

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO DISTRIBUTION

FROM: ANN WALKER 
RE: Issue Briefs
cc: Don Baer

Attached are drafts of 18 issue briefs that have been developed for internal, as well as external, audiences. These briefs will serve to outline the Administration's positions and accomplishments in key issue areas. This information will be put on *all-in-one* for internal use and will go up on the *Internet* for the general public.

As we finalize these documents, we would appreciate your review and input -- particularly on those issues within your scope of responsibility. Please give us any edits you may have by COB Thursday. If we don't hear back from you by tomorrow, we will presume you have no changes. Thank you for your assistance.

Affirmative Action
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Children
Crime
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DRAFT

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

"Affirmative action has been good for America. That does not mean it has always been perfect. It does not mean it should go on forever. It should be retired when its job is done, and I am resolved that that day will come. But....the job is not done...."

President Bill Clinton
July 19, 1995

President Clinton believes there is still a need for affirmative action that is done right -- we need to mend it, not end it. As we approach the 21st century, President Clinton believes we must restore the American Dream to all Americans; find common ground amid our great diversity; and strengthen the American commitment to equal opportunity for all, special treatment for none.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Done Right, Affirmative Action Works:** In 1995, President Clinton ordered a review of the federal government's affirmative action programs. That review concluded that affirmative action is still an effective tool to expand economic and educational opportunity:
 - The military's approach, ensuring it has a wide pool of qualified candidates for every promotion, has given us the world's most diverse and best qualified military leadership.
 - Education Department programs targeted at minorities do a lot of good with a small investment -- about 40 cents of every \$1,000 in student aid.
 - The goals and timetables first instituted by President Nixon for large federal contractors have prevented discrimination and fostered fairness-- without quotas or mandated outcomes.
 - "Set-asides" have helped build up firms owned by minorities and women who were historically excluded from the "old boy" network. They have helped a new generation of entrepreneurs to flourish, fostering self-reliance and economic growth.
- **Presidential Directive to Ensure Affirmative Action:** On July 19, 1995, President Clinton directed all federal agencies to comply with the Supreme Court's decision in Adarand and to apply four standards to make sure that all affirmative action programs are fair:
 - No quotas.
 - No reverse discrimination.
 - No preferences for unqualified individuals.
 - No continuation of programs that have met their goals.
 - Any program that does not meet any of these four principles must be eliminated or changed.

- **Reform "Set-Asides":** To address cases where "set-asides" have been misapplied, misused or even intentionally abused, President Clinton ordered his Administration to:
 - Crack down on "set-aside" fraud and abuse to make sure "set-asides" go to businesses that need them most. No permanent "set-asides" for any company.
 - Comply with the Supreme Court's Adarand decision. Limit set-asides to areas where serious discrimination remains.
- **Helping Distressed Communities:** President Clinton has directed Vice President Gore to develop new ways to use government contracting to help businesses locate in distressed areas and hire workers from those areas.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

We must not become the first generation of Americans since the end of Reconstruction to narrow the reach of equal opportunity. We must continue the struggle toward equal opportunity for all and special treatment for none. America cannot afford to waste a single person as we confront new challenges. Affirmative action has closed many gaps in economic opportunity, but we still have a long way to go. The unemployment rate for African-Americans remains about twice that of whites. Women still make only 72% as much as men. The federal government received more than 90,000 complaints of employment discrimination based on race, ethnicity and gender in 1994 and hate crimes and violence are still ugly realities in the lives of many Americans.

That is why President Clinton will continue to work to ensure equal opportunity for all Americans and to prevent this issue from dividing us. There are those who would use this issue to divide us. They must not succeed. America will survive and prosper as a society only if we are confident and united. Today in America, 150 racial and ethnic groups co-exist in harmony -- an achievement unmatched in human history. President Clinton believes we have a responsibility to renew and strengthen the ideals that fostered that unity.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

"Our common goal must ultimately be a cure, a cure for all those who are living with HIV, and a vaccine to protect all the rest of us from the virus. A cure and a vaccine, that must be our first and top priority."

President Bill Clinton
December 6, 1995

In the 15 years since the discovery of HIV/AIDS in the U.S., more than 500,000 Americans have been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 300,000 men, women and children have died from this disease. AIDS is the leading cause of death among Americans ages 25 to 44. Today, as many as 1 million Americans are living with HIV and an estimated 100 Americans become infected every day. The federal government's early response to this epidemic was sharply criticized as insufficient. But President Clinton has committed the nation to a loud, clear, and consistent war on AIDS.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Created the Office of National AIDS Policy at the White House to coordinate and direct federal AIDS policy.
- Increased funding for AIDS research, prevention and care by 37% in three years and sought increases in FY 1997 that would raise funding by 43% over four years.
- Increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides services to people living with AIDS, by 112%.
- Revised eligibility rules for Social Security disability benefits to make it easier for people with HIV/AIDS to qualify for support.
- Enacted legislation strengthening the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, providing a stronger focus for research planning and coordination.
- Accelerated AIDS drug approval. Approval of two new protease inhibitor drugs was accomplished in 72 and 41 days, respectively.
- Called the first-ever White House Conference on HIV and AIDS, hosting more than 300 experts, activists and caregivers at high-level discussions with Administration officials.
- Established the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS to advise the government on issues related to the national response to the epidemic.
- Increased funding for direct housing assistance to people with AIDS by nearly 40%.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton continues to seek to improve the national response to HIV and AIDS. The Clinton Administration is working closely with business leaders, religious leaders, community organizations, the pharmaceutical industry and members of the affected community to increase such efforts by:

- Eliminating barriers to AIDS research and AIDS drug approval. Vice President Gore is leading an effort to increase cooperation between the federal government and the pharmaceutical industry on AIDS research and drug development.
- Challenging Congress to retain the federal guarantee of Medicaid coverage for people living with HIV and AIDS.
- Seeking additional funding for AIDS research, prevention and care.
- Strongly supporting the Office of AIDS Research at NIH to provide greater focus and direction for our national AIDS research effort.
- Establishing a national goal to reduce the number of new HIV infections each year "until there are none."
- Working to eliminate AIDS-related discrimination in the workplace, health care institutions, employment and housing.
- Collaborating with business leaders to increase workplace AIDS education to help reduce the stigma attached to HIV disease.
- Working with parents, schools, clergy and youth advocates to reduce the number of adolescents and young adults becoming infected with HIV.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

"Our first challenge is to cherish our children and to strengthen America's families. Family is the foundation of American life. If we have stronger families, we will have a stronger America."

President Bill Clinton

January 23, 1996

Quality child care is critical to the millions of working families struggling to make ends meet. The Clinton Administration, which has increased funding for child care in every budget proposal, has been committed to expanding child care assistance through Head Start and other successful child care programs - and to improving the quality of child care. President Clinton is also committed to ensuring the safety of children in foster care, reuniting families where it is possible and encouraging adoption where it is not, reducing the unnecessary amount of time children spend in foster care, and strengthening the capacity of parents to nurture healthy children. The Clinton Administration is also committed to protecting children and improving the nutritional quality of school meals, reaching full participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and opposing block grants for child nutrition programs.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD CARE:

- **Increased Funding for Child Care:** Every budget submitted by President Clinton has included increases in child care.
- **Improving Coordination:** The Clinton Administration has worked to make programs more consistent and coordinated, proposing new regulations to reduce red tape, improve quality, give states more flexibility, and streamline child care operations into a single Child Care Bureau.
- **Technical Assistance:** The Clinton Administration has revamped and strengthened technical assistance to the states, territories and tribes to ensure they have access to the best available information on child care quality issues, particularly health and safety. In addition, the Administration has launched a National Child Care Information Center for policymakers and the public.
- **Head Start:** President Clinton has made expanding and improving pre-schooling the starting point for helping families give their children a good start. With bipartisan support, the President appointed the Head Start Advisory Commission to examine and recommend improvements to the program. These recommendations formed the basis of the reauthorization of Head Start with major quality improvements in 1994. Since taking office, the President has increased Head Start spending by almost \$800 million helping tens of thousands of additional children.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD WELFARE:

- **Removing Barriers to Adoption:** The Clinton Administration is working to encourage adoption, including adoption of children with special needs, and to reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care. President Clinton strongly supports the adoption tax credit in the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1996. The tax credit is a step towards meeting the challenge of removing barriers to adoption by making it easier for middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive.

In October 1994, President Clinton signed the Multi-ethnic Placement Act, which will help increase the number of adoptions by prohibiting discrimination based on race or ethnicity, while allowing a narrow consideration for certain factors such as race.

- **Increasing Special Needs Adoptions:** During this Administration, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with federal adoption assistance has increased by about 60%.
- **Improving Court Operations:** The Administration is working with state court systems in 49 states to improve operations so that children spend less time in foster care unnecessarily.
- **Focusing on Outcomes and Accountability:** The Administration is shifting the federal government's role from a focus on how well forms are filled out to a focus on how well children are doing. The Administration is providing states with flexibility and technical assistance so that they can reform their child welfare systems and working with 48 states to automate their child welfare systems and reduce the paperwork burden on caseworkers.
- **Strengthening Families:** The Family Preservation and Support Act, passed in 1993, provided almost \$1 billion over five years for the development of preventive and supportive services.
- **Preserving Critical Programs:** The President has stood firm throughout the budget debate to protect funds for adoption, foster care, child abuse and neglect, Medicaid, and Social Security -- programs that are critical for many adoptive families and children.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD NUTRITION:

This Administration is standing up for America's children by supporting and improving child nutrition programs and protecting the national nutrition safety net.

- **Increased Funding for Nutrition:** The President's FY97 Budget requests about \$41 billion for nutrition assistance, up from \$39 billion allotted in FY96. In FY96, the President increased funding for nutrition to \$39 billion, up from \$38 billion in FY95.
- **Reaching Full Participation in WIC:** The Clinton Administration will achieve its commitment to full participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) by reaching 7.5 million participants by the end of FY97. This program works: Every dollar invested in WIC has proven to save up to \$4.25 in preventive health-care costs.

- **Reforming the School Lunch Program:** This Administration's School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children is a comprehensive plan to ensure healthy school meals. USDA's Team Nutrition -- a network of public-private partnerships -- improves the health of children by promoting food choices for a healthy diet through schools, families, communities, and the media. There are now more than 6,000 Team Nutrition Schools across the nation, building local coalitions to improve meals and provide nutrition information to children and their families.
- **Protecting the National Nutrition Safety Net in Welfare Reform:** The President believes it is possible to enact real welfare reform that is tough on work and responsibility -- not tough on children -- while protecting the national nutrition safety net. On January 9, 1996, the President vetoed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1995 (H.R. 4) because the bill threatened to undermine the national nutrition safety net that has successfully promoted the nutrition and health of children and families.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

Child Care

President Clinton will continue to champion programs that break down barriers to adoption through recruitment of adoptive and foster care parents; support the placement of special needs children and reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care; and shift the federal focus from paperwork to a focus on outcomes for children by increasing flexibility for states and communities.

Child Welfare

The President will also work to ensure that children are protected in any legislative changes to the program. The welfare reform conference report that the President vetoed would have undermined the ability of states to protect children's safety, prevent child abuse and neglect, and recruit safe and loving foster and adoptive homes. Child welfare programs would have been capped and block granted -- cutting funds for child protection programs by \$4.6 billion over 7 years, or 21%.

- **A Central Element of Welfare Reform:** The Work and Responsibility Act introduced by the President in 1994 continued the guarantee for families moving toward self sufficiency and expanded child care assistance for working families - part of the effort to "make work pay." The President has made increasing funding for child care one of his bottom lines in the present welfare reform debate. He has consistently said that true welfare reform must help parents go to work and expanding child care assistance is critical to that goal. The President's plan included a \$1.5 billion increase in child care funding over five years for working poor families "at-risk" of welfare dependency.
- **Increase Funding for Head Start:** President Clinton's 1997 budget proposes \$3.98 billion for Head Start, \$447 million more than in 1995. This would enable an additional 46,000 children to participate in 1997 and by the year 2002, a million children would benefit from Head Start.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

"At last we have begun to find a way to reduce crime, forming community partnerships with local police forces to catch criminals and prevent crime. This strategy, called community policing, is clearly working. Violent crime is coming down all across America... Let's stick with a strategy that is working, and keep the crime rate coming down."

President Bill Clinton

January 23, 1996

Over the past three years, the Clinton Administration has made tremendous progress in bringing crime and drug abuse under control. The violent crime and murder rates across the country are falling, thousands of criminals have been prevented from buying guns, and more police are on the street. We must continue to move forward. For while overall crime rates are decreasing, we are witnessing more crime committed by juveniles. President Clinton is committed to stopping any attempts to roll back the progress we have made in reducing crime and will continue in his efforts to put more cops on the street and take guns, drugs, and gangs off the streets.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Broke six years of Congressional gridlock by signing the toughest and smartest Crime Bill ever with bipartisan support and endorsements from every major law enforcement organization. This historic legislation:
 - Created the COPS program, which is putting 100,000 new community police officers in cities, towns, and rural areas -- more than 34,000 officers have already been funded.
 - Banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, but specifically protected more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons.
 - Provided the death penalty for drug kingpins, murderers of law enforcement officers and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
 - Increased penalties for sex offenders and imposed a registration requirement for violent sexual offenders.
 - Included the Violence Against Women Act; the first national effort to reduce violence against women ever. The Act tripled funding for battered women's shelters, and has already provided \$26 million in state grants to bolster law enforcement, prosecution and victims services.
 - Created a nationwide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline that provides immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals.
 - Targeted career violent offenders with a "Three Strikes and You're Out" policy that keeps them behind bars for life.
 - Provided \$7.9 billion in funding for more prison cells to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
 - Created the Community Schools Program, which promotes constructive alternatives for young people after school, in the evening, on weekends and during the summer to prevent involvement in and the victimization by crime.

- Fought for and signed the Brady Bill, which has prevented over 60,000 convicted felons, fugitives, stalkers and other criminals from buying handguns.
- Granted awards totalling \$88 million to assist states in automating and updating their criminal history record systems to prevent the sale of firearms to prohibited purchasers.
- Launched the Anti-Violent Crime Initiative that has led to the arrest and conviction of many of our most violent criminals.
- Provided grants to fight gang activity and youth violence through the HHS Youth Gang Initiative Program.
- Provided up to \$1 million to each of 10 urban police departments, through the COPS Youth Handgun Initiative, to expand or enhance community policing and enforcement efforts to comprehensively address the rise of youth firearms violence.
- Initiated Operation Safe Home in which federal law enforcement agencies are working with public housing residents and managers to increase the arrest and conviction of violent and drug-related suspects so that public housing can be a safer place to live.
- Issued a Presidential Directive to enforce the "zero tolerance" measures outlined in the Gun-Free Schools Act.
- Supported School Athlete Drug Testing before the Supreme Court, sending the message to parents and students that drug use will not be tolerated in our schools.
- Encouraged schools to adopt School Uniform Policies, which promote discipline and respect, and developed a manual for schools to assist them in establishing these policies. The manual will be distributed to 16,000 school districts.
- The number of murders fell 8% in 1995 -- one of the largest declines in more than three decades. The nation's largest cities saw their overall crime fall 6% during the same period.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

While overall crime rates have been dropping, young people today are increasingly the perpetrators -- and the victims -- of some of society's most violent crimes. That is why reducing juvenile crime and violence are key components of President Clinton's continuing crime-fighting agenda. The President is challenging Congress and our communities to get tough with juvenile criminals by:

- Urging Congress to pass legislation providing tougher sentences for gun-wielding drug dealers and gang members (Armed Dangerous Felons Act).
- Submitting to Congress legislation that gives prosecutors the discretion to prosecute juvenile offenders as adults.

In addition, the President is challenging:

- States to ensure that prisoners serve at least 85% of their sentences.
- Local housing authorities to implement a One-Strike-And-You're-Out program for public housing for those who commit crime and sell drugs.

While President Clinton is moving forward with additional initiatives to rid our streets and neighborhoods of crime and drugs, he will fight any misguided attempts by Congress to erode our progress -- such as any effort to repeal the Assault Weapons Ban or reduce the number of police in our communities.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

" America has to be serious about education. We have to be serious about education if we want to have a strong economy, if we want these young people to live up to fullest of their God-given abilities. If we really believe that our obligation to our children is to give them the ability to make the most of their own lives in this world we are living in, that means education, education, education. We must face it, embrace it, and be glad about it."

President Bill Clinton
September 22, 1995

The Clinton Administration has made an unprecedented commitment to providing Americans with the educational opportunities children and adults will need to improve their skills and maximize their potential. President Clinton has fought hard to help equip students with the training and know-how necessary to keep America competitive and families strong.

The President has compiled an impressive record of achievement in improving the nation's education system with a series of new reform proposals. While bringing the deficit down by historic amounts and proposing a balanced budget within seven years, President Clinton has still made investing in education a top priority. Between 1992 and 1995, the dollar amount of aid to students -- including loans, grants and work-study -- increased from \$22.5 billion to \$34.4 billion.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Head Start:** President Clinton has made expanding and improving pre-schooling the starting point for helping families give their children a good start on the right course. The President has increased Head Start funding to provide early education to 43,000 additional children in need. Based on recommendations made by the Head Start Advisory Commission, Head Start was reauthorized in 1994 with major quality improvements.
- **Direct Lending:** President Clinton reformed the student loan program, making college more affordable this year for 5.5 million students and saving taxpayers billions of dollars by cutting red tape and providing loans with flexible repayment options, including pay-as-you-earn plans. Over 1,300 schools, representing 40% of the total number of loans, are participating in the Direct Lending program.
- **GOALS 2000: Educate America Act:** In 1994, President Clinton signed into law Goals 2000 which supported the development of the nation's first system of voluntary standards of excellence for students while encouraging grassroots reforms to improve our schools. Goals 2000 affirms the President's belief in the critical role of education in building America's future and the federal government's role as a partner in that effort. More than 40 states participate in Goals 2000 and have developed their own strategic plans for educational reform based on raising academic and occupational standards, improving teaching, increasing parental involvement and expanding the use of technology.

- **Improving America's Schools Act:** By enacting the Improving America's Schools Act, President Clinton has given schools greater flexibility to use federal aid and develop effective teaching innovations to help economically disadvantaged students achieve their full potential. This law focuses on improvements in teaching in more than 50,000 schools and has a direct impact on five million children in high poverty areas.
- **School-to-Work Opportunities Act:** Signed by President Clinton in May of 1994, this Act broadens educational, career and economic opportunities for students not immediately bound for four-year colleges through local partnerships among businesses, schools, community organizations and state and local governments. By equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue work or post-secondary training, this law helps ensure that America will be capable of performing and prospering in a competitive global economy.
- **National Service:** President Clinton created the AmeriCorps program -- signed into law in September of 1993 -- to enable young people to earn money for college by serving their communities and their country. In the past two years, 45,000 volunteers have worked in schools, hospitals, neighborhoods and parks.
- **Access to Advanced Telecommunications:** President Clinton enacted the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to help ensure that schools, libraries, hospitals and clinics will have affordable access to advanced telecommunications services. The Telecommunications Act can help connect each child in every classroom throughout America to the Information Superhighway -- opening up worlds of knowledge and opportunities to all students.
- **Technology Learning Challenge:** Initiated this grant program to challenge communities to form local partnerships between schools and private businesses to develop creative new ways to use technology for learning. Federal funds leverage local resources -- each federal dollar is matched by more than three dollars of local and private funds.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton remains committed to education reform and has vowed to continue helping Americans invest in their children's future. The President has made the following proposals:

- **Technological Literacy For The 21st Century:** President Clinton proposed the creation of a \$2 billion, five-year Technology Literacy Challenge. The Challenge will catalyze state, local and private sector efforts to provide all our children with greater opportunity to learn the skills they need to thrive in the next century. The Technology Literacy Challenge will ensure that local innovation keeps U.S. schools on the leading edge of learning technologies.
- **School Uniforms:** President Clinton has encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect.

- **Higher Education Standards For Students And Teachers:** In order to ensure America's competitive strength, President Clinton wants to see both public school students and teachers challenged by meaningful, rigorous standards and rewarded when they perform.
- **Public School Choice:** President Clinton believes that information, competition and choice among public schools should be the rule, not the exception. Any parent who is dissatisfied with either their child's performance or the school's performance should have the opportunity to choose a public school that will do better.
- **Charter Schools:** To ensure that every parent has the opportunity to choose a school for their child, the President called on all 50 states to enact charter school laws. Twenty states currently have laws providing for the creation of charter schools -- public schools, created and managed by parents, teachers and administrators. Charter schools have greater flexibility but they are held accountable for their results through a performance-based contract with a local school board, state or other public institution.
- **Parent Involvement:** President Clinton believes strongly that parents are and should continue to be their children's first and most important teacher. Parents must take an active role in their children's education and the President has also challenged businesses to be supportive and family-friendly.
- **Merit Scholarships:** The President called for the creation of the largest-ever merit-based scholarship program, rewarding the top 5% of high school graduates in every school with \$1,000 grants toward the cost of college. If this proposal is enacted this year, 128,000 graduating high school seniors will receive a scholarship to help finance their college education.
- **Expansion Of Work Study:** The President proposed a dramatic expansion of the College Work Study program. Increasing the number of students involved in work study from 700,000 students to over 1 million over the next five years will significantly expand a program that reaffirms the American ethic, rewarding hard work and helping ensure that all who want a higher education are able to afford it.
- **Tuition Tax Deduction:** The President has called for a deduction of up to \$10,000 per year for the cost of college tuition and training. Families could deduct up to \$10,000 in expenditures for post-secondary education. Over 17 million students and over 14 million families stand to benefit from this proposal for tax relief to working families.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

DRAFT

EMPOWERMENT ZONES/ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES

[There] needs to be a new partnership between Washington and the communities and the individuals of this country, and there needs to be a way of doing business in which we try to create the conditions in which people can seize opportunities for themselves."

President Bill Clinton

January 17, 1994

America's cities and rural communities continue to be a vital component of the American way of life. President Clinton is committed to investing in our communities and our people to provide opportunity and hope to all Americans. The President has launched initiatives that promote economic opportunity and job growth in America's communities by focusing on helping people help themselves.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Empowerment Zones (EZ) and Enterprise Communities (EC)

- Thirteen years after the first federal enterprise zone legislation was introduced, President Clinton's Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Community initiative became law.
- The President's initiative includes \$2.5 billion in tax incentives and \$1.3 billion in flexible grants to spur local communities to address barriers to economic growth.
- Over 500 communities across America took up the "EZ" challenge, submitting strategic plans for revitalizing their communities. Last December, President Clinton and Vice President Gore announced 105 winners -- nine urban and rural EZs, two supplemental zones, and 95 ECs, four of which received enhanced awards.
- The private/public partnerships that have developed as a result of the EZ/EC application process will be a force for change far into the future. In Detroit, for example, more than \$2 billion in private-sector commitments have been pledged. And Baltimore's plan leverages \$8 in outside resources for every \$1 of federal funds.

Community Development Banks and Financial Institutions

- The CDBFI Act fulfills the President's campaign promise to create a network of community development banks and financial institutions. Their primary mission is to lend, invest, and provide basic banking services in low- and moderate-income communities. This initiative will encourage the private sector to work in places it has not gone before. The CDBFI program leverages \$10 of private investment for every \$1 of federal investment.

- With \$50 million already appropriated for 1995, and \$1.625 billion requested in the President's Budget over seven years, the CDBFI Act will provide matching capital and other assistance to create and expand new and existing Community Development Banks and Financial Institutions (CDBFI).

Community and Reinvestment Act

- On April 19, 1995, the banking regulators met the President's directive to reform CRA, the 1977 law to prevent bank redlining. Under the new regulations, banks will be judged on performance -- actual lending, investments, and basic banking services -- rather than paperwork. Reform will unleash billions in new credit to low- and moderate income communities. Already, the Community Reinvestment Act has helped increase the number of mortgage loans to African Americans and Hispanic Americans by 55% and 42%, respectively, from 1993 to 1994.
- To reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, a streamlined examination process applies to about 80% of all banks and S&Ls.

Other Empowerment Initiatives

- Clinton Administration initiatives are moving millions in new private capital into underserved communities. The Administration permanently extended the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and the Mortgage Revenue Bond program to encourage private investors to build affordable housing and to help first-time homebuyers.
- Up to 15 new SBA One-Stop Capital Shops will distribute \$3 billion in loans and investment for small and minority business over the next five years.
- Capital Gains Rollover and Exclusion -- To encourage capital investment in small and minority-owned business, the President signed legislation to provide capital gains tax relief for investments in certain venture capital companies.
- The Administration launched the National Homeownership Strategy, an innovative partnership between the private sector and government, designed to boost America's national homeownership rate to an all-time high of 67.5%, adding 8 million new homeowners by the year 2000. Homeownership is already at its highest level in 15 years.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

By continuing to help people help themselves, President Clinton is giving people the tools to rebuild our distressed communities, which in the end, will provide economic opportunity to all Americans.

- On March 11, 1996 the President proposed a new tax incentive to spur the private sector to clean up abandoned, contaminated industrial or commercial properties. This new \$2 billion tax incentive is expected to leverage some \$10 billion in private cleanups nationwide, and return to productive use as many as 30,000 brownfields properties in the U.S., improving environmental and public health protection, and spurring economic development.
- The Administration is proposing a second round of EZ/EC designations to continue to stimulate private-sector investment and economic opportunity in America's urban and rural communities and to connect residents to jobs available throughout the local labor market.
- As in the first round, the President and the Vice President will challenge communities to develop their own comprehensive strategic plans for revitalization, with the input of residents and a wide array of community partners. The Administration will provide tax incentives and grants to those communities that developed the most innovative plans and garnered significant local and private-sector commitments.

Latest Update: May 8, 1996

ENVIRONMENT

DRAFT

"We must ask more of ourselves, we must expect more of each other, and we must face our challenges together. . . . Our fifth challenge: to leave our environment safe and clean for the next generation. . . . People do have a right to know that their air and their water are safe."

President Clinton

January 23, 1996

During the last generation, we have made great progress in protecting the environment. We now have cleaner, safer air and water. Lead levels in children's blood have been cut 70%, and toxic emissions from factories have been cut in half. We must continue to move forward. A third of us still breathe air that endangers our health, and in too many communities, the water is not safe to drink. President Clinton is committed to making common-sense reforms to environmental programs and is determined to block attempts to roll back safeguards for our families' food, water and air.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Community Right to Know:** Issued a "Pollution Disclosure" Executive Order requiring industry to disclose information about toxic releases to their neighbors.
- **Safe Drinking Water:** Required drinking water systems to test for and eliminate dangerous contaminants and introduced comprehensive Safe Drinking Water reforms.
- **Clean Air:** Made the air we breathe cleaner by issuing new standards to cut toxic pollution from chemical plants by 90% and dangerous incinerator emissions by 98%.
- **Clean Water:** Vowed to veto the lobbyist-written bill to roll back the Clean Water Act that keeps billions of pounds of toxic pollutants and sewage out of our rivers, lakes and streams.
- **Reinventing Environmental Regulation:** Changed EPA rules and procedures to reduce paperwork requirements for businesses by 10 million hours and allowing businesses to throw out the EPA rulebook and write their own if they can do it cleaner and cheaper. Issued an Executive Order to make health, safety and environmental programs more fair, efficient and effective.
- **Toxic Waste Clean-ups:** Fought Republican Congressional attempts to repeal the Superfund law that makes polluters -- rather than taxpayers -- pay to clean up toxic dumps. Vetoed Republican Congressional bill that cut Superfund clean-ups by 25%.
- **Enforcement:** Ensured compliance with environmental safeguards by toughening EPA's enforcement programs and protected enforcement programs from drastic budget cuts.

- **Meat Safety:** Issued new policy to control *E. coli* contamination in meat.
- **Everglades Restoration:** Committed \$1.5 billion over seven years to help restore the unique Florida Everglades.
- **National Parks:** Withdrew land from new mining claims to protect Yellowstone, while fighting attempts to close national parks. Developed a "Parks for Tomorrow" program to better protect our national parks.
- **California Water:** Broke through decades of conflict and negotiated a consensus plan to protect and allocate California Bay-Delta water.
- **Arctic Refuge:** Vetoed a Republican Congressional bill that would have opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling.
- **Recycling:** Issued executive order to jump start the market for recycled goods, which are now more valuable than ever.
- **Global Phaseout of Persistent Pollutants:** Led the way to an agreement to phase out the use of 12 dangerous, persistent organic pollutants worldwide, such as PCBs and DDT.
- **Pesticides and Food Safety:** Canceling some of the most dangerous pesticides while moving safer substitutes into the market more quickly.
- **Homeowner Protection:** Reformed Endangered Species and Wetlands programs to better protect the environment while lessening any adverse impact on homeowners.
- **Environmental Technology:** Implementing technology programs to help American business compete more effectively in the fast growing global market while creating jobs for American workers.
- **Eliminating Unnecessary Regulations:** Eliminating 16,000 pages of unnecessary regulations.
- **Brownfields Initiative:** Launched an initiative to return land to productive use by providing tax incentives to clean-up old industrial waste sites.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to support policies that protect our health and natural resources while making common sense reforms to environmental programs by:

- Expanding community right-to-know laws and challenging communities to use the information to work with business to cut pollution.
- Challenging Congress to drop proposals to force taxpayers to pickup the tab to clean-up toxic waste. The President strongly believes the polluters must pay.
- Replacing one-size-fits-all regulations with result focused programs.
- Challenging American businesses to take more initiative in protecting the environment.
- Challenging Congress to re-examine and reverse those policies that would endanger our health and safety by weakening health and safety programs such as safe drinking water and clean air.
- Continuing to work with state and community leaders and businesses to find better ways to protect our natural resources and provide economic opportunities.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

HEALTH CARE

DRAFT

" . . . [I]f our working families are going to succeed in the new economy, they must be able to buy health insurance policies that they do not lose when they change jobs or when someone in their family gets sick. . . . We have to do more to make health care available to every American. And Congress should start by passing the bipartisan bill sponsored by Senator Kennedy and Senator Kassebaum that would require insurance companies to stop dropping people when they switch jobs, and stop denying coverage for preexisting conditions."

President Clinton

January 23, 1996

Since taking office, President Clinton has fought hard for health care reform and he is dedicated to guaranteed health security for all Americans and to contained health care costs for families and businesses. About 40 million Americans have no health insurance and millions more are just one pink slip or illness away from losing it. In 1993, 84% of the uninsured were in working families and more than 55% lived in families headed by full-time workers. As many as 4 million people have been affected by "job lock" -- the inability to change jobs for fear of losing insurance -- and every year 18 million people change insurance when someone in their family changes jobs. America's families deserve better. The President will continue to work towards making health care available to all Americans, improving the quality of health care and strengthening Medicare and expanding coverage.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Enacted the Family and Medical Leave Act and enabled workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a family member without fear of losing their jobs.
- Established a comprehensive Childhood Immunization Initiative to ensure vaccinations and healthy futures for all children. In 1995, 75% of two-year old children were fully immunized, an historic high.
- President Clinton has made investment in AIDS programs a top priority. He has increased funding for AIDS research, prevention and treatment by nearly 40%, including increasing funding for the Ryan White CARE Act by almost 112%.
- Fought to give all Americans quality health care and helped put the focus on rising health care costs -- last year, medical care inflation had the smallest increase in nearly two decades.

- Included reforms in his balance budget proposal that would:
 - Allow people to keep their health insurance when they lose their job or change jobs or a family member falls ill.
 - Make it easier for small businesses to buy affordable health insurance for their workers.
 - Help workers who lose their jobs keep health insurance by making them eligible for premium subsidies to pay for private insurance coverage for up to six months. This proposal would provide coverage for 3.8 million Americans each year.
 - Level the playing field for the self-employed by gradually increasing the self-employed tax deduction to 50%.
- Increased funding for breast cancer research by 65%.
- Proposed targeted measures to cut off children's access to tobacco products and to ban advertising directed at children.
- Put the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) on a full-funding path.
- Revoked the Reagan/Bush restrictions on abortion counseling ("the gag rule"), abortions in military hospitals and the "Mexico City" policy.
- As part of his balanced budget plan, introduced Medicare reform initiative which strengthens the Medicare Trust Fund, expands choices of health plans and increases coverage of preventive benefits.
- Launched "Operation Restore Trust" to combat fraud and abuse. This new initiative is already paying dividends and it is expected that the investment will yield a return through recoveries, fines, penalties, and savings to the Medicare Trust Fund.
- Launched Medicare Choices Demonstration project that will give beneficiaries in eight cities and five rural areas expanded choices among different types of managed care plans and test new ways to pay for managed care.
- Worked with states to test innovative approaches to Medicaid benefits and services, while preserving coverage guarantees for pregnant women, children, people with disabilities and older Americans. Over 650,000 people have received health care coverage under Medicaid state demonstrations. When all 12 are implemented, 2.2 million previously uninsured individuals are expected to receive health coverage.
- Proposed a \$1.3 billion increase in veterans' benefits -- of which \$1 billion will be directed to the VA health system to provide treatment for 43,000 more veterans.
- Regulatory reform efforts across the Department of Health and Human Services will result in an almost 25% reduction in total pages of Department regulations.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton remains firmly committed to guaranteeing health security to all Americans. In addition to insurance reforms, the President's balanced budget proposal would crack down on fraud and abuse by strengthening the fraud and abuse laws so that we can better prosecute health care fraud in all government programs and private plans, guaranteeing funding to investigate and prosecute fraud in Medicare and Medicaid, increasing penalties so that wrongdoers are punished severely, and better coordinating state and federal anti-fraud activities.

In addition, the President has also urged Congress to pass the Kassebaum-Kennedy health reform bill immediately. It is reasonable, bipartisan and has the support of business and labor. It will stop insurance companies from denying coverage because someone has a so-called "pre-existing condition." It will ensure that if someone loses or change their job, they will not lose their health insurance.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

"Over the past few years, I have emphasized three basic ideas - - community, opportunity and responsibility - - that I believe are at the heart of a more dynamic and prosperous America. The priorities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, from making sure that hardworking Americans realize the dream of homeownership, to addressing the tragedy of homelessness, are outstanding examples of how our government can empower people and institutions."

President Bill Clinton
October 1993

Recognizing that our homes are central to our well-being, President Clinton has worked to increase housing opportunity for all Americans, make homes and communities safer and more secure and reinvent HUD to meet America's housing and community development needs.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Transforming Public Housing: The Clinton Administration is implementing the most far-reaching changes in public housing in decades -- demolishing the worst developments, rewarding residents who work and cracking down on crime.

- **Replacing Worst Developments:** The Administration will tear down an unprecedented 30,000 units of the worst public housing and rebuild them with lower-density townhome-style developments which can serve as an anchor for neighborhood renewal. HUD has awarded \$1.44 billion in grants to spur economic development and change the shape of 85 public housing developments nationwide.
- **Improving Management:** We are cracking down on bad management in public housing through takeovers of the most troubled public housing authorities in innovative partnerships with local and state officials.
- **Building Positive Incentives and Tougher Expectations in Public Housing:** The Clinton Administration is changing admission rules and rent calculations to reward working families. Making public housing a springboard to further opportunities and a safe place to live through:
 - **Campus For Learners** initiative to transform public housing developments into living and learning centers through linkages with education, technology, and job training;
 - Aggressive implementation of **"One Strike and You're Out"** policy that helps cities prevent drug dealers and violent offenders from terrorizing public housing residents in their homes by ensuring that people who engage in drugs and other criminal activity will face certain and swift eviction; and
 - **Operation Safe Home** under which Federal law enforcement agencies are working with local police departments and public housing residents and managers to increase the arrest and conviction of violent and drug-related suspects so public housing developments can be safer places to live. This initiative has resulted in the arrest of thousands of criminals, and confiscation of hundreds of assault weapons and \$3 million worth of drugs.

Reinventing HUD: The Clinton Administration has proposed a dramatic restructuring of HUD to respond more fully to local needs and local efforts to help people improve their own lives. The Administration's proposals would: consolidate HUD's 60 programs into three flexible performance-based funds, giving mayors and governors the flexibility to develop local demand and supply-side housing and community investment strategies; continue the transformation of public housing and provide portable vouchers to residents of the worst developments; and turn HUD into a "right-side-up, community-first" agency by relocating and empowering local personnel.

Making the Dream of Homeownership a Reality for More Working and Middle Class Families: The Clinton Administration has helped increase the nation's homeownership rate to its highest level in 15 years. Last year's increase in homeownership was the fastest annual increase in 30 years.

- **National Homeownership Strategy:** Entered into an unprecedented partnership with more than 50 key public and private sector organizations to form a National Homeownership Strategy. Coupled with a stable economy and low interest rates, this initiative is aimed at increasing homeownership levels in America by 8 million households by the year 2000.
- **FHA Working for Homebuyers Better than Ever:** The Clinton Administration is revamping the Federal Housing Authority to better meet the needs of today's consumers -- through streamlining and consolidating, automating functions using the latest technologies, new innovative products, and strategic alliances with private and public partners. FHA service to low-income and minority home buyers is also stronger than ever providing home purchase loans for African-American and Hispanic homebuyers at more than twice the rate of conventional home purchase loan insurers, and the rate is increasing.
- **Fair Housing:** Working to reduce barriers to homeownership caused by unlawful discrimination. To date, HUD has signed 70 "Best Practices" agreements with key lenders that are resulting in more fair lending practices and expanded opportunities for fair housing.

Producing More Affordable Housing for All Americans: The Clinton Administration has provided the necessary flexibility and incentives to communities and businesses to encourage the development of more affordable housing and has improved assistance for those with acute housing needs.

- **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit:** President Clinton fulfilled his promise to permanently extend the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), spurring the private development of low-income housing and helping to produce more than 120,000 homes per year.
- **Innovative Public-Private Pension Fund Initiative:** The Clinton Administration launched an innovative public-private partnership initiative to encourage pension funds to invest in the production and rehabilitation of affordable multifamily housing. These partnerships will create 3,500 units of affordable housing for working families and the elderly.

- **Improved HOME Program:** Through a streamlined and more effective HOME program, the Administration, working with states and units of local government, has significantly increased housing and rental assistance to families. In FY 1994 and 1995, the Administration provided approximately 127,000 families with housing assistance through the HOME program and over 19,000 families with HOME tenant-based rental assistance.
- **Assisting more poor households with acute housing needs:** The Administration continued to expand rental assistance for the record number of renter households who struggle to pay over 50 percent of very low incomes toward rent and utilities. This assistance can be a critical tool for states and localities in helping families transition from welfare to work.
- **Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM):** President Clinton strengthened and extended the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage, which allows seniors to use the equity in their homes to meet financial needs without having to sell their homes. The program has helped over 15,000 seniors -- a majority of whom are women living alone, and the numbers are increasing.
- **FHA Multifamily Portfolio Reengineering:** The Administration launched effort to address long-standing problems in the FHA-insured subsidized multifamily portfolio that provides housing to nearly 800,000 low-income households. HUD proposes a comprehensive strategy to restructure debt, give tenants more housing choices, and adjust rents to market, thereby reducing future subsidy costs and producing long-term savings.
- **Comprehensive and Coordinated Approach to Homeless Assistance:** The Clinton Administration has made homeless assistance a top priority, doubling funding since FY 1993 and requesting over \$1 billion for FY 1997. In 1995, HUD awarded \$900 million in federal homeless assistance funds throughout the United States. These grants support comprehensive local and state initiatives that move homeless people off the streets to self-sufficient lives in permanent housing.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- Continue efforts to expand homeownership for all Americans.
- Continue working to build affordable homes and revitalize neighborhoods.
- Continue aggressive efforts to transform public housing.
- Expand Campus of Learners initiative to build education and technology linkages in public housing.
- Continue to expand opportunities for choice through tenant-based assistance for residents of public and assisted housing.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

DRAFT

"To reduce crime and violence we have to reduce the drug problem. The challenge begins in our homes, with parents talking to their children openly and firmly. It embraces our churches and synagogues, our youth groups and our schools."

President Clinton

January 23, 1996

Over the last three years, tremendous progress has been made in reducing overall drug use and related crime in our country. The Clinton Administration has dealt serious blows to international criminal networks, such as the notorious Cali Cartel of Colombia, that import drugs into our country. We have targeted hardcore users who consume the majority of drugs in this country, expanded drug treatment and provided prevention programs that work.

Despite the significant headway in many areas of drug control, including a 50% decrease in the number of illicit drug users from the 1979 level of 24 million, national attention must now focus on the alarming trend of adolescent drug use. President Clinton is committed to continuing the progress in reducing drug use and reversing the trend among youth through a national effort to target youth gangs that deal in illicit drugs, expanded drug treatment and prevention programs that work.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Elevated the Office of National Drug Control Policy to full Cabinet- level status and appointed General Barry McCaffrey as Director.
- Developed a comprehensive National Drug Control Strategy that will reduce illegal drug use through law enforcement, prevention, treatment and interdiction.
- Issued a Presidential Directive to break the cycle of drugs and crime through universal drug testing in the criminal justice system.
- Proposed the largest budget ever to combat drugs in FY 1996.
- Refused full certification to South American/Andean source countries, which resulted in the dismantling of the Cali Drug Cartel and the arrest of six of its top leaders.
- Developed a comprehensive strategy to combat the trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine, one of the country's most dangerous drugs.
- Strengthened and expanded the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act which enables schools and school districts to develop and implement violence and drug programs. Over 97% of school districts in the country utilize these funds to keep violence and drugs and alcohol away from students and out of schools.

- Issued a Presidential Directive to enforce the "zero tolerance" measures outlined in the Gun-Free Schools Act.
- Proposed targeted measures to cut off children's access to tobacco products and to ban advertising directed at children.
- Supported school athlete drug testing before the Supreme Court, sending the message to parents and students that drug use will not be tolerated in our schools.
- Convened first White House Conference ever that exclusively addressed the issues of adolescent drug use and violence.
- Expanded drug treatment for hard-core users to help end the cycle of violence and drug abuse.
- Initiated a National Drug Media Literacy Campaign for parents, youth and communities.
- Provided states and localities the resources to make treatment and prevention available with expanded drug courts, boot camps and treatment in our criminal justice system.
- First President to decertify Colombia for failure to make progress in halting drug production
- Issued first heroin strategy to develop international cooperation against heroin.
- Strengthened U.S. borders by increasing the number of Border Patrol agents and by initiating the Custom Service's "Operation Hard Line" to stop drug smugglers from funneling drugs into the country.
- Announced a freeze on assets of companies who cooperated with the Cali drug cartel, and called for worldwide cooperation in stopping money laundering and narcotics flow.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

Under the leadership of General Barry McCaffrey, the Clinton Administration will continue to implement its concise and action-oriented approach to the drug problem -- (1) motivating America's youth to reject illegal drugs and substance abuse; (2) increasing the safety of America's citizens by substantially reducing drug-related crime and violence; (3) reducing health, welfare and crime costs resulting from illegal drug use; (4) shielding the country's air, land and sea frontiers from the drug threat; and (5) breaking foreign and domestic drug sources.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

"We are a nation of immigrants. But we are also a nation of laws. It is wrong and ultimately self-defeating for a nation of immigrants to permit the kind of abuse of our immigration laws we have seen in recent years, and we must do more to stop it."

President Bill Clinton
January 24, 1995

President Clinton has made controlling illegal immigration a top priority of his Administration. The President's comprehensive and effective strategy to combat illegal immigration includes: strengthened border control, safeguarding the interests of legal workers through increased enforcement of employer sanctions and worksite standards, and removal of criminal and other illegal aliens.

While the Clinton Administration has worked hard to reduce illegal immigration, the Administration has also supported legal immigration policy that is pro-family, pro-work, and pro-naturalization. These core values must be protected as legal immigration reform is considered by Congress. In addition, the Administration will continue to protect those who fear persecution in their homeland. The President has indicated support for a moderate reduction in the overall level of legal immigration consistent with these principles.

For those eligible for citizenship, the Administration is implementing an unprecedented naturalization initiative -- Citizenship USA. The President believes that rewarding those who have "played by the rules" with United States citizenship strengthens our nation.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Illegal Immigration

- **Strengthening Border Control:** The Clinton Administration is deploying more Border Patrol agents than any previous Administration. In FY 1996, the Clinton Administration will deploy an additional 1,000 new and reassigned agents and over 550 new inspectors at the southwest border. Overall, the Administration has increased the number of Border Patrol agents at the southwest border by 40% since 1993. For the first time, Border Patrol agents are being equipped with the high technology resources needed to do the job, including: sensors, night scopes, computers and encrypted radios. Strengthened anti-smuggling efforts have reduced the criminal transport and exploitation of smuggled aliens. In addition, the Clinton Administration's asylum reform is excluding fraudulent asylum applicants from entering the country, and as a result, asylum claims have dropped 57% since last year.
- **Protecting American Jobs:** Employment is the number one incentive for illegal immigration. The Clinton Administration is the first Administration to initiate effective enforcement of employer sanctions and worksite standards to reduce this magnet. In addition, President Clinton issued an Executive Order to keep federal contracts from going to businesses that knowingly hire illegal workers. The Administration is also piloting a computer work authorization verification system in Southern California and is creating more fraud-resistant immigration documents.

- **Removing Criminal and Deportable Aliens:** In 1995, the Clinton Administration removed a record number of criminal and other illegal aliens from this country -- 74% more removals than in FY 1990. Deportations will increase this year as we further streamline deportation procedures.
- **Assistance to the States:** The Clinton Administration is also the first Administration to: 1) implement a comprehensive strategy from the border to the workplace to control illegal immigration and curtail States' illegal immigration costs; and 2) obtain funding from Congress to reimburse States for a share of the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens, in addition to assisting with education and medical care costs.
- **Providing the Resources to do the Job:** The Clinton Administration has increased the INS budget by 72% since FY 1993. The Administration's total INS budget for FY 1996 is \$2.6 billion.

Legal Immigration and Naturalization

- **Protecting Families and Workers:** The Administration has presented to Congress a plan that would lower the overall number of legal immigrants while preserving family reunification and strengthening protections for U.S. workers. The Administration's plan would reduce family reunification waiting lists in an equitable manner.
- **Making Citizenship a Reality for More:** More than 500,000 new citizens were sworn-in during FY 1995, an increase of 12% over 1994.
- **Cutting Red Tape:** The INS' naturalization initiative -- "Citizenship USA" -- responds to a surge this past year in citizenship applications. Over 1 million new applications were received in FY 1995, a 73% increase over 1994. FY 1996 applications are expected to be even higher. This year, INS is:
 - Increasing its staff to ensure quick processing of immigration applications;
 - Using new technology and testing the use of electronic filing of citizenship applications;
 - Streamlining procedures, including accepting mail applications at Service Centers for applicants in Los Angeles, Miami, New York and Chicago; and
 - Forging new and better partnerships with community organizations to provide better information to applicants. Los Angeles was the first site for this nationwide initiative. Other cities include: San Francisco, New York, Chicago, and Miami. These five cities account for more than 70% of the new citizenship applications.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to implement his comprehensive strategy to reduce illegal immigration, including:

- Continuing to build-up of border personnel and technology to curtail illegal crossings and smuggling.
- Vigorously enforcing the worksite and employer sanctions laws against employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens for business advantage.
- Deporting illegal immigrants who take jobs away from American workers.
- Testing effective, nondiscriminatory means of verifying the employment authorization of all new employees.
- Reforming and streamlining deportation procedures and seeking enhanced exclusion authority.
- Tripling deportation levels over 1992 levels.
- Seeking legislation to strengthen illegal immigration enforcement and reform legal immigration.

President Clinton will also continue to foster legal immigration and naturalization by:

- Seeking responsible legislation providing needed legal immigration reform.
- Expanding efforts to help legal immigrants become citizens, achieve and maintain self-sufficiency and to participate and contribute fully as members of our national community. The Administration's naturalization goals this year are to swear-in over 1 million new citizens and to clear the entire backlog of applications.
- Opposing welfare reform proposals that are unfair to legal immigrants and legislative efforts to nationalize California's Proposition 187.
- Fighting against discrimination that denies opportunities to legal immigrants.

Last Update: May 7, 1996

POLITICAL REFORM

DRAFT

"The fact is, organized interests have too much power in the halls of government. These influence groups too often promote their own interest at the expense of the public interest. Too often they operate in secret. Too often they have special privileges ordinary Americans don't even know exist....We have an historic opportunity to renew our democracy and strengthen our country. If we truly believe in a government that puts ordinary Americans ahead of the powerful and privileged, then we must act and act now."

President Bill Clinton
February 17, 1996

President Clinton is committed to curbing the influence of money in our political system. He supports the Senate Campaign Finance Reform Act, introduced by Senators McCain and Feingold, as it is the first real bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation in a generation. The McCain-Feingold bill would help fight public cynicism, help restore faith in the federal government, reaffirm that elections are won and lost in a competition of ideas, and reduce the cost of campaigning. The bill includes many of the campaign finance reform proposals that President Clinton championed in 1992, including:

- Adopting campaign spending limits
- Banning Political Action Committee (PAC) contributions to candidates
- Limiting the use of personal funds
- Ending the current soft money system by requiring disclosure of all soft money contributions
- Requiring broadcasters to provide free broadcast time and discounts to candidates who abide by voluntary spending limits.
- Prohibiting Congressional franked mailings in an election year

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Since entering office, President Clinton has aggressively pursued a far reaching agenda of political reform. The President is committed to reforming the way Washington works and ending business as usual. His accomplishments include:

- Made voting easier for more than 11 million Americans by creating more accessible voter registration locations by enacting the National Voter Registration Act ("Motor-Voter"). The Motor-Voter law has already created the greatest expansion in the voter registration rolls since the 19th century.
- Fought for and signed into law the Lobbying Disclosure Act. The Act is the first overhaul of lobbying rules in 50 years and requires lobbyists to disclose who they work for and eliminated loopholes that allowed lobbying organizations to avoid disclosure.

- Enacted the Congressional Accountability Act to ensure that the same laws apply to Congress as to the rest of America.
- Fought for and signed line-item veto legislation to change the way Washington works by cutting spending on wasteful special-interest projects.
- Eliminated the tax deductibility of the cost of lobbying expenses for corporations.
- Imposed the strictest Administration ethics guidelines ever, including a five-year ban on top officials lobbying their former agencies and a lifetime ban against lobbying for foreign governments.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

Despite a strong record of political reform during his first term, President Clinton understands that to truly end business as usual and to empower voters, we must pass real campaign finance reform.

The President believes we have an historic opportunity to renew our democracy and help restore trust in our government. In the coming months he will aggressively push Congress to pass the first truly bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation in a generation -- the Campaign Finance Reform Act.

We need to finish the job of political reform. We need real campaign finance reform legislation now. The American people have waited long enough.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

DRAFT

REINVENTING GOVERNMENT

"Our country needs a government that is smaller and more responsive--that has lower cost but a higher quality of service--that moves more authority away from the federal government to states and localities, and to entrepreneurs in the private sector--that produces fewer regulations and more incentives--that has more common sense and seeks more common ground."

President Bill Clinton
October, 1995

Americans expect and deserve common sense government--a government that performs well, uses their tax dollars wisely, views them as valued customers, does not impose excessive burdens and makes a positive impact on their lives when it addresses such problems as crime and poverty and the challenges of employment and education. To answer the call, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are making government smaller, better managed and more efficient. They are, in fact, creating a government that works better and costs less.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Smaller Government:** Already cut the federal workforce by almost 240,000 positions -- the civilian workforce is now at its lowest level in 30 years.
- **Government Costs Less:** \$58 billion in savings proposed in 1993 are already locked in.
- **Less Intrusive Government:** Agencies are sending 16,000 pages of obsolete regulations to the scrap heap and reworking another 31,000 pages.
 - Reducing regulatory and administrative burdens on the public by \$28 billion
 - Cut EPA paperwork requirements by 25%, saving industry some 20 million hours of labor per year.
 - The Department of Education eliminated over 70% of its regulations.
 - The Department of Housing and Urban Development is cutting 65% of its regulations.
 - The Department of Agriculture dropped 3 million pages of government forms that America's farmers filled out each year.
 - The Small Business Administration will have eliminated 50% of its regulations by the end of the year and will have revised the rest.
 - The Federal Aviation Administration cut its acquisition rules by 75% to get new safety equipment in use twice as fast.
- **Putting Customers First:** For the first time ever, over 200 government agencies have published customer service standards for serving the American people better.

- **Results Oriented: Eliminating, Consolidating, Privatizing Government:** Transforming agencies into flexible organizations that emphasize performance: measuring the results of programs, not just the amount of money spent on them.
 - Department of Energy -- \$23.5 billion in savings.
 - Department of Transportation -- \$17.9 billion in savings
 - NASA -- \$8.7 billion in savings.
 - Department of the Interior -- \$4 billion in savings.
 - Department of Agriculture -- \$2.9 billion in savings.
 - National Science Foundation -- \$1.6 billion in savings.
 - Department of the Treasury -- \$1.4 billion in savings.
 - General Services Administration -- \$1.4 billion in savings.
 - Small Business Administration -- \$1.2 billion in savings.
 - Department of Commerce -- \$1 billion in savings.
 - Social Security Administration -- \$787 million.
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development -- \$825 million in savings.
 - Department of Health and Human Services -- \$671 million in savings
 - Department of Veteran's Affairs -- \$209 million in savings.

- **Changing the Way Government Works:** Forming partnerships with America's businesses and with states and local governments, making them accountable for results and not telling them how to operate their programs or run their businesses.
 - Cut the Small Business Administration loan form from 1 inch thick to 1 page.
 - Enacted interstate banking deregulation and intrastate trucking deregulation.
 - Expanding the use of cost-benefit analysis and risk analysis in the development of regulations.
 - Dramatically simplifying bank regulations issued by the Comptroller of the Currency, and radically reducing the regulatory burden placed on exporters.

- **Unfunded Mandates:** On March 22, 1995, President Clinton signed legislation restricting Congress from passing on new mandates to state and local governments without paying for them.

- **Line-Item Veto:** This historic legislation, signed into law by President Clinton on April 9, 1996, significantly enhances the President's authority to eliminate wasteful spending by allowing the President to cancel wasteful special-interest projects and targeted tax breaks that benefit special interests. The line-item veto will allow the President to:
 - **End Business as Usual:** The line-item veto can help the President close the door on business as usual in Washington by ending breaks for special interests and cutting pet spending projects that sneak into the budget year after year.
 - **Protecting Public Resources:** With this line-item veto, the President will have a valuable new tool to ensure that our public resources are being put to the best possible uses.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton and Vice President Gore came into office committed to reinventing the federal government. Over the last three years, President Clinton has taken significant steps toward the creation of a government that not only is smaller, but is more effective in meeting the needs of the American people. His commitment to balance the budget requires that further changes take place, building on the reinvention successes of the last three years. These initiatives will provide significant benefits to Americans in either improved service or reduced costs:

- Create performance-based organizations with executives hired to get results; toss out restrictive government rules and make the executives personally accountable for delivering results.
- Dramatically improve customer service to give Americans the best service they've ever experienced with the government.
- Increase the use of regulatory partnerships with the private sector and abandon the old way of doing business; form alliances with management and labor that focus on results.
- Forge new relationships with communities by creating performance partnerships in which together we set goals, but the communities decide how best to meet them.
- Establish single points of contact for large communities so that their problems with the federal government can be solved more quickly.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

DRAFT

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

"Unfortunately, in Washington today, pure political correctness and raw political power count a whole lot more than actually doing something to reduce the tragedies of teen pregnancy and the high number of abortions...I believe it is clear what the law of the land is. And I believe that abortion should be rare, but it should be legal and safe."

President Clinton
June 24, 1995

President Clinton believes that decisions about abortion should be between a woman, her doctor and her faith, and that abortions should be safe, legal and rare. That's why he has consistently protected women's health and safety, and the right of American women to make their own reproductive choices, while he has worked to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Ended the Gag Rule:** The Bush Administration instituted a "Gag Rule" that prevented women using federally funded clinics from getting the information they needed to make informed choices about unwanted or health-threatening pregnancies. President Clinton reversed the "Gag Rule" in his first week in office.
- **Ensuring Clinic Safety:** Since 1992, five people have been murdered and seven others have been shot and wounded at family planning clinics. President Clinton signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act to fight violence and intimidation against women and their doctors, which is now being implemented by the Department of Justice.
- **Repealed the "Mexico City Policy":** President Clinton reversed 12 years of attacks on reproductive choice for women around the world when he repealed the "Mexico City" policy that banned distribution of family planning funds to overseas organizations if they perform abortions or speak out about reproductive choice, even with private money.
- **Established Services for Victims of Rape or Incest:** President Clinton supported permitting Medicaid coverage for abortion services for poor women who are the victims of rape or incest, and those whose life is endangered. These services had been banned during the Reagan and Bush Administrations by the "Hyde Amendment" to the appropriations bill that funds Medicaid.
- **Ended the Ban on Fetal Tissue Research:** The Bush Administration banned federal funding of fetal tissue transplantation research. President Clinton reversed the ban on this research, which could lead to advances in women's health and in treatment of leukemia and Parkinson's Disease.

- **Judicial Appointments:** Appointed Two Supreme Court Justices who support the constitutional right to privacy.
- **Funding Family Planning:** To help women reduce the risk of unwanted pregnancies, the Clinton Administration has requested annual budget increases for the federal Family Planning Program. Among other reproductive health and education services, this program makes family planning information and contraception available to millions of women who might not otherwise get reproductive health care.
- **Preventing Teenage Pregnancy:** President Clinton has made teen pregnancy prevention a priority for this Administration. In order to continue to bring rates down, the Administration has pursued two fundamental goals: instilling a greater sense of personal responsibility in young people for the consequences of their behavior, while providing increased opportunities for education, jobs and their future so that they are more likely to make the right choices.

Furthermore, President Clinton's challenge to the private sector to address the high rates of teen pregnancy has also prompted formation of a National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy. This effort aims to marshal private resources across the country to effectively reduce teen pregnancy rates by one third in 10 years.

- **Facilitating Adoption:** The Clinton Administration is working to encourage adoption, including adoption of children with special needs, and to reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care. President Clinton strongly supports the adoption tax credit in the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1996. The tax credit is a step towards meeting the challenge of removing barriers to adoption by making it easier for middle class families for whom adoption may be prohibitively expensive.

The President also strongly supported the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act to help increase the number of adoptions by prohibiting discrimination based on race or ethnicity, and the Administration remains committed to enforcing that law vigorously. Under this Administration, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with Federal assistance has increased 60%.

- **Welfare Reform:** President Clinton has fought for welfare reform that promotes work and responsible parenting, but that does not cut people off welfare just because they're poor, young and unmarried. Instead of punishing young mothers by cutting them off welfare, we should require teenage mothers to live at home, stay in school and turn their lives around.

In addition, the Clinton Administration is requiring teen mothers who drop out of school to return to school and sign personal responsibility contracts. States have been given immediate authority to provide bonuses to teenage mothers who graduate school and to reduce the checks of those who do not.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to protect women's health and the constitutional guarantee of a woman's right to choose. The Republican Congress has consistently proposed legislation that violates this guarantee, endangering women's health and safety and the Administration will continue to oppose these efforts.

The President vetoed legislation banning a certain abortion procedure because it only provided an exception to the ban on this procedure when a doctor can be certain that a woman's life is at risk. The President has made clear that although he does not support elective use of this procedure, he cannot abandon the women for whom it is the best hope for avoiding serious health consequences. President Clinton has said that he would support legislation with a limited exemption for such cases.

The Administration will further continue to work to reduce the numbers of unwanted pregnancies, to support domestic and international family planning, and to champion programs that breakdown barriers to adoption.

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TEEN PREGNANCY

DRAFT

"Ultimately, what is needed to stop teen pregnancy is a revolution of the heart. We must all work to instill in every young man and woman a sense of personal responsibility. Having a child is the greatest responsibility any person can assume. It is not the right choice for a teen to make."

President Bill Clinton
January 29, 1996

Each year, approximately 1 million American teenagers become pregnant -- approximately 11% of all women ages 15-19. To address this serious problem, the Clinton Administration has pursued policies which recognize the fundamental obligation of all Americans to exercise personal responsibility, while expanding opportunities for at-risk young people to make positive life choices. In addition, the President has stated clearly that government alone cannot solve the complex problem of teen pregnancy. He has called upon leaders in the private sector to join together to take action in their own communities.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Private-Sector Initiative:** President Clinton has challenged leaders across the nation to come together to address the serious problem of teen pregnancy. In response, an independent, bipartisan organization has been formed. The new National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has been established as a private, not-for-profit entity under the direction of Thomas Kean, former Governor of New Jersey and now President of Drew University, and Dr. Isabel Sawhill of the Urban Institute. The Campaign's board of directors includes prominent individuals from business, the media, entertainment, medicine and the philanthropic community.
- **Promoting Personal Responsibility:** President Clinton has advocated welfare reform proposals that promote work, demand parental responsibility and toughen child support requirements:
 - The Administration has approved state welfare reform waivers to a record 37 states that include various provisions affecting minor parents. These waivers are allowing states to bypass existing welfare rules and set time limits on benefits, require recipients to work or stay in school, provide child care and give employers incentives to hire welfare recipients. Nine of the states now have authority to link AFDC benefits to the school attendance of minor parents. Seven states have the authority to require minor parents to live with their parents or guardians or in another adult-supervised setting.
 - The Administration has pursued aggressive enforcement of child support laws. In 1995, a record \$11 billion was collected in child support from non-custodial parents, an increase of 40% since 1992. Over that same period, paternity establishments rose by over 40%.

- In May 1996, President Clinton announced that every state must implement a plan as part of welfare reform to keep teen mothers on welfare in school. Progress will be audited in every state and made public by the Administration. In addition, the Administration is requiring teen mothers who drop out of school to return to school and sign contracts detailing how they are going to take responsibility for their own lives. We have also given states immediate authority to provide bonuses to teen mothers who go to school and graduate and to cut back on the checks of those who don't. There also should be no incentive for teen mothers to leave home.
- **Comprehensive Approach to Youth:** The Administration has worked to address the complex economic and social factors which often underlie high rates of teen pregnancy and to support communities in offering young people positive alternatives to early sexual behavior and parenting:
 - Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Education has launched a number of initiatives that address teen pregnancy prevention through improved schooling for disadvantaged students, coordination of health and social services, and school-to-work opportunities to increase economic self-sufficiency. Specific initiatives started or expanded include: Goals 2000; 1994 School -To-Work Opportunities Act; Head Start.
 - In 1995, the Department of Justice created the SafeFutures Program, a five-year initiative which will provide approximately \$8 million per year to six jurisdictions for a comprehensive and coordinated delinquency prevention and intervention program for at-risk and delinquent youth.
 - The Administration is implementing the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, passed in 1994, by supporting local school districts in high-need areas in their efforts to coordinate violence and drug prevention programs with comprehensive school health education programs.
- **Appointed Senior Advisor on Teen Pregnancy Prevention:** In January 1996, President Clinton appointed Dr. Henry Foster. (Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry Medical College and founder of the "I Have A Future" teen pregnancy prevention program in Nashville) to serve as Senior Advisor to the Administration on teen pregnancy and related youth issues. Dr. Foster will work in partnership with community-based organizations across the country to give young people the tools they need to build responsible and productive lives.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to direct and encourage government policies that promote responsible behavior on the part of America's teens and increase positive opportunities for young people. In his FY97 budget, the President proposed a \$30 million teen pregnancy prevention initiative. These funds will be used to implement and evaluate promising prevention strategies in communities that have demonstrated a commitment to community problem solving.

The President will also continue to urge leaders from all sectors of society to marshal their resources on behalf of America's youth. The Administration will work in partnership with the newly formed National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, which has set the goal of reducing teen pregnancy in the United States by one-third by the year 2005.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

DRAFT

TRADE

"When we have the opportunity to sell American products and services around the world, we know we can compete -- and that means new jobs and a rising standard of living, the core of the American Dream."

President Bill Clinton
December 9, 1994

President Clinton has sought to grow our economy by opening up more opportunities to sell Americans goods and services in foreign markets and create jobs for American workers. As a result, our nation has the highest growth of any major economy in the world over the last three years. The economy has created more than 8.5 million jobs -- 93% of which have been in the private sector. Approximately 62% of the 3.3 million new jobs created in 1994 alone were created by small companies. Unemployment is averaging 5.4%. The combination of unemployment plus inflation is the lowest in 27 years.

The President has stood up for American interests by implementing a new trade policy. He has opened new markets to U.S. exports to: create high-wage jobs in the United States; monitor our trade agreements to ensure our trading partners are living up to their obligations; and to enforce our trade laws.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Stood Up for American Workers Against Unfair Competition: President Clinton stood up to the Japanese and opened markets for U.S. goods and services in the market of our second largest trading partner. The President opened the markets of our first and third largest trading partners -- Canada and Mexico -- by leading a bipartisan coalition in support of the North American Free Trade Agreement. He leveled the playing field for U.S. products around the world by concluding the Uruguay Round of the GATT, which puts in place tough new international rules of trade, and ensured that all our trading partners are living up to their obligations by establishing a permanent enforcement unit to monitor and enforce trade agreements.

- Total U.S. exports to Japan are up 35% since 1993, reaching a record \$64 billion in 1995 and supporting over 800,000 American jobs. This represents a 20% increase in 1995 alone.
- Merchandise exports to Japan grew five times faster than our imports from Japan in 1995. As a result, the merchandise trade deficit with Japan declined for the first time in five years and to its lowest level since 1992. Half of the improvement in the trade deficit with Japan was a result of autos: for the first time in a decade, U.S. auto exports to Japan increased significantly while imports fell.

- The Clinton Administration has reached 21 agreements with Japan since 1993, covering a range of market sectors: autos and auto parts, medical technology, flat glass, insurance, financial services, telecommunications, supercomputers, construction, cellular phones, chemicals, rice, paper, apples, wood, and intellectual property rights.
- According to the Council of Economic Advisers, U.S. exports in sectors covered by these market-opening agreements; have grown over 85% since 1993. That's three times as fast as other U.S. exports to Japan over the past three years. For example:
 - U.S. auto and auto parts exports to Japan increased over 35% since the agreement went into effect in August 1995, totaling \$3.8 billion in 1995. The Big Three auto manufacturers and Japanese transplant producers sold over 140,000 U.S.-made vehicles in Japan in 1995, up 40% since 1994.
 - U.S. exports of telecommunications equipment to Japan have grown nearly 50% since November 1994 -- almost two times as fast as telecom equipment exports to the EU. U.S. telecom exports to Japan reached \$1.7 billion in 1995.
 - U.S. exports of medical technology to Japan have grown over 35% since November 1994, reaching nearly \$2 billion.
 - U.S. exports of chemicals to Japan have grown nearly 25% since the Uruguay Round was concluded, reaching \$2.8 billion in 1995.
 - U.S. copper exports to Japan are up over 80% since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, reaching \$350 million in 1995.
 - Just a few years ago, rice exports to Japan were virtually banned. Since a crop failure in Japan, however, U.S. rice producers have sold \$287 million of rice to Japan -- more than the previous 25 years combined. In 1995, U.S. exports of rice to Japan reached \$31 million.
- U.S. manufacturing firms increased their share of the Japanese market over the past three years -- up 20% in 1995 over 1992.
- Overall agricultural exports surged to \$56 billion in 1995, up almost 22% over 1994, with highs in poultry, pork, wheat, and cotton.
- Even with the difficult economic situation in Mexico, U.S. exports to Mexico in 1995 were \$46 billion. That's 11% higher than 1993 -- the year before NAFTA was implemented. And 74 cents of every dollar that Mexicans spend on imported goods go to buy U.S. goods.

Created Over 1 Million High-Wage American Jobs Through an Unprecedented Export Boom: Implemented a National Export Strategy that has helped create American jobs by promoting U.S. goods and services abroad, including providing high-level government advocacy, financing and risk insurance for our American companies. Reduced tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in the markets of our largest and fastest growing trading partners.

- The United States is the world's largest exporter. Exports have grown 31% since President Clinton took office. In 1995 alone, exports were up more than 14%.
- Exports accounted for one-third of overall U.S. economic growth since the beginning of the Clinton Administration.
- Over one million high-quality, high-wage jobs have been created as a direct result of increased exports. 11 million American jobs are supported by exports and since 1993, roughly one out of every ten American workers depends on exports for their jobs. Export-related jobs pay on average of 13-16% better than other jobs.
- One in five manufacturing jobs is supported by U.S. exports. Almost 300,000 manufacturing jobs have been created just in the past three years. Auto jobs have increased by 89,000 during the Clinton Administration, after declining during the previous four years.
- Put America First by Restoring U.S. Competitiveness: Put the United States' financial house in order through sound macroeconomic policies such as a smart and tough deficit reduction plan and reduced government. Promoted education and training programs to give the American people the tools they need to prosper in the new global economy. Strengthened our economy by opening up opportunities to sell American goods and services in foreign markets.

Put America First by Restoring U.S. Competitiveness: Put the United States' financial house in order through sound macroeconomic policies such as a smart and tough deficit reduction plan and reduced government. Promoted education and training programs to give the American people the tools they need to prosper in the new global economy. Strengthened our economy by opening up opportunities to sell American goods and services in foreign markets.

- The United States has been ranked Number One on competitiveness for two years in a row -- up from Number Five in 1992.
- The United States is the world's Number One producer of automobiles for the first time since the 1970's -- overtaking Japan.
- U.S. aircraft industry dominates the world market -- supplying 65% Asia's imports.
- The United States is once again the world's Number One producer of semiconductors, surpassing Japan.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to open markets around the world and will continue to promote American exports by:

- Aggressively pushing foreign trading partners to further open their markets to U.S. goods and services.
- Ensuring that our trading partners live up to their obligations by strictly enforcing our trade agreements, using sanctions and other punitive measures when necessary.
- Continuing to place special emphasis on the fast-growing emerging markets around the world.
- Continuing to help small and medium sized enterprises export.
- Continuing to give American workers and businesses the tools they need to compete and win in the new global economy.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

VETERANS AFFAIRS

DRAFT

"To honor our veterans...gratitude and ceremonies are not enough. We must protect the benefits you have earned, address fully the dangers imposed by modern warfare, and preserve what you fought for: the American Dream at home and our leadership around the world."

President Bill Clinton

March 6, 1995

President Clinton has fought to protect the benefits that veterans have earned in service to this nation and to address the new needs and challenges created by a changing world. The Clinton Administration has also worked to make the Department of Veterans Affairs more efficient and responsive, proposing and implementing changes at VA that will improve services and save money, many of which have long been advocated by veterans. The Administration has also aggressively responded to veterans of the Persian Gulf War suffering from unexplained illnesses, to the challenges created as the military downsized after the Cold War and to the needs of homeless veterans.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Improved and Restructured VA Health Care System:** The Clinton Administration implemented significant management restructuring of VA medical system, creating integrated service networks and consolidating duplicative medical and administrative services, to ensure that scarce resources are focused on patient care. To further expand resources, the Administration proposed "gainsharing" to allow VA medical facilities to retain a portion of the money VA collects from third parties. These changes will allow VA to provide 1.6 million more patient visits in 1996 with fewer resources.
- **Protecting Veterans Benefits:** The Clinton Administration ensured full cost of living adjustment on benefits going to disabled veterans and military retirees; fought to fully fund benefit programs; expanded eligibility for disability compensation for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange; opposed Congressional proposals to eliminate compensation for certain mentally incompetent veterans; and proposed increased funding for national cemetery system to ensure that veterans and their families are buried with dignity.
- **Persian Gulf War Veterans' Illness:** President Clinton established the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illness aimed at finding the causes of these illnesses and improving the care available to Persian Gulf veterans. As part of Gulf War illness effort, the Administration expanded funding for research, medical care and communication at the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Health and Human Services.
- **Firm Commitment to Veterans in Federal Hiring:** Despite overall hiring declines across the federal government in the last three years, the percentage of jobs going to veterans has increased. The federal government continues to lead the nation in the percentage of veterans and disabled veterans in its workforce. The proportion of veterans in the federal workforce increased from 23.6% in 1992 to 33.3% in 1994.

- **Training and Assistance:** The Clinton Administration helped over 1.5 million veterans into jobs through the Department of Labor's veterans employment service. Nearly 500,000 separating service members and their spouses received job search training under the Department's Transition Assistance Program. The veterans' unemployment rate has been cut by almost a third during the first three years of the Clinton Administration (7.2% in January 1993 to 4.9% in January 1996).
- **Faster Benefits Delivery:** The Administration improved processing time and reduced pending caseload for compensation and pension claims at the Veterans Benefits Administration. The President's FY 97 budget included funding for 50 positions for the Board of Veterans' Appeals to improve timeliness in processing appeals. In FY 97, the Veterans Benefits Administration will process original compensation claims 33 days faster than in FY 96, and the pending caseload will be reduced from 378,600 at the end of FY 95 to 277,000 cases at the end of FY 97 -- a 27% reduction.
- **Targeted, Supportive Assistance to Homeless Veterans:** President Clinton fought for increased funding to assist communities in developing local, coordinated solutions to break the cycle of homelessness. The Administration more than doubled VA funding of homeless programs in three years, to the current level of \$76 million. As part of a new Homeless Providers Grant Program, VA awarded more than \$11.8 million to 59 public and private nonprofit groups to develop new programs to assist homeless veterans. The Administration's Interagency Council on the Homeless established a Homeless Veterans Task Force to improve services and programs for homeless veterans across agencies.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to fight to protect the benefits veterans have earned and to help veterans respond to new needs and challenges:

- Work for passage of reinventing government initiatives that will improve services to veterans, simplify complex eligibility rules, and save money through streamlining.
- Continue restructuring of VA's health care system.
- Continue to improve veterans' benefits delivery system to give veterans increased access and more efficient service.
- Continue to work with Presidential Advisory Committee to find causes and care for Persian Gulf Veterans with undiagnosed illnesses.
- Continue unprecedented outreach to veterans and veterans service organizations.

Last Update: May 8, 1996

DRAFT

WELFARE REFORM

"For too long our welfare system has undermined the values of family and work, instead of supporting them....I challenge this Congress to send me a bipartisan welfare reform bill that will really move people from welfare to work and do the right thing by our children. I will sign it immediately."

President Clinton

January 23, 1996

President Clinton is committed to welfare reform that reinforces the basic American values of work, responsibility and family. We must reward work over welfare; require people to take responsibility for supporting themselves and their families; and ensure that children are protected. There is bipartisan consensus around the country on the fundamental elements of real welfare reform. Congress should not waste this opportunity to enact national legislation. In the meantime, the Clinton Administration will continue to work with states to move families from welfare to work.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Reforming Welfare through Waivers:** By granting 60 waivers to 37 states, is giving states the flexibility they need to fix the welfare system at the local level. These waivers are making work and responsibility a way of life for more than 10 million people -- about 75% of all welfare recipients. Welfare caseloads have declined by 1.4 million since March 1994 -- a decrease of 10%.
- **Breaking the Cycle of Dependency:** Instead of punishing young mothers by cutting them off welfare, President Clinton is working to require teenage mothers to live at home, stay in school and turn their lives around by:
 - Giving states the authority to provide bonuses to teenage mothers who graduate school, and to reduce the checks of those who do not, and by requiring every state to put in place a plan to keep teenage mothers in school.
 - Requiring teenage mothers who drop out of school to return to school and sign personal responsibility contracts.
- **Requiring Parents to Take Responsibility for their Children:** Through partnerships with states, tougher enforcement, waivers and executive order, the Clinton Administration has achieved unprecedented financial support for children. Child support collections have grown nearly 40% since 1992, to a record \$11 billion, while paternity establishments have risen by more than 40%. We have proposed the toughest child support enforcement measures ever, including suspending drivers' licenses and tracking delinquent parents across state lines.
- **Tough New Sanctions for Refusing to Work:** President Clinton is changing federal regulations so states can impose tougher sanctions on welfare recipients who refuse to work.

- **Rewarding Work Over Welfare:** The President provided tax relief for 15 million working families by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates.
- **Preventing Teen Pregnancy:** President Clinton worked with community, business and religious leaders to form the National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy which will marshal private resources across the country to reduce teen pregnancy rates.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

The President will continue to work with Congress and the nation's governors to craft a bipartisan bill that is tough on work and fair to children. Until then, the Administration will continue to work to reform welfare.

- The President has proposed a sweeping welfare reform plan that would impose time limits and require work; provide adequate funding for child care to move people from welfare to work; strengthen child support enforcement; protect children; and save taxpayers \$40 billion.
- The National Governors' Association's welfare proposal this winter represents an important bipartisan step forward. The NGA's statement confirmed that the President was right to veto the flawed legislation passed by Congress -- legislation that did very little to encourage work and too much that could harm children. The Administration is working with governors and members of Congress to pass a bipartisan welfare reform bill that will move people from welfare to work, protect children and make responsibility a way of life.

Last Update: May 8, 1996