

and in order for them to have the economy that would generate the tax revenues to implement their education plans for Montana.

But second, and more important, it runs the other way. Most of the important social progress we have made in the last 8 years—whether it is cutting the welfare rolls in half or seeing a steep decline in crime or any of the other things that have happened here to improve the fabric of our Nation, including an increased high school graduation rate, a record college-going rate, increased test scores in math and science, a two-thirds increase in the number of our kids taking advance placement courses, all these things—the Federal Government can do certain things here, but who runs the politics of a State and who drives the vision of a State is pivotal to the success of anything that the next President and the next Congress can do to shape the future of Americans at home.

I was just looking the other day, for example—one of the things that I'm proudest of is that the Democrats insisted on including in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 a Children's Health Insurance Program, the biggest expansion of health care for our kids since Medicaid was established when Lyndon Johnson was President. And in 2 years and a couple of days, we have enrolled 2½ million people in that program.

But there are at least 6 million children eligible for that program. There is a dramatic difference—dramatic—in the enrollment levels from State to State. And what is the determining event? The leadership at the State level, starting with the Governor and someone else who is passionately committed, who is assigned to do this. That's just one example.

So I know that most of the people in Washington, a lot of you may be here because Pat and Carol are old friends of yours. Maybe you're here because you have ties to Montana. But what you need to understand is, if you believe in what we have been doing the last 8 years and you want more positive changes to occur in this direction, it is profoundly important not just to help in the congressional races and to make sure we prevail in the Presidential race but to make sure that we win every single solitary Governor's race and Lieutenant Governor's race we can.

That's why this is important, quite apart from the way I feel about Carol and Pat and Whitney and my feelings for Montana and the gratitude I feel because we won there in 1992. This is a big deal. If you really believe that we changed America, we turned it around, we're going in the right direction, and you want it to amount to something, then you've got to help them.

And I'm very grateful to all of you. I just saw Congressman Pomeroy back there, from neighboring North Dakota. Thank you for being here.

So remember what Carol said. Thanks for being here. And if you can send her a little more money between now and election day, you ought to do that, too.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:20 p.m. at the Sewell-Belmont House. In his remarks, he referred to Mark O'Keefe, candidate for Governor in Montana, and his daughter Maggie; Carol Williams, candidate for Lieutenant Governor in Montana, and her husband, former Representative Pat Williams; Bob Ream, chair, Montana Democratic Party; former Representative Bruce Morrison and his wife, Nancy; former Gov. Ted Schwinden of Montana; the President's mother-in-law, Dorothy Rodham; and Nancy Keenan, candidate for Congress from Montana.

Remarks at a Reception for Representative Dennis Moore

October 2, 2000

Thank you very much. First of all, I would like to thank all of you for being here today. I want to thank Dennis and Stephane for presenting themselves to the people of Kansas and for giving the people of Kansas a chance to send a Democrat to Congress who represents what the Republicans say they're for. [Laughter] And I really appreciate that.

I'd also like to say, I thank the Members of Congress who are here, but I am particularly grateful to Jim Slattery and Peter Hoagland, who are here, because without them, I wouldn't be here, because they helped me turn this country around in 1993 and 1994, and I thank them for that.

Now, after Secretary Glickman sort of threw down the gauntlet—[laughter]—I completely forgot what I was supposed to talk

about because I wasted 2 minutes back there thinking about whether there was anything I could still do to him. [Laughter] Now, I'm at a loss. There's a lesson in that somewhere. [Laughter]

Actually, I was thinking that I kind of resented that Al Gore has gotten all this credit—[laughter]—for naming Joe Lieberman to the ticket. I mean, I know it's a big deal to have the first Jewish Vice Presidential nominee. But I mean, come on, now, look at American history. That is nothing compared to the first Jewish Agriculture Secretary. [Laughter] I mean, just with a decision, I destroyed one of the great stereotypes in American life. [Laughter] Nobody thinks "Jewish farmer" is an oxymoron anymore. [Laughter]

Not only that, if those Republicans would have listened to Dan and me back in 1995, we wouldn't have had to have all these bail-outs the last 3 years with the farmers because of their failure to farm act that I warned about back then, which is just one of the reasons Dennis ought to be reelected, because he'll have a chance next year to rewrite the farm law. And I hope it will be done in a way that really supports the farmers of this country—all the farmers of this country, without regard to where they live, what they produce, or how big they are. And it's very important that we have people who have Democratic values and the understanding of agriculture that anyone from Kansas has to have in order to serve in the United States Congress.

Let me just say a word or two very briefly. I realize that I'm preaching to the saved here—I'll explain that later, Dan. [Laughter] Glickman and I get a lot more leeway since we're not on the ballot. [Laughter] It's amazing what you can say. [Laughter] I say, this one story. Jon Corzine, who is our nominee for Senator in New Jersey, and who spent like \$38 million of his own money winning the nomination, got up and—Rush Holt and I—he may still be here—I did a deal for Rush Holt the other day in New Jersey, in Princeton.

So Jon comes to the event, and we were elated to see him. He's a great friend of mine, has been for many years. So here's Corzine, a candidate now, gets up and tells the fol-

lowing story, as a candidate. He said, "You know, I spent almost \$40 million getting nominated, so I was convinced that everyone in New Jersey knew who I was—everyone." So he said, "I was campaigning the other day in a nursing home, and I went up to this lady, and I said, 'Ma'am, do you know my name?' And she said, 'You know, sonny, I don't, but if you go up to the nurse's station, they'll tell you.'" [Laughter]

I told him, I said, "Jon, that's not a bad joke, but you need to let me tell that." [Laughter] "Until you get past the election, I don't believe I'd tell that one again." [Laughter]

So anyway, here we are. Let me be serious just for a moment. This is a different country than in it was in 1992. The country is in better shape. We have done it by a combination of new ideas and old-fashioned values. I was down in Texas the other day with my first Treasury Secretary, Lloyd Bentsen. And I said to him something which is true. People, now that I'm about to leave office, they come to me all the time and say, "What great new idea did you bring to the economic policy process in Washington?" People ask me questions like that all the time, you know—"what great new sweeping reform?" And I always have a one-word answer: Arithmetic. We restored arithmetic. That's what the Democrats brought back. And those of us in the heartland, we still think 2 and 2 ought to add up to 4.

So I'm profoundly indebted to people like Steny Hoyer, who helped me turn this budget deficit around. And last week, we had a couple of announcements—let me just mention the announcements we had last week. Last week the annual report came out which showed that the Government budget—which was supposed to be \$455 billion in the hole this year; when I took office, that was the estimate—will have a \$230 billion surplus, the biggest in history. It showed that poverty figures were the lowest in 20 years, the biggest drop in child poverty in 34 years, the biggest recorded drop in Hispanic and African-American poverty in history.

And furthermore, it showed that, for the first time in a dozen years, there were actually more people with health insurance this year than there were last year, thanks largely

to the Children's Health Insurance Program that the Democrats insisted be part of the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

What's that got to do with the House race in Kansas? I'll tell you exactly what. Those of us who have been here for the last 8 years, or who were part of any segment of it, worked very hard to turn this country around. And the economy is going in the right direction. The crime rate is going down. The welfare rolls have been cut in half. The school dropout rate is down. The college-going rate is at an all-time high. Now, with the change in the trend lines on health insurance, every single major social indicator is going in the right direction. And notwithstanding all the troubles around the world today, this country has been an unmitigated force for peace and reconciliation across racial and religious and ethnic lines on every continent in the globe.

Now, the question is, what do we mean to do with this? Have all the problems gone away? Not on your life. There are still big challenges out there, and there are still great opportunities out there. And I said this over and over again—there are a lot of young people in this audience tonight, so I want to make this point, and maybe you will avoid this. There is nobody in this room tonight who is over 30 years old who has not made at least one mistake in your life of some significance, not when times were really tough but when times were going so well, you thought you didn't have to concentrate. Now, that is the big challenge in this election.

Things are going well. People feel good. I want everybody to feel good. Not only that, our Republican friends, after we beat back the contract on America and we beat back their attempts to shut the Government down and we beat back several other of the more extreme things they tried to do, they now sound more like us than ever before. It's really encouraging. I don't mean to put it down. The rhetoric is important. But if you strip the rhetoric away, there are huge differences between what our policies would be—differences in our economic policies, our education policies, our health care policies, our commitment to grow the economy and preserve the environment. And there will be big differences in our farm policies next year, when I'm not around, but I think that our

crowd will be sticking up, as I said, for farmers of all sizes, from all parts of the country.

There will be differences in how we'll deal with the challenge of the aging of America. The fastest growing group of people in America are people over 80. Within just a few years, there will only be two people working for every one person drawing Social Security. We'll have to re-imagine the whole nature of getting older in America, what it means, how we're going to work, and what we're going to do. And it is really, really important. The one thing I have learned, every single House seat and every single Senate seat is important.

And when I made the comment I did about Dennis at the beginning, I was not just kidding. Every time I go out into the country and I listen to our friends in the other party speak, I normally don't have much objection to what they say. They talk about being fiscally conservative. They talk about being compassionate. They talk about this, that, and the other thing. All I can tell you is that this guy does that. And he has had a remarkable impact in a short time.

He is widely respected in the House. You look at all the House Members that have come here tonight. Believe me, every one of them had something else to do. He must have a dozen House Members here, including one of the most senior and most respected and important leaders in the House, Steny Hoyer. And I'm just telling you, it really matters. When a person like Dennis gets elected from a district like his district in Kansas and then does everything that he hired on to do, keeps his word, and serves well, that person needs to be reelected.

And this country has huge challenges to face. You know, when Al Gore says the best is yet to be—I mean, some people probably think it's a campaign slogan, but I'm not running for anything, and I have to tell you, I believe that. Because the country is kind of like a big ocean liner, you know, you just can't turn it on a dime. That's how come the *Titanic* hit the iceberg. [Laughter] They saw the iceberg, but they didn't see it in time to turn it around.

So we got turned around, and we're going in the right direction, but all the far horizons are still out there. The young people in this

audience, the young women in this audience, when you have your first children, you'll come home from the hospital with your baby and with a little gene card, made possible by the human genome project. And it will be a little scary, because it will tell you every little problem in your child's genetic make-up. But it will also tell you what you can do to minimize the impact of those problems, maybe even thoroughly correct them surgically or with medicine. And within a decade, I'm convinced that young women will be bringing babies home from the hospital that have a life expectancy of 90 years. Now, you can just remember 10 years from now, look back and see if I was right.

Dan Glickman has worked so hard on research on biofuels, and we're just that close in cracking the chemical mystery that will allow the efficient conversion of biofuels, so that instead of taking 7 gallons of gasoline to make 8 gallons of ethanol, you'll be able to do it with one gallon of gasoline. Then everybody will have the equivalent of 500 miles to the gallon. And when you put that with fuel cells, alternative fuel vehicles, mixed fuel vehicles, it will radically alter the future of our country.

It is clearly the most effective thing we could be doing to change the energy future of America and to make ourselves more secure. Because if we pumped all the oil that was available to us that's on land owned by Americans, it wouldn't keep us going very long. The only way to have a secure energy future is to take available energy conservation technologies and the development of alternative fuels and different kinds of engines, and go into the future in a whole different direction. We can do that. That's going to all happen while you're around.

But we still have these big questions. We've got the most diverse student body in history and the biggest one. Can we give them all a world-class education? What is it going to mean to be 85 in 20 years, and how is it going to be different from now? And it better be different, unless we want it to financially burden the country in an awesome way.

How are we going to deal with the fact that AIDS, TB, and malaria now kill one in four people around the world, and we need

those people to be our trading partners? What are our responsibilities to alleviate the debt of the poor nations of the world? I think they're quite heavy.

I had a meeting today—I never thought I'd see a meeting like this in the White House. We had in the White House today John Kasich; Connie Mack; Representative Baucus, a Republican from Alabama; Senator DeWine; Senator Lugar; Congressman Leach—all these Republicans—and Maxine Waters and Nancy Pelosi, Joe Biden, Pat Leahy—we had our whole crowd there. We had David Sapperstein, a rabbi friend of mine who is one of the most liberal religious advocates in Washington, sitting three seats down from Pat Robertson. [*Laughter*]

Why were they there? Because they believe that we have a moral obligation to alleviate the debt of the world's poorest countries. And they know if we do it in a way that allows them only to spend the money on education and health care, those countries will be stronger, better partners for us. It means less war, less famine, more prosperity, less bloodshed for the Americans of the future.

And as soon as we walked out that door, the leadership of the other party in the House attacked me and attacked us all. Now, when you get to the right of Pat Robertson, you're working at it. [*Laughter*] You're working at it, and they worked at it.

Meanwhile, Dennis Moore has worked at your business. He deserves to stay in. And it will be an important signal about whether our country is really rewarding centrist, moderate, progressive, unifying politics. That's what got us where we are, and that's what will take us into the future, if we make the right decisions on election day.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:08 p.m. at a the Frederick Douglass Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Moore's wife, Stephane; former Representatives Jim Slattery and Peter Hoagland; and Rev. M. G. (Pat) Robertson, president, Christian Coalition. Dennis Moore is a candidate for reelection in Kansas' Third Congressional District.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Hillary Clinton in Miami, Florida

October 3, 2000

Well, thank you very much for coming and for coming on such short notice, in this typically Florida sunny day. [Laughter] Actually, on the way over here, Chris, I was speculating about whether this beautiful pond of yours out here would come into the house if the rain came. [Laughter]

So I want to thank you. And thank you, Irene, for opening your home to me once again. And I want to thank Philip and Michael and Stuart and Alex and all the others who worked on this event today. I'll be quite brief. I hope you're all going to watch the debate tonight. I think it will go well.

This has been a very interesting election to me, because the American people have an unusual decision to make in every one of these Senate races and House races and in the White House, because things are going very well for the country. The economy is moving in the right direction; the society is moving in the right direction. In every major area of our national life, there has been substantial progress in the last 8 years.

And what the people of every State and the people of our Nation have to decide is, what do we intend to make of this moment? And it's very interesting to me that the political rhetoric of our friends in the other party has changed rather dramatically, so they're now arguing over whether they or we are the real new thing, instead of whether we should take some big move to the right, which was their preferred line of rhetoric until the voters decisively rejected it over and over again.

And I can just tell you, I see this everywhere. But there are these big issues out there. Are we going to have a tax cut we can afford, that will permit us to save Social Security and Medicare for the baby boom generation, continue to invest in the education of the largest number of children in American history in our schools, and meet our responsibilities to the future by paying down the debt? Or are we going to say, "Times are good. I want my mine now" and have a combination tax cut and Social Security privatization plan that will throw us back into deficits, raise interest rates, and get this country in

trouble? You listen and see if that's adequately debated tonight.

I am telling you, I've spent a lot—I think that I have earned the right to make comments about the state of the American economy. I believe I have. And people ask me all the time, "Well, it's amazing what's happened here. What great new innovation did you bring to economic policymaking?" And I always smile and say, "Arithmetic." [Laughter]

I remember back in '92, when the then-Presidential candidate, George Bush, used to refer to me in disparaging terms as the Governor of a small southern State. Remember that, when he used to say that? I was so naive, I thought it was a compliment. [Laughter] And I still do. [Laughter]

But I knew something about arithmetic and not having rosy scenarios and not pretending money was there that was wasn't. So we brought arithmetic back and made a lot of people mad doing it. In 1993 I had an economic plan that raised taxes and cut spending so that it displeased everyone, but it got rid of the deficit. This year we had a surplus of \$230 billion, instead of the deficit of \$290 billion I inherited. When I leave office, we will have actually paid the national debt down by \$360 billion. That's worth about \$2,000 a year on a home mortgage, average home mortgage. It's stunning. So all I can tell you is, I think that this is a big issue. It's a big issue in the New York Senate race. It's a big issue in the national Presidential race.

Second thing I think is a big issue is health care. And we're having this huge debate which I think has been muddied—our friends in the Republican Party have desperately tried to muddy up the debate over this Medicare prescription drug issue. Look, here's the deal: The pharmaceutical companies, mostly Americans, but sometimes the Europeans, have helped to develop drugs that lengthen and improve the quality of life. Everybody knows that. The older you live, the older you get, the more likely you are to need medicine. Everybody knows that, right?

If you get to be 65 in America, you have a life expectancy of over 82 years, the longest in the world. Everybody knows that. What