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OA/ID Number: 21793
Scan ID: 417059
Document Number:

Folder Title:
FG001-07

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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10-31-99

Sunday, October 31, 1999



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4:15 PM	Departure Statement on Council of Great City Schools Class Size Report	Tab M
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[travel to Norway]

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'99 OCT 30 PM 8:07

Sunday, October 31, 1999

**Schedule of the President
For
Sunday, October 31, 1999**

Final Schedule

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WEATHER:

WASHINGTON, D.C.
*Partly cloudy. Winds southeast at 5 to 10 knots.
Low 51°F. High 72°F.*

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October 30, 1999 (7:45 PM)

Sunday, October 31, 1999

**Schedule of the President
for
Sunday, October 31, 1999
*Final Schedule***

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3:15	pm-	BRIEFING
3:45	pm	OVAL OFFICE DINING ROOM Staff Contact: Joe Lockhart
3:45	pm-	INTERVIEW WITH BRYANT GUMBEL FOR THE <i>CBS EARLY SHOW</i>
4:00	pm	OVAL OFFICE Staff Contact: Joe Lockhart
4:00	pm-	BRIEFING
4:10	pm	OVAL OFFICE Staff Contact: Bruce Reed
4:15	pm-	DEPARTURE STATEMENT ON CLASS SIZE
4:25	pm	BEHIND OVAL OFFICE Remarks: Paul Glastris Staff Contact: Bruce Reed Event Coordinator: Laura Schwartz OPEN PRESS
4:30	pm	THE PRESIDENT departs The White House via motorcade en route Reflecting Pool [drive time: 5 minutes]
4:35	pm	THE PRESIDENT arrives Reflecting Pool
4:45	pm	THE PRESIDENT departs Reflecting Pool via Marine One en route Andrews Air Force Base [flight time: 10 minutes]
4:55	pm	THE PRESIDENT arrives Andrews Air Force Base
5:10	pm (EST)	THE PRESIDENT departs Andrews Air Force Base via Air Force One en route Oslo International Airport-Gardermoen, Norway [flight time: 7 hours, 5 minutes] [time change: +6 hours]

October 30, 1999 (7:45 PM)

TAB

A

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

'99 OCT 30 PM5:29

October 29, 1999

INTERVIEW WITH BRYANT GUMBEL FOR CBS' THE EARLY SHOW

DATE: October 31, 1999
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: Briefing: 3:15-3:45 p.m.
Interview: 3:45-4:00 p.m.
FROM: Mark Neschis and Joe Lockhart

I. PURPOSE

This 15-minute interview will give you a chance to discuss your legislative agenda and the upcoming election season during the debut of a highly anticipated new morning news program.

There will be a 30-minute briefing in the Oval Office Dining Room before the interview.

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II. BACKGROUND

The Early Show, hosted by Bryant Gumbel and Jane Clayson, makes its debut on CBS on November 1, 1999. The two-hour program will compete against NBC's *Today* and ABC's *Good Morning America*. *The Early Show* marks Gumbel's return to morning television since he left *Today* in 1997. CBS has poured millions of dollars into a promotional campaign and a new streetside studio in an effort to turn around its flagging morning news ratings.

III. QUESTIONS

Gumbel is known as one of the most prepared interviewers in the news business. Although his interviewing style tends to be tougher than other broadcasters, it is never disrespectful.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Budget.
- Healthcare.
- New York Senate Race/Move to Westchester.
- 2000 Democratic Presidential Campaign.
- Purpose of Oslo trip.
- Your legacy.

Before the interview begins CBS will film you walking with Bryant along the South Colonnade to the back of the Oval Office. This will be used as part of a promotional spot to air during *60 Minutes* Sunday night.

IV. PARTICIPANTS

Pre-Brief Participants

The President
Joe Lockhart
John Podesta
Doug Sosnik
Sandy Berger
Mark Neschis

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Interview Participants

The President
Bryant Gumbel
Joe Lockhart

V. PRESS PLAN

CBS plans on airing the interview in its entirety on Monday morning during the program's first half-hour. Portions of the interview will also air during other CBS news programs. A transcript will be released to the press either the night before or right after the show airs.

VI. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

3:15-3:45 p.m.	Briefing (Oval Office Dining Room)
3:45-4:00 p.m.	Interview (Oval Office)

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B

**OSLO TRIP
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

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MEPP

Are you expecting any breakthroughs in your meeting with Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Barak in Oslo?

- Traveling to Oslo to attend ceremonies honoring the memory and legacy of Yitzhak Rabin -- a hero of the peace process, a warrior for peace, who made great contributions to peace process and to Israel. We will honor his work.
- Second, hope to promote his legacy by continuing his work. Will meet separately with Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat to work together on how we get from here to Framework Agreement in February.
- This is early step in a difficult process that will culminate, hopefully, in February.

Are you concerned about slow pace of negotiations?

- Much has happened in past three months – indeed, more than in past three years. Enhanced security cooperation, transfer of territory, prisoner releases, and, now opening of safe-passage. Very important steps in process.
- Now parties must focus with vigor on tough issues of permanent status talks. Both sides have named their negotiators, and we are going to Oslo to talk about how to maximize chances of success.
- We are beginning very difficult endgame discussions, with a very aggressive schedule ahead of us. The parties agreed at Sharm el-Sheik that they would try to reach a Framework Agreement on permanent status by mid-February and are committed to an agreement on permanent status in its entirety by September 2000.

Do you think the February deadline is realistic?

- It is ambitious, but it was set by the parties themselves. That fact in itself suggests welcome sense of urgency and of seriousness.
- Am sure they have no illusions about difficulties that lie ahead.

Am prepared to do whatever I can to help parties reach their goals. Decision to start talks November 7 on Frame work agreement is encouraging, shows process on track and reflect deep commitment of the parties.

What is happening on the Syrian track? Is it frozen?

- There is an important opportunity on this track as well that we should not let pass us by.
- That's why we have been engaged in intensive discussions with both sides to find a way for them to resume and complete negotiations.
- There has been some progress but clearly not as much as we would like.

Are you disappointed by the absence of Mubarak and Abdullah. Do you see this, combined with Egypt's blocking of multilaterals, as a sign of their disengagement from the peace process?

- No. Both Egypt and Jordan have been strong supporters of the peace process and continue to be. Just look at President Mubarak's crucial role at Sharm.
- I spoke to President Mubarak just the other day and saw King Abdullah very recently in Washington and am confident that we will work closely together to push the peace process forward on all its tracks.

Is it true that the Indyk appointment was made at Prime Minister Barak's request? Is this something that he asked for and we agreed to?

- These are two very fine diplomats and it was my belief, in consultation with Secretary Albright, that this was the best way of their talents at this time.

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Is the U.S. in danger of not living up to its funding commitment under the Wye Agreement? How will this affect the parties' ability to fulfill their obligations to the people and provide them with tangible, on-the-ground results?

- Congress sent me a foreign aid bill that did not provide Wye funding. The bill sent a terrible signal to our friends in the Middle East, and the strongest possible encouragement to the enemies of peace. It was wrong for America and I vetoed it. I will not sign any bill that denies this funding for Middle East peace.
- But bill did harm to far more than Middle East. It slashed our Fiscal Year 2000 budget request for foreign affairs by \$2 billion. The result imperils American interests.
- Message to Congress is that this is simply not acceptable. I have vetoed the inadequate appropriations bill. And I will insist that our international affairs programs – including the funds to implement Wye – be treated fairly in the final budget negotiations this fall.

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NORWAY

Why did it take so long for an American President to come to Norway?

- I am delighted to be the first sitting American president to visit Norway. Norway has been an important and staunch NATO ally and there is no particular reason why prior presidents did not come.
- My visit is recognition of Norway's pivotal role in facilitating the Middle East peace process and its overall positive engagement around the world.

Were you satisfied with Norway's contributions to the NATO effort in Kosovo?

- Absolutely. Norway has time and again showed itself to be a strong NATO ally. Kosovo was yet another fine example.
- Your F-16s flew many missions in Operation Allied Force. You opened your homes and hearts to 6,000 Kosovar refugees, the highest per capita figure of any NATO ally, and you have already contributed more than \$200 million to humanitarian assistance in Kosovo.
- And Norway is contributing to a building a secure and stable Kosovo with 1,200 troops in KFOR.
- The Alliance triumphed in Kosovo because we had unity of purpose and courage. Norway, the United States, and our other Allies should be proud of what we accomplished but need to continue to work to win the peace in Kosovo and build a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Europe that extends from Tromso to Adana.

OSCE

The Norwegian government now holds the leadership in OSCE. It has been a difficult period for the OSCE. Are you satisfied with the work that has been done under Norway's leadership?

- Foreign Minister Vollebaek has worked tirelessly as OSCE's Chairman and in preparing for the upcoming OSCE Summit in Istanbul.
- I commend him for his efforts to emphasize the OSCE's role in restoring security through effective use of the OSCE and its institutions. The progress we have made, for example, in Kosovo, is due in no small part to effective Norwegian leadership.

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NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. President, did the United States store nuclear weapons in Norway during the Cold War?

- Longstanding policy not to discuss how we deploy our nuclear arsenal for obvious national security reasons.
- We have been working aggressively to lower the total number of tactical nuclear weapons in America's arsenal since the end of the Cold War and have reduced over 90% of our overseas deployment.
- Has been a priority of this Administration to reduce the threat of nuclear war and proliferation over the last seven years. Had success in helping Russia dismantle its arsenal and withdraw its nuclear weapons in Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. We have also frozen the plutonium production capability of North Korea, contained the threat posed by Iraq's WMD program, worked with Brazil and South Africa to give up their nuclear programs and pushed hard for a permanent extension of the NPT.

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LOCKHEED MARTIN F-16 SALE

Is there a decision for Norway to buy Lockheed Martin military aircraft?

- As I told Prime Minister Bondevik during his recent visit, the decision on which fighter aircraft to purchase is your choice and will be made by the Norway alone.
- With regard to the U.S. offer, we note that Lockheed Martin is a fine company with a proven track record as a supplier of products integral to Norway's defense and contributions to NATO -- including the existing F-16 fighter aircraft. Lockheed Martin's current offer is based on its long-standing partnership with Norway, and on proven technology. The offer stands on its own merits.
- While we strongly support Lockheed Martin's offer and hope it will be successful, the excellent relations between our two countries are not tied to this sale.

WHALING

Why does the U.S. continue to threaten Norway with sanctions over the whaling issue, especially when the Minke whale stock is not threatened at all?

- Our goal is to promote an effective whale conservation regime through the International Whaling Commission (IWC). While I recognize Norway has the right under IWC rules to engage in commercial whaling, in our view this activity diminishes the effectiveness of the IWC.
- While under U.S. law I may impose trade sanctions, I have delayed any such action while we remain engaged in good-faith efforts to persuade Norway to follow agreed conservation measures.
- I am pleased that Norway continues to adhere to the ban on international trade in whale products, but I again urge Norway to halt commercial whaling while negotiations continue within the IWC to develop an agreed conservation regime.

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CHECHNYA

**RUSSIA
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Did you tell Putin you're concerned about rising violence and casualties in Caucasus? What advice did you give Putin?

- It's been our experience that in every place where there are genuine ethnic and religious difficulties, and particularly when they're combined, that sooner or later people have to stop fighting and start talking.
- Affirmed to PM Putin that dialogue is the only way conflict is likely to be resolved. Remain seriously concerned about escalating violence, and its potential to threaten stability throughout Caucasus.
- No one wants to see a repeat of 1994-1996 Chechen war. Cannot be a purely military solution to the problem. Have consistently spoken out against indiscriminate, disproportionate use of force as clear threat to innocent civilians.
- Have repeatedly affirmed recognition of Russia's right to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. At same time, Russia should take special care to respect the independence and security concerns of neighbors such as Georgia and Azerbaijan, and to protect the human rights of all its citizens, regardless of ethnicity.

Is Yeltsin in control, or is the military calling the shots in Chechnya?

- What Prime Minister Putin has told us is that the military is operating under the direction of Russia's civilian leadership.

Chechen refugees are reporting that the Russians hit a convoy of people trying to flee the fighting. Any comment on refugee situation, humanitarian relief efforts?

- Have seen those reports. Obviously, very concerned about impact of Russian military escalation on civilians.

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- Also, troubled by reports that border between Chechnya and Ingushetiya remains closed. Important that Russians ensure freedom of movement, provide for safety and well-being of displaced people.
- Encouraged by Kofi Annan's announcement that he is sending a team to prepare relief operations for people displaced by fighting. Administration actively supporting UNHCR and ICRC efforts to relieve suffering caused by conflict.
- Have contributed a total of \$4 million to these organizations' NIS refugee programs recently.

What impact will Chechnya have on Russian politics? Will Russians call a state of emergency and delay elections?

- Don't want to speculate on details of Russian internal politics.
- Have stressed the importance of fair and free Russian elections taking place in accordance with the Russian Constitution to ensure the continued stabilization of Russian democracy.
- President Yeltsin has assured us that Russia's Duma and presidential elections will take place as scheduled, and that he is committed to ensuring the success of Russia's first democratic transfer of presidential power.

ARMS CONTROL

How can you sign adopted CFE treaty if Russians are already in violation?

- Treaty compliance very important issue. Ability to sign a treaty depends on adequate assurance that all parties will comply.
- The Russians have told us that they seek to comply with the provisions of the CFE Treaty, but they have exceeded CFE flank limits due to their operations in the North Caucasus. Russians have said this is a temporary situation.

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- Successfully adapted treaty would make genuine contribution to our national security as well as that of our allies and all treaty parties. Treaty's value demonstrated by fact that the Russians have been obliged to explain impact of their military actions on Treaty limits and reiterate commitment to treaty levels.
- Russian compliance overall generally has been good. Russia has destroyed many thousands of pieces of equipment under CFE and has hosted hundreds of intrusive on-site inspections.

What do you make of Russian threat not to dismantle MIRV's, build new ones, not to accept changes to ABM Treaty?

- We have made clear to Russia that we want to work cooperatively on the issue of missile defense and the ABM Treaty, which would need to be modified to accommodate a limited NMD.
- We have also made clear our continued interest in pursuing discussions relating to further reductions in strategic arms.
- Believe a cooperative approach on NMD and ABM will provide tangible benefits to both U.S. and Russian security. Each face threats from rogue states.
- Discussions with Russians on these issues are continuing, consistent with my agreement with President Yeltsin agreement at the Cologne summit.
- Will decide next summer whether to proceed with deployment. Deployment would be designed to address threat from rogue states, would not undercut Russia's deterrent, and would not in our view necessitate a response from Russia.

Russians say they won't accept ABM amendments. What do you make of that? Will you let them block NMD?

- We are in the very early phases of discussing these issues with Russia.
- Expect that it will be some time before the U.S. puts concrete proposals on the table regarding changes to the ABM Treaty and receives a considered Russian response to these proposals, as well as our ideas for cooperation.

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- In the meantime, we will continue what has been a serious a constructive set of discussions on these issues.

CRIME & CORRUPTION

What do you think of ongoing investigations into President Yeltsin and his family? Aren't they all corrupt?

- Not for me to comment on ongoing investigations. Will say that I have discussed the importance of tackling crime and corruption with PM Putin and President Yeltsin.
- We agreed that best way to address current allegations is to ensure that investigations are conducted thoroughly and that any wrongdoers are punished appropriately. Our law enforcement professionals are cooperating well on these matters.

How can you deal with Russia if everyone is corrupt?

- Not going to comment on any specific allegation or investigation. It is clear that crime and corruption are problems in Russia. As I told PM Putin at our last meeting in New Zealand, it can eat the heart out of Russian society.
- Also important that we understand the context of this issue. Corruption has roots in the Soviet era. Today's corruption problems are symptomatic of Russia being only part way through a fundamental transformation from authoritarianism to democracy, from communism to market economy.
- Addressing this problem has been central to our agenda. Started USAID rule of law project after Vancouver Summit in 1993. VP and I have spoken publicly about crime and corruption since 1995. Have played a key role in helping Russia draft its civil code and criminal code and create an independent judiciary. We're taking tough stance on law enforcement to protect our institutions and resources.

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- Laws governing Russian market democracy, much less institutions to enforce them, clearly still in process. The only viable solution is to help Russia complete the massive transformation it has begun. Russians will make choices that define their society; important we stay engaged to influence those choices.

WHO LOST RUSSIA?

Yeltsin seems to be totally out of it, his entourage is filled with crooks, and we have round 2 of the war in Chechnya. Don't you think that Russia's a lost cause and that your strategy hasn't worked?

- Russia is in midst of an unprecedented change. It's undergoing three transformations simultaneously – from empire to nation-state, from authoritarianism to democracy, from communism to market economy.
- How these transformations play out profoundly affect U.S. national security. It's in our interest to engage Russia and shape how these processes develop. That's why we're working to help Russia dismantle its Cold War era arsenal, build independent media, and create small businesses.
- Obviously, the Russian people and their leaders will determine what happens in their country and whether these transformations succeed. But our efforts to support them are already paying dividends.
- We've helped deactivate five thousand Soviet nuclear weapons, ensured denuclearization of several former Soviet republics, secured the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltics, our troops are serving together in Kosovo and Bosnia. Have not seen nightmare scenarios once predicted of loose nukes. Broken the back of Soviet communism.
- Clearly, Russia has a lot of problems and is going through some tough times. But we're better off engaging them than throwing up our hands or writing them off.

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BUDGET
Oct. 30, 1999

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1. You have said you will veto the bill that funds Labor, Education and the Department of Health and Human Services. How will you get out of the impasse with the Congress, and will you have to shut down the government?

No, there is no need to shut down the government. As I have made clear and as the Congressional majority knows, I am committed to improving education by reducing class size. Unfortunately, the House passed a bill last week that fails to provide next year's funding for 100,000 new teachers so that class sizes can be smaller, allowing teachers to teach and students to learn.

I am fighting for the environment by removing the many anti-environmental provisions on the Interior bill, and to preserving America's great and green spaces. And I want to make sure that we continue our successful crime fighting strategy by extending my COPS program, and putting another 50,000 COPS on the Street. [It is also very important that we protect our national security interests and meet our obligations to the U.N. It is our responsibility to pay our dues, and the UN makes critical contributions to global stability. We must also take actions to help preserve and build peace, with funding for the Wye River peace agreement or funding that helps reduce the threat of weapons proliferation in the former Soviet Union.]

I have put out a budget that fully pays for these and other national priorities. What Congress needs to know is that we can meet our national needs and also continue the fiscal discipline that in the past six and a half years has enabled us to balance the budget, led to a historic surplus, and a strong economy. And any additional funding for these and other national priorities will be paid for.

At the same time, we need to extend the life of the Social Security and Medicare. I have put forth a plan that does this, I'm sending it to Congress, and we need to move forward on these issues. There is no reason to shut the government shutdown. There is every reason to work together to achieve these goals.

2. On Oct. 20, you described the funding differences between the Republicans and yourself as "modest." What is taking so long to reach an agreement?

There are some fundamental, and philosophical, differences here that are very important. I believe we should take action that commits to lowering class size with a program to add 100,000 teachers. The Congressional majority has not made that commitment.

And there are profoundly important differences in areas that have nothing to do with funding ----- like the protection of the environment. The Congressional majority seeks to impose anti-environmental provisions that would permit excessive logging on public

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lands, that would give a windfall to major oil companies at the expense of the American taxpayer, and that would permit mining companies to deposit toxic waste on public lands. This is wrong. And I will fight against it.

So, yes....while the funding differences may be "modest" there are still deeply important issues that we need to work together to resolve. Can we work together to reach an agreement? I believe it is possible. But I also believe it will take a lot of hard work. And I urge Congress to join us, to work together, so that we can reach a resolution that the American people deserve.

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Council of Greater City School Reports

Q&A
October 1, 2013
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Q: What does the report from the Council of Greater City Schools say about class size?

A: The report illustrates how supportive local school districts are of this program. They found the initiative to be flexible enough to allow them to meet unique needs, but focused enough to ensure smaller classes. I was pleased to hear that the districts are using the money in a variety of ways to reduce class size and spur academic achievement. For example:

- Teachers hired are serving in areas of the highest need, including literacy, mathematics, bilingual and special education;
- Over 22,000 teachers have received high-quality training in teaching practices and the use of technology for instruction in smaller classes;
- In just the first year of the class size initiative, 3,558 teachers have been hired in 40 of the nation's largest urban school districts to reduce class size in the early grades.

Q: The Council's report focuses on urban school districts. Does this mean that the class size program is primarily an urban program?

A: No, my class size proposal helps school districts in all types of communities -- rural, suburban, and urban -- reduce class size, increase teacher quality and improve student performance. But what the Council's report confirms is that all across the county, teachers and school leaders want to see targeted investments in class size reduction.

Q: Do class-size reduction efforts really affect student achievement?

A: I am convinced, but you don't have to take my word for it. The Council's report details research on efforts in Tennessee, California, Wisconsin and elsewhere showing that smaller classes increase performance like reading and math. We are seeing that with smaller classes, students receive more personal attention from teachers, teachers spend less time on discipline and parents are more satisfied about their schools.

Q: Isn't class size really a state and local issue?

A: Although better schools are not a national responsibility, they are a national priority. My class size reduction plan supports state and local efforts to improve schools by investing

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G

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON MEDICARE

Q: Have you given up on Medicare reform this year?

A: Clearly, the Congress will fail to act this year on broad based Medicare reform. However, as I have indicated, they can and should lay down the foundation for comprehensive reform by reserving surplus dollars to ensure that financing resources will be protected and available to strengthen and modernize the program.

Q: Why did you decide to ratchet up your response to the ad campaign being sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry now, when it appears the prescription drug benefit is dead this year?

A: Because it is important that we do everything possible to refocus this Congress on the priorities of the nation. We cannot let up on our efforts to ensure that the Congress will respond to critical health care needs such as this. Moreover, there is still time this year to reserve surplus dollars necessary to ensure that the financing will be available for this critical program.

Q: Do you believe that your focus on the drug industry advertisements will be counterproductive because it will focus more attention on this ad campaign, thus giving it even more publicity?

(NOTE: This was a critique of the Administration's strategy on the Harry and Louise ads run by the Health Insurance Association of America during health care reform.)

A: We have found that it is critically important to correct and respond to multimillion dollar ad campaigns that are designed mislead the public and to kill Administration legislative and policy priorities. All too frequently, silence can lead to the perception that the false charges are accurate. Having said this, I continue to urge the drug industry to reverse its direction and engage in a constructive – not destructive – dialogue on this important issue. I believe that the establishment of a prescription drug benefit can be a win-win for both Medicare beneficiaries and the pharmaceutical industries.

Q: Aren't you simply demagoguing the Medicare issue and focusing on a new benefit that will cost tens of billions of dollars at the same time that you are saying we need to constrain costs and extend the life of the trust fund?

A: The prescription drug benefit is not a stand-alone initiative; it is part of a broader reform package that modernizes Medicare, makes it more competitive and efficient, and dedicates part of the surplus to Medicare to keep it solvent until 2027. It is simply not credible to suggest that the Medicare program can be modernized without adding the option for prescription drug coverage. Prescription drugs today are as important as hospital care was when Medicare was created. Having said this, the drug benefit is designed in a way that is affordable to both the program and the beneficiaries it serves.

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Q: What do you mean when you say that your proposal is in the best interests of the drug industry?

A: Without a doubt, the number of prescriptions purchased will increase for the over 13 million Medicare beneficiaries who currently lack prescription drug coverage and the millions more who have extremely limited prescription drug benefits. As a result, my proposal will result in billions of new dollars being spent on prescription drugs. As I've said many times previously, this can and should be a win-win for both the drug industry and Medicare beneficiaries.

Q: Why would the drug industry oppose something they feel is in their best interests?

A: Because they have a historical distrust of any new benefit within the Medicare program. They believe it will lead to price controls. Obviously, our proposal has no price controls, and even the drug industry acknowledges it. It is hard to address fears that are unfounded, but I believe that that is what we are dealing with here.

Q: You are engaged in a war of words with the pharmaceutical industry. How can you reach the point of having a more constructive dialogue with the drug industry on this issue?

A: First, we need to have a constructive dialogue based on the facts and not on deceptive rhetoric. And rather than communicate over the airwaves with a multimillion dollar ad campaign designed to scare seniors, we need to have a civil discourse on the best policy to address the tremendous unmet needs of Medicare beneficiaries on this issue. I am heartened by reports that the drug industry has or soon will stop running its ad campaign. I hope that this action bodes well for future discussions with the industry and the Congress on this matter.

Q: By raising the issue of the difference in prices between Canada and the United States, are you suggesting that our system should resemble Canada's?

A: No. I believe that this nation has to find its own unique approach to dealing with these and other health care challenges. However, the differences in pricing and access in Canada certainly highlights troubling trends in this nation, where more of our seniors have no coverage and are paying the highest prices in the world for drugs manufactured in this nation.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON PRIVACY

Q: Why is this privacy regulation so important?

A: We know that two thirds of American adults say that they do not trust health plans to maintain confidentiality all or most of the time. This lack of confidence in the health care system can lead to poor quality or inappropriate care.

This new proposed regulation will establish the first Federal standards to protect sensitive health information that is transmitted or maintained electronically. The new regulation would apply to all health plans, health care clearinghouses such as billing companies, and many health care providers. It would limit the use and release of private health information without consent; restrict the disclosure of protected health information to the minimum amount of information necessary; establish new requirements for disclosure of information to researchers and others seeking access to health records; inform consumers about their right to access their health records and to know who else has accessed them; and establish new administrative and criminal sanctions for the improper use or disclosure of private information.

Q: When you announced these new privacy protections, you said that these new protections were an “unprecedented step toward putting Americans back in control of their own medical records”. What is your response to the recent criticism by physicians that suggest this regulation is not strong enough?

A: The consent forms used today frequently authorize a much broader use of information than is authorized under our proposed regulation. In addition, utilizing an explicit consent form represents one more regulatory burden that we thought did not add additional protections for patients. The proposed regulation strengthens current practice in that it limits the use of medical records to only treatment, payment, and other health care priorities. However, if providers and other interested parties can make a compelling case that requiring an written authorization for treatment and payment provides additional protections for patients, we will modify the proposed regulation accordingly.

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Q: What will this new regulation cost? Won't it be too costly to implement?

A: Our initial calculations show that improving privacy protection through this regulation would be approximately \$1.2 billion in the first year and \$650 million per year after the first year, a total of \$3.7 billion over five years for the tasks we can estimate. However, we believe that costs could be as low as \$2 billion or over \$6 billion. This is less than one-tenth of one percent of national health expenditures. We do not believe that there will be an excessive cost that would result from the implementation of these long overdue protections. The cost of doing nothing is far more problematic. For example, because of the fear that many patients have about the misuse of their medical records, they avoid preventive screenings that could prevent costly hospitalizations. Recognizing this, Congress continues to work on legislation that is even broader in scope than we are authorized to do under current law. We are both working on this issue because they recognize that any cost associated with appropriate interventions in this area are more than offset by the protections they provide.

Q: Your regulations would allow minors to obtain health care services – including family planning and abortion – without their parents knowledge or consent. Isn't this changing current law?

A: Our proposal would continue to allow states to regulate minors' access to health care services. We are not changing the law in this area.

Q: Law enforcement officials say that the standards will have a negative impact on their ability to protect public safety, but advocates say you haven't done enough to protect privacy. What is your response?

A: The fact that some consumer advocates feel we need to go further and some members of the law enforcement community feel we've gone too far would suggest that we've found an appropriate compromise position. However, if either side can make a compelling case for additional provisions that allow us to protect patients' privacy while protecting public safety, we are open to modifying the proposed regulation accordingly.

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 30, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

In light of a stay issued yesterday by the U.S. District Court in West Virginia, the Administration has determined that there is no need to consider legislation to address the possible impact of the court's recent decision on mining regulation.

Two years ago, federal agencies began a comprehensive process to reduce the environmental impacts of mountaintop mining. Under this process, subsequently approved by the court in a settlement with environmentalists, the Administration established new regulatory practices and undertook a comprehensive analysis to determine if additional controls are warranted to protect rivers and streams. This is a sound approach, and the Administration remains committed to it.

Following the court's recent ruling invalidating state mining regulations in West Virginia, efforts began in Congress to pass legislation to reverse the potential impacts of that ruling. The Administration made clear that it would consider only language that restored our sound Regulatory approach, and would oppose any effort to ease environmental restrictions.

Yesterday the U.S. District Court in West Virginia issued a stay of its ruling. This stay achieves the goal of restoring our regulatory approach. Using the comprehensive process previously developed with the environmental community and the state, we will continue working to ensure that the streams and rivers of West Virginia remain protected. Therefore, the Administration has determined that there is no need to consider legislation.

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Campaign Finance

Q: James Riady, Indonesian businessman, rides in a car with you in 1992 and promises to deliver \$1 million in contributions. True?

A: I met with Mr. Riady during the campaign, and he did make contributions. I don't recall the specifics of any conversation, but he was eligible to donate funds, and at the time there was no reason to question his support.

Q: But a million bucks? From a foreigner? What does it take for alarm bells to go off?

A: Under the law, he was eligible to donate. And as for the amount, again, I do not recall him saying that. Unfortunately, under the law large donations to political parties are allowed. But that is something we're trying to fix by passing strong campaign finance legislation.

Q: Did you ask Harold Ickes to talk to John Huang about helping out Jesse Jackson, Jr.? And was it because you were trying to keep his father from entering the race against you in 1996?

A: (If no recollection). I don't recall speaking to Mr. Ickes about the Representative Jackson's campaign, and I do not remember saying anything to him about involving John Huang in that effort.

What Representative Jackson's father's plans were for the following year didn't matter in terms of whether we wanted his son to become a new member of Congress from Chicago.

Q: Questions have been raised about a woman who made a questionable donation to the First Lady's campaign, and they trigger new concerns about the influence of foreign businesses and governments on our elections. Have you advised her how to ensure that she doesn't run into the kind of trouble your own campaign experienced?

A: As her campaign has said, when questions were raised, they immediately returned the money. They did the right thing. I know they are taking every precaution to ensure that all campaign regulations are strictly followed.

Starr Investigation

Q: Let me mention a few names, and give me a quick two or three word reaction. Ken Starr.

(A: Can I play this game? Katie Couric.)

seriously: A: I have nothing to say about him right now.

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Q: Linda Tripp.

A: Same answer, Bryant.

Q: Monica Lewinsky.

A: I know where you want to go, but I'm sorry I just don't want to play along.

Q: OK. Did you rape Juanita Broaddrick?

A: That question's been answered, and I don't have anything further to say about this or any other issues linked in some way to what happened last year.

Q: So you won't even say whether you ever met her, or had any kind of relationship with her?

A: As I've said to others who asked about these kinds of issues, I'm just not going to talk about them in the time I have remaining as President. I've got a job to do. And I've got a little more than 14 months in which to do it, and that is going to occupy all of my time and attention.

Q: But you're avoiding such serious issues. A question of rape. A judge's finding of contempt, the first ever against a president. Doesn't the public deserve some response?

A: We've said all we need to say about these matters. If I want to address any of them in more detail, I'm going to wait until 2001 or beyond. Then I'm on my own time. But now I'm on the public's time, and they deserve my attention to the agenda that concerns them. Most Americans want me talking about keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and kids. Most Americans want me doing something about building better schools and putting good teachers in them. Most Americans want me to stay focused on paying down the debt and keeping this economy prosperous.

Q: The First Lady seemed to suggest in Talk magazine that your personal background may have contributed to your recent problems. Can you describe your relationship between your mother and grandmother, and how that might have affected you in the course of your life?

A: I really would rather not talk about my mom and grandmother. Ask me back in February of 2001 and we'll see. But I would just rather not talk about private family matters right now.

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Q: You say you don't want to talk about these issues. But some claim that your animosity towards Republicans after impeachment – and their dislike of you – is getting in the way of the people's business. Isn't that something you should address?

A: Whatever our feelings toward each other, politically or personally, it should not get in the way of attending to the important business of the country. The issues are too big; too much is at stake to let politics or personalities intrude. On issue after issue, I have reached out to the other side in an effort to have a dialogue on the budget, on judges, (etc.). The people send us here to get things done. They know we're going to argue over issues, but in the end they want us to come together and let progress triumph over partisanship. I remain hopeful that we can reach agreement on some of the big issues that are out there.

Q: Do you ever think about all the investigations and accusations and rumors and innuendo and wonder, why me? What is it about me that causes people to get so emotional, so hateful?

A: I said in 1992 that we have got to put the politics of personal destruction aside, and work together on issues. We need to put progress over partisanship. It has been tough, but we have gotten many things done. The successes far outweigh the setbacks. (recite litany of accomplishments). Whatever negativity is out there, I have plenty of positive things to think about, and plenty of challenges in front of me, so that it doesn't get in my way. As I've said before, even on the worst days, this is still a great job, because the American people have entrusted me with a tremendous responsibility to do what I can to make their lives better. That's a heavy obligation, but it's also an inspiring and energizing opportunity.

Q: This year we've been treated to news that Donald Trump, Cybil Shepherd, Jesse Ventura and Warren Beatty might run for President. Is this the result of a demeaning of the office that you've contributed to?

A: I don't think what I've done has anything to do with such political developments. We go through all sorts of cycles in politics, and we're in one now where some people from the entertainment world are talking about running for President. That's not a first, by the way. So, it's a free country, people can chart their own course, and the political process will sort out the wheat from the chaff. I'm not concerned about it.

What I am concerned about is whether we'll get to focusing on the real issues out there – who is best prepared to take this country into the new century, who has the big ideas to meet the big challenges we face, who is equipped to bring about the kind of changes we all need in a rapidly changing country and world. There's a natural tendency to cover this campaign on the basis of the various personalities involved, the latest poll numbers, the money game. But I hope we can do better at paying attention to what really matters.

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I thought the recent joint appearances by candidates in both parties in New Hampshire represented a breath of fresh air. They were serious and substantive. Real people asked good questions. And they got good answers. I'm a little biased; I thought Al Gore did a terrific job at outlining his vision for the country. But all in all, it's a good thing to have that kind of dialogue. I hope it continues.

Q: One of the things Al Gore made a point of saying – again – is how much he was angered by your behavior. Pundits say their association with you will hurt both Gore and the First Lady. Does that bother you?

A: I answered that question the other day. That's something I know occupies some people here in Washington, but I don't think it's something most people spend time thinking about. Elections are about the American people and their concerns. It isn't about what preoccupies pundits inside the Beltway. And when the people focus on the campaigns and make their choice at the ballot box, they almost always get it right. They're not going to be thinking about me. They are going to be thinking about who is the right person to lead them in this new century. So I have a genuine optimism about the upcoming campaign. It'll be a little bit hard to be more of an observer than a participant, but I'll get used to that.

FBI

Q: Do you like Louis Freeh?

A: We've had our differences from time to time. But I've worked with him on a number of important law enforcement concerns. We've gotten things done. Look at the low crime rate, which is thanks to the hard work of people at the FBI, the Department of Justice, the US Attorneys, and state and local police and prosecutors around the country.

Home

Q: You're closing on your home tomorrow. When will you be moving in?

A: Well, first of all, we're looking forward to being homeowners again. We haven't had our own since the 70's. We had a birthday party for the First Lady recently, and they gave her some housewarming gifts representing that time – a lava lamp, some 8-track tapes, a fondue set.

So we're happy about this. And we're looking forward to getting it furnished and staying there when we can. We don't have a timetable for that. We'll have to buy some new furniture, and so forth. (I imagine the Secret Service may need to do some things at the house before we can move in.) But we're excited, like most people who get a new place.

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Q: Are you sorry you got Terry McAuliffe involved? Why did you go that route, knowing as you should what kinds of questions it would raise?

A: Well, we're happy with the mortgage we've got now. But there was absolutely nothing wrong with the earlier one. It was perfectly legal, and the questions that were raised were not valid ones. When we arranged the first mortgage, we had a very short time frame to work in, because we had to get a strong bid in. We wanted this home, and the Bankers Trust mortgage was the best option available to us at the time. After we signed a contract, we had an opportunity to look around and see if there was something preferable. There was. The new mortgage has a rate that's locked in for three years; the other one changed after just six months. So that's what we chose.

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President Clinton And Vice President Gore:
Providing Leadership Through Executive Action
October 29, 1999

LATEST EXAMPLE

- Medical Privacy

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BUILDING A STRONG ECONOMY

- New Markets Initiative
- Welfare To Work
- New Rules To Pay Down The National Debt

EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

- Insuring Uninsured Children
- Giving As Many Americans As Possible The Protections Of A Patients' Bill Of Rights
- Expanding Mental Health Benefits

PROMOTING QUALITY EDUCATION

- Expanding Literacy (America Reads)

COMBATING YOUTH VIOLENCE

- National Campaign Against Youth Violence
- Making Schools Safe Places To Learn
- Brokering An Agreement On Child Safety Locks For Handguns
- Voices Against Violence
- Strengthening Movie Ratings
- Addressing Hate Crimes

IMPROVING AND PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Preserving Our National Forests (Roadless)
- Tougher Clean Air Standards (Tailpipe Emissions)
- Promoting Energy Efficiency (Biomass)

BUILDING ONE AMERICA

- The President's Initiative On Race
- Addressing Racial Profiling
- Challenging The Legal Community

PROMOTING AMERICAN VALUES

- Expanding Family Leave
- Protecting Kids On The Internet
- Cracking Down On Child Labor And Sweatshops
- Protecting Our National Treasures

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President Clinton And Vice President Gore: Providing Leadership Through Executive Action

October 29, 1999

LATEST EXAMPLE

Medical Privacy:

- Over the past three years, Congress has failed to act on medical privacy. Therefore, on October 29th, President Clinton announced new regulations to protect the privacy of personal medical records. The President's action gives consumers greater access to and control over their records, restricts the disclosure of protected health information to the minimum necessary, and establishes new disclosure requirements for researchers and others seeking access to health records. (10/29/99)

BUILDING A STRONG ECONOMY

New Markets Initiative:

- In August 1999, President Clinton unveiled his New Markets Initiative. The President's New Markets Tour of underserved communities generated nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment commitments.
- The President followed-up his New Markets Tour with the announcement of BusinessLINC – an initiative which will partner large businesses with small business owners and entrepreneurs in underserved communities, offering one-on-one technical advice, consulting, classroom and group training, strategic alliances, and development of new suppliers and sales channels. (8/10/99)

Welfare To Work:

- In 1997, the President launched the Welfare to Work Partnership, an independent organization private sector businesses that made commitments to hire and retain welfare recipients. In its first year, the Partnership grew to 5,000 companies and hired 135,000 welfare recipients. In May 1998, the President challenged the Partnership to double that record. Today, the Partnership has exceeded that goal, over 10,000 business partners have hired more than 410,000 welfare recipients. (3/1/99)
- On July 14, 1999, President Clinton announced three new actions to promote work over welfare, including: allowing states to make it easier for working families to own a car and still be eligible for food stamps; simplifying food stamp reporting rules to reduce bureaucracy; and launching a nationwide public education campaign and toll free hotline to help working families know whether they are eligible for food stamps. (Democratic Leadership Council speech, 7/14/99)

New Rules To Pay Down The National Debt:

- On August 4, 1999, President Clinton announced new rules proposed by the Treasury Department to help manage federal finances in a new era of budget surpluses. The changes will give the Federal Government the same flexibility families and businesses use to manage their finances, saving taxpayers billions of dollars by refinancing the debt and paying it down on the best possible terms. (8/4/99)

EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

Insuring Uninsured Children:

- On October 12th, the President unveiled a series of new actions to enroll million of uninsured children eligible for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), including: directing Cabinet Secretaries to develop strategies to integrate children's health insurance outreach into schools and sending new guidance to states and schools on funding options for school-based outreach. (10/12/99)
- On February 23rd, the President launched a nationwide "Insure Kids Now" campaign. Comprised of major TV and radio networks, healthcare organizations, religious groups and other community-based organizations, the campaign will use a toll-free hotline, television and radio public service announcements and print advertisements to educate families about CHIP. The campaign's goal is to enroll 5 million of the estimated 10 million children eligible for health insurance under CHIP within 5 years. (2/23/99)

Giving As Many Americans As Possible The Protections Of A Patients' Bill Of Rights:

- While Congress has thus far failed to enact the bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights legislation, the President has acted using Executive action. In a series of Executive actions, the President has extended the protections of the Patients' Bill of Rights to all Federal employees, all Medicare and Medicaid HMO patients and all CHIP insurance recipients.

Expanding Mental Health Benefits:

- At a White House Conference on Mental Health hosted by Tipper Gore in June 1999, the President announced that the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHB) would treat mental illness and substance abuse on parity with other health conditions. FEHB is the nation's largest private health insurer, covering 85 million Americans. (6/7/99)
- A few days before the Conference, the President also signed an Executive Order directing the Federal Government to use the same hiring and promotion standards for people with psychiatric disabilities as it has for people with other disabilities. (6/4/99)

PROMOTING QUALITY EDUCATION

Expanding Literacy--America Reads:

- In October 1996, the President launched the "America Reads Challenge" to mobilize community organizations, universities and colleges across the nation to volunteer to help children learn to read by the end of the third grade. To date, more than 300 organizations and communities and over 1,200 universities and colleges participate in the program and are helping children learn to read.

COMBATING YOUTH VIOLENCE

National Campaign Against Youth Violence:

- On October 19th, President Clinton issued an Executive Memorandum creating the White House Council on Youth Violence to coordinate programs throughout the Federal Government that address youth violence, making those programs more accessible and effective. (10/19/99)

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- On August 18th, the President brought together an extensive coalition of broadcast and cable networks to air the prime-time debut of public service ads on "Talking With Kids About Violence" which feature children and the President discussing the need for parents to talk with their children about violence. This unprecedented effort will include every major television network, more than 20 cable channels and a web site that will provide the ads online.

Making Schools Safe Places To Learn:

- In December 1997, following the tragic shooting at West Paducah High School, the President directed the Departments of Education and Justice to prepare the first Annual Report on School Safety. The Report, made available in 1998 and again in 1999, provides parents, schools and communities with an overview of the scope of school crime -- and the steps they can take to develop and implement comprehensive school safety plan.

Brokering An Agreement On Child Safety Locks For Handguns:

- In October 1997, the President brokered an agreement with eight of the country's largest gun manufacturers to include child safety locks with all new handguns sold in this country. The voluntary agreement was reached after negotiations between the President, the gun manufacturers and the American Shooting Sports Council. The President had previously issued an Executive Order requiring all handguns purchased by federal law enforcement authorities to be equipped with trigger locks.

Voices Against Violence:

- On October 19th, the President announced the Justice Department -- in conjunction with MTV and the Department of Education -- will distribute 200,000 copies of a CD with an interactive conflict resolution program and a Youth Action Guide on preventing youth violence. The guides and CDs will be sent to organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, juvenile justice agencies and after-school programs. (10/19/99)

Strengthening Movie Ratings:

- Recognizing that everyone has a responsibility to work to reduce youth violence, on June 8th, the President announced a new nationwide movie ratings enforcement and educational effort in cooperation with the National Association of Theatre Owners. The theatre owners agreed to a new national policy of requiring photo identification from young people seeking admission to "R" rated films; an educational outreach program for parents about the ratings system and the new ID-check policy; and support for a national study on the causes of violence. (6/8/99)

Addressing Hate Crimes:

- In April 1999, the President created a public-private partnership called "Dealing With Our Differences" to develop a program for middle-school students to teach tolerance. The program will employ in-school lesson and activities supported by cable TV programming, videos, web sites. The members of the partnership include AT&T, Court TV, the National Middle School Association, the Anti-Defamation League and Cable in the Classroom, with assistance from the Department of Education and Justice. (4/6/99)

IMPROVING AND PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Preserving Our National Forests:

- On October 13th, the President directed the National Forest Service to develop and propose regulations to provide long-term protection for 40 million acres of "roadless" areas within national forests. The proposed regulations would ban road building in these areas and could also prohibit logging or other activities that harm their unique ecological value. (10/13/99)

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Tougher Clean Air Standards:

- On May 1st, the President proposed new rules to reduce pollution from cars, sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and light duty trucks by strengthening tailpipe emission standards. The new rules would also require cleaner burning gasoline by reducing sulfur content. Under the President's plan, manufacturers would produce vehicles that are 77 to 95 percent cleaner than those rolling off the assembly lines today, while preserving consumers' ability to drive the vehicles of their choice. (5/1/99)

Promoting Energy Efficiency--Biomass:

- On August 12th, the President issued an Executive Memorandum setting the goal of tripling the nation's use of bioenergy and bioproducts by 2010. If reached, this goal would: 1) create \$15 to \$20 billion in new income through high-tech jobs and economic opportunities for farmers and rural communities; 2) reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 100 million tons, the equivalent of taking more than 70 million cars off the road; 3) and allow us to cut back on the almost 4 billion barrels of oil we are projected to import in 2010.
- On the same day, the President also signed an Executive Order which: establishes a council to develop a biomass research program to be presented annually as part of the federal budget; directs the council to review major agency regulations, incentives and programs to ensure that they effectively promote the use of bioproducts and bioenergy; and creates an outside advisory group with representatives from bio-based industries, farm and forestry sectors, universities, and environmental groups. (8/12/99)

BUILDING ONE AMERICA

The President's Initiative On Race:

- On June 14, 1997, the President launched "One America in the 21st Century: The President's Initiative on Race." Between June 1997 and September 1998, when it presented the President with its final recommendations to the President, the President's Initiative on Race held forums with citizens, corporate and religious leaders and others all around the nation. (WH/PIR Web site)

Addressing Racial Profiling:

- On June 9th, the President directed the Departments of Justice, Treasury and Interior to begin collecting data on the race, ethnicity and gender of individuals subject to traffic and pedestrian stops, inspections at entries into the US, and certain other searches by federal law enforcement officials. After one year, these Departments will report on the findings of the new data collection system and make recommendations based on those findings on how to ensure the highest level of fairness in federal law enforcement procedures. (6/9/99)

Challenging The Legal Community:

- On July 20, 1999, the President challenged the nation's legal community to recommit themselves to fighting discrimination, revitalizing our poorest communities and giving people an opportunity to serve in law firms that would not otherwise have it. The President's challenge echoed President Kennedy's appeal to the legal community 36 years.

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- The American Bar Association, American Corporate Counsel Association, the American Association of Law Schools and other leading legal profession institutions responded to the President's challenge with commitments to improve financial assistance and mentoring to minority law students, make greater use of minority law firms in corporate work, and impart the values of racial justice and public service in law students. Most significantly, the ABA announced a 3 percent pro bono standard – meaning that every lawyer can spend up to 50 hours of billable time each year on free legal work for disadvantaged Americans. (7/20/99)

PROMOTING AMERICAN VALUES

Expanding Family Leave:

- On May 23rd, the President announced new steps to help Americans meet their responsibilities to their jobs and their families. The President's proposals include announcing new regulations enabling states to make parental leave more affordable by letting states use unemployment insurance systems to support parents taking family leave. In order to set an example employers, the President also issued an Executive Order allowing federal workers to use up to 12 weeks of accrued sick leave to care for a family member who is ill. (5/23/99)

Protecting Kids On The Internet:

- In May, Vice President Gore announced the Parents' Protection Page, an important new commitment by Internet companies to give parents the resources to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The Parents' Protection Page will provide parents with the tools and knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities.

Cracking Down On Child Labor And Sweatshops:

- President Clinton and Vice President Gore are working to end child labor and sweatshop working conditions throughout the world. President Clinton signed an Executive Order prohibiting federal agencies from buying goods made with forced or indentured child labor. President Clinton's Sweatshop Initiative has led to the creation of a code of conduct written by human rights leaders, union officials, clergy and apparel manufacturers. The code places a cap on weekly work hours, provides for mandatory days off and requires that workers be paid a minimum wage. It also forbids child labor and demands safe working conditions. Participants include footwear manufacturers such as Nike and Reebok. Over 120 colleges and universities have also required that all their licensed merchandise meet the minimum standards.

Protecting Our National Treasures:

- In July, the President and Mrs. Clinton announced that, in response to their call to action, Congress and private donors have together provided nearly \$20 million to preserve the Star-Spangled Banner at the National Museum of American History. In addition, 62 projects nationwide have received funding from the new Save America's Treasures federal grants program, and the Save America's Treasures Millennium Committee, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Foundation, and Heritage Preservation, Inc. \$33 million in private funds have been raised to restore historic sites, collections, monuments, and documents. (7/1/99)

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE BRADLEY HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL

Q: Isn't it true that the Bradley health care proposal is much more comprehensive than the Vice President's and much more similar to the original approach you took during the Health Security Act, yet you seem to be much more positively disposed to the Vice President's proposal. How do you reconcile this?

A: First, I am highly encouraged that both Democratic candidates for President are illustrating a strong commitment to improving the health care delivery system. I think it's notable that there has been virtual silence from the other party. Secondly, although Senator Bradley dedicates a great many more resources to his health proposal than the Vice President does, it appears that they are inefficiently used and will not pick up many more uninsured Americans.

Moreover, using limited resources inefficiently has an added problem of limiting the nation's ability to invest in other priorities, such as extending the solvency of the Medicare program, investing in education, and maintaining and improving our commitment to the environment. In contrast, the Vice President's proposal builds on programs that are working and have the potential to be very successful at extending coverage to the uninsured. They are targeted but extremely bold proposals that dedicate unprecedented amounts of our surplus to expanding coverage and improving and modernizing the Medicare program, including the provision of a long overdue prescription drug benefit. They also offer some real potential to help build the type of consensus necessary to pass the bipartisan legislation on health care the nation has indicated it is most comfortable with. For these reasons, I believe that the Vice President's model offers the more thoughtful policy and is the most likely to succeed.

Q: Both proposals do not assure universal coverage for all Americans. Is that an explicit rejection of the Health Security Act and the approach to improving the health care system you took in 1993 and 1994?

A: I believe that we all have learned from that experience. I do not regret for one moment our efforts to expand high quality, affordable coverage to all Americans. I believe that should be the goal of any President and every candidate should have specific proposals to reach it. It has become clear, however, that other approaches need to be considered to achieve the level of consensus necessary to pass legislation in Congress. From my standpoint, we had two options after the Health Security Act. We could ignore the problem, do nothing, and assume that no consensus could be reached, or we could take a targeted step by step approach. We chose the latter, and I agree that the Vice President and Senator Bradley are doing the same. It is important to note that they are offering extremely ambitious proposals designed to make major steps forward, and I think this is encouraging.

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**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

October 29, 1999

STATEMENT ON COUNCIL OF GREAT CITY SCHOOLS CLASS SIZE REPORT

DATE: October 31, 1999
LOCATION: Behind the Oval Office
BRIEFING TIME: 4:00pm – 4:10pm
EVENT TIME: 4:15pm – 4:25pm
FROM: Bruce Reed

I. PURPOSE

To release a new report by the Council of the Great City Schools on the benefits of smaller classes, and to urge Congress to fund your class size initiative.

II. BACKGROUND

Today you will release a new report by the Council of the Great City Schools on the benefits of smaller classes for students. The report demonstrates that your class size reduction initiative is helping schools across the nation improve student learning by enabling them to hire additional highly qualified teachers in the early grades, where students learn to read and master the basics. Urban districts report that your initiative is flexible enough to allow them to meet their unique needs but focused enough to ensure smaller classes in the early grades. Today you will call on Congress not to renege on the bipartisan commitment made last year to fund this important initiative.

RAISING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY REDUCING CLASS SIZES IN THE EARLY GRADES. Last year, Congress made a down payment of \$1.2 billion toward your goal of hiring 100,000 new teachers to bring class sizes in the early grades to a national average of 18. The first teachers hired with that down payment began teaching in classrooms nationwide this fall. Today, you will call on Congress to keep its commitment and finish the job. Unfortunately, Republicans have passed an appropriations bill that eliminates the class size initiative and fails to guarantee that a single cent will be used to hire a single teacher to reduce the size of a single class. Research has shown that class size reduction in the early grades is one of the most direct and effective ways to boost children's academic achievement.

EDUCATION LEADERS EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN. In the report to be released today, the Council of the Great City Schools finds

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that there is strong demand for the dedicated resources provided by your class size reduction initiative -- and that these resources are making a tangible difference. The Council is an organization of the nation's largest urban public school systems, working to improve K-12 education in the inner city, and governed by superintendents and education board members from 58 cities across the country. You have worked closely with this group and many others at the local level to fight irresponsible cuts in key investments for our children's future. Among the findings of the Council's report:

- Teachers hired under the class size reduction program are working in areas of highest need, including literacy, mathematics, bilingual and special education.
- Teacher quality is being enhanced through this program. Over 22,000 urban teachers are receiving high-quality training, and urban schools have been able to provide new and current teachers with critical training on instructional practices and technology.
- In just the first year of your class size initiative, 3,558 teachers have been hired in 40 of the nation's largest urban school districts to reduce class sizes in the early grades.

REPUBLICAN EDUCATION BILL IGNORES THE VOICES OF TEACHERS AND COMMUNITIES. Making targeted investments in class size reduction is a common-sense strategy that teachers and school leaders across the country support. And yet, as you will point out today, Republicans in Congress are undermining such investments by breaking their pledge to dedicate funds for smaller classes and by shortchanging other key programs. The Republican education spending bill:

- Abandons the bipartisan commitment to fund your class size reduction initiative, and provides no guarantee that the teachers hired for this year can continue teaching.
- Fails to hold schools accountable for results by providing no funds to turn around failing schools;
- Underfunds after-school and summer programs, denying as many as 800,000 students access to a safe place to learn during after-school hours when most juvenile crime and drug and alcohol abuse occur;
- Shortchanges teacher quality and recruitment, and eliminates the Troops to Teachers program that enables retired military personnel to teach in high-need areas;
- Underinvests in educational technology and the GEAR-UP program, denying more than 130,000 disadvantaged young people the help they need to get into college
- Fails to fund your plan to build or modernize 6,000 schools across the country.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

Loretta Ucelli
Andy Rotherham
Paul Glastris

Statement Participants:

YOU

Mike Casserly, Executive Director, Council of the Great City Schools

IV. PRESS PLAN

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Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- YOU will greet Mike Casserly in the Oval Office, and proceed to the podium on the driveway outside the Oval Office.
- YOU will make a statement and depart.

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by speechwriting.

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
DEPARTURE REMARKS ON EDUCATION
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC
October 31, 1999**

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I am about to travel to Norway, where leaders will gather to honor the memory of one of this century's great heroes: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. We will honor him not only by remembering his life, but by pursuing his vision of a peaceful Middle East. I will meet with Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat, who are moving forward on an ambitious agenda to reach a just and lasting peace. There are tremendous challenges ahead, and I ^{الله}~~want to~~ do everything I can to help, because peace in the Middle East is strongly in the interests of the American people.

But before I leave, I want to say a few words about the budget debate here in Washington, and how that debate may effect another matter of great interest to the American people: the education of our children.

This is now the seventh budget season I have been through as President. Each and every time, Vice President Gore and I have insisted that Congress produce budgets that live within our means while living up to the values of the American people. There is no greater value than education, especially in an information-age economy. So, even as we've reduced the size of government, turned budget deficits into surpluses, and sparked an economic expansion that this February will be the longest in history, we have also nearly doubled our investment in education and training.

Last fall, we took another important step. We reached an agreement with Congress to help states and school districts begin hiring 100,000 new, high-quality teachers to reduce class sizes in the early grades. The need was obvious. School enrollments are exploding. Record numbers of teachers are or will soon be retiring. And the research is clear that students learn more in smaller classes with quality teachers.

Today, we've learned about a new report indicating that our class reduction initiative is producing results. Moments ago, I was briefed by Mike Casserly, Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools, on the Council's just-completed survey of 40 of the nation's largest school districts.

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The survey shows that our class size reduction initiative has so far done precisely what we said it would do: it has put more teachers in the classroom, and increased training for those already there, with a minimum of red tape and bureaucracy. The report also shows that these school districts have not only hired over 3500 well-trained teachers, but that they have hired them for hard-to-fill positions that have the greatest impact, including teaching reading, math, and special education.

I am not surprised by these results. Every time I have visited a school in recent months, teachers, principals, parents, and administrators have raved about our class size reduction initiative. This report confirms that our targeted effort to hire more teachers is what local schools need and want.

Congressional Republicans agreed to support this effort last fall. In fact, they went home and campaigned on it, and ran ads touting it as their idea. They bragged that the proposal reflected Republican principles, because it would result not in more bureaucracy, but in more teachers, and better-trained teachers, in the classrooms. Today's report shows that their faith was justified.

Now, suddenly, the Republican majority has changed its mind. Not only have they refused to commit to hiring more teachers to get us closer to our goal of 100,000, but they've also abandoned their commitment to the ones that have already been hired. Their plan won't guarantee a single new teacher or a single smaller class to improve education.

Republicans used to have a phrase for the kind of approach they're now taking: they called it "throwing money at a problem."

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I think this is a mistake. When resources are limited, we have an obligation to invest those resources in education strategies we know work and get results.

The Labor and Education Budget Bill that Congress will consider this week does not focus on results. It shortchanges education. It doesn't commit to hiring 100,000 new quality teachers. It doesn't put a dime into our effort to demand accountability for results by helping states and school districts turn around or shut down their lowest-performing schools.

And it makes mindless across-the-board cuts in everything from education to health and safety. If that bill passes, I will veto it.

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I do not believe that the proper response to America's education challenge is fewer teachers, no accountability and across-the-board cuts in education. I want to hire 100,000 more teachers, and 50,000 more police. I want to protect the environment, and invest in education strategies that work.

I think America's local schools want the same thing. This report shows that. So I ask Congress to put partisanship aside and work with me to make this a season of progress. Let's pass a budget that honors our values by investing in education strategies that work.

Thank you.