran for Congress when she paid the highest price a human being could pay, and she realized she had to do more to ask her country to be a community and to adopt responsible, commonsense legislation to protect people from the kind of madness that she and her family suffered. And Michael Forbes, under even more difficult political circumstances, changed parties because he couldn't believe that the majority party in Congress, in the face of the American Medical Association and 200 consumer groups, would continue to walk away from a Patients' Bill of Rights, and walk away from its responsibility to educate all of our children for the 21st century. I thank them both, and I think they represent the future of America.

Now, the reason I say that is, you took us on faith. And then in 1996 New York was very good to Bill Clinton and Al Gore again, because you had a little more evidence.

[*Laughter*] Now it's not even open to doubt. It's our record against their arguments. And we now have over 19 million new jobs and the highest homeownership in history and the fastest business growth in history and the lowest minority unemployment rate ever recorded and the lowest crime rate in 26 years, the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years.

And even when they have fought us along the way, we've continued to stand up for peace and freedom and justice all around the world. And the politics of inclusion works—America has not been hurt or weakened because we've asked for every law-abiding American, without regard to their race or their gender or their sexual orientation, to be treated like decent human beings in this country, to end hate crimes, to end abuse, to end bigotry. This is a stronger country because of it.

So there is no argument anymore. That's the first thing I want to say. If people ask you why you showed up here tonight, say, "Well, I took a chance in '92, but there's no argument anymore—it works. Why weren't you there? That's why I was." If anybody asks you why you were here, you ask them why weren't they here? Because there is no argument about that.

The second thing I would like to say is, all elections are about tomorrow, and they should be. I remember one time when I was trying to run for a fifth term as Governor. I went out to the State Fair in Arkansas, and this old boy in overalls came to me, and he said, "Bill, are you going to run again?" [*Laughter*] I said, "I don't know, but if I do, will you vote for me?" He said, "Yeah, I guess so. I always have." [*Laughter*] And I said, "Well, aren't you sick of me after all these years?" He said, "No, I'm not, but everybody else I know is." [*Laughter*] And I said, "Well, don't you think I've done a good job?" He said, "Sure, but that's what we hired you to do." He said, "You drew a check every 2 weeks, didn't you?" Interesting point. All elections are about tomorrow, and they should be.

Now, we have a record. You don't have to guess about us. But every one of us, starting with Vice President Gore, all the other Democrats as far as I know running for any

office—certainly including Hillary—are dealing with what I think are the most important big questions of the future. And I'll tell you what I think they are—and I'm not running for anything—but I don't want to see all this work we've done derailed. And I don't want to see all the progress my country has made sacrificed. And believe me, there is still a war going out there for the conscience, the soul, and the future of this country.

You know, the country is working now. So what are we going to do with this prosperity? I think we have an obligation as Americans, those of us who are of age, to think about the children who are here and the long-term challenges facing America. We have never had a chance like this in my lifetime. And we've still got some big, long-term challenges. I'll just mention three or four. The aging of America: twice as many people over 65 in 30 years; under present circumstances, Medicare goes broke in 15 years, Social Security in 34 years. The children of America: over 53 million children in our schools this year, the most diverse student population ever, the highest percentage whose first language is not English. It is a godsend of opportunity in a global economy if we give them all a good education. Keeping the economy going, and that means two things, one of which Hillary already mentioned—bringing opportunity to people and places that haven't had it yet.

Do you know that upstate New York, if it were a separate State, would rank in the bottom five in this country in job growth in the last 6 years? And I'm not proud of that; I've worked hard to drive unemployment down everywhere. But there are small towns in New York; there are inner-city neighborhoods in every big urban area in the country; there are Indian reservations; there's the Mississippi Delta; there are places that have not felt this prosperity. If we get investment there and growth there, we will have more growth without inflation.

The other thing we have to do is to keep paying this debt down instead of driving interest rates up with that tax cut that they have proposed. You know, people say, "Oh, they never have any big ideas." Here's a big idea: We can be out of debt in 15 years for the first time since 1835, and our grandchildren

will have lower interest rates and more prosperity and a more harmonious society as a result of it. That is a big idea, and it is worth hanging on to.

So I say this to you because, yes, we have done a good job the last 6½ years and, no, you don't have to guess anymore. But we need to focus on the future. So when you leave here, and they ask you why you came, tell them, "I took a chance on those rascals, and it worked out just fine." [Laughter] Tell them that they don't have to guess anymore. And tell them you care about your children's and your grandchildren's future.

The last thing I want to tell you is, when I met Hillary in 1971, we started a conversation about this stuff that was going on at 1:30 last night, 28 years later. [Laughter] And we were walking yesterday, we took a walk and I said, "You know, I hope you're not tired of this after all these years." She said, "No, I still—it's very interesting to me." She said, "You may be a lot of things, but you're not boring, which I appreciate." [Laughter]

So, I want to tell you something. Here's what I want to tell you: I have known thousands of people in public life, literally. I probably know more people in public life than anybody else here. I have known—I've served with over 150 Governors. I have known lots of Senators. I've known lots of House Members. I've known State representatives and mayors. I still believe it is a noble calling, being in public service. And you should not even judge all Republicans—I'll say this for Michael Forbes' benefit—by the tone set by the leadership of their party in the Congress. Most people I've known in public life were honest, hardworking people who got up every day and did what they thought was right, to the best of their abilities.

But there is a genuine big debate. If you want somebody that's thought about this stuff and worked hard and always tried to do it for other people for 30 years, who has more heart, more intelligence, more ability, and more commitment than any person I have every known, of all the thousands I have known, then you ought to send her to the Senate and give her a chance to serve.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:45 p.m. in a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Liz Robbins and Doug Johnson; singer Phoebe Snow; and former Gov. Roy Romer of Colorado, general cochair, Joseph J. Andrew, national chair, Beth Dozoretz, national finance chair, and Andy Tobias, treasurer, Democratic National Committee.

Remarks at a Saxophone Club Reception in East Hampton

August 28, 1999

Thank you. First of all, I would like to thank Wyclef and the band; they were magnificent. Weren't they unbelievable? Let's give them another hand. [Applause]

You were up there doing your thing, and I was sitting here thinking about what I was going to say. And I couldn't concentrate for wishing I was 25 and out there again. [Laughter] You were terrific! Thank you so much.

I want to thank all the leaders of the Democratic Party who are here. I want to thank Judith Hope. You know, people always say, "Well, you know, Hillary, is she going to run, is she not going to run?" Well, she spent all these years in Arkansas. Judith Hope was 20 years old before she ever left Arkansas; we're just following her lead. [Laughter]

I want to say, also, how very grateful I am to all the Members of Congress—Senator Lautenberg, Senator Torricelli, Congresswoman McCarthy, and Congressman Forbes—for being here. I think it says a lot about Long Island and the State of New York that the two most prominent people to switch from the Republican to the Democratic Party in the last couple of years are Carolyn McCarthy and Michael Forbes from Long Island.

One switched—you know, we're having a good time tonight, so nobody wants to talk too much about issues, but Michael Forbes switched because the Republicans are killing the Patients' Bill of Rights, and patients are getting the shaft out there in the health care system all across America; and because they have a budget and tax plan which will cut education spending when we should be investing more in the education of our children.

And Carolyn McCarthy quit because after her intense personal agony, she just got sick and tired of their leadership killing common-sense things like closing the loophole that stops us from doing background checks when criminals buy guns at gun shows and flea markets, and it's wrong.

And I say that to make this point. I am so profoundly grateful to the people of New York for being so good to me and Hillary and to Al and Tipper Gore and two Presidential elections and one magnificent convention and one very bracing primary in 1992. The people of New York have been good to me and have made it possible for us to do what we have worked hard to do in the last 6½ years.

And I want you to think about just a couple of things, especially the younger people here. I'm not running for anything. [Laughter] Kind of hate it, actually—I wish I still could, but I can't. [Laughter] But I have worked all my life to try to bring people together and move people forward and bring out the best in people. And when New York took a chance on me and Al Gore in 1992, that's exactly what it was. We said, "Vote for us. We'll take the country in a different direction. We'll ask the Democrats to be for fiscal responsibility and bringing the crime rate down and changing the welfare culture and having a humane trade policy. And we'll ask the Republicans to stop badmouthing the Government and dividing people by race and gender and sexual orientation and other things. And we'll try to bring this country together and move it forward."

But you couldn't know. You took a chance. And we've been down there working for 6½ years now. And the first point I want to make is, you're not taking a chance anymore. You know we have the longest peacetime expansion in history, the highest homeownership in history, the lowest minority unemployment in history, the lowest crime rate in 26 years, the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years. This country is moving in the right direction. You took a chance, and you were right. And the Democratic Party has moved this country forward.

The second thing I want to say is—even more important—is that we just made the

country work again. But there are huge questions facing the 21st century. The number of people over 65 will double in 30 years. We already have the largest number of children in school in history—for the first time, a group bigger than the baby boomers, and they are far, far more diverse; many more of their first languages are not English. And that is a godsend in this great, rich, textured global economy.

But it means we have no business, at this point of maximum prosperity and confidence, walking away from the big challenges. How are we going to save Medicare and Social Security so that the children of the baby boomers don't have to support their parents, and can support their kids instead? How are we going to give every child in this country a world-class education? How are we going to bring the economic opportunity that so many of you have enjoyed to all the little towns in upstate New York and all the neighborhoods in the inner cities and the Mississippi Delta and the Indian reservations, to people who haven't had it?

And before we go back to the failed economic policies of the past and pass a tax cut that will force us to cut education and cut the environment and cut our investment in the future and put us right back in the hole we were in and raise your interest rates and take your tax cut away from you, let's get this country out of debt for the first time since 1835 and give the children here a generation of economic prosperity.

Now, these are big issues. But it's not like 1992. We're not asking you to take us on faith anymore. We're asking you to go with what you know works, in your mind and in your heart.

And the last point I want to make is this. If I could wave a magic wand and get America just to do one thing—just one—it wouldn't even be all the things I just said. I would have the American people lay down their hatreds and their division, their anger and their pettiness, their legitimate grievances and their phoned-up gripes. I would have this country no longer divided by race, by religion, by sexual orientation, by politics, by region.

You know, most of the people I've known in public service over 25 years, now, have

been honest, decent, hardworking people who tried to do what they thought was right. And this is crazy, what the leadership of the Congress has tried to do in Washington these last few years—trying to keep the country in a turmoil all the time, all torn up and upset, telling everybody how terrible their enemies are, trying to make sure you could divide the population up, first one way and then another, and then being in the grip of these interest groups that are keeping us from becoming one community, by doing things we know we ought to do in education, on the Patients' Bill of Rights, on sensible gun control measures. This is wrong.

You think of all the time I have spent trying to make peace in the Middle East, end tribal wars in Africa, stop the slaughter in Bosnia and Kosovo, bring peace to Northern Ireland—all these things. What is at the root of all this? People believing that the only way they can get and keep power is to turn people against one another, to harden their hearts.

And I'm telling you, the Democratic Party stands for opportunity, for facing the big challenges of the future, and for one American community where we are united by our common humanity.

So I am grateful for all those who have joined our cause, because they share our values and our ideas, and they know the record is incontestable. Congressman Forbes took a big chance doing what he did. I wish he had done it a year or 2 earlier. *[Laughter]* But I was raised a Southern Baptist; we believe in deathbed conversions, and he is a long way from the deathbed. So you all give him another hand for doing the right thing. *[Applause]* Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy has changed this country for the better and immeasurably enriched our party in the Congress because of what she did.

And I will say, as I've said many times, of all the hundreds, indeed, all the thousands of the people I have known, the woman I have shared the last—well, since we met—27 years with is the most passionate, the most committed, the most able, the most consistent public citizen I have ever known, and New York would do well to send her to the United States Senate.

So I thank you. I'm not running for anything. *[Laughter]* I'm going to work hard for

you for another year and a half. I am grateful that this country is in the shape it's in. I am proud of the friendship and partnership I've shared with Al Gore, the friendship and partnerships I've shared with the Members of Congress. But most important, I am humble and grateful for the kind of support that the people of New York have given. And all I ask you in return is to keep on going in this direction. You were right when you took a chance on us in 1992. You were right when you ratified what we were doing in 1996. You were right to send Chuck Schumer to the Senate in 1998. Just stay on, keep leading America into a new century.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 p.m. in a hangar at the Executive Terminal at East Hampton Airport. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Wyclef Jean; and New York State Democratic Party Chair Judith Hope.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Dinner in Bridgehampton, New York
August 29, 1999

Well, thank you very much. [Laughter] I must say, I thought Hillary was going to say, "If you think it's windy now, wait until Bill gets up to talk." [Laughter] I feel badly about this wind. It came up about the time I was explaining the finer points of voodoo around our table—[laughter]—and the conviction that Haitians and others have that the spirits of light and darkness are more or less in equal balance and they manifest themselves in all kinds of physical ways. And all of a sudden the lights started moving and—[laughter]—so we'll just have to hope the good guys win tonight.

Let me just say first to Craig and Jane, I'm very, very grateful to be in their home here—I've also been in their home in New York City. Thank you, Brian; thank you, Robert. They're quite wonderful people—among other things, when I came to see them in New York they provided me, since I had a little down time, with a tenor saxophone, and so I played a tune for them. So I got here tonight, and the horn was here again. But I didn't put them through it again.

[Laughter] But it was very touching, and I thank you for that.

I also want to thank all of those who are here. Jon, thank you and Richie for entertaining. Jon Bon Jovi has been very good to me; he has played for me a number of times over these last 6½ years, and I thought they were terrific tonight, and I thank them for being here. I want to thank the people who prepared the wonderful dinner and all those who served it and all the volunteers who have been part of this tonight. And I would like to just make a couple of brief points.

Somebody will ask you tomorrow why you came here tonight. And I wonder what you will say: "I wanted to see their house; it looked kind of interesting." [Laughter] "I wanted to hear the music. I hear the food was going to be great. The restaurant was closed tonight."

I'd just like to offer a few things that I hope you'll think about. First of all, New York has been very, very good to me and to Hillary, to Al and Tipper Gore, to our whole administration. We had a wonderful convention here in '92. I had a very interesting, eventful primary here in '92, but it came out okay. And then the State voted for us big in '92 and then, breathtakingly in '96, and I'm very grateful.

But in 1992 I asked the country and I asked the people of this State to take a chance on me, on my family, my Vice President, my administration, and on a whole new direction for the country. I saw a survey the other day which said that things had been going so well in our country for so many years now, nobody could—people have no memory of what it was like in '91 and '92. They've forgotten entirely.

But the economy was in the tank, and the country was divided, and the social problems were worsening. And we had a lot of challenges around the world that weren't being addressed. And, you know, I lived a long way from Washington, DC, but it seemed to me that we were working on the wrong things and not working on the right things. And I asked the American people to give me a chance to create a country in which there was opportunity for all who were responsible, in which we could build a community of all Americans, in which we could be a force for

peace and freedom and justice around the world. And so you took a chance.

The first thing I hope you'll say—and one of you said this to me tonight—when you go home and they ask you why you came, is that it was a good chance to take and it worked out all right; that we've got the longest peacetime expansion in history and the lowest crime rate in 26 years and the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years and the lowest minority unemployment ever recorded and the highest homeownership in history; that our country has been a force for peace and freedom, from Northern Ireland to the Middle East to the Balkans; that we have tried to include all Americans in our future.

The second thing I hope you'll say—because, as Joe Andrew said earlier, politics is always about tomorrow—is that you think we're right about the things we're talking about for today and tomorrow. You know, I'm not running for anything anymore. Joe Andrew used to have a great line in his speeches: "Bill Clinton doesn't have to be here; he's not running for anything anymore." That's where Hillary started running for something, now I do have to be here—[laughter]—in a different role.

But I believe this anyway, and I want you to think about this. Once in a lifetime—once in a lifetime—if you get real lucky, maybe twice—a country, like a person, has a moment that is either seized or squandered. You may have a lot of wonderful moments, but some will be greater than others. Mr. DeNiro has made a lot of great movies, but some were greater than others. Steven Spielberg and Kate and I, we were talking with Hillary and Chelsea on the way over about the greatest moments of his movie career. Countries are like that, just like in your personal life.

A time like this comes along once in a lifetime, where we went from having—we quadrupled our debt in 12 years, and now we've got the biggest surplus we ever had. And we project for 15 years or more we'll have it. Oh, there will be ups and downs in the economy but, on average, it will be there. Now, what are we going to do with it?

Our friends in the other party, they say that all that's not attributable to Social Security taxes; we ought to give it back to you in a tax cut. And that's very popular, espe-

cially in this crowd. Some of you will say you ought to have your head examined, because every one of you should be over there with them tonight.

We say we ought to face the challenges facing our children. And I'll just give you three real quick. The aging of America—there will be twice as many people over 65 in 2030 as there are now. I hope to be one of them, so do most of you. If we don't save Social Security and Medicare and do it in a way so that the children of the baby boomers don't have to support them so they'll be free to support their children, we're going to have an enormous amount of heartache and difficulty in this country. But if we do it, you'll have people living longer and better than ever before. The children of the baby boomers will be free to pursue their own destiny, and they'll be free to raise their grandchildren in the best possible way.

The second thing we ought to do is face the fact that we've got more kids in this country in school than ever before—over 53 million of them. More of them come from families whose first language is not English than ever before. But it's a godsend in a global society if we can give every single one of them a world-class education.

The third thing we ought to do is figure out how we can keep this economy going and how we can bring it to people who haven't felt it yet. Because I can tell you, in spite of all the prosperity the last 6½ years, there are inner-city communities, there's the Mississippi Delta, there are places in Appalachia, there are all these Indian reservations in America, there are small towns in upstate New York—which, if it were a separate State, would rank 49th in job creation in the last 5 years—where the sunshine of all this prosperity has not reached. We all hope there won't be other interest rate increases. We say, "Gosh, let's keep interest rates down and keep growth going." You want to expand the economy with no inflation, invest in the places that haven't had any growth. These are big deals.

Now, my view is we ought to take most of this surplus in the next 15 years and reform and save Medicare, run Social Security's life out to about 2053—that ought to take care of all the baby boomers; I'm the oldest of

the baby boomers. I don't think I'll be alive in 2053; I'd like it awfully well if I was. But most of us will be gone by then, and we'll return to some more normal population distribution. And meanwhile, our children will not have to worry about taking care of us in our dotage, and our grandchildren will have a better future.

We ought to invest in education, in the things we know that work, and recognize that the poorest children in this country need the richest education if we're going to have the kind of future we want.

We ought to pay this country's debt down. You know, we could get out of debt in 15 years for the first time since 1835. And we'd have low interest rates for a generation, and people like us would do just fine if we did that.

Now, we also ought to do things that bring our community together. Congressman Forbes changed parties because he got sick and tired of the leadership of his party turning a deaf ear when he said we're going to have more and more people in managed care and we may have to do it. It may not be a bad thing. But you've got all these hospitals going broke. You've got doctors wanting to quit or join unions. And you've got people who are tearing their hair out. We've got to have a Patients' Bill of Rights so that we have quality care as well as properly managed care. Because he thought we ought to be investing in education, not cutting it.

Carolyn McCarthy, another Congresswoman from Long Island, was a Republican, became a member of our party because she lost her husband, had her son subject to grievous injury—because this is the only big country in the world that has no sensible restrictions on firearms, until we passed the Brady bill, which was vetoed in the previous administration, which kept 400,000 people with criminal backgrounds from getting guns and saved God knows how many people. But we still have serious problems in the law. That's important to me.

I supported an increase in the minimum wage, because I don't think anybody that works for a living and has kids at home ought to be in poverty. And I believe those people should get big tax increases—tax cuts, I mean—people who have modest wages and

have children at home. They got the biggest tax cuts, percentagewise, of anybody in this administration in the last 7½ years, because I don't think anybody who works full-time and has a child at home should be in poverty. And I don't think you do, either.

Now, these are major issues. What kind of a community are we? Look, can you believe this with all the good fortune we've had, and just a couple of weeks ago, some guy listens to some racist kook and goes out and murders an African-American former basketball coach, shoots Asian students in the street. This guy the other day in Illinois and Indiana, going on that shooting spree. Then we had another shooting, of the children at the Jewish child center in Los Angeles. And the same guy murdered a Filipino-American because he was Filipino and because he worked for the United States Government and the Post Office. We had that young Matthew Shepard being killed in Wyoming. The Democratic Party wants to pass hate crimes legislation. We want to pass employment nondiscrimination legislation. We want to have people in our future without regard to their race, their sexual orientation, their politics, or anything else.

Now, why? Because we need all those people. Because we—if you believe in free markets and free societies, you have to believe that everyone should freely have the chance to live their dreams, and that there ought to be a framework which makes it possible for them to do it.

I want to close—before we get blown away—[laughter]—with one story. I went to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota the other day—some of you may have seen it—on this new markets tour, organized by a man, Gene Sperling, my National Economic Counselor, who also happens to be in the audience here.

Before I did that, I had the 19 tribal leaders from the northern high plains come to see me, from North and South Dakota and Montana. They are probably the poorest of all of our Indian tribes. And they had this meeting with the President—and I had five and six Cabinet members there. And they went through their little presentation, you know, and everybody said what they had to say about what their needs were.

And at the end, Harold Salway stood up, who is the president—they now call them presidents—of the Oglala Sioux, the tribe of Crazy Horse, in South Dakota. And he was standing there, and he said that the chiefs wanted to tell me that they supported what I had done in Kosovo, in saving the Kosovar Albanians.

And he started talking. He's not very tall, but he's very dignified, and you could have heard a pin drop. And he said, "Mr. President," he said, "my great-great-grandfather was massacred at Wounded Knee. We know something about ethnic cleansing. But," he said, "I had two uncles. One was on the beach at Normandy. The other was the first Native American fighter pilot in the history of the United States military." He said, "And now I am here in the White House meeting with the President. I have only one son, and he means more to me than anything in the world, but I would be proud to have him wear a uniform and go fight for the freedom of the people of Kosovo, to be free from being slaughtered because of their ethnic background or the way they worship God. This is America, and I'm proud of what we're doing here."

I hope tomorrow, if somebody asks you why you were here, you'll say, "Because we took a chance and it worked out; because we've got the chance of a lifetime to do the right things for the future; and because more than anything else"—believe me, if I could leave office with one wish for America, it would be that somehow we would find a way to lay down all these idiotic ways of looking down on one another, and find some way to lift each other up.

And the last thing I want to say is this. I have been privileged in my life to work with thousands of people in public service. And notwithstanding the intense partisan rancor of the last few years, my experience is that what you have been subject to is atypical. Most of the people I have known in public life, Republicans and Democrats, were honest, hard-working, decent people who had honest differences of opinion, and got up every day and tried to make this country a better place.

But I'm telling you, of all the people I have ever known in public life, the ablest, the

smartest, the most passionately dedicated, is the person who wants to be the next United States Senator from New York.

Thank you, and goodbye. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Craig Hatkoff, Jane Rosenthal, Brian Ward, and actor Robert DeNiro; musicians Jon Bon Jovi and Richie Sambora; Joseph J. Andrew, national chair, Democratic National Committee; and movie producer/director Steven Spielberg and his wife, actress Kate Capshaw.

Remarks at the New York State Comptroller's Annual Lunch in Skaneateles, New York

August 30, 1999

Thank you very much. I've enjoyed the program. [*Laughter*] You know, it's pretty nice to go to a lunch like this when you're the only one that's not running for anything. Just have a good time. [*Laughter*]

I watched Mike do his thing, and Carl do his thing. Joyce and I were over there handicapping the whole deal. It was great. [*Laughter*] Watched Hillary do her thing. It was great.

But let me say to all of you, I want to begin with a series of genuine thank-yous. I thank the people of New York for being so good to me and Al Gore, in two elections and a lot of times in between. I thank you for being so welcoming and open with Hillary. I thank you for setting so many good examples.

I want to thank Mike Bragman for his leadership. And I want to thank Carl McCall for his leadership. You know, the comptroller's lunch—I read up on this lunch. [*Laughter*] And the first thing I read in my notes was, they're not going to give you any food. [*Laughter*]

But anyway, among other things I learned that this luncheon was started by Arthur Levitt, Sr., when he was comptroller of New York. His son is now, by my appointment, the head of the Securities and Exchange Commission and doing a very fine job.

I say that because Carl McCall is in that tradition of people who have been trusted to manage the collective wealth of the people

of New York. That's what the comptroller does. And in a way, we're here at the State Fair, and it's sort of like being the State's chief farmer. You give him the seeds, and you trust him to plant them. You trust him to bring in the crop, and you trust him not to waste any of it.

And it's kind of like farming; you've got to be conservative, but you have to take a risk. If you don't take a risk, nothing ever sprouts; and if you're not basically conservative, it all burns up in the ground and is otherwise lost. And I think Carl McCall has husbanded the resources of the people of New York and taken advantage of this great economy our country has enjoyed and used that to try to find ways, as Mike said, to help you educate your children and do a lot of other things that need to be done. And I respect that very, very much, and I thank him for letting us crash his lunch. [Laughter]

Now, it is true that—Teddy Roosevelt and William Howard Taft might have beaten me here, but I'll guarantee you, I've been to a lot more fairs than both of them put together. [Laughter] I never met a fair I didn't like. [Laughter]

When I was a young man starting out in Arkansas, you had to go to all the county fairs. That's always the biggest crowd, and you'd go out in all these rural areas and go to the county fairs. I remember, I showed up at a county fair one time—I hadn't ridden a horse in years. I wanted to look like I was not taking these rural people for granted, so I wore a pinstriped suit, wingtip shoes. [Laughter] I had this young man, even younger than me, helping me. And he said, "I'm going to take you to the sheriff. If he's for you, we'll win the county. If he's against you, we'll lose, and we can go home." [Laughter] "You don't need to shake any hands; you don't need to do anything. If he's for you, we win; if he's against you"—[laughter].

So he takes me to see the sheriff on the night the rodeo opens at the county fair. Sheriff's jaw is full of tobacco, holding a horse. He said, "Son, if you ride this horse into the ring when they open the rodeo, I'll be for you. If you don't, leave town right now." [Laughter] I said, "Give me the reins." I got on the horse in my wingtip shoes and my pinstriped suit. [Laughter] They played

the music. You know how they open the rodeo; you know, all you've got to do is kind of get behind the horse in front of you, and they'll lope along together. Not my horse! We get out in the middle; it stops dead still, rears straight up—[laughter]—I'm holding on for dear life. I got out of there in one piece. I didn't fall off. The sheriff looked at me and said, "You didn't fall off; that's worth another 5 percent." [Laughter] So I've had a lot of experience.

I also—we used to have senior day at the State Fair, and I always had Governor's day, so I always did it on the day we had senior day. And what Hillary said is true; that lady had 14 children, and they had 40-something children, and they had nearly 100 children, those 40, already. So she had 150 in her family.

I also used to hold my own listening sessions at the State Fair on Governor's day. I'd just go into one of the exhibition halls and set up a little stand, like everybody else, and people would come by.

And I remember, in 1990 at the State Fair, I was thinking about running for a fifth term—this is what's great about the fair; I can't wait to get out there and see some of the exhibits—this old boy in overalls came up to me and said, "Are you going to run again?" [Laughter] I said, "Well, if I do, will you vote for me?" He said, "Yes, I guess so, always have." I said, "Well, aren't you sick of me after all these years?" He said, "No, I'm not, but everybody else I know is." [Laughter] And so I said—you know, that's what fairs are for. So I said, "Well, don't you"—I was kind of hurt—I said, "Don't you think I've done a good job?" And he said, "Yes, you've done a good job, but you got a check every 2 weeks, didn't you?" [Laughter] He said, "That's what we hired you to do." Very important lesson for anyone contemplating running for any office. Remember that. That's what we hired you to do.

I say that because I want to close with just 2 minutes of serious talk. I am profoundly grateful for the good fortune and the good times our country has enjoyed. I'm profoundly grateful that we live at a moment in history where we don't have, as we did during the cold war, one big threat to our common existence.

But we're sort of like farmers sitting on a good crop. We had a great crop last year, and we got a lot of money in the bank. Now what are we going to do with it?

And when you're at the State Fair, you need to think like that. If America is a farm and we're the farm family and we've had years of great crops and we've got a lot of money in the bank, what are we going to do with it?

Well, I think that we ought to take the chance of a lifetime to face our big challenges. The next 30 years, the number of people over 65 is going to double. I hope to be one of them. [Laughter] It'll change everything—everything. You'll have fewer people working, more people retired. The economics of retirement income from Social Security and Medicare and other things will dramatically change.

I think we've got to use all these good years we've had to try to secure Social Security and Medicare to meet the basic needs of our seniors and to get the seniors' children, the baby boomers' children, through the retirement of the baby boom years. Because we don't want—I can say this; I'm the oldest of the baby boomers—we don't want our children to have to take money they should be investing in our grandchildren to take care of us, because we didn't take care of the challenge of the aging of America. And so we've got to think about that.

We've got to think about the children of America. Hillary said that, and you clapped, and I appreciate it. But I just want to—we finally have a group of kids bigger than the baby boomers, over 53 million children in the schools of America. A higher percentage of them come from families whose first language is not English than ever before. Now, in a global society, this is a very good thing, if but only if, we give every one of them a world-class education and recognize that we need them all.

The Governor of California is a great friend of Hillary's and mine, Gray Davis. And he said, "You know"—he's about a year older than I am—he said, "You know, by the time we get retired, there'll only be two people working for every one person drawing Social Security. And I don't want my two workers

to be D students today." [Laughter] That's pretty good. Interesting thing.

He says it to make the point that we all, whether we have children in the schools or not, whether we have one child or 10 or whatever, we all have a vested interest in the children of America. We have a real opportunity now. We know what works. We know what helps our schools to make sure all our kids can learn.

The third thing I'd like to say, I'd like to allude to something Hillary said. You know, even though we've got the longest peacetime expansion in history, the largest number of jobs ever created in this period of time, the lowest minority unemployment rate ever reported, new records in small business formation every year—in spite of all that, the hard, cold truth is that this economic prosperity has been very uneven.

And you know it in central and upstate New York. These regions know it. There are parts of New York City that know it. In my home area, in the Mississippi Delta, they know it. In Appalachia, they know it. On the Indian reservations, they know it.

We've got the chance of a lifetime now, when we're all debating how we're going to keep this economy going without more inflation. How can we keep it going? I can tell you how we keep it going without more inflation: Bring jobs and investment to the areas that have not yet participated in the recovery. That gives you growth.

And one of the things—this is the only specific thing I'll mention—one of the things I have asked the Congress to do is to pass a law which would give the same tax incentives to investors to invest in areas with higher unemployment in America we give them to invest in developing areas in the Caribbean and Latin America and Africa and Asia and other places in the world. And I think we ought to do it.

I also believe another thing that will help every area is just to keep this thing going, because the more you keep it going, the more it will reach into more and more neighborhoods. And one of the reasons that I have been opposed to, in effect, giving away, today, the long-term benefits of the economic recovery, which is what I think an excessive tax cut would do, is: If you have a

real big tax cut, you don't have money for education; you don't have money to extend the life of Social Security and Medicare. There will be an increase in interest rates, because people will think we're going to overstimulate the economy, and that way all of you who care about interest rates will lose your tax cut in higher interest rates.

And what I want to do is to have a tax cut that is modest and targeted, so that we save enough of this surplus, not only to save Social Security and Medicare and invest in education but also to get this country out of debt in 15 years, for the first time since 1835. That's before Teddy Roosevelt and Taft came to the fair. [*Laughter*] Andrew Jackson was President in 1835. That's how long it's been.

But again, think like a farmer. If you're a family farmer, chances are you've got an amount of money every year to bring the crop in or to replenish the herd of cattle or whatever it is you do. America is like that.

And if you want this economy to continue to grow, we have to keep interest rates as low as possible. I can't think of anything that would guarantee the children in this audience a generation of security more than essentially taking America's Government out of debt, taking America out of the competition for borrowing money, leaving the money there for you to borrow and our children to borrow, at the lowest possible interest rates, for business loans, for home loans, for car loans, for college loans, for you name it. I think this makes a lot of sense.

So I say to you, when you leave here today, I want you to think about that. I want you to think of Carl McCall as somebody who's been like a good farmer, who's taken good care of your resources. He hasn't squandered the seed. He can bring in a crop next year for you because he's done it. And I want you to think of the challenge and the opportunity, the phenomenal opportunity your country has right now.

I won't be around for a lot of these decisions which have to be made. But we can make them now. And if we stick with them, we literally can meet the challenge of the aging of America, the challenge of the children of America, the challenge to spread the economic bounty of America to communities that haven't had it. We can get this country

out of debt, and we can continue to lead the world for peace and freedom and justice. We can do that. But we have to think like the people we're coming here to this fair to celebrate today.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:12 p.m. in the Empire Room of the Art and Home Center Building at the Syracuse State Fairgrounds. In his remarks, he referred to State Assembly Majority Leader Michael J. Bragman; and State Comptroller H. Carl McCall's wife, Joyce Brown.

Radio Remarks on Earthquake Relief for Turkey

August 31, 1999

The recent earthquake in Turkey is one of the worst natural disasters of the century. Tens of thousands of people are either confirmed dead or still missing.

On behalf of all Americans, Hillary and I offer our deepest condolences to the loved ones of those who have lost their lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by this tragedy.

Turkey is our longtime ally. The Turkish people are our friends. Today they urgently need assistance. Many are severely injured. Hundreds of thousands are camping outdoors. There is a serious risk of disease spreading. We must help the victims rebuild their lives.

Working with Turkey's Government and others, American military and civilian personnel, including teams from Fairfax County, Virginia, and Dade County, Florida, helped with the rescue efforts. Now we're helping provide shelter, water, sanitation, and medical services. I'm grateful to all those participating.

Here at home, Americans are helping, too, including religious leaders of many faiths, who've united to call for prayer and humanitarian action. I encourage my fellow citizens to give generously to charitable organizations supporting the relief efforts. For information, you can call our toll-free number in the U.S., that's 1-800-USAID-RELIEF—1-800-USAID-RELIEF or look on the Internet at www.whitehouse.gov.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at approximately 10:45 a.m. on August 28 at the Edgartown Elementary School in Martha's Vineyard, MA, for later broadcast. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 31. These remarks were also made available on the White House Press Office Radio Actuality Line.

**Statement on Announcement of the
Bosnia-Herzegovina National Day**
September 1, 1999

Today the Joint Presidents of Bosnia-Herzegovina announced that the national day of their country will henceforth be celebrated on November 21, the anniversary of the Dayton peace accords of 1995. In so doing, the leaders of every ethnic community in Bosnia-Herzegovina have made clear that Dayton marked not merely the end of a war but the beginning of a new country and a blueprint for its future. I am pleased that the date November 21 will be honored as a symbol of multi-ethnic democracy and solidarity between the people of the United States and the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**Statement on the Cease-Fire
Agreement in the Democratic
Republic of the Congo**
September 1, 1999

I welcome the signing of a cease-fire agreement by founding members of the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) yesterday in Lusaka. Their signature brings into force the Lusaka accord, signed by six African Heads of State on July 10th and aimed at ending the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In a region that has seen terrible violence, there is now a chance for a genuine and just peace. I urge all parties to implement and adhere to the agreement and to act in good faith to enable the citizens of the Congo and neighboring states to pursue their lives in peace, prosperity, and democracy.

I especially congratulate the leaders of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Rwanda, and Uganda for working together to secure RCD signature of the

Lusaka accord. This agreement is the result of the vision, dedication, and courage of regional nations and their leaders. It is a crucial step in ending one of the continent's most dangerous wars. The same courage and commitment are now required to see the accord fully implemented.

The continuing effort to build an enduring peace deserves America's support. We will work closely with all parties to realize the goals of the Lusaka accord: to achieve a broadbased, democratic, and open political process in the Congo and to address the security concerns of neighboring states. I hope the agreement will help end the cycle of violence in the region and promote stability and reconstruction across central Africa.

**Statement on the Release of the
"Futurework" Report**
September 1, 1999

The "Futurework" report, released today by the Department of Labor, underscores the need for an even stronger commitment to education and training to help workers thrive in an economy that is changing faster than ever before. Now, more than ever, American workers must learn the new skills needed to face the challenges of the 21st century economy.

The Republican tax proposal, because it would force cuts in education and worker training of roughly 50 percent in 2009, would deny millions of Americans the chance to gain these skills. Now is not the time to short-change the future opportunities of American workers by enacting an irresponsible tax plan that fails to allow adequate investment in education and training.

Radio Remarks on Drunk Driving
September 2, 1999

Working together, we've made enormous progress in reducing drunk driving in America. Today I'm pleased to report we're making even more. Last year the number of people killed in alcohol-related crashes hit a record low, and young people killed in alcohol-related crashes fell to the lowest rate ever

recorded. But even one child killed because of drunk driving is one too many.

Today I'm pleased to announce the Departments of Transportation and Justice will release a total of over \$47 million in grants to help communities combat drunk driving and underage drinking and increase seatbelt use. Ultimately, of course, all of us must take responsibility. So if you choose to drink, always designate a driver and always wear your seatbelt. Let's make this the safest Labor Day weekend ever.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at approximately 10:40 a.m. on August 28 at the Edgartown Elementary School in Martha's Vineyard, MA, for later broadcast. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 2. These remarks were also made available on the White House Press Office Radio Actuality Line.

Remarks at a Reception Honoring the First Lady in Cazenovia, New York

September 2, 1999

I would like to thank the Greens for making us all feel so welcome, and I would like to thank you for—[*applause*]. I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and the hospitality of the people these last few days and by the sheer beauty of this place, everywhere we've been, and I want to thank you all for sharing that with us.

I'd also like to thank the people of New York and the people of this area for your many kindnesses to me and to Al Gore and to our families and our administration, including the electoral votes of New York in two Presidential elections.

I want to just make a couple of points. First of all, in terms of where our country is today, we are in a good place because we have tried to make decisions for 6½ years to think about what is best for America, for all Americans and for the future and not just for the moment, for those that may have the most influence. And it's worked pretty well.

In this historic part of our Nation, I think it is fair to say that if you read the history of America closely, as I have tried to do, the continuing mission of this country is to always

be working to widen the circle of opportunity, to deepen the meaning of freedom, and to strengthen the bonds of our community. This is more and more important as we grow more diverse and as we get more involved with the rest of the world.

Now, if you look at what has happened in the last 6½ years, I don't think it's a subject of much debate anymore. And I am very grateful for the efforts that I have been able to make with so many others to improve the economy and lower the crime rate and lower the welfare rolls and strengthen the role of America in the world.

But the mission of the country is never open. And Hillary just mentioned a few things. One of the things that I think about all the time is that not every community and not every section of our country has participated fully in this astonishing economic recovery, and that bothers me. It bothers me that not every child in this country is getting a world-class education. It bothers me that there are people in Washington who really don't want to use this truly historic opportunity to extend the life of the Social Security Trust Fund out beyond the life expectancy of those of us in the baby boom. Any of you here who are baby boomers, like me, I'm sure you share my concern. I am determined that, when we retire, our children will not have to support us at the expense of our grandchildren. That's what Social Security is—[*applause*].

And in a global economy, believe me, if we were to pay off the debt of this country in 15 years, for the first time since Andy Jackson was President, then the children in this audience would be the economic beneficiaries. We would have a generation of lower interest rates and higher growth and stronger economies in every place in America.

And that brings me back to why you all came here. [*Laughter*] When I met Hillary in law school, I was really afraid for her to go home to Arkansas with me, because I was afraid she would be wasting what I think is one of the greatest talents of public service I've ever known in my life. It turned out it hasn't been a waste; she's learned pretty well. [*Laughter*]

But when you hear her talking about all these issues, I think it's important to note that she's not only had 30 years of experience as a child advocate, which puts her in a position to know more about education and family policy than virtually anybody who could run for the Senate, we worked together when I was Governor for a dozen years, which is why she understands all these economic development issues and the things that you talked about, about the economy.

And then for the last 6½ years in the White House, she has been not only an advocate for health care reform and for our children, but she's literally gone all across the world looking for ways that people can come together instead of be driven apart by all the things that seem to be doing so much to divide people, both in the United States and around the world.

I know I'm heavily biased—[laughter]—but I also have more experience than most people do in this area. [Laughter] I have known thousands and thousands of people in public service; I've never known anybody with the same combination of ability, experience, compassion, and unrelenting dedication as my wife, and I thank you for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:05 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Edward and Joan Green. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7219—Contiguous Zone of the United States

September 2, 1999

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

International law recognizes that coastal nations may establish zones contiguous to their territorial seas, known as contiguous zones.

The contiguous zone of the United States is a zone contiguous to the territorial sea of the United States, in which the United States may exercise the control necessary to prevent infringement of its customs, fiscal, immigra-

tion, or sanitary laws and regulations within its territory or territorial sea, and to punish infringement of the above laws and regulations committed within its territory or territorial sea.

Extension of the contiguous zone of the United States to the limits permitted by international law will advance the law enforcement and public health interests of the United States. Moreover, this extension is an important step in preventing the removal of cultural heritage found within 24 nautical miles of the baseline.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution of the United States, and in accordance with international law, do hereby proclaim the extension of the contiguous zone of the United States of America, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession over which the United States exercises sovereignty, as follows:

The contiguous zone of the United States extends to 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the United States determined in accordance with international law, but in no case within the territorial sea of another nation.

In accordance with international law, reflected in the applicable provisions of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea, within the contiguous zone of the United States the ships and aircraft of all countries enjoy the high seas freedoms of navigation and overflight and the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, and other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to those freedoms, such as those associated with the operation of ships, aircraft, and submarine cables and pipelines, and compatible with the other provisions of international law reflected in the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Nothing in this proclamation:

- (a) amends existing Federal or State law;
- (b) amends or otherwise alters the rights and duties of the United States or

other nations in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States established by Proclamation 5030 of March 10, 1983; or

- (c) impairs the determination, in accordance with international law, of any maritime boundary of the United States with a foreign jurisdiction.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 7, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 8.

Remarks at a Reception Honoring the First Lady in Syracuse, New York September 2, 1999

The President. Well, all I can say is this has been a very interesting night. Duke and Terry threw a party in an Irish bar and the first thing I see when I walk in, besides all of your smiling faces, is a buffalo head. [Laughter] Now, I don't know what that means—[laughter]—

Audience members. It doesn't mean anything. [Laughter]

The President. It could be a piece of New York's trivia. The buffalo in America was saved by Theodore Roosevelt. We had 20 million buffalo head in America in the mid-1800's. When he became President, it was down to 12 known head, and he brought them back. Or it could be just another metaphor for all the speeches about Syracuse that I've heard from Terry. [Laughter] Or it could be a symbol of the golf game we had a couple days ago.

You know, people are asking me how I'm reacting to this whole deal. I love it. And I'm trying to think—all the time people are coming up to me and saying, what are you going to do when you leave office? And you know, I have a lot of interests. And so one of you who knows that I love music, I'm walk-

ing through the crowd tonight and a gentleman gives me this video tape which says, "How to Find Gigs That Pay Big Bucks." [Laughter]

I am indebted to the people of New York for many things, including voting for me and Al Gore twice and giving us a chance to serve. I thank you. I love Syracuse. When I came here running for President—I have had a wonderful time in this area. It is spectacularly beautiful and is full of the rich history of America. And I hope that our presence here has helped to lift the visibility of this area in a positive way in the eyes of all America. And I hope it does.

I want to say, if I might, just two things. One is, I'm going to spend every day I've got left in the last year and 5 months or so of my Presidency to try to prepare this country for the new century. We have the chance of a lifetime, which we dare not pass up, with this prosperity we have to prepare for the aging of America. For those of you who are baby boomers, like me, I can tell you our generation does not want to retire and impose an inordinate burden on our children and undermine their ability to raise our grandchildren. We can save Social Security and Medicare if we do it now and don't squander the surplus. And that's what I am determined to do.

And I'll just mention two more things. We can, if we will use what we know, give every child in this country a world-class education, and they all need it. And the third thing we can do is bring opportunity to the places in America that have still not had job growth and get this country out of debt for the first time since 1835. That's what I'm going to work on.

The second thing I want to say is America is always about change. It is constantly in the process of reinventing itself. So if someone said, "Vote for me because I'll do everything Bill Clinton said and did," I would vote against that person, because we're always in the process of change. But we have to build on what works. And what we have to do, even when we're having a good time, is remember what the purpose of this country is. The purpose of this country is every day to make

progress in expanding opportunity, deepening freedom, and strengthening our communities.

Now, I have known Hillary a long time. As a matter of fact, to be precise, 28½ years—that's how long we've known each other. I have known thousands of people in public service. And you shouldn't be basically confused by the kind of venom that too often comes out of Washington. The truth is, most of the people that I've known in public life, at all levels, in both parties, were good, honest, hard working people that did what they thought was right. And that's the truth—most of the people I've known.

But of all the people I have known in public life—in way over 25 years of working steadily at it now—nobody has the combination of intelligence, experience, heart, grit, and pure devotion to the public interest that my wife does. You could do a good thing for New York by helping her.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 p.m. at Mulrooney's Pub. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts John (Duke) Kinney and Terence McAuliffe. 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.

August 28

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled from Martha's Vineyard, MA, to East Hampton, NY.

August 29

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Bridgehampton, NY.

August 30

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Syracuse, NY, and in the afternoon, they traveled to Skaneateles, NY.

August 31

In the evening, the President visited Democratic Party fundraiser Terence McAuliffe's mother, Millie, at the St. Camillus Nursing Home.

The President had separate telephone conversations with Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, concerning her upcoming trip to the Middle East, and with Prime Minister Antonio Guterres of Portugal, concerning the elections in East Timor.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Norfolk, VA, on September 6.

September 1

The President announced his intention to appoint Stanislaus A. Blejwas, Susan Estrich, Benjamin Meed, and Menachem Z. Rosensaft as members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

The President announced his intention to appoint John H. Dalton, Peter J. Kadzik, and Martha Polan Landsman as members of the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The President declared a major disaster in California and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe fires on August 24 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in North Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Dennis beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Pennsylvania and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on August 20–21.

The President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by extreme fire hazards on August 1 and continuing.

The White House announced that the President has named Mark F. Lindsay as Assistant to the President for Management and Administration and Bradley J. Kiley as Deputy Assistant to the President for Management and Administration.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Eduard Shevardnadze of the Republic of Georgia at the White House on September 23.

September 2

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Auburn, NY, and later returned to Skaneateles, NY.

The White House announced that the President and Hillary Clinton have entered into a contract to purchase a home in Chappaqua, NY.

September 3

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President announced the appointment of Robert A. Bradtke as Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

The White House announced that the President announced the appointment of Alfred H. Moses as Special Presidential Emissary for Cyprus.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Jake Siewert

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that Chief of Staff John Podesta will address the National Press Club on September 1

Released September 1

Advance text of remarks by Chief of Staff John Podesta on research and development funding at the National Press Club

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting with Georgian President Shevardnadze

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointments of Mark F. Lindsay as Assistant to the President for Management and Administration and Bradley J. Kiley as Deputy Assistant to the President for Management and Administration

Released September 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Jake Siewert

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President and Hillary Clinton entered into a contract to purchase a home in Chappaqua, NY

Fact sheet: U.S. Humanitarian Relief Efforts for Turkey Earthquake Victims

Released September 3

Statement by the Press Secretary: Appointment of Alfred H. Moses as Special Presidential Emissary for Cyprus

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Names Robert A. Bradtke as Executive Secretary of the National Security Council

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.
