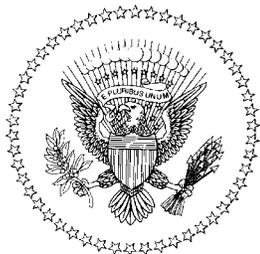


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, November 6, 2000
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Editor's Note: The President was in San Jose, CA, on November 3, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, November 3, 2000

**Remarks to African-American
Community Leaders**

October 27, 2000

Thank you very much, Secretary Herman, and thank you for the wonderful, wonderful job you have done as Secretary of Labor. I want to thank the others who are here from the White House today: Minyon Moore; Mary Beth Cahill; Ben Johnson; Alvin Brown, the Vice Chair of our Community Empowerment Board that the Vice President has done such a great job leading in the last 8 years; Lorraine Miller, the executive director of the Community Empowerment Board; Jena Roscoe, the Director of African-American Outreach; John Johnson of the NAACP; Norman Hill of the A. Philip Randolph Institute; Wade Henderson; Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich; and of course, my great friend Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson from Texas. Thank you for being here.

Thank you all for joining me today. I wanted to talk with you a little bit about the upcoming election and the profound importance that I believe it has for all of you and for all of those about whom you care.

You know, first, let me say I feel so much gratitude as I approach the end of my service as President. If anybody had told me when we started that we would end with 22 million new jobs and the highest homeownership in history and the highest rate of business formation in history and the lowest minority unemployment in history, the lowest recorded African-American poverty rate in history, the lowest child poverty rate in 20 years, lowest welfare rolls in 32 years—cut in half—the lowest crime rate in 26 years, a reduction in the number of people without health insurance for the first time in a dozen years, record rates of college-going—all these things that have happened—I would have been very grateful. And I am grateful.

But today what I want to say to you is that the country is in good shape; we're moving

in the right direction. But we are now in a position that we were not in 8 years ago, where we have to ask ourselves not what do we do to get out of the ditch but what do we do to build the future of our dreams for our children?

And we're in a position to choose, which is what voting ought to be about. I've done my best to try to urge the American people and all the political actors to make this a very positive election but a vigorous debate. And they're having their debate, and I don't have to contribute to that, but everybody knows how I feel. But I want to talk about what all this means.

First of all, as Alexis said, we've been driven here for 8 years by some pretty simple ideas. One is that there ought to be opportunity for every responsible citizen. And that meant that we had to create the conditions and give people the tools to make the most of their own lives. The other is that we ought to build one America across all the lines that divide us, which meant that we had to take exceptional efforts to make sure that there was participation and empowerment. And finally, I have sought to create in our country the capacity to lead the world for peace and freedom in the post-cold-war era, recognizing that the world is growing ever more interdependent and that every part of the world is important to us.

So we've worked hard at all this. Alexis talked about the economy and the participation of African-Americans in the administration. Since I've been here, we've had—of my total appointees—12 percent of the Cabinet, 14 percent of the total appointees, and 17 percent of the Federal judicial nominees.

But we've worked hard to affect America at the grassroots level. That's what the empowerment zone program is about, that the Vice President has done such a good job of running these last 8 years. That's what the

new markets initiative we're desperately trying to pass through the Congress in the closing days, to give people the same incentives to invest in underdeveloped areas in America we give people to invest in underdeveloped areas in Latin America and Africa and Asia and other parts of the world.

And I feel very good about that. But I'm grateful that we've got childhood immunizations over 90 percent for the first time in the history of our Nation.

I'm also grateful for the progress in education. We had a theory that—we're only spending about 7 percent of the total education budget. It's a State constitutional responsibility, a local administrative responsibility, but a national priority. And when I came to the Presidency, I had already been seriously involved in education for about 14 years. And I wanted to put our money—first, I wanted to get the money up, because we were down below 6 percent and heading south, and so we wanted to turn that around. And even as we got rid of the deficit and turned a \$290 billion deficit into a \$230 billion surplus, we doubled our investment in education and training. A lot of that money has been in Secretary Herman's shop.

But when we looked at the schools, what we wanted to do was to focus on what the research and the educators say worked: to get high standards, genuine accountability, and then support for the schools and the teachers and the kids and the parents to succeed, to meet the standards. And we've worked very hard. We've expanded preschool. We've invested more in teacher training. We're putting—I believe that we have gotten an agreement for the third year of our 100,000 teacher initiative to have smaller classes in the early grades.

The Vice President worked hard to get something called the E-rate in the telecommunications bill so that all of our schools could afford to log on to the Internet. Since we started this project in 1994, the number of schools hooked to the Internet have gone from 14 to 95 percent, the number of classrooms from 3 percent to 65 percent. So we're moving in the right direction.

The number of States with really good State-based standards in core curriculums has gone from about 3 percent—excuse me,

gone from 11 States or 14 States to 49 States. And we began a few years ago to say to the States that get Federal money, "Look, you've got to identify these failing schools—identify them and do something to turn them around." And we wanted to have a tougher accountability standard, but so far we haven't persuaded the Congress to do that. But all over the country, schools are turning around.

I was in a school in Harlem the other day, that 2 years ago had 80 percent of the kids doing reading and math below grade level, to just 2 years later, 74 percent of the kids doing reading math at or above grade level. I've seen it in predominantly African-American schools, predominantly Hispanic schools. I've seen it in mixed race schools. I was in a predominantly white rural school in western Kentucky a few months ago, where 3 years ago they had 12 percent of the kids reading at or above grade level; it's 57 percent now. They had 5 percent of the kids doing math at or above grade level; it's 70 percent now. They had zero kids doing science at or above grade level; it's 63 percent now. So this is happening all over America. And I'm grateful for that.

I'm grateful that we passed the biggest expansion in college aids, from Pell grants to the HOPE scholarships to work-study programs to the AmeriCorps program, since the GI bill. And we've got college-going at an all-time high. A couple of years ago, for the first time in history, the African-American high school graduation rate equaled the white graduation rate for the first time in our history. And over the last 6 years, the taking of advanced placement courses by our high school students has increased over 50 percent, but it's up 300 percent for Latino kids and 500 percent for African-American kids. This is a good thing.

So I say all this to say the country is going in the right direction. But the bedrock, the thing that made so much of the rest of it possible—and I didn't talk much about the crime rate. It's gone down every year—more police, more prevention. The after-school programs have a lot to do with that. We were serving no kids with Federal money in after-school programs when I became President. Today, we're serving 800,000, and if our budget prevails in the closing days of this

Congress, we'll go to 1.6 million children served in after-school programs—very important.

But let me come back to basics. When I became President, the economy was in trouble, and we were paralyzed by high interest rates and a crushing annual deficit which had quadrupled the debt in 4 years. So as we look ahead, I think we have to say our work is not done. And I would just like to mention four things that I think are important, profoundly important to the American people, without regard to race.

Number one, we've got to keep this prosperity going. And my view is, that means we ought to say—that means, first, we've got to keep paying down the debt until we get out of debt, and that will keep interest rates down. We'll figure out what it costs to do that. Then what's left, we can spend. And we'll spend some of it with a tax cut, but a good deal of it to invest in education and health care, in the environment, in our national security, and in our future.

Now, that's basically the program that our party and our nominees have laid out. Pay the debt down; keep interest rates down. Take what's left; have a tax cut we can afford; focus it on the needs of middle-class people for college education, for child care, for long-term care for elderly and disabled people, for retirement savings, and for lower income working people with a bunch of kids that need more help than we're giving them. But then invest, continue to invest in these other areas. Now, one virtue of that is that if the money doesn't come in, you don't have to spend it. But if you give it all away in a tax cut on the front end, it's not there, whether it comes in or not.

But I just want to say, I believe that the progressive party in America ought to be for getting America out of debt for the first time since 1835, when Andrew Jackson was President. Why? Because it gets the interest rates down. We believe it will keep interest rates about a percent lower than if you take the alternative course, which is a \$1.3 trillion tax cut, which gives you a \$300 billion extra interest bill—because you cut interest payments if you cut the debt—and a \$1 trillion Social Security privatization program and a \$500 billion spending package. If you have

\$2 trillion in projected surpluses—and that's really bigger than it's going to be, but let's just assume that—and you spend 1.3 on a tax cut and 300 billion on interest and 500 billion on spending—with me so far? That's 2.1—and a trillion dollars on privatizing Social Security, this is—forget about all the zeros. Three-point-one is bigger than 2. You're in deficit.

You know, life has been good to a lot of you in this room. And you've worked hard, and some of you in this room would be better off the day after with that program—people like lawyer Latham there, you know? [*Laughter*] But look, we've tried it that way, and all I can tell you is, if you keep interest rates lower, that's better for everybody, including the well-off. And it keeps this economy going, and it makes everything else possible.

One percent lower interest rates, which is what you get if you stay out of deficit and keep paying that debt down, one percent a year, over 10 years, is worth the following: \$390 billion in lower home mortgage payments; \$30 billion in lower car payments; \$15 billion in lower college loan payments. Never mind—now, that's a \$435 billion tax cut in the form of lower mortgages. Never mind the lower interest rates on credit cards and the lower business loan rate, which means easier to start a small business, more business expansion, more jobs, higher income, and a better stock market.

So, number one is, what's the best way to keep the prosperity going? Question number two, how do you build on the progress of the last 8 years with a cleaner environment, with a lower crime rate, with the welfare rolls cut in half, with the schools improving, the college-going rate going up, the number of people without health insurance going down? How do you do that?

Well, I believe you have to have some funds to invest in helping working people whose children we're now insuring get health insurance, too; helping people who leave the work force when they're 55 and don't have health insurance anymore buy into Medicare; in adding this prescription drug benefit for seniors; in funding the college tuition program Vice President Gore has recommended, tuition deduction for college. I

think these are very important, and continuing to invest until all our kids who need preschool and after-school have it; continuing to invest because you're going to have 2 million teachers retire over the next 10 years, and we've got to replace them. And if we keep unemployment low and the economy high, we'll have to pay them more, do signing bonuses, do a lot of work on that. So how do you build on the progress? I think you don't just stay still, but the question is, are you going to change in the same direction you're moving in or take a different direction?

So, question number one, how do you keep the prosperity going? Question number two, how do you build on the progress? Question number three, how do you keep building one America?

We've come a long way, but we still have real challenges. We have to figure out a way to work through this racial profiling issue, to stop it without in any way giving anybody the impression that we want any criminal to get away with anything. That's not what this is about. We all want strong law enforcement; we want a safe society. We like the fact that the crime rate is going down, but we don't like people being targeted just because of who they are, rather than whether there is a reasonable suspicion that they've committed a crime.

How do you deal with the fact that we still have a lot of hate crimes in America, based not just on race but on sexual orientation, even a few every year based on disability? Do we need a hate crimes bill? I think we do.

How do you deal with the fact that even though I have named 62 African-American Federal judges—3 times as many as the previous two administrations combined—we still don't have a black judge on the fourth circuit, where there are more black Americans than any other Federal circuit in America?

How do we keep closing the digital divide? It's still out there, within our country and beyond our borders. And I could just go on and on and on. We have big challenges in our continuing effort to build one America.

How are we going to do more to guarantee equal pay for women? I don't know if you saw the news story today, but now married

couples with children where both the man and the woman are in the work force are now a majority of married couples—now a majority. Fifty-nine percent of the women in America with a child one year or younger are in the work force now—59 percent. And yet, there is still a yawning pay gap, which is not only bad for women; it's bad for the men that are married to them. *[Laughter]* I mean, this is not a good deal here.

You know, I came late to this issue because my wife made more money than me until I got elected President. *[Laughter]* And now I'm going to let her try public service, I hope, and I'll see if I can make more money. *[Laughter]* I want you to laugh and have a good time, but this is serious. How are we going to build one America?

So, one, how do you keep the prosperity going? Two, how do you build on the progress we're making in every aspect of our social life? Three, how do we keep building one America? Four, how do we create a world that is safer for our children, more just, more decent, and more prosperous?

For me, passing the trade bill for Africa and the Caribbean is an important part of that. For me, immigration fairness is important to that. For me, this debt relief initiative, which I am profoundly grateful—I must say, I've tried to emphasize to people, the parties do not fight over everything in Washington. This election ought to be about where our honest differences are. But one of the most moving things to me in this congressional session has been, we actually reached a bipartisan agreement to have America pay its fair share of relieving the debt of the poorest countries in the world that agree to give honest government and put the savings into education, health care, and development. This is a huge deal.

But we've got to keep building that kind of world. I'm proud of the role we played for peace in Northern Ireland. I'm proud of our renewed efforts in Africa. I'm proud of what we did in the Balkans, in Kosovo and Bosnia, to stop ethnic cleansing. We did the right thing. I'm glad we're still struggling to try to build peace in the Middle East through this very difficult period that's taken a lot of our minds and hearts, those of us who have been working on this for the last 8 years.

But that's another thing I want to say. The African-American community should, in my judgment, support America's increasing ties to the rest of the world in a positive way because we are an immigrant nation. Every one of us came here from somewhere else, except the Native Americans, and even their ancestors at one time probably crossed the Bering Straits when it was all land. We all got here from somewhere else.

And so, I asked you to come here today because this is an unusual election season for us. In my lifetime, we have never had an opportunity to go to the polls with so much peace, so much prosperity, with the absence of domestic crisis or looming foreign threat. So we actually are required, all of us, to kind of look inside ourselves and say, what are our dreams here; what is really at stake here; does it matter whether I and all my friends vote here?

And I wanted you to come here just to say, you know, I'm not running for anything—[laughter]—but I don't believe there's been an election where it was any more important to vote, because the American people, in a fundamental sense in this season, are free to chart their own future. And all the best stuff is still out there.

You know, we're going to have young women bringing babies home from the hospital within a couple years with a life expectancy of 90 years because of the human genome project. You'll get your little card, tell you what your kid's gene map is like, what your child's problems are going to be, and the following 10 things you can do to dramatically increase your child's life expectancy.

We're going to have older people—already if you live to be 65, your life expectancy is 82 years. We're going to have older people able to cure Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, roll back some kinds of cancer, even, that we can't deal with now. It's going to be astonishing. But we're also going to have all our medical and financial records on somebody's computer somewhere, and we've got to figure out how we set up a system so we get to say yes before somebody looks at them.

These are big issues. And the thing that I would like to say about the Vice President is that, after 8 years, I know he makes good

decisions. I know he has good values, and I know he understands the future. He thinks about this stuff all the time. And that's very, very important. Senator Lieberman I've known for 30 years, and I feel the same way about him. But this is an election in which the American people, they don't have to really believe anything hateful about anybody that is running. Maybe some people find that boring. I think it's wonderful. [Laughter] You can actually say, "Look, we got all of these good people running for office who love their families, and they love their country, and they will do their very best to do the right thing. It's what they believe."

So you've just got to decide what you believe. But you cannot afford to let the opportunity of maybe more than a generation, maybe 50 years—it may be 50 years before we have another election like this. On the other hand, we could have another one just like this in 4 years, if we do the right thing now—if we do the right thing now.

I think of the first Presidential campaign I took a part in, in 1968. It was an agony; 1972, when I met Eddie Bernice Johnson, it was an agony; 1976, we were full of hope, but there were also a lot of problems in the country; 1988, the country was in the dumps again; 1984, it was morning in America, but as my Senator, Dale Bumpers, used to say, if you let me write \$200 billion worth of hot checks every year, I could show you a good time, too. [Laughter] And so eventually the chickens came home to roost there.

We've got a good thing going here. But shame on us if we don't thank God for our good fortune and tell everybody how important it is to make a decision. And believe me, not showing up is a decision, and it's the wrong decision. Not showing up is a decision, and it's the wrong decision.

So I just wanted you to come here today so I could tell you that I think it's important that you, and anybody you can talk to, go out into the community and say, "Look, it might be 50 years before we get a deal like this again, and here is what I think is at issue: How do you keep the prosperity going; how do you build on the progress; how do you build one America, keep on doing that; and how do we prepare for the future and do these big things?" It's really, really important.

Lastly, depending on the makeup of the Congress, it's important that somebody be here that stops some of the more extreme things that would have happened if I hadn't had the great good fortune, thanks to so many of you, to be standing here in the way of some things, as well as trying to get some things going.

So I just want to—I have learned—one of the reporters asked me earlier today if I really thought it was bad that I had had to work and hadn't been out on the campaign trail, and I said, “No, I'm not running, and I shouldn't have been out before now.” And I'm actually probably the only person in the room that's been on the other end of this deal, because I remember when President Reagan came to Arkansas in 1984, and he was more popular than you can imagine down there. And we both did just fine in the elections, so—[laughter]—if you get my drift.

I don't seek to tell anybody how to vote, but I do seek to say, based on my experience—because everybody knows who I'm for—but based on my experience, which unfortunately is getting longer every year, I don't know when we'll ever have another time like this. I've done everything I could to turn this country around, to pull this country together, to move our country forward. But we've got this huge opportunity here, that we can literally paint a picture of the future and make it happen, if we keep the prosperity going, instead of put it at risk by going into deficit; if we build on the progress of the last 8 years, instead of reverse those policies which brought it; if we keep working to build one America; and then if we take home the big challenges of the future.

I just think, if you go out and tell people that, tell young people that, they will understand what is at issue, and they will show up. And in a free society, that's all any of us can ask: Show up. Know what the differences are; have clarity on that. Make your decision, and the rest of us will happily embrace it. I think it will be quite a good decision if we get everybody there.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:58 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to John J. Johnson, director, National

Programs Department, NAACP; Norman Hill, president, A. Philip Randolph Institute; Wade Henderson, executive director, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, executive director and chief operating officer, Black Leadership Forum, Inc.; Weldon H. Latham, senior partner, Holland and Knight, and general counsel, National Coalition of Minority Businesses; and former Senator Dale Bumpers. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Provide a Plaque Commemorating Martin Luther King's “I Have a Dream” Speech

October 27, 2000

I am proud to sign legislation today authorizing placement of a marker commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic “I Have a Dream” speech at the Lincoln Memorial. Few leaders in American history have spoken with the eloquence, passion, and moral force that Dr. King did that day, uttering words that, a generation later, still echo in our hearts.

His call to action captured the spirit of an America struggling to fulfill its promise of freedom, of a democracy yet to honor all of its citizens. Even today, his words still inspire millions of people around the world who believe in the extraordinary power of non-violent change to bring about social justice.

Let all who visit the Lincoln Memorial pause to reflect upon Dr. King's words and strive to make that dream real in their hearts and daily lives.

NOTE: H.R. 2879, approved October 27, was assigned Public Law No. 106-365. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on Signing an Executive Order Creating the Commission on Workers, Communities, and Economic Change in the New Economy

October 27, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign an Executive order creating a Commission on Workers,

Communities, and Economic Change in the New Economy. I would like to thank Representative Ken Bentsen for his leadership in helping workers and communities adapt to the new economy and for working with my administration to form this Commission.

International trade, technology, globalization, and the changing nature of work present extraordinary new opportunities for Americans but can also create real disruptions for American workers and communities. Vice President Gore and I have worked hard to empower workers and communities to take advantage of the many opportunities in this new economy, but there is still more we can do. This Commission will undertake a careful examination of the effectiveness of existing Federal programs to help workers and communities adjust to economic change and will identify the best practices of employers, communities, and public-private partnerships that have responded successfully to economic dislocations. The Commission's report, due next year, will help communities, employers, and workers respond to and benefit from these changes in our economy.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Executive Order 13174—
Commission on Workers,
Communities, and Economic Change
in the New Economy**

October 27, 2000

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established the "Commission on Workers, Communities, and Economic Change in the New Economy" (Commission). The Commission shall be composed of up to 14 persons to be appointed by the President from individuals who represent State or local agencies relating to workforce or community development, economists or other workforce development experts, labor organizations, business

leaders, and Members of Congress. The President shall designate a Chairperson from among the members of the Commission.

Sec. 2. Functions. The Commission shall conduct a study of matters relating to economic dislocation, and worker and community adjustment to such dislocations. In carrying out this study, the Commission shall examine:

- (a) the impact of international trade, technology, globalization, and the changing nature of work on both workers and their communities;
- (b) the effectiveness of existing Federal programs in assisting workers and communities in adjusting to economic change, including the adequacy of the design of such programs;
- (c) the strategies for providing workplace education and training to assist workers in acquiring new skills;
- (d) the strategies for assisting communities to adjust to changing economic conditions and changes in the mix of employment opportunities in those communities;
- (e) the role of public-private partnerships in implementing job training and community assistance; and
- (f) the role of income support and economic security programs in facilitating worker adjustment to rapidly changing economic circumstances.

Sec. 3. Report. Not later than 12 months after the first meeting of the Commission, the Commission shall prepare and submit to the President and the Congress a report that contains a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission's study carried out under section 2 of this order, and includes:

- (1) a summary of best practices and policies carried out by employers and public-private partnerships in providing workers with the education and training needed to effectively adjust to economic change;
- (2) a summary of best practices and policies carried out by or on behalf of communities in responding to large-scale economic changes; and
- (3) any recommendations relating to legislative and administrative actions that the

Commission determines to be appropriate.

Sec. 4. Administration. (a) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation for their work on the Commission. While engaged in the work of the Commission, members appointed from among private citizens of the United States may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701-5707).

(b) The Department of Labor shall provide the Commission with funding and administrative support. The Commission may have paid staff. In addition, appropriate Federal agencies may be requested to designate staff to assist with the work of the Commission. The Secretary of Labor shall perform the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), except that of reporting to the Congress, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 5. General Provisions. The Commission shall terminate 30 days after submitting its report.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 27, 2000

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., November 1, 2000]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on Signing Fiscal Year 2001 Appropriations Legislation

October 27, 2000

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4635, the "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001" and the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2001."

This Act will fund vital housing, community development, environmental, disaster assistance, veterans, space, and science pro-

grams. Specifically, it provides funding for the Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and several other agencies.

The Act funds a number of my Administration's priorities, including the Corporation for National and Community Service. National Service gives young people the opportunity to obtain funding for a college education while addressing community challenges that range from tutoring children and serving in community policing projects to building housing for the homeless. In addition, the Act will allow students in elementary schools, high schools, and colleges to participate in service-learning programs that provide substantial academic and social benefits, including the opportunity to learn responsible citizenship.

I am pleased that the Act provides full funding of HUD's highest priority: \$13 billion for the renewal of all Section 8 contracts, thereby assuring continuation of HUD rental subsidies for low-income tenants in privately owned housing. I am also pleased that the Act provides \$453 million for 79,000 incremental housing assistance vouchers for low-income households. In addition, the Act adequately funds programs to help distressed communities. These programs include Community Development Block Grants, assistance to the homeless, the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, and rural and urban empowerment zones. The CDFI Fund helps to create a network of community development banks across the country, thereby spurring the flow of capital to distressed neighborhoods and their currently underserved, low-income residents. Likewise, the rural and urban empowerment zones will help to revitalize communities so that they can take advantage of the strength of the economy and help those left behind in our economic boom. Additionally, \$1.1 billion is provided for homeless assistance grants, enabling localities to continue to

shape and implement comprehensive, flexible, coordinated “continuum of care” approaches to solving homelessness.

I am pleased that the Act adequately funds Fair Housing programs, which will enable HUD to expand significantly its activities aimed at reducing the level of housing discrimination nationwide.

The Act provides \$7.8 billion for the EPA, which will enable the agency to carry out programs to protect our environment. I am pleased that the bill adequately funds the EPA’s efforts to enforce environmental laws, enabling the agency to help protect the health and quality of life of Americans. I am pleased that the Act minimizes the inclusion of anti-environmental riders. Without my Administration’s efforts, these riders would have given special deals to special interests, such as preventing action at numerous sites needing cleanup of sediments contaminated with PCBs and other chemicals, delaying an EPA rule to reduce harmful emissions from diesel-fueled trucks and buses, and hampering commonsense initiatives to help businesses and consumers conserve energy and save money.

I am disappointed, however, that the final bill includes anti-environmental riders that my Administration opposed. I continue to oppose the use of the budget process to adopt these kinds of proposals without the benefit of full and open public debate through the regular legislative process. I urge Congress to refrain from sending me any additional anti-environmental riders on remaining bills. Although I am signing this legislation into law with these riders attached, I am directing the agencies to consider ways to implement them that will have the least harmful effect on the environment.

I am pleased that the Act sustains U.S. leadership across the scientific frontiers. This Act maintains the Nation’s investment in discovery through innovation, which has fueled unprecedented economic growth for the past decade. The Act contains a \$529 million increase for the National Science Foundation (NSF)—the largest increase ever—for a total investment of \$4.4 billion that will boost university-based research and ensure balanced support for all science and engineering disciplines. Increased investments will spur new discoveries in the fields of information

technology, nanotechnology, biocomplexity, and other areas of fundamental science and engineering. The Act also adequately funds the new Scholarship for Service program at NSF, a component of the Federal Cyber Services, which will provide scholarships to students pursuing academic careers in Information Assurance. One of the five education and training initiatives in the National Plan for Information Systems Protection, this program supports the Administration’s efforts to protect the Nation’s critical infrastructures by increasing the number of skilled technologists working for the Federal Government. In exchange for up to 2 years of scholarship support, students will work for the Federal Government for an amount of time at least equal to the scholarship period.

This Act will also help to expand our investments in space exploration by including a \$684 million increase, to \$14.3 billion, for NASA. The Act fully funds the Space Launch Initiative that will improve the economics of space transportation dramatically. The additional resources will help the agency meet its human space flight needs more safely and at lower cost through the development of a new generation of space launch vehicles and enable NASA to establish a sustained presence at key research sites in our solar system.

I am pleased that this Act adequately funds FEMA to help cope with unforeseen disasters. The \$1.3 billion in contingent emergency funds, along with the \$297 million appropriated, ensures that the country is well-prepared to deal with unforeseen natural disasters.

I am also pleased that the Act provides my requested \$22.4 billion for veterans’ medical care, benefits, and the National Cemetery System. This \$1.5 billion increase over last year represents the largest increase ever requested by an Administration. It will allow us to treat more veterans in the medical care system with high-quality and timely care, improve the delivery of veterans’ disability and education benefits, and ensure that our Nation’s veterans are honored in cemeteries that are maintained as National Shrines. The bill also takes the long-overdue steps of improving benefits for World War II Filipino veterans with service-connected disabilities who live in the United States, by providing

the same disability, burial, health care, and long-term care benefits that other veterans receive.

I am also pleased today to be able to sign into law the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2001, now that the Congress has dropped an unacceptable rider that would have prevented the Army Corps of Engineers from revising its operating manual for the Missouri River, which is 40 years old and needs to be updated. This action will enable the Army Corps to move forward to achieve a reasonable balance among the competing interests of the many people who seek to use this great American river, while addressing the needs of the fish and wildlife species that depend upon it. To ensure a thorough discussion and review of the issues raised concerning revisions to the manual, the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior will consult fully with other Federal agencies, with State and local officials, and with interested stakeholders on the specific measures that the Army Corps may need to undertake during FY 2001. As part of this effort, the Army Corps will work with the parties to explore alternatives to, and modifications of, any proposed Federal actions on the lower Missouri River that may affect downstream landowners or barge traffic. Furthermore, the Army Corps will not make changes to its river operations under this legislation that will have significant adverse impacts on the downstream landowners or barge traffic.

I am disappointed that the final bill does not include my request for the CALFED Bay-Delta program or sufficient funds to restore endangered salmon in the Pacific Northwest, and includes no funds for new construction projects for the Florida Everglades and the Challenge 21 and recreation modernization programs, or for construction of the emergency flood control outlet at Devils Lake, North Dakota. These omissions are especially striking in light of the bill's inclusion of nearly 240 unrequested Corps of Engineers projects totaling over \$300 million.

I want to acknowledge the efforts the Congress has made in appropriating \$20 million for the establishment of the Delta Regional Authority, a Federal-State partnership fo-

cused on promoting economic growth in the Mississippi Delta region.

Finally, I am pleased that the final bill provides \$17.8 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE). This funding supports environmental restoration projects at DOE sites throughout the country and cutting-edge scientific research such as the Spallation Neutron Source. It also includes essential funds for maintaining the safety and reliability of our nuclear weapons stockpile. Although the bill does not include my full request for the Climate Change Technology Initiative, it does provide almost \$70 million more than the FY 2000 enacted level. Included in this Initiative is \$375 million for solar and renewable energy, more than a 20 percent increase over the FY 2000 level for this program. The bill also provides \$203 million in additional funding to address the damage caused by the Cerro Grande fire. I am concerned, however, that the bill contains limits on the term of office for the first person appointed to the position of Under Secretary for Nuclear Security at the Department of Energy and would restrict the President's ability to remove that official to cases of "inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance of office." Particularly in light of the Under Secretary's significant executive authority and responsibility in nuclear security, I understand the phrase "neglect of duty" to include, among other things, a failure to comply with the lawful directives or policies of the President.

I am proud that my Administration and the Congress were able to work together successfully on two bills to resolve our respective differences and produce an Act that effectively addresses critical needs of the American people.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 27, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 4635, approved October 27, was assigned Public Law No. 106-377. This item was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 28. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

The President's Radio Address

October 28, 2000

Good morning. Here in Washington, after months of partisan delay by the congressional majority, Congress still hasn't completed its work on the budget—even though the budget year ended a month ago.

Yet, when Congress has acted in a spirit of bipartisanship, we've made remarkable progress. Today I want to talk to you about the most significant step we've ever taken to secure the health and safety of women at home and around the world. It's a new law I'm signing called the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

In America today, domestic violence is the number one health risk for women between the ages of 15 and 44. Close to a third of all women murdered in this country were killed by their husbands, former husbands, or boyfriends. Every 12 seconds, another woman is beaten. That's nearly 900,000 victims every year.

And statistics tell us that in half the families where a spouse is beaten, the children are beaten, too. Domestic violence is a criminal activity. It devastates its victims and affects us all. It increases health costs, keeps people from showing up to work, prevents them from performing at their best. It destroys families, relationships, and lives, and it tears at the fabric of who we are as a people.

That's why, as part of our 1994 crime bill, Al Gore and I fought hard to pass the landmark Violence Against Women Act—the foundation of the bill I will be signing. That law imposed tough new penalties for actions of violence against women. It helped to train police, prosecutors, and judges to better understand domestic violence, to recognize its symptoms when they see them, and to take steps to prevent them.

It gave grants to shelters that are havens for victims of domestic violence, and it set up a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week toll-free national hotline to help women get the emergency assistance and counseling they need, to find a shelter, and to report abuse to the authorities.

Most of all, the Violence Against Women Act worked. The hotline has been a tremen-

dous help. More than half a million victims have found assistance by calling it. Police officers who once shied away from so-called family squabbles are now getting involved in saving lives. Best of all, violence against women by an intimate partner has fallen 21 percent since 1993.

The bill I'm signing will keep that progress going by keeping the Violence Against Women Act the law of the land. It provides new resources for Native American communities, restores protections for battered immigrant women, and, for the first time, extends a law to cover women abused by their boyfriends.

The new law contains another provision, too, one that will strengthen our fight against the insidious global practice of trafficking in human beings. Every year, a million or more women, children, and men are forced or tricked into lives of utter misery—into prostitution, sweatshop work, domestic or farm labor, or debt bondage. This is slavery, plain and simple. And it's not just something that happens far from our shores.

In fact, each year as many as 50,000 people are brought to the United States for this cruel purpose. We must do our part to stop those responsible for these crimes and to help their victims. The bill I'm signing will help to do that.

It establishes the first Federal law that specifically targets this problem, setting out harsh penalties for those who trade in human beings, requiring convicted traffickers to forfeit their assets and make restitution to those they have exploited. The law gives victims better access to services like shelters, counseling, and medical care. It enables victims to stay in the United States so they can receive those services and helps law enforcement agencies to prosecute the traffickers. It increases our assistance to other countries as well to help them detect and punish this pernicious practice, and it provides for sanctions for any countries that refuse to take steps to end trafficking in women and children. I worked hard for these provisions. They build on what we've been doing at home and abroad to address the problem.

We see in the success of this landmark legislation once again that there is no real secret to getting things done in Washington. When

we put progress over partisanship, we get results. When we work together, we get results.

Now, we've shown once again we can work together by passing this landmark legislation to fight violence against women. Let's follow the rule and finish all the work the American people expect of us. It's time for Congress to set partisanship aside on the last two unfinished bills and complete a budget with smaller class sizes, modern classrooms, family tax cuts, and a higher minimum wage—one that honors our values and secures a better future for our children and our great Nation.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 6:57 p.m. on October 27 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 28. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 27 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. H.R. 3244, approved October 28, was assigned Public Law No. 106-386.

Statement on Signing the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000

October 28, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 3244, the "Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000" (the "Act"). This landmark legislation accomplishes a number of important objectives and Administration priorities. It strengthens and improves upon the Nation's efforts to fight violence against women. It also provides important new tools and resources to combat the worldwide scourge of trafficking in persons and provides vital assistance to victims of trafficking. And it helps American victims of terrorism abroad to collect court-awarded compensation.

This legislation builds on the "Violence Against Women Act of 1994" (VAWA), which created new Federal crimes and enhanced penalties to combat sexual assault and domestic violence, and established new grant programs for law enforcement agencies, prosecution offices, and victim services organizations to fight violence against women. It also authorized funding for education, outreach, and prevention programs, which have

helped to create coordinated community responses to violence against women throughout the United States. While we can certainly take pride in what we have accomplished since 1994, we know we must do more. To that end, H.R. 3244 reauthorizes VAWA and improves on the original bill by establishing several new initiatives.

I am particularly pleased that H.R. 3244 reauthorizes VAWA's grant programs through Fiscal Year 2005. The Act improves several current programs by setting aside 5 percent of VAWA grant funds for tribes and directing resources toward certain traditionally underserved populations, such as victims of dating violence, older women, and women with disabilities. The Act requires certain VAWA's grantees to facilitate the filing and service of protection orders without cost to the victims. The Act authorizes a civil legal assistance program for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, who desperately need help with legal matters related to their abuse. The Act authorizes appropriations through Fiscal Year 2005 for the National Domestic Violence Hotline, battered women's shelters, and rape prevention and education grants. H.R. 3244 requires national standards and protocols for conducting sexual assault forensic examinations, as well as establishes supervised visitation programs, which will help ensure that children are safe when visiting with their parents and that battered women remain safe during visitation exchanges.

The Act also will improve the ability of Federal prosecutors to prosecute interstate crimes of domestic violence, stalking, and violations of protection orders. The Act creates an interstate cyberstalking offense. The Act enhances the enforcement of protection orders across State and tribal lines by prohibiting registration as a prerequisite to enforcement of out-of-state or tribal orders and by prohibiting notification of a batterer without the victim's consent when an order is registered in a new jurisdiction. Moreover, the Act amends the Parental Kidnaping Prevention Act to expand emergency jurisdiction to cover domestic violence, thus enabling victims who flee abuse to obtain custody orders without returning to the jurisdiction where the batterer resides.

Of great importance, H.R. 3244 restores and expands VAWA's protections for battered immigrants by helping them escape abuse and by holding batterers accountable. The Act establishes a new nonimmigrant visa classification, which will offer greater protection to victims, while strengthening the ability of law enforcement agencies to detect, investigate, and prosecute cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other violent crimes.

I am confident that enactment of these provisions and the other improvements to VAWA contained in H.R. 3244 will substantially enhance our efforts to end violence against women in America and provide essential services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Similarly, the Act's anti-trafficking provisions represent a major step forward in my Administration's ongoing effort to eradicate modern-day slavery. In 1998, on International Women's Day, I issued an Executive Memorandum directing my Administration to combat this insidious human rights abuse through a three-part strategy of prosecuting traffickers, protecting and assisting trafficking victims, and preventing trafficking. We worked hard with Democrats and Republicans in Congress to craft comprehensive and effective legislation that would strengthen our ability to implement this strategy. I am pleased that this bipartisan effort has resulted in this landmark anti-trafficking legislation.

Over the past several years, we have taken every opportunity to shine a bright light on this dark corner of the criminal underworld, in part by continually raising with leaders around the world the need to work together to combat this intolerable and reprehensible practice. Last spring, the United States and the Philippines co-hosted a regional conference attended by over 20 Asian and Pacific nations to develop a regional action plan to combat trafficking and protect trafficking victims. The United States proposed and recently concluded 2 years of negotiations on a United Nations protocol to combat trafficking in persons which, for the first time, will require countries everywhere to criminalize trafficking and will provide a frame-

work for enhanced protection of and assistance to victims.

I want to thank the First Lady, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General for their leadership on this important issue. The Secretary of State, as Chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women, has led my Administration's interagency development and coordination of international and domestic anti-trafficking efforts. The First Lady has worked tirelessly to bring this issue out of the shadows. She has helped to mobilize the international community to address trafficking as both a human rights issue and a global crime problem. The Attorney General created the National Worker Exploitation Task Force to work in partnership with other agencies, particularly the Department of Labor, to coordinate the investigation and prosecution of trafficking and other cases of exploitation. The Task Force is training our Nation's Federal law enforcement officials and has established a hotline to report trafficking cases.

The Act creates new felony criminal offenses to combat trafficking with respect to slavery or peonage; sex trafficking in children; and unlawful confiscation of the victim's passport or other documents in furtherance of the trafficking scheme. It also creates a new "forced labor" felony criminal offense that will provide Federal prosecutors with the tools needed to prosecute the sophisticated forms of nonphysical coercion that traffickers use today to exploit their victims. Under H.R. 3244, any person convicted of any of these new criminal offenses would be subject to forfeiture of his or her assets and required to pay full restitution to his or her victims. These new offenses and the tougher sentences called for by this legislation will assist Federal prosecutors in ensuring that traffickers are convicted and appropriately punished for their crimes.

The Act also authorizes essential services and protections for victims of trafficking. Within the United States, H.R. 3244 establishes a Cabinet-level interagency task force to combat and monitor trafficking, provides eligibility to trafficking victims for a broad range of Federal benefits, and requires procedures to improve Federal law enforcement's identification of trafficking cases and

to provide for trafficking victims' safety and assistance while in the Government's custody. The Act also authorizes the Attorney General to provide grants to develop programs to assist victims of trafficking. A cornerstone of H.R. 3244 is that it makes trafficking victims eligible for a temporary non-immigrant visa so that they can remain in the United States to help law enforcement in the prosecution of traffickers and receive needed protection and assistance.

The Act establishes international initiatives to enhance economic opportunity for potential victims and public awareness programs on the dangers of trafficking and available protections for victims. The Act encourages other countries to take steps to implement protection and assistance for trafficking victims and to prosecute traffickers, and authorizes the President to assist countries to help them meet certain minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The President may withhold assistance from countries that are not making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with these minimum standards. Traffickers can themselves be sanctioned. H.R. 3244 also expands existing reporting on the nature and extent of trafficking in each foreign country, which will build upon the Department of State's current coverage of this issue.

Traffickers who prey on vulnerable women and children should have no place to hide, and victims of trafficking must be treated with dignity and afforded vital assistance and protection. I expect this legislation to be of immense benefit in rooting out this despicable practice and in helping future Administrations carry on the vital work that this Administration has begun.

The Act also contains new authorities to compensate American victims of terrorism and their families. I am pleased that the Congress and the executive branch have been able to reach agreement on legislation that reflects our shared goals: providing compensation for the victims of international terrorism and protecting the President's ability to act on behalf of the Nation on important foreign policy and national security issues.

There are certain provisions worth noting. First, those persons electing to receive 110 percent of their awarded compensatory dam-

ages with statutory interest and court-awarded sanctions relinquish all rights and claims to all amounts awarded and will be deemed to be compensated in full for their judgments. Those persons electing to receive 100 percent of their compensatory damages with statutory interest and court-awarded sanctions relinquish all rights and claims to compensatory damages and amounts awarded as judicial sanctions, and, necessarily, any related interest, costs and attorneys fees. So as not to interfere with important national interests, H.R. 3244 makes clear that persons who receive such payments are prohibited from attaching or executing against certain types of property in order to satisfy other amounts awarded.

Second, Congress has reaffirmed in this Act my statutory authority, which is the authority provided under the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 5(b)), where appropriate and consistent with the national interest, to vest foreign assets located in the United States for the purpose, among other things, of assisting, and where appropriate, making payments to victims of terrorism.

Third, H.R. 3244 repeals the Presidential national security waiver, provided by section 117 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999, which was applicable to the requirements of subsections (a) and (b). Section 117(b), which amended the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to permit awards of punitive damages against certain defendants in certain circumstances, as well as section 117(a), have never been operative because I executed the national security waiver on October 21, 1998. In its place, H.R. 3244 provides a national security waiver applicable to section 1610(f)(1) of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, and addresses the other national security concerns covered by my earlier waiver by repealing section 117(b) of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999, and modifying section 1610(f)(2) of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. Upon my signing of H.R. 3244, I am exercising the discretion given to me by section 2002(f) of this Act to waive section 1610(f)(1) of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

Fourth, H.R. 3244 makes the United States fully subrogated to the rights of the

persons who receive payments under this Act, to the extent of the payments. The Congress reaffirms my authority to pursue these subrogated rights as claims or offsets against Iran in appropriate ways, including negotiations leading to any normalization process. In addition, no funds are permitted to be paid to Iran, or released to Iran, from property blocked under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act or the Foreign Military Sales Fund, until such claims have been dealt with to the satisfaction of the United States. The determination that the claims have been dealt with to the satisfaction of the United States will be subject to Presidential discretion.

This legislation is a measure of the United States Government's commitment to the victims of terrorism, to deter future acts of terrorism, and to defend the United States from its evils. It is not designed to preclude any other means to this end. The United States will continue to pursue an aggressive, comprehensive policy incorporating diplomacy, law enforcement, intelligence, and other means to protect its citizens.

In conclusion, I would like to recognize and congratulate the bipartisan sponsorship of, and support for, the "Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000." Its enactment is an achievement of which all involved may be justly proud. It will serve us well in the years ahead as we continue to do what is needed to detect and eradicate trafficking in persons, violence against women, and other reprehensible forms of criminal conduct.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 28, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 3244, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, approved October 28, was assigned Public Law No. 106-386.

Remarks on the Budget and Legislative Agenda and an Exchange With Reporters

October 28, 2000

The President. Good afternoon.

Q. Got it right.

The President. I got it right. I'm making progress. *[Laughter]*

As I said yesterday, when this Congress has acted in a spirit of genuine bipartisanship, we have made profound progress. Yesterday I signed the VA/HUD bill that invests in the health of veterans, advances welfare reform with 75,000 housing vouchers, strengthens AmeriCorps, and invests in cutting-edge scientific research with the largest increase ever in the National Science Foundation.

Earlier this month I signed an Interior bill that creates the largest appropriation for lands preservation in our Nation's history. I also look forward to signing the bipartisan foreign operations bill, which will fund our debt relief initiative for the poorest countries in the world.

And just a few moments ago, I signed a vitally important and bipartisan Agriculture appropriations bill. This legislation will fund our Nation's agriculture programs for the coming year and provided much need help to our farmers, our ranchers, our rural communities, who have suffered everything from devastating droughts to low commodity prices.

It also contains the largest increase ever in development funding for rural and Native American communities that have not shared in our Nation's prosperity. It will help to create new businesses and expand current ones in small towns and rural areas. It will help rural communities attract new residents, and with funding for new health clinics and improved water systems, it will improve the quality of life all across rural America.

The bill also will help us provide humanitarian relief and development loans to countries that need help, and promote the sale of United States goods abroad. The bill modernizes our food inspection system with increased surveillance and more food inspectors.

Finally, this bill includes commonsense reforms that will let food stamp recipients own a dependable car and have decent housing. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work. They shouldn't have to choose between a car they need to get to their jobs and the nutrition and shelter they need for their children.

This is a good bill for America. It helps hard-hit farmers, ranchers, and rural communities; improves the safety of our food; and takes the next steps in welfare reform. Of course, there are also things in the bill I don't like. It says it allows the importation of lower cost prescription drugs from other countries but leaves the power of deciding whether or not to import these drugs to the drug companies, meaning it will do nothing for seniors and others struggling to pay high prescription drug bills.

It purports to allow the export of American products to Cuba, yet it makes it virtually impossible for family farmers to arrange the financing that enables such sales to take place. Moreover, the legislation is designed to impose new restriction on our efforts to foster people-to-people contacts and bring reform in Cuba.

It also includes objectionable trade provisions and doesn't restore food stamps for legal immigrants. And it contains fewer resources than I requested for clean water for farms and for climate change.

Nonetheless, I decided that, on balance, this bill advances the interests of the American people. That's why I signed it, and that's how progress is made, when we work together and have honorable compromise. No one gets everything he or she wants.

I still have the feeling the congressional majority has not yet decided whether they want to work with us in this way on the remaining bills, or just score points and leave town. On Medicare, we sent the majority a very detailed proposal. We said when it comes to more resources, the priority should not be HMO's but teaching hospitals, rural hospitals, home health agencies, children with disabilities, and pregnant women and children who are legal immigrants. The congressional leadership so far has virtually ignored that proposal.

The story is the same on taxes. We put forward a good-faith compromise and then offered to work to craft a bipartisan tax bill that meets the test of fairness to children, to seniors, to millions of Americans without health coverage, and to small business. The answer we got was disappointing: Instead of meeting with us, instead of working with the White House and/or congressional Demo-

crats, the Republican leadership instead crafted their own partisan tax package and passed it on largely a party-line vote.

Again I'm asking the congressional leaders to instruct their tax negotiators to meet with ours tomorrow, so we can find common ground on tax relief for America's families. We don't yet know how the education and health bill will work out. I hope the majority doesn't choose the path they took on the tax bill, or the Commerce/State/Justice bill, for that matter. Instead, we should do what was done on the agriculture bill I signed today; on the VA/HUD bill; on the Interior bill—the bipartisan path that invariably leads us to progress.

We said very specifically what our schools need—smaller class sizes and modern classrooms, investments in accountability, turning around failing schools, and teacher quality. There's no secret about what the right course is. Our priorities are clear, and we're ready to work with them in good faith, just as we have on all other bills.

Again this morning, Congress voted for a stopgap spending bill for today and quickly left town for the weekend. That's like going to work in the morning, punching the clock, and going back home. Our budget team is working all weekend, ready to meet. We need to come together on a budget, meet on Medicare, work out a fair tax cut bill, raise the minimum wage, and pass the new markets legislation.

Tonight we turn back the clocks, and we gain an hour. We ought to put that extra hour to good use. We're here; we're ready; and we need to finish the job.

Thank you.

Relations With Congress

Q. Mr. President, does it bother you that your insistence on just single-day extensions of the emergency spending bill has provoked considerable anger and irritation on the Capitol? Trent Lott says it's humiliating. Arlen Specter said you're intimidating Congress—I'm sorry, Trent Lott said it was harassment. Does that bother you? Do you think this works against you?

The President. Well, I hope not. I'm not trying to harass them. I'm just trying to get them finished and get out of town. They want

to go home and campaign, and they have a right to. They need to campaign, but they need to finish their jobs.

And I think it's highly—it's frustrating for Senator Lott because the real problem here is that the rightwing of the Republican caucus in the Senate so far has not permitted the Republicans to meet with the Democrats and work out a compromise on these last bills, as we have on all the others.

Now, we're working together on the Labor/HHS bill, which is the education bill and human services bill. But on the tax bill and on the appropriation for Commerce/State/Justice, they haven't permitted him to work with us. And he's in a very difficult position. I'm very sympathetic with him. I'm not trying to harass them. But if we kept passing these 4- and 5-day continuing resolutions, we'll just never get our work done. And they are coming back tomorrow night. Last week they came back on Monday night. So if we could make an agreement tomorrow night, they could be out of here by Monday, and that would give them—they could go home 8 days and take their case to the American people. That's all I'm trying to do.

Q. Mr. President, after you spoke out yesterday, the House Speaker said he believed you were being forced by House Democrats to veto the tax cut bill and to keep lawmakers in session in order to, A, prevent Republicans from getting a victory before election day, and also to force some confrontation for election-year gain. What do you say to the Speaker?

The President. Well, that's not true. I mean, look at what—I mean, I have—for 3 days in a row now, I have lavished praise on the Republicans, as well as the Democrats, where we have worked together. And in each case I've told you the things that I didn't agree with that they wanted in the bills that we accepted. So we're not trying to force a confrontation.

I will say again, look at the facts here. We haven't finished the education bill because we are still arguing over one issue, but I have not criticized them. We're working in good faith to try to work through this.

There are two pieces of legislation, and two only, in this entire Congress that they basically have refused to meet with us on.

They said, "We heard you, and here's the best we can do. Take it or leave it." And they're in that position because of the power of the rightwing of their caucus in the Senate and the House. And I understand; it's a very difficult thing for them. I am not trying to provoke a confrontation here. But these are the only—I will say again, the facts are clear. These are the only two bills on which we have not had a bipartisan negotiation.

All we're asking for is to do these bills the way we did the others. They'll get some of what they want; we'll get some of what we want. We'll have an agreement. It will be, on balance, good for the American people. I will say that. Then they can go home and make their case about what else they want to do; the Democrats can go home and make their case about what else we would like to do.

All I'm trying to do is get the job done here, and all I'm asking for is we treat these bills the same way we treated every other one.

Continuing Appropriations Legislation

Q. Mr. President, is it your position that you'll sign one-day CR's until you get a Labor/HHS bill, or that you'll only sign one-day CR's until you get a Labor/HHS bill, a tax proposal, and a Medicare—[inaudible]?

The President. Well, first of all, we've got to finish the education bill. But what I would—my preference, my strong preference is to finish it all. Let me just go back to—your question is tied to the previous one. It is not true that I do not want a tax bill before the election. That is not true. I believe we should give some tax relief. I am more than willing to do it, but I cannot in good conscience do something that I think is unfair and that will aggravate some of the problems that it purports to solve.

All I'm asking for here is what I have done every single year I've been here. I just want—if you go back, ever since we've had divided government, whenever we have negotiated, we have reached agreement; we've done things that have been good for America, starting with the welfare reform bill in '96; we had the Balanced Budget Act in '97; we had the Telecommunications Act, which has

been an incredible boon to our economy; and many, many other things.

And this year, because we've been fiscally prudent and we've got some funds to invest in America's future, we have made some truly astonishing steps forward for our country. All I am asking for is the same method of working out the bill, on the last two remaining bills that we got on the other bills, and a good-faith conclusion to the work we're doing on the education bill. That's all I'm asking for.

President's Role in 2000 Election

Q. Mr. President, one question about the campaign, if I might. There are reports today that Vice President Gore has communicated to you that he would like you to steer clear of the battleground States of Pennsylvania and Michigan. Is that true? And do you think you'd be a political liability, or does he think that, if you went there?

The President. Well, I said yesterday, generally—remember what I said yesterday? Let me just go back through this. I think, in general, these elections are always decided by the candidates and the case they make to the people. I actually, as I said, I may be the only person that's involved in this debate who has experienced this situation in reverse—when President Reagan was immensely popular and came to Arkansas in '84 to campaign. And when the votes were counted, he had 62 percent, and I think I had 63.

So what a President who is not running—there are only two things a President who is not running can do. You can tell people what you think the condition of the country is and what the stakes are, and you can try to rally the people that are already with you in the hope of getting a bigger turnout. The undecided voters will be swayed primarily by the others.

And what I have to hope is that wherever I go, that what I have to say is more important than just the fact of my being there. Because you're going to decide who you want to be the next President; Mark is going to decide; all of you are going to decide, and very few third parties can change your mind. So that's not what is at issue here. The most important actors in this drama are Al Gore

and Governor Bush. They're the only actors in the drama that really have any sway here—except for Senator Lieberman and Congressman Cheney; I think they can have some impact.

And the rest of us might be able to sway some undecided voters if our arguments are heard—and I have an understanding of this that's unique because I've been President the last 8 years. I may—we haven't decided everywhere I'm going yet, and I may still go to Michigan. If they want me to come and the campaign thinks it will be helpful, I'll go. But what I have to do is what I think will be most helpful. The President, if your arguments are heard and people listen to them, you may sway a few undecided voters. But the fact of your going is not a vote getter, ever. That wasn't for any previous President. It wasn't for President Reagan. But it does help if you can turn out your votes.

So we're looking at all the best ways we have to try to make sure all the people who are for our side and agree with us actually show up. That's very important. The Republicans are doing the same thing. And we'll just see what happens. I'll do whatever I think is best, in consultation with the campaign. But I don't think the final travel schedule has been set yet, and I think we just have to wait and see how things unfold the next few days.

Also, as I said yesterday, I have to finish this work here. And as you know, we're watching events in the Middle East very closely. So if I can be helpful, I will. I've already done a lot the last year, and I've done a lot in the last few days. I will continue to do what I can. But the first priority for me has to be here, and the election will be determined by, I believe, the case made by the two candidates for President in the next few days. And I think the rest of us, all we can do is hope to sway a few undecided voters if they hear us, and get the folks out that are already for us.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:17 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Ronald Reagan; and Republican Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates Gov. George W. Bush and Dick Cheney.

**Statement on Signing the
Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and
Related Agencies Appropriations
Act, 2001**

October 28, 2000

Today I am signing into law H.R. 4461, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2001. I commend the Congress for presenting me an acceptable version of this bill that provides critical funding for our Nation's farmers and ranchers, improves the safety of our food supply, and provides assistance to low-income families and rural communities.

I am pleased that the Act fully funds my Food Safety Initiative at \$383 million, a \$57 million, or 17 percent, increase over FY 2000. These funds will improve food safety for all Americans by allowing the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to increase surveillance activities and inspections of domestic and imported food, accelerate responses to outbreaks, and perform vital research on ways to reduce pathogens in food so that we can advance a more science-based food inspection system. I also commend the Congress for dropping the objectionable language provision that would have prevented USDA from fully implementing the Egg Safety Action Plan that I announced in December 1999. This will now allow USDA and FDA to vigorously pursue the goal of cutting in half the number of salmonella illnesses from eggs.

While the Congress did not provide the full amount of my requested increase for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, thereby failing to ensure that this vital program can achieve the goal of 7.5 million participants, the program will be able to serve a monthly average of just over 7.3 million individuals. I am pleased that the Act adopts my proposal to expand the vehicle allowance for the Food Stamp program, which will assist the many working poor families for whom owning a vehicle is the one item that makes them ineligible for food stamps. In addition, the Act will provide a much-needed increase in nu-

trition assistance for low-income families with high housing costs, by increasing the Food Stamp program housing allowance. The two changes mean that families do not have to choose among buying food, paying their housing costs, or having a more reliable car. However, I am disappointed the bill did not restore food stamp eligibility for certain legal immigrants, as proposed in my Budget.

Loans and grants for priority rural development programs will increase under the Act to \$9.9 billion this year, a \$2.7 billion increase over FY 2000. These funds will help diversify the rural economy, improve the quality of life in rural communities, and bring more rural areas across the "economic divide" that separates too many parts of the country from the historic economic expansion underway. I am especially pleased that the Act includes several of my proposals to address geographic areas of rural America that have long struggled with persistent poverty, including \$34 million targeted to Indian reservations for health clinics, child care centers, water systems, and job opportunities; and \$10 million for the Mississippi Delta Region to create better job opportunities and strengthen local financial intermediaries. The Act will also provide over \$100 million in loans and grants to help close the "digital divide" by financing local Internet service and broadband transmission in rural areas.

The Act increases USDA's conservation technical assistance to farmers and ranchers by over \$50 million from the FY 2000 level. Part of these funds will be used for a one-third increase in technical assistance to producers who are improving their animal waste management systems, as part of my Clean Water Action Plan. I am disappointed, however, that the Act cuts financial assistance for these and other conservation projects through the Environmental Quality Incentives program, and provides none of the funds I requested for the Farmland Protection Program that preserves farmland and helps communities manage urban sprawl. Also, while it is certainly helpful that the Act increases the Wetlands Reserve Program by 100,000 acres, it is far short of reaching the 250,000 acres per year I proposed for this program. I am hopeful that the next Congress and the next Farm Bill will recognize

that farmers were the first environmentalists and that Federal farm programs should be structured and funded to improve the environment while boosting farm income.

I am also pleased that the Act provides vital payments to farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses from natural disasters. However, the more than \$4 billion in emergency funds in this Act, combined with more than \$7 billion in farm assistance for the current crop year that was enacted this summer, represents the third year in a row the Congress has had to supplement farm income through major emergency appropriations, due to the failure of the 1996 Farm Bill. I am hopeful that the reforms enacted this year to the crop insurance program will mitigate the need for future *ad hoc* crop loss legislation. I continue to believe that USDA's farm income assistance program must be overhauled to target funds to family farmers based on their actual income losses on crops they are growing now, not paid out inordinately to corporate farms based on what they grew years ago. My Administration is reviewing the emergency funding provisions in this Act, and these funds will be released as needs dictate.

I am concerned that the bill contains an ineffective provision regarding importation of FDA-approved prescription drugs that represents little more than a false promise to the American public. While I am supportive of efforts to allow American consumers to gain access to lower-cost prescription drugs, the language included in the Act contains several loopholes that effectively render the provision meaningless. Among other serious flaws, drug manufacturers can deny importers access to FDA-approved labeling that is required for reimportation, and therefore, drug companies are likely to block reimportation of their medications. In addition, because this reimport authority expires after 5 years, private and public sector interest in investing in this system will be limited. Not only does this provision fail to provide discounts, it also does not address the larger issue of the lack of prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries.

I am also concerned that language in this Act restricts Presidential ability to initiate certain new agricultural and medical trade

sanctions and maintain old ones, as congressional approval of such sanctions will now be required. This could disrupt the ability of the President to conduct foreign policy, and could provide potential targets of U.S. actions with time to take countermeasures. The bill permits exports of U.S. farm and medical products to Cuba, but constrains these trade opportunities by barring the U.S. Government, and severely limiting U.S. private banks, from providing financing assistance to Cuba. In addition, the legislation purports to restrict the President's ability to authorize certain travel-related activities in Cuba. We are concerned that this provision could be read to impose overly rigid constraints on our ability to conduct foreign policy and respond to immediate humanitarian and operational concerns including, *inter alia*, protecting American lives, ensuring upkeep of American diplomatic installations, and assisting in both Federal and State prosecutions in the United States in which travel to Cuba may be required. We do not think that the Congress intended to curtail such activities by this legislation. Accordingly, my Administration will interpret this provision, to the extent possible, as not infringing upon such activities.

Also, I note that this bill will provide select U.S. industries with a subsidy above and beyond the protection level needed to counteract foreign subsidies, while providing no comparable subsidy to other U.S. industries or to U.S. consumers, who are forced to pay higher prices on industrial inputs or consumer goods as a result of the anti-dumping and countervailing duties. I call on the Congress to override this provision, or amend it to be acceptable, before they adjourn.

I am also concerned that this bill prohibits the Office of the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment from supervising, managing, or directing the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Policy disputes between the Congress and the Administration should not degenerate into personal attacks. Under Secretary Jim Lyons and his office are essential to numerous national environmental, forestry, and conservation initiatives, and have provided strong leadership in this regard throughout my Administration.

There are a number of provisions in the Act that may raise Constitutional issues. These provisions will be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the Constitution:

- Section 719 of the Act specifies that funds may not be used to provide to any non-Department of Agriculture employee questions or responses to questions resulting from the appropriations hearing process. To the extent that this provision would interfere with my duty to “take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed,” or impede my ability to act as the chief executive, it would violate the Constitution, and I will treat it as advisory.
- Section 730 of the Act purports to constrain my ability to make a particular type of budget recommendation to the Congress. This provision would interfere with my constitutional duty under the Recommendation Clause, and I will treat it as advisory.
- Finally, there are provisions in the Act that purport to condition my authority or that of certain officers to use funds appropriated by the Act on the approval of congressional committees. My Administration will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in *INS v. Chadha*.

I urge the Congress to approve the remaining FY 2001 spending bills expeditiously, and send them to me in an acceptable form.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 28, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 4461, approved October 28, was assigned Public Law No. 106–387.

Memorandum on Determination To Waive Attachment Provisions Relating to Blocked Property of Terrorist-List States

October 28, 2000

Presidential Determination No. 2000–31

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury

Subject: Determination to Waive Attachment Provisions Relating to Blocked Property of Terrorist-List States

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 2002(f) of H.R. 3244, “Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000,” (approved October 28, 2000), I hereby determine that subsection (f)(1) of section 1610 of title 28, United States Code, which provides that any property with respect to which financial transactions are prohibited or regulated pursuant to section 5(b) of the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S. App. 5(b), section 620(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2370(a)), sections 202 and 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1702), and proclamations, orders, regulations, and licenses issued pursuant thereto, be subject to execution or attachment in aid of execution of any judgment relating to a claim for which a foreign state claiming such property is not immune from the jurisdiction of courts of the United States or of the States under section 1605(a)(7) of title 28, United States Code, would impede the ability of the President to conduct foreign policy in the interest of national security and would, in particular, impede the effectiveness of such prohibitions and regulations upon financial transactions. Therefore, pursuant to section 2002(f) of H.R. 3244, the “Victim’s of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000,” I hereby waive subsection (f)(1) of section 1610 of title 28, United States Code, in the interest of

national security. This waiver, together with the amendment of subsection (f)(2) of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and the repeal of the subsection (b) of section 117 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999, supersedes my prior waiver of the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of said section 117, executed on October 21, 1998.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

**Remarks at a National Italian
American Foundation Dinner**
October 28, 2000

Thank you very much. Thank you to the diehard in the back there. [*Laughter*] Thank you very much. I'm delighted to be here. I was told on the way in that since I came here as a Governor in 1992, I have made seven of nine possible NIAF dinners, and I am delighted to be here again for the last time as President.

I want to thank Chairman Guarini; your dinner chair, Dick Grasso. I thank the Representatives of Congress who are here, Representatives Morella and Pelosi and my good friend Geri Ferraro, Ambassador Browner, Ambassador Tufo—Administrator Browner—Ambassador Rosapepe. And the President of NIAF, Joe Cerrell.

I also want to say, as all of you know, I have had a penchant for Italian-American Chiefs of Staff; they have been overrepresented. [*Laughter*] So far, we have staved off any affirmative action suits. [*Laughter*] When Leon Panetta was my Chief of Staff, he used to say that it was such a hard job, he thought "Panetta" was Italian for "pinata." [*Laughter*]

Now, John Podesta is here. We were doing a little research the other day—this is true; this is not an after-dinner joke—and we discovered that in Renaissance Italy, the rulers of the city-states were often quite apprehensive that they wouldn't be able to maintain authority. So they from time to time hired an enforcer to come in from outside the city-state, and the enforcer was called a "podesta." [*Laughter*] So he is well-named. And

since then, we have a disproportionate number of Italians throughout the White House. Two of them, Karen Tramontano and Loretta Ucelli, are here tonight; I thank them for their work.

I also want to congratulate Tommy Lasorda on the fabulous job he did with our baseball team at the Olympics. And congratulations to you, Mr. Berra. Your spirit was alive and well at the World Series.

I want to congratulate the honorees tonight, my good friend Muhammad Ali, and Angelo Dundee, Andrea Bocelli, John Paul DeJoria, Joseph Nacchio, Miuccia Prada, Dick Vermeil, and my friend of many, many years Millard Fuller. Thank you for honoring them, and thank you for all the work you do.

The legacy of Italian-Americans has been celebrated by this organization for 25 years now. This is an important milestone for you. I know that you have just begun. One of the things I particularly appreciate is your interest in one America, trying to reach across the cultural divide. Just a couple of nights ago we had a birthday party for Hillary up in New York. And Robert De Niro was trying to teach me how to "speak New York." [*Laughter*] And I don't know if you saw it, but I was really appreciative that he was so generous and understanding of my culturally challenged accent. [*Laughter*]

So he tried to teach me how to say "fuggeddaboutit." [*Laughter*] And I finally learned, see? [*Laughter*]

At the turn of the last century, an Italian-American said, "I came to America because I heard the streets were paved with gold. When I got here, I found three things: First, the streets weren't paved with gold; second, they weren't paved at all; third, I was expected to pave them." [*Laughter*]

In the century that has elapsed, our streets aren't paved with gold yet, but our Nation has entered a golden era, thanks in no small part to the efforts of Italian-Americans, to your intellect, your industry, your goodwill, and above all, your contagious love of life. I must say, I am especially grateful for all the opportunities that I have had these last 8 years to work with not only the Italian-American community but also to work with Italy.

I thank the Italian Ambassador, whom I'm sure is here tonight, along with the other distinguished guests from Italy, for all you have done to help make the work of the United States and the world more successful. And I thank the Italians who have been with us from the beginning. An Italian discovered America; another named it. We have two busts in the Blue Room at the White House on the formal State Floor—only two—one of Christopher Columbus, one of Amerigo Vespucci, brought here in the early 1820's by President James Monroe.

Two Italians signed the Declaration of Independence; thousands fought in the Civil War; millions came ashore early in this century, fought in our wars, stood with us in the cold war, built the great American middle class, and now are leading America into the global information age.

Many Italian-Americans from the beginning excelled in athletics—no small number in boxing. I grew up watching Rocky Marciano. There was Carmen Basilio, Jake LaMotta, and so many others.

It is, therefore, altogether fitting that you would give your first One America Award to Muhammad Ali. In the ring, he captured the imagination of the world with his distinctive fighting style. Before and after the fights, he captured the imagination of the world with his distinctive speaking style. He's the first fighter ever to win the heavyweight title three times. But outside the ring and what he's done since, in my mind, are even more impressive: his work for children and feeding the hungry and dedicating his life to his faith and his fellow human beings.

I am sure I'm not alone when I say that 4 years ago when Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic Torch in Atlanta, it was one of the greatest personal thrills I have ever had as an American citizen, and I thank you, sir.

And, of course, he didn't do it alone. In his corner for more than four decades was tonight's other nominee, his trainer, the great Angelo Dundee. Truly, this Italian-American/African-American team symbolizes the one America you believe in. They are an inspiration for the one America we all still have to build.

I am profoundly grateful that the National Italian American Foundation has been a vital

partner in our administration's efforts to do that, with your programs in schools and communities all across America. I am especially grateful for your concern for young people. The first thing I was asked tonight when I was standing outside waiting to come in is whether after my remarks I would walk over and speak to the young people who are just a few yards down the way. And I'll be happy to do that, because they are your future and mine and ours.

In the struggle, in the beginning of Italian-American immigrants and in the triumphs of Italian-American immigrants we are reminded that our diversity is our greatest strength, as long as we celebrate it and understand clearly that our common humanity is even more fundamental; that our Nation, as ever—indeed, more than ever—is a family of immigrants.

For 8 years now, it has been my great honor, along with Vice President Gore, to work to strengthen America's families, to give people the tools and create the conditions for a better life. We've tried to do that through things like the family and medical leave law, which has now given some 22 million Americans a chance to take the time off from work when a baby is born or a parent is sick, without losing their jobs; by adding 2.5 million children to the ranks of those with health insurance; by providing after-school and mentoring programs to a million kids; by ending welfare as we knew it, but giving families the support they need to succeed as parents as well as workers. It has given us the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years, half the size they were in January of '93.

We did it with the HOPE scholarships and lifetime learning tax credit to open the doors of college to all. Ten million American families are now benefiting from it, and the college-going rate in America is by far the highest it has ever been.

We have worked hard to strengthen America's families. And, like you, we've worked hard to strengthen it by creating one America with the most diverse Cabinet and administration appointments in history, with a real commitment to empowering those who have too long been left out and left behind.

When I came here in 1992, it was a very different America. We had a troubled economy, a divided society, a paralyzed political system. I think it's worth pointing out—because I watched the news tonight on the way over, and all the news is about the continuing arguments I'm having with the Congress. I never thought I would see a bunch of politicians stay in Washington so close to election. And I know that when you see this, you must think of one of Mr. Berra's immortal lines, that we may be lost, but we're making good time. [*Laughter*]

But the truth is, this has actually been quite a productive Congress for the American people. We've set aside more land than ever before in an act of Congress for all time. We have passed an historic bill that I've not yet had the opportunity to sign, but the agreement is there to do America's part to relieve the debt for the poorest countries in the world, as long as they put the money into education and health care and development for their children and the future.

We have provided an unprecedented outreach to Africa and our Caribbean neighbors. It has been a good session of Congress, and they are working on an education bill that I think all Americans, without regard to party, will be proud of.

So while we fight and argue—which is, after all, the essence of democratic representation—we're actually making a good deal of good progress. Today, the American community and the American family is stronger than it has ever been.

I know and you know that many of the social indicators have gotten better in no small measure because our economy has been so strong, because we have the lowest unemployment in 30 years and the longest expansion in history and the lowest poverty in 20 years, the lowest minority unemployment ever recorded, and the highest homeownership in history. A lot of you deserve a lot of the credit for that. I think about that every time I see Mr. Grasso ring the bell down at the Stock Exchange.

But tonight, what I want to say to you is, America's business is not done. America's business will never be done. All of you have to decide how to vote in the coming election, and I did not come here to discuss this. But

I will say that I hope that whatever happens, we will make decisions consistent with keeping this economy strong, keeping it growing, because that is what will enable us to give economic opportunity to people and places left behind. That is what will enable us to bring health care and education at excellent levels to people who still don't have either at the quality they should.

We have to do the things that immigrants did when they came here. We have to forget about short-term gains in time to look for the long run. I must say, from time to time, people come up to me, and they ask me, "Well, what great, new economic idea did you bring to Washington? How did the Government make its contribution to this boom? What new thing did you bring?" And I always have a one-word answer, "Arithmetic." We tried to bring arithmetic back to Washington. And that's how we've turned a \$290 billion deficit into a \$237 billion surplus. That is yours now. That is yours now. It belongs to all the American people.

And what I want to say to you is that never before in my lifetime has our Nation enjoyed at once so much economic prosperity and social progress with the absence of domestic crisis or foreign threat to our security. Therefore, never before in our lifetime have we had a chance like this to build the future of our dreams for our children. There are big challenges out there. How are we going to handle the aging of America? When all us baby boomers retire, there will only be two people working for every one person on Social Security. That is, unless we can get even more immigrants into the country and treat them more fairly than we treat some of our legal immigrants today, I might add, something I'm trying to correct in the closing days of this Congress.

We have the largest and most diverse school population in history. How shall we guarantee them all excellence in education? We've just been through a little bit of an energy scare. But we know that the development of new technologies on the horizon—and, in some cases, already on the shelf—could dramatically alter our future in ways that would strengthen our economy. Will we have the will and vision to do that?

General Motors announced just last week that their efforts, through our Partnership For the Next Generation Vehicles, which the Vice President and I have been working on for 8 years, have given them a car that gets 80 miles to the gallon. I signed today the research budget for the Agriculture Department—listen to this—which involves funds where they're trying to figure out how to make ethanol and other biomass fuels from gasoline. Today, the problem with that is, it takes 7 gallons of gas to make 8 gallons of ethanol. But the chemists are on the verge of discovering how to make 8 gallons of ethanol with 1 gallon of gas, and when that happens, you will be getting the equivalent of 500 miles to the gallon.

All of this is out there. The young women in the audience who are still in their child-bearing years, within 5 to 10 years, will be bringing babies home from the hospital, thanks to the human genome project, who will have a life expectancy of 90 years. We will see the cure—in the lifetime of virtually everybody in this audience, we will see cures for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. We may even see people be able to—the scientists be able to reverse Alzheimer's.

Digital chips now can be implanted deep into the ear canals of profoundly deaf people and they can hear. And they believe, the scientists do, that soon they will be able to implant them into the spinal cord of profoundly injured people, and they will be able to get up and walk. The future is incredible out there, and I am very grateful that I have had the chance to serve at this time.

But what I want to say to all of you is, this country, as always, belongs to the people. It may not always be clear, except at election time when everybody's vote counts exactly the same. But every day, in every way, the greatness of America fundamentally depends upon the people and our belief that everybody deserves a chance, and we all do better when we help each other, that there should be opportunity for every responsible citizen, but in the end, we must be one community. That's what this foundation has been all about. That's what your One America Award is all about.

And I have to tell you today, if someone were to give me one wish, it would be that,

somehow, America would find a way out of the thicket that so bedevils people everywhere. [*Inaudible*]*—*we're still fighting in this most modern of age over the most ancient of demons: the fear of those who are different from us. It is the source of anxiety in the country from which my ancestors hail, Ireland, where we've made a lot of progress on the peace process, but it's not completely finished yet. It is the heartbreaking source of this upsurge in violence in the Middle East after over 7 years of working together—people that know each other by their first name, know their children, know their grandchildren, all of a sudden at each other's throats again, almost in the blink of an eye, both sides shaking their heads, wondering how it could have happened.

It was the source of all that awful tribal warfare in Africa and the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Kosovo, which—thank God—has come to an end because the United States, with our allies—Italy and our other allies in NATO—stood up against it, and then the people of Serbia finally threw off the shackles of Mr. Milosevic and decided to vote for the rule of law over the rule of hatred.

Now, I say all this because I really believe that in the new century, in order for America do to good around the world, we must first be good at home. And we must say we're not going to let the lines that divide us tear us apart as long as we share a common commitment to a law-abiding, cooperative future. That's why I support the hate crimes legislation and the employment nondiscrimination legislation and the equal pay legislation for women—because I believe they symbolize those kinds of things.

But the larger point is the one I want to make. We're about to give an award to Muhammad Ali and Angelo Dundee. But all across America today, in little play yards and dusty rural roads, there are young people with their dreams. Some are of European descent; some are African-American; some are Hispanic; more and more are Asian. They're from everywhere.

Just across the river here in the Alexandria school district, there are people, children, from 180 different racial and ethnic groups. Their parents speak over 100 different languages. So when we say we're a nation of

immigrants, we have to also say, but we're one nation, determined to build one family, determined to make the decisions today with discipline to preserve the future for tomorrow, and determined to give all these kids a chance to live their dreams.

Not every child can be a Muhammad Ali, a Yogi Berra, an Andrea Bocelli. But every child can serve in the way that Millard Fuller has served, and every child can learn to respect his or her own heritage and faith and ethnic or racial background, but also those of every other American. That is the genius of America. That is the soul of the justification for this award you give.

It has been a profound honor for me to be able to come here representing the people of the United States these last 8 years. I have loved the work; I've even liked the fight. But more importantly, I have just loved seeing Americans pull together, move forward, and believe in each other again. Whatever happens, no matter what comes to this country, don't you ever let that change. As long as it doesn't, our best days will always still be ahead.

Thank you very much.

Thank you. Now, I have the honor to present Muhammad Ali and Angelo Dundee with this first-ever One America award. And I ask Angelo and Mrs. Ali to come up here. Let's give them a big hand. [*Applause*]

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 p.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Frank J. Guarini, chairman, Gerladine Ferraro, board member, and Joseph R. Cerrell, president, National Italian American Foundation; Richard Grasso, chairman and chief executive, New York Stock Exchange; U.S. Ambassador to Hungary Peter F. Tufo; U.S. Ambassador to Romania James C. Rosapepe; Tommy Lasorda, manager, 2000 U.S. Olympic baseball team; former professional baseball player Yogi Berra; Mr. Ali's wife, Lonnie; tenor Andrea Bocelli; John Paul DeJoria, chairman, John Paul Mitchell Systems; Joseph P. Nacchio, chairman and chief executive officer, Qwest Communications International; fashion designer Miuccia Prada; former professional football head coach Dick Vermeil; Millard Fuller, founder and president, Habitat for Humanity International; actor Robert De Niro; Italian Ambassador to the U.S. Ferdinando Salleo; former boxing champions Carmen Basilio and

Jake LaMotta; and former President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) Slobodan Milosevic.

Remarks to the Congregation of Shiloh Baptist Church

October 29, 2000

The President. Thank you. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. Reverend Smith, Mrs. Smith, honored guests, members of the church family. All I could think about for the first 30 minutes is how much I wished I were in the choir today. [*Laughter*]

I want to say how honored I am to be here, and to be here with so many members of the White House staff, including two ministers—some would argue we need more—Zina Pierre, who works in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Kevin Johnson, the Deputy Director of our Community Empowerment Board, under the Vice President. We also have a lot of other folks, as you know, who are here who wanted me to come here, I think, so they could be sure to show up. [*Laughter*]

I, too, want to thank Lorraine Miller, one of your members and one of my advisors, for all she did to make this possible, and all the others who have been mentioned. I want to thank this church for your outreach, to love not in word, but, indeed, in truth. I want to say a special word of appreciation to my friend, your delegate in Congress, Eleanor Holmes Norton, for being here.

I've known Eleanor a long time, and we have worked closely together since I was trying to become President in 1992. We have shared high moments and low moments. We shared a disappointment last week when the Supreme Court said the people of DC shouldn't have full voting rights—I believe you should, and I always have.

But I think we can take a lot of pride, as your pastor just said, about the economic revitalization of the District of Columbia, and I am very honored that I could work with Eleanor to alleviate the extraordinary financial burdens on this city and have the National Government pay for the responsibilities that in any other circumstance would

be done by a State government. And we took that off your shoulders; I think it will help.

I am proud of the DC College Access Act, which now has 3,000 of your young people going to college in other places for low in-State tuition. And I am still hoping we will succeed in passing our new markets program and some extra incentives for people to invest in the District of Columbia, to bring it all the way back.

So, I thank you, Eleanor. I thank you for the work that you've done to get Frederick Douglass' home established as a national memorial, and the preservation of the Carter G. Woodson home, which is near here, just up the street, I think.

This is a very kind of emotional day for me. I was thinking back—this is the first time in 26 years I haven't been on the ballot somewhere. [Laughter] And so I started kind of visiting around almost 27 years ago. And when you were singing and having your service, I was both here and my mind was wandering back over those 26 years. I thought of a time once when I was in an African-American service at night in the Mississippi Delta, in 1976, early. And it began to hail. And the building I was in was a tin-roof building. And it began to hail just as a lady got up to sing "If I Can Help Somebody"—*a cappella*. She had perfect pitch, and she just kept on singing through the hail.

And I thought of so many other things that have happened over the years, because I have had the opportunity to be blessed in churches like this one—to come as a fellow believer and a child of God and a fellow sinner, to say, thank you. So, thank you. Thank you very much.

I don't know what ex-Presidents do exactly. I wonder if anybody will ever ask me back when I leave. He finally did—Reverend Smith did. [Laughter] One of my predecessors told me that he was lost for the first 4 months after he left office because when he walked in a room, nobody played a song anymore. [Laughter] He was never sure where he was. [Laughter] I am quite sure of where I am today. And I thank you.

I thank you for giving me the chance to serve these last 8 years, to give America a government that looks more like America; for working to create an economy that helps all

Americans. I am very proud that we have achieved the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment ever recorded since we've been keeping these statistics, and that we have record homeownership and that we've tripled the number of small business loans to minorities. And we have the lowest crime rate in 27 years, and the African-American teen birth rate has dropped one-third since 1991—one-third.

We have 2 ½ million children with health insurance who didn't have it; over 90 percent of our children immunized against serious childhood diseases for the first time in the whole history of the country. For the first time ever, African-American children are graduating from high school at the same rate as white students; the number of African-American children taking advanced placement tests up 500 percent over the last 6 years, 300 percent in the last 3 years alone.

And all over the country—this relates to something that's in the pastor's letter today, which I urge you to read. I'll say more about it in a minute, but all over the country one of the most hopeful things is that schools where children weren't learning are being turned into places where children are learning.

I was in a little town in western Kentucky the other day where, 3 years ago, this grade school I visited was one of the worst schools in the State—12 percent of the children reading at or above grade level; 5 percent doing math at or above grade level; none of them doing science, not one, at or above grade level. Three years later, 57 percent doing reading at or above grade level; 70 percent doing math at or above grade level; 63 percent doing science at or above grade level. You can turn these things around.

I was in Harlem the other day in an elementary school where 2 years ago, 80 percent of the children were reading and doing math below grade level; two years later, 74 percent doing reading and math at or above grade level. All children can learn, and we can turn these schools around. They can be made to work.

So I'm grateful. I'm grateful that we've had the longest economic expansion in history and that everybody has gone along for the ride. I'm grateful that we have the lowest

crime rate in 27 years and the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years, and the environment is cleaner, and we've got more kids with health insurance, and the schools are getting better. I'm grateful for all that.

But in America our public life must always be about tomorrow. It's very interesting to go back and study the founding of this country and to read very carefully the words of the Founders. Look, these guys weren't stupid. They knew God created somebody besides white male property owners. [*Laughter*] They weren't stupid. You ought to read—Thomas Jefferson just wrote one book, called "The Notes on The State of Virginia." I have a copy, original copy, going back to the late 1700's. This is before he was ever President. And he has a stunning little, one-paragraph indictment of slavery. So they weren't fools; they knew what they were doing.

They were creating a system which would force people to slowly give up their hypocrisy and, as we broadened our horizons, would force us to keep going further and further toward God—toward the good, toward the common humanity that is in us all. So what did they pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to? To form a more perfect Union. Not a perfect Union; we don't get to do that on this Earth. But it would always become more perfect.

Now, that's what this election season is about. I'm now 54 years old. In my lifetime, we have never gone to the polls, ever, with so much economic prosperity, so much social progress, so little domestic crisis, so few foreign threats to our security—ever, not once. Now, I argue that that imposes on us a profound responsibility.

This is more a subject for a preacher than a political leader, but it occurs to me that everybody who is over 30 in this congregation today can remember at least once in your life when you made a huge mistake, not because things were going so badly but because things were going so well, you thought you didn't have to concentrate anymore. Right? Everybody who has lived a certain length of time has made one of those mistakes.

So I grew up in the civil rights era and the Vietnam war era; I remember the energy crisis; I remember the hostages in Iran; I re-

member all the troubles this country has had just in my lifetime. So here we are. We went from record deficits to record surpluses. We went from quadrupling the debt to paying the debt down. We're all going forward together, and here we are—we have the first election of the 21st century. And all the evidence is, a lot of people don't think, as the pastor's letter said, they don't understand what the differences are, and maybe they shouldn't go.

And I just came here to say, and to say to you and through you to the country, in my lifetime we've never had an election like this—not one—where there was so much prosperity, so much social progress, so few domestic crises and foreign threats. And we have the chance, therefore, to think about the big challenges and build the future of our dreams for our children; to save Social Security and Medicare, so when the baby boomers retire, we don't bankrupt our kids; to give an ever more diverse group of children, all of them, an excellent education.

Now you have over half the married couples with children in America now both work, both the husband and wife work; 59 percent of the women in America with a baby under one work. We have to do more to balance work and family. I sometimes think the best law I signed the whole time I was here was the first one, the family and medical leave law, because over 20 million people—over 20 million people have taken some time off when a baby was born or a parent was sick, without losing their job. We have to do more things like this to help people balance work and family.

The best thing about the welfare reform law was that we spent more money on child care and training and transportation to help people succeed as parents as well as in the work force.

The pastor talked about the ozone hole. The world is getting warmer. The 1990's were the warmest decade in a thousand years. And that relates to this energy crisis we've been toying around with here lately, where we're all concerned about. We need to develop a whole different long-term future.

General Motors just announced a car getting 80 miles to the gallon; we need to get

it on the market, all of them. We've got researchers with Department of Agriculture grants trying to figure out how to make fuel from biomass—that's a fancy word for corn or rice hulls or even grasses. You know it as ethanol today. And the problem with ethanol is, it takes 7 gallons of gas to make 8 gallons of ethanol. But if they get their job done in the laboratory, you'll be able to make 8 gallons of ethanol with 1 gallon of gas. And that means that, in effect, we'll all be driving around getting 500 miles to the gallon. But we've got to do it. We've got to do it.

So you've got all these challenges out there. We've made a lot of progress in building one America, but our work is not over. We still have racial profiling; we still have debates over affirmative action; we still have qualified African-American judges who can't even get a hearing before the Senate. We have the lowest childhood poverty in 20 years, and we had the biggest drop last year since 1966, but it's still way too high. We've got poverty among people over 65 below 10 percent for the first time in the history of the entire country, but poverty among our children is still too high.

We may have 90 percent of our schools hooked up to the Internet, thanks to the E-rate that the Vice President fought so hard for, to give a discount to the poorest schools. But there's still a digital divide, and it will have a huge impact unless we close it.

On Friday I signed a bill, H.R. 2879, which authorizes, appropriately, the placement of a marker commemorating Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial. I say that—if you go back and read that speech, part of it was, "I dream that one day certain things will happen and that everything will be all right," but part of it was a dream that we would just keep on working on our more perfect Union.

Read the pastor's letter. You do not have to become too political to say that we're having an election in which there are vast differences that will have vast consequences for the way we live together as a people. And actually, I think it's something we ought to be celebrating. We don't have to say anything bad about anybody running this year. Maybe part of the story the last 8 years is that I got to take all the poison out of the elec-

torate. [*Laughter*] I'm just glad you folks were there to administer the serum, or I wouldn't be here. [*Laughter*] But this could be a happy time. We ought to get up every day and thank God we're alive and all this good stuff is going on. We should be happy, happy about our country.

And then we need to imagine what kind of future we want and figure out the choices we have to make and which leaders are most likely to take us there. But I promise you, this is an election that is not only profoundly important, where we make a terrible mistake thinking because things are going well, it's not important—but it is one in which there are real choices.

The pastor's letter mentioned some: the choices on affirmative action and education, on appointments to the courts, on the nature of tax policy. But there are others. The pastor talked about sacrifice. You know, a lot of members of my party sacrificed their seats in Congress in 1994 because they voted in 1993 to get rid of the deficit, because when you have deficits and you have big debt, interest rates are high. The interest rates are high because the Government is borrowing money that you'd like to borrow, and there's not enough to go around, so the price of money goes up. It's not very complicated.

So now we're paying off the debt, and interest rates are lower. So one big decision you have to make is, do you want a bigger tax cut now, even if it means we don't get out of debt and interest rates stay high, or should we first say we're going to keep getting this country out of debt; we'll take what's left, give what we need to to education and health care and our children and our future, and take what's left and have a tax cut?

Let's go back to the theme of the sermon today. I think it's better to think about the future and keep getting us out of debt and keep the interest rates down. It also, by the way, is like a tax cut. If you keep interest rates one percent lower every year for 10 years, do you know what that's worth to you?—\$390 billion in lower home mortgages; \$30 billion in lower car payments; \$15 billion in lower college loan payments—by thinking about tomorrow.

But anyway, it's a choice. Some people disagree with that, and they make their case.

But don't pretend there's no difference, that it won't have any impact on you. It will have a huge impact, which decision we make.

There are differences in education policy, in health care policy, and environmental policy, and crime policy, and our foreign policy—arms control, and how we relate to Africa and the rest of the world. Just a ton of things here that you need to know—and you need to show—on election day.

The pastor mentioned Congressman John Lewis and what a great leader he was for civil rights, and how he came a long way from his little Alabama farm and a childhood when he stuttered so bad, he could hardly speak; and now he bellows his speeches in the Congress, and America listens. One of the greatest honors of my Presidency was walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge with John Lewis and Josea Williams and Coretta Scott King and Jesse Jackson on the 35th anniversary of the Selma march. And on that day, I gave a little talk which basically said, we still have bridges to cross.

Now, we're going to cross some bridges. The questions are, are we going to be walking in the right direction? Are we all going to walk across, or just a few of us? And if we all walk across, are we going to walk arm-in-arm, with outstretched hands instead of clenched fists?

I tell you, I look at the young children in this audience—the young girls in this audience that still have the time of giving birth to their own children ahead of them, because of this human genome project, a lot of these children will have—they'll be having babies within 5 or 10 years that have a life expectancy of 90 years. A lot of us that are moving into our later years, if we're lucky, the human genome project will give us a cure for Parkinson's, cancer, even the ability to reverse Alzheimer's before our time is done.

But, as I was reminded the other day when I met with the bishops of the Church of God in Christ, and I thought I was being kind of cute when I said to the head bishop, "You know, I wanted to come here and meet with some leaders who aren't term-limited"—I thought that was pretty funny. [Laughter] And the bishop looked at me and said, "Mr. President, we're all term-limited." [Laughter]

So I say to you, we're all just here for a little while. We've got to decide how we spend our time and what we care about. We're supposed to live with troubles, as well as good times. For whatever reason, God has blessed us all—me, most of all—to make this a good time. And now we're going to be judged on what we do with the good time.

We still have bridges to cross; we still have dreams to build for our children. The choices are stark and clear and will have great consequences. And we can say that with a happy heart today, honoring our opponents, not condemning them or criticizing them, or saying anything bad about them, but just going out like America was supposed to work all the time and making our choice.

But I am pleading with you—I have done everything I know to do to turn this country around, to pull this country together, to move us forward. I have done everything I know to do. But, you remember this, the best things are still out there; it's still out there. And as long as we keep striving for that more perfect Union, tomorrow will always be out there. But in order to do it, you have to show.

So talk to your friends, talk to your neighbors, talk to your family members, talk to your co-workers, and make sure nobody takes a pass on November 7th. Learn, decide, and choose.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Wallace Charles Smith, Shiloh Baptist Church, and his wife, G. Elaine; Coretta Scott King, widow of Dr. Martin Luther King; and civil rights activists Rev. Jesse Jackson and Josea Williams.

Remarks to the Congregation of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia

October 29, 2000

The President. Thank you so much. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. I want to thank Reverend Peterson and Mrs. Peterson and Reverend Jackson, all the staff and members of the Alfred Street Baptist Church family. I'd like

to say a special word of appreciation to the young choir and the choir director for the music. They were great. You made the rest of us feel pretty young again, there singing. [Laughter]

I am delighted to be here with a large number of folks from the White House. You saw them all stand up. [Laughter] You should know, we have—we actually have two ministers in the White House: Zina Pierre, who works in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Kevin Jefferson, who is the Deputy Director of Vice President Gore's Community Empowerment Board. They're doing their job every day.

I am also very grateful for one of your members who works with us, Ms. Jena Roscoe, who made sure I got here today. Where's Jena? She's here somewhere. Where are you? Stand up there. [Applause]

This church, I am well aware, is not just a Sunday church. You minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the people every day of the week, from nurturing border babies to promoting good health, to this habitat project that your pastor just told you how much you were giving to today. [Laughter] The Scripture says, "While we have time, let us do good unto all men." And a week from Tuesday, it will be time for us to vote.

I am grateful that your Representative in Congress, Jim Moran, came with me today. He is a very fine man and a great Member of Congress, and he's been a good ally of mine for these years I have served as your President, and I thank him. But for many reasons, I am especially grateful that Lynda Robb came with me today to be with you. You know, her husband, Chuck, has been your Governor, your Lieutenant Governor, your Senator. Her father, President Johnson, did more for civil rights than any President since Abraham Lincoln.

Lynda and Chuck have been friends of Hillary's and mine for almost 20 years now. We've seen our children grow up together. We served as Governor together. We have fought the battles of the last 8 years together. In the United States Senate, almost no one had more to lose than Chuck Robb by voting for my economic plan in 1993. You know, we'd been living on that deficit medicine so

long, we were pretty well hooked up. [Laughter] We were addicted.

I used to have a Senator from Arkansas named Dale Bumpers, who just retired, who used to joke that if he could write everybody in America \$200 billion worth of hot checks, he could show them a good time, too. [Laughter]

And I remember when I became President, Senator Robb knew he had to run for reelection the next year. And once you get in that big a hole, there's no easy way to crawl out; everybody has got to hurt a little bit. But, without blinking, he came in and voted for the economic plan, and he and—thanks to him and thanks to Vice President Gore—if we'd lost Chuck Robb, Vice President Gore never would have gotten the vote. By one vote, the narrowest of margins, it turned the economy around, got interest rates down, got things going again. And we've gone from the biggest deficits in history to the biggest surpluses.

I think you shouldn't forget that on election day, that he was there. But in so many other ways, large and small, Senator Robb always tries to do the right thing, even when it's not the popular thing. When it comes to civil rights and human rights, he's always tried to do the right thing. When it comes to the safety of our children on the streets, the Brady bill, assault weapons ban, 100,000 police, even if some big, powerful interest group is going to get mad at him, he just sort of stands up there and does the right thing.

I don't know how many times—there's been a time or two in the last 8 years I've tried to get him to vote against me. [Laughter] I have. I've said, "Chuck, what are you doing? You're from Virginia; you've got to run again." He'd just say, "It's the right thing."

When I normalized relations with Vietnam, Senator Robb, who probably saw more combat in Vietnam than any other combat veteran, stood by my side and said it was the right thing to do. So we've been friends a long time. And I'm highly biased, but I want you to know, there is not a braver person in the United States Congress, or a person more likely, day-in and day-out, no matter

what the pressures to do wrong are, to stand up and do right for you.

Now, mostly I came here to say thank you. You know, this is the first time in 26 years I haven't been on the ballot somewhere. [Laughter] I have been coming into African-American churches for almost 27 years now, listening, learning. And today my mind is both here, concentrated on the task at hand—which is to try to persuade you to go out and talk to every friend, family member, co-worker, and stranger on the streets you see between now and November 7th and drag them to the polls—but my mind is also wandering back over this amazing life the American people have given me and the people of my native State of Arkansas.

I've thought about all the early times in the 1970's I was in various churches. I can still remember the songs that were sung. I can still remember when I was in poor churches when they didn't have all the instruments, and men would sit in chairs around the singers and use spoons on their knees to provide the rhythm. I can still remember going to investitures of pastors in churches built for 200, where there were 300 people there and 8 choirs. And it was hot. And we couldn't tell whether the people were being seized with the spirit or just having strokes. [Laughter]

So I just came mostly to say thank you. I have a heart filled with gratitude that I have had the unusual opportunity to serve. I have tried to turn our country around, to move it forward, and to bring it together. I am proud that we have had an administration, from the Cabinet to our appointees—at least one of whom is a member of this church—to our judicial nominees, that looks like America.

I am grateful that we have had an economy that has not only given us the longest economic expansion in history but has benefited all Americans. We have the lowest African-American and Latino unemployment rates ever recorded. We have a 15 percent increase, after inflation, in income over the last 8 years for African-Americans; in just the last 3 years, it's almost 10 percent; 1.1 million African-Americans buying their own homes for the first time; child poverty at a 20-year low.

I am glad that this has been about more than economics. We're a more united country. We have the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years, the lowest crime rates in 26 years. The teen birth rate has dropped by one-third for African-American teens since 1991 alone—by one-third. For the first time in history, over 90 percent of our children have been immunized against serious childhood diseases. And for the first time in a dozen years, the number of people without health insurance is going down, because 2.5 million kids have been given health insurance under the Children's Health Insurance Program that was part of our balanced budget.

Listen to this: For the first time in history, African-American children are graduating from high school at the same rate as white children. And the number of African-American children taking advanced placement exams in the high schools is up 300 percent in just the last 3 years. It has tripled in the last 3 years—record college-going rate; and record levels of support through the HOPE scholarship, the lifetime learning tax credit, the Pell grant, and so many other things for our young people to go on to college.

Now, what I want to say to you is not, "Didn't we do great?" That's not why I came here. I came here to say thank you, and now it's your turn. I have done everything I could to turn our country around, to move it forward, to pull it together. But it is in the nature of, first of all, human beings, secondly, democracy, and thirdly, America, that there's always something to be done. And our public life always is about tomorrow.

When the framers of the Constitution wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—hey, they were smart guys. They knew that the world was about more than white male property owners. They weren't dumb. They knew what they were saying when they said all men are created equal. They knew they meant men, women, and kids. And they knew they meant blacks and whites and whoever else shows up—the Native Americans. They were not stupid.

I've got a copy of the only book Thomas Jefferson ever wrote, "The Notes on the State of Virginia." I believe it was the first printing; certainly, it was printed in the

1700's, before he became President. And there is in one of these chapters about a paragraph on slavery, but it's pretty obvious that Mr. Jefferson knew before he became President that it was a bad deal, and that it would have to fall, and that change would have to come. So we would start with a set of ideals, and then we would work on making our Union more perfect.

So that is the eternal purpose of America. And election time is your time to make a more perfect Union. It's your job. On November 7th, you count as much as I do. Your vote counts just as much—unless you stay home; then mine counts more than yours.

And there are still issues out there: racial profiling; affirmative action; diversity on the bench. I have named 62 African-American judges, 3 times the number of the previous two administrations combined, but—[*applause*]*—*wait a minute. That's not why I came here. I came here for you to think about your responsibility to the future. But there has never been an African-American judge on the Federal Court of Appeals here in Virginia for the fourth circuit, which has the largest number of African-Americans in the entire United States, because I have been trying for 8 years to do it, and for 8 years I have been blocked in the United States Senate. I appointed Roger Gregory from Virginia; I appointed two people from North Carolina. I have virtually gone out with a searchlight looking for people that could get by the folks in the Senate. They were all qualified. This was not about qualifications.

And so, in the year 2000, when we still don't have an African-American jurist on the Federal Court of Appeals and we're running over with qualified people, there's still work to do in this country.

While poverty among African-American children has dropped by almost 30 percent since I took office, it's still way too high. Poverty among people over 65 is below 10 percent, for the first time in the history of our country. But the poverty rate among our children is still nearly double that. There is still a digital divide. Even though we've hooked up 95 percent of our schools to the Internet, thanks to Vice President Gore's E-rate program, which gives a discount to poor schools, you and I know there's still a digital divide,

and if we don't close it, the world will not come together.

Well, there are lots of other issues, but you get the point. You know, I'm 54 now, and it looks younger every day. [*Laughter*] The pastor said it was young. And I can honestly say there has never been a time in my lifetime where we have had the longest economic expansion in history and lowest unemployment rate in 30 years, so we're moving in the right direction economically. But we also have declining crime, declining welfare rolls, declining teen pregnancy and drug abuse among young people, improving schools, improving health care coverage, and a cleaner environment. So you've got the economy getting better, the society getting stronger, with the absence of severe domestic crisis or external threat to our security.

We all know it's still a dangerous world, as the people of Virginia felt most of all when our USS *Cole* was attacked and we lost those fine young men and women sailors several days ago. But we are as free from external threat to our security and internal paralyzing crisis as we have ever been. And all these things are going well.

Now, what's the point of—why am I telling you this? Again, not to make you clap but to make you think. Everybody in this church over 30 has made at least one big mistake in your life not because things were going well at the time—poorly—but because they were going so well at the time, you thought you didn't have to concentrate anymore. Isn't that right? Is that true? Has everybody here over 30 made a mistake because things were going well in your life at least once? You didn't think you had to concentrate. At that moment, it's just going so well, everything is on automatic.

Nothing is ever on automatic—ever. Ever. And the reason I am here today is, I don't know if we'll have another chance in my lifetime, or yours, to go and vote as equals, to shape the future of our country—when you have economic prosperity, social progress, the absence of internal crisis, or external threat.

We can paint the future of our dreams for kids. We can figure out how to deal with the aging of America, how to save Social Security and Medicare when the baby boomers retire,

how to give all of our kids excellence in education, how to make the most of the scientific and technology revolution. The young women in this audience will be having babies, within 5 or 10 years, that have a life expectancy of 90 years because of the human genome project.

These young people behind me that sang for us so beautifully today, when they begin to have their children, just be a matter of a couple of years until they'll—every mother will come home from the hospital with a little gene card that will tell you everything about your baby's biological makeup. Some of it will be kind of scary, but at least you will know. And they will say, if you do these 10 things, you can dramatically increase your child's life expectancy.

We worry about the energy crisis now, but GM just announced they developed a car that gets 80 miles to the gallon. And yesterday I signed the Agriculture appropriations bill which funds research into energy—listen to this—and right now, some cars in America, but not many, run on ethanol. You know, that's basically, you make fuel from corn. And the problem with that is, it takes 7 gallons of gasoline to make 8 gallons of ethanol, so the conversion is not too good. But the chemists are working on cracking the resistance to this, and when they do, they estimate that you'll be able to make 8 gallons of ethanol with 1 gallon of gasoline; furthermore, that you'll be able to make it—you don't have to use corn; you can use rice hulls or even grass—anything.

Now, when that happens, all of you will be driving around in cars that will have the equivalent of 500 miles to the gallon. And the world will change.

Audience member. Amen! [*Laughter*]

The President. Now, why is that important? Because the 1990's were the hottest decade in a thousand years, and we don't want these kids and their children to grow up in a world full of storms and troubles and burned-up fields and global instability and wars because we couldn't take care of our environment.

So all this big stuff is out there. This is very exciting. I just hope I can stick around long enough to watch it unfold. It's really great. The best stuff is still out there. But

it all depends on the choices we make. And look, I don't have to—I shouldn't tell you who to vote for; you already know who I'm for. [*Laughter*] So this is not rocket science. But here's what I want you to know. You may not ever get another chance like this in your lifetime to vote in an election like this—ever. And those of us who are older have a solemn responsibility to tell that to the younger people who may take this for granted, who may think this kind of a ride just goes on and on and on.

You know, my first election was between Hubert Humphrey, Richard Nixon, and George Wallace. And my country was torn clean apart. This stuff does not last forever. We've got to make the most of this moment—number one.

Number two, there are—we can have a happy election. We don't have to say anything bad about anybody in this election. We don't have to badmouth—the Republicans don't have to badmouth the Democrats; the Democrats don't have to badmouth the Republicans. We can just posit, everybody is patriotic; everyone loves their family; everyone loves their country. Now, let's just see what they say and where they disagree.

But I'm telling you, there are huge differences on economic policy, on health care policy, on education policy, on crime policy, on environmental policy, on foreign policy, and how we deal with arms control and how we relate to Africa and other emerging areas of the world. And you need to know that.

One side believes that it would be better if we had a very large tax cut and we partially privatize Social Security and we spent a fair amount of money—even though to do this would get us back into deficit—because they believe that tax cuts grow the economy more than deficits hurt it.

Then one side, our side, believes that we ought to first say, "Let's stick with what works and keep paying this debt down; get the country out of debt, because if we get the country out of debt, we won't be borrowing money, and therefore, you can borrow money more cheaply." That's the biggest tax cut we can give everybody. If we keep interest rates one percent lower a year for a decade, do you know what that's worth to you? Listen to this: for the American people,

\$390 billion in lower home mortgages; \$30 billion in lower car payments; \$15 billion in lower college loan payments. That's a lot of money. But more important, it keeps the economy healthy.

But anyway, that's our view. Our view is, first things first; let's go on and get out of debt here. And then whatever is left we'll invest in our education, health care, our children, and then give people a tax cut we can afford. But there are differences. And you should listen to them and listen to us, and make up your mind. But don't pretend that there aren't any differences.

When I hear people say, "This is not really a very significant election," it makes me want to go head first into an empty swimming pool. [Laughter] I mean, this is—we really do have a good choice here; I mean, a big, clear, unambiguous, stark choice. We don't have to get upset; we don't have to get mad, but we need to be smart.

So I want to tell you, as I said, you know how I feel, but that's not what's important. What's important is how you feel, because on November 7th, you're just as important as the President. And I will say again, I have done everything I could do to turn the country around, move it forward, pull it together. I have loved doing it. It has been a joy for me. I am thrilled to see an election unfolding in a more positive environment than so many in recent years have. It is wonderful. But the only thing I'm concerned about is people believing that it doesn't much matter whether they vote, that the consequences are not great, that there aren't any significant differences. Those things are not true.

It matters whether you vote. It's the most important election in, arguably, that you've ever had to vote in, because you've never gotten to vote at a time when you could be completely faithful to your vision, to build a future of your dreams for your children.

So I implore you, show up. Call every friend, family member, co-worker, and half-way interesting-looking stranger you see on the street—[laughter]—between now and November 7th. It's a great chance for these kids here in this church to avoid some of the mistakes and trouble and heartbreak all of us had to live through—to keep making America the beacon of hope in the world.

What a great chance it is; what a great responsibility it is.

For me, I'm grateful—I'm grateful that I got to serve. I'm grateful that you stuck with me. I'm grateful that I got to serve with people like Jim Moran. I'm grateful that when I'm gone, I hope Chuck Robb will be left behind, because he is a rare bird. I want you to remember what I told you. I've known a lot of people in politics; I never saw anybody take more chances to stick up for little people and lost causes. I never, ever saw anybody do it in a tougher environment. And I think that kind of courage should be rewarded. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. John O. Peterson, pastor, and Rev. Ed Jackson, associate minister, Alfred Street Baptist Church; Reverend Peterson's wife, Joyce; and Jena Roscoe, Associate Director of Public Liaison, White House Office of African-American Outreach and Youth.

Remarks on the Budget and the Legislative Agenda and an Exchange With Reporters

October 30, 2000

The President. Good afternoon. This morning I had planned on coming here this afternoon to share good news about bipartisan progress on the budget. Our team worked all weekend and late, late into the night last night, indeed, into the early morning hours, to fashion a good-faith agreement with compromises on both sides that provided for the largest increased investment ever in the education of our children. We thought we had that agreement.

But instead of honoring it, the Republican leadership came back this afternoon and ripped it apart. Why? Because some special interest lobbyists insisted on it. They've insisted on a provision that would undermine the health and safety of millions of workers.

Six hundred thousand people lose time from work each year because of repetitive stress injuries on the job, injuries that cost American businesses about \$50 billion a year. Our proposal would save these businesses \$9

billion a year and save 300,000 workers the pain and suffering associated with the injuries. That's the cashier at the neighborhood grocery store, the office worker who works on a keyboard 8 hours a day, the nursing home worker who cares for our seniors.

Once again the Republican leadership has let the whispers of the special interests drown out the voices of the American people. Families should not have to choose between worker safety and their children's education.

We were on the verge of passing a landmark education bill, to hire highly qualified teachers to reduce class size in the early grades, to repair and modernize crumbling schools, to expand after-school programs, invest in teacher quality, and strengthen accountability to turn around failing schools. With the largest student enrollment in history, this budget would have honored our obligation to our children by investing more in our schools and demanding more from them.

If we could get this agreement, it would be a great bipartisan achievement. It was negotiated, until the early morning hours, by those authorized by the leaders in both parties to negotiate the agreement. But the Republican leadership is on the verge of abandoning it to put special interests ahead of the children's education. That is a mistake.

But make no mistake, this is not about a lack of bipartisanship. By working long and hard, we have reached a bipartisan consensus on the education bill. We also have bipartisan agreement on campaign finance reform, hate crimes legislation, raising the minimum wage, the Patients' Bill of Rights—all being blocked by the Republican leadership.

Congress is now 30 days into the new fiscal year without a budget. As I have often said, there is a right and a wrong way to conduct budget negotiations. When we have worked together, we have unfailingly made progress. When there is a genuine spirit of cooperation and compromise, we can accomplish great things for our people.

Last week, we came together with a forward-looking bill to fund our veterans and housing programs. Saturday, I signed legislation to fund our agriculture programs and provide vital assistance to farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. These bills didn't have everything I wanted. They had some

things I opposed. But we can't make the perfect the enemy of good progress. On balance, the bills were good for the American people. They were negotiated in good faith, and I signed them.

There is still more work to be done on education and on other priorities. We need to make headway on strengthening Medicare, providing needed resources to teaching hospitals, rural hospitals, home health agencies, and other providers, not just to HMO's.

I also believe we can have a tax bill that meets the test of fairness to children, seniors, millions of Americans without health coverage, and small business. Instead of meeting that test or even meeting with us, the Republican leadership has crafted their own partisan tax package and passed it on a largely party line vote.

Again, we have accomplished so much in this session of Congress in a bipartisan fashion. It has been one of the most productive sessions. But the most important legislation is still out there—the education of our children, plus the opportunity to raise the minimum wage, pass the new markets legislation, and provide needed tax relief, as well as to provide fairness to our immigrants and invest in the health care of our people.

I hope we can do this. It's not too late, and we can still work together to make an agreement. But it has to be one for the people and not the special interests.

Thank you.

Q. So what's the next step, sir? The election is a week and a day away. What do you do next?

The President. I don't know. They were up 'til 2:30 in the morning, and I came in this morning, and they said we had an agreement. Senator Harkin called me, absolutely ecstatic about the agreement. We had a good-faith compromise on this rule on labor stress injuries, which would have allowed us to proceed but would have delayed enforcement until the next election, so if they win and they want to reassess the worker safety thing, they'd have the opportunity to do it, but otherwise it would go into effect. It was an honorable compromise. The Republicans and the Democrats agreed on it, and then the Republican leadership blew it up. That's all I can tell you.

You know, when you look at what's been done in this bill for education, the idea that the bill would be wrecked over this is unbelievable to me.

“Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act”

Q. Mr. President, anything new on the “Latino Immigration Fairness Act”? Is there any progress, or is that completely stopped?

The President. No—well, we've made some progress, but it's not nearly what we think ought to be done, and we're continuing to work on it. I think, frankly, what happens to it depends on whether we can get agreement on the larger bill. There are lots of provisions in there, and we're working on it.

Legislative Branch Appropriations

Q. [Inaudible]—spending bill?

The President. I haven't decided yet. The bill itself is all right, but there's something that strikes me as a little wrong in taking care of the Congress and the White House when we haven't taken care of the American people. I just haven't decided what to do about it yet.

Republican Apology for Impeachment

Q. Mr. President, why do you think Congress, congressional Republicans should apologize to the country about impeachment?

The President. Well, first of all, I have nothing to say about that except I was promised faithfully that that interview would be done—released after the election, and I believed it. And the only thing I can say is, I doubt if you've read the whole interview, or you wouldn't have asked the question in that way. And I would just urge the American people, if they're hearing all this talk, to read exactly what was said. But I don't think it's appropriate for me to discuss any of this until I'm doing the wrap-up on my administration. Right now I think the American people should be focused on this election.

Oregon Assisted Suicide Law

Q. Mr. President, you've had some discussions today about the Oregon assisted suicide law. Would you sign a tax or spending bill that would block that Oregon law?

The President. Well, you know, I don't support assisted suicide, but the people of

Oregon did. My concern, frankly, right now is whether the bill, as written, would have a chilling effect on doctors writing medication for pain relief on terminally ill patients. And I'm concerned, therefore, about the way it's worded.

You don't want to—whatever your opinions about assisted suicide and whether the people ought to have a right to vote on it in a given State, we certainly don't want to do anything that would in any way undermine the willingness of physicians to write pain relief medication for fear they'll later be prosecuted if the patient dies.

So I'm a little—I'm concerned about that. And I know Senator Wyden is filibustering the bill, and maybe we'll work that out, too, before this is over. I hope we can.

U.S.S. Cole Investigation

Q. Do you now believe that Yemen will give American investigators all the access they need to witnesses and suspects in the U.S.S. *Cole* investigation, sir?

The President. I hope so. They were just great, the Yemenis were, in the beginning of this, the first phase of this work. And I think—there have been difficulties now, I think not because they don't want to find out who did it but perhaps because they are worried about having America deploy more resources in Yemen to do the investigation than they are. I think they feel comfortable that they can do it.

But what I argued to President Salih was that we ought to have a genuine joint investigation, that we have FBI people working with folks all over the world, in all different kinds of countries. When the Embassies were blown up in Africa, in both the nations involved, Kenya and Tanzania, we worked very closely with the local law enforcement officials, and we conducted a genuine joint operation.

We had quite a long discussion about it, the President and I did, on Saturday, I believe. And I hope that we can work it out, because I do believe that they want to know who did it, and I know that we have to find out who did it. There are some promising leads out there. We need to get on it as quickly as possible, because the problem in these things is that the trail can get cold. So

all I can tell you is we're working very hard, and I'm quite hopeful.

President's Travel

Q. Mr. President, if you go to California, which other States do you intend to visit during the last days of the campaign?

The President. Well, I'm not sure yet. We're working on a number of different options, and I want to do whatever will be most helpful. I know I'll go back to New York once. But I don't know what else we're going to do. We're working it out, and I think, really, since I'm not involved in the day-to-day operations, don't have access to the latest polls and all that, I—except indirectly—I think that that's a call others have to make. But we'll make a decision and do the best we can.

Q. Mr. President—

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—going to do?*

The President. Finish the business here. That's the most important thing. We've got to finish our business here. You know, I'm just sure that we have bipartisan agreement—not only on the Education/Labor bill but in these other areas we can get it, if the pressure from the interest groups on the leadership of the majority party in Congress don't thwart it. So we've just got to keep working at it, and that's what I intend to do.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:52 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen.

Statement on Signing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000

October 30, 2000

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1654, the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000."

I commend the bipartisan efforts of the Congress to pass a NASA authorization bill that funds my Administration's priorities, including building the International Space Station, improving Space Shuttle safety, reducing the cost of access to space through the

new Space Launch Initiative, and investing in outstanding science and technology.

I am disappointed, however, that this bill falls short of enabling NASA to conduct the most balanced, efficient, and effective space program. My Administration communicated significant objections and concerns with H.R. 1654 as it progressed through the legislative process. This bill satisfactorily addresses many of the key concerns; however, it limits NASA's flexibility to pursue a promising commercial habitation module for the International Space Station. It also includes several other objectionable provisions and fails to include all but one of the fourteen legislative provisions proposed by my Administration.

I have signed this bill today because it authorizes funding for a robust space and aeronautics program for the Nation.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 30, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 1654, approved October 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106-391.

Statement on Signing the Child Citizenship Act of 2000

October 30, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 2883, the "Child Citizenship Act of 2000." This Act confers U.S. citizenship automatically upon certain foreign-born children, including those adopted by citizens of the United States, who do not acquire U.S. citizenship at birth. This Act eliminates the need in many instances for parents to apply to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for Certificates of Citizenship for their children who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

Under prior law, foreign-born adopted children could be subject to removal if they did not acquire U.S. citizenship after being brought to the United States—even if they had lived their lives since infancy in the United States. While this Act will not remedy past cases where adopted children were deported, it will ensure that this unfortunate possibility will be eliminated for most noncitizen adopted children under the age of 18

and for all noncitizen children adopted into U.S. households in the future. I welcome this action to support families who adopt foreign-born children by removing an unnecessary impediment to citizenship for these and other foreign-born children.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 30, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 2883, approved October 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106-395.

Statement on Signing the Visa Waiver Permanent Program Act

October 30, 2000

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3767, the Visa Waiver Permanent Program Act. This Act will, among other things, make permanent a highly successful pilot program that for the past twelve years has permitted nationals of many countries to enter the United States for business and tourism without the necessity of first obtaining a U.S. visa, so long as U.S. citizens are granted similar privileges in their countries. By facilitating travel to the United States in this manner, the Visa Waiver Program is helping to generate billions of dollars in tourist and business revenues for U.S. companies. At the same time, it is fostering good will for the United States and an understanding of who we are as a people by giving to millions of citizens from participating countries an increased opportunity to visit our many natural wonders as well as the places that are vital to our national heritage.

The Visa Waiver Program is good for government, too. Because visitors from participating countries do not have to obtain visas, the Department of State is able to reallocate scarce resources from issuing routine visas in low-risk waiver countries to doing more for American citizens and combating fraud in high-risk countries. Further, the legislation contains a provision that removes a potential roadblock to continued participation in the program of many countries by recognizing, for purposes of reciprocity, common border areas composed of several states.

H.R. 3767 establishes new requirements that will strengthen the existing Visa Waiver

Program. For example, it contains provisions to enhance our security by requiring that within specified time frames all foreign nationals entering the United States under the program have machine-readable passports. Those passports are less susceptible to fraud and can more readily assist the Immigration and Naturalization Service to track the entry and timely departure of foreign nationals. Further, H.R. 3767 requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of State, prior to admitting a new country into the Visa Waiver Program, to consider the effect of the country's admission on the law enforcement and security interests of the United States. It also will require continual monitoring of those considerations with respect to all countries in the program. Finally, H.R. 3767 provides an emergency procedure for termination of a country's participation. This occurs when the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of State, determines that because of events in that country, such as a severe breakdown of law and order or economic collapse, the continued participation of that country would pose a threat to our law enforcement or security interests.

In addition to these provisions of the Visa Waiver Program, this Act also includes immigration-related provisions that will further the Administration's objective of promoting the rapid and pro-competitive privatization of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), a goal widely shared by INTELSAT member countries. By ensuring that the immigrant status of the current employees of this intergovernmental entity will not be adversely affected, the United States is affirming its commitment to a smooth privatization and expressing its desire to welcome a pro-competitively privatized INTELSAT as a valued U.S. corporate citizen.

In its pilot state, the Visa Waiver Program has been a great success. Now, as a result of this legislation, it not only will be a better program, but it will become a permanent part of our Nation's immigration system.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 30, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 3767, approved October 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106-396.

Statement on Signing the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001

October 30, 2000

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4205, the "Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001," which authorizes FY 2001 appropriations for military activities of the Department of Defense (DOD), military construction, and defense activities of the Department of Energy (DOE). While I have concerns with several provisions in this Act, I have determined that H.R. 4205 generally reflects my strong commitment to the Nation's security. It provides for critical national defense needs and priorities, maintains the readiness of our Armed Forces, supports my continued commitment to improving the quality of life for our military personnel and their families, and allows for the modernization of our weapons systems.

In particular, this Act authorizes key elements of my plan to improve military compensation, including my request for a 3.7 percent across-the-board increase in basic pay for our Armed Forces. I am also pleased that the Act authorizes my request for increases in housing allowances, which will reduce servicemembers' out-of-pocket expenses. In providing service members with a supplemental subsistence allowance, H.R. 4205 begins to address the concern the Congress and I share with regard to servicemembers. In addition, the bill provides military retirees access to prescription drugs with low out-of-pocket costs, a significant benefit. I strongly support enactment of the Administration's prescription drug benefit for all Medicare retirees through the Medicare program. As prescription drugs play an increasingly important role in health care, it is imperative that our seniors have prescription drug coverage. Finally, the Act provides comprehensive health care coverage to military retirees over the age of 65. Although I am concerned that the Congress fails to deal fully with the

high, long-term cost of this new benefit, I am pleased overall with the way the Act supports individuals, who dedicated so much to the service of our country.

I am also pleased that the Act supports my request for key programs to continue modernizing our military forces and reaffirms the \$60 billion in overall procurement funding I requested to meet the recommendation of the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review. I am encouraged that the Act includes funding for the Navy's LPD-17 Amphibious Ship, DD-21 (the next-generation destroyer), the F/A-18 E/F, the Air Force's F-22 tactical fighter aircraft, the Joint Strike Fighter, and support for the Army's transformation effort. These programs are critical to ensuring our Nation's military superiority into the 21st century. I am disappointed, however, that the Congress has again failed to support my proposal to authorize two additional rounds of base closure and realignment. The Department of Defense's base infrastructure is far too large for its military forces and must be reduced if the Department is to obtain adequate appropriations for readiness and modernization requirements during the next decade.

I am pleased that the bill includes a program to compensate individuals who have suffered disabling and potentially fatal illnesses as a result of their work in the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons complex. My Administration has advocated compensating these workers for their heroic sacrifices in a manner that is fair, science-based, and workable, and I commend those in the Congress and in my Administration who have worked tirelessly toward this goal. The passage of this legislation is very encouraging and, while there are constitutional concerns with this provision that I will interpret as advisory, I recognize that much work will need to be done to ensure that this program is successfully implemented so that these workers can be fully and fairly compensated for their sacrifices.

I am also pleased that the conferees included a provision transferring a majority of Naval Oil Shale Reserve No. 2 to the Ute Indian Tribe in Utah, and providing for cleanup of a former uranium mill tailings site near Moab, Utah, on the Colorado River.

About 84,000 acres would be returned to the Ute Indian Tribe.

H.R. 4205 also enacts provisions of the Directives I issued regarding the Navy range on Vieques, Puerto Rico. The Directives reflect an agreement with the Government of Puerto Rico that meets local concerns and enables our military personnel to resume training at Vieques. Like the agreement, the Act, most importantly, provides that the residents will determine through a referendum whether there will be any training at Vieques beyond that which is critical to the readiness of the Navy and the Marine Corps to conduct at Vieques. This is training with nonexplosive ordnance for no more than 90 days per year through May 1, 2003. In addition to \$40 million for projects to address the residents' current concerns related to the training, if they decide to allow the Navy to extend it, the Act authorizes \$50 million to provide benefits typically enjoyed by residents in the vicinity of important military installations.

The Act, additionally, requires the Navy to relinquish ownership of land not used for training. But, different from the agreement, it would have some of this land transferred to the Interior Department rather than local ownership and set a deadline for the transfer of May 1, 2001, rather than December 31, 2000. Further, if the Viequenses vote for all training to end, it requires the Navy to relinquish the land used for training, but would have most of that land transferred to Interior rather than the General Services Administration for disposal. These variations are relatively minor, but they are neither justifiable nor prudent. They are not justifiable because Interior and Puerto Rico would together manage the land not used for training that requires protection under either the Act or the agreement. Further, if the people of Vieques vote for all training to end May 1, 2003, there is no known reason why the Federal Government would want to continue to maintain most of the land used for training. The changes are not prudent because they resurrect a basic part of the issue that had largely been put to rest by the agreement—the military's credibility on Vieques community matters. We are, therefore, submitting legislation to further transfer the land at issue to Puerto Rican ownership or to GSA for dis-

posal as is appropriate. And the Navy will transfer the land that the Act already would transfer to local ownership by December 31.

I am concerned with two provisions of H.R. 4205 relating to the Department of Energy. First, the Act would limit to 3 years the term of office for the first person appointed to the position of Under Secretary for Nuclear Security at the Department of Energy and would restrict the President's ability to remove that official to cases of "inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office." Particularly in light of the sensitive duties assigned to this officer in the area of national security, I understand the phrase "neglect of duty" to include, among other things, a failure to comply with the lawful directives or policies of the President.

Second, I am deeply disappointed that the Congress has taken upon itself to set greatly increased polygraph requirements that are unrealistic in scope, impractical in execution, and that would be strongly counterproductive in their impact on our national security. The bill also micromanages the Secretary of Energy's authority to grant temporary waivers to the polygraph requirement in a potentially damaging way, by explicitly directing him not to consider the scientific vitality of DOE laboratories. This directs the Secretary not to do his job, since maintaining the scientific vitality of DOE national laboratories is essential to our national security and is one of the Secretary's most important responsibilities. I am therefore signing the bill with the understanding that it cannot supersede the Secretary's responsibility to fulfill his national security obligations.

I am disappointed that the Congress did not fund the chemical weapon destruction facility in Shchuch'ye, Russia. It is vital to U.S. security and nonproliferation interests to work with Russia to eliminate the 5,450 tons of modern, nerve agent munitions at this site. I urge the Congress to restore funding for this critical threat reduction program next year.

My Administration has worked hard to modernize our export controls and protect our national security while strengthening the global competitiveness of our high tech companies. Through our efforts, U.S. companies have been allowed to export computers that

do not pose a threat to our national security. That is why I asked the Congress to reduce the congressional review period required from 180 to 30 days before I can adjust the notification threshold for high performance computer exports. Although the bill makes an adjustment that is an improvement from the status quo (60 days, but excluding time when the Congress has adjourned sine die), this notification period is still too long. Neither U.S. national security nor the global competitiveness of U.S. companies will be well served by such delays.

The Act also would require the Department of Defense to contract only with U.S. air carriers that participate in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet program for the transportation abroad of passengers and property. This provision would limit the ability of the executive branch, including DOD, to use the narrow authority in current law to waive Fly America restrictions on international transport of U.S. Government passengers and property in cases where the United States receives "rights or benefits of similar magnitude." It could also impair the executive branch's ability to open foreign aviation markets, thus denying economic benefits to U.S. airlines, communities and consumers. My Administration strongly opposed this provision and favors its repeal.

I am disappointed that the conferees did not include hate crimes legislation in this Act. The hate crimes legislation would have enhanced the Federal Government's ability to prosecute violent crimes motivated by race, color, religion, or national origin, and would have authorized Federal prosecution of crimes motivated by a victim's sexual orientation, gender, or disability. I will continue to fight for this important legislation, and urge Congress to enact it before it adjourns.

The Act also raises other constitutional concerns. The constitutional separation of powers does not allow for a single Member of Congress to direct executive branch officers to take specified action through means other than duly enacted legislation. Thus, I will instruct the Secretaries concerned to treat congressional members' requests for the review and determination of proposals for posthumous or honorary promotions or appointments as precatory rather than man-

datory. Another provision establishes a Board of Governors for the Civil Air Patrol. Insofar as this Board is an office of the Federal Government exercising significant authority, the provision for the appointment of the Board's members would raise concerns under the Appointments Clause. Accordingly, I will instruct the Secretary of the Air Force, in issuing the regulations authorized by this provision, to retain a degree of control over the Board that appropriately limits its authority. Finally, because the Constitution vests in the President the authority and responsibility to conduct the foreign and diplomatic relations of the United States, the Congress cannot purport to direct the executive branch to enter into an agreement with another country, and thus I will treat such language as advisory only.

With respect to Government Information Security Reform, the Act directs the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to delegate certain security policy and oversight authorities to the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and another agency head. The policies, programs, and procedures established by the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and other agency heads will remain subject to the approval of and oversight by the President and by offices within the Executive Office of the President in a manner consistent with existing law and policy.

Finally, I have serious concerns with several personnel provisions. One provision of this Act requires the Secretary of Defense to authorize a pilot program for the resolution of equal employment opportunity complaints of civilian employees of the Department of Defense that waives procedural requirements of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Eliminating these procedural safeguards could leave civilian employees without important means to ensure the protection of their civil rights. Therefore, I am directing the Secretary of Defense to personally approve any pilot program, and that the Secretary approve no more than 3 pilot programs, 1 in a military department and 2 in Defense agencies. In order to assure that participation by civilian employees is truly voluntary, I am directing

that the pilots provide that complaining parties may opt out of participation in the pilot at any time. Finally, I am directing that the Secretary submit an assessment of the pilots, together with the underlying data, to the EEOC within 180 days of the completion of the 3-year pilot period.

I am also troubled by a provision affecting personnel demonstration projects that could undermine the merit system principles and might result in adverse budgetary consequences. I am, therefore, directing the Department of Defense to work with the Office of Personnel Management to resolve these issues before developing any plan to implement this new authority.

Notwithstanding these concerns, I have signed this Act because it demonstrates this Nation's commitment to the readiness and well-being of our Armed Forces and provides for a modernization effort that will ensure the acquisition of weapon systems with the technologies necessary to meet the challenges of this new century.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 30, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 4205, approved October 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106-398.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Rename the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act
October 30, 2000

Today, I am very pleased to sign into law H.R. 5417, which would rename the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, the "McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act."

I am deeply saddened by Representative Vento's recent passing. Representative Vento was a great friend of the poor and the homeless. His leadership on the issue of homelessness will be greatly missed in Minnesota and across the Nation.

Representative Vento was a key leader in the effort to secure the original passage in 1987 of the McKinney Act, the first and still the most significant Federal program to assist homeless persons. His commitment to those

left behind did not end with the passage of the homeless assistance bill. For over a decade he remained a leading voice for social justice on Capitol Hill, introducing legislation to expand and improve services to homeless people, and continually reminding his colleagues and the American people of our responsibility to our most vulnerable neighbors. Representative Vento was also a passionate advocate for affordable housing and protecting our Nation's natural resources.

Bruce Vento's passing represents a significant loss for Americans who care about ending homelessness, ensuring housing opportunity, and protecting the environment. Renaming the McKinney Act the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act will serve to regularly remind our Nation of Bruce Vento's passion for justice and the responsibility we each have for our homeless neighbors.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 30, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 5417, approved October 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106-400.

Statement on Signing the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000

October 30, 2000

Today, I am pleased to sign into law S. 1809, the "Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000." This legislation reauthorizes programs that support people with developmental disabilities and helps them achieve their maximum potential through increased self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration in all facets of life. The Act also adds important new authority to provide services and activities for families of individuals with developmental disabilities and the dedicated workers who assist them.

Since 1963, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act has made a crucial difference in the lives and futures of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Through this Act, Federal funds support the development

and operation of State Councils, Protection and Advocacy Systems, University Centers (formerly known as university affiliated programs), and projects of national significance. This crucial investment has provided the structure to assist people with developmental disabilities to pursue meaningful and productive lives. These programs have made community living possible for individuals across our Nation with significant disabilities. The Act has led to further Federal legislation in support of all people with disabilities. Therefore, it is only fitting that I am signing this legislation in the same year as the 25th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

When the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act was first conceived by President Kennedy, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, and Dr. Robert Cooke, the primary emphasis was on the advancement of scientific understanding, professional education, and ensuring access to, and safety of, institutional facilities. Later changes, as conceived by Dr. Elizabeth Boggs, Dr. Elsie Helsel, and others, focused on efforts of families, professionals, and State agencies to improve supports for all people with developmental disabilities. Today, the programs emphasize fundamental system change, including legal services and advocacy and capacity-building at the State and local levels. The focus is on listening to people with developmental disabilities as self-advocates, and helping people with developmental disabilities and their families obtain the information, assistive technology, and supports they need to make more informed choices about how and where to live. An important aspect of today's work is to ensure self-determination and access to supports for historically unserved and underserved populations across the Nation. To ensure continued progress in these areas, S. 1809 now includes performance-based accountability requirements.

The programs carried out through this Act improve and expand opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. My Administration is committed to working with Indian Tribes on a government-to-government basis to address issues of shared concern, and I encourage

the next Administration and Congress to explore ways for this legislation to provide appropriate roles for Indian Tribes and Native Americans pursuant to this legislation.

Investments in the freedom and the future of Americans with significant, lifelong disabilities are important investments in the well-being of our Nation. For these reasons, I am pleased to sign the "Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000."

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 30, 2000.

NOTE: S. 1809, approved October 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106-402.

Remarks at a Reception for African-American Religious Leaders

October 30, 2000

Thank you. Well, that was a monumental introduction. [*Laughter*] I asked Billy if he thought there was another church anywhere in America named Monumental. But it was a monumental introduction. He was reminding me—we were standing up here—that we met the first time at the civil rights museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. I was there looking at the exhibit where the statue of Daisy Bates faces the statue of Governor Faubus. The country has come a long way since then, thanks in no small measure to people like all of you. And I welcome you here.

I want to thank Rodney Slater—we've worked together almost 20 years—and my friend Caroll Willis. They came to work for me when I was running for Governor in 1982, and I was trying to do something that had never been done before. I had been elected; then I had been defeated; and I was trying to get elected again. And since you can't tell the voters they made a mistake, that's a pretty hard deal to sell. But we figured it out somehow.

I want to thank Ben Johnson, who runs our One America office here; Alvin Brown, who runs the community empowerment program that Vice President Gore has led so well; Reverend Zina Pierre, who works for

us here in Intergovernmental Affairs; and all the other people at the White House.

Later this week we're going to start a month-long celebration of the 200th anniversary of the White House. George Washington is the only President who never lived here, even though he commissioned this house and had the competition for the architectural plans. We've got downstairs a copy of the drawings that Thomas Jefferson presented anonymously, and he got beat in the competition by an Irish architect named James Hoban.

In the first of November 1800, John and Abigail Adams moved in here, and there was no furniture here. And Mrs. Adams hung up the wash in this room. So the room has kind of come a long way in the last 200 years, too. *[Laughter]* I think this is a pretty good way to begin the observance of the 200th anniversary of this grand old house, by having all of you here.

I also would like to especially note the presence in the audience of the two pastors who hosted me yesterday. I was out making visits, and Reverend Wallace Charles Smith of the Shiloh Baptist Church here in Washington and Reverend John Peterson of the Alfred Street Baptist Church of Alexandria, Virginia, thank you for having me yesterday. I had a great time. And I appreciate that.

I asked you to come here for two reasons today; first and foremost, to say thank you. Thank you for giving me the chance to serve. Thank you for urging me along the way to try to get me to serve better. Thank you for watching my back and always pushing me ahead at the same time. Thank you. It's been a great 8 years, and I've got 11 weeks more, and I'm going to milk everything I can out of it for the American people—*[laughter]*—do every good thing I can possibly get done.

And the Republicans—we've actually made a bunch of agreements with them here that have been good for the American people. I thought we had one on schools last night; it's the best one that we've ever had in 8 years. And then today they decided it wasn't such a good agreement after all. They're kind of drawing back. But maybe I can—if you all pray over them tonight, maybe I can get them to come on back here and do this agreement we made last night.

So I thank you for that. The second thing, obviously, is that I wanted to say a few words about today and tomorrow. In America, our public life is always about tomorrow, and that's the thing that I appreciate so much. I look out here in this room, and I see people I've known here for over 20 years. And you still come because you don't get tired doing good. You know that that's the admonition of the Scripture, and you're still doing it.

And I thank you for that. But we have to look ahead here. And I'm going to—when the Congress goes home, I'm going to go out and make a few visits around the country and try to do what I can to persuade the people that they ought to go and vote, and they need to understand what the issues are.

But just let me ask you this. If I had told you 8 years ago that, by now, we'd all come here and gather, and we'd have 22 million new jobs and the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years and the longest economic expansion in history and the lowest African-American unemployment rate ever recorded and the biggest drop in child poverty in 35 years, the lowest poverty rate in 20 years, the highest homeownership in history; that we would have the lowest crime rate in 26 years, the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years; that we'd have people without health insurance, the number of those folks going down for the first time in a dozen years; that the dropout rate would be down; the test scores would be up; the African-American high school graduation rate would equal the white rate for the first time in history; there would be a 500 percent increase in the number of African-American kids taking advanced placement courses, with the highest college-going rate in history; and that, oh, by the way, we'd have a decline in teen pregnancy to historic lows, a big drop in teenage drug use, and cleaner air, cleaner water, safer drinking water, safer food; more land set aside for the future of all generations than at any time since Theodore Roosevelt was President, almost 100 years ago—if I told you that 8 years ago, would you have believed these were 8 years well-spent that we did together? I think it's pretty good.

Now, so here's what I want to say. It's always about tomorrow. Our Founders were smart people. I mean, they were real smart,

you know? They knew that God didn't only create white male property owners. When they said we're all created equal, they didn't say only white male property owners were created equal. And they knew that they weren't exactly living up to the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. And that's why they committed us to an eternal journey toward "a more perfect Union," right? They were smart. They knew there would never be a perfect Union. They never said, "We're going to make a perfect Union." They said, "We have joined together to make 'a more perfect Union,'" which meant that every succession of Americans down all the way to the end of time would always know they had something to do to measure up to these absolute ideals.

Now, 8 years ago, we had a troubled economy, a divided society, and a paralyzed political system. Today, we've got the strongest economy in history. We're making progress in all areas of the society. We are more united than we were before. We entered this new century and this new millennium in very good shape. And now, before the American people looms an election, the first election of the 21st century. And people will decide in 8 days who the new President and Vice President will be, who will be in the United States Senate, who will be in the United States Congress, and a number of other important elections. They will decide by how they vote, and they will decide by whether they vote.

Because, make no mistake about it, not voting is a decision. That's a decision to let somebody who disagrees with you have their way. So I want you in the days that remain to make sure that everybody knows what the choices are and what the consequences are.

In my lifetime we have never had an election like this—ever. Not once have we ever had an election with so much prosperity, so much social progress, with the absence of a domestic crisis or a threat to our security from around the world. Are there problems at home and abroad? Of course, there are. There always will be, down to the end of time. Scripture says that. But we have never, ever, ever held an election in this sort of environment before, not in the lifetime of anybody in this room.

Is that right? And sometimes it's harder to make a good decision in good times than bad times. Anybody that's over 30 has made a decision and a mistake at some point in your life not because things were going so badly, but because they were going so well, you thought you had to—you could just stop concentrating. Isn't that right? So what does America have to do in the next 8 days? Concentrate.

This is a very important time. We may never have another time in our lifetimes like this to build the future of our dreams for our children. And I would just like to make a couple of statements about it. Number one, in order to do what we need to do, we've got to keep this prosperity going and expand it. And if you want to do that, we've got to keep paying down the debt and investing in our future.

The Vice President wants to pay down the debt and take the money that's left after you get on the schedule to pay the debt down and use that to invest in education, health care, the environment, national security, and give the people a tax cut we can afford. Why is that important? Because as long as you're paying down the debt, you'll keep interest rates lower—interest rates lower for your parishioners, for a decade, a percent a year a decade—\$390 billion in lower home mortgages, \$30 billion in lower monthly car payments, \$15 billion in lower college loan payments. Never mind the credit cards or the business loans—cheaper—which means more businesses, more jobs, and a better stock market.

It's really important. People ask me all the time, "What great new idea did you and Bob Rubin bring to Washington?" And I always say, "Arithmetic." [Laughter] We brought—now you laugh, but this is serious. You've got to talk to folks about this. Everybody can understand this. We brought arithmetic back to Washington. How many times did they tell you the budget was going to be balanced, you know, that this money was going to appear out of thin air? How many times did we hear that? And the deficit was bigger and bigger and bigger, and the debt of this country quadrupled. Now we're paying it down.

We will have paid over \$340 billion of the national debt when I leave office—paying it

down. And that's why interest rates are down, and that's why the economy has worked.

And this is a message that I think African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, and all other Americans ought to hear together. We've got to keep arithmetic here. You know, this is a job. It's not just a speech; it's a job. And one of the jobs is to be the monitor of the arithmetic. I'm just telling you, it's arithmetic.

And I know it's hard for folks—it may be even hard for you; sometimes it's hard for me—to keep up with a trillion here and a trillion there, you know? How many zeroes is that? But if the surplus is supposed to be \$2 trillion—and that's high; believe me, it won't be that high because of the money that's been spent in this Congress—true. And our friends in the other party, they say, “We want a tax cut that plus interest is 1.6, and we would like to privatize Social Security, a little bit, and that's 1.” Forget about the zeroes, 1.6 and 1. “And we want to spend some money, too, about a half a trillion.” That's 0.5. Well, if you add 1.6 and 1 and 0.5 together, you've got 3.1. And arithmetic says that's bigger than 2. [Laughter]

That means you're back into deficit; you've got higher interest rates; you're spending all that Social Security money everybody has promised not to spend. Now, this is not rocket science; this is arithmetic. But everybody in America can understand it if they know it.

I've worked so hard. I don't know what else I can do to turn this economy around. We've worked hard on it. We've tried to stay on top of it. You know, there have been a lot of sophisticated decisions around the edges, and we've worked to expand trade and an increase in education and training and all that. But it all begins with arithmetic. You get the arithmetic wrong in a country; you have to pay the price just like you get the arithmetic wrong on your check book.

So that's the first thing I hope you'll tell people. The Vice President was part of every important budget decision we made. He cast the tie-breaking vote for the economic plan in 1993. He understands the price we've all paid to make the arithmetic work and how important it is to keep the expansion going.

The second point I want to make is, there are honest differences here. I'm so pleased that this has been basically a positive campaign and people aren't bad-mouthing each other too much. I like that. Why do we have to say anything bad about our opponents? They're not our enemies, after all; they're just our opponents. This is America. So we've been able to say, “Okay, all these folks are good folks. They love their families. They love their country, and they have different ideas.” But, you know, they have different ideas. [Laughter]

And if the crime rate is lower and the number of people without health insurance is going down and test scores are going up and the college-going rate is at an all-time high and the environment is getting cleaner and the Vice President wants to build on the ideas and the progress instead of reverse the policies, it seems to me that ought to be worth something.

So, question number one, do you want to keep the prosperity going and extend it to people who have been left behind? Question number two, do you want to build on the social progress? Question number three, what about one America? How are we going to go forward together?

Should we have hate crimes legislation or not? Should we have a Medicare prescription drug program that applies to all of our seniors who need it, or just some? Should we have a Patients' Bill of Rights that really gives everybody the right to be protected and let their doctors make their medical decisions? Should we have stronger enforcement of the equal pay for women law, or not? Should we keep trying to improve affirmative action but not end it, or not?

What kind of people should be on the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals? And is this new trend that we've seen from the conservative majority that now is only five, of restricting, restricting, restricting the Federal Government's authority to enact legislation to protect and promote the interests of the America people—is that a good trend, or not?

And what about the role of the President as not just the doer but the stopper? Would it be a good thing if the Republican party had the White House and the Senate and

the House, with no one there to say no if they had another 1995 where they voted to abolish the Department of Education and had the biggest education and environmental cuts in history and the highest Medicare premiums, or not? Would that be a good thing? People need to think.

But if you ask me what counts, I think what counts is: One, keeping the prosperity going; two, building on the progress, not reversing it; three, keep working for one America; four, have a President who's there in case the Congress tries to go too far in one direction; and five, have somebody there that you know you can count on in a crisis.

I'll tell you, we've been through some. When we tried to turn back the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Kosovo, Al Gore was there. When we worked for peace in the Middle East and Northern Ireland, Al Gore was there. When we had to decide whether to give financial aid to Mexico when a poll said 81 percent of the American people were against it and I had to decide in 5 minutes whether to do it or not, Al Gore was there.

And I could give you countless other examples. The Vice President has demonstrated conclusively since the convention that he is an independent person, that he will be his own President. But I can tell you what I know from 8 years. He is a good person who will be a great President.

And, you know, I'm not running for anything this year. Most days I'm okay about it. I've had so much fun working for Hillary and working for Al. I've had so much fun. I must say, I used to not understand it when Hillary used to tell me she just hated to come to my debates. Now I can't even watch one of hers in front of somebody else. I just get nervous as a cat, you know?

This is very interesting to—role for me, but I do feel that the country has been so good to me; I have been so blessed. I got to serve here, and I have learned things here that maybe you can only learn when you've been President. But I know this: I know we've got to keep this prosperity going because we haven't yet embraced everybody. And we've got a lot of work to do on that. I know if you've got a policy that's driving down crime and driving down welfare and improving the environment without hurting

the economy, and giving health insurance to more people and improving education and turning around failing schools, we ought to be building on it, not walking away from it.

I know that as long as we're coming together across racial and religious and the other lines that divide us, we're going to be okay, because the American people are smart people. They'll get it figured out, whatever the problems are. And I know that this office would be well served by someone who really knows and understands the challenges it faces, who can be a restraining influence if the elements in the other party in Congress try to go too far, and who desperately wants the best for this country in the future.

Now, these are simple little arguments, starting with arithmetic, going to sticking with what works, going to the fact that we all have got to go forward together, going to the fact that hard work and experience and a proven record of making good decisions counts for something. If you can just make those arguments and then contrast them and let people decide what they agree with on the consequences, then we should be happy, however this election comes out, because that's what America is about. But, you know, if our folks show and they know, you know what will happen. If you get show and know, you know what will happen.

This election is not fundamentally about race, although there are still racial issues to be resolved and racial outreach to be done. But if you raise the minimum wage, that helps everybody. And if you don't, it hurts everybody. If we have hate crimes legislation, I think it makes everybody stronger. I don't think that—I think the overwhelming majority of white Americans and Americans without regard to party, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, favor that. It's just one of—it's the same thing with the Patients' Bill of Rights.

But there's so much to be done; all the best stuff is still out there, stuff we can do on education and health care and economic opportunity, in science and technology. But you've got to remember these simple things: You've got to make the economy go with arithmetic; you've got to build on the social progress, not reverse it; you've got to build one America; and you've got to have a strong

leader who understands these issues, not afraid to take a stand, with a proven record of achievement that will deliver for you and deliver for you. Ask Billy Kyles. Billy Kyles knows Al Gore as well as anybody in this room today, except me.

So this is an unusual election. We normally have some terrible thing that we're all full of anxiety about. Now we've got to go out and whip people up about positive things. We want everybody to be happy but empowered, not threatened but free to have a vision, not looking down on anybody but trying to lift up everybody.

This is going to be an interesting exercise in civics, to see if we can handle all this prosperity and this good news and make it through. But, you know, most of the time the American people get it right, or we wouldn't be around here after 224 years. And when we have these big forks in the road, they normally make the right decision, or all of us sure wouldn't be here, either because of the color of our skins or because we were the first ones in our family to get any kind of a decent education.

This is a very great country. It moves in mysterious ways. But clarity is our friend here. You just think about that. I told the Congress the other day what I'll tell you. When you walk out of here, I want you to imagine yourself as America's weather corps for one more week, and you're going to go out there and make it clear.

When I was a kid, we had a guy in my home State that tried to make a killing off the farmers because he said he could make it rain. He thought he could make it rain. People actually paid him to go up and get in a little airplane and drop pellets in the clouds, you know? And they're still waiting. [Laughter]

You don't want to make it rain. You want to make it clear. You want to make the Sun shine. You want to make all these issues bright and shiny and crystal and simple and direct. This is not complicated. The American people are fortunate they have two clear, very different choices; two good people who love their country and will do exactly what they intend. [Laughter] And this is good. I mean, we're laughing. This is a good thing.

This is about keeping the prosperity going, not putting it at risk; building on the progress, not reversing it; continuing to build one America with everything from the court appointments to the executive appointments to the advocacy of legislation; relating to the rest of the world, including Africa and Latin America and places that have been left behind before we came along. I saw the way you responded to that with genuine seasoned judgment and wisdom and passion.

Listen, we've got a good nominee. We've got a good leader. We've got a good story to tell. Just ask people to remember what it was like 8 years ago, what it's like now. And then ask people to imagine what they want it to be 4 and 8 years from now.

Just lift people up. Get everybody to take a deep breath. Blow the clouds away. Be America's weather corps. We'll have a great celebration in 8 days.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:13 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Samuel (Billy) Kyles, pastor, Monumental Baptist Church of Memphis, TN; Caroll Willis, director, community service division, Democratic National Committee; and former Secretary of the Treasury Robert E. Rubin.

Statement on Returning Without Approval to the House of Representatives the Legislative Branch and the Treasury and General Appropriations Act, 2001

October 30, 2000

I am returning herewith without my approval, H.R. 4516, the Legislative Branch and the Treasury and General Appropriations Act, 2001. This bill provides funds for the legislative branch and the White House at a time when the business of the American people remains unfinished.

The Congress' continued refusal to focus on the priorities of the American people leaves me no alternative but to veto this bill. I cannot in good conscience sign a bill that funds the operations of the Congress and the White House before funding our classrooms,

fixing our schools, and protecting our workers.

With the largest student enrollment in history, we need ad budget that will allow us to repair and modernize crumbling schools, reduce class size, hire more and better trained teachers, expand after-school programs, and strengthen accountability to turn around failing schools.

I would sign this legislation in the context of a budget that puts the interests of the American people before self-interest or special interests. I urge the Congress to get its priorities in order and send me, without further delay, balanced legislation I can sign.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 30, 2000.

NOTE: This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 31. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Memorandum on Implementation of Section 1111 of H.R. 4205, the “Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001”

October 30, 2000

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Implementation of Section 1111 of H.R. 4205, the “Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001”

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4205, the “Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001.” Section 1111 of this bill authorizes you to create a pilot program to resolve equal employment opportunity complaints by civilian employees of the Department of Defense that is not subject to certain procedural requirements prescribed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The EEOC is responsible for equal employment opportunity throughout the Government and it has longstanding expertise in this area. My Administration recently completed a major regulatory initiative to make the Federal equal

employment opportunity process fairer and more effective. To operate any pilot program that eliminates the procedural safeguards incorporated in that initiative would leave civilian employees without important means to ensure the protection of their civil rights.

For these reasons, I am directing that the following steps be taken in the implementation of this provision:

- First, you must personally approve the creation and implementation of any pilot program created under section 1111 of H.R. 4205.
- Second, you must approve the implementation of this pilot program in no more than one military department and two Defense agencies.
- Third, in order to ensure that the participation in these pilot programs by civilian employees is truly voluntary, I direct you to ensure that the pilot programs provide that complaining parties may opt out of participation in the pilot programs at any time.
- Fourth, I direct you to submit an assessment of the pilot programs, together with the relevant underlying data, to the EEOC within 180 days of the completion of the 3-year pilot program period.

These steps will ensure that important civil rights of civilian employees of the Department of Defense are protected while preserving congressional intent with regard to the creation of the pilot programs.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 31. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Remarks on Departure for Louisville, Kentucky, and an Exchange With Reporters

October 31, 2000

Veto of the Legislative Branch and the Treasury and General Appropriations Act, 2001

The President. Good morning—or good afternoon. We are now a full month past the end of the fiscal year and just a week before

election day. Congress still hasn't finished its work. There is still no education budget. There is still no increase in the minimum wage, still no Patients' Bill of Rights or hate crimes bill or meaningful tax relief for middle class Americans, even though all these measures have strong bipartisan support in the country and in the Congress.

Today I want to talk about an appropriations bill the Congress did pass. The Treasury/Postal bill funds these two departments, as well as the operations of Congress and the White House. Last night, I had no choice but to veto that legislation. I cannot in good conscience sign a bill that funds the operations of Congress and the White House before funding our schools.

Simply put, we should take care of our children before we take care of ourselves. That's a fundamental American value, one that all parents strive to fulfill. I hope the congressional leadership will do the same. We can and we will fund a budget for Congress, but first let's take care of the children, investing more in our schools and demanding more from them, modernizing old schools, building new ones, reducing class size, hiring more and better trained teachers, expanding after-school programs, and turning around failing schools.

With the largest student enrollment in history, the education budget should be our first priority. Yet it seems to be the last things on the mind of the Republican leadership. Just 2 days ago, we were on the verge of making bipartisan progress with a landmark budget for children's education. We thought we had a good-faith agreement with honorable compromises on both sides. That was before the special interests weighed in with the Republican leadership. And when they did, the Republican leadership killed the education bill, a careful agreement that both Democratic and Republican congressional leaders had reached.

As I have said repeatedly, the path to progress is one we have to walk together. We have shown we can do it. Let me say again, a bipartisan coalition stands ready to pass an education budget, to raise the minimum wage, to pass a Patients' Bill of Rights, a hate crimes bill, and a tax bill that is good for children, families, seniors, and small busi-

ness, and millions of Americans without health coverage.

So again, I ask the Republican leadership to set aside partisanship, go back to negotiations, reach honorable compromise. The final week of the election season is a perfect time to recall the basic bargain of our democracy. It's the American people who sent us here; it's our obligation to meet their priorities. So let's roll up our sleeves, get back to work, and finish the work we were sent here to do.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, congressional Republicans assert that there was an arrangement, an understanding with the Treasury/Postal bill and the Transportation bill, that when they agreed to place more money in the IRS fund at the specific request of the White House, there was an understanding that you would then sign the Treasury/Postal bill, and there would be no questions asked about this underlying pay raise issue. A spokesman for the Speaker's office said, and I'm quoting here, sir, "He lied. Bill Clinton's word has less value than a dollar bill in the Weimar Republic." Would you care to comment, sir?

The President. Well, it's just not true. Nobody ever asked me, and I didn't do it. And I believe that was only reported one place today. It just didn't happen.

I talked to our people about it, and they said, quite to the contrary, even though we negotiated over the Treasury/Postal bill and I would gladly sign it, as I said, if they would pass the education bill, we in fact asked them not to send it down here because, among other things, it had a very low-priority tax cut in it, for them—not just for me but for them—because we thought it would be wrong for them to take care of themselves and for us to take care of ourselves here without taking care of the children of the country. So we, in fact, implored them not to send that bill down here. Mr. Podesta and the rest of my staff just told me that today. And they have assured me—I got my senior staff together—they have assured me no one on the White House staff pledged to sign that bill.

So you know, that's not so. But what is true is the headline that is in the Washington Post this morning. The Republicans and the Democrats negotiated in good faith, and both

wanted this education bill. There was a big majority for this in both Houses of Congress. But the leadership of the Republican Party killed it because of the lobbyists on K Street. Now, that's what happened. And it's not right. And we ought to go back to the agreement that was made.

You know, wherever we work together and we get majorities of both Houses and both parties, we do fine. It is the leadership of the other party in Congress and its excessive sensitivity to the special interests that has kept so many of these things from passing. Why in the world could you justify not passing a hate crimes bill, for example, when a majority of both Houses is for it, you've got plain bipartisan majority? I think we all know the answer to that.

So look, we've still got time to do this, and we ought to do it. I'll do my best to do it. There is no point in getting upset and name calling. Facts are facts. The one fact is indisputable, that we had a process set up; there was an agreement reached; the hard-working Republicans and Democrats worked until 2:30 in the morning. And they showed up with the agreement, and their leaders wrecked it. They said, "But our special interests won't like this. I'm sorry." Now, those are the facts, and they are indisputable.

So we just need to go back to work here and calm down and do what's right.

"Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act"

Q. Mr. President, the "Latino Immigration Fairness Act" consists of three major provisions. My question is, are you going to fight for all three of them? And you—your people—and I think you may have said it yourself—would veto the State/Commerce and Justice appropriation bill if it did not contain the "Latino Immigration Fairness Act"?

The President. I feel very strongly about that. As I said, the Congress is—the leadership of the Republican Party is against it because they say that—apparently they think they made a mistake with the Cuban and Nicaraguan immigrants, and they don't want to make the same mistake with the others.

I think they did the right thing with them and should do the right thing by the other immigrants. That's what I think. So we're fighting for it, and we'll see.

But I just want—I want to start these negotiations again and get back to work. I think that's the important thing. And I think—I didn't have any choice to do what I did last night. I didn't want to do it, but you know, we just can't—we cannot run the Congress in a way that says we can have an agreement, we can put our kids first, we can get the Republicans and Democrats together, and then the leadership of the Republican Congress can just say, "I'm sorry, our interest groups don't like this; they won't accept it. And so never mind what happens to the 52 million kids that are out there in our schools." We just can't do that. And that's the real story here. It's an astonishing development here, after all we've been through these last 6 years, to see this happening again. And it's very sad, and I hope we can get by it in the next 8 days—7 days.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:36 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks at a Kentucky Democratic Rally in Louisville

October 31, 2000

The President. Thank you very, very much. Thank you. Let me say first of all, did Eleanor give a good speech, or what? That was amazing. [Applause] You know, I have some passing experience at these kinds of events. [Laughter] And I was sitting there thinking, this girl is good. She is really good.

I want to say more about her in a moment, but I also want to tell you how honored I am to be back in Kentucky with your great Governor, Paul Patton, and his wife, Judi, who have been such good friends of mine. My longtime friend who had so much to do with much of the good things that Al Gore and I were able to accomplish in Washington, Senator Wendell Ford, we miss you. Thank you. With your great mayor, who owes some of his success to the fact that he and I were born in the same little town in Arkansas—Hope, Arkansas. Thank you so much, Dave Armstrong, for doing a good job here.

I thank your State party chair, Nikki Patton, for being here, and for all you Democrats who have showed up to hear a guy who

is not running for anything this year. [*Laughter*] I want to thank our young president of the school's Young Democrats here, Rashi Sheth. Didn't he do a good job today? Let's give him a hand. [*Applause*]

And I want to thank Charlie Owen for chairing the Gore/Lieberman campaign. But I'm especially here, as all of you know, to support Eleanor Jordan. She represents the best in our party, the best in our country, and what we need for the future of our Congress.

You know, Kentucky has been awfully good to me. I was standing up here on the stage thinking about the first time I came to Kentucky as a Governor—listen to this—in 1979. I served with six Kentucky Governors, counting Governor Patton, who has been with me this whole time in the White House. And I love this State, and you have been so good to me.

You've been so good to me and Hillary and Al and Tipper Gore. You voted for us twice, given us a chance to serve America. And you know, the temptation in a rally like this where it's hot and we're all committed—[*laughter*]*—*is, just sort of give one of these hallelujah speeches and go on and get out of here, you know, because we all know that we're for Eleanor and we're for Al and Joe, and we know why we're here.

But let's face it. All over America and here in Kentucky, these races are close. And I believe they're close because times are good, and people are relaxed, and everybody running seems like a nice person, and they all sound good.

We've taken a lot of the poison out of America's life. And I'm proud of that, and I'm glad that we're not having all that poison. But nonetheless, it is quite important that we acknowledge that not just Democrats but Republicans are good people who love their country and will do what they think is right. And we ought to be in a good humor in this election year, because we're a better country and a stronger country and a healthier country than we were 8 years ago.

But that does not mean that just because things are going so well and we're all being nice that there are no differences, that there are no consequences, and that we don't have to show up on election day.

So what I would like to ask you to do is just indulge me one more time for a few minutes and let me make the arguments that I hope you will go out across this district and across this great State and to your friends beyond the borders of Kentucky and share with them between now and election day why they ought to vote, what the stakes are, and what the consequences are. Because I believe, in profound ways, that this election is every bit as important as the one which sent Al Gore and me to the White House 8 years ago.

Why do I say that? Because we've done everything we could do to turn the country around and move it forward, to pull it together. But all the best things are still out there. We have a chance for the first time in my lifetime to conduct a national referendum on our dreams.

Eleanor talked—had that wonderful quote from Benjamin Mays about dreams. We have never in my lifetime had this much prosperity, this much social progress, the absence of domestic crisis and foreign threat to our security. We can use this election to dream our dreams and decide how to get there. But in order to do it, we have to be quite clear not on saying our opponents are bad folks, but saying we have honest differences, and here are the consequences to those decisions, so then the people can go and vote, and all of us can accept the result happily as democracy working.

But those of us who have strong convictions about who should be President, who should be Vice President, who should be Senator or Congressman, we can't let the next 7 days go by without doing everything we can to make sure that all of our fellow citizens understand how important it is that they go to the polls and how important it is that they understand the real and honest differences.

Now, look at 8 years ago, when you gave Al Gore and me a chance to go to Washington. We had an economy in terrible trouble, a society profoundly divided, a political system that was paralyzed. And we asked you to give us a chance to go up there and give the Government back to you; to provide opportunity for every responsible citizen; to create a society in which we were more of

a community, in which we didn't run our national politics trying to divide one group against another, but saying that we all have to go forward together; in which we reached out to this amazing new world we're living in and had America as a friend and a supporter of peace and freedom and prosperity everywhere, and where it would help us here at home. And I think you'd all agree it's worked pretty well.

In 1993, when I took the oath of office, unemployment in Kentucky was 6.3 percent; today, it's 3.8 percent. As Eleanor said, we have, nationally, over 22 million new jobs, over 300,000 here in Kentucky; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; child poverty reduced by a third; the lowest unemployment in 30 years; the lowest African-American unemployment ever recorded, the lowest female unemployment in 40 years; the longest economic expansion in history; and the highest homeownership ever. That is the difference in now and 8 years ago.

Question number one: Should we keep this prosperity going and extend it to people in places that are left behind? What is the Gore/Lieberman/Jordan proposal? Keep paying down the debt; keep interest rates low; keep the economy going. Take what's left; invest it in education and health care, and give the people a tax cut we can afford.

Now, Eleanor's opponent and the others, they say, "We've got a surplus. We'll give three-quarters in a tax cut and spend a lot of money and privatize Social Security, and well, so what if we go into deficit a little bit?" I'll tell you what, so what. If we keep paying this debt down, interest rates will be a percent lower every year for a decade. Do you know what that's worth to the American people?—\$390 billion in lower home mortgages, \$30 billion in lower car payments, \$15 billion in lower college loan payments, lower business loans, more jobs, more growth, a stronger economy. It's a clear choice. If you want to keep the prosperity going, vote for Eleanor Jordan for Congress.

This is about more than money and more than economics. We have the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years, the lowest crime rates in 26 years. Teen pregnancy and drug abuse are down. There are fewer people without health insurance, for the first time in a dozen years,

thanks to the Children's Health Insurance Program that was in the balanced budget law that we fought so hard for.

Our schools are getting better. The dropout rate is down. Math and reading scores are up all over the country—with Kentucky leading the way, I might add. Failing schools are turning around. Thank you, Governor Patton. We have opened the doors of the first 2 years of college to everybody with the HOPE scholarships and the biggest increase in college aid since the GI bill, and the college-going rate is at an all-time high.

And while we've had record economic growth, the environment has steadily gotten better. The air is cleaner; the water is cleaner; 43 million more Americans breathing air that meets Federal standards—43 million. The drinking water is safer; the food is safer. We've cleaned up 3 times as many toxic dumps as the previous administration did in 12 years, and we've set aside more land than any administration since Theodore Roosevelt, nearly 100 years ago. Now, that's the record.

So, the second big question: Should we build on this record of progress with—on the environmental record with a long-term energy strategy that gets us out of the fix we've been worried about the last few months, with new sources of energy and more conservation? Should we build on the health care strategy by giving health insurance to the children's parents that we've insured; if we've insured the children, shouldn't their parents be able to have insurance?

Shouldn't we have a Patients' Bill of Rights? Shouldn't we have a Medicare drug program that all our seniors can afford? Shouldn't we open the doors of 4 years of college education? Shouldn't every State have to do what Kentucky does, which is to turn around their failing schools or put them under new management so that all of our kids can learn? Shouldn't we provide more teachers for our classrooms and modern schools? In other words, should we build on this progress, or should we say, "Well, who cares if we've gotten results? We're going to change the crime policy; we're going to weaken the environmental laws; we're going to abandon the education strategy; and we're going to abandon the health care strategy."

This is a clear choice. I think we should build on the progress. That's why you need Eleanor Jordan and Al Gore and Joe Lieberman.

Then there's a different, larger question which is harder to put into words, but I think it's important, which is, are we going to become a stronger community? Are we going to keep growing together? We have put an end to the idea that there ought to be class divisions or economic divisions or gender divisions or any other kind of divisions in America. My whole theory is, if somebody shows up and says, "I'm willing to work hard, and I'm willing to obey the law," that's good enough for me. I don't have to know anything else. You're part of America.

So every day we get a chance to advance the goal of one America. That's why we ought to raise the minimum wage. That's why we ought to pass the bill to enforce the equal pay laws for women more strongly. That's why we ought to pass the hate crimes legislation. I think it's important—and end racial profiling.

Now, let me tell you what this election is not about. It is not about whether the Democrats are for big Government. They all talk about that big Government thing—let me just tell you that—you heard it all in the debates and all that. Here's the record. Under Al Gore's leadership for the reinventing Government program, we have reduced the size of the bureaucracy by 300,000. It's the smallest it's been since 1960. That's the fact. We have reduced—yes, we're for this ergonomics rule, and I'll say more about that in a minute. But we've gotten rid of 16,000 pages of unnecessary Government regulations. We have reduced by two-thirds the number of regulations the States and the school districts have to deal with under the Federal Aid to Education Act alone.

So when you hear people talking about, this is big Government versus little Government, man, they're talking about something that didn't happen. In fact, Government will be smaller under our proposal than under theirs. Why? Because the third-biggest item in the Federal budget is what?—interest on the debt. There's Social Security, defense, interest on the debt. We spend more on interest on the debt than we spend on Medicare or education or the environment.

If we get rid of the debt, which is what the Democrats want to do—that's the Gore/Lieberman program—you won't be spending that 12 cents on the dollar. That leaves a lot of money for education, health care, tax relief, and smaller Government.

The second thing this thing is not about—this election is not about whether we're not bipartisan, and they are; and they want to bring everybody together, and we don't. Look, we have—you know, I'm pretty easy to get along with. I'm an easy-going guy. [Laughter] After the people elected a Republican majority in Congress, look what we did. We adopted a bipartisan welfare reform law. We adopted a bipartisan balanced budget. We adopted a bipartisan telecommunications law that created thousands of businesses, hundreds of thousands of jobs, and had the Vice President's E-rate program, which has allowed us to connect 95 percent of the schools, even the poorest ones, to the Internet. We've done a lot of stuff in a bipartisan way.

We just had a bipartisan bill for the biggest amount of funds ever to buy lands, to protect them forever, in the history of the country. We do a lot of things in a bipartisan way. But being bipartisan, to me, means getting together and making an honorable compromise. It doesn't mean being run over by partisan, polarizing policies.

Now, last night, after we made a lot of progress in this session, last night I had to veto the bill that funds the Congress and the White House. And I'll tell you why. I did not want to sign a bill that funded the White House and the Congress when they won't send me a bill that funds our schools, our children, our education, and our future.

I want you to play close attention to this because this is what this election is about, especially right here in Louisville. A couple of days ago, at 1 o'clock in the morning, the Democrats and the Republicans reached an agreement on an education and a labor budget. It was an historic agreement. It would have provided the biggest increase ever for more teachers, smaller classes, modernized schools, hooking up the rest of our schools to the Internet, double the funds for after-school programs so that all of our latchkey kids can be in school learning and doing

something constructive, put more funds in to help other States follow Kentucky's lead to identify failing schools and turn them around or put them under new management. It's a fabulous bill.

And the Republicans wanted some things, and we went along with them—also had a huge increase in college aid. Now, they had some things in there we didn't like, and when the House passed this bill, Eleanor's opponent put on a proposal to block a worker safety rule that I want to put in, that would protect workers from stress-related management. Now, they say this is going to cost business a lot of money. But the truth is that 600,000 people lose time from work every year because of repetitive stress injuries on the job, and that costs business about \$50 billion a year.

Who are these people? The worker who types on a keyboard 8 hours a day, the cashier who scans your food in a neighborhood grocery store. Today there are some workers with us who suffer from repetitive stress injury, after years of service as keyboard operators at Bell Atlantic. They're here today. Raise your hands. Thank you for being here.

There's also a cashier who suffers from carpal tunnel syndrome after years at the register. Now, there are 600,000 people like this. They're your fellow citizens. Our proposal, which Eleanor supports, would save these businesses \$9 billion a year. It wouldn't cost them money; it would save them money because with better work rules, they wouldn't be injured, and they'd be there working every day. And it would also save workers the pain and suffering associated with 300,000 injuries every single year.

This is not about money alone. It's about a mother who can no longer pick up her child, a father who can't toss a baseball with his son anymore. So we're fighting for this worker safety rule.

Now, here's what happened. They come in and say, "You can't have your education money unless you agree to killing this worker safety rule." So we said, "This is ridiculous." We're having an election. The Democrats are for this; the Republicans are against it. We offered an honorable compromise. We said, if they would give us some more money for education, I would put in the rule, but we

would delay its impact. So if they can convince the American people this is a terrible thing, they would then have a few months after the beginning of the year to try to undo the rule—which they can do, but then they have to show evidence that they're right. They can't just do it kind of when nobody is looking.

I said, "If you're going to undo this, do it in the daylight where everybody can see what's going on here, and let's hear the argument." But, look, I'll be out of there by January 20th, and the Republicans will be elated—[laughter]—and we're having an election. So, "Okay, I'll put it in, but I know you can undo it, so I'll just delay the impact of it for a few months, and if you want to undo it, you can, but do it in the ordinary course of business."

And the Republicans said okay. So they said, "You do this for us; we'll give you your school money." We shook hands on it at 1 o'clock in the morning. Everybody was as happy as a clam. The next day, the Republicans go to the Republican caucus, and Mr. DeLay, their leader, who says—says "No, no, no, we can't do this. Our lobbyists are hysterical. Never mind the 52 million school kids and what they get out of this. Our lobbyists don't like this, and we will not do it. We want it exactly like Eleanor's opponent put it in. And if we can't get what Eleanor's opponent wants, then the 52 million school kids can't get their help."

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. Now, this is the way it works in Washington—not the way it works out here. And I'm not blaming all the Republicans. The people that negotiated that with us deserve the thanks of their country. They did it in good faith. And I'm telling you, we've got—look, we've got a bipartisan agreement on the minimum wage, but it's not law yet. We got a bipartisan agreement on the Patients' Bill of Rights. We could get a bipartisan majority for a Medicare prescription drug program. I could go on and on and on. But the leadership won't let it happen.

The leadership is sticking with Eleanor's opponent and says that the 52 million schoolchildren of this country, including every one of them here in Louisville, including every one standing on this stage with me today,

if they need this help, that's too bad. You do it our way, or no dice—after we made an agreement with them.

So you have to know that's the way it works there. So when you vote for Eleanor Jordan, if just six more congressional districts do what you did, then we won't have to worry about Mr. DeLay anymore running the United States Congress. And look, I want to say again, this is not about bipartisanship. I won't be there, but the Democrats will work with the Republicans. We're not right about everything; they're not wrong about everything. A lot of Americans vote with them, too. We've got to work together. But you've got to understand that the leadership in Congress is way to the right of the Republicans in the country that would ever work with the Democrats and the Independents to get things done.

And if they get a call from one of those big lobbyists that says, "I'm sorry. You can't do this," they say, "I'm sorry. We can't do this." And they said, "We've got to have it just like Eleanor's opponent wanted it, or no dice for the school kids of America." Now, that's what they said.

So you remember that. And you go out—I wouldn't keep that a secret from the voters in this congressional district for the next week if I were you. I believe you ought to go out there and tell them. If you want to protect the worker safety and health, and if you want to promote the education of our children, you better send Eleanor Jordan to Congress and make sure we have different leaders in the United States Congress in the next 2 years.

Look, when Vice President Gore says in these speeches, "You ain't seen nothing yet," I expect maybe some Americans hear that and they think, "Well, that sounds political, you know; he wants to be President." But I'm not running for anything, and I believe that. I believe that. I believe if you vote to keep the prosperity going and expand it to people who aren't part of it, instead of voting to reverse economic course and go back to the bad old days of deficits, I believe if you vote to build on this evidence of progress in every area of our society, instead of reverse the policies that have helped us achieve it, you will be free to think about the big things.

I think we can save Social Security and Medicare for the baby boom generation, and add that prescription drug benefit, and not bankrupt the baby boomers' children and grandchildren.

I believe we can give the largest and most diverse group of school kids in American history ever the finest education. There need be no more failing schools. We now know something we didn't know 20 years ago, when I started working on this. We know how to turn these schools around. I believe that we can provide health insurance to working families in this country and to people who retire at 55 and can't get Medicare yet. And I believe we can have this Medicare drug program. I believe we can get this country out of debt for the first time since 1835 and keep this thing going. We can do this.

We can solve these long-term energy and environmental problems. We can do more to balance work and family. We can have a tax cut that helps people with child care and retirement and paying for their kids' college education. We can continue to build one America. We can do these big, big things. But we have to make the right decisions on the basic questions: Are we going to build on the prosperity or reverse course? Are we going to build on the progress or take down the policies that achieved it? Are we going to continue to grow as one America, or are we going to have the policies of division, no matter how soothing the rhetoric is?

These are the big challenges before America. You look at Eleanor Jordan. I want to tell you something. She'd be the second former welfare recipient in the United States Congress. America—we say we're a country that believes in giving everybody a chance. She got one, and she took it. She's got her family members here, including her sister who worked in our administration. This is a family that proves that America's promise can be alive and real. And her great burden for which they called her those bad political names is that she simply believes everybody ought to have the same chance that God gave her in life, that America gave her.

Folks, I will say again, I know I could stand up here and give you all those whoop-di-doo lines, but you need to think about this. This is a close race. And it's a close race nationally.

And every one of you has friends that may or may not vote. Every one of you has lots of friends who have never been to an event like this. Am I right? Never been to hear a President talk or a Governor talk, or somebody running for Congress. But they love their country; they consider themselves patriots. If they have a good reason, they'll go vote, or they're going to vote, but they may not know what the differences are yet.

So you've got 7 days, 7 good days that every day you can find somebody to say, "You know why you ought to vote for Eleanor Jordan and Al Gore and Joe Lieberman? Because we want to keep the prosperity going. We don't want to reverse it, because we want to build on the progress of the last 8 years; we don't want to abandon it. Because we want to go forward together. Because all the best stuff is still out there." But you've got to make the big decisions right. You go tell them those three things; she'll be celebrating next week.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:45 p.m. in the gymnasium at the duPont Manual High School. In his remarks, he referred to State Representative Eleanor Jordan, who introduced the President; Mayor David L. Armstrong of Louisville, KY; and former Senator Wendell H. Ford. Ms. Jordan is a candidate for Kentucky's Third Congressional District.

Memorandum on the Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

October 31, 2000

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

Pursuant to the requirements set forth under the heading "Policy Toward Burma" in section 570(d) of the Fiscal Year 1997 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, as contained in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 104-208), a report is required every 6 months following enactment concerning:

- 1) progress toward democratization in Burma;
- 2) progress on improving the quality of life of the Burmese people, including progress on market reforms, living standards, labor standards, use of forced labor in the tourism industry, and environmental quality; and
- 3) progress made in developing a comprehensive, multilateral strategy to bring democracy to and improve human rights practices and the quality of life in Burma, including the development of a dialogue between the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and democratic opposition groups in Burma.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit the report fulfilling these requirements for the period March 27, 2000, through September 28, 2000, to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:51 a.m., November 3, 2000]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on November 6.

Remarks to African-American Religious and Community Leaders in New York City

October 31, 2000

Thank you. I knew I was going to have a good time here when I walked in the backdoor and they were singing "Oh, Happy Day." [Laughter] So they finished before I got here, and I had to have another song, and you were magnificent. Thank you very much. I'm proud of you all for changing your lives and for being hooked on something good. Thank you. I'm proud of you all. Bless you. Bless you.

Thank you, Bishop Gaylord, for making us feel welcome. Thank you, Bishop White, for praying over us—[laughter]—making us feel holier. Thank you, Reverend Williams, for getting us here to remind us of what we're supposed to do as citizens in this life. I would

also like to say a special word of thanks to Reverend Herb Daughtry, whose daughter works for Alexis Herman, the Secretary of Labor. I know he was here before me, but I thank him. Yes, sir.

I thank your borough president, Virginia Fields, for being here and for supporting Hillary and Al. And I know Senator Schumer was here earlier, and our public advocate, Mark Green, is in the back. And we've been friends, Mark and I have, for 20 years, and he shook his hand out—I came in before—he said, “Reverend Green to you.” [Laughter]

So, you know, after all these years you've been working—he's got to get in the mood, you know, that's good. He's coming right along.

I cannot say enough about my admiration for Carl McCall, the job he's done for you and the—Hillary and I like him and his wonderful wife, Joyce, so much, and we're proud of him, and I'm very grateful for the support he's given to Hillary. I said—I want to express my support, too, for Senator Schumer. I know he was here earlier. And let me say one thing about Charlie Rangel. If we win six more seats, he'll be the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. He's been very good to me. Harlem has been very good to me.

I can't speak in this pulpit in Harlem without also noting that one of the most important people in my becoming President was my first Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, who grew up in Harlem. I miss him every day, and I want to—[applause]—he'd be glad to know I'm finishing up my career as President in a church in Harlem. [Laughter] Mayor Dinkins, I'm glad to see you. You'll always be mayor to me, and I love you. Thank you. Glad to see you.

Now, I love to come, especially, to the Church of God in Christ. Bishop White talked about the presiding bishop, Bishop Owens. His predecessor, Bishop Ford from Chicago, was a great friend of mine, and he has been a magnificent friend of mine. He brought the bishops to their annual meeting in Washington just so I could say thanks and goodbye to them.

We were all having a good time. We're all old friends. So I got up and thought I

was being funny. I said to Bishop Owens in front of all of the bishops, I said, “You know, I wanted to come here because I wanted to see a group of leaders who aren't term-limited.” [Laughter] And you know, I thought that was pretty cute. And Bishop Owens looked at me and said, “Mr. President, we are all term-limited.” [Laughter] And so we are. But while we're here, we're supposed to do the best we can. Is that right?

Now, we all know why we're here, and we can shout amen and have a great time, and we're all preaching to the saved; we're talking to one another. But I want to talk to you about the people that aren't in this church tonight, the people who have never come to an event like this and never heard a President speak or even a mayor or a comptroller or a Senator or anybody. But they could vote. And they need to vote, and they need to know why they're voting. And that's really why you're here, because of all the people who aren't here. Isn't that right? There wouldn't be a need in us having a meeting if everybody who is not here planned to show up, understood what the stakes were, what the choice was, and what the consequences were. Is that right?

So what you have to think about tonight is, what is it you intend to do between now and Tuesday, and on Tuesday, to get as many people there as possible and to make sure when they get to the polls, they know why they're there, what the stakes are, and what the consequences are. And from my point of view, which is one most of all just filled with gratitude for the people of the United States, to the people of New York, and to the people of Harlem for the support you have given to me and Hillary and Al and Tipper Gore these last 8 years, I'm not running for anything; my party has got a new leader; my home has a new candidate. [Laughter] And I like that. I like getting out here and speaking for other people. That's what I did when I was a kid, you know, and now I'm getting to learn it all over again, and I like it. But I want to tell you tonight in public what I would tell you if I were sitting alone in a room with any of you, and you asked me, what's this election about, anyway?

I think there are three great questions that I want you to tell everybody you can reach—

everybody in Harlem, everybody in New York State. If you've got any friends across the river in New Jersey or anyplace else, I want you to reach them between now and Tuesday, because this is a razor-thin election. I believe because people are not quite sure—"What's it about, anyway? And is it a big deal, or can we relax because things are going so well?"

One thing I can say in a church is that anybody that's lived more than 30 years has made at least one big mistake in his or her life, not when things were so bad, but when things were so good, you thought, well, this is all right; I don't have to concentrate anymore. Isn't that right? If you live long enough, you make a big mistake when things are going well, not when things are going bad. When things are going bad and your whole survival is at stake, it kind of concentrates your mind; you make better decisions. If things are going good, you think, ah, what's the difference?

Now, this is a happy election, I think, for America because the country is in good shape, and I like it that these candidates aren't really badmouthing each other. I like it that we can just say, let's assume we're dealing with good people here who love their families and love their country and will do their best to do a good job based on what they believe.

And once you say that, then you've got to figure out, what is it they believe? What are they going to do if they get these jobs, and how will it affect me, my family, my community, and my country? That's all that matters. And I'm hopeful that the work we've done in the last 8 years has taken some of the poison out of America's political life so we could actually have an election about what it's really supposed to be about, which is, how is this going to affect you?

After all, the race for President, the race for Vice President, the race for United States Senator, those are hiring decisions. You're hiring people to do a job for you. John Kennedy once said that the Presidency was pre-eminently a place of decisionmaking. You're hiring people to make decisions, because they can't be made by all 280-some-odd million of us, so we hire somebody to make these decisions. What decisions will they make; will

they be good or bad; will they move us forward or back; will they bring us together or divide us?—that's what this is about.

And the same thing is true in the Senate. And I can tell you, after 8 years, one of the things I have learned is, every single one of these Senate seats is profoundly important. So, you know how biased I am in this election. I mean, the most important person in the world to me is running for Senator, and my partner for 8 years is running for President, and so I'm biased.

But what I want to do is tell you the three questions I think you ought ask to answer to anybody. And you don't have to say anything bad about their opponent. And you sure don't have to get down and do what some of them have been doing around here lately—those kinds of phone calls and stuff I read about in the paper. You don't have to do any of that. Just say—look, say these three things.

Number one, look where we were 8 years ago, and look where we are today. We have the longest economic expansion in history, nearly 22 million new jobs; African-American unemployment the lowest ever recorded, nearly half, almost cut in half what it was 8 years ago; and record numbers of new businesses, record numbers of new minority businesses, record numbers of new homeowners, record numbers of new minority homeowners.

The female unemployment rate is the lowest in 40 years; poverty rate at a 20-year low; the child poverty rate has dropped about a third. This is amazing—seniors living in poverty below 10 percent for the first time in the entire history of America—ever.

So, question number one, do you want to build on this prosperity and keep it going and extend it to people who aren't part of it yet, or do you want to abandon the path we're on and go back to a different economic policy that let us down before? It's a big question.

Now, Hillary and Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, they say, "Hey, let's keep paying down the debt." Remember, we had the biggest deficits in history; we quadrupled the debt when I became President; interest rates were high, and the economy was weak. So we got rid of the deficits; we're now paying

down the debt that had accumulated in those years before, and if you pay the debt off, you will have lower interest rates.

So they say, our side says, “Look, let’s figure out what we’ve got to do to pay the debt down over the next 12 years, and take the rest of it and spend on our kids and our seniors, in health care and education and the environment, and spend what we have to spend on the national security, and give the rest of it to people in a tax cut for child care, for long-term care, for college education, for retirement savings. But first, keep the economy going.”

Now, if you want to do that instead of have a tax cut 3 times as big and a trillion dollar program to privatize Social Security and spend another several hundred billion dollars and put the country back in debt, which will give you higher interest rates, you have to vote for Hillary and Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. You’ve got to talk to people. It’s a simple thing. You want to keep the prosperity going, keep the debt coming down, invest in our kids and our future, and have a tax cut we can afford—you just have one set of choices here. This is a big question. And there’s an honest difference here about what the best economic policy is.

People ask me all the time, you know, “What did you do to help turn the economy around? What was the Federal Government’s role? What great new idea did you bring back?” I always tell them, “I brought this great idea all the way from Arkansas—arithmetic.” [Laughter] “A big new idea. We made the numbers add up.” And see, if you have—if you’re supposed to have a \$2 trillion surplus—it won’t be that big now, by the way—but is supposed to be 2—forget about the trillion; forget all those zeroes—surplus is supposed to be 2, and the tax cut and the interest costs are 1.6, and it costs you 1 to privatize Social Security, never mind whether you think it’s a good idea or not; it costs 1 trillion dollars, and you spend another 5 trillion, or .5, on something else; well, 1.6 plus 1 plus .5 is 3.1—that’s more than 2. And that means deficits, and that means higher interest rates.

Now, if you keep interest rates one percent lower, let me tell you what it means for America. One percent lower a year—that’s

about what I think it will be under the Gore/Lieberman plan that Hillary will vote for in the Senate—that’s worth \$390 billion in lower home mortgages to the American people. That’s a pretty big tax cut. Thirty billion dollars in lower car payments, \$15 billion in lower college loan payments.

So, question number one, do you want to build on the prosperity and keep it going and give it to people that have been left behind with things like the empowerment zone program that Charlie Rangel and Al Gore put here in Harlem to do more of that sort of thing, or do you want as much of this money as you can get right now, even if it puts us back in deficit?

Now, that’s a decision the American people have to make. But we’ve tried it our way for 8 years, and we tried it the other way for 12 years, and I think you will admit that based on the evidence, our way works better. So that’s the first thing I want to say.

Now, question number two, remember where we were 8 years ago on the society? We had an economy in trouble and a society that was divided. Now, compared to 8 years ago, crime has dropped in every year; it’s at a 26-year low; it’s going in the right direction. Teen pregnancy and drug abuse among young people are down; the number of people without health insurance is down; 2 ½ million more kids have health insurance. The environmental quality of the country is up—cleaner air, cleaner water, safer drinking water, safer food, 3 times as many of these toxic waste dumps cleaned up in our 8 years as in the previous 12. And we’ve protected more land than any administration since Theodore Roosevelt of New York almost 100 years ago. Now, that’s the fact.

So question number two is, do you want to build on this until America is the safest country in the world, until we have provided Medicare prescription drugs for the seniors who need it, all of them, until we have a Patients’ Bill of Rights that protects people and their health care, until we solve the energy problems that bother you every winter when home heating oil comes around—you worry about it going to be too expensive—with long-term energy solutions to develop conservation and new sources of energy, the

stuff that Al Gore knows a lot about? Do you want to do that?

And look at our schools compared to 8 years ago. The dropout rate is down; the African-American high school graduation rate is equal to the white rate for the first time in history. The test scores in math and science are up. We've had a 300 percent increase in the number of African-American kids taking advanced placement tests for college in the last 3 years alone—a 300 percent increase.

We see schools turning around that were failing. I was in a school in Harlem the other day, where 2 years ago, 80 percent of the kids were doing reading and math below grade level; today, 74 percent of the kids doing reading or math at or above grade level—in just 2 years. We're turning these schools around.

Now, do you want to build on that with the program that Hillary and the Vice President and Joe Lieberman have advocated—100,000 teachers in the classroom; hook them all up to the Internet; double the number of people in after-school programs so you won't have these latchkey kids and they will be able to stay in school and work their computers and do stuff like that after school; give people a tax deduction for the costs of college tuition; and require these failing schools to turn around or put them under new management so all the kids get good education? There is a clear choice here.

So the second thing you need to say to people is, "Look, it's not just about the economy. Crime is down; the schools are better; we're providing more health insurance; the environment is cleaner. And are we going to build on these changes, or are we going to support policies and candidates that will reverse our crime policy, reverse our environmental policy, take down our education policy, and don't support our health care initiatives?"

It's a choice. It's not like there's no choice; there's a huge choice. And again, you don't have to say anything bad about our opponents, but they are different. There's a difference here. They have a different view here. [*Laughter*] And if we were having a debate, I could go over there and stand there and argue their position; I could come back

here and argue ours, but I think ours is better.

It's not like you don't have any evidence here. Just look at the way it was 8 years ago, and look at the way it is now. And the third thing may be the most important thing of all. So number one, we're going to keep the prosperity going; number two, we're going to build on the social progress; number three, we're going to keep building one America. We're going to keep going forward together.

Our side is for increasing the minimum wage, strengthening the equal pay laws for women in the workplace, strengthening the civil rights laws, passing hate crimes legislation, passing employment nondiscrimination legislation, and having appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court that will stand up for civil rights and human rights and individual rights.

Now—so that's where this election is, in a nutshell. If 100 percent of the people understand, number one, this is a real important election; number two, it's about three things. Do you want to keep the prosperity going or change those policies? Do you want to build on the social progress or take down the policies that have contributed to them? Do you want to build one America and keep moving forward together? Those are the three things at stake in this election that people need to understand.

And in the Presidency, I would just say one other thing. I think we're doing well in these congressional races, but you look at what I've had to do the last 6 years. The American people should think about it before they run the risk of leaving Congress and the White House in the hands of the other party, because I've stopped a lot of bad things from happening, as well. And that's another good argument for—of course, if they decide to give the Congress and the White House to the Democrats, that would be quite wonderful from my point of view, and that's a possibility. But if it doesn't happen, that's another thing people ought to factor in.

So I say to you, in my lifetime, we've never had an election like this. And I'm 54 years old. We have never had an election where we had so much economic prosperity, so much social progress, the absence of domestic crisis or foreign threat to our existence.

It never happened in our lifetime. It may not happen again in our lifetime. It may not happen again for 50 or 60 years or more. Therefore, you need to go out and tell young folks who may think it's always been this way—you know, somebody 18 years old, they were 10 when I got elected President. But they're old enough to vote now. They weren't paying attention, maybe, before they were 10. Right? You have memory, and you have to impart that. This is a precious opportunity.

One of the greatest honors I've had as President was walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the voting rights march with Congressman John Lewis and Josea Williams and others. We did it a few months ago. And Mrs. King was there; Reverend Jackson was there; lots of folks were there then. John Lewis got beat up bad that day.

You need to go tell the young people that people died so they could have this right to vote. When I grew up in the South, black people still had to buy poll taxes, and other people bought them for them and handed out like raffle tickets on election day and gathered people up. And then other places, they couldn't vote at all. And people died for the right to vote unfettered, unencumbered, unthreatened.

And now, lo and behold, we've had an administration where 14 percent of our appointments have been African-American, 17 percent of my judges, where we've all been part of this. But it worked for other people, too. You didn't gain anything that Latinos and Asians and white folks didn't gain. We all went forward together. That's the only way we can do it. Black Americans never asked to go ahead of the line; they just wanted to get in the line and go on. Right? Is that right? *[Applause]*

I wanted everybody to have a home in America. I wanted us to be one family. But I'm telling you, you just go out there. You hear what I'm telling you. You don't have to remember all these statistics and all these details. Just say, if you want to keep the prosperity going and take it to the people and places left behind, we've got to keep paying this debt down and invest in our kids and our future and take a tax cut we can afford.

We can't afford to go back into deficits and high interest rates and get off the track.

If you want to keep the crime rate coming down, the number of uninsured people coming down, give all of our seniors a Medicare drug benefit, keep helping the schools to turn around so that all our kids can have a good education—you don't want to reverse the policies we're on—we need to build on them, not reverse them—and if you want to keep building one America, there is one party that favors all these things: the hate crimes legislation, the employment nondiscrimination legislation, stronger civil rights enforcement, stronger enforcement of equal pay laws for women, a minimum wage, and a Supreme Court that will protect civil rights and the ability of the National Government to protect civil rights and human rights.

Now, the last thing I'd like to tell you is, I'm very grateful not only for the way New York has treated me these last 8 years but for the way you have taken my wife in and accepted her and supported her and lifted her up. I've been doing this a long time. I was, I think, 6, 7, 8 years old first time I started handing out cards for my uncle when he ran for State legislature. And my aunt hated politics so much, she made him quit after one term. *[Laughter]* So they sort of—they got the political virus over to me then. And I didn't quit. I liked it more.

So I've been doing this a long time. And I've liked most of the people I've known in public life. The Republicans and the Democrats, I find that, on balance, they're more honest and hard working and try to do what they think is right. They are better than they get credit for being. I've never known anybody that cared more, knew more, and worked harder and had a better ability to blend heart and mind and passion and commitment than Hillary—never. She will make you very proud.

And don't forget, they're big shoes to fill. Senator Moynihan was a giant in the Senate. Robert Kennedy changed the life of a whole generation of young Americans, including me. She will be a worthy successor, if you help her get there. And don't let all this last-minute mudslinging deter you.

But the main thing I'm here to say is, you all got your minds made up, and you're all

going to show up. So we're having this whole event for people that aren't here tonight. So when you leave here, you promise yourself—and you promise yourself, this is a big deal. The way you live is going to be affected by the decisions that are made. If you want to keep the economy going, if you want to keep the society going forward, if you want to keep us pulling together, make sure that everybody you can find is there a week from today for Hillary, for Al Gore, for Joe Lieberman, for Charlie Rangel. We'll do the right thing. I am proud to be here for them.

Thank you all, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9 p.m. at Kelly Temple Church of God in Christ in Harlem. In his remarks, he referred to Bishop James Gaylord, Kelly Temple; Rev. Reginald Williams, Charity Baptist Church; Rev. Herb Daughtry, founder, National Black United Front; C. Virginia Fields, president, Manhattan Borough; New York State Comptroller H. Carl McCall; former Mayor David Dinkins of New York City; and Bishop Chandler D. Owens, presiding bishop, Church of God in Christ.

Remarks at a Reception for Hillary Clinton in New York City

October 31, 2000

Thank you. Well, first let me say, I understand that Hillary has already spoken, so I really don't have to say much. [Laughter] But I want to say, first, I'm late because the radar went out in Louisville, Kentucky, today, and so it took us a while to get off. Even Air Force One needs radar because there are incoming planes. So we found some innovative way to get here, and I'm glad we made it.

Niall, thank you; and thank you, John. And I thank all of you for being here. A lot of interesting people in this crowd tonight—my friend Frank McCourt, thank you for being here. And thank you, Tom Cahill. Thank you, Gabriel Byrne, for being here. It's nice not to have to go to the movies to see you. [Laughter] And I thank all the rest of you for being here.

I want to tell you how grateful I am that somehow, some way, when I first started running for President, the Irish in New York found me. It happened in other places, too.

My friend Neal Hartigan, former attorney general of Illinois, is here from Cook County, Chicago. But Bruce Morrison, who Hillary and I had known since we were in law school, and a couple of other people, somehow they hooked us all up, and we started this odyssey. And people thought I was nuts when I said, if I got elected President, I would try to help in the Irish peace process. And they said—and then I got elected, and then all these people who had helped me in other contexts and were steeped in the foreign policy lore of America said, "You can't do that." I said, "But I told them I would." [Laughter] "I gave my word; I've got to do this." And they said, "But it will be terrible." I said, "It won't be terrible." I said, "I love Great Britain; I went to college there." I said, "We'll be shoulder to shoulder with Britain on a thousand other things," but I said, "Within 6 months, they'll be glad we did this." And sure enough, they now are.

So I can't thank those of you enough who started out with me, who gave me the chance to do this. It's been one of the greatest things about being President, to know that the United States, the home of the largest Irish diaspora in the world, had played some positive role in bringing that long conflict to an end. Now, we're not out of the woods yet, but Mr. Trimble dodged a bullet this week, and we still have work to do. And all of you know what it is as well as I do. But I just want you to know, for all of you who have helped me to do this, I thank you.

And the second thing I want to thank you for is when 800 of you showed up on the White House lawn during a rather difficult time for me—[laughter]—and said that the Irish-American community still thought that I should serve as President of the United States, which I will never forget. I'll never forget that.

But most important of all to me, I want to thank you for what you're doing for Hillary. Because when we started this—and this is, by the way, a big issue in the national election, too, Presidential election—when we started this, and Hillary—you know she went to Northern Ireland once without me, in addition to the two times we went together. And she was working with all these women in this Vital Voices group, and she said, "If

we can just get all these women together, they'd figure out a way to get over this problem." And I think she made an independent and significant contribution to the Irish peace process, for which I am very, very grateful.

And now all over the world she's had these groups of women sort of upsetting apple carts, in Africa and Latin America. [*Laughter*] It turns out there are troublesome women everywhere—[*laughter*]—who don't like it when troglodyte males keep wars going on when it makes no sense anymore, and conflicts—I mean, it's quite interesting. And I think it's been wonderful.

The only other thing I would say is that I think it's quite important that you have come here and contributed, but I think it would also be quite important if every day for the last week of this election you tell people why you came and why you support her, because people need reasons.

I think that—I'm terrifically happy that the country is in such good shape and that we can have an election when there is prosperity, when there is social progress, when there is the absence of domestic crisis and foreign threat. I'm happy about that. I'm glad that there is so much less personal venom in the atmosphere in this election than there has been in times past. It never made any sense, and it certainly doesn't now. Maybe we've just drawn out a full quota over the last 8 years; there's none left. [*Laughter*] But I'm glad for that. But that should not obscure the fact that there are serious, significant differences between the candidates for the Senate, the candidates for President and Vice President, that will have consequences for how we all live and work and relate to each other and the rest of the world.

So the only other thing I'd like to say is that the real problem with events like this is, in the parlance of my faith, we're always preaching to the saved. And every one of you have friends who will never come to an event like this. Isn't that right? You've all got friends—most of your friends are not as political as you. They'll never come to an event like this. They'll never come to an event like this. They'll never hear the President give a speech directly, and they'll never do all these things that you do. And I just want to

ask you in the last week to go out and tell them why you came tonight, why it matters that they vote, why it matters that they vote for Hillary and the Vice President and Senator Lieberman, and what the stakes are, what the consequences are. Because I can tell you, they're huge.

You know, we're either going to build on this prosperity or reverse our economic policy. We're either going to keep the social progress going or take down the education, health care, crime, and environmental policies over the last 8 years. We're either going to keep coming together across all the lines that divide us, or walk away from things like the hate crimes legislation or the employment nondiscrimination legislation, the things that—the Supreme Court appointments that will promote civil rights and human rights and bringing us together.

So these things are big deals, I think, and I just hope that, in addition to coming here tonight, you will go out and talk to everybody you can—just people you come across that will never come to something like this.

The last thing I want to say is, I'm highly prejudiced about this Senate race. [*Laughter*] It's not fashionable to admit prejudice in America today. I've tried to make it highly unfashionable to be prejudiced in America. But I am completely prejudiced.

However, having said that, this is the first time in 26 years I have not been on a ballot somewhere. I have had a lot of experience with politics and politicians; most of them are better than they got credit for being. And I've enjoyed knowing most of those I've known. But of all the people I've known, she has the best combination of brains, compassion, determination, and ability to get people together and get things done. She will be a fabulous Senator. And you need to tell people that for the next few days.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 p.m. in the lobby of the Fitzpatrick Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Niall O'Dowd, publisher, the Irish Voice; John Fitzpatrick, owner, Fitzpatrick Hotel; authors Frank McCourt and Tom Cahill; actor Gabriel Byrne; and Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble.

**Notice—Continuation of Sudan
Emergency**

October 31, 2000

On November 3, 1997, by Executive Order 13067, I declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan. By Executive Order 13067, I imposed trade sanctions on Sudan and blocked Sudanese government assets. Because the Government of Sudan has continued its activities hostile to United States interests, the national emergency declared on November 3, 1997, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond November 3, 2000. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency for 1 year with respect to Sudan.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 31, 2000

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:55 a.m., November 1, 2000]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to Sudan**

October 31, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniver-

sary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Sudan emergency is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2000, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The crisis between the United States and Sudan that led to the declaration on November 3, 1997, of a national emergency has not been resolved. The Government of Sudan has continued its activities hostile to United States interests. Such Sudanese actions and policies pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure on the Government of Sudan.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 31, 2000.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 1.

**Remarks Commemorating the
Bicentennial of the White House**

November 1, 2000

Thank you very much, and good afternoon. I know I speak for all of us in thanking David McCullough for that wonderful review of President Adams' life and Presidency. We could all listen to him all day and never stop learning.

I thank Bob Stanton for his distinguished work at the Park Service. I'd like to thank Representatives Delahunt and Markey for coming here, for representing the State of Massachusetts, home of the Adams family. I thank all the descendants of the Adams family who are here with us today, and I know that they share in the pride all Americans feel for the contributions of John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams, and so many other members of their family, to the richness of our Nation's history.

Mayor Williams, thank you for joining us here today. I'd like to thank the members of the White House Historical Association Board, including Bob Breeden and Hugh Sidey and Neil Horstman, who helped make

this month of celebrations possible. I'd like to thank the people here at the White House who played their role—Milanne Verveer, the First Lady's Chief of Staff, who has worked so hard on the historic preservation work we've been honored to do these last 8 years; and especially our chief usher, Gary Walters, and through him all the members of the White House staff, who for 200 years now have been the unsung heroes of making this place work every day, making it a place available to the American people, and still a home for the President and his family.

I'd also like to thank the United States Marine Band. For more than 200 years, they have set a standard of musical excellence that has enriched this house and our entire Nation. They have been the President's own, and for me, it has been a special honor and treat. They have stirred the spirits of more people than President Adams could ever have imagined when he signed the bill creating the Marine Band. And today their music is in honor of his memory. So let's give them a big hand. Thank you very much for being here. [*Applause*]

As David McCullough just said, the Capital City President Adams helped to shape was a very different place than the Washington we know today. Our Nation was new and still carving out the symbols that would define it forever. History tells us that even as the city's planners debated the final design of this house, masons laid its stone foundations more than 4 feet thick. Like our Nation's founders, these men were building a monument to freedom, and they wanted it to last.

In 1814, when the British troops captured Washington, they entered the President's House, as it was then known, to find supper still on the table. The First Lady, Dolly Madison, had prepared it for her husband, but had to leave it behind when she fled. Well, the British were uncouth enough to eat the supper before they set fire to the house. [*Laughter*] When the smoke finally cleared, it was just a charred shell, but the stone walls stood strong, and so did our Nation.

For two centuries now, Americans have looked to the White House as a symbol of leadership in times of crisis, a reassurance in times of uncertainty, of continuity in times

of change, a celebration in times of joy. These walls carry the story of America. It was here at the White House that President Jefferson first unrolled maps of a bountiful continent to plan the Lewis and Clark expedition; here that President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves, some of whose ancestors have quarried the very stone from which the White House was built; here that President Roosevelt held the Fireside Chats, willing his nation through the Depression, then marshaling our allies through the war.

Over the course of two centuries, the White House has also been home to 40 Presidents and their families, including mine. Hillary, Chelsea, and I love this house. We have loved living here. It is still a thrill every time I drive up in a car or land on the back lawn in the helicopter, just to look at this magnificent place and to feel the honor of sharing its history for these 8 years. We are profoundly grateful to the American people for letting it be our home for these years.

One of the best things about it, like any home, is welcoming others to share in its beauty and history. Not just heads of state or great artists or famous scholars, but the people this house really belongs to—the American people.

The White House is the only executive residence in the entire world that is regularly open, free of charge, to the public. And every year nearly a million and a half people walk through its halls, marveling at the history and taking away perhaps a little better sense of who we are as a nation.

Hillary has taken a special interest in supporting this living museum, showcasing the full diversity of our Nation's art, culture, and history. I thank her, especially, for establishing the Sculpture Garden over here to my left in the Jackie Kennedy Garden. And from the day we moved in, she has also devoted herself to preserving the White House and has personally overseen the restoration of several of its public rooms, rooms on the Residence floor, on the second floor, and on the third floor.

Working with the White House Historical Association, she's also helped to raise a lasting endowment, something that is profoundly important because it will enable us to better

preserve the White House and its collections for all generations to come.

In renewing this beloved monument to our Nation's history and freedom, we also renew our commitment to the dream of our Founders—that our democracy, built upon bedrocks of liberty and justice, will grow ever stronger and remain forever young.

So as the White House enters its third century, let us remember President John Adams, being grateful to him for his many contributions to our republic and his determination to define us as one nation. And let us share his prayer that in this house the best of blessings will be bestowed, and that leaders here will find the wisdom and the guidance to do well by our Nation, to do well by all of our people, and to be a responsible leader in the larger world.

That's what John Adams tried to do; that's what America has tried to do for 200 years now. We are still in the business of forming that more perfect Union of our Founders' dreams. I hope and believe he would be pleased.

Now, let the celebration begin.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:32 p.m. on the Blue Room Balcony at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Presidential historian and author David McCullough; and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC.

Statement on the Crash of Singapore Airlines Flight SQ-006 in Taiwan

November 1, 2000

I want to express my deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the crash of Singapore Airlines Flight SQ-006 in Taiwan yesterday. It is too early to know the cause of the accident, but the United States is helping Taiwan authorities find the answers. A team from the National Transportation Safety Board is on its way to Taiwan now to assist with the investigation. We are also doing all we can to assist the victims and their families, both through the American Institute in Taiwan and the American Red Cross in Los Angeles.

Statement on the Israeli-Palestinian Announcement To Further Implement the Sharm al-Sheikh Agreement

November 1, 2000

I welcome this development and am hopeful that it will lead to implementation of the steps agreed to by both parties at Sharm al-Sheikh.

Statement on Signing the Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I signed into law H.R. 209, the "Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 2000."

In 1986, the Congress passed the Federal Technology Transfer Act (FTTA). That Act built upon the basic premise of the earlier Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act and the Bayh-Dole Act, namely, that Federal laboratories create technologies that businesses may desire to develop commercially as a source of competitive advantage. The FTTA established new partnering policies for Government laboratories in the earliest stages of research through mechanisms such as the Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA). Since that time, American taxpayers have seen how Government-owned innovations can be brought into the marketplace to create consumer products, thereby improving our quality of life and enhancing our international competitiveness.

The Act will help ensure that the benefits of Federal research translate into new products and opportunities for the American public. It simplifies the process of licensing Government-owned inventions to the private sector by allowing the licensing of preexisting inventions that arise under CRADAs so that the private sector partner has access to the relevant technology. The Act also authorizes Federal agencies to acquire rights in related privately owned inventions, so as to create a more effective portfolio for licensing.

The Act will remove procedural obstacles to technology transfer and directs agencies

to consider the increasingly international environment of innovation. It recognizes that, in many cases, the necessary period for notice by a Federal agency of its intent to grant exclusive licenses can be shortened using both traditional and electronic means for providing the notice. In making decisions about appropriate notice periods, Federal agencies must continue to balance the need for promptness against the fundamental statutory purpose of ensuring that these inventions are used in a way that benefits the public. I expect that individual agencies will use their discretion responsibly in setting the period for comment on proposed exclusive licenses and will bear in mind that the 15-day period provided in this Act is a minimum requirement that may not be appropriate in all situations.

I fully support the effort, under the policy leadership of the Department of Commerce, to improve the transfer of valuable technology from Federal laboratories to the private sector.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 209, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-404.

Statement on Signing the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 4850, the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2000." The Act directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in benefits for service-disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and children, effective December 1, 2000. It provides for higher payments of disability compensation to veterans who suffer from service-connected disabilities and for higher payments of dependency and indemnity compensation for the surviving spouses and children of servicemembers and veterans whose deaths were service-connected. Consistent with the proposal in my Fiscal Year 2001 Budget, the

COLA in these benefits is equal to the one that will be provided under current law to Social Security beneficiaries and veterans pension recipients: 3.5 percent. This Act ensures that the value of these well-deserved benefits will keep pace with inflation.

This group of American citizens deserves our Nation's gratitude, particularly those who have suffered disability or have made the supreme sacrifice while serving their country and protecting our freedom. This Act expresses our appreciation for and continued commitment to these brave men and women.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 4850, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-413.

Statement on Signing the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act

November 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 5164, the "Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act." The TREAD Act represents an important first step toward strengthening our Nation's motor vehicle safety laws, and its vigorous and quick implementation will help save lives and prevent injuries.

Most important, the Act responds directly to some of the key shortcomings in identifying the recent Firestone tire problem. Some of the deaths and injuries associated with these tires might have been prevented if automobile manufacturers and their suppliers had been required to provide the Government with more timely information about potential safety defects. The Act addresses this by: (1) specifically requiring manufacturers, within 5 days, to report to the Secretary of Transportation any relevant safety recalls or other safety campaigns in foreign countries; and (2) granting the Secretary of Transportation new authority to develop an early warning system that requires automobile manufacturers and their suppliers to submit

information and analysis concerning possible safety defects in vehicles and equipment.

With this new authority, however, comes the important responsibility to notify the public, as quickly as possible, of any relevant investigative efforts and other safety-related information submitted to the Secretary by the manufacturers or their suppliers. Thus, today I am also directing the Secretary of Transportation to implement the information disclosure requirements of the Act in a manner that assures maximum public availability of information.

Finally, among many other important measures, the Act also includes proposals put forth by my Administration to provide for longer recall periods, to increase civil penalties for violations of the motor vehicle safety laws, and to authorize more funds for investigations into defective cars and their parts. I strongly support all of these provisions.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 5164, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-414.

Statement on Signing an Extension of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 5234, which extends the applicability of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000 to certain former spouses of deceased Hmong veterans. This bill will make these widows eligible for the eased naturalization requirements provided by the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000, which I signed into law in May of this year. Many of these widows and their families sacrificed a great deal as their spouses fought in support of the U.S. military during the conflict in Southeast Asia. Many have had to struggle to make a new life in this country, and to raise their families, and despite language and cultural barriers, they have made significant contributions to our Nation. This legislation

will help ensure that they become full-fledged citizens in our society.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 5234, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-415.

Statement on Signing the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I have signed into law S. 1402, the "Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000." S. 1402 expresses the Nation's continued gratitude to our veterans by reauthorizing and making improvements to a wide range of veterans' benefits and programs.

I am pleased that the Congress has included in S. 1402 significant benefit increases and other enhancements to the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program, which is commonly known as the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB). This program helps the men and women who have bravely served their country in the Armed Forces to adjust to civilian life. In addition, it is a major tool that the Armed Forces use to recruit highly qualified servicemembers. This Act increases the basic MGIB benefit for a 3-year period of service to \$650 monthly and the rate for a 2-year period of service to \$528 monthly. These rates represent the single largest benefit increase in MGIB's 15-year history and are similar to the levels of increase the Vice President and I proposed earlier this year.

This legislation also includes increases for education allowances for the survivors and dependents of veterans, resulting in a \$588 monthly benefit for a full-time student. Further, this Act will protect these survivors' and dependents' benefits against inflation by providing annual cost-of-living adjustments like those adjustments that already apply to veterans' education benefits.

Beyond the significant enhancements to education assistance, this legislation makes

several important changes to disability compensation benefits. Among them are provisions that will extend monthly disability allowances, vocational training, and health care to women Vietnam veterans' children who are born with certain medical conditions. These women veterans made huge sacrifices to protect our freedom, and it is only just that their children with resulting medical conditions be compensated. Similar benefits are currently afforded to such children who were born with spina bifida, but this Act will expand benefits beyond that one condition.

This legislation also enhances benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II who currently receive disability compensation and burial benefits at a rate equal to one-half the rate that U.S. veterans receive. It reinforces the long-overdue step taken by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, that authorizes the payment of these benefits at the full rate to Filipino veterans who have become U.S. citizens or are permanent residents and reside in the United States. In addition, this Act extends to these veterans the eligibility for burial in national cemeteries.

These benefits are just a few examples of the effects that this comprehensive bill will have on improving benefits and services for our veterans. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I am pleased to sign S. 1402. We are indebted to our veterans for the contributions that they have made to protect our security and well-being.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: S. 1402, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-419.

Statement on Signing Legislation on the Appointment of the Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority

November 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 1707. This bill provides that the Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority

is to be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Current law provides for the appointment of the Inspector General by the Authority's Board of Directors. Under this legislation, the appointment of the Authority's Inspector General would be made consistent with the appointment of inspectors general at other large agencies. This is an appropriate change.

This bill also authorizes the establishment within the Department of the Treasury of a forensic laboratory to provide services to the Federal Government's Offices of Inspectors General. In implementing this legislation, my Administration will take care both to avoid duplication with other, ongoing forensic activities, and to ensure effective and efficient coordination and cooperation with existing Federal forensic laboratories, such as those operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secret Service, and the Postal Service.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: S. 1707, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-422.

Statement on Signing the National Transportation Safety Board Amendments Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 2412, the "National Transportation Safety Board Amendments Act of 2000." The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent agency charged with determining the probable cause of transportation accidents and promoting transportation safety. This Act will enhance transportation safety by authorizing appropriations for the NTSB to investigate accidents, conduct safety studies, evaluate the effectiveness of other transportation accident prevention programs, and coordinate Federal assistance for families of victims of catastrophic transportation accidents.

The Act will further advance transportation safety by prohibiting the disclosure of information from cockpit video recorders, or

information from recorders installed on other modes of transportation. It also provides the NTSB with additional tools to carry out its mission, including strengthening the Board's financial management and authorizing the NTSB to enter into agreements with foreign governments to provide technical assistance and accident investigative services. It is my understanding that, prior to entering into agreements with foreign governments, the NTSB will consult with me to avoid any interference with my sole constitutional authority to conduct diplomatic negotiations; and that this provision in no way derogates from the Case-Zablocki Act (Title 1, Section 112b U.S.C.), which requires prior consultation with the Secretary of State.

The Act also includes a provision which authorizes the NTSB to establish an overtime pay schedule which is distinct from the rest of the Government. I am disappointed that the Congress has chosen not to address overtime reform in a comprehensive manner, as proposed by my Administration, to reform overtime pay for all employees who work long hours in response to emergency situations. We hope to continue to work with the Congress to provide a fair and equitable overtime pay structure for all such Federal employees. In the meantime, the NTSB should develop plans to implement the overtime pay provision in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, and the NTSB should absorb the costs of implementing this provision within its appropriated levels.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: S. 2412, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-424.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Certification of Major Drug
Producing and Transit Countries**
November 1, 2000

Dear _____:

In accordance with the provisions of section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Foreign Assistance

Act"), I have determined that the following are major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam. This year I have removed Hong Kong and Taiwan from the list of major illicit drug producing or major drug-transit countries (the "Majors List").

The Majors List, as required by section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act, applies to "countries." The term "countries" is interpreted broadly to include certain entities that exercise autonomy over actions or omissions that would lead to a decision to place them on the list and subsequently to determine eligibility or certification. Therefore, in the past, the Majors List has included certain entities that are not sovereign states.

I wish to make clear that a country's presence on the list of major drug-transit countries is not necessarily an adverse reflection on its counterdrug efforts or on the level of its cooperation with the United States. Among the reasons that major drug-transit countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographical, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit through a country, in many cases despite the most assiduous enforcement measures.

I also wish to note my concern over the rising imports of foreign-origin, illegal synthetic drugs into the United States, especially MDMA ("Ecstasy") from Europe. We are still collecting information on this problem, and it is a trend that bears watching closely in future years.

Changes to the List

Removal of Hong Kong. Hong Kong has been considered a major drug-transit country since 1987, when the first Majors List was prepared. Its proximity to the Golden Triangle opium cultivation countries of Thailand, Laos, and Burma, along with its highly developed air and sea transport infrastructure, made it a logical transit point for trafficking organizations moving Southeast Asian heroin to the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Over the past few years, however, Hong Kong's role as a transit point for U.S.-bound drugs has declined markedly, due to several factors. Stringent enforcement measures and extradition agreements with various countries, including the United States, and the risk of having narcotics shipments seized, have become effective deterrents to shipping drugs through Hong Kong. At the same time, drug flows from China through Hong Kong have diminished significantly. As China continues to develop its coastal cargo-handling facilities and expands port operations in the south, there is less incentive for drug traffickers to re-export and transship cargo through Hong Kong.

Seizure rates in both the United States and Hong Kong suggest that trafficking organizations are no longer using Hong Kong as a transit point for U.S.-destined heroin. Since 1996, there have been no significant seizures in the United States of heroin linked with Hong Kong. Similarly, the Hong Kong authorities report that in the past two years they have made no large seizures locally of heroin destined for the United States. Consequently, I am removing Hong Kong from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future there is evidence of drug flows through Hong Kong that significantly affect the United States, Hong Kong will again be placed on the Majors List.

Removal of Taiwan. In the early 1990s, Taiwan became a transit point for Asian drug trafficking organizations moving heroin to the Western Hemisphere. The largest U.S. heroin seizure on record is the nearly half-ton of heroin that U.S. authorities discovered in Hayward, California in 1991. The drugs, which originated in China, had transited Taiwan en route to the United States. Given Taiwan's role in that transshipment and evidence of Taiwan-related drug flows to the United States at that time, I added Taiwan to the Majors List in 1995.

Taiwan's role as transit point for drugs destined for the United States, however, has changed radically in the past few years. More stringent law enforcement procedures, together with improved customs inspection and surveillance methods, have all but cut off serious flows of heroin from Taiwan to

the United States. At the same time, the opening of major container ports in southern China has diminished Taiwan's importance for the drug trade.

Since Taiwan was designated a major drug-transit country, there have been no seizures in the United States of heroin that transited Taiwan, nor have Taiwan authorities identified any important drug shipments destined for the United States. Therefore, I am removing Taiwan from the Majors List and downgrading it to a country of concern. If in the future we detect any drug flows through Taiwan that significantly affect the United States, Taiwan will again be placed on the Majors List.

Countries/Entities and Regions of Concern

In addition to Hong Kong and Taiwan, the following are countries or regions of concern:

Belize. Belize was removed from the list of major drug-transit countries in 1999 because there was clear evidence that the drug trade was not currently using it as a transit point for drugs moving to the United States. If, at a future date, there is reliable information that U.S.-bound drugs are again moving through Belize in significant quantities, it will again be placed on the Majors List.

Central America. Central America's position as a land bridge between South America and Mexico, together with its thousands of miles of coastline, several container-handling ports, the Pan-American Highway, and limited law enforcement capability make the entire region a natural conduit and transshipment area for illicit drugs bound for Mexico and the United States. Currently, only Guatemala and Panama have been designated major drug-transit countries, since there is clear evidence that drug trafficking organizations use their territory to move significant quantities of illegal drugs to the United States. The same is not yet true of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, or Nicaragua.

Although there is no question that varying quantities of drugs do flow through these countries en route to the United States, the bulk of the traffic has shifted away from land

routes. Stringent law enforcement and interdiction measures on land have forced trafficking organizations to move drugs along sea routes. In the event that there is evidence that drugs transiting these countries are having a significant effect on the United States, they will be added to the Majors List.

Iran. While Iran was once a traditional opium-producing country, the Government of Iran appears to have been successful in eradicating significant illicit opium poppy cultivation. The latest U.S. survey of the country revealed no detectable poppy cultivation in the traditional growing areas. Although one cannot rule out some cultivation in remote parts of the country, it is unlikely that it would be sufficient to meet the threshold definition of a major illicit drug producing country under section 481(e)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act.

Important quantities of opiates reportedly continue to transit Iran en route to Europe, but I have no evidence that these drugs significantly affect the United States, a requirement for designation as a major drug-transit country under section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. Moreover, Iran has taken extensive measures to thwart the use of its territory by drug traffickers, seizing well above 200 metric tons of drugs annually in recent years.

Malaysia. Malaysia was removed from the Majors List two years ago because there was no evidence that drugs transiting the country were reaching the United States in significant quantities. That situation has not changed since that time.

Eastern Caribbean. The Leeward and Windward Islands, together with Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, constitute a broad geographical area through which U.S.-bound drugs pass en route from Latin America. In the right circumstances, any country in the region could become a major drug-transit country. There is no evidence at this time, however, that any of these Eastern Caribbean nations is a major drug-transit country under the definition in section 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act. The information available, however, indicates that drugs moving through the area are overwhelmingly destined for Europe. We are, therefore, keeping the region under observation. Relevant coun-

tries will be added to the Majors List, should conditions warrant.

Turkey and Other Balkan Route Countries. I am concerned by the large volume of Southwest Asian heroin that moves through Turkey and neighboring countries to Western Europe along the Balkan Route. There is no clear evidence, however, that this heroin significantly affects the United States, as required for a country to be designated a major drug-transit country. In the event that it is determined that heroin transiting Turkey, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or other European countries on the Balkan Route significantly affects the United States, the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Syria and Lebanon. I removed Syria and Lebanon from the list of major illicit drug producers two years ago after we determined that there was no significant opium poppy cultivation in Lebanon's Biqa Valley. Recent surveys have confirmed that there has been no detectable replanting of opium poppy, and we have no evidence that drugs transiting these countries significantly affect the United States. We continue, however, to keep the area under observation.

North Korea. We have been unable to confirm reports that significant quantities of opium poppy may be under cultivation in North Korea or that heroin originating in the country may be entering the international drug trade. We continue, however, to monitor the situation. If there is evidence that there is indeed poppy cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more in North Korea or that North Korea is a transit point for drugs significantly affecting the United States, it will be added to the Majors List.

Cuba. Cuba's geographical position, straddling one of the principal Caribbean trafficking routes to the United States, makes it a logical candidate for consideration for the Majors List. While there have been some reports that trafficking syndicates use Cuban land territory for moving drugs, we have yet to receive any confirmation that this traffic carries significant quantities of cocaine or heroin to the United States. Moreover, in

2000, much of the suspect air traffic that previously crossed Cuban airspace has now shifted away to Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic).

I will continue to keep Cuba under careful observation for any changes in current transit patterns. If there is evidence of significant quantities of drugs transiting Cuba to the United States, Cuba will be added to the Majors List.

Central Asia. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are traditional opium poppy growing areas of the former Soviet Union. However, we have not found evidence of significant opium poppy cultivation. If ongoing analysis reveals cultivation of 1,000 hectares or more of poppy, the relevant countries will be added to the Majors List.

Major Cannabis Producers. While Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, the Philippines, and South Africa are important cannabis producers, I have not included them on this list since in all cases the illicit cannabis is either consumed locally or exported to countries other than the United States. I have determined that such illicit cannabis production does not significantly affect the United States.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Ted Stevens, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Sam Gejdenson, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Dinner

November 1, 2000

Thank you very much. I will be quite brief because I want to just sit around and have a conversation. But I want to begin by thanking all of you, especially Andy, for taking on this role with the Democratic Party, and thank you, Terry, for tonight and for so much else. And I want to thank all of you who have

helped us along the way, particularly those of you who have been part of our administration in some way or another. I'm very grateful to you.

I thought it was quite interesting, you made that reference to George Washington's speech to the Jewish community—I've read it several times—because it was actually quite a keen insight for a person to have in the 18th century; the tolerance implies that a superior group is abiding a group that's not equal. And I never thought much of that. I always tell people we ought to celebrate our diversity and affirm the primary importance of our common humanity, and that's the way I look at this.

I want to thank you, too, for the last 8 years. It's been an honor to serve. I'm thrilled that it worked out as well as it did. [Laughter] I believed 8 years ago, and I believe more strongly today, that we need a unifying politics and a unifying policy, which is different from soothing words; it has to do with the decisions we make. And, for example, I thought that you should be part of America's community. But I thought it in other ways, too.

I thought that we could have an economic policy that was pro-business and pro-labor. And, sure enough, this is the first time in three decades we not only have the longest economic expansion in history, but we've got incomes going up at all levels. Average incomes have increased by 15 percent since 1992, after inflation—real increase.

I thought it would be possible to grow the economy and improve the environment, and sure enough, it turned out to be true. We have cleaner air, cleaner water, safer drinking water, safer food, more land set aside than any administration since Theodore Roosevelt, and 3 times as many toxic waste dumps cleaned up in our 8 years as in the previous 12, under the other party.

So it seemed to me that you could be for—in education—more investment and for higher standards at the same time. And we've got test scores going up and the college-going rate at an all-time high.

I could go through this on and on and on, but I think the point I want to make is, we sometimes think that we have to divide things up, and what we really have to do is fuse

them, unite them, and move forward together. And it's worked. Everyone knows the economy is stronger, but I think it's worth pointing out, also, we have—for the first time in a dozen years, the number of people without health insurance is going down, not up. The schools are clearly getting better, and the college-going rate is at an all-time high. The environment is cleaner. The crime rate is at a 26-year low. The welfare rolls are at a 32-year low. Teen pregnancy and teen drug abuse are down. The country is moving in the right direction.

And so I think the question we have to ask ourselves—or the three questions—that I hope that you'll help us in the next 6 days to ask and get answered properly are: Do you want to build on the prosperity or adopt policies that will not allow us to pay the debt down and continue to invest in our future, but instead will take us back to deficits; do you want to build on the social progress or adopt policies which plainly will undermine the direction in which we're going; and the third thing, and maybe the most important, is, how do we take all this effort toward one America a step further?

That's really what the hate crimes bill, the "Employment Non-Discrimination Act," and the equal pay for women legislation is about. Are we going to continue to try to build the bridges of unity and the bonds of common interdependent community as we go forward? And I think if people—the election really is about three things.

The court appointments are a part of that one America. And it's about far more than just preserving a woman's right to choose. It's also about whether the courts will or will not continue to restrict the ability of the National Government to protect civil rights and human rights and the basic public interest. Most Americans don't know that, just in the last year or so, a slim majority of the courts already invalidated a provision of the Violence Against Women Act, a provision of the Brady law, a provision of an anti-age-discrimination law. So there are big issues here.

But when you boil them all down, are we better off than we were 8 years ago, economically? And, if so, do you want to build on the economic policy or reverse it? Are we

going in the right direction and coming together as a society? If so, do you want to build on the progress of the 8 years or take down the policies—the environmental, the crime, the education, the health care policies? And should we continue to try to become one America? That's what hate crimes and ENDA and the equal pay for women and all those initiatives and the court appointments are all about.

If people understand that this is an honorable election which, I think, should be conducted in almost a festive atmosphere, because the country is in so much better shape than it was 8 years ago and nobody has to bad-mouth anybody anymore—you don't have to go around—you know, a lot of the venom has gone out of the American political scene. Somebody said that's because I'd absorbed a lot of it. *[Laughter]* But anyway—and so you all supplied the serum, and so I survived. It's all right. *[Laughter]* But that's good. We ought to be festive. We ought to be upbeat. We ought to be happy. But we shouldn't be blinded to the fact that we're actually having a very important old-fashioned debate here. And, in some ways, we are reenacting the kind of debate we've had from the beginning of this country.

Today we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the White House. John Adams rolled into the White House 200 years ago today at about noon. And so—and David McCullough, the great historian and biographer of Harry Truman, gave this beautiful sort of summary of what the White House was like 200 years ago, what Washington looked like, what the politics were, and the truly astonishing contributions of John Adams to our country's history.

He had a great eye for talent. He nominated George Washington to be head of the Continental Army. And when he became President, he nominated John Marshall to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. And that's one reason we still have one country, instead of a bunch of loosely floating atoms out there.

So we celebrated that. And in that whole 200-year history, I do not believe there has ever been a time when we've been able to have an election where we have so much prosperity, we have so much social progress,

with the absence of domestic crisis or foreign threat to our existence. Are there problems out there at home? Yes. Are there real problems out there, potential and real, around the world? Of course. But this is a very good time.

And we get to imagine the future we want to have for our children and our grandchildren, and then make a decision to build it. And the only concern I've ever had—I know I sound like a broken record because I've been saying this for a year and a half—the only concern I have ever had is that 100 percent of the people understand, first, what a unique moment this is. Younger voters, a lot of them don't even remember what it was like 8 years ago and take all this for granted, which is something that shouldn't happen; and, secondly, that they understand what the real differences are between the candidates for President and Senate and House, and what the consequences are, and they just make a choice, and everybody should be happy about it.

But I think that the closeness of the race indicates, among other things, some uncertainty in the electorate about exactly what is at stake and what the differences are, which means all of us have an opportunity in the last 6 days to try to help bring some clarity to that.

The last point I want to make is on the issue of inclusion. It's been an honor for Hillary and me to have done what we have done, but I think it is a matter of indisputable historical fact that the Vice President supported everything I did for this community and made it clear, was unambiguous, would stand up and never once, ever, took a pass when time came to do that.

So I hope that, for whatever it's worth, 100 percent of your community will know that on election day.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:29 p.m. in the Colonial Room at the Mayflower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to dinner chair Terry Watanabe; and Andrew Tobias, treasurer, Democratic National Committee.

Interview With April Ryan of American Urban Radio

November 1, 2000

Ms. Ryan. We're in the Oval Office, sitting with President William Jefferson Clinton on this historic occasion. We're sitting at the desk that John Kennedy, Jr., used to run through or crawl through as a child.

Mr. President, thank you so much for this time, for this post-election interview.

The President. I'm glad to do it, April. Thank you.

African-American Voter Turnout

Ms. Ryan. There is a get-out-to-vote effort, a major effort right now. African-Americans, in particular, are said not to be as energized about going to the polls, particularly for your second in charge. Why is it so important that African-Americans go to the polls this time, especially since they came out in big numbers for you, and there's such a difference right now?

The President. I think, first of all, it's important because the election is terribly close. You know, President Carter won by one percent. President Kennedy won by less than one-half of one percent. This promises to be that kind of election, so every vote will count.

Secondly, it's important because the differences between the two candidates for President and the two parties are so great. If you think about where we were 8 years ago, we had an economy in trouble; we had a society that was divided; we had a political system that was paralyzed and generally thought not to be very favorable to African-Americans and other minorities in our country.

Now, 8 years later, we've got the strongest economy we've ever had; we've got a lower crime rate, a cleaner environment, and the number of people without health insurance is going down; the number of people doing well in school and going on to college is going up. Things are moving in the right direction. And the American people are being given a chance to keep building on that progress or to embrace a completely different approach that would reverse it.

So I think if you care about health care, education, a strong economy, if you care about civil rights, human rights, and all these appointments to the Supreme Court and the other courts that are going to come up, there's more than enough reason to vote in this election.

And Al Gore has a lifetime record of support for civil rights and for policies—economic, education, health care, environmental policies—that help ordinary citizens. So I think it's a clear choice. And I think that, frankly, his role in this administration in the last 8 years and the ideas he's put before the American people should command the support of the African-American community and, I believe, the majority of the American people.

President's Support for Al Gore

Ms. Ryan. But many African-Americans I've talked to often wondered, why have you not stood next to him on many occasions prior to the week before, and not only that, why had you not gone to the churches and things like that before this last week? And many are concerned that they don't see you standing by him as much physically to promote him, and they're really wondering if your support is there for Al Gore.

The President. My support is there. I have done over 150 events this year to help him and the Democratic Party and to help our candidates for Senate and the House—literally over 150 events. I think, frankly, it would have been inappropriate for me to be out there campaigning with him. I think it would have hurt him with some people, because as he said in his convention speech, he has to run for President as his own man. He has to be elected on his own.

And I've done what I could to be supportive. I continue to do a lot of events, and I'm going out to California in a day or so. I'm going to go home the last weekend to Arkansas, which is a small State, but these small States could determine the outcome of the election. I'm going to make another stop in New York trying to help my wife and also help the congressional candidates and help him, and I may do another stop or so. I'm doing everything I can. And as you pointed out, I went out in the churches last weekend.

But when a President campaigns, it's very important not to do it too soon, and it's very important to do it in a way that you're being supportive of the people that are running. So it's kind of a delicate thing.

I remember when President Reagan used to come to Arkansas to campaign against me, and he was wildly popular in Arkansas. It never affected my standing with the people, even though we got some of the same votes. So if I want to have an impact on this election, I have to concentrate on talking to the people who will listen to the reasons I have for voting for the Vice President and our other candidates and also do it in a way that makes it clear to the American people that I am first doing my job here in Washington.

So I've tried to do it as best I could in coordination with the Gore campaign. But the people in this country should have no doubt about my strong support for him and my belief that he will be a very good President.

Veracity/Social Issues

Ms. Ryan. Well, there are several issues that have come into play, too, with Vice President Gore, one, the veracity, embellishment. And some people are even wondering, especially Christians—you know, the pro-choice stance, as well as the issue of—he is saying that gay couples can stay together. And this is something the administration, for 8 years you've dealt with, and no one really jumped up at that before, and now everyone is becoming unglued, particularly Christians.

The President. Let's talk about that. First of all, I want to talk about this veracity business. I think it's a total bum rap. Let's go back to what gave rise to it in the debate. They jumped on him after the first debate because he talked about taking a trip to Texas with the Director of our Emergency Management Agency, and it turned out the guy wasn't on the trip with him.

Now, he went, and the Regional Director of the Agency was on the trip, and he had taken 17 other trips with this Director. He went to almost as many emergencies as I did these last 8 years. And I can tell you, I don't remember who was on what flight. So that wasn't an exaggeration. He took the trip; he

went down there. And he just didn't remember that the guy wasn't on that flight. He was on 17 other flights. I think that is crazy. He never said he invented the Internet—another bum rap. He never—and all these other things they say, you know, basically, I think are wrong.

I will say this. The other day, 425 high-tech executives endorsed him, including a man named Vint Cerf. He sent the first E-mail ever sent, Mr. Cerf did. And he really was one of the fathers of the Internet. And he gave Al Gore the credit he deserved for supporting legislation in the Congress that turned the Internet from a private province of Defense Department physicists into the broad commercial network it is today. So I think the exaggeration thing is wrong.

Now, let's talk about the pro-choice issue. I still believe that *Roe v. Wade* was properly decided. And we have worked to try to reduce teen pregnancy and, therefore, to reduce the number of abortions. Teen pregnancy is at a 30-year or 40-year low in America, and the number of abortions has gone down every year I've been in office. But I do not believe the answer is to go back and criminalize a woman's decision to have an abortion. I think we should keep the pro-choice position, and I don't think that's immoral. I think it's consistent with reducing the number of abortions by reducing teen pregnancy.

Al Gore and I helped to start a national campaign against teen pregnancy, which had, I think, a very significant, positive impact on this issue. And I don't think there's anything wrong with his ethics or his morals on this issue.

In terms of the gay issue, what has he said? He has said that he believed that gay people who live together in a committed relationship ought to have access to the same sorts of legal protections that other couples have. What are they? One of you gets sick; the other one ought to be able to visit in the hospital during family visiting hours. I know this sounds like a little thing, but this is a big deal to people. One dies; the other ought to be able to leave property under the laws of the State. If one of them has health insurance on the job, they ought to be able to purchase health insurance for their partners.

I personally believe—and he believes there should be no discrimination on the job, and we should pass hate crimes legislation that covers sexual orientation as well as race. Now, I personally don't think there is anything wrong with that. I think we've got to build a society where, if you obey the law and you work hard and you pay your taxes and you do like everybody else is supposed to do in America, you ought to be treated fairly. So I agree with the Vice President's position on that. And I don't think it's anti-family.

So all I can tell you is I support him on that. He's got a great civil rights record. He's got a great record on the economy. He's got a great record on the environment. And he ran the program for me that reduced the size of Government and increased the amount of money we had left to invest in health care and other things. I just think that he has earned the right to be strongly considered for President, based on his lifetime of service and the difference between him and his opponent.

And let me just say this. You talked about the abortion and gay rights issues. Those issues may well be decided by the judges that the next President will support, but certainly civil rights issues will be decided by the judges that the next President will appoint. We already have a five-vote majority on this court for some very disturbing decisions designed to restrict the ability of the National Government to protect the rights of the American people.

And I really believe that if the Republicans win the White House, it will be more than *Roe v. Wade* that's changed. I think you'll have a Supreme Court that will drastically restrict the ability of the Federal Government to advance civil rights and human rights and to protect the public interest. You can already see it from the decisions that they made involving the Violence Against Women Act, striking down part of that, striking down part of the Brady bill that's kept handguns out of the hands of half a million felons, fugitives, and stalkers, striking down a bill that Congress passed to prevent age discrimination.

So I think there's a lot of evidence out there that this election makes a difference.

I agree with the positions the Vice President has taken.

Republican Policies

Ms. Ryan. You're a strong Democrat, and you have some Republican leanings. But many are questioning if George W. Bush gets in here, a lot of things will change, especially how you dealt with the issue of race. Bob Dole—I'm working on a private project and I talked to Bob Dole, and he said something tremendous about you. He said you have changed the way the President will have to deal with race issues. And that was tremendous for me to hear Bob Dole say that about you. Does it scare you, listening to some of the things that George W. Bush says, and seeing the polls today—George W. Bush, 47 percent; Al Gore, 41 percent—seeing that everything you've worked for, you and Al Gore worked for, would drastically change?

The President. Yes. I actually believe that Governor Bush would be, if he were President, would be pretty good on immigration, because he's from Texas, and in Texas the Republicans and the Democrats have a relationship with the Mexican-American community that I think would translate into pretty good policies. And I think he would be perfectly nice to everyone. His rhetoric would be unifying. But I think his policies would be divisive. He wouldn't say he supported affirmative action, even as we changed it, in the debate.

Ms. Ryan. Affirmative access.

The President. Yes, that's a code word for being against action, I think. He wouldn't say that he would support hate crimes legislation, and he did refuse to see James Byrd's family. They don't support stronger enforcement of equal-pay-for-women laws. There just are lots of examples here where they have good rhetoric, but I think their policies are, in fact, divisive.

One of the things I've tried to do is to say that we can unite the American people. In these last 8 years, rich people have gotten richer, but poor and middle class people have had income gains for the first time in 20 or 30 years. We've tried to go forward together. And that's what I think Al Gore will work for and why I think it's important that he be elected.

And by the way—we're talking 6 days before the election—the real polls are basically dead-even. I keep up with them every day and this is a dead-even race. So it really—how it comes out is really going to be determined more on who votes. And a lot of these polls assume a lower turnout among African-Americans and Hispanic-Americans and other first-generation immigrants.

African-American Voter Turnout

Ms. Ryan. Two years ago the big difference came when African-American minorities went to the polls.

The President. Absolutely. Look what happened to Georgia. Let me just give you two or three examples. In Georgia we elected a Democratic Governor, who was behind in the polls, and two African-American State office holders. Why? Georgia is 25 percent black; the African-American vote was 28 percent of the vote.

In South Carolina, our side won a governorship and Senator Hollings was reelected, when most people thought we would lose both. Why? Because the first time in history, African-American turnout equaled white turnout.

In Mississippi, the Democrats won a Governor's race that the polls said they were six points behind in on Friday night before the election. Why? Because for the first time, African-Americans turned out in equal percentages as whites.

So if African-Americans say, "I want my vote to count as much as anybody else's," and they show up in the same or greater percentages of their registration as whites do, we'll win this race. It's as simple as that. African-Americans and Hispanics vote in the same percentages as white voters vote, we have enough support in the black community to win the race.

NAACP Commercial

Ms. Ryan. You said something a second ago about James Byrd. James Byrd's daughter is in an NAACP commercial. What were your thoughts about that?

The President. Well, I haven't seen the commercial. That's not quite true; I actually saw it in passing, but I didn't hear it. I think she was very hurt, properly so, about the way

she and her family were treated after her father was dragged to death. The Governor didn't want to have to deal with her.

But what was really going on in Texas—and people don't want to say it, but we need to be plain about it in the debate—Governor Bush did not want to embrace the hate crimes bill that two-thirds of the people in Texas supported, because it extended hate crimes protection to gays, as well as to racial minorities. And he was going into a Presidential primary, and he thought he had the support of the religious right and all the ultraconservative wings of the party. He was their first choice. And he didn't want to make them mad, so he didn't want to see James Byrd's family, and he didn't want to lift a finger to pass that bill.

As I said, even though Texas, which is a conservative Republican State—in Texas, two-thirds of the citizens thought there should be hate crimes legislation, and it should protect gays. Most people in America, no matter how conservative they are, do not believe that anybody should be singled out for abuse of any kind.

And so I think he made a terrible mistake, and I think she was very, very hurt by it. And I think that's what that ad is about. Now, I can't comment on the content. I haven't seen the substance of the ad or whatever. But she was hurt, and she was letting the American people know. And I think it's a relevant piece of information for the American people to know.

106th Congress

Ms. Ryan. Mr. President, thank you so much for your time, and I have one last question to ask. Today in the news, it seems that Congress is going to adjourn a couple days before the election. What is going to happen to your budget, finishing the unfinished work?

The President. Oh, they'll come back after the election if they do that. I wish they'd stay and finish. But I think what's happened is now—every place we could make an agreement, we did. We worked with them. On the three areas that are still outstanding, they basically—the Republicans—kicked the White House and the Democratic Congress representatives out of the room and made an

agreement among themselves, that is, on one of the bills dealing with immigration and other things, and on the tax bill, on those two.

On the Education and Labor bill, we actually made an agreement with the Republicans, and then the Republican leadership shattered the agreement because they said it didn't suit their special interests on a worker safety provision.

So what I think they're going to do is call a halt to this—that's the rumor, anyway—and then come back after the election, and we'll go back to work. But it's really sad because we could have easily finished our work here. All they had to do was to honor the agreement that we made on education. We had gotten a very good education bill that really helped the children of this country. And we had gotten a proper compromise on the worker safety issue, but they didn't want us to be able to do anything to protect worker safety.

So I'm sorry about it. But this is a clear example of the kind of choice people make. That's the last point I want to make about this election. People need to think about it when they decide, "Am I going to go vote; is it worth my vote; what am I going to do with my Presidential race?" Most Americans, including members of the African-American community, have no way of knowing how many things I stopped from happening here with the veto pen, with the threat of a veto. You know, in addition to the things we got done, we stopped a lot of things from being done these last 6 years with the Republicans in the majority. And if you have a Republican in the White House and if the Republicans were to maintain their majority, however slim, in the House and the Senate, there would be nobody here to stop them.

I think Americans need to think long and hard about that before they vote in this Presidential race. Somebody needs to be here to restrain excess in conduct by the people that are in control of the Congress, because they're to the right of—the people who control the Congress are to the right of many Republicans in the Congress, and to the right of the Republicans in America, never mind the independents and Democrats. So that's

another good argument for Al Gore for President.

Ms. Ryan. Mr. President, thank you so much. And we hope to do another interview with you, an exit interview, before you leave office. [Laughter]

The President. You know, it's my job, I should probably be doing a lot of exit interviews.

Thank you, April.

NOTE: The interview began at 5:35 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Vinton G. Cerf, senior vice president of Internet architecture and technology, MCI WorldCom; and Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 2. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Interview on the Tom Joyner Morning Show

November 2, 2000

Q. Four more years! Four more years! [Laughter]

Morning Show Commercials

The President. What I want to know is, where did you make that ad where you walk in the White House and the house comes down?

Q. This is an ad that runs in Washington for our radio station.

The President. Do your listeners know that you actually tore the White House down? Do they know that? [Laughter] Have you concealed that from them? [Laughter]

Q. You watched that, huh?

The President. I do.

Q. We have a commercial that runs in the Washington area where—anyway. [Laughter]

The President. He walks into a mockup of the White House and it comes down. [Laughter]

Q. I'm glad you watched that. I'm glad to know that you listen to the show.

The President. I keep up with you.

Q. Thank you, sir. And we keep up with you, too, and sincerely, it would be nice if

we could get 4 more years from you. It's been a good 8 years for us.

2000 Election

The President. But you can get the next best thing. I'll tell you, we've got to win this election, and I feel very strongly that we're going to win it if our folks vote. All these polls that show it close and show Governor Bush a point or two ahead, all those polls are premised on an assumption that African-American and Hispanic voters and first-generation immigrants will not vote in the same percentages that the Republican base will vote. That's what they're premised on.

I remember in Mississippi last year, where the African-American vote equalled the white vote, for the first time ever, a Democratic candidate for Governor was elected by 6,300 votes. And he was six points behind in the polls. So that's what—the power here is with the young people and with the folks that have done well in these last 8 years.

One of the things that I want to point out that I'm proudest of is that we fought for policies—and Al Gore fought for policies—that would guarantee that when this economy came back, for the first time in 30 years, it wouldn't just be the wealthiest Americans who would do well. They would do well, but everybody else would do well, too. Average income has gone up by over \$5,000 in this country, and African-American unemployment is at the lowest point in history. And I think that alone is a good argument to stick with this economic policy, especially when the alternative is going back to deficits and underinvesting in education.

Q. And Mr. President, history has shown that with the votes that have—or with the election such as 1960 and even '68, how just one vote in maybe a ward or two would have made a difference and turned history around then, too.

The President. Oh, absolutely. John Kennedy won by four-tenths of one percent. Hubert Humphrey lost by a percent. Jimmy Carter won by a percent, one vote out of a hundred. And this race could well be that close. And I can tell you there are at least five States today that are within one percent. There are another five States that are within 2 percent. That's how close this election is.

Ralph Nader/Youth Vote

Q. And the Republicans are buying spots for Ralph Nader in some of these States.

The President. They are buying spots for Nader? What does that tell you?

Q. Yeah.

The President. You know, one of the things that bothers me is that I think young people have the biggest stake in this election and may feel alienated from it because so much of the debate has been about Social Security and Medicare drug programs for seniors. But I'd like to make a couple of points about that for young people.

First of all, I'm the oldest of the baby boomers. I'm 54 years old. And one of the reasons that the young people should care about this debate is all the people my age are very worried that when we retire—that is, people between the ages of 36 and 54, that's the baby boom—when we retire we don't want to impose a burden on our children and on our grandchildren. So that's a big issue. So when Al Gore says, "I'll put 20 years on the life of Social Security," and his opponent says, "I'll take a trillion dollars out of the Social Security Trust Fund," that's a big difference there. And it's important.

But also, our administration has a good environmental record. That's going to be more important for the future. Al Gore knows more about technology, how to maximize the benefits of the Internet, how to close the digital divide, how to create new economic opportunities in underserved areas, areas that still haven't fully felt the prosperity, which is a big issue. He's worked on that for 8 years now through our empowerment zones, and we've got a plan to get billions and billions of dollars in investment in new businesses and new jobs in the areas that still have unemployment that is too high or income that's too low. So I think the young people have the biggest stake of all in this election.

Supreme Court/Republican Congress

Q. And also, when you think about the Supreme Court, sir, and what—

Q. Huge issue.

Q. —you've done with the Supreme Court and the ability to carry on into the next—

The President. Yes. I only got two appointments, I regret to say, but they have upheld civil rights, and they've upheld a woman's right to choose, and they've upheld the right of the National Government to protect the interest of the American people. But there are—we're one vote away from reversing *Roe v. Wade*, and we are dangerously close to something that could be even more severe. We're dangerously close to a permanent majority on this Court that will restrict the ability of the United States Government, both the President and the Congress, to protect the American people in fundamental ways.

This Court had five votes to invalidate a provision of the Brady bill, which is the background check law on handguns, because it required the States to help. They invalidated a section of the violence against women law because it required the States to help. They invalidated a provision of a law against age discrimination. I mean, so I cannot—the American people have probably no idea how important that is.

And one other thing I'd like to say: We've got a chance to win the House and the Senate. But if we don't, there needs to be somebody here in the White House to restrain this Republican Congress. Let's not forget all the things they've tried to do that I stopped. They tried to shut down the Department of Education. They had the biggest education cuts in history, the biggest environmental cuts in history. They've tried to pass all kinds of restrictions on our ability to protect the health and safety of people in the workplace. So that's another big point.

Q. They turned your hair from black to white.

The President. They turned my hair from black to white. I earned every one of these gray hairs. [*Laughter*]

New York Senate Race

Q. And wouldn't it be nice to have two Democratic Senators from the great State of New York?

The President. Oh, that would be really nice. You know, I'm really proud of Hillary, and I knew that she was doing well when her opponent made 500,000 phone calls accusing her of being tied to terrorists. That

was really sinking to the bottom of the barrel. [Laughter] And I think she's got that turned around.

She's up there trying to run on the issues. I mean, I think that if people care about education, if they care about child care, if they think about balancing work and family, if they want younger people, as well as older people, to have access to health insurance, people like Hillary and Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, those are the kind of people we need to be promoting, because this country is in great shape. But we need to build on what we've got, not reverse it.

Post-Presidential Plans

Q. That's right, sir. And sir, I'm going to say it now because I probably won't get a chance to say it before you leave office. We're going to really miss you.

Q. Thank you so much, sir.

The President. Well, I hope you'll—you know, call me now and then. We'll still talk on the radio. [Laughter] You may be the only guy who wants to talk to me when I'm not President anymore. [Laughter]

Q. I know, because now the Republicans don't even want you to practice law. They've tried to hold that up on you, too.

The President. I know. Well, they tell me that after the—for 3 or 4 months I'll be lost when I leave office because when I walk in a room, nobody will play a song anymore. [Laughter]

Q. We'll play a song for you.

Q. We'll play some old school—yeah.

The President. —one of your songs for “Hail To The Chief”—how's that?

Q. There you go.

Q. Because we know what you like. [Laughter]

The President. You've got a deal.

Q. All right, President Clinton.

The President. Again, I just want to say—I hope everybody listens—you've got to show up Tuesday. You've got to be there. I mean, this election is every bit as important as the one that elected me in 1992. We've turned the country around. The last thing we need to do is go in reverse.

Q. All right.

The President. Thank you.

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The interview began at 9:30 a.m. The President spoke via telephone from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush.

Remarks on Departure for Los Angeles, California

November 2, 2000

Situation in the Middle East

Good morning. Thank you very much. Let me begin with a word about developments in the Middle East. Last night the parties announced that they had reached an understanding on how to end the violence based on the agreement we reached at Sharm el-Sheikh.

I hope the parties can move forward to put an end to this violence that has caused so much pain on both sides. We know it won't be easy. This morning we were reminded once again in Jerusalem that there are those who seek to destroy the peace through acts of terror. This cannot be permitted to prevail. It is now time for those who believe in peace to stand together to stop this violence and to work against the terrorists.

106th Congress

I wanted all of you to be here today because you've worked so hard on our priorities here at home. The Republican leadership of the 106th Congress has proven itself unable to finish its work before facing the voters. Congressional Republicans are leaving behind a legacy of unfinished business on health care, education, economic progress, and social justice. Regrettably, this is a Congress that may well be remembered for broken promises, lost opportunities, and misplaced priorities.

In contrast, our administration, with congressional Democrats, put forward an achievable agenda for America and its families, a real Patients' Bill of Rights, expanding health coverage to millions of uninsured Americans, a raise in the minimum wage, tax cuts for education and retirement, improving our public schools, protecting our environment,

strengthening Medicare with a voluntary prescription drug coverage for all seniors, and a balanced budget that pays off the debt by 2012.

We had a simple strategy to accomplish these goals: heeding the wisdom of the American people; reaching out to win bipartisan majorities in Congress; and calling for a vote. That's putting progress over partisanship. The results should have been a strong record of legislative achievement. But time and again, rather than listening to the voices of the American people and responding to the bipartisan calls within the Congress, the Republican leadership has bowed to the demands of special interests.

On every single issue, we have worked in good faith to craft compromises that were good for the American people. And when Democrats and Republicans have worked together, we have actually made real progress. We won new investments for our inner cities, rural communities, and Native American communities, and 79,000 new housing vouchers for families climbing their way out of poverty. We increased our investment in a clean environment and doubled our funds for land conservation. We enacted the largest one-year increase ever requested for Veterans Affairs and the largest increase in the history of the National Science Foundation. And we met our historic commitment to debt relief for developing countries.

Just last Sunday we reached bipartisan agreement on an education budget that would have been a tremendous achievement for our children. But under orders from their special interest, the Republican leadership cancelled the compromise we had reached with the Republican congressional negotiators. So unless we keep fighting, there will be no funds for school construction, no more progress toward cutting class size by hiring 100,000 new qualified teachers, no new investment in teacher quality, no new funding to strengthen accountability, turn around failing schools, double the number of children served in after-school programs. That is wrong. So we must keep working to make it right.

We built a bipartisan coalition to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid by expanding coverage for children with disabilities, Amer-

icans moving from welfare to work, and pregnant women and children who are legal immigrants. But the Republican leadership rejected these proposals in favor of a massive give-away to HMO's—tens of billions of dollars without taking adequate care of these vulnerable populations or adequately compensating the teaching in rural hospitals, home health agencies, and other providers who serve our people. Before this year is out, we must resolve this matter, finally and fairly.

The leadership says they didn't have time to complete the budget. But they wasted no time in blocking fair treatment for Latino immigrants, in blocking commonsense gun safety legislation, in trying to stop new worker safety rules, in filing the spending bills—filling the spending bills they did pass with political election-year pork.

One thing should be clear: The lack of progress in this Congress was not a failure of bipartisanship. On raising the minimum wage, a real Patients' Bill of Rights, hate crimes legislation, campaign finance reform, school construction, the new markets legislation for the areas still not touched by our prosperity—on every single one of these issues, we had bipartisan majorities, Republicans and Democrats, ready to pass them. But the Republican leadership and their special interest allies, unfortunately, still had the power to kill them.

It is unfortunate that their leadership failed to deliver on so much that was within our grasp. But the fight is not over. The American people expect us to finish the job they sent us here to do, and when the Republican leadership comes back after the election, I hope we are ready to work together—and they are ready to work together—to meet that challenge. I am ready. We've done a lot of good, but there's too much left undone, too much that a majority of both parties support.

So thanks for your efforts. Let's go out and let the American people have their say, and we'll come back and go to work after the election.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks at a California Democratic Party and Coordinated Campaign Reception in Los Angeles, California
November 2, 2000

That's the shortest speech by a politician on record. [*Laughter*] Thank you, and thank you, Governor. I'm looking forward to this little meeting today, but I want to thank you for the work you're doing for the Coordinated Campaign. I'm delighted to be here. We've got five congressional seats here we've got to try to win. And we've got to reelect Senator Feinstein and carry California for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. So we know what we have to do.

And I can tell you, I've been around the country now—I've done like 160 events, maybe more, this year. I just got back from Louisville. If people understand what the issues are and what the differences are and what the consequences are, we'll win. This is not complicated. So I hope I can help you in the next 2 days.

The only other thing I would say is, all the surveys show that basically this election could turn on whether our voters want to go vote as much as their voters do. And what motivates them is knowing what's at stake. So I'll do what I can to help you do that, and then when I leave, I know you'll bring them to victory.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the atrium at the Regency Club. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Gray Davis of California. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Get Out the Vote Rally in Los Angeles
November 2, 2000

The President. Thank you. Whoa. Are you ready to win this election? I want to thank all of you for coming out, for your enthusiasm and your support. I want to thank my good friend Kenny Edmonds. He writes a good song, and he makes a good introduction, I think. [*Laughter*]

Thank you, Governor Gray Davis, for your leadership and your friendship. Thank you,

Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante. Thank you, Art Torres. Thank you, Representative Hilda Solis. And to the other officials who are here, Genethia Hayes, Assemblyman Herb Wesson, Senator Kevin Murray, Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, and Art Pulaski of the Federation of Labor. And I'd also like to thank your speaker, Bob Hertzberg, and the folks that performed and sang before me here. Thank you, Holly Robinson Peete; thank you, Wyclef Jean. And my good friend Camryn Manheim, not on stage but interpreting me. Isn't she great?

Now, look, I've got to say a few things—can you hear me?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. And you have to indulge me, because I know that I'm sort of preaching to the saved here today. And the temptation, therefore, is just to say things that make us all shout and have a good time.

But look, this is a close election, and there are, in addition to the Presidency, races for United States Senate, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and we have five—count 'em—five House seats that the Democrats could win in the State of California alone, on our way to recovering the majority.

So I want you all just to let me talk just a few minutes—not too loud—and tell you what I hope you will say to everybody who is not here, because every one of you have a lot of friends who have never been to anything like this. Is that right? They never came to hear the President give a speech or the Governor or one of these political deals. But they all vote, or they could vote if they knew why they were voting. Is that right?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. So here is what I want to tell you. Number one, thank you, thank you, thank you for the support that California, Los Angeles, and Watts have given to me and Al Gore these last 8 years.

You know, one of the things that I worry about in this election is that there are a lot of young people of voting age who can't even remember what it was like back in 1992. The economy was in trouble; the society was divided; there were riots in Los Angeles. The political system in Washington was pure tone-deaf to you across the country in California.

And Al Gore and I came here and said, “Give us a chance to put the American people first, to create opportunity for all responsible citizens, to create a community that all of you will be a full part of.” And you gave us a chance, and we changed America.

Now, we have another election and another time to decide. And what I want to say to you is, this election is just as important as the one in which you and California sent me to the White House 8 years ago.

Now, I learned a question I was supposed to ask at election time from one of my predecessors, President Reagan. He said this is the question we’re supposed to ask, so I’m going to ask, and you answer: Are we better off today than we were 8 years ago?

Audience members. Yes!

And let me say what’s really important to me. Yes, I’m grateful that we’ve had the longest economic expansion in history. I’m grateful that we got the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years. But what I’m really grateful for is, in this economic expansion, the middle class and the working poor, along with the rich folks, benefited. We all went forward together. I’m grateful for the fact that we’ve got the lowest Hispanic and African-American unemployment rate ever recorded, a 30 percent drop in child poverty, the highest homeownership in history, 15 percent increase in average income. I’m grateful for that.

So here’s the second question: Do we want to keep this prosperity going?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. You’ve got a choice. Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and the Democrats will keep the prosperity going by continuing to pay down the debt; give us a tax cut we can afford, to send our kids to college, to take care of our folks if they get sick and we have to take care of them at home, for child care, for retirement savings; and they will invest in education, in health care, in the environment, and building our communities.

Now, the other guys, they say—listen to this—they say, “We’ve got a \$2 trillion surplus, and it doesn’t belong to the Government. It belongs to you.” Well, of course it does. So they say, “Here’s what we’re going to do with that \$2 trillion surplus. We’re going to spend \$1.6 trillion on a tax cut.

We’re going to spend \$1 trillion privatizing Social Security, and we’re going to spend a half a trillion dollars on other things.”

Now, here’s the problem. All you kids in grade school, listen to this: 1.6 plus 1 plus .5 is 3.1. That’s bigger than 2. And what does that mean? What does that mean to you? Yes, it means flunking math, but it also means bigger deficits, after we got rid of them, more inflation, higher interest rates.

If you go with Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and the Democrats, they will keep interest rates about a percent lower every year for a decade. Do you know what that’s worth to ordinary people? Listen to this—10 years—listen: \$390 billion in lower home mortgages; \$30 billion in lower car payments; \$15 billion in lower student loan payments; lower credit card payments; lower business loans, which means more stores at the mall here, more jobs, and a higher stock market.

With Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and the Democrats, the rich folks keep getting richer, but so does the middle class and so do the lower income working people. We’re all going forward together.

So if somebody asks you, “Well, why should I go vote, and why should I be for the Democrats,” say, “Because we’ve got the longest, strongest, fairest economy we ever had and because I want to keep it going.”

Now, I got another question. It’s not just about economics. There’s something else you need to know. Compared to 8 years ago, the crime rate has gone down every year, to a 26-year low; the welfare rolls have been cut in half; the environment is cleaner, cleaner air, cleaner water, 3 times as many toxic waste dumps cleaned up as in the previous 12 years; more land set aside than any time since Teddy Roosevelt was President 100 years ago. And the economy kept getting better. The health care system—Medicare was supposed to go broke last year. Now we put 27 years on it. For the first time in a dozen years, the number of people without health insurance is going down because 2.5 million kids have gotten health insurance under our Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Now, in addition to that, the high school dropout rate is going down. The math, reading, and science scores are going up. College-going is at an all-time high. The number of

African-American and Latino kids taking advanced placement tests—courses—has gone up 300 percent in 3 years. Now, in every case, we did things that helped that happen.

So, question three: Do you like this progress, and do you want to build on it?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Well, you have a choice. Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and the Democrats, they'll keep working until we get health care for all our kids; until we have Medicare prescription drugs for all the seniors who need it, not just a few; until we have a real Patients' Bill of Rights, so that doctors, not insurance company officials, decide what your health care needs are.

They'll keep working for a new, cleaner energy policy so we can keep growing the economy and breathe the air. They'll work for funds to build or repair schools. I don't know how many kids in California, but a whole lot, are going to school in housetrailer or old broken-down schools, and we're trying to help. It's very important.

Now, you also have another choice. Our friends in the other party, what's their program? They say if they win—listen to this—this is what they say, not me. They will abolish our program putting 100,000 police on the street—we only have the lowest crime rate in 26 years. They will abolish our commitment to putting 100,000 teachers in the classrooms to lower class size in the early grades. They will roll back our environmental standards for clean air and get rid of a lot of this land protection that I have enacted. And they will not support a real Patients' Bill of Rights or Medicare prescription drugs for every senior who needs it. So you have a choice here.

But if you want to keep building on the progress, your choice is Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, and the Democrats.

Now, I've got another question for you. One of the things that I have tried to do is to make people in Watts feel like they had just as big a say in the White House as the friends I have in Beverly Hills. I wanted you to feel that the White House was your house, that the Government was your Government. And I have worked for an America that helped everybody.

A lady over there just held a sign up that said, "Thank you for the Family and Medical Leave Act," which over 22 million Americans have used to take some time off when a baby is born or a parent is sick without losing their job. It's one of the best things we ever did.

And we've worked for the minimum wage and family tax relief and the AmeriCorps program that has given 150,000 of our young people a chance to serve in their communities, including L.A., and rebuild them and earn some money for college. We've tried to give you one America.

Now, the last question I have is, do we want to keep building one America and not be divided again? Yes, we do. You've got a choice. Al Gore, Joe Lieberman, and the Democrats are for strong hate crimes legislation. They're for employment nondiscrimination legislation. They're for stronger enforcement of equal pay laws for women because there's still too much discrimination there. They're for fairness to all legal immigrants in this country in the distribution of benefits. And they're for a Supreme Court and other Federal judges who will protect a woman's right to choose and civil rights and human rights in this country.

Now, in every case, their Republican opponents have a different view on every one of those issues I just mentioned. They talk a lot about bipartisanship. But we've got a bipartisan majority in the Congress right now for a Patients' Bill of Rights, for a raise in the minimum wage, for the hate crimes legislation, for money for school construction, for campaign finance reform. But their leaders say no.

Now, I'm telling you, I believe that the Democrats have a great chance to win both the House and the Senate. But I want you to think about something in this Presidential race. You know all the struggles I've been in these last 6 years, trying to stick up for you. One reason you need Al Gore in the White House is that somebody needs to be there, if this crowd stays in, to stop their more extremist actions, and he will.

Now, I want to say something about the Vice President. And all I can do is kind of echo what Governor Davis said. He has the experience for this job. This is something that should be important to the young people in

this audience. He understands the future, how it will be shaped by the Internet, by the global economy, by the revolution in science and technology. He has accomplished more for the American people as Vice President than any person who ever held that job before.

But most important, President Kennedy once said that the Presidency is preeminently a place of decisionmaking. You hired me for 8 years to make decisions that the President is supposed to make. Al Gore is a good man who makes good decisions, and with your help he will be a great President of the United States.

So here's what I want you to do. You've got a few days now. Every day, when you see somebody you know wasn't here today, you tell them you want them to vote. You tell them you want to vote for Al Gore, for Joe Lieberman, and the Democrats. Why?

Question number one, you want them to vote because you want to keep this prosperity going. Number two, you want them to vote because you want to keep building on the progress of the last 8 years. Number three, you want their vote because you want to keep building one America; you kind of like it, thinking that the White House is your house, too.

This is a close election. Every vote counts. There is a clear choice. I cannot thank you enough for how good you've been to me. But let me tell you something: If you want to build on the prosperity, if you want to build on the progress, if you want to keep building one America, you've got a clear choice and a clear responsibility, your only choice: Al Gore, Joe Lieberman, and the Democrats.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:20 p.m. in the parking lot at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza Mall. In his remarks, he referred to musician Kenneth (Babyface) Edmonds; Art Torres, chair, California State Democratic Party; State Senators Hilda Solis and Kevin Murray; Genethia Hayes, member, Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education; State Assemblyman Herb Wesson; Los Angeles City Council member Mark Ridley-Thomas; Art Pulaski, executive secretary-treasurer, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO; Robert M. Hertzberg, speaker, California State Assembly; actresses Holly Robinson Peete and Camryn Manheim; and musician Wyclef Jean.

A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks at a Reception for Congressional Candidate Gerrie Schipske in Los Angeles

November 2, 2000

Thank you. You all sit down. Well, this is a pretty rowdy crowd. [Laughter] Nice signs. [Laughter]

I want to thank—first of all, thanks to all of you for coming, but I especially want to thank Jeremy and Marc Nathanson; and my friend of more than 30 years now David Mixner, who still has no gray hair practically. [Laughter] And thank you, Antonio Villaraigosa for being here and for your friendship to me.

And I want to thank Gerrie Schipske for having the guts to run and run again and be in here. I enjoyed visiting with Gerrie and Flo and the kids back there. You know, I was listening to her—she tells a pretty good joke—[laughter]—sort of an essential criteria if you want to be in Congress. [Laughter] Better to tell one than be one, I always say. [Laughter]

You know, my mother was a nurse anesthesiologist. I never met anybody associated with health care who didn't have a sense of humor. You need it in that line of work. But she was kind of hung up about me being on page one of the Advocate; did you notice that? [Laughter] She was on page 56. I've just got to say it. If we do our job, by less than a week from now, you'll be on page one of the Advocate, and I'll be lucky to be on page 56. [Laughter]

I think there ought to be more people associated with health care in the Congress. Lois Capps, who represents the district a little north of here was a public school nurse and a magnificent woman. And we have one or two other people in the Congress who did a stint in nursing or health care. One of the Republican physicians in the Congress, Greg Ganske from Iowa, was one of the people that gave us the bipartisan majority we needed for a real Patients' Bill of Rights.

When you think about the role that health care plays in our national life and all the complex issues that have to be faced, and how much money there is behind a lot of the organized positions taken by the other party in Congress—I know a lot of you are here because you support Gerrie on the human rights issues and all of that, but I’m telling you, we need more people who understand health care from the human point of view.

I can’t tell you—you know, I could give you, if we had all night to talk, I could give you 50 examples that I have personally experienced in the last 8 years. So one of the reasons that I’m here for her, apart from the fact that I like her and I support her and I agree with her, because we really do need more people who’ve actually done things with their lives that could actually be valuable to people when they have to make laws. And so that’s it.

Now, I want to be brief here, because I realize that I’m preaching to the saved. [*Laughter*] But let me tell you, I’ve been doing this a long time. Now, this is the first time in 26 years I haven’t been on the ballot running for something. I was 27 years old when I started, and I lost the race for the House of Representatives—thank goodness I—I wouldn’t have made it here, I guess, if I hadn’t. [*laughter*]. And I’ve loved all these elections.

I believe in the American political system. You know, I don’t know how many years David Mixner and I had to wait until we actually got to vote for somebody for President who actually won. [*Laughter*] That’s not true. I voted for Jimmy Carter, and you did, too. But it was a pretty long time there, you know. And I was beginning to think I would be on Social Security before I ever had a winning election. [*Laughter*]

But I believe in the American political system, and I think, over time, the American people are an embodiment of Martin Luther King’s eloquent statement that the arc of history is long but it bends toward justice. That’s a very eloquent statement. And we have to not grow weary. We have to just keep on working at it.

But most people are good people. And free people generally tend to do the right thing if they have enough information and enough

time to digest it and enough experience against which to test it. And I say that because—I do want to be just a little serious with you tonight. I think elections are tight. I’ve been fooling with this a long time now. President Nixon defeated Hubert Humphrey by a little over a percent. President Kennedy defeated Richard Nixon by four-tenths of one percent, 100,000 votes, in the whole country—less than a vote a precinct. President Carter defeated President Ford by about a percent.

So close races for President are not without precedence. But now they’re manifesting themselves in these races for Congress. Now, it’s quite interesting because on all of the major issues of the day except one or two, the people agree with the direction we’ve been taking the last 8 years.

Now, what does that lead you to say? What conclusion can you draw from that? In so many strange places—for example, when I was trying to help James Byrd’s children pass the hate crimes legislation in Texas, which as you know is no heart of flaming liberalism, a survey came out in Austin the day I was there that showed that in Texas, two-thirds of the people, without regard to party, agreed that Texas ought to have hate crimes legislation that included protection for gays—in Texas.

On the other hand, a massive amount of voting is always health care. You look around here, people tend to kind of—they hang with their crowd, and they kind of vote and kind of go in one direction, and then they find it hard to turn around and go the other way. And it takes a while for a different issue approach to register. That’s part of it.

Part of it is, a lot of young people can’t even remember when the economy wasn’t this good. You know, they have no recollection of this, so they kind of take it for granted. And indeed, the nominee of the other party, I can’t figure out—sometimes he says nothing good has happened in the last 8 years, and then, once in a while reality will dawn, and he’ll say, “Well whatever good happened, it was an accident. They didn’t have anything to do with it”—[*laughter*]—which is an interesting thing, because when they were in, they took credit when the Sun came up in the morning. [*Laughter*] They even ran

a campaign on the sun coming up in the morning. Do you remember that? “It’s morning in America.” Do you remember that? [Laughter] But I do believe—we’re all having a good time here, but seriously, I think that one of the problems in this time is it’s easy to forget that they weren’t always good, and it’s difficult sometimes to make the connection between what some people in public life have done and the good consequences that have occurred.

And so everybody feels kind of like, well, this guy sounds good, and that one sounds good; the other one sounds good, and you—so you look around at all these—and try to—in the Presidential race, when I last checked, which was this morning, there were roughly a dozen States just untouchable—and all over the country—just unprecedented.

And all over the country, you have races like Gerrie’s, and so, what is important is that you be able to make a case to people in these closing days that include some of the statistics you know we win on, but it’s part of the general approach.

And so, I just want to share this with you, because I want her to win. And there are four other House seats we can win here. And the Vice President and Senator Lieberman are ahead now in the polls in California, but they have to win.

The whole basis of the Clinton/Gore political—was never having to worry about what we called “the Western wall” of the United States—anchored—California. We won Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii. And then we never had to worry about New York, and we won everything that way. And we always had Illinois, which was my wife’s home and where I have spent a lot of time. And we always—and we had—what we had to do was, we went out—and out from Illinois—

[At this point, a portion of the President’s remarks were missing from the transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary.]

The President. —and then we just went down the Mississippi River. And that’s more than enough to win, and the rest was gravy, because it’s an electoral strategy.

Now, with all this closeness, the same thing is true, as you heard Gerrie say, she wants to be one of the Members that gives

us the majority in the House. We can do that. But we have to win a lot of these California seats. There are five seats in California who have a bona fide chance of winning.

So what I’m here to ask you to do—I thank you for giving her money. If you can give her some more, you ought to, because she’s being out-spent. If you haven’t reached your legal limit or you can give her some more, I hope you will do that. But there’s something else you could do. You could actually take it upon yourself to be as active as you possibly can until the polls close Tuesday night, because every one of you has lots of friends who have never been to an event like this. Is that right? Don’t you? I mean, most of your friends don’t come to deals like this, do they? They’ve never been to an event like this where the President speaks or where the Governor speaks or people talk about this.

Even Mark, who has been living on this political stuff and has done more than anybody west of the Mississippi River to try to make Dick Gephardt Speaker, even Mark, most of his friends never come to events like this.

A lot of your friends wonder what in the world you’re doing spending your money on this. Isn’t that right? [Laughter] They say, why did you spend all that money? I mean, you could have been home watching a basketball game, right?

So we’re laughing, but let me just tell you seriously. I would like to tell you what I wish you would tell everyone you can see, call, scream at, or touch between now and Tuesday. And if we were alone in a room, you and I, and you asked me, “Why are you really for Al Gore? Why are you really for Gerrie Schipske? What have you really learned in 8 years?” This is what I would tell you if you were alone and I had about 5 minutes to talk to you. And I think this is something everybody can remember.

Number one, I learned a lot watching President Reagan. And he taught me what the test was for whether a party in office should be returned: Are you better off today than you were 8 years ago? And I noticed all these folks running this year are comparing themselves to President Reagan, so I think we should say that was one thing he was right about. And we all agree, and that’s

a test. So why are we having this debate and election?

More seriously, the important thing about this economic recovery—and Governor Davis and I were talking about it—and I agree, by the way, with what Jeremy said about it. There are very few people in this entire country that work harder and get more than Gray Davis than anybody. You ought to really be proud. And I sort of think charisma is as charisma does, you know? [*Laughter*] I've always found Governor Davis to be highly interesting, especially because he never sees me that he doesn't ask me to do something else for California. [*Laughter*] So I'm honored by that.

But now, think of—let me just say this. Here's the thing that makes this recovery interesting. Yes, it's the longest economic expansion in history. Yes, there are 22 million new jobs. But this is the first recovery in 30 years where everybody went along for the ride. We have a record number of millionaires. We have a record number of billionaires, and that's good. But we've also had a 15 percent increase, real increase, after inflation, in median income—over \$5,000 a year. Median income got over \$40,000 a year in America for the first time in our entire history. We have the highest homeownership in history, the lowest female unemployment rate in 40 years, the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever recorded. So we're all going along for the ride.

Now, that is very, very important in a free society. Everybody that works ought to be rewarded for it. And we believe in policies like the minimum wage, like the family leave law, like the earned-income tax credit for people with a bunch of kids and a modest income that gives them a little extra tax break, that will allow us all to go along for the ride. But in a larger sense, getting rid of the deficit has helped us all to go along for the ride.

Why? Because that's the best tax cut of all, having lower interest rates. That helps everybody with a home mortgage, everybody with a car payment, everybody with a college loan payment, everybody with a credit card payment. It helps every small business person that ever has to get a loan to start or expand a business. And every American with

credit has saved thousands of dollars, most of them thousands of dollars a year, because we got rid of the deficit.

The fundamental factor of the global economy is that conservative fiscal policy is progressive social policy, because it helps ordinary people and brings money to the Government to invest in education and other things.

Now, why does that matter in this election? This is a huge deal. It is estimated that we have a projected surplus of about \$2 trillion. That sounds like a bunch of money, and people's eyes glaze over. I promise you it won't be that much, barring some unforeseen development, because the Congress has spent a lot of money and because of the curious way that it's calculated. But let's just assume it's going to be \$2 trillion.

Now, what do the Democrats say? What do Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and our Democratic candidates say? They say, "Okay, first, let's stay on this path to pay the debt off in 12 years to keep interest rates down. Then let's give people a tax cut we can afford for child care, long-term care, sending kids to college, and retirement savings, and let's take the rest and invest it in health care, education, the environment, and the other critical needs of the country. But first, keep the economy strong."

What do they say, the other guys? They say, "Hey, this is your money. What's the Government doing, keeping your money?" Which, of course, it is your money. And they say, "We're going to give you a tax cut 3 times as big as they are," and some of you in this room who can afford to be at this event tonight, would actually do better under theirs in the short run, and some of you wouldn't, depending on your income group. So they say, "Our tax cut is 3 times bigger than theirs because it's your money."

But forget about all the zeroes, okay? The surplus is 2, okay, the projected surplus. Their tax cut, plus the interest cost associated with it, is 1.6. But then they want to privatize Social Security, and they have now admitted that if we give young people 2 percent of their payroll, it will take a trillion dollars out of the Social Security Trust Fund. So you've got to spend \$1 trillion to replace that, unless you want Social Security to go broke earlier. So that's 1.6 and 1. And then they want to

spend a little money too, which is good. They want to be compassionate, and they are interested in spending money too, so they want to spend about \$500 billion. Now, 1.6 plus 1 plus .5 is 3.1—3.1 is bigger than 2. [*Laughter*]

Now you're all laughing, but look, I've spent 8 years working on this. People ask me all the time, "What brilliant new idea did you bring to Washington to get the economy going?" And I always say, "Arithmetic." [*Laughter*] I brought arithmetic to Washington. Not calculus, not trigonometry, arithmetic.

You're laughing, but I'm dead serious. I'm going to be gone out here—you know, if I'm fortunate, I'll be one of those guys that will make out like a bandit under this Republican tax cut. But look, 3.1 is bigger than 2. What does that mean? It means you go back to deficits, which means higher interest rates, higher inflation, slower growth.

Under the Gore/Lieberman plan, interest rates will be about a percent lower a year for a decade. Do you know what that's worth to the American people? Same thing as a tax cut, lower interest rates: \$390 billion in lower home mortgages, \$30 billion in lower car payments, \$15 billion in lower college loan payments, plus the credit card payments, plus the business loans, equals more businesses, more jobs, higher incomes, and a better stock market.

So you've got to decide. Do you want to all keep on going together, so we'll make more millionaires and more billionaires, but average people will do better too? If you do, you only have one choice. You've got to vote for Gore and Lieberman, and you've got to vote for Gerrie, because that's the right decision.

Now look, I still—I honestly don't believe a lot of people have thought this through. And you say, "Well how can Al Gore afford to spend all that money?" Because if you get rid of the deficit—the debt, if you pay the debt down, your interest payments on the debt go down. The third biggest item in the Federal budget is interest on the debt. We take 12 cents out of every dollar you pay to the Federal Government and spend that just on the debt. So if you quit spending so much on interest, you can spend a lot more on edu-

cation and health care and, yes, even on a tax cut, because you're getting rid of that 12 cents.

Now look, I don't think most people have clearly focused on this, do you? So you need to go tell people that if they want to keep the prosperity going, if they like where—if they compare where we were 8 years ago in California and America, with where we are today, we've got to do this. And they only have one choice: Gore, Lieberman, and Gerrie.

Now the second thing I want to say is, this country is about more than economic progress. We've had a lot of social progress: Crime at a 26-year low, welfare at a 32-year low, rolls cut in half. The air is cleaner, 43 million people breathing cleaner air. The water is cleaner. We set aside more land than any administration since Theodore Roosevelt, and we cleaned up 3 times as many toxic waste dumps as the Republicans did in the 12 previous years.

We have added 26 years to the life of Medicare, which was supposed to go broke last year when I took office. For the first time in 12 years, the number of people without health insurance is going down, not up, thanks to the Children's Health Insurance Program, which the Governor strongly supported and ministered. And in the schools, in spite of all the problems, reading, math, and science scores are up; the drop-out rate is down; the graduation rate is up. There is, for the first time in our history, almost no difference between the African-American and the white high school graduation rate. College-going is at an all-time high, thanks in part to the biggest expansion in college aid since the GI bill. So all this stuff is going in the right direction.

Now, what's that got to do with anything? Because you've got to make a choice. Do you want to build on the progress of the last 8 years or reverse it? I'll just give you a couple of examples.

Our crime policy is opposed by the other party—not just gun safety measures. They don't want to close the gun show loophole in the Brady law. They actually want to get rid of the 100,000 police program. Our education policy is opposed. They want to get

rid of the 100,000 teacher program. Our environmental policy is opposed. They want to weaken the clean air standards and get rid of my order setting aside 40 million acres, roadless acres in the national forest, something the Audubon Society said was the most significant conservation move in the last 40 years.

So, our side, we want to build on—we want to have a safer society, a cleaner environment, stronger education programs. And in health care, Gerrie's area of expertise, she can tell you better than me the differences perhaps most stark of all. We're for a real Patients' Bill of Rights. They're not. We're for a Medicare prescription drug program that covers all of our seniors, and they aren't. And that's just the beginning.

We could provide health insurance to all our kids. We can now actually afford to help working families who have no health insurance, buy insurance for the parents of the kids in this program. And we're for that, and they're not.

So again, if you want to build on the social progress of the last 8 years, you only have one choice: You've got to vote for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and Gerrie.

And the third thing that I would like to say, which maybe is the most important of all to me, is, I've worked real hard to build one America. A lot of you have referenced my work with the gay and lesbian community. I met earlier today with a representative of one of the Native American tribes who told me that I had done more to try to reach out to them than anybody had in a long time, maybe ever.

I think it's real important for America to be a place that is constantly evolving in respect for people, mutual understanding, and real interdependent cooperation where we don't just tolerate one another. I don't really like the word "tolerance" in this context because that implies that one dominant group is putting up with somebody else that's not as good as they are, but at least they're not kicking them around. That's not what this is about. I don't like "tolerance" in that way, you know? That's not what this is about.

This is about, you know, actually appreciating the differences among us and affirming the common humanity that we share as

being even more important than the differences. And this is a big deal now, you know. We've become wildly diverse, racially, ethnically, religiously. I mean, we're going to get more that way. And it's a godsend in a global society if we figure out how to be one America, which means you've got to respect and enjoy the diversity because it makes America more interesting. But you also have to do the rest. You've got to affirm our common humanity.

So, for me, that has meant things like the family leave law and having an administration that represents all kinds of Americans and having people like the people in this room feel like they have a friend in the White House, and it's their White House too, not somebody else's White House; that every American can feel comfortable walking in there and knowing that you may not agree with everything I do, but at least I'm thinking about it, from your point of view as well as mine.

Now, this is important. And there are a lot of these issues out there. And you have a choice to make. I'll just give you a few examples.

Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and Gerrie and our whole crowd, we're for the hate crimes bill; we're for the "Employment Non-Discrimination Act;" we're for strengthening the equal pay laws for women—still a big problem—we're for a Supreme Court that upholds not only a woman's right to choose but also civil rights, human rights, and the capacity of the National Government to protect the American people.

I'm telling you, there's already a majority on the Supreme Court that has struck down provisions of the Brady bill, of the Violence Against Women Act, of an age discrimination act, because they want to restrict the power of the Federal Government to protect the people and to enlist the States in doing that.

Now, most people don't, I think, really understand this. But on every one of those issues I just mentioned—hate crimes, ENDA, equal pay, the Supreme Court, and I could mention a bunch of others—but just those, the two parties are different. So if you agree with us, you just have one choice: You've got to be for Al and Joe and Gerrie.

So you don't have to remember all the specifics I've given you. But I'm telling you, you could do a world of good for her, for the other four House seats we're trying to win, if everybody you saw in the next week, you said, "You've got to vote, and you've got to vote for our crowd. You want to know why? Because if you want to keep the prosperity going, you better keep paying down the debt and investing in our future, and you only have one choice if you want to do that. If you want to keep the social progress going and crime is down, the environment is better, the schools are better, the health care system is making improvements, you've got to build on that, not reverse it and the other guys are against all the things we're for. And if you want to keep building one America, you actually have to work at it. There are things you have to do, and we have a program to do it, and the other side honestly disagrees with us.

You don't have to say a bad word about anybody. All you have to say is, if you want to keep the prosperity going—or, as I said at the Convention here, if you want to live like a Republican, you've got to vote like a Democrat. [*Laughter*] If you want to keep the prosperity going, build on the progress of the last 8 years, and keep building one America, you only have one choice: Al Gore, Joe Lieberman, and Gerrie Schipske.

Now, this is a big deal. I promise you, you can have an impact on this election. All of these elections are razor thin. And people, I'm absolutely sure, based on the support that the people of California have given me and the Vice President in the last 8 years and what I feel out there and what I know, that if everyone understood what the differences were, what the stakes are, what the consequences are to families and communities and States in our Nation, that we would prevail.

I'm honored to be here today. I'm honored to be here for Gerrie and for the Vice President and Senator Lieberman. I can tell you that, you know, John Kennedy said once that the Presidency was preeminently a place of decisionmaking. Half the time over the last 8 years, I've felt like it was a place to see if you could work 19 hours instead of 18 a

day. But in the end, you have to make right decisions.

And a lot of time, Presidents have gotten in trouble for working too hard because then they weren't clear enough to make good decisions. On the other hand, hard work is an important part of the job.

And I just want to say about Al Gore—I know I don't have to say this to you, but it's something else you can tell people that I said—experience matters. It matters what you know. It matters how hard you work. It matters whether you have done a lot of this before, and he has had a more positive impact for the American people than anybody who ever served as Vice President before. He makes very good decisions, and he will be a very, very good President.

So please, just every day, don't let those election returns come in Tuesday night and you be sick about the outcome of some election that, you know, 400 or 500 votes made the difference. You've got to look around this room. The people in this room could change 5,000 to 10,000 votes between now and Tuesday. Look in this room—5,000 to 10,000 votes. John Kennedy was elected in the whole country by 100,000 votes.

Now, I'm telling you, every day between now and the election, say, "I want to keep the prosperity going, not risk it. I want to build on the social progress, not reverse it. And we've got to keep building one America. We've got to go forward together because, if we do, the best is still out there, and the choice is clear, Al and Joe and Gerrie."

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:37 p.m. in the Regency Room at the Regency Club. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Jeremy Bernard and Marc Nathanson; gay activist and author David Mixner; Antonio Villaraigosa, speaker emeritus, California State Assembly; Flo Pickett, Ms. Schipske's life partner; and Gov. Gray Davis of California. Gerrie Schipske is a candidate for California's 38th Congressional District. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Remarks at a Reception for
Representative Calvin M. Dooley in
Beverly Hills, California**

November 2, 2000

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. I'm honored to be here tonight. What Cal Dooley told you is true. He represents a totally different district, lots of big farms. Some of the farms in Cal's district are almost as large as Haim's and Cheryl's backyard. [*Laughter*] Yes, Cal said he'll bring a tractor next time he comes to see you here. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank all of you for being here, and thank Governor Davis and Sharon. They've been with me all day today. We had a meeting with people who are working on the Coordinated Campaign, and then we went to an event for Gerrie Schipske. Before that, we went to a great rally in Watts today, and we had a really good time, trying to stir the voters up. And I'm honored to be here tonight with Cal and Lou Dooley. And I thank the other Members of Congress who are here: Representatives Waxman, Berman, and Becerra, my friends and partners; Hilda Solis, who will soon be with us in Congress; and Jim Costa, whom I've known for many years.

I was supposed to do this before, and I had to go to the Middle East; we had to put this off. And I wanted to come back to answer Governor Davis' call, trying to make sure that we did as much as we could, not only to make sure that Al Gore and Joe Lieberman would get California's 54 electoral votes and not have to come back in the eleventh hour, but also to help the Members of Congress who are running here.

We have a bona fide chance in five districts now held by Republicans. And we have a real contest in Cal Dooley's district, because it's a rural, agricultural district, and a lot of American voting is cultural. And a lot of the folks in Cal's district like him, but they're sort of not acculturated to voting for Democrats yet. [*Laughter*] You know, they still give Republicans the rhetorical credit. Even though they quadrupled the debt and we got rid of the deficit; you know, there is a disconnect there. But it's a real challenge for

him. And he has a formidable opponent who's got a lot of money.

You know, this is the first time in 26 years I've not been on the ballot. I'm not running for anything, for the first time since 1974. And it gives me a certain amount of freedom to say what I think, although I'm trying not to be so free that I imperil either my wife or the Vice President in the election—[*laughter*]—about saying what I think.

But I want you to know, I really wanted to be here tonight. I'm crazy about Cal Dooley and about his wife. And I feel so grateful that we have people like him who can represent the Democratic Party to rural America, to people who are culturally far more conservative than most of the people in Los Angeles, but who have the same real long-term values and interests that the rest of us do.

And I have always believed that to succeed over the long run, the Democratic Party would have to prove that we could be fiscally responsible and compassionate, that we could be pro-business and pro-labor, that we could be pro-economic growth and pro-environmental preservation.

We have to be a unifying force in the country. And Cal Dooley is all that. We've worked together for years on the Democratic Leadership Council. There is a reason the farm workers endorsed him: Because he cares about every poor kid in his district and believes every single one of them—every boy and girl—ought to have a chance to live their dreams. And there is a reason that the chairman of Commerce endorsed him: Because he's been an integral part of the new economy that we've worked so hard to build.

People ask me all the time what we did to turn the economy around. We had just three simple ideas: One, get rid of the deficit; it's killing us on interest rates, and it's hurting the private economy; two, sell more American products and services around the world; and three, invest more in the capacity of the American people.

And the one area—it's no secret to anybody that I have not yet succeeded in convincing a vast majority of my party in Congress I was right in was on the second area, the trade area. But Cal Dooley was with me

because he could see the farmers that he represented needing those markets, and he could see the positive side of that. I will always be grateful to him for that, because I am convinced that we've done a lot in the last 8 years to build a modern economy.

But I just want to make—I want to close with three quick points, because I know it's late, and a lot of you don't live in this district, but you may live in districts where some of these other people are running, where we've got a chance to win. It's amazing how close all these races are. And in the Presidential race, there are probably a dozen States that are within two points.

Now, if you look at where we were 8 years ago and where we are today, with the economy, with the declining crime rate and improving environment, improving schools, improving health care, it is not rational that—

[At this point, a member of the audience had a medical problem.]

The President. Are you going to take him off? That's okay. I gave a speech once, and my father-in-law had a heart attack during it. *[Laughter]* He was rushed to the hospital and had a quadruple heart bypass, and when he woke up, I told him it wasn't that good a speech. *[Laughter]*

But let me just say this. If you live in any of these places, I can't tell you how close these races are. And I just want you to go out and tell people that there are differences between the parties; they have grave consequences for our future. And if you want to keep the prosperity going and the social progress going, you'd better vote for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and Cal Dooley or whoever else is your Representative in Congress, and Dianne Feinstein.

Because, believe me, the great achievement of the last 8 years is that we have shown again we can all go forward together. We have more millionaires and more billionaires than we ever had before, but we also had, the first time in history, average income has topped \$40,000 with 15 percent increase in earnings.

So we can do this. Thank you for your money. If you can give Cal Dooley any more money, you ought to give him some more money. *[Laughter]* But I'm telling you, this

man is very, very important to the national Democratic Party. He helps us reach out to people who normally aren't for us. He forces all of our Members to think. He brings people together in unique and powerful ways, and he needs to be here. He is a very, very special person, and I'm grateful.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:35 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Haim and Cheryl Saban; Gov. Gray Davis of California and his wife, Sharon; Gerrie Schipske and Hilda Solis, candidates in California's 38th and 31st Congressional Districts, respectively; State Senator Jim Costas; Rich Rodriguez, Republican candidate in California's 20th Congressional District; and Representative Dooley's wife, Linda (Lou). Representative Dooley is a candidate for reelection in California's 20th Congressional District. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Friends of Jane Harman Reception in Beverly Hills

November 2, 2000

Well, thank you very much. I have had a wonderful time tonight. And after Alex Winnick gave his speech, I thought, there's nothing for the rest of us to say. *[Laughter]* He made the case for Jane. Thank you very much, Alex. And I thank you, Gary, and thank you, Karen, for having us here. I would like to hear the whole history of this building. I wish these walls could talk. This might be one of the tamer events it would speak of. *[Laughter]*

Gary Winnick has been a friend of mine for some time now, and I'm quite thrilled by the success that Global Crossing has had. And it's interesting to me, and I think it's fitting that they're now housed in this historic site.

I'd like to thank Governor Davis and Sharon for being such good friends to Hillary and me. I think Gray has been a great leader for California. And I thank him very, very much for all the support he's given to me over the years and all the work we've done together. And you might be interested to know, even though I have just 11 weeks left, even today in the car he was grinding on me to do one

last thing—[*laughter*—for California before I left office. And eventually I'll say yes just to be relieved of the pain of having Gray work on me. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Jane and Sidney for being great friends. I've been in their home in Washington. I've been in Sidney's plant in southern California. We had a great, great day there. And I have worked with Jane very closely. I was trying to think what, if anything, I could say to add to what has already been said this evening. Alex really did do a very good job of making the case. But I want you to know a couple of things.

First of all, when I met Jane Harman, I thought she represented the sort of person that I was trying to bring into the Democratic Party to get to run for office. And I thought the district she represented was the sort of district I thought the Democrats had to be able to campaign in and carry if we were going to become the majority party in America, mostly because of the ideas we shared.

You know, we believed that you have to be fiscally conservative in order to be socially progressive in a world where all the capital markets are global, and if you have an irresponsible policy and you run big deficits, your interest rates are going to be high; your economy is going to be weak, and nothing the Government can do can change that. We believe that you have to be able to have an economic policy that helps business and labor. We believe that you have to be able to improve the environment and grow the economy. And she has always had kind of a unifying view of politics which I thought made a lot of sense.

The second thing that impressed me is that she was such a good advocate for the people in her district, particularly the aerospace industry. And it's easy now to forget just how tough things were in January of '93. And I can tell you I wasn't President very long before Jane Harman made sure I knew just about as much as she did about all that and I had my to-do list from her. [*Laughter*]

So she has, I think, proven that she is a good Member of Congress, indeed, a truly outstanding one. But she also stood up there and cast that vote. She came very close to losing her election in 1994. Why? Because nobody is for deficits; nobody is for debt; but

nobody wanted to do anything about it because by the time we got around to doing something about it in 1993, the problem was so great that there was no painless solution.

And if there's anything that a politician hates, it's to inflict pain and then to have to stand for reelection before the pain can be proved to be good. [*Laughter*] And that's basically what happened to us in '94. The economy was getting better, but no one knew it yet. And we also lost a dozen Members over the assault weapons ban in the Brady bill because the streets were getting safer, but no one felt it yet. The NRA took about 12 of our crowd out because they voted for the assault weapons ban and the Brady bill.

But Jane hung in there, and we kept working together until she left the House. I was surprised and thrilled that she decided to run again. All of you know that she is in a tight race. There are a couple of reasons why. One is, the Republicans have more money than we do, and they do not want to lose the majority in Congress, so they are throwing a double ton of money into every one of these races where we have a chance to win. And in California, we have a chance to win five seats. And they have, they believe, a chance to win one—and I hope they're wrong about it—Congressman Dooley's seat. I kind of think they are, because he's such an extraordinary man. But anyway, they have a lot of money, and they're putting it in.

Since they can't win on the issues that are really before the Congress—they can't win the fight on the Patients' Bill of Rights or whether Medicare should have a prescription drug program or whether we should have hate crimes legislation or campaign finance reform or you name it—there has to be some bomb-throwing. And if you look at all of their campaigns all over the country, that's basically what they're doing. And so, you just have your tailored bomb. So Jane now has her tailored bomb.

So I want to tell you something. I know exactly what they've been saying. She worked very hard for you when she was in the Congress. She worked me harder than 90 percent of the people in the Congress—me, personally—to do things for her district. She's one of the smartest people I dealt with, and she had a good philosophy. I think she ought to

go back to Congress, and I want you to help her go back to Congress.

Now, I'm going to ask you to do something else. The hour is late, and I know you're all tired, but this is an interesting election. The Presidential race is just tight as can be. There's 10 or 12 States within two points, one way or the other. And the election will either be decided by the movement of people from undecided to one or the other candidates or by the fact that one candidate's supporters want to vote more than the other candidate's supporters.

And there are all these House races and Senate races that are tight as can be. A lot of it favors us. I think the chances are quite high that we can win the House back. We even have an outside chance to win the Senate back. So all over the country—why is it, why are people converging and being split right down the middle in all these races? Part of it may be there's so much money involved that the stuff is so confusing that people just kind of fall off one way or the other. I think part of it is that a lot of people don't remember what it was like 8 years ago, particularly younger voters. And we tend to take it for granted that all this stuff just happened. It was just an accident.

And so this is an interesting debate they're having about how big the tax cut should be and what shape it should be; an interesting debate they're having about whether Social Security should be privatized and, if so, how much and in what way; an interesting debate they're having over the crime policy, the education policy or whatever.

I just want to make a couple of points very crisply. But they're very important to me, and if you and I were alone and there were no press in the room and you asked me about this race, I would tell you this exactly if we were alone.

The first thing is, if you really want to maximize the chance of keeping this prosperity going, you ought to vote for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and Jane Harman. Why? Why is that? Well, people ask me all the time, "What great new idea did you and Bob Rubin and Lloyd Bentsen and all those guys bring to Washington to turn the economy around?" And my answer is always a simple, one-word

answer, "Arithmetic." [Laughter] We brought arithmetic back to Washington.

And we said we're going to get rid of all this deficit; we either had to raise money or cut spending or do a little of both. And since it was impossible and wrong to raise as many taxes as it would take to get rid of the deficit and impossible and wrong to cut spending as much as it would take to get rid of the deficit, we did a little of both, and we got rid of it. And now we're running a surplus. We've gone from the biggest deficit to the biggest surplus. But we did it by arithmetic. No phoney, rosy scenarios, no pretending money was there when it wasn't, no pretending we were cutting spending when we weren't. We just practiced arithmetic.

Now, what's that got to do with this race? The Republicans offer a tax cut that is more attractive to most of you who can afford a ticket to come here tonight, in the short run. It's 3 times as big as the Democrats' tax cut. And then they offer a partial privatization of Social Security that's quite attractive to young people who think they'll make a killing in the stock market. And therefore, if they get 2 percent of their payroll, they can make more out of it than if they just get Social Security the way the older folks have always gotten Social Security. And then they got a few spending promises of their own.

Here's the problem. The surplus is projected to be \$2 billion. And believe me, that's very optimistic. Their tax cut and the associated interest cost is \$1.6 trillion. It costs a trillion dollars to partially privatize Social Security, and they promise to spend another half a trillion. Now, 1.6 plus 1 plus .5 is 3.1; 3.1 is bigger than 2. [Laughter]

Now look, I want you to laugh about it, but look, I'm telling you. You want to know what we did for the country? We brought arithmetic back to Washington. Jane Harman nearly lost her seat in 1994 because she voted to restore arithmetic to the Federal budget. And everybody is for that in general and against it in particular, because nobody wants their taxes raised, nobody wants their program cut.

So we did it. But we went through all of this agony, and we got this thing turned around. Now, we can afford a tax cut, but it can't be that big. And if somebody wants—

you can argue the policy of privatizing Social Security. You think it's a good idea or bad idea, but you can't pretend you don't have to pay for it. And that's what the Vice President says when he talks about the money being promised to two different groups. If you take your payroll out, that's \$1 trillion over 10 years. They still need the money to pay for the people they promised the benefits to. That's why it takes another trillion out of the surplus.

So believe me, this is important. My Council of Economic Advisers believes that interest rates will be about a percent lower under Gore's plan and under anything the Democrats would vote for because we promised to pay the debt down. And you ask yourself: Well, then, how can you promise to spend more than they did? Answer: If you pay the debt down, interest on the debt goes down; it's now the third-biggest item in the Federal budget; and as you shrink it, it leaves you money to spend on education, health care, or tax cuts—for that matter, anything you want.

But my point is, this is a big deal to you. The good thing about this economic expansion is that it has more billionaires, more millionaires, but the average median income increased 15 percent in real dollar terms, and the median income is over \$40,000 for the first time in history, so ordinary Americans also benefit. It's the first time in 30 years we've had an economic expansion that benefited everybody from lower middle income workers to the wealthiest Americans, everybody together. Now, that's important.

If you abandon arithmetic in this election, you will have higher interest rates, more inflation, slower growth, and more uneven prosperity. Some of you will do just fine, but even within the same income group, some won't. Now, this is a huge deal. I'm telling you, if you're interested in economics, this is the most important issue in Jane Harman's race for Congress and in the race for President.

The second point I want to make is, it's not just a matter of keeping the prosperity going. It's a matter of what kind of country we are and whether you want to keep building on the social progress of the last 8 years. Compared to 8 years ago—not just the econ-

omy—the crime rate is down to a 26-year low; 43 million more people are breathing clean air; the water is safer; 3 times as many toxic waste dumps have been cleaned up as under the previous 12 years. We set aside more land in permanent protection than any administration since Teddy Roosevelt a hundred years ago.

There's more. The number of people without health insurance is going down for the first time in 12 years. And listen to this, in spite of all the press you hear, nationwide, on the national tests of our students in school, reading scores, math scores, science scores are up; the dropout rate is down; the college-going rate is at an all-time high; the African-American high school graduation rate is virtually identical to the white graduation rate for the first time in the history of the country; in the last 5 years there's been a 300 percent increase in the number of African-American and Latino kids taking advanced placement classes to go on to college. Now that's the facts.

In every single case, I believe there is a policy we have pursued that she voted for that contributed to, did not totally cause, but contributed to those good results. And in every single case, there is a difference between the two parties. And I will just give you a few examples. One of the reasons the crime rate went down is, we put 100,000 police—now more, about 120,000—on the street in community policing, and they stopped a lot of crime from being committed in the first place. The other party is committed to abolishing that program. They say it's not the proper province of the Federal Government to help local communities hire police. You've got a choice here. The only problem for their position is, we do have evidence here. We've got crime at a 26-year low.

Number two, we're trying to put 100,000 police on the—I mean, 100,000 well-trained teachers in the schools for smaller classes. They promise to abolish that. They say the Federal Government has got no business doing that or helping schools deal with their construction needs. You've got all these kids going to school in house trailers and old broken down schools, and we can help them, the school districts, to modernize. They say

we shouldn't do it. So you've got a choice there.

You heard Jane or Alex Winnick talked about the Patients' Bill of Rights. We're for it, and they're not, this whole idea that I have been obsessed by for years about building one America. Hate crimes: We are for it; they're not. Employment non-discrimination: We are for it; they're not. Stronger enforcement of equal pay laws: We're for it; they're not. I could go on and on. But you get the picture here. There are real differences.

So I think what you need to do, if you live in Jane's district or you have friends who live there, if you live in another district in one of these other contested races, you need to tell people, "Look, there are huge differences here. There are real clear choices. These choices will have real consequences to you, your family, your community, and your country." And you just have to say, "You know, do you want to build on the prosperity or reverse the policy? Do you want to build on the social progress of the last 8 years or reverse the direction?" These are simple questions. I think the answer should be yes. If the answers are yes, you have to vote for Al Gore, Joe Lieberman, and Jane Harman. This is not rocket science.

And it's not like we don't have any evidence here. We tried it our way for 8 years, and we tried it the other way. Our way works better. You can look at the evidence in the lives of the American people.

Just one last thing I would like to say is a plug for the Vice President. He understands the future. He is by far more experienced. He makes real good decisions. And John Kennedy said the Presidency is pre-eminently a job of decisionmaking. And he would be a good President. And God forbid, if we shouldn't win the Congress, somebody's there to be there to put on the brake. [Laughter] And you've seen that for 6 years, too. Some of the best things I've done as President involved things that I stopped from happening, as well as things that we made happen.

But you ought to send Jane back to Congress. She's earned it. And if you want to keep the prosperity going and you want to keep the progress going, you ought to reward somebody who literally was willing to risk her

career at the very beginning to turn California and America around. It worked, and it will work again if you'll put her back.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:05 p.m. at the Global Crossing Plaza. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Gary and Karen Winnick and their son Alex; Gov. Gray Davis of California and his wife, Sharon; Ms. Harman's husband, Sidney Harman; and former Secretaries of the Treasury Robert E. Rubin and Lloyd Bentsen; Jane Harman is a candidate for California's 36th Congressional District. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Get Out the Vote Rally in Oakland, California

November 3, 2000

The President. Thank you. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. Thank you for the wonderful welcome. We've got people all the way back here, two or three blocks, people all the way down there, two blocks, even people who are separated from the rest of us, way back in the back. Hello back there.

I first came to Oakland in 1971. I liked it then, but it is amazing the progress that has been made, and I want to thank all of you for making this a magnificent city. I also want to thank my good friend Governor Gray Davis, who has done a wonderful job leading this State and been a great partner to me and such a strong supporter of Vice President Gore.

Thank you, Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante. Thank you, Attorney General Lockyer. Thank you, Senator Barbara Boxer, for what you do in Washington. And Congressman George Miller, thank you for the work you've done, especially for the environment. Thank you, Secretary Norm Mineta, former California Congressman, the first Asian-American ever to serve in the President's Cabinet and a great, great friend of mine. Thank you, Mayor Jerry Brown, my friend of now over 20 years. He's made me think about my next career. Maybe somebody will let me be a mayor somewhere; I like this. I like this.

I must say, too, I want to thank one person who is not here, Barbara's predecessor, Ron Dellums, a great friend of mine. Look at this building here. If I had known retired public officials could get buildings like this, I might have retired years ago. Look at that. [*Laughter*] It's a beautiful, beautiful building and a fitting tribute to Ron, who did such a good job for you and for our country.

I want to thank the Speaker, Bob Hertzberg, who is here; and the State Board of Equalization member, John Chung; your California State party chair, Art Torres; and all the other officials who are here.

But let me say a special word of thanks to Barbara Lee. What a job she has done in the Congress! We've worked together on so many projects affecting Oakland, from the harbor to housing to education to health care to base closure and renewal. And boy, she's done a good job. And I really am impressed with the fact that she has also shown an interest in dealing with the AIDS crisis, not only here but in Africa and throughout the world. The United States needs to be a leader in dealing with that, and so I thank her for that.

I also want to say more than anything else a simple thank you to the people of Oakland and northern California and this entire State. You have been so good to me and Hillary and Al and Tipper Gore these last 8 years. I couldn't have become President without you. I couldn't have succeeded without you. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

You know, one of the things that concerns me about this election is, especially for younger voters, I'm afraid a lot of people will go to the polls or maybe even not go because they now can't remember what it was like 8 years ago. The unemployment rate in California was 9.7 percent. Today, it's about half that. It's a different country than it was 8 years ago. The society was divided. There were riots in L.A. The crime rate was going up. The environment was deteriorating. The number of people without health insurance was going up. People were giving up on our schools. And the political system in Washington seemed tone deaf to you and to ordinary Americans all across this country, from all walks of life.

Well, we've worked hard to change that. Today we got some more good economic

news. For the second month in a row, the Nation's unemployment rate was 3.9 percent, the lowest in 50 years—30 years. Wages and incomes continue to rise across the board. I want to say more about that in a minute, but listen to this. The most important thing about our recovery is that for the first time in 30 years, everybody's been part of it—everybody. Yes, the rich got richer, but so did the middle class, so did working families. The poverty rate is the lowest in 20 years. Child poverty dropped 30 percent. We're moving forward together. Listen to this. Eight years ago, the Hispanic unemployment rate was 11.8 percent. This morning, we learned that it dropped last month to 5 percent, the lowest on record. African-American unemployment is half what it was 8 years ago, also the lowest on record.

But America is always about tomorrow—always. And in just a few days, we're going to have another election and another choice. And it is so important for the success of the direction of this country and our candidate that we do well here and that everybody who can vote, does vote.

What I would like to say to you all today, I know I could just give you one applause line after another, and we could have a great time. But I believe that this election is every bit as important as the one in 1992. And I know that every one of you who is here today has a lot of friends, some of whom live here in Oakland; some live in Barbara's congressional district; others may live in the districts that we're fighting hard to win. We have a chance to win five in California, if we work hard at it

And so you've got a lot of friends who will never come to an event like this, don't you? Most of you have tons of friends who have never been to hear a President speak or a Governor or maybe even never been to a city council meeting; they don't do this. But they love our country, and they care about your community. And if they believe it matters, they will show up and vote. And if they understand the choice and the consequences, they will vote for our side.

So what I want you to do is just let me take a couple of minutes to tell you what I would tell you if each of us were alone in a room together and you said to me, "What's

this election about, anyway?" Now, listen to this. You heard what Gray Davis said. Are you better off than you were 8 years ago? That's the first question. But the most important question is this: Do you want to keep this prosperity going?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Do you want to extend it to the people, to the neighborhoods, to the places that have still been left behind?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Then you only have one choice: Al Gore, Joe Lieberman, and the Democrats. Why? Because they want to build on what is working. They want to keep paying down the debt. They want to invest in education and health care and the environment. They want to give families a tax cut we can afford, for child care, for long-term care for the elderly and disabled, for college tuition, and for retirement.

Now, why is that important? Why in the world would a President come to Oakland, with the reputation of being a liberal Democratic city and say we ought to pay the debt down? I'll tell you why. Because in the modern world, where money can run all across the globe in the click of a mouse, a trillion dollars crosses national borders every day; to have conservative budget policies makes it possible to have liberal progressive social policies. Why? Because the best thing we can do for you is guarantee that you've got a job and to have low interest rates for car loans, for college loans, for home loans, for credit card loans, for business loans.

Now, here's the issue. Look, this is simple math. Al Gore has come before you and said, "Look, I'd like to give you a bigger tax cut, but this is all we can afford. But it will take care of college tuition, long-term care, child care, and retirement savings. I can't do more because we've got to have some money to invest in education, health care, the environment, and the national security of the country, and because we've got to keep paying the debt down."

Now, the surplus is supposed to be \$2 trillion. I doubt if it will be that much, but let's just give our Republican friends that. And forget about the zero. Let's just say 2. That's the surplus, okay? Now, they want to spend over three-quarters of that on a tax cut and

the interest costs. It's \$1.6 trillion—that's their tax cut. And most of you would actually get more under Al Gore's tax cut than theirs. And when I get out of office, I get more under theirs, but it's not right. [Laughter]

So 1.6. Now, listen—arithmetic, okay. So we start with 2. Then, they want to give 1.6 for the tax cut. Then, they want to privatize Social Security. And that's real expensive. It costs \$1 trillion. Why is that? Because if all you young people take your payroll out of Social Security and put it in the stock market, and all of us who are older retire, they've still got to pay us our benefits. You can't just make this money up. I mean, you've got to come up. So, 1.6 and 1.

And then they have promised some spending—about \$500 billion. So you add it up: 1.6 plus 1 plus .5 equals 3.1. That's the problem with their economics: \$3.1 trillion is bigger than \$2 trillion. Now, what does that mean in Oakland? I mean, look at all these buildings here. Somebody had to borrow the money to build these buildings. Somebody's got to make the mortgage payment on these buildings. Somebody's got to make enough profit to pay the payroll for the people working in Starbucks and McDonald's and all these other stores up and down here.

If you vote for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman, interest rates will be lower for you on your home mortgage, on your car payment, on your college loan payment, on your credit card payment, for the business loans. It means more jobs, higher incomes, a better stock market. We'll all keep doing better together.

You don't have any choice. If you want to build on the prosperity, you've got to vote for Gore and Lieberman and the Democrats.

Now, question number two. We're not just a better-off country; we're a better country. The crime rate is down. Drug abuse among young people is down. The number of people without health insurance in this country is down for the first time in 12 years, thanks to the Children's Health Insurance Program. The environment is cleaner—much cleaner. Forty-three million more Americans breathing clean air; cleaner water, safer drinking water, safer food; 3 times as many toxic waste dumps cleaned up as in the previous 12 years

under the two Republican administrations, and more land set aside in perpetuity than any administration since Teddy Roosevelt, almost a hundred years ago. It's a cleaner environment.

And the schools are better. You know, I hear people talking about an education recession. Here are the facts. In America, in the last 7 years, for our children across all races: Math scores are up; science scores are up; reading scores are up; the dropout rate is down; the college-going rate is at an all-time high. Thanks to Al Gore and the E-rate program—6 years ago, there were only 3 percent of our classrooms hooked up to the Internet; today, 65 percent are. Ninety percent of the poorest schools in America have at least one Internet connection today. We're moving in the right direction.

Now, here's the issue. You want to keep building on the progress of the last 8 years?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Then you just have one choice: Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and the Democrats. Why? Because they want to build on health care progress, a Patients' Bill of Rights, Medicare drugs for all of our seniors, health care for all America's children, more neighborhood police force, cleaner energy future, funds to help you with school construction, 100,000 teachers, universal preschool and after-school for all the kids who need it, and a way of identifying failing schools and giving them the money to turn every single school in America around that's not teaching our children as they should be—every single one. That's why Bob Chase, the president of the National Education Association, is here with us today.

So if you want to build on that, you only have one choice. Why? Because the Republicans, from top to bottom, have committed to repeal the 100,000 police program. I had two chiefs meet me at the airport today to tell me how much they have benefited from this program. They are going to get rid of it.

They promised to repeal the program to put 100,000 teachers in our classes. They are against Federal funds for school construction to build or repair schools. They are against the real Patients' Bill of Rights, against Medicare drug programs to serve all of our seniors,

against higher environmental standards. They promise to reverse a lot of what we have done in the environment.

So you've got to go out and tell people, if you really want to build on the progress of the last 8 years, you just have one choice.

Audience members. Al Gore!

The President. And let me tell you the last thing that matters, and to me, it's the most important of all. We've got to keep coming together as one national community, as one America. Look around this crowd today. We're growing more and more diverse in every way, and it's good for America.

In a global society, it positions us well to do well with all other nations and regions of the world. It also makes life more interesting, don't you think? [Applause] We're all different. We can appreciate and celebrate our differences, as long as we affirm our common humanity.

How have we done that? Well, we supported affirmative action, hate crimes legislation, employment nondiscrimination legislation, raising the minimum wage, equal pay for women, civil rights, and a court that supports civil rights, human rights, and a woman's right to choose. That's what we have done.

Now, on all these issues bringing us together, our friends in the Republican Party have a different view. They disagree with us on every issue I just mentioned. So if you want to keep building one America, you only have one choice.

Audience members. Al Gore!

The President. So I want you to go out the next 4 days, call people you know, if you have friends or relatives in these battleground States. Call people you know who live in all these congressional districts. Talk to everybody you know in Oakland and say, "Look, there are three things you need to think about. Do you want to keep this prosperity going or do you want to risk reversing it? Do you want to build on the social progress of the last 8 years or do you want to take it down? Do you want to keep building one America or go back to the politics of division?"

Look, just look at what happened in the last week of Congress, where the Republican leadership walked away with no education bill, no hate crimes legislation. They took down the education bill because one lobby group didn't want us to put into effect a worker safety rule. And they took the whole thing down.

Now, when people talk about bipartisanship, let me just tell you something. Al Gore and I have worked for bipartisanship. We have a bipartisan majority today for a minimum wage increase, for campaign finance reform, for an education bill that every American can be proud of, for the hate crimes legislation. We can't pass it, not because we don't have bipartisanship but because the Republican congressional leadership is too far to the right and too tied to special interests.

And that's another reason to vote for Al Gore. I think we're going to win the House and the Senate. But if we don't, someone needs to be doing what I've done for the last 6 years, which is to stop extremism in Washington, DC, and you certainly only have one choice: Al Gore.

You know, I got a good laugh in Los Angeles at the Democratic Convention when I reminded people what Harry Truman said, which is that if you want to live like a Republican, you've got to vote Democratic. [*Laughter*] But you just think about—go out and talk to the young people who have the largest stake in the future. Remember where we were 8 years ago. Think where we are today. If you want to build on the prosperity, if you want to build on the progress, if you want to keep building one America, there's only one choice.

Audience members. Al Gore!

The President. He's been the most effective Vice President in our history. He is a good man. He makes good decisions. He will be a great President. And he needs your help in the President's race and in all these races for Congress and the Senate. You can do this.

Look at this crowd. There are thousands and thousands of people here. You could contact easily over 100,000 people in the next

4 days if every one of you just took 10 people, 15 people, everybody you see. Go out and tell them we want to keep the prosperity going, keep the progress going, keep building on America.

Thank you, Oakland. God bless you. Bring it home.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. at the City Center. In his remarks, he referred to State Attorney General Bill Lockyer of California; Mayor Jerry Brown of Oakland; and Speaker Robert M. Hertzberg, California State Assembly. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Unemployment Rate

November 3, 2000

Today we received more good economic news for the American people. Our Nation's unemployment rate has held steady at 3.9 percent—the lowest in more than 30 years, and half of what it was in 1992.

The drop in Hispanic unemployment over the last 8 years has been just as spectacular. Hispanic unemployment is at an all-time low of 5 percent, down from 11.8 percent in 1992. African-American unemployment remains at record lows. Wages and incomes for all Americans continue to rise across the board. More than 22 million new jobs have been created since Vice President Gore and I came to office.

For nearly 8 years, Vice President Gore and I have worked to maintain a course of fiscal discipline that has helped lead to the longest economic expansion in American history and put America on course to pay down the debt by 2012. This commitment has had tangible results. More Americans are working hard, creating opportunity, and reaching their dreams than ever before. Let's stay on this course of fiscal discipline and ensure that our children and their children enjoy even greater economic prosperity.

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.

October 28

The President had a telephone conversation with President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen concerning the investigation into the terrorist bombing of the U.S.S. *Cole*.

October 29

In the morning, the President traveled to Alexandria, VA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

October 30

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel concerning the Middle East peace process.

October 31

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Louisville, KY, and later to New York City. In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Chappaqua, NY.

The President announced his intention to nominate George Munoz to be a member of the Inter-American Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Darrel E. Bigham as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

The President announced his intention to appointCarolynn Lindeman as a member of the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

November 1

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a disaster in New Jersey and ordered Federal aid to support State and local recovery efforts in the area affected by the West Nile virus on August 5 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to appoint Earl Wilson, Jr., as a member of the

President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The President announced his intention to reappoint Caroline Matano Yang as a member of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

November 2

In the morning, the President traveled to Los Angeles, CA.

The President announced his intention to appoint George C. Duggins as a member of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Tommy Turner to be a member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

November 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Oakland, CA, and later to San Francisco. In the afternoon, he traveled to San Jose, CA, and later to Chappaqua, NY, arriving after midnight.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 31

C.E. Abramson, of Montana, to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 2005 (re-appointment).

George Munoz, of Illinois, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2004, vice Mark L. Schneider, term expired.

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 October 28

Statement by the Press Secretary: Continued Waiver of Law Allowing Judicial Attachment of Diplomatic Property

Released October 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

Released November 1

Text of a letter from Chief of Staff John Podesta to Senator Orrin Hatch on immigration legislation

Released November 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Chief of Staff John Podesta and Office of Management and Budget Director Jack Lew on the 106th Congress

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 27

H.R. 34 / Public Law 106-360
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to make technical corrections to a map relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System

H.R. 208 / Public Law 106-361
To amend title 5, United States Code, to allow for the contribution of certain rollover distributions to accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan, to eliminate certain waiting-period requirements for participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes

H.R. 1695 / Public Law 106-362
Ivanpah Valley Airport Public Lands Transfer Act

H.R. 1715 / Public Law 106-363
To extend and reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950

H.R. 2296 / Public Law 106-364
To amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide that the number of members on the legislature of the Virgin Islands and the number of such members constituting a quorum shall be determined by the laws of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes

H.R. 2879 / Public Law 106-365
To provide for the placement at the Lincoln Memorial of a plaque commemorating the speech of Martin Luther King, Jr., known as the "I Have A Dream" speech

H.R. 2984 / Public Law 106-366
To direct the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to convey to the Loup Basin Reclamation District, the Sargent River Irrigation District, and the Farwell Irrigation District, Nebraska, property comprising the assets of the Middle Loup Division of the Missouri River Basin Project, Nebraska

H.R. 3235 / Public Law 106-367
National Police Athletic League Youth Enrichment Act of 2000

H.R. 3236 / Public Law 106-368
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Utah, to use Weber Basin Project facilities for the impounding, storage, and carriage of nonproject water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other beneficial purposes

H.R. 3292 / Public Law 106-369
Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act

H.R. 3468 / Public Law 106-370
Duchesne City Water Rights Conveyance Act

H.R. 3577 / Public Law 106-371
To increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for the north side pumping division of the Minidoka reclamation project, Idaho

H.R. 3986 / Public Law 106-372

To provide for a study of the engineering feasibility of a water exchange in lieu of electrification of the Chandler Pumping Plant at Prosser Diversion Dam, Washington

H.R. 4002 / Public Law 106-373

Famine Prevention and Freedom From Hunger Improvement Act of 2000

H.R. 4132 / Public Law 106-374

To reauthorize grants for water resources research and technology institutes established under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984

H.R. 4259 / Public Law 106-375

National Museum of the American Indian Commemorative Coin Act of 2000

H.R. 4389 / Public Law 106-376

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution facilities to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

H.R. 4635 / Public Law 106-377

Making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes

H.R. 4681 / Public Law 106-378

To provide for the adjustment of status of certain Syrian nationals

H.R. 5107 / Public Law 106-379

Work Made For Hire and Copyright Corrections Act of 2000

H.R. 5212 / Public Law 106-380

Veterans' Oral History Project Act

H.J. Res. 117 / Public Law 106-381

Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes

S. 624 / Public Law 106-382

Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000

S. 2498 / Public Law 106-383

To authorize the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, construct, and equip laboratory,

administrative, and support space to house base operations for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Submillimeter Array located on Mauna Kea at Hilo, Hawaii

S. 2686 / Public Law 106-384

To amend chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, to modify rates relating to reduced rate mail matter, and for other purposes

S. 3201 / Public Law 106-385

To rename the National Museum of American Art

Approved October 28

H.R. 3244 / Public Law 106-386

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000

H.R. 4461 / Public Law 106-387

Making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes

H.J. Res. 118 / Public Law 106-388

Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes

Approved October 29

H.J. Res. 119 / Public Law 106-389

Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes

Approved October 30

H.R. 707 / Public Law 106-390

Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

H.R. 1654 / Public Law 106-391

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000

H.R. 2348 / Public Law 106-392

To authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost sharing for the endangered fish recovery implementation programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins

H.R. 2389 / Public Law 106-393

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000

H.R. 2842 / Public Law 106–394
Federal Employees Health Benefits Children’s Equity Act of 2000

H.R. 2883 / Public Law 106–395
Child Citizenship Act of 2000

H.R. 3767 / Public Law 106–396
Visa Waiver Permanent Program Act

H.R. 3995 / Public Law 106–397
District of Columbia Receivership Accountability Act of 2000

H.R. 4205 / Public Law 106–398
To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes

H.R. 4828 / Public Law 106–399
Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000

H.R. 5417 / Public Law 106–400
To rename the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act as the “McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act”

H.J. Res. 120 / Public Law 106–401
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes

S. 1809 / Public Law 106–402
Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000

Approved November 1

H.J. Res. 121 / Public Law 106–403
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes

H.R. 209 / Public Law 106–404
Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 2000

H.R. 2607 / Public Law 106–405
Commercial Space Transportation Competitiveness Act of 2000

H.R. 2961 / Public Law 106–406
International Patient Act of 2000

H.R. 3069 / Public Law 106–407
Southeast Federal Center Public-Private Development Act of 2000

H.R. 3671 / Public Law 106–408
Fish and Wildlife Programs Improvement and National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act of 2000

H.R. 4068 / Public Law 106–409
Religious Workers Act of 2000

H.R. 4110 / Public Law 106–410
To amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for fiscal years 2002 through 2005

H.R. 4320 / Public Law 106–411
Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000

H.R. 4835 / Public Law 106–412
To authorize the exchange of land between the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of Central Intelligence at the George Washington Memorial Parkway in McLean, Virginia, and for other purposes

H.R. 4850 / Public Law 106–413
Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2000

H.R. 5164 / Public Law 106–414
Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act

H.R. 5234 / Public Law 106–415
To amend the Hmong Veterans’ Naturalization Act of 2000 to extend the applicability of that Act to certain former spouses of deceased Hmong veterans

H.R. Res. 122 / Public Law 106–416
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes

S. 406 / Public Law 106–417
Alaska Native and American Indian Direct Reimbursement Act of 2000

S. 1296 / Public Law 106–418
Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

S. 1402 / Public Law 106–419
Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000

2760

Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000

S. 1455 / Public Law 106-420
College Scholarship Fraud Prevention Act of 2000

S. 2412 / Public Law 106-424
National Transportation Safety Board
Amendments Act of 2000

S. 1705 / Public Law 106-421
Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act of 2000

S. 2917 / Public Law 106-425
Santo Domingo Pueblo Claims Settlement
Act of 2000

S. 1707 / Public Law 106-422
To amend the Inspector General Act of 1978
(5 U.S.C. App.) to provide that certain des-
ignated Federal entities shall be establish-
ments under such Act, and for other pur-
poses

Approved November 3

S. 2102 / Public Law 106-423
Timbisha Shoshone Homeland Act

H.J. Res. 123 / Public Law 106-426
Making further continuing appropriations for
the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes