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TALKING POINTS
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

January 26, 1998

THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS IS A
CONCRETE PLAN OF ACTION
THAT IDENTIFIES OUR PRIORITIES AND APPROACHES TO
KEY ISSUES

? We have a unique moment in time to prepare America for the 21st
Century. Under
President Clinton's leadership, America has achieved an
unprecedented period of
peace and prosperity:
-- the strongest economy in a generation;
-- the first balanced budget in a generation;
-- crime rates at their lowest levels in 24 years;

- welfare rolls down by 4.3 million people;
- unemployment at its lowest level in more than two decades;
- deficit cut by more than 90 percent;
- unrivaled world leadership.

? This is an opportunity for action. The President's State of the Union address will challenge us to use this unique moment in time as an opportunity to prepare for the next century. It builds on the new kind of government President Clinton is creating -- a leaner, more flexible government. One that does not try to do everything. One that gives Americans the tools and conditions needed to make the most of their own lives.

? At the center of President Clinton's vision for a stronger America are three goals:

- an economy that honors opportunity;
- a society rooted in responsibility;
- and, a nation that lives as a community.

HERE IS HOW THESE GOALS FIT INTO PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISION OF A STRONGER AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY:

? An Economy that offers more opportunity. The President will outline a plan for building a stronger, more prosperous America. Central to his strategy is:

? Driving the budget deficit down to 0. During the first 5 years -- by making tough choices and fiscally responsible policies -- President Clinton took the nation's budget deficit down from \$290 billion to \$23 billion. This year, President Clinton will make history and give the American people their first balanced budget in 30 years.

? Reserving any budget surplus until Social Security is reformed. President Clinton is deeply committed to ensuring that Social Security remain a viable, effective program, providing retirement security for all Americans in the 21st

century. That is why he is calling on Congress to secure Social Security for future generations as a first priority.

? Investing in the American people through education and training. Education is the key to opportunity. Tomorrow, President Clinton will ask us to make our public elementary and secondary schools the best in the world -- by raising standards, raising expectations and raising accountability. He will call for:

- voluntary national testing;
- 100,000 new teachers in grades 1-3;
- a School Construction Tax Cut to help rebuild, modernize, and build new schools;
- a mentoring program;
- continued college access expansion, so that every American who wants to can go to college.

? Tearing down trade barriers to open new markets for American products and workers. The President's plan seeks to renew his negotiating authority to open even more foreign markets to American goods and services. When countries hurt by economic instability are willing to undertake serious efforts to put their own economic houses in order, the President's plan calls for responsible action to give them a chance to implement their reforms. It also includes initiatives to enable all Americans to share in the prosperity of the global marketplace. Building on the funding for training we have provided to dislocated workers, the President will challenge Congress to pass the GI Bill for Workers to give workers a simple grant so they can move more quickly to newer, better jobs.

? A Society that Acts Responsibly. The President is intent on helping create a society that acts responsibly. To enforce this commitment, the President's plan will:

? Continue moving people from welfare to work. Challenge thousands more

businesses to join the 3000 companies already in our welfare-to-work partnership.

? Health Care Consumer Bill of Rights. The President called on Congress to pass federally enforceable consumer health care protections before it adjourns this year. This Health Care Bill of Rights should contain a range of protections, including guaranteed access to needed health care specialists to ensure that patients are provided appropriate high quality care and access to emergency room services when and where they need it.

? Access to affordable, quality health care. Providing new options for Americans ages 55 to 65 to obtain Health Insurance, including opportunities to buy into Medicare.

? An historic child care initiative. To improve child care for America's working families the President is proposing approximately \$20 billion over five years for child care, including elements to help working families pay for child care, build a good supply of after-school programs, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning.

? Fighting juvenile crime and drugs. With murder, robbery, assault and burglary down all across the nation, President Clinton is calling for a special focus on addressing juvenile crime -- providing more resources to crack down on gangs, guns, and drugs. When coordinated with the support provided by the largest anti-drug budget in history and with the outstanding leadership General McCaffery brings to our national drug policy, these new efforts are sure to keep drug use on decline.

? Ensure our commitment to world leadership. The President is committed to keeping America strong by maintaining our role as the world's indispensable nation. This includes:

- building an undivided, democratic Europe by expanding NATO;
- remaining a force for peace throughout the world;
- moving strongly against new threats to our security;
- reducing the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

? Strengthening Our Communities. The President's plan helps strengthen America's communities by:

- ? Investing in our cities, giving them the tools and opportunities they need to continue an urban renaissance. President Clinton firmly believes that the best community development program, the best anti-poverty program, and the best jobs program is a growing economy. The President's plan helps our inner cities by:
- helping bring private enterprise into the inner city;
 - increasing funding for empowerment zones;
 - increasing funding for community development banks, to spur more investment and loans;
 - providing tax incentives to develop affordable low income housing.

- ? Protecting the environment, ensuring a cleaner, healthier planet for our children. The President's plan invests:
- through \$6 billion in tax cuts to businesses and individuals, the President's Climate Change Plan finds a way to grow the economy and reduce greenhouse emissions at the same time;
 - large increases in research and development so we can find more and more innovative ways to continue cleaning the environment while keeping the economy strong.

- ? Helping the country become One America for the 21st Century. The goal of the President's Initiative on Race is to create a more just and fair society that underscores our shared strengths, instead of focusing on our differences. President Clinton is determined to continue his commitment with the Race Initiative in 1998 -- emphasizing that our national diversity is our greatest strength.

? Preparing for the Millennium. In conclusion, the President will talk of the importance of the Millennium and the opportunity it presents us to honor the past, and imagine the future.

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President Clinton and Vice President Gore:

A Vision for the 21st Century

Restoring the American Dream, Reinforcing American Leadership,
Renewing the American Constitution

In the last five years President Clinton and Vice President Gore have led America in preparing for the 21st Century with a new vision of government -- a government that does not attempt to do everything, nor a government that withdraws to the sidelines. The accomplishments of the Clinton-Gore Administration are giving Americans the tools to realize our potential; providing opportunity while demanding responsibility; and building One America in which all are challenged to serve.

Economy: the Strongest Economy in a Generation

Balanced the Federal Budget -- The President's FY99 budget will be the first balanced budget in a generation, after inheriting a record \$290 billion deficit in 1992.

Over 14 Million New Jobs Created -- in last two years, over two-thirds in high-paying job categories.

Lowest Unemployment in a Quarter Century -- down from 7.5% in 1992 to 4.7% today.

Typical Family Income Up \$2,169 -- as adjusted for inflation, median family income has increased three years in a row since 1993.

Highest Home Ownership Rate in History -- there are nearly 6 million new

homeowners since the President took office.

Families: Strengthening America's Working Families

\$500 Per-Child Tax Credit -- 27 million families with 45 million children will receive the \$500 per-child tax credit.

Tax Cuts for Working Families -- 15 million working families receive tax relief through the President's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Increased the Minimum Wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour -- increasing wages for 10 million.

Protecting Families -- Family Medical Leave allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for family members without fear of losing their jobs. More than 12 million families have taken leave since its enactment.

Signed Landmark Adoption and Safe Families Act -- this law will help thousands of children waiting in foster care move more quickly into safe and permanent homes.

Promoting Family Values -- put in place first-ever plan to protect our children from tobacco. Required the installation of V-chips in all new TVs. Encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies to deter school violence and promote discipline. Produced guidelines on religious expression in public schools.

Education: Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years

Making 13th & 14th Grades as Universal As High School -- making the first two years of college universally available with \$1500 HOPE Scholarship credits.

Expanding College Opportunity with Tuition Tax Credits, Education IRAs, and Largest Increase in Pell Grants in 20 Years -- 20% tax credit helps offset

tuition costs for college or lifetime learning. The expanded IRA allows penalty and tax-free withdrawals for education. Nearly 4 million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,000, 30% larger than when the President took office.

Making College More Affordable -- cut student fees and interest rates on all loans, expanded repayment options including income contingent repayment, and improved service through the Direct Loan Program.

Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade -- the America Reads Initiative will provide tutors after school, improve teaching, and help parents help their children learn to read.

Striving for Excellence with National Education Standards -- on track for first-ever national test of 4th grade reading, 8th grade math.

Expanding Choice and Accountability in Public School -- supported increase of public charter schools, from only one charter school in the nation in 1993 to nearly 1,000 charter schools by the end of 1998.

Paying for College Through Community Service -- this year, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to pay for college (or repay student loans) by performing community service through AmeriCorps.

Providing Early Education to More than 830,000 Children with Head Start -- 200,000 more children enrolled in Head Start today than in 1992.

Preparing for the 21st Century with Greater Education Technology -- Created the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to help connect every classroom to the Internet by 2000, increase the number of multimedia computers in the classroom, provide teachers with technology training, and promote the development of high-quality educational software. Secured an e-rate (discounts worth over \$2.5 billion every year) for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and

hospitals to
connect to the Internet.

Crime and Drugs: Longest Period of Decline in Violent Crime in 25 Years

100,000 New Police on the Street -- already more than 70,000 new officers have
been funded.

300,000 Felons, Fugitives and Stalkers Denied Guns -- since the President signed
the Brady Bill into law.

Banned 19 of the Deadliest Assault Weapons and Their Copies --
keeping assault
weapons off our streets.

Developed Comprehensive Anti-Drug Strategy Including \$195 Million Anti-Drug Youth
Media Campaign -- appointed four-star General Barry McCaffrey Drug Czar. Overall
drug use is trending down.

Health Care: Increasing Access for Millions of Americans

Protected Medicare -- protected, modernized and extended the Medicare trust fund
for at least a decade while offering new options for patient choice and preventive care.

Enacted Single Largest Investment in Health Care for Children since 1965 -- the
\$24 billion Children's Health Care Initiative will provide health care coverage
for five million children.

Passed Meaningful Health Insurance Reform -- signed the Kassebaum/Kennedy Health
Care Bill which limits exclusions for pre-existing conditions, makes coverage
portable and helps individuals who lose jobs maintain coverage.

Raised Immunization Rates to All Time High -- 90% of toddlers in 1996 received
the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines
--
surpassing the President's 1993 goal.

Ensuring Safe Food for Our Families -- issued new standards to prevent E. coli bacteria contamination in meat and signed the Food Quality Protection Act with special safeguards for kids.

Welfare Reform and Community Empowerment: Largest Drop in the Welfare Rolls in History

More than 3.8 Million Fewer People Are on Welfare Today than 1992 -- a 26% decrease and the largest decline in the welfare rolls in history. The President signed the landmark welfare reform law to require work, impose time limits, and dramatically expand child care spending.

More than 50% Increase in Child Support Collections -- signed into law the toughest child support crackdown in history.

New Incentives to Move People from Welfare to Work -- the Balanced Budget includes a tax credit for employers and \$3 billion to move long-term welfare recipients into jobs.

Expanded Investment in Urban and Rural Areas -- by creating over 120 Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities and expanding access to capital.

Environment: New Standards to Protect Our Environment for the Future

Toughest New Air Quality Standards in a Generation -- new air quality standards for smog and soot will provide new health protections for 125 million Americans including children and the elderly.

Cleaning Up Toxic Waste Sites and Redeveloping Brownfields -- cleaned up more toxic waste dumps in President Clinton's first four years than were completed in the previous twelve. The Brownfields tax incentive will help

redevelop more than
10,000 industrial sites.

Signed the Safe Drinking Water Act -- ensuring clean drinking water
for our
families by protecting against contaminants.

Negotiated an International Treaty to Reduce Greenhouse Gas
Emissions -- the
historic agreement establishes a realistic framework to reduce the
threat of
global warming in an environmentally strong and economically sound
way.

Protecting Our Natural Treasures -- preserving millions of acres of
scenic park
land and defending precious natural areas such as Yellowstone and the
Everglades.

Foreign Policy: World's Strongest Force for Peace, Freedom and
Prosperity

Brokered Dayton Peace Accords -- ending four years of bloodshed in
Bosnia.

Leading the Way on NATO Expansion and Russian Integration --
helping to ensure a
more stable, democratic Europe.

Ended Military Dictatorship in Haiti -- stopped the flow of refugees to
the U.S.
and restored democracy.

Persuaded North Korea To Freeze its Dangerous Nuclear Program.

Leading Force for Peace -- including continued efforts in the Middle
East,
Northern Ireland, and on the Korean Peninsula.

Renewed Bipartisan Consensus for Engagement with China -- to
advance U.S.
interests and draw the world's most populous nation more fully into
the
international community.

Led International Efforts Against Terrorism -- including signing anti-
terrorism
legislation that ensures strong penalties for convicted terrorists.

Secured Bipartisan Senate Ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Start II Treaty -- the convention bans the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. Start II, together with Start I, will reduce U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals two-thirds from their Cold War heights.

Meeting Emerging Threat of Biological Weapons -- by strengthening our ability to respond to an attack, vaccinating our troops and seeking tough inspection to enforce international treaty.

Led Efforts to Rid the World of Land Mines -- eliminating non self-destructing mines from our arsenals, seeking alternatives to self-destructing mines by 2006, and devoting more resources to removing existing mines than the rest of the world combined.

Negotiated Over 220 Separate Trade Agreements -- tearing down trade barriers to U.S. goods, helping to increase exports by nearly 50% over the past five years and creating 1.7 million export-related jobs.

Science and Technology: Leading America into the Next Millennium

Historic Investments in Biomedical Research -- increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in critical research areas, such as cancer, the Human Genome Project, HIV/AIDS and heart disease.

Building the Next Generation Internet -- now connecting more than 100 universities at speeds that are 100 to 1,000 times faster than today's Internet and developing the next generation of applications, such as telemedicine.

Ensuring U.S. Leadership in Space, Science and Technology -- increasing investments in science and technology for five years in a row, while bringing down the deficit. Continuing to support exploration of space including the Mars

Pathfinder mission.

Ensuring the Nation's Security -- Instituted a science-based program to maintain the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent without the need for nuclear testing, enabling the President to be the first world leader to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

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