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Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 11102

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Talking Points (Week's Messages)

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**The First Year Of President Clinton's Second Term:
A Strong Record Of Accomplishment
Friday, November 14, 1997**

*"Tonight I issue a call to action--action by this Congress, by our states, by all our people,
to prepare America for the 21st century."*

On February 4, 1997, President Clinton laid out an ambitious "call to action" in the first State of the Union of his second term. As Congress adjourns this November, the record is clear. President Clinton drove the Congressional agenda this year, accomplishing most everything he set out to do ten months ago.

BALANCED BUDGET & TAX CUTS:

- ✓ **First Balanced Budget In A Generation**
- ✓ **Middle Class Tax Cut For 27 Million Families With Children**

EDUCATION:

- ✓ **Largest Investment In Education In 30 Years**
- ✓ **HOPE Scholarship Makes 13th & 14th Grades As Universal As A High School Diploma**
- ✓ **20% Tuition Tax Credit Worth Up To \$10,000 For College Or Lifetime Learning**
- ✓ **Largest Increase In Pell Grants In 20 Years**
- ✓ **America Reads Initiative To Ensure Every Child Can Read By The 3rd Grade**
- ✓ **On Track For First-Ever National Test Of 4th Grade Reading, 8th Grade Math**
- ✓ **57% Increase For Public Charter Schools**
- ✓ **Head Start Expanded Toward Goal Of 1 Million Children By 2002**

HEALTH CARE:

- ✓ **Single Largest Investment In Children's Health Care Since 1965**
- ✓ **Medicare Protected, Modernized And Trust Fund Extended At Least A Decade**

ENVIRONMENT:

- ✓ **Toughest New Air Quality Standards In A Generation**
- ✓ **Developed A Bold, Market Based National Strategy To Reduce Greenhouse Gases**

WELFARE:

- ✓ **Restored Basic Health And Disability Benefits To Legal, Law-Abiding Immigrants**
- ✓ **New Incentives And Community Efforts To Move 2 Million More People Off Welfare**

URBAN AGENDA:

- ✓ **Tripled The Number Of Empowerment Zones**
- ✓ **63% Expansion Of Community Development Banks**
- ✓ **Brownfields Tax Incentive Will Redevelop 14,000 Contaminated Sites**

FOREIGN POLICY:

- ✓ **Ratified The Chemical Weapons Convention**
- ✓ **Secured Passage Of China MFN, Hosted First US--Sino Summit In 8 Years**
- ✓ **NATO Expansion**

WHERE WE CAME UP SHORT:

- ☐ **Renewal Of Fast Track Authority**
- ☐ **Passage Of Campaign Finance Reform**
- ☐ **Enactment Of The Juvenile Justice Proposal**
- ☐ **Enactment Of School Construction Proposal**

The First Year Of President Clinton's Second Term: A Strong Record Of Accomplishment

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"Tonight I issue a call to action--action by this Congress, by our states, by all our people, to prepare America for the 21st century."

On February 4, 1997, President Clinton laid out an ambitious "call to action" in the first State of the Union of his second term. As Congress adjourns this November, the record is clear. President Clinton drove the Congressional agenda this year, accomplishing most everything he set out to do ten months ago.

BALANCED BUDGET & TAX CUTS:

- ✓ **First Balanced Budget In A Generation:** After cutting the deficit by 63 percent in his first term, from \$290 billion to \$107 billion, President Clinton promised in his 1997 State of the Union speech to *"propose a detailed plan to balance the budget by 2002."* On August 5, 1997, the President signed an historic, bipartisan bill to balance the budget for the first time since 1969.
- ✓ **Middle Class Tax Cuts For 27 Million Families With Children:** In addition to balancing the budget, President Clinton promised in his State of the Union to *"provide middle class tax relief...to help raise a child."* On August 5, 1997, the President signed into law a \$500 per-child tax credit that will benefit approximately 27 million families with 45 million children under 17. For the typical family with two kids, this child tax credit will mean \$1,000 more per year in take-home pay.

EDUCATION:

- ✓ **Largest Investment In Education In 30 Years:** In his February State of the Union, the President said his *"number one priority"* was to ensure that *"all Americans have the best education in the world."* The President said his balanced budget would reflect this commitment. Now, that commitment is the law. The bipartisan Balanced Budget Act includes the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill.
- ✓ **HOPE Scholarship Makes 13th & 14th Grades As Universal As A High School Diploma:** In his February 1997 State of the Union, President Clinton called for passage of his America's HOPE Scholarship proposal in order to *"make the 13th and 14th years of education...just as universal in America by the 21st century as a high school education is today."* Today, the HOPE Scholarship is law, providing a 100 percent tax credit on the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees and 50 percent on the second \$1,000 -- enough to pay for the typical community college.
- ✓ **20% Tuition Tax Credit for College Juniors, Seniors, Graduate Students And Working Americans Pursuing Lifelong Learning To Upgrade Their Skills:** The President's State of the Union address included a proposed *"tax deduction of up to \$10,000 a year"* for post high school tuition. The President's proposal is now law. The 20 percent tuition tax credit will be applied to the first \$5,000 of qualified education expenses through 2002, and to the first \$10,000 thereafter.
- ✓ **Largest Increase In Pell Grants In 20 Years:** President Clinton pledged during the State of the Union that his balanced budget would include *"the largest increase in Pell Grant Scholarship in 20 years."* Now, that commitment is the law. On November 13, 1997, the President signed the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill which included his proposal to increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$3,000 -- the largest increase in two decades. Approximately 3.7 million students will receive the \$300 increase, and an additional 220,000 low- and moderate-income families that were not previously eligible will receive Pell Grants.

- ✓ **America Reads Initiative To Ensure Every Child Can Read By The 3rd Grade:** Noting that *"we must do more to help all our children read"* during his 1997 State of the Union, President Clinton called on Congress to pass his America Reads Initiative. The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997, included nearly \$300 million in new funding towards the President's comprehensive literacy strategy. As a result: 3000 new Americorps members and thousands of senior volunteers will recruit more than 100,000 volunteer reading tutors; state teacher training and family literacy efforts receive an additional \$41 million; and an advance appropriation of \$210 million is provided for pending legislation based on the President's America Reads Initiative.

- In addition, more than 800 colleges have answered the President's State of the Union call, pledging to have thousands of their work-study students *"serve for one year as reading tutors."*

- ✓ **On Track For First-Ever National Test Of 4th Grade Reading, 8th Grade Math:** President Clinton issued a "challenge to the nation" during his State of the Union speech, calling on every state to *"adopt high national standards" and "test every fourth grader in reading and every eighth grader in math to make sure these standards are met."* The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997, fully funds (\$16 million) the Administration's voluntary national testing program and allows for development and pilot testing of the first-ever national 4th grade reading and 8th grade math tests.

- ✓ **57% Increase For Public Charter Schools:** Continuing his lifelong commitment to improving and reforming America's public schools, President Clinton called for a dramatic increase in the number of public charter schools in his 1997 State of the Union *"so that parents will have even more choices in sending their children to the best schools."* The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997, increases funding for charter schools by 57 percent, from \$51 million to \$80 million. And while there was only one charter school in the nation when President Clinton took office, there will be nearly 1,000 locally-designed charter schools supported by the Department of Education by the end of 1998 -- accelerating progress towards the President's goal of 3,000 by early next century.

- ✓ **Head Start Expanded Toward Goal Of 1 Million Children By 2002:** Stating that *"we already know we should start teaching children before they start school,"* President Clinton proposed a balanced budget that *"expands Head Start to one million children by 2002"* in his 1997 State of the Union address. The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997 includes \$4.4 billion for Head Start, a \$374 million increase -- and a 57 percent increase since 1993. Head Start will serve 836,000 children and their families in 1998 and is on track meeting the President's goal of reaching one million by 2002.

HEALTH CARE:

- ✓ **Single Largest Investment In Children's Health Care Since 1965:** President Clinton pledged in his 1997 State of the Union that his balanced budget would *"extend health coverage to up to five million...children."* Now, that commitment is law. The Balanced Budget that President Clinton signed into law on August 5, 1997 included \$24 billion for the President's Children's Health Initiative -- the single largest investment in health care for children since passage of Medicaid in 1965. The \$24 billion will provide meaningful health care coverage to up to five million currently uninsured children -- including prescription drugs, vision, hearing, and mental health services.

✓ **Medicare Protected, Modernized And Trust Fund Extended At Least A Decade:**

President Clinton promised during his 1997 State of the Union that his balanced budget plan would modernize Medicare and increase the life of the Medicare Trust Fund to ten years. These promises are now law. The bipartisan Balanced Budget extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund at least a decade -- saving \$115 billion over five years and \$400-\$450 billion over ten years. The President fought to prevent any damaging changes that would have undermined Medicare, and instead worked to enact structural reforms to prepare it for the 21st century. These reforms included more choices among health care plans, changes to the annual Medigap enrollment and restructuring specific payment systems so that rates are set in advance. Also included is \$4 billion over five years for new Medicare preventive benefits -- expanded coverage for mammograms, colorectal screening, and improved self management of diseases like diabetes.

ENVIRONMENT:

✓ **Toughest New Air Quality Standards In A Generation:** The President pledged to "*protect our environment in every community*" in his State of the Union address. This year, at the President's direction, the Environmental Protection Agency set new air quality standards for smog and soot, the toughest in a generation, providing new health protections for 125 million Americans, including children and the elderly. EPA will work with state and local governments to assure maximum flexibility in implementing the new rules.

✓ **Developed A Bold, Market Based National Strategy To Reduce Greenhouse Gases:** President Clinton pledged in the 1997 State of the Union to "*protect our global environment*" and "*work to reduce the greenhouse gases.*" Based on a firm scientific consensus, and after extensive consultation with industry, environmentalists, labor and the public, the President outlined a bold strategy in October to achieve international agreement to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The President's plan calls for flexible, market-based approaches to assure the reductions can be achieved in a way that creates new economic opportunities.

WELFARE:

✓ **Restored Basic Health And Disability Benefits To Legal, Law-Abiding Immigrants:** When the President signed the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, *he pledged to go back and change provisions he opposed regarding the cutting off of benefits to legal, law abiding immigrants.* Critics said the changes would never be made. However, in 1997, the President followed through on his pledge -- and won most of the changes he sought in the 1996 law. The President fought for and won \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants. He won changes that protect those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And immigrants in this country as of August 22, 1996 but not receiving benefits who subsequently become disabled will be eligible for SSI and Medicaid.

✓ **New Incentives And Community Efforts To Move 2 Million More People Off Welfare:** During his first term, President Clinton's lifetime of experience and innovative approach to welfare reform lead to the largest decline in welfare rolls in history. In his 1997 State of the Union, the President set out a plan including government incentives and private sector challenges to reach another goal: "*two million more people off the welfare rolls by the year 2000.*"

Expanded Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Created the \$3 Billion Welfare To Work Job

Challenge Fund: The Balanced Budget Law includes a tax credit for employers who hire long-term welfare recipients equal to 35 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the first year of employment and 50 percent of the first \$10,000 in the second year to encourage retention. The President also succeeded in including \$3 billion to create his Welfare to Work Job Challenge Fund -- to assist states and communities in moving long-term welfare recipients into lasting, unsubsidized jobs

Challenging Communities to Move People from Welfare to Work: The President challenged "every religious congregation, every community nonprofit, every business to hire someone off welfare." Responding to the President's challenge, the *Welfare to Work Partnership* was launched to lead a private sector effort to move people from welfare to work. Begun with 100 businesses, the Partnership is aiming for 1,000 businesses within six months. Vice President Gore also reached out, creating the *Welfare to Work Coalition to Sustain Success* -- a coalition of civic groups committed to helping former welfare recipients stay in the workforce and succeed.

URBAN AGENDA:

- ✓ **Tripled The Number Of Empowerment Zones:** *President Clinton called for doubling the number of empowerment zones and enterprise communities in his 1998 budget.* The Balanced Budget Law the President Clinton signed actually triples the number of EZs, adding 20 new EZs (15 urban and 5 rural second round zones and 2 more first-round zones) -- bringing the total number created to 31.
- ✓ **63% Expansion of Community Development Banks:** *President Clinton called for an expansion of Community Development Banks in his State of the Union speech.* The Balanced Budget Law the President signed in August included \$80 million for Community Development Financial Institutions in FY 1998 -- a 63% increase over FY 1997. These entities make investment capital and other financial products and services available in low- and moderate-income communities.
- ✓ **Brownfields Tax Incentive Will Redevelop 14,000 Contaminated Sites:** The President called for restoring "*contaminated urban land and buildings to constructive use*" through his Brownfields tax incentive program. Brownfields were part of the Balanced Budget Law the President signed. The tax incentives will leverage more than \$6 billion for private sector cleanups nationwide according to the Treasury Department -- and allow for the redevelopment of 14,000 contaminated, abandoned sites in economically distressed urban areas.

FOREIGN POLICY:

- ✓ **Ratification Of The Chemical Weapons Convention:** President Clinton challenged Congress during his State of the Union speech to "*rise to a new test of leadership*" and "*pass the Chemical Weapons Convention.*" And after an intense lobbying effort by the President, the Senate ratified the Convention on April 24, 1997.
- ✓ **Secured Passage Of China MFN, Hosted First US--Sino Summit In 8 Years:** President Clinton challenged the country to "*pursue a deeper dialogue with China for the sake of our interests and our ideals.*" The President successfully lobbied Congress to extend normal trading relations with China on June 24, 1997. And the first U.S.-- Sino State Visit in eight years, hosted by President Clinton at the White House in October, resulted in agreements on a broad range of security, economic, environmental and law enforcement issues.
- ✓ **NATO Expansion:** President Clinton called for expanding NATO membership by 1999 "*so that countries that were once our adversaries can become our allies.*" On July 8, 1997, at the Madrid NATO Summit, three nations -- Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary -- were offered membership in NATO. President Clinton has pledged to lobby the Senate to ratify these changes "*so that we can bring in the new members by the 50th anniversary of NATO in 1999.*"

WHERE WE CAME UP SHORT:

- ❑ **Renewal Of Fast Track Authority:** President Clinton's lobbying efforts on behalf of renewed "fast track" trade authority resulted in majority support in the United States Senate. A clear majority of Democratic governors and mayors supported the President's position. In the House of Representatives, however, the vote had to be postponed when it became clear that opposition by Democratic lawmakers -- and the linking of the trade vote to international family planning by House Republicans -- would derail the legislation.
- ❑ **Passage Of Campaign Finance Reform:** Despite intense lobbying efforts by President Clinton, Republican Congressional leaders killed the McCain-Feingold/Meehan-Shays campaign finance reform legislation this year. Campaign finance reform enjoyed universal Democratic support in the Senate and strong Democratic support in the House. The President continues to support passage of the bill and is encouraged that Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle was able to extract a pledge from Majority Leader Trent Lott to have a clean up-or-down vote on the measure before March 6, 1998. Speaker Gingrich has also promised to hold a March campaign finance reform vote.
- ❑ **Enactment Of The Juvenile Justice Proposal:** The President's Juvenile Justice legislation did not get far on Capitol Hill this year. However, the President used his executive power to make progress on some of the central initiatives in his legislation. For example, the President's legislation called for handguns to be sold with a child safety lock. President Clinton signed a directive to all Federal agencies requiring child safety locks be issued with every handgun. And the Administration reached an agreement with 8 major handgun manufacturers who agreed to provide child safety locks with each handgun sold.
- ❑ **Enactment Of School Construction Proposal:** President Clinton proposed an initiative to invest \$5 billion over four years to finance \$20 billion in school construction projects. The initiative was not included in the Balanced Budget the President signed.

Talking Points
May 6, 1997

Q: Yesterday's *New York Times* indicates that your attorney, David Kendall, knew the seriousness and the nature of the allegations against Mr. Hubbell from discussions he was having. Yet you said "no one had any idea" about the nature of the allegations against Mr. Hubbell or whether they were true. Did you know that your attorney knew about the allegations and that they were serious?

A: I knew there were allegations about Webb's billing practices that were serious enough that he resigned to address them. But, Webb strongly protested his innocence to me and others and, at that time, there were many inaccurate charges being made about Whitewater matters. You must remember, I knew Webb to be the former Mayor of Little Rock, the former Chief Justice of our Supreme Court, an established lawyer and a good friend. He said that the allegations were not true and I believed him.

[Background: I am not going to get into discussions with my lawyer, but as even the articles on this make clear, there were two sides to the debate when Webb resigned and, at the time I believed Webb's version]

Q: Who asked Mr. Hubbell to resign from the Department of Justice, and why did you or members of your staff ask him to resign if you did not believe the allegations were true?

A: I did not ask Webb, nor to my knowledge, did anyone on my staff ask Webb, to resign. I believe he decided that the appropriate thing to do was to resign so that he could address the allegations that had been raised about him.

4-3-97

THE WHITE HOUSE AT WORK:
THE BEST EDUCATION, STRONGER FAMILIES, AND A MORE SECURE WORLD
Thursday, April 3, 1997

WEDNESDAY: CALIFORNIA ENDORSES NATIONAL EDUCATION STANDARDS

Yesterday, California joined with Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina and America's military schools in support of President Clinton's plan for national education standards.

- With the endorsement of California Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin, states and school systems that educate nearly 20% of America's school children are now on the road to measuring their students against high national standards.
- 240 of America's high-tech industry leaders endorsed the President's plan as well -- and pledged to write to every governor, every state school board and every state education leader to urge the adoption of national standards across America.
- In the two months since the President challenged every state to adopt high national standards, testing every 4th grader in reading and every 8th grader in math, support has come from Republicans and Democrats, teachers and business people, parents and educators -- because we all have a stake in giving our children the best education.

**TUESDAY: PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARMFUL INFLUENCES BY
TAKING ACTION TO CURB LIQUOR ADS**

In response to the liquor industry's reversal of their 50-year voluntary ban on TV ads, the President urges responsibility and takes action:

- The President urges the liquor industry to rethink its decision and keep the ban, for the sake of America's parents and young people.
- The President asks the FCC to explore the effects on children of the hard liquor industry's decision to advertise on television, and determine the appropriate action in response.

TOMORROW: WORKING TO ELIMINATE CHEMICAL WEAPONS

This Friday, the President will join with bipartisan leaders to urge Senate ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention by the April 29 deadline:

- It will require other countries to do what we are already doing -- eliminate chemical weapons.
- Ratifying the Convention will protect our troops in the field, make it harder for terrorists to obtain chemical weapons, and help punish rogue states that use them.