

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Speechwriting
Series/Staff Member: Josh Gottheimer
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19003
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Videos 9/7/1999 : AFL-CIO

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	91	7	8	3

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. bumper stickers	re: Campaign (1 page)	2000	Personal Misfile
002. memo	Political (Partial) (1 page)	03/22/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Josh Gottheimer
OA/Box Number: 19003

FOLDER TITLE:

Videos 9/7/1999 : AFL-CIO

2013-0306-F

jm1270

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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AFL—

C10

Joshua S. Gottheimer
09/07/99 12:25:03 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Paul D. Glastris/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
bcc:
Subject: Re: joel [u]

glastris -- we need to cut a few graphs from this one. it's a little too long.
Paul D. Glastris

Paul D. Glastris
09/06/99 10:05:24 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: joel

It's a pleasure for me to welcome you to the AFL-CIO's Community Convocation in Los Angeles. To President Sweeney -- and all the union officers and delegates in attendance -- my best wishes for a successful convention in the days to come. To all the working families, religious and community leaders, and trade union allies who are gathered with you, I want to convey my deep appreciation. By joining together, you embody the bedrock values of the American labor movement, and of America itself -- opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all.

One of labor's most enduring values is the commitment of union workers not just to each other; but to something larger. Not just to strengthening union families, but making every family stronger. Not just struggling for workplace rights, but for civil rights at home, and human rights abroad. Not merely securing fair wages for union members, but ensuring a decent minimum wage for others. Not just defending hard-won health and retirement benefits for union families, but fighting just as hard for the health and welfare of those who aren't as fortunate.

That is why your values -- and your voices -- are so critical at this critical moment. After six and a half years of working together, we have turned our nation around and created the longest peacetime expansion in our history. The lowest unemployment rate in 29 years. Wages rising for all income levels. And sky high federal deficits transformed into record-high surpluses. Now, America must decide: will we use this moment of prosperity to deal with our toughest long-term challenges, or squander it for short-term gain?

I believe we must use this moment to secure our long-term prosperity--by paying off the debt for the first time since 1835, to keep interest rates low; by bringing new investment to areas still untouched by our recovery; and by raising the federal minimum wage. We must meet the challenges of the aging of America by saving Social Security, and strengthening and modernizing Medicare with prescription drug. We must give health care patients

the fundamental rights they deserve. And we must meet the challenges of educating the largest, most diverse generation of children in history the children of the Baby Boom, with more and better prepared teachers, smaller class sizes, modernized schools connected to the Internet, and proven strategies for turning around schools that aren't working. And when we have met these fundamental obligations, we can still have significant tax cuts for working Americans.

~~Now~~, the majority in Congress has other ideas. They have passed a bloated tax plan that would put at risk everything we have worked for together. ~~It would put our prosperity at risk. It would not strengthen Social Security or Medicare. And it would jeopardize our future by forcing crippling cuts in health care, in and education, and other vital priorities. It is the wrong course for America, and I will not allow it to become law.~~

I need your voices to be heard in this debate now. ~~I need you to help me make this message clear. I want to do more than stop the wrong thing from happening. I want to make progress on the right things for our country. The stakes couldn't be higher; but our potential could not be greater.~~

A century ago, the ~~working~~ men and women of labor worked for—and sometimes bled and died for—a vision of America in which the elderly would have retirement security, minorities would enjoy equal protection under the law, and working people would have the right to organize and fight for a better life. ~~Because of their sacrifices, their vision became reality. Now it is up to our generation us to work for an America where every child has a world-class education; where every American knows Medicare and Social Security will be there when they retire; and where all Americans willing to work enjoy the fruits of American prosperity.~~

Thank you for coming together in Los Angeles. Thank you for the support you've shown in the past. Thank you for caring about the America we are building for the future.

*more progress and
better life for children,
the elderly, and working
families. Now, it
is our generation's turn
to make our voices heard.*

1
JUN 1999

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR AFL-CIO'S
"WORKING FAMILY CONVOCATION" CONVENTION
LOS ANGELES, CA
October 9, 1999**

It's a pleasure for me to welcome you to the AFL-CIO's Community Convocation in Los Angeles. By joining together, you embody the bedrock values of the American labor movement, and of America itself – opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all.

One of Labor's most enduring values is the commitment of union workers not just to each other; but to something larger. Not just to strengthening union families, but making every family stronger. Not just struggling for workplace rights, but for civil rights at home, and human rights abroad. Not merely securing fair wages for union members, but ensuring a decent minimum wage for others. Not just defending hard-won health and retirement benefits for union families, but fighting just as hard for the health and welfare of those who aren't as fortunate.

That is why your values -- and your voices -- are so critical at this critical moment. After six and a half years of working together, we have turned our nation around and created the longest peacetime expansion in our history. The lowest unemployment rate in 29 years. Wages rising for all income levels. And sky high federal deficits transformed into record-high surpluses.

I believe we must use this moment to secure our long-term prosperity -- by paying off the debt for the first time since 1835, to keep interest rates low; by bringing new investment to areas still untouched by our recovery; and by raising the federal minimum wage. We must meet the challenges of the aging of America by saving Social Security, and strengthening and modernizing Medicare with prescription drug. We must give health care patients the fundamental rights they deserve. And we must meet the challenges of educating the largest, most diverse generation of children in history the children of the Baby Boom, with more and better prepared teachers, smaller class sizes, modernized schools connected to the Internet, and proven strategies for turning around schools that aren't working. And when we have met these fundamental obligations, we can still have significant tax cuts for working Americans.

But, the majority in Congress has other ideas. They have passed a bloated tax plan that would put at risk everything we have worked for together. It would not strengthen Social Security or Medicare. And it would jeopardize our future by forcing crippling cuts in health care, in and education, and other vital priorities.

I need your voices to be heard in this debate now.

A century ago, the men and women of labor worked for—and sometimes bled and died for—a more prosperous and secure life for children, the elderly, and working families. Now, it is our generation's turn to make our voices heard.

Thank you for coming together in Los Angeles. Thank you for the support you've shown in the past. Thank you for caring about the America we are building for the future.

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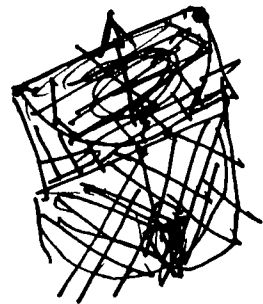
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Draft 9/23/97 12pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT THE AFL-CIO CONVENTION
PITTSBURGH, PA

September 24, 1997



When I spoke at your last Convention, it was two days before you elected the Dream Team of John, and Rich, and Linda. Haven't they done an outstanding job? [*Insert on AFL-CIO's call for soft-money ban to come.*]

With their passionate leadership and your rejuvenated organizing efforts, you are ensuring that America works for working Americans. Once again, American labor has a strong, clear voice. Once again, you are making it heard.

You made it heard loud and proud in the boardrooms of the United Parcel Service. You have made it heard in the halls of the Capitol, standing up to a barrage of anti-worker legislation.

You are making it heard in the strawberry and mushroom fields of California, in the fiery tones of Arturo Rodriguez and with the noble echoes of Cesar Chavez. You are making it heard in nursing homes in Minnesota, focusing especially on giving new strength to women workers. You are making it heard right here in Pittsburgh, through the Steelworkers' biggest organizing campaign in more than 60 years.

This is a very proud time for the working men and women of the AFL-CIO. As the nation can clearly see -- and hear -- American labor is back.

Thanks in no small part to your leadership in the workplace and your involvement in the political process, America is back too. Organized labor has helped strengthen our families, our economy, and our future. Your strong voice has strengthened America.

Six years ago, when I announced my candidacy for President, I said that I had a vital mission for America in the 21st Century: I wanted to keep the American Dream alive for every person responsible enough to work for it. I wanted to keep America the world's strongest force for peace, freedom, and prosperity. And I wanted to bring our people together across all the lines that divide us, into one America.

America's oldest and most incandescent ideals -- opportunity for all, responsibility from all, a community of all -- had to illuminate our path as we addressed the challenges of a new time.

We put in place a bold new economic strategy to shrink the deficit, invest in our people, and lower unfair trade barriers to our goods. The philosophy was solid and simple: remove the impediments that have restrained the American people and then give them the tools and training to help them race ahead. By reducing the nation's massive deficit, we would free our people of the deadweight that has slowed their every step.

By investing in the education and health of our people, we would help enable them to run fast and strong over the long course of their lives. By reducing trade barriers, we would knock down the unfairly high hurdles they have had to leap over for far too long.

The strategy has succeeded. The nation is running stronger than it has in a generation. Nearly 13 million new jobs -- including millions of good construction, manufacturing, and health-care jobs. America is leading the world in auto production once again. Unemployment below 5%. The biggest drop in welfare rolls in history. Dramatic drops in crime year after year. We know we have more to do, but together we have made progressive government work again.

Let's look at the three crucial elements of our economic growth strategy -- reducing the deficit, investing in our people, and expanding exports -- one at a time. First, deficit reduction. Back in 1993, when I introduced my deficit-reduction plan, we both knew how important it was to get our fiscal house in order. We did it the right way. While increasing investments in our people - and without a single Republican vote -- we cut the deficit by 87%. After a new majority took over Congress in 1994, they tried to cut the deficit the wrong way. When they sent me a budget that made deep cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment, I vetoed it. We stood firm until we achieved a balanced budget that honored our values.

The second element of our economic growth strategy is investing in our people, because in this new economy, our most precious resources are the skills and security of working Americans. Here, too, we are succeeding. After decades of working harder and longer for lower wages, millions of working Americans are finally getting a raise. And it's about time. Since I took office, the yearly income of the typical family is up \$1,600 and wages are rising again. Together, we increased the minimum wage and dramatically increased the Earned Income Tax Credit. And this summer I signed into law a \$500-per-child tax credit that will mean an increase of \$1,000 in take-home pay for a typical family with two children.

And I did not sign that bill until we made it work for rookie police officers, teachers, and others of modest means the Republicans would have left out.

From 1945 until the mid '70s, all of us grew together. From the mid '70s to the early '90s, our economy continued to grow, but we began to grow apart. Fortunately, it now looks like our hard work is paying off and America is starting to grow together again. But we cannot rest. We must keep working until every single American can reap the rewards of a growing economy.

And that is why investing in people, above all, means giving every American the best education in the world.

Our balanced budget includes the largest increase in aid to education since 1965 and the biggest increase in higher education since the G.I. Bill 50 years ago. We created a new HOPE Scholarship and tuition tax credits for college and skills training, secured the biggest increase in Pell Grants in two decades, expanded Head Start by a billion dollars a year, and doubled aid for dislocated workers. Our next great challenge must be to insist on voluntary, high national standards of academic excellence so all our children master the basics.

Investing in people means protecting the rights of workers to demand their rights.

And in that strike, collective bargaining worked. UPS and the Teamsters reached a historic settlement that recognizes that companies must invest in their workers in order to be competitive in the 21st Century.

And investing in people means expanding access to quality health care. The Family Leave law ensures that millions of people don't have to choose between being good parents and good workers. The Kennedy-Kassebaum law helps millions to keep their health care as they move from job to job. The new balanced budget includes \$24 billion for children's health care -- the largest investment in health since the creation of Medicaid in 1965 -- and we must make sure that every dollar goes to quality care.

And now we must pass sweeping legislation to keep tobacco out of the hands of our children.

The final component of our three-part economic strategy -- one that is just as essential for our future growth and future wages -- is our continuing work to open new markets and give American workers a fair break. I know we don't see eye to eye on this, but I think I owe it to you to explain in person why I feel so passionately about expanding markets. We simply cannot create jobs and increase wages if we do not expand trade. More than one third of the economic growth that has produced 13 million new jobs over the past 4 years came from selling more American products overseas.

We have 4% of the world's population and 20% of its wealth. If you want to keep 20% of the wealth with 4% of the people, you must sell something to the other 96%.

In the next 15 years, the developing countries of Latin America and Asia will grow 3 times as fast as the United States, Europe, and Japan. We must participate in that growth. We must forge fair trade deals that allow us entry into markets where we have been excluded or at a significant disadvantage for far too long. Our markets are among the most open in the world. We must insist on the same treatment abroad. If we don't act -- and lead -- no one is going to level the playing field for us. And besides, when given a fair chance to compete, our workers will show that they are the best in the world.

No Administration in history has done more to aid displaced workers and help all Americans increase their skills. But we also must recognize that the global economy will not go away. If we do not make the global economy work for us, it will work against us -- and overwhelm us. This nation -- and its workers -- will get left behind.

This debate will be tough. We both know that. But this I promise: The debate over fair trade will be a fair debate. We share far too many values and priorities to let this disagreement damage the partnership of those who stand for working America.

Let us remember, there are many good members of Congress who support open trade -- and also fought for the minimum wage . . . who support open trade -- and also fought to provide health care to 5 million children . . . who support open trade -- and also fought to protect Medicare and Medicaid, to strengthen safety standards, and to make community college free for every American. They have done so in the face of intense pressure from the majority in Congress and the special interests. They have fought for working people, and they deserve our support. America is far better off when all friends of working people stand together -- without letting one issue trump all others. I pledge to do that, and I hope you will too.

Finally, I want to ask for your leadership in an area where you have always been out front: helping to preserve the bonds of community that bind us together as Americans. Tonight, I will travel to my home state of Arkansas, where tomorrow I will try to focus the nation on a haunting but hopeful moment in our country's struggle to make America the nation live up to America the idea. Forty years ago tomorrow, nine brave African-American boys and girls, shielded from a hateful crowd by U.S. Army paratroopers, walked through the doors of Little Central High School. I will honor the courage and vision of those whose eyes were fixed on the prize of integration.

But I will also note how many doors we have yet to open -- not so much the doors of schools and lunch counters and clubs, but rather the doors of true understanding that are sometimes half-closed in the corners of our minds.

You are in a unique position to help. Thanks to the efforts of early visionaries like A. Philip Randolph, Walter Reuther, and Rose Schneiderman, the labor movement made it possible for generations of African-Americans and new immigrants to lend their skills to the ongoing work of building America. Your members have reached across racial and ethnic lines to fight for a common future. Few institutions in America have been so successful.

It is no coincidence that one of the members of my Race Advisory Commission is your dynamic Executive Vice President, Linda Chavez-Thompson. Working in the Texas cotton fields as a girl and organizing workers in the Southwest as an adult, Linda saw injustices against women, Hispanics, and blacks first-hand. As she has said, discrimination is not a thing of the past. When it comes to paychecks and power, it is still an everyday reality for millions of Americans of color.

A century ago, the working men and women of labor imagined an America where old people had health security . . . where African-Americans enjoyed equal protection under the law . . . where working people had the right to organize and fight for a better life. Because they imagined it, and worked for it, we are living in that America today. Now it is up to us to imagine the America of the 21st Century -- an America in which every child has a world-class education, in which we lift living standards here and around the world, in which our oldest values of opportunity, responsibility, and community guide us in a new time. And if we imagine it, and build it, we can make it real. I ask for your help.

Thank you and God bless you.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

8/1/95

COPY

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS
IOWA FEDERATION OF LABOR CONVENTION
TAPED ON: 8/1/95 FOR USE ON: 8/16/95

*Improve work, life
and work, low on
Growth, I think
or help: 9 4/4*

I'm sorry I can't be there in person but I'm delighted to take this opportunity to send greetings to the Iowa Federation of Labor. I'd also like to salute Jim Wengert [WHENG-gert] for his record of leadership that spans three decades.

I ran for President because I believed we had to do more to help the millions of working people in this country who had seen their stake in the American Dream uprooted during the 1980s; people who were working harder and harder for less and less. Their struggle showed me that the fight to save American families must begin with the fight to save America's workers and their incomes and their jobs.

I've worked hard to develop an economic strategy that focuses on both creating jobs and raising incomes. And it's beginning to work. Our economic strategy has added seven million new jobs to our economy. We've reduced the deficit for three years in a row for the first time since Harry Truman was President. But we've also invested more in the education and training of our people, including a commitment to retrain workers who find themselves unemployed because of new technologies and other shifts in the challenging new economy. And we've been able to give a tax cut to 15 million working families through the Earned Income Tax Credit.

*Reunion
8/2/95*

I want to ask all of you to be partners with this Administration as we work to strengthen the American economy and working Americans' position in it. I believe that strong unions and good faith collective bargaining are essential to helping us meet the challenges of the future. That's why one of the first things I did upon taking office was to rescind the anti-union executive orders of the past 12 years.

A few months ago, I signed an executive order that states loud and clear that we will not allow companies that do work with the federal government to permanently replace striking workers. I believe, as you do, that the right to strike is not a privilege, but a right. My appointments to the NLRB are committed to protecting that right. And that's why Congress wants to cut the board's budget by almost a third -- not to save money, but to tie its hands now that it's determined to treat working people fairly again.

This Administration will fight anyone who threatens the right to strike. It's been the historic role of the unions of the IFL to help more working people achieve the American Dream. You don't show respect for that Dream by seizing the weapons of its champion.

I will veto any effort to weaken Section 8(a)(2) of the National Labor Relations Act. And I am fighting to preserve working peoples' hard-earned wage protections. The Davis-Bacon

Act and Service Contract Acts are the foundations for decent living standards for many Americans. Some want to take that away, but I believe our country can't afford to support policies which increase the inequality that has grown so much over the years and threaten the standard of living you have fought so hard to maintain.

Some people in Congress have decided that worker safety and health is a fringe benefit that our people don't need. They've introduced legislation that would effectively take away an employer's duty to provide a safe workplace. And cut OSHA's budget in half. American workers shouldn't have to put their health and safety in jeopardy just to feed their families.

< Bal
Budget

Our work here in Washington requires a partnership with you. Working together, we can make sure that we grow the middle class and shrink the underclass. My idea of the 21st Century economy is Americans working hard, working smart, well-trained, competing and winning in the global economy -- not following policies that will only result in more and more people working harder and harder only to feel the American Dream slip further and further away. We must work together not only to preserve what has been won, but to fight for the jobs, the incomes, the American Dream of the future.

Thank you, and have a successful convention.

TJ. . .

287457

MEMORANDUM

December 9, 1998

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in New York City for the 14th annual Labor Recognition Dinner of the New York State AFL-CIO. I am pleased to congratulate Juan Gonzalez, Rita Mason, Edward Mohler, Andrew Spano, and Lester Wuerfl, Jr., as they are honored for their commitment to the well-being of America's working men and women.

As 1998 draws to a close, we can be proud of what we have accomplished together for America's working families. Since the beginning of my Administration, more than 17 million new jobs have been created by our economy. We have achieved the fastest growth in real wages in more than two decades and the lowest unemployment rate in more than a generation. Together, we've defeated attempts to repeal prevailing wage laws, to bring back company unions, and to weaken workplace health and safety laws. With the Workforce Investment Act I signed into law earlier this year, we will modernize America's job training system and give all our workers the opportunity for growth and advancement. We've protected pension funds and health benefits, and we finally convinced the Congress to do the right thing and raise the minimum wage.

As members and supporters of the New York State AFL-CIO, you can be proud of your role in this extraordinary record of achievement. I look forward to working with you as we continue to widen the circle of opportunity in the 21st century, and I thank you for all you have done to put the American Dream within reach of families throughout New York State and across our nation.

Best wishes for a memorable evening and continued success.

BILL CLINTON

BC/MAH/ckb-pfs (Corres. #4152226)
(12.labordin.msg) (Event: 12/12/98; wants 12/01/98)
Enclosure: b&w BC photo
cc: Presidential Messages, 91 OEOB
SENT TO:

Mr. Edward J. Cleary
President
New York State AFL-CIO
12th Floor
48 East 21st Street
New York, New York 10010

COPY

DO NOT MAIL -- RETURN TO CARMEN FOWLER, 91 OEOB, FOR DISPATCH

7

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

COPY

March 22, 1996

REMARKS TO THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF
INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEPTION

DATE: March 25, 1996
LOCATION: State Floor, The White House
TIME: 5:15 p.m.
FROM: Jennifer O'Connor *JMO*

I. PURPOSE

To honor the AFL-CIO on the occasion of their first special convention in the federation's 31-year history.

II. BACKGROUND

On Monday, March 25, 1996, the AFL-CIO is holding a special convention to approve its sweeping new legislative and political action program called "Labor '96" and to consider the [redacted] (b)(6) This special convention is the first in the federation's history. [002]

The convention is expected to approve a special monthly assessment of 15 cents per member to raise \$25 million, which together with other funds, will create a \$35 million fund to provide information about candidates and their positions on issues of importance to working families. This \$35 million will constitute the operating funds for the AFL-CIO's media and field operation for the election, exclusive of any funds the federation may donate to individual candidates or coordinated campaigns.

Over 500 delegates, representing each of the 78 unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO, as well as delegates from central labor councils and state federations, will meet for approximately 2 1/2 hours to approve a plan for the 1996 election. On Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, representatives of central labor councils and state federations will attend workshops on the new political and legislative action program.

Please see attached information on key labor issues that guests may raise with you during the receiving line.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The President
The Vice President
Mr. John Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO

Audience

Mr. Richard Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO
Ms. Linda Chavez-Thompson, Executive Vice President, AFL-CIO
The Presidents and Secretary-Treasurers of 78 AFL-CIO unions
The Presidents of State AFL-CIO affiliates and Central Labor Councils

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- **You**, the Vice President and President Sweeney will be announced into the room.
- The Vice President will give remarks and introduce President Sweeney.
- President Sweeney will give remarks and introduce **you**.
- **You** will give remarks and invite the guests to meet you in the Blue Room.
- **You** and the Vice President will proceed to the Blue Room for a receiving line.

V. PRESS

Closed Press

VI. REMARKS

Remarks attached

LABOR ISSUES

CURRENT ISSUES

A. TRADE

Caribbean Basin Initiative -- The AFL-CIO is vehemently opposed to the Administration's plan to fund a new Caribbean Basin Initiative, fearing that the legislation will increase apparel imports from CBI countries. In general, the AFL-CIO is still very much opposed to NAFTA and considers it a very sore point.

The Administration has assured the AFL-CIO that CBI legislation will not be sent to Capitol Hill without consultations with labor and that a bill will not be signed without adequate labor standards.

B. FY '97 BUDGET

1. OSHA

The FY '97 budget request for OSHA enforcement is slightly lower than both the FY' 96 Administration request and the Senate-passed appropriation. However, it is significantly higher than the level of funding contained in the current Continuing Resolution.

At the same time, the Administration's FY' 97 request includes a significant increase in funding for compliance assistance, a reinvention program that helps employers. The AFL-CIO believes that in an era of scarce resources, funding for reinvention efforts should not take away from enforcement.

2. Federal/Postal Cuts

Federal and postal unions (American Federation of Government Employees, Letter Carriers, Postal Workers) are upset with Administration proposals to increase employee contributions for retirement and to delay retirement COLAs.

They also object to the .3% CPI reduction and to possible increases in employee contributions for health insurance based on a change in the formula.

C. STRIKER REPLACEMENT

On March 20, the Administration petitioned the D.C. Circuit Court for a rehearing en banc to uphold your Executive Order barring federal contractors from using permanent replacement workers during lawful economic strikes.

D. REGULATORY REFORM

The AFL-CIO is opposed to any regulatory reform proposal that will weaken worker health

and safety protections, and have been meeting with Senator Levin who is crafting a Democratic compromise proposal. The AFL-CIO does not support the Levin proposal in its present form. The Administration has not announced a position on the Levin proposal but has provided technical assistance in an effort to improve it.

E. IMMIGRATION

Organized labor has four principal concerns with immigration reform bills on the Hill:

(1) Employment-based Immigration: The AFL-CIO supports reforms that will give greater protections to U.S. workers in programs (immigrant and nonimmigrant that permit employers to obtain foreign skilled workers. The Administration also strongly supports these reforms. The AFL-CIO also supports reducing the overall number of employment-based immigrants from 140,000 to 75,000; the Administration supports a cap of 100,000.

(2) New Guestworker Program: The AFL-CIO opposes a new agricultural guestworker ("bracero") program that would bring in 250,000 nonimmigrant farm workers. Secretary Reich and Attorney General Reno have issued a letter indicating they would recommend a veto of any bill containing such a program.

(3) Family Provisions: Several unions with large immigrant memberships (e.g., UNITE, Service Employees) oppose the sharp restrictions on and dramatic reductions in family immigration contained in both bills on the Hill. The Administration supports less draconian restrictions and reductions.

(4) Extended Nonimmigrant Nurses Program: Several health care unions (including Service Employees) oppose the extension of the H-1A program which allows health care employers to obtain foreign nurses.

F. RIGHT TO WORK

The AFL-CIO recently testified against a Senate bill that would prohibit states from allowing union security clauses in collective bargaining agreements. The so-called National Right to Work bill was introduced by Sen. Lauch Faircloth, who has promised the National Right to Work Committee that it will be taken up on the Senate floor.

G. FREIGHT RAIL NEGOTIATIONS

All freight rail unions are currently in contract negotiations with major railroads. Two unions have reached tentative national agreements (the United Transportation Union and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers). Two other unions are still in negotiations and mediation before the National Mediation Board (NMB). They have aggressively sought release from the NMB since August 1995. Under the Railway Labor Act, unions cannot strike until they have been released from talks. Currently, the NMB is considering granting the request in the near future.

H. TIMBER SALES

The Carpenters are upset with the Administration's support of Senator Murray's bill to repeal the green timber and salvage rider to the rescissions act, due to the impact on logging jobs.

I. ACIR REPORT

The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations recently released a preliminary draft report on federal mandates that included recommendations to repeal coverage for state and local governments under FLSA, OSHA and other labor laws. Several Cabinet members have objected to these proposals and it is expected that significant changes would need to be made before Administration appointees to the commission will be able to endorse a final report.

J. GM STRIKE

On March 22, members of the UAW voted by a 95% margin to approve the agreement between GM and the UAW. The agreement provides job security for the current membership, new jobs for Dayton, and relieves conditions in the Dayton facilities that had led to unsafe working conditions.

K. OTHER ISSUES

I. Occupational Safety and Health Reform

- The AFL-CIO asked for and received in Bal Harbour from the Vice President a clear statement of the Administration's intention to veto the Kassebaum and Ballenger OSHA reform bills in their current form, and any legislation which weakens safety and health protections for American workers. On March 20, Rep. Ballenger was quoted in the Charlotte Observer as saying that he was dropping plans to bring his bill up for a vote, in part because of your veto threat.
- Both bills would exempt a majority of worksites -- even in the most hazardous industries -- from routine OSHA safety and health inspections.
- The bills would also strip workers of the fundamental right to file anonymous complaints and receive a government inspection where serious hazards are present.
- Both bills would allow employers to dominate employee involvement committees, even where such actions would impair the fundamental worker right to freely choose a bargaining representative. Similar language is contained in the TEAM Act, a bill that the Administration has already threatened to veto.

II. Fair Labor Standards Act

- Labor is opposed to Republican-sponsored legislation that would eliminate the

requirement that employers pay time-time-and-a-half for hours worked in excess of 40 hours a week. One extreme proposal would replace the 40 hour week with a 160 hour - four week threshold, before overtime pay would be required.

- Public employee unions are concerned about possible Administration support for weakening overtime protections for state and local government employees.
- The unions have expressed opposition to proposals that would allow employers to pay hourly workers comp time instead of cash for overtime worked.

III. Labor Laws

- Labor is angry about Republican congressional hearings that have been aimed at curbing union efforts to expose corporate behavior (sometimes known as "corporate campaigns.") So far the hearings have focused on placing restrictions on leafleting at shopping malls, union-organized proxy fights, and union-initiated complaints to OSHA, the NLRB, and other federal agencies.

IV. Medicaid Waivers

- Labor has asked the Administration to include employee protections for health care workers affected by changes in the way Medicaid is handled by state and local governments. The issue is under review by the White House.

V. Labor's Legislative Agenda

- Beginning in January 1995, the AFL-CIO faced the first real threats to decades-old statutes like Davis-Bacon, the Fair Labor Relations Act and OSHA.

During the last session of Congress, the Administration, working with organized labor, beat back efforts to :

- Nullify the Striker Replacement Executive Order. The House appropriation bill for Labor/HHS included a rider barring implementation of the Executive Order. Senate Democrats narrowly beat back an effort to attach the rider to the Senate bill.
- Repeal the Davis-Bacon Act (The Act requires the payment of prevailing wages and fringe benefits to workers employed by contractors and subcontractors engaged in federal construction projects.)
 - Both Houses included repeal in their resolutions and the House included it in reconciliation. It was dropped in conference.
 - Unions support Davis-Bacon reform bill introduced by Sen Hatfield raising thresholds to \$100,000 for new construction; \$25,000 for rehab.

- Repeal the Service Contract Act. (The Act requires the payment of prevailing wages and fringe benefits to workers employed by contractors and subcontractors engaged in federal service contracts.)
 - Both Houses included repeal in their resolutions and the House included it in reconciliation. It was dropped in conference.
- Repeal Sec. 8(a)(2) of the NLRA (The Act prohibits employers from establishing employee committees to deal with terms and conditions of employment - known as "company unions.")
 - After the Administration issued its veto threat the House only narrowly passed the bill, known as the Team Act by a vote of 221-202. However, the business community is gearing up to make a major effort in the Senate. The pro-business coalition is headed by former Rep. Tim Penny (D-MN).
- Repeal 13(c) labor protections for transit workers (The provision guarantees employee protections to transit workers.)
 - The Administration expressed strong opposition to the repeal effort and it was defeated in the House.
- Repeal TAA and NAFTA/TAA Benefit Programs
 - The House budget reduces funding to help dislocated workers find new jobs by \$379 million.
- Permit companies to raid employee pension funds
 - House and Senate Reconciliation bills would permit the reversion of "excess pension assets" by employers for almost any use. After you threatened to veto the Senate bill, it was stripped. A modified provision was included in the conference agreement vetoed on December 6, 1995.
- Dismantle OSHA and Mine Safety and Health Administration
 - The House-passed Labor/HHS appropriation bill cut OSHA by 15.5% overall, but targeted enforcement activities for a 33% cut. The House bill called for a 7.5% cut in MSHA.
- Gut enforcement of the National Labor Relations Act
 - The House appropriation bill for Labor/HHS cut NLRB by 30%. House-passed appropriation riders restrict the Board's ability to issue 10(j) injunctions to curb employer misconduct.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TO: THE PRESIDENT
THE VICE PRESIDENT

WHAT: AFL/CIO RECEPTION

WHEN: Monday March 25, 1996
5:15 p.m.

WHERE: Remarks: East Room
Receiving Line: Blue Room

of GUESTS: Approx. 300/Closed Press

FROM: Ann Stock, Tracy LaBrecque

(Invitation time is 4:45 p.m.)

4:30 p.m. East Visitor Gate opens and guests proceed to State Floor for a reception.

5:15 p.m. **THE PRESIDENT and THE VICE PRESIDENT** arrive in the Green Room for event briefing.

Following briefing, **THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT** and John Sweeney (President of AFL/CIO) are announced into the East Room.

THE VICE PRESIDENT makes welcoming remarks and introduces John Sweeney.

John Sweeney makes brief remarks and introduces **THE PRESIDENT**.

THE PRESIDENT makes brief remarks.

5:45 p.m. Upon conclusion of remarks, **THE PRESIDENT and THE VICE PRESIDENT** proceed to the Blue Room for receiving line.

6:30 p.m. (Approx. time) Upon conclusion of receiving line, **THE PRESIDENT and THE VICE PRESIDENT** depart.

TBD Guests depart East Gate.

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Presidential Remarks: AFL - CIO
Reception, East Room, Mar 25 96

COPY

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
3/25/96

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
AFL-CIO RECEPTION
EAST ROOM
MARCH 25, 1996

96 MAR 25 P3:55

Bedin
Bahr,
George W
Lucy
Sunny Hu

Corr: 58M
Rising

Acknowledgements: Vice President Gore, John Sweeney, Rich Trumka, Linda Chavez-Thompson, Sec. Reich, Chmn Fowler

ENDORSEMENT

Thank you for endorsement. Thank you for hard work vs. GOP budget. Pleased that a revitalized union movement will be working alongside us. America needs strong unions. Unions helped build middle class. Assault on unions is one reason working people have had such a hard time over past two decades.

STRAIGHTFORWARD VISION WHEN I TOOK OFFICE

American dream for all; strongest force for peace and freedom; continue come together around basic values.

How? Opportunity, responsibility, commitment to community.

LAST THREE YEARS

Economy strong: Lowest unemp/infl 27 yrs. 8.4 M new jobs: Over 1M: in basic industries like autos & construction. Homeownership highest in 15 yrs. Exports growing faster than imports, 1st time in yrs.

Same time: Still econ. insecurity: too many people working hrder w/out raise, downsizing.

Strongest force for peace & freedom: no missiles at children, Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia.

Same time: Brink of peace -- Rabin murdered, London bomb.

Coming together and values: welf, pov, crime, teen preg: all down.

Same time: Juv. crime, drugs, cigarettes up.

Right direction, but new challenges.

Why? Profound change: Info. Age, global economy.

AGE OF POSSIBILITY, unleashed by change.

More Americans, more chances to build future of their dreams.

Great change means great challenges. SOTU: must face them together.

Era big government over, can't go back to: Fend for yourselves.

Instead, move forward: all Americans meet challenges together:
families, schools, churches, businesses.

NEED TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE WINS

Republicans think they discovered issue - have talked about it since I ran for president.

Bottom 1/2 of our workforce is working harder for same or lower wages than they were 10-15 years ago.

DOWNSIZING

Two causes. Sometimes: workers being treated unfairly

Usually: Inevitable result of technological revolution

But the seven biggest economies in the world have produced net 8.4m jobs - US 8.4m, others 0.

Need to have a new social compact for people who work hard and play by the rules

UNIONS: FOUR DECADES OF STANDING UP FOR JOBS AND JUSTICE

Labor movement has crucial role to play.

Workers who have joined unions earn more. Treated better. Receive better benefits.

Congratulations to AFL-CIO - picked the perfect time to launch your comeback.

THIS ADMINISTRATION

Family Medical Leave Act; EITC - 17.5m families this year

Now, minimum wage - approaching 40-year low

Kennedy-Kassebaum - guarantee that workers who change/lose their jobs won't lose their health insurance

Pensions - if you change job, should be able to take pension with you

Training - GI Bill for workers

Tax Deduction - give every family a tax deduction for cost of education after high school

IN OHIO - CHALLENGED CORPORATIONS

To be good corporate citizens.

Family friendly. Access to health care and retirement benefits. Invest in employees. Work in partnership with employees - incl. through unions. Safe workplace.

WORKING TOGETHER

Need to go toward the future together, determined to make the most of our own lives.

When we are divided we defeat ourselves, when we are united, America always wins.

TALKING POINTS FOR REMARKS

THE PRESIDENT HAS SL
5-26-95

BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 26, 1995

COPY

[Acknowledgements: Secretary Reich for introduction, President Kirkland; and members of the Executive Council. A special thank you to retiring Secretary-Treasurer Tom Donahue for his decades of service to AFL-CIO and the labor movement in this country. You are a man of great strength and integrity. We'll miss you.]

- At a time when the hard fought gains of the past are under attack, the working men and women of this country are fortunate to have your leadership. But I want you to know that you don't have to fight by yourselves. We're fighting together. And we're going to win.

- I believe that good, strong unions and good-faith collective bargaining is essential to helping us meet the challenges of the future. I want to thank you for the support you have given to our efforts to prepare America's workers for the 21st century.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- One of the first things I did as President was rescind the anti-union Executive Orders of the last 12 years. Two months ago, I signed an Executive Order that bars Federal agencies from doing business with companies that hire permanent replacement workers.

- Economic policies have helped create more than 6 million new jobs, most paying at or above the national average.
- Unemployment at a four-year low -- 5.7 percent; African American unemployment below 10 percent -- lowest level since the Vietnam War.

- Family and Medical Leave.
- EITC -- tax cut for 15 million low-income families.
- NLRB appointments -- Appointments reflect the view that collective bargaining is a right, not a privilege.

- Stronger enforcement of worker protection laws: Office of Federal Contract Compliance, Mine Safety and Health, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Veteran Employment and Training Service, and OSHA.

I am the first President since Richard Nixon signed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, to highlight workplace safety and OSHA.

[Tell story about working one day a month in Arkansas factories when you were Governor.]

- Motor Voter law.

- Active role in helping resolve tough collective bargaining disputes: American Airlines, Long Island Railroad, UPS, Teamster national trucking contract, Mineworkers and Bituminous Coal Operators Association.

BUT WE MUST DO MORE...

- Must not let Congress roll back by repealing or weakening protections that you struggled for. I will veto any effort to weaken section 8(a)(2) of the National Labor Relations Act. I will veto any effort to repeal the Davis-Bacon and Service Contract Acts.

- Minimum Wage -- Must raise wages for all Americans.
[tell story about woman who when asked about the threat of lay-offs because of a higher minimum wage said, "Honey, I'll take my chances."]
- Training vouchers for unemployed and underemployed workers.

- International Labor Standards -- We have taken a tough stand on U.S.-Japan trade in autos and auto parts and we appreciate your support.
- World Trade Organization -- We continue to push for some form of international labor rights and the linkage of worker rights and trade.

- The Budget -- As I said in my State of the Union Address in January, and have repeated several times since, "I certainly want to balance the budget." And we've already cut the deficit by more than \$600 billion. Our budget would be in balance today if it were not for the interest on the debt run up between 1981 and 1992.

I want to work with Congress to move towards a balanced budget. But there is a right way and a wrong way.

The right way is based on three essential conditions:
First, any tax cut must be modest, limited and targeted to middle class families -- we don't need an extravagant and untargeted tax cut for the well-off paid for by cuts in education and Medicare.

Second, we can only fix the rise in Medicare spending in the context of broader health care reform. And third, we must preserve our commitment to education, especially in this time of intense global competition.

- You and I are fighting for the same thing -- economic growth and a strong future for the working men and women of this country. Our strength and freedom as a nation are at stake. We must not, and we will not fail.

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March 15, 1996

Warm greetings to the members of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, as you celebrate your 100th anniversary.

Your long-standing dedication to putting the American Dream within reach of working Americans serves as an example of caring and leadership to which we can all aspire. As we stand on the threshold of the twenty-first century, we recognize that the battles fought and won by America's labor unions have made this country stronger and more prosperous throughout past decades. You can take pride in knowing that your union has helped to build a solid foundation for working people across this nation.

As the American workplace continues to experience challenge and change, I am grateful for your continuing support and commitment. Hillary joins me in sending best wishes for many more years of success.

BILL CLINTON A

BC/DH/ckb-ech-mah (Corres. #2754748)
PM-031A
(3.aflcio.msg)
Enclosure: b&w BC photo
(Event: 03/30/96; wants 03/15/96)

/cc: Presidential Messages, 91 OEOB

SENT TO:
Mr. Joslyn N. Williams
President
Metropolitan Washington Council
AFL-CIO
Suite 300
1101 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

COPY

/DO NOT MAIL -- RETURN TO CARMEN FOWLER, 91 OEOB

TJ

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June 14, 1995

Greetings to everyone gathered in Hot Springs for the twentieth biennial convention of the Arkansas AFL-CIO.

I have fond memories of the many conventions I attended while I was Governor, and I am pleased that all of you continue in your commitment to supporting the interests of the hardworking men and women of Arkansas. Your wisdom and dedication have helped to focus national attention on the needs of America's families, bringing hope and opportunity to those who have built our country and kept it strong.

I stand with you in the struggle for worker empowerment, job growth, workplace safety, and fundamental fairness. Together, we can build a strong economy for today's workers and a brighter future for generations of Americans to come.

Best wishes for a most successful event.

BC/SEM/DNP/pw
(6.aficio.msg)

(Corres. #2287855)
BILL CLINTON *A*

(Event: 6/19)

✓ cc: Presidential Messages, 91 OEOB

SENT TO:
Mr. Bill Becker
President
Arkansas AFL-CIO Convention
1115 Bishop Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

COPY

✓ DO NOT MAIL -- RETURN TO CARMEN FOWLER, 91 OEOB,
TO RETURN TO DONALD DUNN

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LABOR DAY 1995

COPY

Each year at this time we pause to reflect on the value of labor and the accomplishments of the American worker. This country's success depends on the efforts of its citizens to open the door to a better future. Work is the engine that drives our economy forward, moves struggling families upward into the middle class, and creates opportunities for our children. We must continually strive to create more opportunity for work for those who are willing to take the responsibility to make better lives for themselves and their families. Our labors ensure that the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness will benefit generations to come.

Let us give thanks to those who came before us and who strived to improve working conditions and create fair labor laws. They risked their livelihoods and often their very lives to ensure that children could go to school instead of to work in mines and factories, that laborers could work without risking injury, and that Americans who toiled throughout the week would be rewarded with a decent living and could spend more time raising their families. These reformers brought dignity to the workplace and integrity to our society.

Today, we recognize that management and labor face common challenges and a shared destiny in the global economy. We must continue our efforts to create further job growth and new opportunities, enabling more of our citizens to realize the American Dream. As we celebrate Labor Day, we can find strength and renewed inspiration in that Dream -- the idea that we can be good workers as well as good parents and that, through our individual efforts, we can build better lives for our children.

Best wishes to all for a memorable and meaningful holiday.
BC/SEM/KM/JB/jfc-ckb (Corres. #2334835)
(8.laborday.msg) Enclosure: b&w POTUS photo
(Event: 8/21/95; need 8/18/95)

BILL CLINTON A

cc: Presidential Messages, 91 OEOB
SENT TO: Mr. Robert L. Kite
Editor, Federation News
Chicago Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Suite 1710
130 East Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601

95082

95082

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~~DO NOT MAIL~~ RETURN TO CARMEN FOWLER, 91 OEOB, FOR DISPATCH

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 19, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES UNION, AFL-CIO

The Washington Hilton

11:53 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Bob. And thank you ladies and gentlemen for that wonderful, wonderful reception.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My hero! (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know about that, but I'm up here fighting for you every day, I'll tell you that. (Applause.)

I like looking out into a big crowd into the faces of people who have worked hard and played by the rules and tried to make this country work again. I thank you for the help you gave me last November when we said together we wanted to change this country; we wanted to break the gridlock in Washington; we wanted to change the priorities and put our people first again; we wanted to develop a high-wage, high-growth economy.

And we knew that do it we'd have to do some very tough things. All of us knew that going in. We knew that these decisions would be difficult and that they wouldn't come overnight and that the country had been going in one direction for more than a decade and you couldn't turn it around overnight. But everyone knew that we had to reduce this awful federal deficit; we had to increase our investment in our people and jobs at the same time; we had to address the health care crisis now. We're spending 15 percent of our national income on health care with 37 million people uninsured, 100,00 people a month losing their health insurance, and more and more money every year going to health care instead of invest in jobs and growth and the economy. We knew we had to make some changes.

I made some commitments to you, and I told you that if you'd vote for me, I'd try to bring fairness and growth and opportunity back to America. I tried to do everything that I said I'd do. I've confronted some different and difficult circumstances, but we are moving ahead.

I have been gratified, frankly, by most of what has happened here in the last two-and-a-half months. Congress passed a resolution endorsing the budget plan I presented to reduce the deficit and increase investment in jobs and education and training in record time. They have never passed a budget plan that fast.

And then I said, well, now I think we ought to have an emergency jobs plan to try to jump-start this economy, to put a half a million more people back to work through direct investment in the public and private sector over the next year and a half because this economy doesn't seem to be creating any jobs, even though everybody tells us we're in a recovery.

And there was broadbased support for that, for creating jobs and using the money to immunize children and to rebuild our community and to rebuild our infrastructure. The bill swept through the House and is supported by a majority of the Senate.

A few weeks ago we had a meeting of business and labor leaders that included Bob Georgine and Lane Kirkland and some of the biggest business people in this country saying we need the jobs bill. And the labor movement has shown real leadership on this issue in working in partnership with business on the concept of investment.

I tried to look hard at this economy and ask what we can do. How can we move this economy forward? How can we do it in the short-term and in the long-term? Over the long-term, we've got to bring the deficit down. That gets interest rates down. You've seen that already. Interest rates have come down since the election. And billions of dollars are being refinanced in homes, in car loans, in commercial loans, in business loans. And that's going to mean more jobs for people like you. But it also means that we have to have some direct investment to create jobs in this economy. We've got to get the economy moving. There are those who say, well, we're in a recovery and things are going fine. Well, I don't know about you, but 16 months of seven percent unemployment or more is not fine with me. I ran because I thought we could do better. (Applause.)

You know, people ask me all the time what is the real difference about being President? Is it really different? And I have to tell you, after just a couple of months, I've got an enormous amount of sympathy with every predecessor I ever had who got out of touch. (Laughter.)

You know, you live in the nicest public housing in America -- (laughter); and somebody drives you around everywhere; and you're always being protected because you are at some risk; and you've got the nicest airplane anybody ever saw -- (laughter); and nobody except your wife and your momma and your nearest family can call you by your first name anymore without violating protocol. Before you know it, you're just walking around in a bubble.

The other day -- this is a true story -- the other day I came down from the upper residence floor of the White House down to the first floor -- the big floor -- and I was going to a meeting, and I didn't know it but my wife had had a meeting with a bunch of other people, and when the elevator door opened I found myself standing in the midst of 20 or 30 people. I didn't know them, and I just shook hands with them, and said hello, and went on and -- to give you an example of how bad it is -- this very nice person working at the White House said: oh, Mr. President, I'm so sorry I let you out in the middle of those people. (Laughter.) And so I looked at him and I said: That's okay young man, I used to be one myself. (Laughter and applause.)

It's so easy for people who make decisions here to forget. You know, everybody that makes a decision here has got a job. Everybody that makes a decision here that affects your life, got a good education. Everybody that makes a decision here has got a good health care plan, and has pretty good security because we keep taking in tax dollars.

And it's important that we think about where other people are. Unemployment in building trades across the board is about 14 percent, about twice the national average. And yet we know we're spending much less of our income investing in building things, in the infrastructure and in construction and things that really make

a country rich over the long run than almost all of our competitors.

We also know that every wealthy country in the world is having trouble creating jobs. All the rich countries are. Even Japan's seen its unemployment rate go up some, and theirs is lower than everybody else's because their economy is more closed. But all the wealthy countries -- including Japan, including Germany -- are having difficulty creating jobs. This is not just an American problem. But we need to find the courage and the creativity to solve the problem. We're not like some of those countries who give you your wages for a year and a half and all of your benefits if you lose the job. In America people need to work. And you just think about it, about half our problems would go away overnight if everybody in this country who wanted to work had a job. (Applause.)

There are more than a million fewer jobs in the private sector now than there were before this recession began. Almost -- virtually all the net growth in employment has come in local, state and federal government. And if you will forgive me, that's not a very sound basis for long-term economic recovery, because their bills are all paid by somebody else. The somebody elses need the work. And that's what we're trying to do.

Last year, more businesses failed than at any time in memory. Last month we lost a total of net 22,000 jobs, including 59,000 construction jobs. There are now 16 million Americans who are looking for the wages and dignity of full-time work. There may be more who aren't on the roles who have just given up trying.

I've taken a lot of heat because I have cut government programs that some people in my own party like a lot. I offered a program that had 200 specific budget cuts, a program that will reduce this deficit by about \$500 billion over five years. I don't think the government can do everything or should try to do everything. And a lot of what we used to do either doesn't need to be done or must be done by state and local government or the private sector. But I am not willing to say when seven percent of our people are unemployed and have been for 16 months; when millions more are underemployed; when business is under so much pressure that 100,000 Americans a month are losing their health insurance; when city after city after city in this country is full of young people who won't have anything to do this summer and have never had a good job and need to have the experience of working; that we shouldn't do more to create real opportunity and to have the dignity of work and to develop the capacity of our people.

I just think we can do better. I did not ask for this job for the honor, great as it is, of living in the White House and riding around in all the limousines and the airplanes. It is a very great honor to be President, but you can only do honor to the job if you get up every day and try to make things better and change things. (Applause.) That's why I asked you to give me the job. (Applause.)

Now, I need your help today, because I know that the building trades have been willing in the past to endorse builders, whether they were Republicans or Democrats. And you have been willing to endorse people that you thought at the state level -- members of Congress and others at the state level -- who would help you to put people to work. Some of the people you endorsed are now involved in the Senate filibuster of the jobs plan.

Now, this plan will create hundreds of thousands of jobs. Is it the answer to all our problems? No. Is it big enough? Probably not, but it's about as big as it can be given the size of the deficit and the fact that we've got to bring that down and keep

interest rates down. Will it hurt the economy? No.

We want to put people to work in construction. We also want to rehire thousands of police officers who have lost their jobs so they can do a better job protecting people from crime. You know, there was a fascinating article on Los Angeles the other day before the verdict in the King case, which said that in all neighborhoods without regard to race or income people wanted more police officers. They wanted community policing. They knew it would reduce the possibility of abusive police power if they had enough police on the street so that they knew their neighbors. They worked together to prevent crime as well as to catch criminals. And people felt less tension and more community.

That's what's also in this jobs plan. In your industry, a \$450 billion a year industry, we can create about 23,000 to 25,000 jobs directly, quickly -- quickly -- if this bill will pass. We can give 700,000 young people a chance to have a job this summer that will not only be a real job but will require them to do some more work on their education so that they will learn even as they earn.

We will provide some loans to small businesses where most of the new jobs are created. The Republican Party has been a champion of this small business program in the past as they have been of the community development block grants -- Republican mayors all over America supporting my jobs program as the Republican senators say how bad the community development block grant is. They used to trust mayors and governors when they had a Republican in the White House; I don't know what this has got to do with me. (Laughter.) They've still got the same mayors and governors they had before.

It's time to stop playing politics and move forward. Many of the projects funded by this jobs plan have sat on the shelves for years while deficits exploded and investments in the things that make the economy strong and the people strong have been totally neglected.

Now, what are my opponents saying? Why did they say it's okay for the minority to keep the majority from even voting on this bill? They say this bill adds to the deficit. Well, I'll give you four arguments against that. I want you to give it back to them before you leave town.

First, they're more than happy to pay for unemployment benefits to be extended. That is, they say, okay, we'll vote for that in emergency funding. But they won't create any money to put people to work so they don't have to draw unemployment. Now, we tried it their way for 12 years. They always voted to extend unemployment benefits. I'd like to extend employment benefits. That's a lot better than unemployment benefits. (Applause.)

Second thing you need to know is, because of some savings in the defense budget, which have already occurred, we could pass every dollar in this jobs bill and still be below the target for total discretionary federal spending set by these folks in Congress before I ever got here. They never tell you that.

Third thing you need to know, as I said, is that we have proposed 200 specific budget cuts that will more than pay for this modest amount of extra spending. And very often in the past, these same folks have voted to spend money this year and pay for it in the years ahead in a five-year budget plan.

And, finally -- and maybe most importantly, many and perhaps most of the Senators who are blocking consideration of our

plan have actually voted for emergency measure after emergency measure after emergency measure -- just like this for 12 years, often in legislation that wasn't paid for. And they didn't have much trouble with it then when their guys were in the White House.

This plan puts people to work. It's paid for. It doesn't shift jobs overseas, it puts jobs on the streets of America. (Applause.) Many of the people who are leading this filibuster voted for a stimulus plan like this under President Reagan back in 1983. We did some quick research over the weekend. It appears that 28 times in the last 12 years many of the same people who are holding this bill up voted to do the same thing I'm asking for to the tune of over \$100 billion, often for foreign aid, and for other things that didn't have nearly as much to do with affecting the lives of the American people in Main Street America. And it's time to help Main Street America.

We had an election in November that said stop this gridlock, stop the partisan bickering, compromise, work together, move the country forward, and start by putting the American people back to work. That's what this is all about. (Applause.) Don't listen to those arguments. (Applause.)

So that's it. When they say, oh, we can't add to the deficit, say, well, you guys -- you guys; not the Democrats -- you guys -- you voted for 12 years for these kinds of things, often to help countries, why not help us? One. (Applause.) Two, you've got \$500 billion in deficit reduction; it'll cover this real well.

Three, you're still under the spending targets that you adopted before President Clinton ever got to town. And, four, we need this jobs plan. We don't need to fund just unemployment benefits, we want to fund employment benefits. (Applause.)

This whole thing has got to be about enabling people to live up to their potential. I went on these buses all across the country with Hillary and Al and Tipper Gore, and we went into little towns and big cities. Over and over and over again, what I left those encounters with was the sense that Americans were yearning just to be themselves as fully as they could be. And you can't do that if you can't have a job. You can't do that if you can't get a decent education. You can't do that if you think no matter how hard you work you, can't take care of your family if they get sick. You can't do that if you think you can never change jobs without losing your health benefits.

But if you think about it, we live in a world where the power of people is uppermost. We live in a country where, thank God, no one is a dictator. We have to work together. We have to be able to put aside our partisan labels and, sometimes our personal prejudices and think about what it takes to pull people together and give everybody a chance to be the most they can be. That's what the whole purpose of politics is.

And when this bill was held up, I didn't like it, but I offered to compromise -- to take some of the jobs out of it, though it grieves me to try to respond to some of the specific speeches that were given by Republican senators on the floor of the Senate.

And so far what have they said to my good faith offer? Same old thing -- stonewall. This is the deficit; we can't add to the deficit. Folks, this is the crowd that had the government for 12 years. They took the deficit from \$1 trillion to \$4 trillion. Have they no shame. How can they say this? (Applause.) What is going on? Sometimes I think the secret to success in this town is being

able to say the most amazing things with a straight face.
(Laughter.)

We're going to get the deficit down. We're going to try to keep interest rates down. But we've got to invest in people, and we've got to try to create jobs. Will this work wonders? No. Will it work some good? Yes, you bet it will. (Applause.) It is an effort -- did I even campaign on this -- no. You endorsed me without asking me to promise an emergency jobs program. I offered this program for the simple reason that I looked at the performance of this economy and its difficulty in creating jobs. Then I looked around the world and I saw all these other countries having the same exact problem we were having, and I thought we've got to try something else. And I'll tell you something, if we get this done and it doesn't work, I'll try something else. (Applause.) We're living in a new and different time where we've got to try. (Applause.)

I ask you, every one of you that ever had a chance to make it because you joined this union, because somebody invested in a project that gave you a chance to work, because you had the opportunity to raise a family and have a house, educate kids. Just take a little time now and ask the people you know in the United States Congress -- who have all made it -- to think about how together we can provide these opportunities for others. The arguments they are using just don't hold water. They don't measure against the facts of what they have done in the past and what the facts of this budget that I have presented are. This is a modest program to give hope and opportunity to people in this country who need it, and to try to get the job engine going in America again.

I have compromised. I have held out my hand. I think it's time for somebody to reach back across the divide of party politics and put the American people first. And you can help get it done today. I hope you will.

Thank you, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END12:13 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

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October 23, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO AFL-CIO CONVENTION

Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers
New York, New York

5:45 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for the wonderful welcome. Thank you, Tom, for the great introduction. I wish I'd been here to hear it. (Laughter.) But I appreciate it.

You know, I've taken so many controversial positions in the last three years, I thought I'd come here and tell you what you ought to do in this election. (Laughter.) You should elect -- listen to this -- you ought to elect an Irish American from the Bronx who comes out of the Service Employees Union. (Laughter and applause.)

I just want you to know that whatever you do, I intend to be there with you every step of the way. And I know how important this is. (Applause.) Thank you.

Let me say before I get into my remarks, I have just come, as I think all of you know, from Hyde Park in a meeting with President Yeltsin of Russia. We made a lot of progress today in agreeing to work toward peace in Bosnia, something that concerns every citizen of the world whose conscience has been shocked by all the children and other innocent people who have been killed there.

We also agreed on working together, very importantly, to control the spread of nuclear materials, something that is a very serious problem in the aftermath of the Cold War, to minimize the prospect that terrorists will ever be able to get small amounts of nuclear material and make bombs out of them.

And finally, President Yeltsin agreed with me that we should go for the strongest possible comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty next year. And that means we will probably get it and the world will be much safer as a result of it. (Applause.)

I know that you have -- all of you -- and I came here more than anything else just to thank you, because I know that you have waged a strong and passionate grass-root campaign for a year now to oppose the cuts in worker safety and job training, in education and health care, being considered in the Congress. The White House mail room is jammed with postcards from union retirees. (Applause.) Thank you. This may be the high-tech age, but you have got the Capitol Hill switchboards groaning with calls from your members. And I say, send more. (Applause.) And I know that those ads you're running have gotten some members of Congress suffering with heartburn. And we just need to pour it on a little more. I thank you for that. (Applause.)

I come here today with a simple message: This is a very

great country. You helped to make it that way. We're on the edge of a new century. We're living in a time of great change. No one can perceive clearly all the implications of that change.

We know that we've moved from an industrial age to an information and technology age, which, as all of you know if your own experience, even industry and agriculture is infused today with more technology. We know we have moved from the bipolar world of the Cold War to a global village in which we have undreamed of new possibilities, but also a lot of new vulnerabilities because of the changes that are going on.

And we know we've got to somehow harness this change to benefit ordinary people in our country and throughout the world. We have to do it consistent with the basic values that made America great and that make life worth living; values that your movement embodies -- a commitment to opportunity for every American; to the dignity of work; to the commitment that the family should be strengthened and children should be nurtured, and parents should be honored; a recognition that we have to go forward or backward together and, therefore, it is crazy for us to be divided by race, by region, by income and any way that in any way saps our strength; and the determination to keep this country the strongest nation on Earth.

Those are the things which have animated the labor movement in the later half of the 20th century. And those are the values that will take us into the 21st century.

Three years ago, you helped the American people to send me to Washington to uphold these values and to turn our economy around. I had a commitment to make the American Dream real for all Americans in the 21st century and to make sure that our country would remain the strongest country in the world. I had a simple strategy to harness change to benefit all of us. I thought we needed to be faithful to the mainstream values I just mentioned. I thought we needed a middle class economic strategy to grow the middle and shrink the under class. I thought we needed a modern government that would be less bureaucratic, more entrepreneurial, but still strong enough to take care of the business that the people need done.

The lion's share of the credit belongs to you and the rest of the American people, but we're moving in the right direction. And I know that our policies had something to do with it. We've got 7.5 million new jobs in this country after the slowest job growth in the country since the Great Depression in the four years before I took office. We've got 2.5 million more homeowners, 2 million new small businesspeople, the lowest combined rate of inflation and unemployment in 25 years. Our country is safer and stronger -- (applause) -- our country is safer and stronger. For the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age, there's not a single solitary nuclear missile pointed at the people of the United States of America. And I'm proud of that. (Applause.)

And by the grace of God, from Northern Ireland to Haiti, to the Middle East, now to Bosnia, the United States is a strong partner in pushing for peace.

Maybe most important of all, this country seems to be slowly coming together around its values again. It's hard to turn a great country around, but when we get going in a certain direction, we can make a real difference. In almost every state, in this great city where you're meeting, the crime rate is down, the murder rate is down, the welfare rolls are down, the food stamp rolls are down. Believe it or not, the poverty rate is down, and the teen pregnancy rate has dropped for two years in a row. America is coming back and moving

together. (Applause.)

And we proved you could do it together. Instead of just condemning the government the way my predecessors did, we made a partnership with the federal employees and in a balanced and fair and disciplined way. (Applause.) We tried to downsize the government so that this big government attack is a myth today. But we left our government strong enough for the employees that are there to do their jobs. And we just didn't throw anybody on the street -- we gave them good buyout provisions. We tried to protect their retirement. We treated them and their families with decency and the honor and the respect they were entitled to after the years they had served the United States of America. (Applause.) And that's the way this ought to be done everywhere. (Applause.)

Let me tell you what the federal employees are doing -- just a few things. I could talk all day about it. But federal employees working in the Commerce Department, in the Export-Import Bank, in other areas, have helped to create good jobs, many of them union jobs, in America by increasing our exports 4 percent, 10 percent, and 16 percent this year, in the last three years. A lot of that was done because of the aggressive actions by people who work for the United States government.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency -- we've had as many natural disasters to deal with in the last three years as any time I can remember. And it is probably the most popular arm of the federal government because the federal employees have been there in a timely, aggressive, effective fashion when they were needed, whether it was for floods in the Middle West or fires and earthquakes in the West, or anything else. And I am proud of that. (Applause.)

And let me tell you something I'm especially proud of. BusinessWeek Magazine, which is hardly an arm of the federal government or the Democratic Party, every year gives awards to businesses that perform at the highest level of efficiency in a number of categories. And one of their categories is for customer service over the telephone. So the businesses that compete, for example, are Southwest Airlines or L.L. Bean, or, you know, anybody that you call on the telephone. You know who won this year? The Social Security Administration of the federal government won that award. (Applause.)

These federal employees operate a Medicare program that has a two-percent administrative cost, lower than any private insurance program in the United States of America. (Applause.) Something you rarely hear about in the debate going on in Congress today. They have implemented a crime bill that's putting 100,000 police on the streets of America, and they're doing it on time and under budget. They have implemented the motor voter law, the family leave law, both those things that you helped to get.

They have been able to be much tougher in getting -- capturing large quantities of drugs before they come into this country without going into a bunch of immigrant bashing. They have been able to discipline -- in a disciplined way strengthen our ability to reduce the problems of illegal immigration in the United States. And they have fought discrimination, something that was out of fashion for the federal government to do until this administration came in. And I thank them for it. (Applause.)

And guess what? We've been able to prove you can grow the economy and be decent to working people, something that the people who were there before and the people who are in the Congress today in the dominant positions apparently don't believe. If you look at what's happened -- and I'm sure Tom mentioned a lot of this -- but when we

repealed my predecessors' antiunion executive orders that denied American workers their rights from private industry to public service, it didn't hurt the economy. The economy got better, not worse. (Applause.) When we said in no uncertain terms that you ought to have a fair, decent, effective NLRB, and we did our best to provide that, the economy got better, not worse. It didn't undermine the American economy. (Applause.)

When we refused to go along with repealing Davis-Bacon and the service contract law, the economy didn't collapse; it helped to create more high-wage jobs, not fewer. (Applause.) And when we began to crack down on sweatshops where unscrupulous employers make illegal immigrants work in prison-like conditions, depriving them of the minimum wage, overtime pay, a safe workplace and the right to organize, it will make us stronger, not weaker. (Applause.)

And when we have refused to go along with the attempts of some people to weaken our ability to provide a safe workplace, it has not weakened the economy, it has helped to make the American economy stronger. It is time we accepted a fundamental lesson -- treating working people in a decent, fair, human, enlightened way gives you a stronger American economy, not a weaker one. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Four more years! Four more years! Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Now, we do have some real challenges before us. You and I know that this recovery benefits have not been spread evenly to all Americans. We know that we've been in a time of increasing inequality. By the way, this is what usually happens when you move from one economic model to another. When we move from the Agricultural Age to the Industrial Age, the labor movement grew up because there were so many people who were being exploited, not benefitting from the benefits of the new Industrial Age. So whenever you change in a huge way the way people work and live and relate to each other and the rest of the world, some will be well-positioned and do well; others will not be.

That's why people need to come together, because you know in the end you cannot sustain progress unless everybody can benefit. That's one of the big reasons we had the Great Depression, because people did not understand that everybody had to have a stake in the future in order for free enterprise to flourish.

And so we have that happening today -- where people who are well-positioned tend to do well; others work harder for less and become more insecure. There are some fundamental things we have to do about it. First and most elementally, it is high time we raise the minimum wage. It is wrong -- (applause.) If we do not do that, next year the minimum wage will reach a 40-year low in purchasing power. That is not my idea of the 21st century America I want our children and grandchildren to live in. I want us to go up together.

It also will be good business. People will have more money to consume, and people who are presently out of the work force will be attracted to get back into it. There is no evidence, no evidence -- and I have read all the studies; at least I've read fair summaries of all the studies. I don't want to -- (laughter.) There is no evidence that the minimum wage, a modest increase in the minimum wage will cause unemployment. There is every evidence that it will strengthen America and bring us together. (Applause.)

The second thing I think we need to do is to make some changes that recognize that there is a fundamental difference in the nature of unemployment today and unemployment 30 years ago. The

unemployment compensation system, the whole set-up was designed for people who were laid off when there was a slowdown, and then picked right back up by their employers when the economy picked up again. It was designed to give people a way to just get by until they got called back.

As recently as 30 years ago, 80 percent -- 85 percent of the people who were laid off and collected unemployment were called back to the same job from which they were laid off. Today, over 80 percent of the people who are laid off are not called back to the same job for which they are laid off. All of you know that. Therefore, I have proposed having the Labor Department, working with the Education Department, create a G.I. Bill for America's workers which consolidates all of our training programs, puts more money into it, and gives every person who loses a job a right to get a voucher to take to the program that you want, whether it's a union apprenticeship program, a union training program, the local community college. Whatever is best needed for the people that are unemployed, they ought to have it. (Applause.) And I think we ought to do it immediately. (Applause.)

The second thing that we ought to do, if we're going to have a tax cut we ought to target it to working families and what they need the most, which is help raising their children, paying for their child care, and getting an education. So I think we ought to have a tax deduction for the cost of all education after high school. Now, that would help working people a lot. That would help. (Applause.)

The third thing I will say is -- and I know we have sometimes disagreed on this -- I believe we win when we expand trade. So it's not enough to have more free trade, which I favor, we also have to have more fair trade. That's what the Japanese auto agreement was about. And thank you, Owen Bieber, for supporting us and for finally giving us a chance to crack some of those markets that have been denied American workers for too long. And we're going to keep doing things like that all the way down. (Applause.)

Against that background this is how I think you ought to see this balanced budget fight. What has worked for us the last two and a half years? Mainstream values -- work and family and responsibility and community -- and treating people with dignity, all people, without regard to their race or their region or income. Believing that you have to lift working people up if you want other people to do well. That has worked for us.

What's worked for us? Middle class economics. Help the small business people; help the entrepreneurs; also help to grow the middle class working people and shrink the under class. That's what works. That's what is at stake in this budget battle.

This is not -- I want to say this and I want you to go home and tell everybody you know this -- this is not a battle about balancing the budget. That has nothing to do with what is going on in Washington today. I gave the Congress a balanced budget. You'd be better off if we could balance the budget. When we quadrupled the debt in 12 years before I showed up, what happened? We had to spend more and more money on interest on the debt; we had less and less money to invest in worker training, in new technology, and the kinds of things that will grow the economy, raise incomes, educate our children.

It would be a good thing to do. But we have to do that, like everything else, consistent with our values and our objectives. That is what is at stake. It is what kind of America are we going to live in.

I've given the Congress a balanced budget that cuts all

kinds of spending; it eliminates hundreds of programs; but it increases our investment in education, in technology, in research. It protects instead of hurts the old, the poor, the disable, the little children on Medicare and Medicaid. It supports investment in worker safety and in a clean environment, and in the kinds of national treasures that we share together. That is the kind of balanced budget we need.

And that is what I want to talk to you about. I am not about to do something that I think will prevent us from doing what I ran for President to do -- giving every American a shot at the American Dream, and making sure this is the strongest, finest country in the world in the 21st century. I am not going to do that. And you shouldn't put up with it. (Applause.) You shouldn't put up with it.

Now, here's what I mean. I'm going to give you the 10 greatest hits or so of this present budget. This is not the Letterman show and so it won't all be funny. You may have to laugh a couple of times to keep from crying, but here's what this is really about. Here's what the real contract is.

We all say we believe in honoring our parents for what they have done for us. And Medicare is a way of honoring our parents. We have to slow the rate of growth of medical inflation. We have to secure the Medicare Trust Fund. I presented a budget which will do that.

We have to recognize that health care is changing. I have no problem with giving seniors the option to join managed care plans if they can get lower costs or better services. I think we should do that. I'm sympathetic with doctors and hospitals and their need to have some changes in the law so they can work together to compete with insurance companies to provide managed care. I'm not against that.

But I'll tell you what I am against. I'm against this budget that was passed that, believe it or not, makes it easier to commit waste, fraud and abuse when the federal government says up to 10 percent of the money may be wasted. They passed a budget to make it easier to commit waste, fraud and abuse, but harder for the poorest, the oldest and the sickest seniors to make sure their health care needs are met. That is wrong. I don't like it; I won't support it; and if it passes, I will veto it. (Applause.) It is wrong. (Applause.)

I want to talk to you about the Medicaid program. There's a lot of AFSME workers here -- (applause) -- who work in health care institutions that depend on Medicaid. New York City has a whole health care network that depends not just on Medicare, but Medicaid. Most people think Medicaid is the welfare health program. Let me tell you -- 70 percent of the Medicaid money goes to the elderly and the disabled for nursing home care, for in-home care, for physician care. Thirty percent of the Medicaid money does go to poor people, not all of them on welfare; some of them even working for very poor wages. And most of that money goes to take care of the little children. Over one in five children in the United States of America is eligible for Medicaid help for health care.

And all those kids, they may not be in your family, but they're your kids. And 20 years from now, they're either going to be in jail or in school or in the workplace. And they're going to be a big part of our future. And I don't know about you, but when I retire, I want them out there working, making lots of money, taking care of me. And I want to take care of their health right now. (Applause.)

So my idea of the 21st century is not a Medicaid program that takes away the money that helps the poorest seniors to pay their part of the Medicare program. That's right -- they get rid of it -- \$10 billion. We help the poorest old folks pay their co-pays. We help them

pay the fees they owe under Medicare because they don't have any money. There's a lot of old folks out there -- there's folks still living on \$300 a month. This budget takes it all away. And there's been a study which estimates that it may take at least a million elderly people out of the Medicare program.

I was in Texas the other night at a fundraiser, and doctor came up to me. A doctor came up to me, and he said, you keep fighting on this. He said, I've been a doctor a long time. I remember when I did not have any older patients -- before Medicare, before Medicaid, when I had no older patients, because older people were too proud to come to the doctor if they couldn't pay their bills, so a lot of them just stayed home and got sick and died. It is wrong. I will not put up with it. (Applause.) It is not right. (Applause.) And you shouldn't put up with it either. (Applause.) It is not right. (Applause.) It is not right. (Applause.)

I want to tell you one more thing about this Medicaid plan. It says, oh, we're going to block-grant this to the states. We're going to get these terrible federal rules and regulations out of the state's hair. I was a governor for 12 years. I used to sing that song. (Laughter.) I believe in that.

Our administration -- don't you let anybody tell you this is about state's right -- our administration has given more waivers, more freedom to get out from under rules to state governments to experiment with moving people from welfare to work or serving more people, getting health insurance to more people than the last two administrations combined. More in 2.5 years than they did in 12 years. (Applause.) This is not about giving the states flexibility. (Applause.)

But let me tell you the kind of things they want to let the states do, and what they don't want to let the states do, and it will tell you what's really behind this. They've adopted their Medicaid programs. And among other things, they say that the state ought to get Medicaid block-granted, and they ought to have the right to get rid of the so-called spousal impoverishment rule.

That's government language. You know what that means? That means if an elderly couple lived to be 78 years old, and they've been married 50 years and they're living on their Social Security, and one of gets so sick that he or she needs to go in the nursing home, they want to give back to the state governments the right to tell the one that doesn't go to the nursing home: You want your wife or your husband to get any help? You've got to sell your car, sell your house, clean out your bank account, give it to us, and then we'll give you a little help. We don't know how you're going to live. I don't like that. That is not my idea of the 21st century I want to live in.

But you know what? In the next breath, do you know what they did? They took away from the states -- they say, we're going to give you lots of flexibility and a little less money. And we want you to run it however you want to, but, oh, oh, there's one thing you've been doing we're not going to let you do anymore. Right now you can bargain with the drug companies to get the lowest possible price for drugs for elderly people and little kids. And we're not going to let you do that anymore, because the drug companies don't want us to. So I'm sorry, you will have to do more with less money, but here's something you can't do. I don't know about you, but I don't get driving up the price of drugs and driving old folks into the poor house. I don't think that's right. That's not the America I want to live in. And I'm going to do everything I can to stop it. And I want you to help me. (Applause.)

Now, I want to talk to you about education. You ask anybody in the Congress, are you for education? They say, absolutely. But you've always got to ask the next question -- the first question is never enough. I'll tell you, you know the best story I know about that -- you know, there's a -- this minister was sort of a -- not a very effective minister, and people would go to sleep in his sermons. And he was overcome, and he prayed day in and day out for inspiration so he could finally give a barn-burning sermon, and everybody would stand up. And their hearts would be purified and their spiritual zeal would be great.

So he worked so hard on this, and he showed up, and he gave the sermon of his. And people were stomping and clapping, and even in this staid church were shouting amen. And he got to the final line of his sermon -- he said, I want everybody that wants to go to heaven to stand up. And the whole congregation stood up, except one woman that hadn't missed church in 45 years. And he was crestfallen. He said, Sister Jones, don't you want to go to heaven when you die? And she leapt up -- she said, I'm sorry, I thought you were trying to get up a load to go right now. (Laughter and applause.)

So you always got to ask the next question. Everybody's for education. Our budget balances the budget and increases our investment in education by \$40 billion -- by \$40 billion over seven years -- by making choices and setting priorities. Why? Because if 22 percent of the kids in this country are poor enough to be on Medicaid, they need a little extra help through Head Start to get off to a good start in school. (Applause.) Because a lot of schools are too poor to have the class sizes they need or the computers we want them to have; because a lot of kids are in danger going to and from school. And we need to give schools more help to remain safe and drug-free; because we want to make it possible for everybody to go to college.

When I ran for President, I came here and I made a specific commitment. I said if you will vote for me and get me elected, I'll do everything I can to cut the cost of college loans, to improve the repayment on college loans, and then to be tougher on people who default. We cut the default rate in half, but we also cut the cost of college loans. We made repayment easier. And to boot, we added more scholarships.

And enrollment is going up, but nowhere near what we need. I want every middle class family in this country and every poor family in this country to be able to send their kids to college. And I don't want anybody ever from now on to have to walk away from a college education because of the cost. That's my idea of the 21st century. (Applause.)

So when the Congress presents a budget that says, no, it's all right if several thousand more kids -- 20, 30, whatever it is -- more kids don't get to go to Head Start and we have to remove them; it's all right if we don't help as many schools with safe and drug-free programs as we were; it's all right if a whole lot of schools now can't use that money for their poor kids for the smaller classes and the computers; it's okay if because the people that lost money on the direct loan program, the special interests, want their money back. So we're just going to kill this program that the government's running that got lower cost college loans and better repayment terms. We're going to get rid of that and to boot, we'll get rid of somewhere between 150,000 and 380,000 scholarships. I don't know about you folks, that is not the kind of America I want for the 21st century. And I'm going to do everything I can to stop it. It is wrong. (Applause.) And it's bad for our economy. It doesn't make sense. (Applause.)

And we're getting a little closer to home now. You say to

people, are you for family values? Why, of course we are -- who could be against it? Most of those who were there last time -- they're in the majority now -- when we asked them to stand up for family values by adopting the Family and Medical Leave Law, they said no. And we said yes. And there are families that are stronger today because of the Family and Medical Leave Law because they don't lose their jobs when there's a kid sick, or a parent dying, or one of them gets sick. (Applause.) It's a better country. It's a stronger country. And it's a stronger economy because of that. (Applause.)

So what do we mean? Well, family values to me means safe streets, a clean environment, economic opportunity, fair taxes, secure pensions -- let's just start there. Well, at least one House of Congress wants to eliminate our program to put 100,000 police on the street and to give communities -- the only block grant they don't like is the one we passed to give communities the power to do what they can to prevent crime, to give our children something to say yes to instead of something to say no to -- the one all the mayors love, all the governors love, everybody thinks is great -- they don't like that. Well, making us less safe is not my idea of family values.

Then they want to put 315 of our national parks and other national facilities up for sale, including Franklin Roosevelt's home where I was today. I know you find some of this unbelievable, but it's true. That's on the list. They have proposed to do all kinds of things to make it harder to preserve clean air, clean water, safe food. That's not my idea of family values.

In economic opportunity -- there's not a company in America that if they could avoid it in 1995 would cut research, technology or training. But this budget cuts research, technology and training. That's not my idea of how to build strong families.

And worst of all, there's \$148 billion of hidden taxes and fees on working families while they propose to give people in my income group a tax cut. And that's not my idea of the kind of 21st century I want to live in. (Applause.)

Now, I want you to listen to this. The Wall Street Journal -- hardly an arm of the Democratic Party -- (laughter) -- reported the other day that if this tax -- this budget passes with all of the taxes in it, and all the cuts in it -- with all the tax cuts in it, the group of Americans as a group who make less than \$30,000 a year, which is 51 percent of the American people, will have greater tax hikes than tax cuts. I get a tax cut and we're going to soak people like that?

You know, in 1993, one of the best things about our economic program was that we doubled the family tax credit, the earned income tax credit which has bipartisan support, signed into law by Gerald Ford, supported by Ronald Reagan, increased by George Bush, and we doubled it. Why? Because I wanted to be able to say to the American people, look, you got to choose work and family over welfare and dependence. And anybody who'll work 40 hours a week with children in the house -- I don't care how low their pay is -- we will not tax them into poverty, we will use the tax system to lift them out of poverty. That is the principle. That is the principle. (Applause.) And it's the right thing to do.

I mean, I thought the game plan was we were supposed to be growing the middle class and shrinking the under class. They want to cut this by more than I increased it. They want to kick people out of the middle class and then pull the ladder up so poor people can't work their way into it. You want to get more people on welfare? Raise taxes on people with two kids making \$11,000-\$12,000 a year -- and they will say, no thank you.

This does not make sense. It violates our values. It violates our interest. It is bad for the economy. It is wrong for America. And if I can stop it with a veto pen, or with my voice or whatever it takes, I am going to do everything I can to stop it. And I want you to help me, too. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Veto! (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: This is the last issue I want you to focus on. These are great hits. I want you to remember this. I want you to go home, I want you to talk to friends in the workplace and I want you to talk to friends who aren't in your union. I want you to talk to people at church, at the bowling alley, at the ballpark -- wherever two or more are gathered. I want you to talk to people. I want people to know about this.

This is their country, just like it's your country. This is not about me or the Republicans in Congress. It's about the future of the American family, the future of the American workplace, the future of the United States. And so I want you to listen to this. This is the greatest last hit.

During the 1980s, when, you know, that "everything goes" decade where everything was going to trickle down to ordinary people -- thousands and thousands of corporations transferred some \$20 billion out of their employees' pension funds for buy-outs and other purposes. An awful lot of workers lost their life savings. Last December one of the proudest things I was able to do in the last Congress, even after the November election, the Congress passed a bill that saved 8.5 million American pensions and stabilized 40 million others that were in danger of being in trouble.

I don't know what the retirement income of 48.5 million Americans is worth to the strength, the stability of America; to our pro-family, pro-work values; to our economic future. But I think it's worth an awful lot.

Now, as if we haven't learned anything from the '80s and didn't have to do that, this Republican budget would allow companies to withdraw money from their workers' pension funds to use it for whatever reason they want.

AUDIENCE: Nooo!

THE PRESIDENT: For whatever reason they want. Corporate buyouts, bonuses, any reason.

AUDIENCE: Don't let them do it, Bill!

THE PRESIDENT: Now, folks, we just had to fix this last year. You know, I don't remember as well as I used to -- (laughter) -- my circuits are kind of jammed. But I can at least remember what I did last year. (Laughter.) That is not my idea of what I want America to look like in the 21st century, taking good middle class people that worked hard all their lives, paid into their pension, showed up at work, did everything they were supposed to, and, oh, I'm sorry, your pension is gone. One of two things is going to happen. Either the government

will have to bail it out again; in which case, the deficit reduction won't take place; or we'll throw them into the street and we'll one more time shrink the middle class and grow the under class.

Say no to that. Say no to looting the pension funds. Say no, it's wrong. It's wrong. (Applause.)

And, look, the thing that bothers me about this is that this budget would snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. This country is in better shape than it was two and a half years ago. We're moving in the right direction. What we need to do is build on what we've done, not tear it down. We need to build on middle class economics. We need to build on an economy that has the largest number of new small businesses in history. We need to build on the best time for education in the last 30 years, in the last Congress. We need to build on medical reforms that are slowing the rate of medical inflation without stripping elderly people of the security and dignity of knowing that their health care is there. We do not need to tear it down. We need to prove we can make the environment and the economy go together, not walk away from our common responsibilities.

Folks, this is about more -- even more than all the things that we are concerned about that directly affect any of us individually. This is about what kind of country we're going to be. This is about what kind of people we're going to be. It's about whether we're going to live by the values we all say we believe in. It's about whether the American Dream is going to be alive in the 21st century. And what we really have to do is to do what that sign says -- if we'll just stand up for America's working families, if we'll just do what we know is right, if we'll use every tool at our command -- I will use the tools at my command, but I want you to go home and I want you to talk to people in the streets and say we're moving this country; this country is going into the 21st century.

Don't let these people take us back. If it takes a veto, you'll have it. But I need you in the streets standing up for America's future.

God bless you and thank you. (Applause.)

END

6:27 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Geneva, Switzerland)

For Immediate Release

June 16, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE

United Nations Building
Geneva, Switzerland

11:25 A.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Director General Somavia, for your fine statement and your excellent work. Conference President Mumuni, Director General Petrovsky, ladies and gentlemen of the ILO: It is a great honor for me to be here today with, as you have noticed, quite a large American delegation. I hope you will take it as a commitment of the United States to our shared vision, and not simply as a burning desire for us to visit this beautiful city on every possible opportunity.

I am delighted to be here with Secretary Albright and Secretary of Labor Herman; with my National Economic Advisor Gene Sperling, and my National Security Advisor Sandy Berger. We're delighted to be joined by the President of the American Federation of Labor, the AFL-CIO, John Sweeney, and several other leaders of the U.S. labor movement; and with Senator Tom Harkin from Iowa who is the foremost advocate in the United States of the abolition of child labor. I am grateful to all of them for coming with me, and to the First Lady and our daughter for joining us on this trip. And I thank you for your warm reception of her presence here.

It is indeed an honor for me to be the first American President to speak before the ILO in Geneva. It is long overdue. There is no organization that has worked harder to bring people together around fundamental human aspirations, and no organization whose mission is more vital for today and tomorrow.

The ILO, as the Director General said, was created in the wake of the devastation of World War I as part of a vision to provide stability to a world recovering from war, a vision put forward by our President, Woodrow Wilson. He said then, "While we are fighting for freedom we must see that labor is free." At a time when dangerous doctrines of dictatorship were increasingly appealing the ILO was founded on the realization that injustice produces, and I quote, "unrest so great that the peace and harmony of the world are imperiled."

Over time the organization was strengthened, and the United States played its role, starting with President Franklin Roosevelt and following through his successors and many others in the United States Congress, down to the strong supporters today, including Senator Harkin and the distinguished senior Senator from New York, Patrick Moynihan.

For half a century, the ILO has waged a struggle of rising prosperity and widening freedom, from the shipyards of Poland to the diamond mines of South Africa. Today, as the Director General said, you remain the only organization to bring together governments, labor unions and business, to try to unite people in common cause -- the dignity of work, the belief that honest labor, fairly compensated, gives meaning and

structure to our lives; the ability of every family and all children to rise as far as their talents will take them.

In a world too often divided, this organization has been a powerful force for unity, justice, equality and shared prosperity. For all that, I thank you. Now, at the edge of a new century, at the dawn of the Information Age, the ILO and its vision are more vital than ever -- for the world is becoming a much smaller and much, much more interdependent place. Most nations are linked to the new dynamic, idea-driven, technology-powered, highly competitive international economy.

The digital revolution is a profound, powerful and potentially democratizing force. It can empower people and nations, enabling the wise and far-sighted to develop more quickly and with less damage to the environment. It can enable us to work together across the world as easily as if we were working just across the hall. Competition, communications and more open markets spur stunning innovation and make their fruits available to business and workers worldwide.

Consider this: Every single day, half a million air passengers, 1.5 billion e-mail messages and \$1.5 trillion cross international borders. We also have new tools to eradicate diseases that have long plagued humanity, to remove the threat of global warming and environmental destruction, to lift billions of people into the first truly global middle class.

Yet, as the financial crisis of the last two years has shown, the global economy with its churning, hyperactivity, poses new risks, as well, of disruption, dislocation and division. A financial crisis in one country can be felt on factory floors half a world away. The world has changed, much of it for the better, but too often our response to its new challenges has not changed.

Globalization is not a proposal or a policy choice, it is a fact. But how we respond to it will make all the difference. We cannot dam up the tides of economic change anymore than King Knute* could still the waters. Nor can we tell our people to sink or swim on their own. We must find a new way -- a new and democratic way -- to maximize market potential and social justice, competition and community. We must put a human face on the global economy, giving working people everywhere a stake in its success, equipping them all to reap its rewards, providing for their families the basic conditions of a just society. All nations must embrace this vision, and all the great economic institutions of the world must devote their creativity and energy to this end.

Last May I had the opportunity to come and speak to the World Trade Organization and stress that as we fight for open markets, it must open its doors to the concerns of working people and the environment. Last November, I spoke to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank and stressed that we must build a new financial architecture as modern as today's markets, to tame the cycles of boom and bust in the global economy as we can now do in national economies; to ensure the integrity of international financial transactions; and to expand social safety nets for the most vulnerable.

Today I say to you that the ILO, too, must be ready for the 21st century, along the lines that Director General Somavia has outlined.

Let me begin by stating my firm belief that open trade is not contrary to the interest of working people. Competition and integration lead to stronger growth, more and better jobs, more widely shared gains. Renewed protectionism in any of our nations would lead to a spiral of retaliation that would diminish the standard of living for working people everywhere. Moreover, a failure to expand trade further could choke off innovation and diminish the very possibilities of the

information economy. No, we need more trade, not less.

Unfortunately, working people the world over do not believe this. Even in the United States, with the lowest unemployment rate in a generation, where exports accounted for 30 percent of our growth until the financial crisis hit Asia, working people strongly resist new market-opening measures. There are many reasons. In advanced countries the benefits of open trade outweigh the burdens. But they are widely spread, while the dislocations of open trade are painfully concentrated.

In all countries, the premium the modern economy places on skills leaves too many hard-working people behind. In poor countries, the gains seem too often to go to the already wealthy and powerful, with little or no rise in the general standard of living. And the international organizations charged with monitoring and providing for rules of fair trade, and enforcement of them, seem to take a very long time to work their way to the right decision, often too late to affect the people who have been disadvantaged.

So as we press for more open trade, we must do more to ensure that all our people are lifted by the global economy. As we prepare to launch a new global round of trade talks in Seattle in November, it is vital that the WTO and the ILO work together to advance that common goal.

We clearly see that a thriving global economy will grow out of the skills, the idea, the education of millions of individuals. In each of our nations and as a community of nations, we must invest in our people and lift them to their full potential. If we allow the ups and downs of financial crises to divert us from investing in our people, it is not only those citizens or nations that will suffer -- the entire world will suffer from their lost potential.

It is clear that when nations face financial crisis, they need the commitment and the expertise not only of the international financial institutions, they need the ILO as well. The IMF, the World Bank and WTO, themselves, should work more closely with the ILO, and this organization must be willing and able to assume more responsibility.

The lesson of the past two years is plain: Those nations with strong social safety nets are better able to weather the storms. Those strong safety nets do not just include financial assistance and emergency aid for poorest people, they also call for the empowerment of the poorest people.

This weekend in Cologne, I will join my partners in the G-8 in calling for a new focus on stronger safety nets within nations and within the international community. We will also urge improved cooperation between the ILO and the international financial institutions in promoting social protections and core labor standards. And we should press forward to lift the debt burden that is crushing many of the poorest nations.

We are working to forge a bold agreement to more than triple debt relief for the world's poorest nations and to target those savings to education, health care, child survival and fighting poverty. I pledge to work to find the resources so we can do our part and contribute our share toward an expanded trust fund for debt relief.

Yet, as important as our efforts to strengthen safety nets and relieve debt burdens are, for citizens throughout the world to feel that they truly have a hand in shaping their future they must know the dignity and respect of basic rights in the workplace.

You have taken a vital step toward lifting the lives of working people by adopting the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work last year. The document is a blueprint for the global economy that

honors our values -- the dignity of work, an end to discrimination, an end to forced labor, freedom of association, the right of people to organize and bargain in a civil and peaceful way. These are not just labor rights, they're human rights. They are a charter for a truly modern economy. We must make them an everyday reality all across the world.

We advance these rights first by standing up to those who abuse them. Today, one member nation, Burma, stands in defiance of the ILO's most fundamental values and most serious findings. The Director General has just reported to us that the flagrant violation of human rights persists, and I urge the ILO governing body to take definite steps. For Burma is out of step with the standards of the world community and the aspirations of its people. Until people have the right to shape their destiny we must stand by them and keep up the pressure for change.

We also advance core labor rights by standing with those who seek to make them a reality in the workplace. Many countries need extra assistance to meet these standards. Whether it's rewriting inadequate labor laws, or helping fight discrimination against women and minorities in the workplace, the ILO must be able to help.

That is why in the balanced budget I submitted to our Congress this year I've asked for \$25 million to help create a new arm of the ILO, to work with developing countries to put in place basic labor standards -- protections, safe work places, the right to organize. I ask other governments to join us. I've also asked for \$10 million from our Congress to strengthen U.S. bilateral support for governments seeking to raise such core labor standards.

We have asked for millions of dollars also to build on our voluntary anti-sweat shop initiative to encourage the many innovative programs that are being developed to eliminate sweat shops and raise consumer awareness of the conditions in which the clothes they wear and the toys they buy for their children are made.

But we must go further, to give life to our dream of an economy that lifts all our people. To do that, we must wipe from the Earth the most vicious forms of abusive child labor. Every single day tens of millions of children work in conditions that shock the conscience. There are children chained to often risky machines; children handling dangerous chemicals; children forced to work when they should be in school, preparing themselves and their countries for a better tomorrow. Each of our nations must take responsibility.

Last week, at the inspiration of Senator Tom Harkin, who is here with me today, I directed all agencies of the United States government to make absolutely sure they are not buying any products made with abusive child labor.

But we must also act together. Today, the time has come to build on the growing world consensus to ban the most abusive forms of child labor -- to join together and to say there are some things we cannot and will not tolerate.

We will not tolerate children being used in pornography and prostitution. We will not tolerate children in slavery or bondage. We will not tolerate children being forcibly recruited to serve in armed conflicts. We will not tolerate young children risking their health and breaking their bodies in hazardous and dangerous working conditions for hours unconscionably long -- regardless of country, regardless of circumstance. These are not some archaic practices out of a Charles Dickens novel. These are things that happen in too many places today.

I am proud of what is being done at your meeting. In January, I said to

our Congress and the American people in the State of the Union address, that we would work with the ILO on a new initiative to raise labor standards and to conclude a treaty to ban abusive child labor everywhere in the world. I am proud to say that the United States will support your convention. After I return home I will send it to the U.S. Senate for ratification, and I ask all other countries to ratify it, as well. (Applause.)

We thank you for achieving a true breakthrough for the children of the world. We thank the nations here represented who have made genuine progress in dealing with this issue in their own nations. You have written an important new chapter in our effort to honor our values and protect our children.

Passing this convention alone, however, will not solve the problem. We must also work aggressively to enforce it. And we must address root causes, the tangled pathology of poverty and hopelessness that leads to abusive child labor. Where that still exists it is simply not enough to close the factories where the worst child labor practices occur. We must also ensure that children then have access to schools and their parents have jobs. Otherwise, we may find children in even more abusive circumstances.

That is why the work of the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor is so important. With the support of the United States, it is working in places around the world to get children out of the business of making fireworks, to help children move from their jobs as domestic servants, to take children from factories to schools.

Let me cite just one example of the success being achieved, the work being done to eliminate child labor from the soccer ball industry in Pakistan. Two years ago, thousands of children under the age of 14 worked for 50 companies stitching soccer balls full-time. The industry, the ILO and UNICEF joined together to remove children from the production of soccer balls and give them a chance to go to school, and to monitor the results.

Today, the work has been taken up by women in 80 poor villages in Pakistan, giving them new employment and their families new stabilities. Meanwhile, the children have started to go to school, so that when they come of age, they will be able to do better jobs raising the standard of living of their families, their villages and their nation. I thank all who were involved in this endeavor and ask others to follow their lead.

I am pleased that our administration has increased our support for IPEC by tenfold. I ask you to think what could be achieved by a full and focused international effort to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Think of the children who would go to school, whose lives would open up, whose very health would flower, freed of the crushing burden of dangerous and demeaning work, given back those irreplaceable hours of childhood for learning and playing and living.

By giving life to core labor standards, by acting effectively to lift the burden of debt, by putting a more human face on the world trading system and the global economy, by ending the worst forms of child labor, we will be giving our children the 21st century they deserve.

These are hopeful times. Previous generations sought to redeem the rights of labor in a time of world war and organized tyranny. We have a chance to build a world more prosperous, more united, more humane than ever before. In so doing, we can fulfill the dreams of the ILO's founders, and redeem the struggles of those who fought and organized, who sacrificed and, yes, died -- for freedom, equality, and justice in the workplace.

It is our great good fortune that in our time we have been given the golden opportunity to make the 21st century a period of abundance and achievement for all. Because we can do that, we must. It is a gift to our children worthy of the millennium.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END 11:50 A.M. (L)

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Agenda**

Congressional Voting Record. See how your members of Congress voted on working family issues.



Social Security and Medicare. America's most successful social programs are under attack. Find out what Social Security and Medicare mean to your working family and what you can do to strengthen them.



Safety and Health Legislation. Every year more than 6 million Americans are injured or made sick by their jobs. Yet congressional leaders are trying to weaken job safety and health protections. E-mail your members of Congress, and bookmark this site to stay current on what's happening to your right to a safe and healthy job.



Patients' Bill of Rights. Think HMOs are taking the caring out of health care? Sign the online petition supporting the Patients' Bill of Rights.

**Patients'
Bill of Rights**

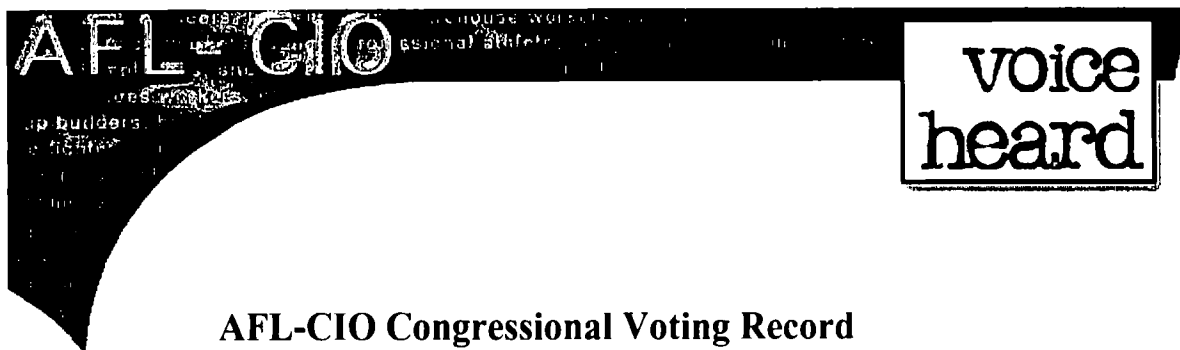


Send a Message to Your Congress Members!



Working Families Vote! Working Families made their voices heard in the 1998 elections.





AFL-CIO Congressional Voting Record

In 1996 and 1997, your senators and congressional representatives had dozens of chances to cast their votes for or against working families. This AFL-CIO electronic Voting Record will let you know where your lawmakers stand on working family issues such as Fast Track, fair wages, education, health care, workplace safety and workers' rights. With this easy-to-use electronic Voting Record, you can access the information by looking up an individual member of Congress, a state delegation or a specific piece of legislation. It also allows you to download and print complete files.

The Voting Record includes descriptions and records of 11 House votes and seven Senate votes in 1996, and seven House and seven Senate votes in 1997. In addition, the 1997 House record indicates whether your representative backed the AFL-CIO on Fast Track--which, thanks to a massive grassroots campaign by today's unions, was pulled from House consideration in late 1997.

All votes were selected for inclusion because of their importance to working families. "W" indicates a "wrong" vote that would hurt working families; "R" indicates a "right," or pro- working families, vote. The Voting Record also shows each member's lifetime record of support for working families. The AFL-CIO hopes it will help you hold your congressional representatives accountable for the votes they cast.

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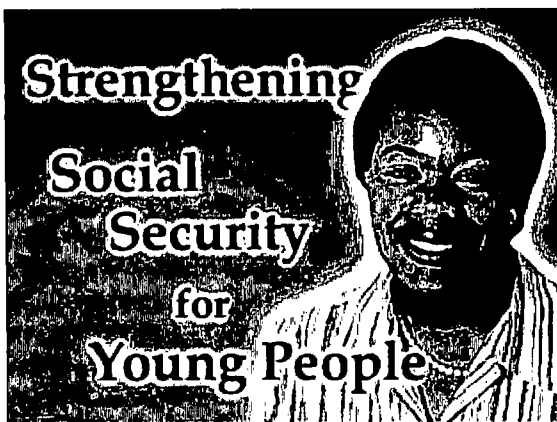
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AFL CIO

**Strengthen
SOCIAL
SECURITY
for Working
Families**

*What Working
Families Say
About Social
Security...*

Menu Selection:



At 15, Tyra Brown learned how critical Social Security is for young people when her mother died and Social Security benefits enabled her to survive financially. A new poll shows that young people overwhelmingly support the Social Security program.

News for Working Families

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- [Young People Support Strengthening Social Security](#)
- [Private Accounts Costs Could Diminish Social Security Savings](#)
- [Senators Face a Choice](#)
- [Reports Call for Strengthening Social Security and Medicare for Older Women](#)
- [White House: Seniors Don't Have Insurance Coverage for Medication](#)
- [California State Senate on Record Supporting Social Security](#)

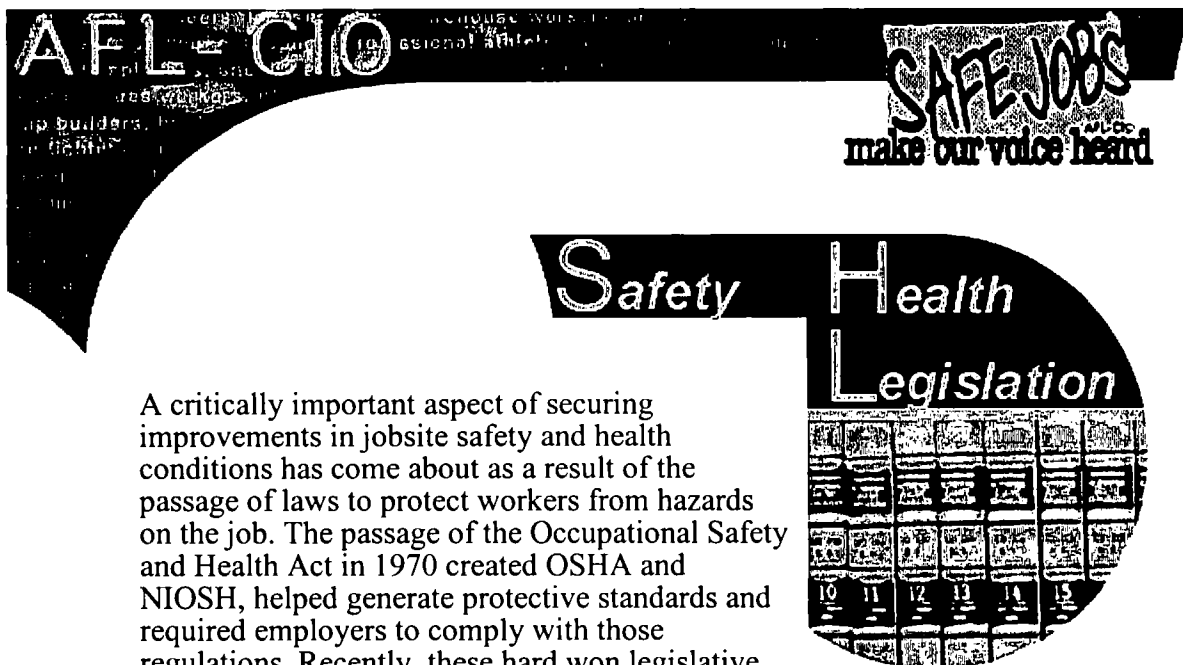
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MORE

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A critically important aspect of securing improvements in jobsite safety and health conditions has come about as a result of the passage of laws to protect workers from hazards on the job. The passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 1970 created OSHA and NIOSH, helped generate protective standards and required employers to comply with those regulations. Recently, these hard won legislative gains have come under severe attack. Since the Republicans assumed control of both houses of Congress in 1994, a number of legislative initiatives have been introduced that are designed to weaken the laws protecting the safety and health of workers.

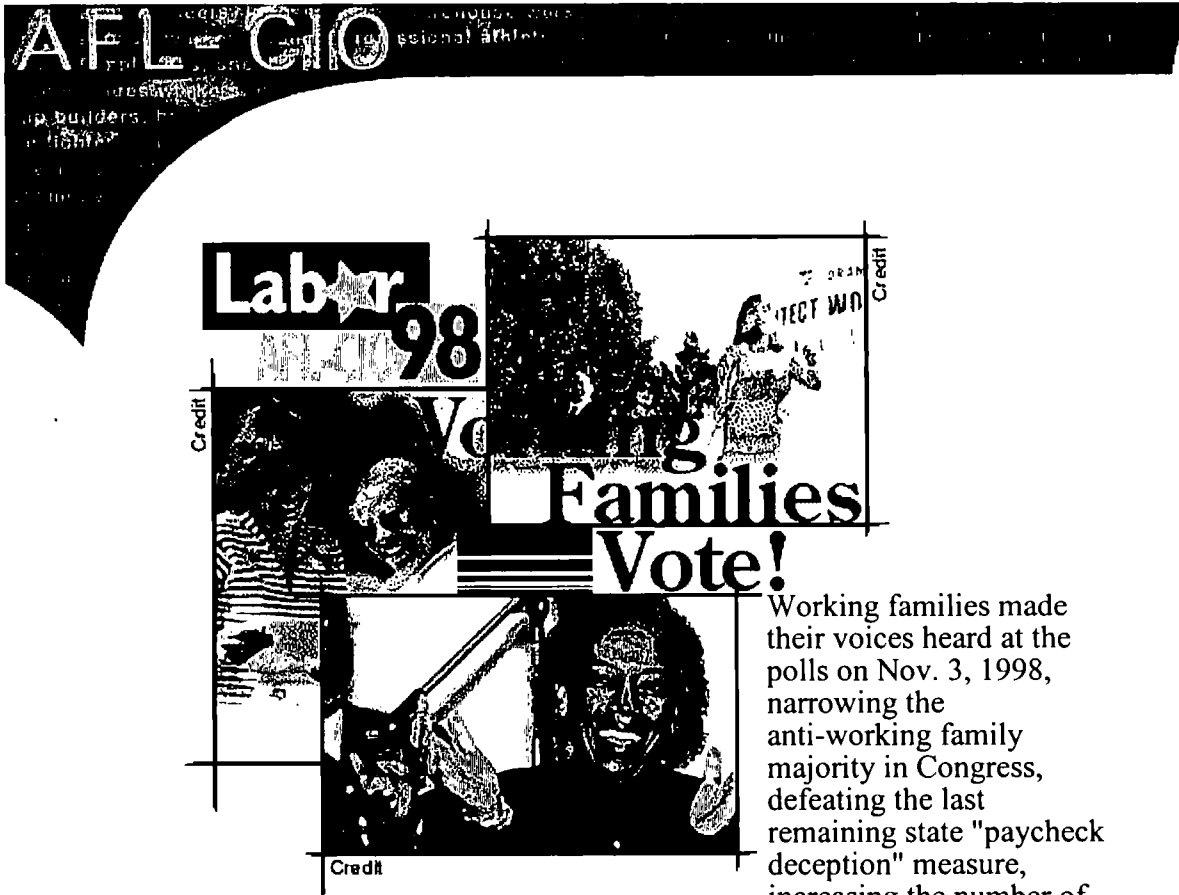
The following materials will help you understand the major legislative initiatives affecting worker health and safety that currently are being considered by Congress.

- OSHA Reform—Legislation that attempts to make changes to OSHA policies or procedures through the OSHAct.
- Regulatory Reform—Legislation that attempts to add additional hurdles to setting new safety, health and environmental standards.

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Working families made their voices heard at the polls on Nov. 3, 1998, narrowing the anti-working family majority in Congress, defeating the last remaining state "paycheck deception" measure, increasing the number of

elected officials who are union members and electing worker-friendly candidates across America.

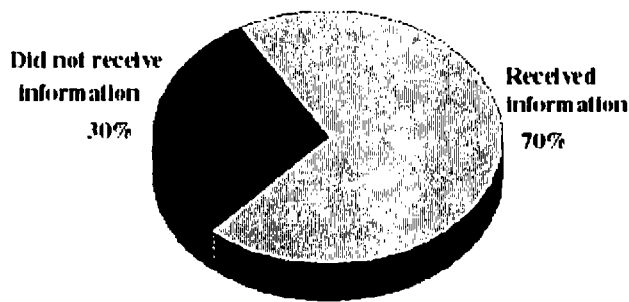
"I believe that the 1998 elections usher in a new era of people-powered politics," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, "with union members turning out at record levels and making the difference in race after race, and with African American and Latino participation way up."

According to national exit polling by Voter News Service, 22 percent of voters in Tuesday's election were members of union households, meaning some 49 percent of all adults in union households voted. This turnout signals the success of tens of thousands of union members who volunteered to educate and mobilize other members through one-to-one contact. Leading up to the election, the unions of the AFL-CIO put together a coordinated effort that:

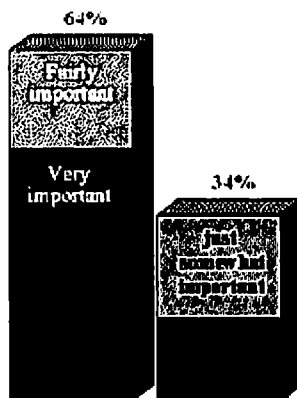
- Registered half a million additional union voters and members of their families,
- Sent more than 9.5 million pieces of mail to union households,
- Made 5.5 million personal phone calls,
- Created 511 fliers and distributed them to hundreds of thousands of worksites to educate union members about working family issues and candidate positions on those issues.

According to a post-election survey by Peter D. Hart Research, 70 percent of union members said they had received information about the election from their unions. Sixty-four percent said the information from their unions was important to them, with most saying it was "very important."

Political Information from Unions



Importance of Union Political Involvement



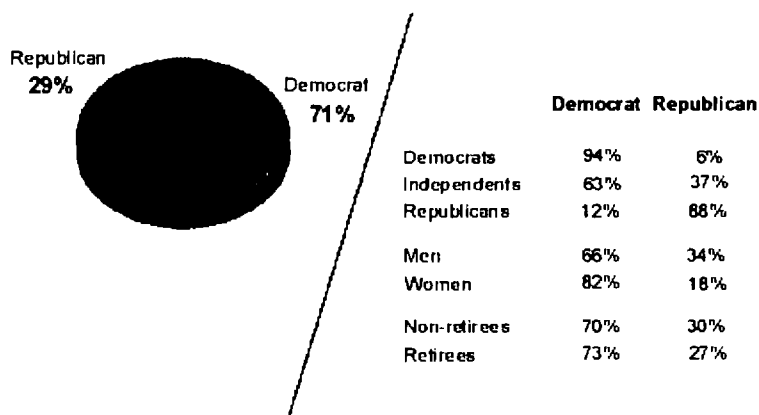
Sixty-seven percent of union voters said issues are what mattered most to them in this election--more than party politics and far more than the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal. Topping their list of concerns, according to the Hart survey, were retirement and Social Security, education, the economy and jobs and health care.

In Oregon, 53 percent of voters said "no" to the last remaining state-level attempt to silence the voice of working families in politics through Measure 59, a ballot initiative much like California's ill-fated Proposition 226, which was soundly defeated in June. Thousands of California union members who had mobilized to defeat Prop. 226 carried their momentum through the election campaign, participating in phone banks, precinct walks and get-out-the-vote rallies.

Six hundred union members ran for public office, including Maggie Carlton, the new Nevada state senator in District 2. A member of Culinary Workers Local 226 and a waitress at Treasure Island Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Carlton is the first union member to hold a Senate seat in the state's history.

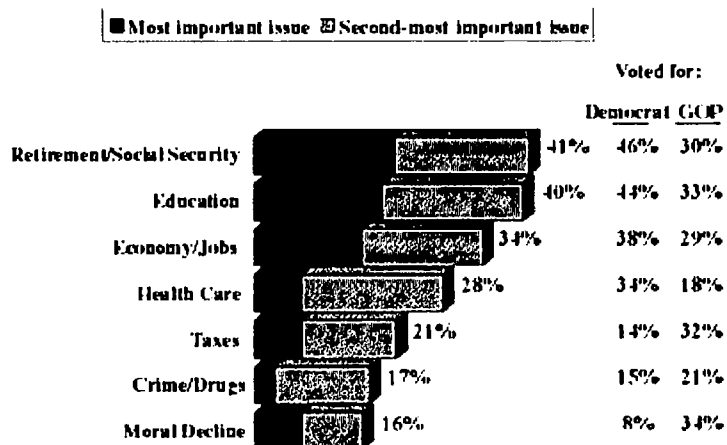
"Union members are really ready to elect people who are just like them," she said after her "front porch campaign" earned her 58 percent of the vote.

Union Household Votes for Members of the U.S. House, by Subgroups



What Working Family Voters Say About the Issues

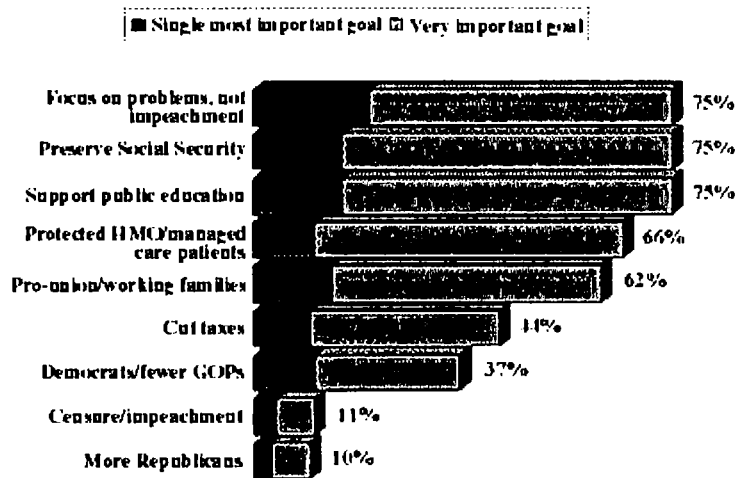
Issues Matter Most to Union Household Voters



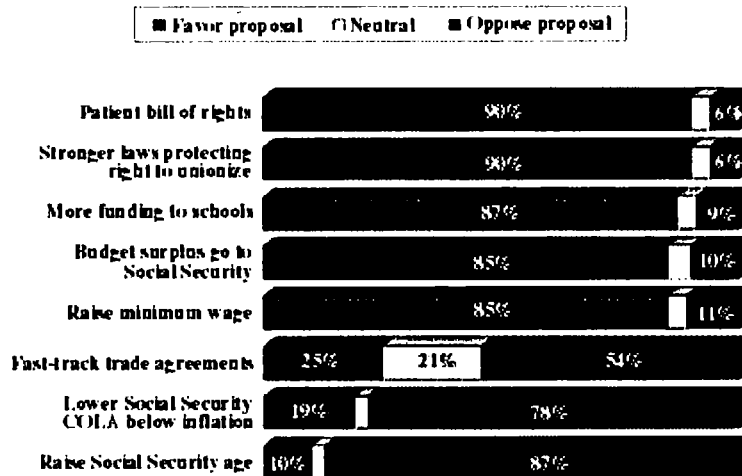
**67 say issues mattered most in this election.*

AFL-CIO Post-Election Survey

How Issues Shaped Union Household Voting for the Members of the U.S. House



Where Union Household Voters Stand on Upcoming Issues



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AFL-CIO News - October 23, 1995

Labor rises to the occasion Big Apple crossroads for workers' future *By Michael Byrne*

The 21st constitutional convention of the AFL-CIO opens in New York Oct. 23 under the Stand UP banner that labor has wielded this year to rally workers against the congressional Republicans' legislative assault on working families.

But for delegates to this extraordinary convention, Stand UP will have an additional purpose and meaning as they decide how to define the very future of organized labor.

On the convention's first day, between the morning welcomes and President Clinton's evening salute, nearly 1,000 delegates will set the stage _ and determine the rules _ for an historic election between AFL-CIO President Tom Donahue and Service Employees President John Sweeney. Lane Kirkland, the second AFL-CIO president, resigned Aug. 1 and Donahue was elected by the Executive Council.

Donahue and Sweeney are both Irish-American Catholics who rose out of the same local, now SEIU Local 32B-32J in New York City.

The presidential contest is the headliner at a convention that marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the labor federation. Both candidates have left little doubt that, regardless of the outcome of the election, the AFL-CIO is preparing to change in dramatic, fundamental ways.

The campaign has revolved around four major

vention. While the percentage of union election victories has held steady, the number of workers voting in National Labor Relations Board elections in 1994 was only one-fourth what it was 25 years ago, when 600,000 voted in 1970, the council said.

This drastic decrease in organizing activity helps to account for the loss of 292,000 members since the 1993 convention, when it was reported the federation had lost 634,000 members since the 1991 convention. The AFL-CIO has just over 13 million members and, nationally, unions represent 15.5 percent of the nation's work force.

Sweeney and his supporters also will press for a number of constitutional amendments, seeking among other things to add a third executive officer with a salary equal to that of the secretary-treasurer. Linda Chavez-Thompson, a vice president of AFSCME, is running on the Sweeney slate for that position.

Donahue's running mate, Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Easterling, was elected by the council at the same time Donahue was elected president. She will be opposed at the convention by Mine Workers President Richard L. Trumka, and the two candidates also are set for a Tuesday debate _ this one with a one-hour format.

To consider structural changes in the federation, Donahue appointed and is chairing a Committee on Governance that includes Sweeney. The committee has focused on ways to enhance full participation in the labor movement, and has discussed increasing the number of Executive Council members and expanding the role of the General Board.

Easterling also has been conducting a review of operations at AFL-CIO headquarters with an eye toward improving both efficiency and diversity. She was scheduled to report to the Executive Council on that review prior to the convention.

Many of the convention decisions will be affected by what rules are adopted by the delegates. Monday afternoon, constitutional amendments also will be considered.

President Clinton is scheduled to appear at approximately 5 p.m., with the possibility of debate continuing afterward on constitutional issues. Other speakers include NAACP Chair Myrlie Evers-Williams, scheduled for Tuesday, human rights activist Harry Wu on Wednesday and Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich on Thursday.

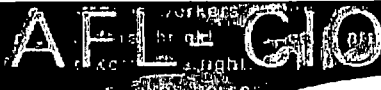
Running throughout the convention will be a Stand UP Action Center, an up-to-date "union hall" that will focus on communications and political action. Delegates and visitors will be able to contact their congressional representatives on key bills while the convention is in session.

The facility will feature a dozen phones programmed to ring at the U.S. Capitol switchboard; six personal computers equipped to send letters, e-mail and faxes to all members of Congress; a video link to the convention floor, where delegates will hear live reports of congressional action; a giant message to Congress visitors can sign; and radio and print interviews with "back-home" media outlets.

Provided by the AFL-CIO Information Department

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**Biennial Convention
September 23, 1997**

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For Information: Deborah Dion 412-803-4314 -- Pager: 888-858-7243
PIN*100810

Richard Greer 412-803-4315 -- Pager 888-858-7243 PIN* 104769 Naomi
Walker 412-803-4317

Pittsburgh, PA -- The AFL-CIO biennial convention will take place at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh from Monday, September 22 through Thursday, September 25. Pre-convention activities will begin Saturday, September 20. The convention will be the first since the AFL-CIO's new leadership team of John Sweeney, Richard Trumka and Linda Chavez-Thompson took office in 1995 in the first contested election in AFL-CIO history. The convention will showcase the AFL-CIO's new efforts to build a stronger voice for America's working families and lay out goals for the next two years. The convention will also celebrate American workers and the work they do -- and hundreds of workers from the U.S. and around the globe will be featured throughout the four day conference.

Among guests addressing the convention are: President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Senator Tom Daschle, Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator Arlen Specter, Congressman Dick Gephardt, Rev. Jesse Jackson, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume and Bill Jordan, General Secretary of ICFTU.

The following events are open to the press:

Saturday, September 20

1:00 pm *"Building a Movement of American Workers,"* a national conference on organizing with remarks from organizers, local union leaders, AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, International Presidents from the Steelworkers, Teamsters, AFT, United Farm Workers, and the Building Trades.

4:00 pm AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and Vice President Al Gore address Organizing Conference. Doubletree Hotel -- Allegheny Ballroom.

Sunday, September 21

12:30 Press Briefing and tour of Union City exhibit, with AFL-CIO Field Mobilization Director Marilyn Sneiderman, and local activists at the Union City exhibit at the Lawrence Convention Center.

12:00 Noon- Labor Teach-In at the University of Pittsburgh , Lawrence Hall, Oakland. 5:00 pm Speakers TBA.

4:30 pm- Block Party: *Welcome to Steel Town*, Penn Ave. outside the Lawrence
7:30 pm Convention Center.

All Convention sessions will take place at the Plenary Hall, Level Two, East and West Halls of the David Lawrence Convention Center at the corner of 10th street and Penn. Ave. The convention opens each day at 9:30 am, breaks for lunch at 12:00 noon, reconvenes at 2:00 pm and adjourns each day at 4:30 pm.

Monday, September 22 -- *Building a Movement of American Workers*

8:00 am Informal breakfast briefing for press with AFL-CIO Officers John Sweeney, Richard Trumka and Linda Chavez-Thompson to kick-off convention. West Hall Press Briefing Room at the Convention Center.

10:15 am Keynote speech: AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

12:30 pm Press Briefing on Organizing: AFL-CIO Director of Organizing Richard Bensinger, AFL-CIO Working Women's Department Director Karen Nussbaum and workers. West Hall Press Briefing Room. To be followed immediately by Press Briefing on "Today's Unions," a new strategic media campaign by UFCW President Doug Dority, West Hall Press Briefing Room.

2:00 pm Convention reconvenes -- Senator Tom Daschle; press briefing immediately following his remarks. West Hall Press Briefing Room, Convention Center.

2:30 pm Senator Arlen Specter.

3:00 pm Debate on Organizing Resolution: *"Building a Broad Movement of American Workers."*

Vote on Resolution. Special presentation on Strawberry Workers Campaign (Video). Presentation of the Murray-Green-Meany-Kirkland Community Services Award to actor Martin Sheen and Ron Burkle, CEO of Ralphs Food Stores by Strawberry Workers Delegation.

"Today's Unions" presentation to convention of new strategic media campaign. Vote on Right to Organize Resolution.

6:30 pm Evening Boat Ride sponsored by the United Steel Workers of America.

Dock adjacent to convention center.

Tuesday, September 23 -- *Making Government Work for America's Workers*

7:30 a.m. Breakfast briefing with Teamsters President Ron Carey

Westin Hotel

9:30 am Congressman Dick Gephardt.

10:30 am Press availability with Congressman Dick Gephardt. West Hall Press Briefing Room.

10:45 am Debate on Resolution: "*Making Government Work for America's Workers.*"

11:30 am Address by Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman.

12:15 pm Press availability with Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. West Hall Press Briefing Room.

12:30 pm Press Briefing -- Update on politics and strategies for increasing workers' political voices. AFSCME President Gerald McEntee and AFL-CIO Political Director Steve Rosenthal. West Hall Press Briefing Room.

Wednesday, September 24 -- *A New Voice For Workers in the Global Economy*

9:30 am Presentation by GE Workers from around the world.

9:30 am President Bill Clinton.

Special Report on Center for Working Capital, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka.

11:30 am Debate on Resolution: "*A New Voice for Workers in the Global Economy.*"

12:30 pm Press Briefing on new pro-worker investment initiatives and strategies. AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Richard Trumka, Corporate Affairs Director Ron Blackwell, and Office of Investment Director Bill Patterson. West Hall Press Briefing Room.

2:00 pm Convention Reconvenes. Bill Jordan, General Secretary of ICFTU.

2:15 pm Presentation of George Meany Human Rights Award to Muchtar Pakpahan, General Chairman, SBSI, Indonesia.

2:45 pm Kweisi Mfume, President, NAACP.

4:00 pm Recognition of strikers: UPS and Frontier workers

4:30 pm Nomination for AFL-CIO Offices.

Evening Labor Rock Concert with Billy Bragg, Tish Hinojosa, and Toshi Reagon. Benedum Center.

Thursday, September 25 -- *A New Voice for Workers in the Community*

8:30 a.m. Press briefing with Service Employees International Union President Andy Stern on consumer health care initiative.

9:30 am Senator Edward Kennedy.

10:30 am Press availability with Senator Edward Kennedy. West Hall Press Briefing Room. Tentative.

10:45 am Debate/Vote on Resolution: "*A New Voice for Workers in the Community.*"

11:15 am Reverend Jesse Jackson.

12:00 noon AFL-CIO Officers and Executive Council members, and Rev. Jackson lead March and Rally for good jobs in downtown Pittsburgh.

AFL-CIO press registration will begin on Saturday, September 20 at 9:00 am in the press room in the David Lawrence Convention Center, Level 2, West Hall. Phone number for the media office is 412-803-4314 or 4315.

If you are interested in attending the sessions with President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore you will need to fax a memo on organization letterhead with your name, media outlet, SS# and date of birth indicating that you want to participate in one or both events. The White House advance team will send out information regarding times of sweeps and the credentialing process for both events. We will have this information posted in our office as well. Information can be faxed to 412-803-4299.

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