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FROM RED TAPE TO RESULTS

CREATING A GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS BETTER & COSTS LESS

Transforming
Organizational Structures

Accompanying
Report of the National
Performance Review

Vice President Al Gore



A Brief History of the National Partnership for Reinventing Government

(Formerly the National Performance Review)

The National Partnership for Reinventing Government is the Clinton-Gore Administration's initiative to reform the way the federal government works. Its mission is to create a government that "works better, costs less, and gets results Americans care about." Begun in the early days of the Administration, and with Vice President Al Gore at its helm, the task force has operated the duration of the Administration through several phases of initiatives. It is the tenth federal reform effort this century and has been the longest-running federal reform effort to date.

Preparing the Original Report

The National Performance Review was created by President Bill Clinton on March 3, 1993. He appointed Vice President Al Gore as its leader. The President gave the review a 6-month deadline -- report results to him by September 7, 1993.

The review was largely staffed by about 250 career civil servants. In addition, some interns, state and local government employees on loan, and a few consultants were also engaged in the work of this interagency task force. The core leadership included Elaine Kamarck, a senior political advisor to the Vice President, Bob Stone, project director, and four deputies: Billy Hamilton, who led a series of teams examining the 24 largest agencies (Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, etc.); John Kamensky, who led a series of teams examining governmentwide systems (procurement, budget, personnel, etc.); Bob Knisely, who focused on special fiscal analyses; and Carolyn Lukensmeyer, who focused on internal staff dynamics and communication.

They launched the effort with an initial training session for the newly formed staff on April 15, 1993. David Osborne, co-author of the bestseller, *Reinventing Government*, served as a key advisor and spoke at this kickoff session along with the Vice President and the then-deputy director for management at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Phil Lader.

Vice President Gore visited a series of agencies during the next few months to learn first-hand the problems facing these agencies. He also hosted a June 1993 "Reinventing Government Summit" in Philadelphia of corporate executives, government leaders, and consultants who were leaders in organizational change.

The President had also directed agencies to create their own internal reinvention teams that worked with the corresponding NPR teams (many of which, like NPR, continued on beyond the end of the initial review to assist in implementing the resulting recommendations). NPR worked closely with these teams in developing the recommendations presented to the Vice President.

Vice President Gore was heavily involved in the decisions being made and,



before publishing the final report, met with each agency head to ensure his or her support for his proposed recommendations. The final report was based on a series of "accompanying" reports prepared by the nearly two dozen teams of NPR staffers. The final report highlighted 119 of the 384 recommendations listed in an appendix. The 38 specific accompanying reports total nearly 2,000 pages and expanded on the 384 recommendations by detailing 1,250 specific actions intended to save \$108 billion, reduce the number of "overhead" positions, and improve government operations.

The final report, *Creating a Government That Works Better and Costs Less*, was presented to President Clinton in a ceremony on the White House lawn on September 7, 1993. Immediately after the White House event, the President and Vice President made a tour of the country to promote the report and to issue Presidential directives to begin implementing its recommendations. By December 1993, the President had signed 16 directives implementing specific recommendations, including cutting the work force by 252,000 positions, cutting internal regulations in half, and requiring agencies to set customer service standards.

Implementing Phase I Recommendations

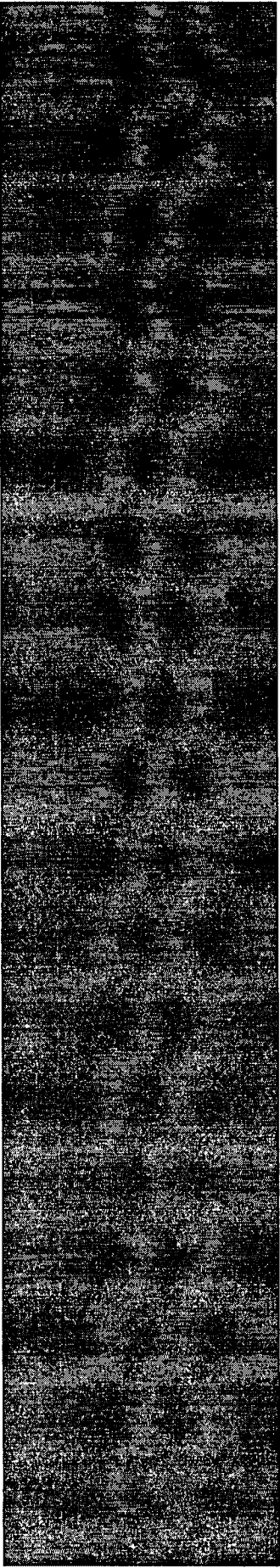
Shortly after NPR's 1993 report was released, most of the staff returned to their home agencies. About 50 staff remained on the task force to start implementation of a series of over-arching initiatives. These efforts included training federal employees about customer service, creating reinvention laboratories to pilot innovations, promoting the streamlining of headquarters functions, and staffing NPR-recommended cross-agency councils such as the National Partnership Council, the President's Management Council, and the Government Information Technology Services Working Group.

NPR also created a tracking system to follow progress on each of the 1,250 individual action items. Individual agencies were charged with following through on the two-thirds of the recommendations that were specifically targeted to them. The remaining one-third -- mostly recommendations affecting all agencies, such as budget reform or civil service reform -- became the responsibility of interagency groups (such as the Chief Financial Officers Council and the Electronic Benefits Transfer Task Force), OMB, or NPR. For example, OMB took the lead in implementing the Government Performance and Results Act and NPR took the lead on customer service standards.

NPR worked with OMB and White House staffs to develop performance agreements between major agency heads and cabinet secretaries, and the President. As of the end of 1995, the heads of 8 of the 24 largest agencies had piloted the signing of performance agreements with the President -- something never done before. OMB and NPR are coordinating the development of additional agreements in 1996.

The biggest challenge facing NPR was communicating its message to the federal work force. It developed a training video, which was shown by the Federal Executive Boards and Federal Executive Associations around the country. It prepared an interactive CD-ROM disk of the original report, its accompanying reports, the customer service report, and the status report. It worked with the Federal Quality Institute to develop training curricula. It also created a newsletter for federal employees.

NPR also sponsored the creation of a series of interagency initiatives under



the umbrella of "Net Results," an electronic interchange of information and ideas among federal employees and the general public. This now includes this web site and a series of other sites (see resource list). It also sponsored an electronic forum on reinvention issues involving hundreds of people across the country in late 1994 and is helping pilot a rule making initiative on-line in early 1996.

NPR's biggest initiative in 1994 was helping agencies create their first sets of customer service standards. NPR held weekly training sessions during the summer of 1994 to help agencies develop their standards. By October 1994, about 150 agencies had prepared around 1,500 standards. The previous year, only 3 agencies had standards.

NPR also piloted a partnership with the State of Oregon to focus on jointly achieving program results in children and family programs. The Vice President co-signed an agreement in December 1994 with the governor and local officials to work together in creating a results-oriented service delivery system.

The Vice President stayed personally involved in the reinvention initiative. In March 1994, he presented his first progress report to the President on the first anniversary of the President's creation of NPR. The Vice President also made a major speech later that month at Georgetown University outlining his vision of the new role of federal executives, in July he spoke at the annual Federal Quality Conference, and throughout the year, he presented awards to teams of federal employees who had reinvented their part of the government. By early 1996, his "Hammer Award" had been given to more than 250 teams of federal employees across the government.

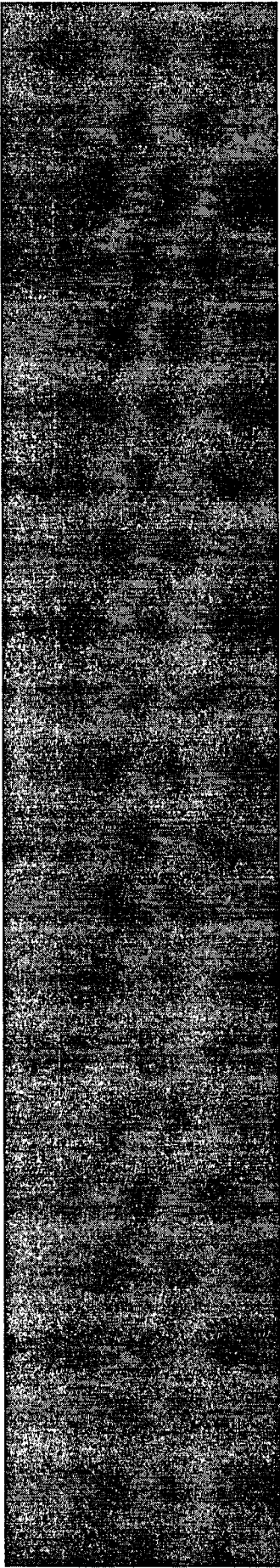
By September 1994, the first anniversary of the release of the original report, NPR concluded that significant progress was being made in the implementation of its recommendations. It also found that many agencies were making changes that went far beyond what NPR recommended and a number of these efforts were highlighted in its status report to the President.

Outside observers also examined the progress of NPR. The General Accounting Office issued an initial report on NPR's recommendations in December 1993, and a one year status report in December 1994. The Brookings Institution released its initial assessment in August 1994, and a book in January 1995. Other observers also offered their assessments.

During this year, Congress enacted about one-quarter of the recommendations needing legislative action. The most significant included the "buyout" bill, which allowed agencies to offer financial incentives to selected employees to leave the government. This bill, signed in March 1994, also raised the number of positions to be reduced over 5 years from the 252,000 recommended by NPR to 272,900. The third, the "Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994" was ultimately signed into law in October 1994. By the end of the 103rd Congress in December 1994, 34 laws had been signed implementing about a quarter of those NPR recommendations requiring legislation.

Phase II of the Performance Review

NPR opened 1995 with the realization that the election of a new Congress meant that the Administration would have an opportunity to expand its agenda for governmental reform. President Clinton asked Vice President



Gore on December 19, 1994 to launch a "second phase" of reinvention -- known as "Phase II."

Agencies were asked to look hard at their missions and decide what government should or should not be doing. Initial agencies reviewed, such as the Departments of Energy and Housing and Urban Development, proposed substantial changes. As the agency, OMB, and NPR teams completed their reviews, the President and Vice President made announcements regarding their decisions.

The Vice President also asked NPR to help lead a major reform of the regulatory system. A series of initiatives was undertaken in early 1995 to identify obsolete regulations that could be eliminated, create partnerships between regulators and those being regulated, and identify specific regulations that could be revised. The President and Vice President held a series of announcements during the Spring and Summer to release these new proposals.

By September 1995, NPR Phase II proposed about 200 new recommendations, with savings totaling nearly \$70 billion over five year, agencies continued to implement more of the original recommendations. By September 1995, agencies claimed they had completed implementation of one-third of the 1,250 original recommendations with savings totaling \$58 billion of the originally-recommended \$108 billion in savings. Agencies also identified \$28 billion a year in reduced regulatory burdens and proposed eliminating 16,000 pages of regulations. They also proposed plans for changing the way they enforced regulations to increase the use of partnership arrangements and reduce historical emphases on identifying procedural violations unrelated to performance.

NPR continued the implementation of a number of initiatives from Phase I, successfully using benchmarking studies to encourage broad action across agencies on specific issues, such as tele-servicing. It also continued the Vice President's Hammer Awards and agencies expanded the number of reinvention labs. In addition, it expanded its work with state-local governments on the use of performance agreements in place of restrictive grant programs. A number of these initiatives were detailed in the President's February 1995 budget proposals.

Agencies also revised their customer service standards. The October 1995 Customer Service Standards report shows 214 agencies with over 3,000 standards of service to the public.

Congress held numerous hearings on NPR-related recommendations and acted upon several during the course of the year, including the elimination of "unfunded mandates" on states and localities, reducing the number of congressionally mandated reports prepared by federal agencies, and new flexibilities for the Federal Aviation Administration. Several congressional committees explored the need for a major reorganization of the federal government, but took no action.

Governing in a Balanced Budget World: New Initiatives for 1996

By early 1996, it became clear to most agencies that they would face declining fiscal resources for the foreseeable future. The President's fiscal year 1997 budget projected a balance for the first time in several decades and proposed cutting domestic agencies on average by 22 percent over a

6-year period. The Republican Congress had proposed cuts equivalent to a 35-percent cut over the same period.

Vice President Gore recognized that, under either scenario, agencies needed a blueprint for how they could approach these cuts and proposed a series of new initiatives intended to show how the Administration would responsibly govern in a balanced budget world. He observed that agencies needed to focus on the ends, not the means, of what government does and must delegate more authority to managers on the front line. He also saw information technology allowing a shift away from the traditional "one size fits all" approach to a more tailored "custom fit" approach to the missions of individual agencies. Building on the successes of NPR's reinvention labs and other initiatives, he proposed agencies:

Convert to Performance-Based Organizations. Agencies would take functions that deliver measurable services and grant them greater autonomy from government-wide rules in exchange for greater accountability for results. This includes separating policy making out from these organizations and hiring a chief executive on a performance contract for a fixed term. This approach is used successfully in the United Kingdom to improve services and reduce costs.

Improve Customer Service Dramatically. All agencies would be challenged to set service goals that were significantly better so everyone in American would see government service was getting better. The heads of the 11 agencies with the greatest customer contact made public commitments to improve selected services during 1996, and other activities were announced to improve government services.

Increase the Use of Regulatory Partnerships. During the previous two years, the Environmental Protection Agency and other regulatory agencies had piloted approaches to non-coercive partnerships that focus on meeting environmental goals rather than on complying with regulatory processes. Gore announced that these approaches would become the mainstream strategy for federal regulatory agencies.

Create Performance-Based Partnership Grants. Gore proposed converting the existing 600 grant system to federal-state-local partnerships based on achieving results rather than focus on process. By jointly developing goals and objectives for major programmatic areas, states and localities would be given greater flexibility in using and accounting for federal grant funds.

Establish Single Points of Contact for Communities. A major challenge for communities dealing with the federal government is untangling the complexity of its programs to determine who is responsible for what. Gore recommended that a single point of contact be designated for the nation's larger communities to create integrated accountability for the federal government's actions in those communities.

Transform the Federal Workforce. The existing civil service system, largely crafted in 1883, can no longer respond quickly to change or the varying needs of different organizations in the federal government. Gore proposed major overhauls in 1993 and 1994 that had not received congressional support. While not backing away from his support for these changes, he recommended quick action on issues where there was bipartisan support, such as expanding existing authorities for agencies to tailor the present system to their individual needs. He also reiterated earlier recommendations

to increase training investments in the workforce and hold senior executives more accountable for achieving results.

Like the Phase II initiatives, these initiatives were also included in the President's fiscal year 1997 budget. NPR created selected teams to lead the implementation of these initiatives.

In addition, NPR conducted an informal self assessment. It found hundreds of examples of success and a change in the environment that employees were beginning to believe that widespread change would be possible. But it also found front line employees were not hearing enough about reinvention initiatives and they felt senior managers were not supportive of their efforts to reinvent.

Reinvention in the Second Term

Rather than launching new initiatives at the beginning of the second term, NPR built on the successes of the first term and addressed the challenges of NPR's self assessment. NPR began to shift its strategy from encouraging scattered examples of success to transforming entire agencies. It began to target its energies at the bureau level instead of the departmental level, especially among those bureau-level agencies that had the most interaction with the public, such as the IRS, Social Security, and National Park Service. In addition, it created a network among nearly 500 communicators in agencies and an Internet Homepage (<http://www.npr.gov>) with a great deal of "hands on" tools for use by front line employees.

As a vehicle for communicating "the rules of reinvention" to new political leaders, the President and Vice President met with the Cabinet in January 1997 to discuss practical tools for running agencies. These tools, called *"The Blair House Papers,"* have been shared with all senior leaders in the federal government and are being used as a check list for measuring change. To support reinvention closer to the front lines, NPR is working closely with about 30 bureau-level agencies -- dubbing them "High Impact Agencies" -- to help them develop specific strategies for dramatically transforming their performance, even in the face of reduced budgets. These agencies were selected based on their high degree of interaction with the public, business, or the operation of other federal agencies.

Beginning in 1998, NPR began to reinvent itself to better match its evolving mission. With the help of the new senior policy advisor to the Vice President, Morley Winograd, it created a new vision: "America @ Our Best," and extended its mission statement to include the phrase "to get results Americans care about." It also changed its name to the "National Partnership for Reinventing Government" to better reflect how it intends to get its work done. It launched a new effort to improve government and citizen interaction via "Conversations with America," where agency leaders are actively talking with their customers about what they see as important results they want.

To better focus its efforts, NPR is working with the High Impact Agencies, which have committed to more than 250 specific improvements in services to the public by 2000, to help them integrate their reinvention strategies into their overall strategic planning, as required under the Government Performance and Results Act, into their daily operations. They cover 1.1 million of the 1.9 million civil servants and include the Internal Revenue Service, the Weather Service, the Customs Service, the Park Service, the

Patent and Trademark Office, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Food and Drug Administration. These agencies are listed in the President's 1999 budget and also appear on NPR's webpage.

Accomplishments in Brief

As of March 1998, NPR could point to a number of measures of progress:

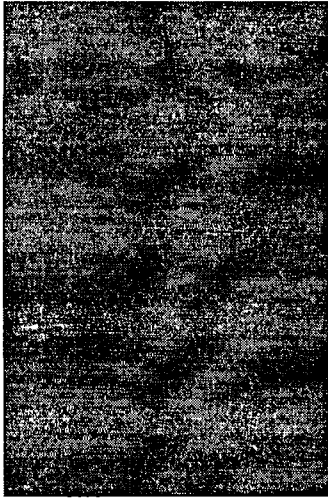
- The size of the federal civilian workforce has been cut by 348,000 -- the smallest since Kennedy held office and, as a percentage of the national workforce, the smallest since 1931.
- NPR had recommended about 1,500 actions. Agencies completed about 58 percent. Of the original 1,250 recommendations, they report 66 percent completed. President Clinton signed 43 Presidential Directives and 83 laws to implement these recommendations.
- Over 1,000 federal teams have been recognized with Hammer Awards; over 325 Reinvention Labs have been created to pilot innovations.
- NPR had recommended about \$177 billion in savings over a 5-year period. Agencies locked into place about \$137 billion, and the Hammer Award winners estimate savings or cost avoidances of about \$31 billion because of their actions.
- Agencies eliminated about 640,000 pages of internal rules, about 16,000 pages of Federal Regulations, and are rewriting 31,000 additional pages into Plain English.
- Agencies are sponsoring 850 labor-management partnerships. A 1996 survey of employees show those in organizations that actively promote reinvention are twice as satisfied with their jobs.
- Over 570 federal organizations have committed to more than 4,000 customer service standards.
- Most importantly, public trust in the federal government is finally increasing after a 30-year decline. Various polls have shown a clear and steady increase over the past four years. While it is not clear this is directly linked to reinvention, we like to think it is an important contribution.

Resources for Further Study

NPR staff have begun a bibliography of materials, beyond those published by the NPR itself and those items posted on this Web Site. There are also a number of other Web sites that are heavily involved in reinventing government, including at the state and local levels. The NPR web site address is: <http://www.npr.gov>.

NPR's primary reports and accompanying reports are available from the Government Printing Office. The primary reports include:

- [From Red Tape to Results: Creating a Government That Works Better](#)



- and Costs Less (September 1993)
- Creating a Government That Works Better and Costs Less: Status Report (September 1994)
- By the People (video, September 1994)
- Common Sense Government: Works Better and Costs Less (September 1995)
- Reinvention's Next Steps: Governing in a Balanced Budget World (March 1996)
- The Best Kept Secrets in Government (September 1996)
- The Blair House Papers (January 1997)
- Access America (February 1997)
- Businesslike Government (November 1997)

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Native Americans

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 7, 2000

President Clinton and Vice President Gore;
Honoring Commitments
to Native Americans In the FY2001 Budget
February 7, 2000

Updated February 6, 2000

"I also . . . [want] to make special efforts to address the areas of our nation with the highest rates of poverty -- our Native American reservations and the Mississippi Delta. My budget includes . . . a billion dollars to increase economic opportunity, health care, education and law enforcement for our Native American communities. In this new century -- we should begin this new century by honoring our historic responsibility to empower the first Americans. And I want to thank tonight the leaders and the members from both parties who've expressed to me an interest in working with us on these efforts. They are profoundly important."

President Bill Clinton
State of the Union
January 27, 2000

In order to better serve Native American communities and to honor the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes, the President's budget includes a total of \$9.4 billion for key new and existing programs that assist Native Americans and Indian reservations. This total is an increase of \$1.2 billion over Fiscal Year 2000 - the largest increase ever. This initiative brings together several agencies in order to address the needs of Native American communities comprehensively. Some of the highlights include: \$300 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs school construction and repair; \$349 million through the Department of Transportation for roads in Indian Country; and \$2.6 billion for the Indian Health Service. Other key components of the Native American initiative are:

Budget Initiatives for Native Americans:

Investing in Education and Training.

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) School Construction and Repair. The President has proposed \$300 million, more than double the FY 2000 enacted level of \$133 million, to replace and repair BIA-funded schools on reservations. This is the largest investment ever in a single year for BIA school construction and repair. Of these funds, \$126 million would be used to assist in replacing at least six of the 185 BIA-funded schools on reservations. The remaining \$174 million would provide for much-needed health and safety-related repairs and improvements that together comprise a roughly \$700 million backlog. Within the BIA's school construction funds, up to \$30 million may be used to assist tribes or tribal consortia in issuing the bonds described below by using these funds to ensure principal repayment.
- Hiring well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early

grades. As part of President Clinton's national initiative to hire 100,000 teachers to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, the budget will provide \$6 million for BIA-funded schools. These funds will enable local schools to recruit, hire, and train more teachers. Studies show that smaller classes enable teachers to give personal attention to students, which leads to their getting a stronger foundation in the basic skills. The studies also show that minority and disadvantaged students show the greatest achievement gains as a result of reducing class size in the early grades.

- Training and Recruiting New Native American Teachers. Only two-thirds of Native American students successfully complete high school --far fewer than other students. In addition, schools with high populations of American Indian students are typically plagued by high teacher turn-over. To address these challenges, the budget provides \$10 million for the Education Department to continue the second year of the Administration's initiative to begin training and recruiting 1,000 new teachers for areas with high concentrations of American Indian and Alaska Native students.
- New American Indian Administrator Corps. The President and the Vice President propose \$5 million for a new Department of Education initiative, the American Indian Administrator Corps, that will support the recruitment, training, and in-service professional development of 500 American Indians and Alaska Natives to become effective school administrators in schools with high populations of Native American students. As in the Native American teacher initiative, higher-education institutions are encouraged to form consortia with the tribal colleges in order to develop this program.
- Native American School Modernization Bonds. In addition to the \$24.8 billion of School Modernization Tax Credit Bonds authorized in his budget for the construction and renovation of public schools, the President's budget includes a component for Native American schools. The Secretary of Interior would be authorized to allocate \$400 million bonding authority (\$200 million in 2001 and \$200 million in 2002) to tribes or tribal consortia for the construction and renovation of BIA-funded schools. In addition to providing tax credits to the bondholders in lieu of interest payments, the President's budget includes \$30 million to help ensure principal repayment for tribal issuers.
- New School Renovation Loan and Grant Program. This new \$1.3 billion initiative leverages nearly \$7 billion of (approximately 8,300) renovation projects in high-need school districts with little or no capacity to fund urgent repairs. Within this program, the President has allocated \$50 million for grants to public schools with high concentrations of Native American students. The \$1.3 billion initiative also includes a loan program targeted to those districts unable to finance the interest cost associated with facilities renovation and a smaller grant program to provide direct funding to needy school districts unable to finance the capital expenditures associated with school renovation.
- New Therapeutic Pilots at BIA Boarding Schools. The President and the Vice President propose \$8.2 million for a new initiative to establish Therapeutic Residential Treatment Programs (TRTP) at 5-7 of the BIA boarding schools and dormitories. According to the Centers for Disease Control, American Indian students attending BIA schools are at a very high risk for severe problems associated with substance abuse, depression, poverty, neglect, homelessness, and physical abuse. Through the addition of appropriate professionals at each pilot site, necessary intervention treatments will be provided to students in a holistic manner, ranging from education to mental

health to substance abuse treatment.

- Doubling the Family and Child Education (FACE) Program. The budget includes \$12.8 million, a more than 100 percent increase over the FY 2000 level of \$6 million, to double the FACE program at BIA from 22 to 44 sites. The FACE program is a two-generation education program that provides services such as early childhood educational programs to young children and provides training to parents to enhance their parenting skills, education, and literacy.
- Strengthening BIA-Funded Schools and Colleges Serving Tribes. The budget provides \$562 million for the operation of elementary and secondary schools, tribally controlled community colleges, and assistance to Indian children attending public schools. This represents an increase of \$43 million over the enacted 2000 level.
- Increased Funding for Tribal Colleges. The budget proposes increased funding for the Nation's tribal colleges. At the Department of Education, the budget provides for \$9 million - a 50 percent increase over 2000 enacted - in order to improve and expand the capacity of the tribal colleges to serve Native American students in several ways, including developing academic programs. With this increase at the Education Department, 24 tribal colleges will receive funding. At the Department of the Interior, the budget proposes a \$3 million increase to \$38 million in order to fund the operations of the tribal colleges. Including these funds at Interior and Education, the budget includes a total of \$77 million for support to tribal colleges through funding at the National Science Foundation, and the Departments of the Interior, Education, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation.
- Tribal College Endowment Fund. The President's budget proposes to increase the authorized level from \$4.6 million to \$7.1 million, a 54 percent increase over 2000, for the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund at the Department of Agriculture in order to build educational capacity through student recruitment and retention; curricula development; faculty preparation; instruction delivery systems; and scientific instrumentation for teaching.
- Head Start. The President's budget boosts funding for Head Start by \$1 billion - the largest funding increase ever - to provide Head Start and Early Head Start to approximately 950,000 children, nearing the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002. Since the President took office, funding for Head Start has risen by nearly 90 percent, enabling 160,000 more low-income children to participate in the program.
- Indian Head Start. The budget provides \$175 million for Indian Head Start -- a \$30 million increase over FY 2000.

Fighting Crime in Indian Country. The President's budget included key increases for law enforcement:

- Improves Law Enforcement in Indian Country. The budget proposes \$439 million, an increase of \$103 million over FY 2000, for the Departments of Justice and Interior for the third year of the President's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative. The initiative will improve public safety for the over 1.4 million residents on the approximately 56 million acres of Indian lands. This funding will increase the number of law enforcement officers on Indian lands, provide more equipment, expand detention facilities, enhance juvenile crime prevention, and improve the effectiveness of tribal courts. This initiative also includes increased funding for

the unique needs of Indian Country such as legal assistance to indigent Native Americans; funding to support curriculum development at tribal colleges for law enforcement and legal studies; an alcohol and substance abuse diversion program; and sexual assault units to help prosecute sexual offenders. Although violent crime has been declining nationally for several years, it has been on the rise in Indian country. According to the Department of Justice, American Indians are the victims of violent crimes at more than twice the rate of all U.S. residents. Recognizing this, the President made a major commitment to improve law enforcement in Indian country.

- Law Enforcement Housing Opportunities. The budget proposes to permit, through HUD's Indian Housing Block Grant, tribes or tribally-designated housing entities to provide housing or housing assistance for qualified law enforcement officers.

Providing Health Care and Promoting Safety. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to providing health care to the Native American population. This budget moves forward on their vision to help realize this goal.

- Indian Health Service. The President's budget proposes \$2.6 billion, an increase for the Indian Health Service (IHS) of \$230 million or 10 percent over the FY 2000 enacted level. This increase would enable IHS to continue expanding accessible and high-quality health care to its approximately 1.5 million Native American service users to: improve preventive services designed to reduce the need for acute medical care; expand patient access to clinical services to help improve health status; improve emergency medical services in remote locations on American Indian and Alaska Native reservations; address the health and environmental conditions in American Indian and Alaska Native homes and communities by constructing safe water and waste disposal facilities; expand programs that provide substance abuse treatment and prevention and mental health services; strengthen existing disease surveillance capabilities; target additional assessment and treatment of diabetes and other chronic diseases; and provide preventive and corrective dental care to prevent disease and reduce tooth loss, such as water fluoridation.
- IHS Medicaid and Medicare Reimbursements. IHS will collect a total of \$365 million in Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements in FY2001, helping to bring the total IHS program level to \$3.1 billion.
- Indian Health Service (IHS) Contract Support Costs. Within the overall IHS increase, the budget continues to support Tribal self-determination by proposing a \$40 million (+18%) increase for contract support costs, to cover the costs of new and existing tribal contracts and compacts.
- Helping to Reduce Racial Disparities in Health Status. Despite improvements in the Nation's overall health, continuing disparities remain in the burden of death and illness that certain minority groups experience. For example, American Indian and Alaska Natives are about three times as likely to die from diabetes as other Americans. Working with minority public health providers, advocates, and other consumer representatives, \$35 million is provided for Centers for Disease Control to continue demonstration programs to enable select communities to develop innovative and effective approaches to address these disparities.
- Treatment for Substance Abuse. The Targeted Treatment Capacity Expansion Grant program at the Department of Health and Human Services provides funds to help communities address emerging substance abuse problems and unmet treatment needs. The President's budget proposes \$163 million for Targeted Treatment Capacity

Expansion grants, which is \$49 million over the FY 2000 level of \$114 million and will provide treatment for nearly 10,000 additional individuals. Last year, over fifteen percent of these competitive grants focused on substance abuse treatment for Native American youth and adults.

- Providing Care for Native American Seniors. The budget proposes \$23.5 million, an increase of \$5 million, to expand core nutrition and supportive services as well as caregiver services such as respite care and adult day care to Native American seniors.
- Highway Safety Grants. Because highway safety is a major problem on Indian reservations, the budget will double the amount to \$2 million for highway safety grants in Indian Country. These grants are used for problem identification, planning, and implementation to address highway safety problems related to human factors and roadway environment in order to reduce crashes, deaths, and injuries.
- Elevating the Position of the Director of IHS. The President will also continue his efforts to elevate the Director of IHS to the position of Assistant Secretary.

Providing Infrastructure for Native American Communities. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are providing solid investments to build infrastructure in Native American communities.

- Building Roads and Bridges in Indian Country. The Transportation Department (DOT) will expand its program to improve roads and bridges on Indian reservations. The President's budget proposes to give the Indian Reservations Roads program the full authorization amount of \$275 million with an additional \$74 million from a highway receipts account for a total of \$349 million, which is an increase of \$117 million over the previous year. This will allow Tribes to address the estimated backlog of \$4 billion in needs on these roads and bridges.
- Tribal Infrastructure Projects. The President and the Vice President propose \$49 million, an increase of \$46 million over FY 2000, for the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund infrastructure, planning, and public works projects. These projects will focus on technology, business development, and tribal economic development activities. EDA will give priority to projects that emphasize the attraction of outside capital to, and the location of basic commercial business operations in, Native American communities.
- USDA Rural Development Programs. The FY2001 budget proposes \$26 million, an increase of \$14 million over 2000 enacted to provide loans and grants through the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) rural development programs to construct and improve Native Americans' water and wastewater systems; community facilities such as health clinics and child care centers; and diversify and expand economic opportunities.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure Investments. The FY2001 budget increases the Tribal share of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund appropriation from 0.5 to 1.5 percent. The percentage increase will add more than \$5 million for Tribal wastewater infrastructure spending over FY 2000. The Administration also continues to request an additional \$15 million for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs of Alaska Native villages.
- Construction Skills Training. Currently, Transportation funds \$10 million per year for a construction skills training program targeted

to all minorities. Last year, only \$9 million was obligated because overall highway funding was less than authorized levels. The President's budget proposes to ensure this program is funded at its authorized levels thereby providing the full \$10 million in FY2001 and setting aside \$1 million for Native Americans.

Empowering Communities and Moving People from Welfare to Work.

- Addressing the Digital Divide. The Administration proposes this new initiative to encourage Native Americans to pursue information technology and other science and technology fields as areas of study as well as to increase the capacity of tribal colleges to offer courses in these areas. The budget provides \$10 million, to be administered by the National Science Foundation, for grants to tribal colleges for networking and access; course development; student assistance; and capacity building.
- Extending Welfare-to-Work Grants. To help more long-term welfare recipients and low-income fathers go to work and support their families, the Administration's budget will give state, local, tribal, and community- and faith-based grantees an additional two years to spend Welfare-to-Work funds, ensuring that roughly \$2 billion in existing resources continues to help those most in need. This will give grantees an opportunity to fully implement both the \$3 billion Welfare-to-Work initiative the Administration fought to include in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, which included \$30 million in tribal grants, and the program eligibility improvements enacted last year with the Administration's support.
- Helping Low-Income Fathers and Working Families Support Their Children. The Administration's budget proposes \$255 million for the first year of a new "Fathers Work/Families Win" initiative to help low-income non-custodial parents (mainly fathers) and low-income families work and support their children. Within these funds, \$10 million will be set aside for applicants from Native American workforce agencies.
- New Housing Vouchers for Hard-Pressed Working Families. The Clinton-Gore budget includes \$690 million for 120,000 new rental housing vouchers to help America's hard-pressed working families. Of the 120,000 new housing vouchers, 32,000 will be targeted to families moving from welfare to work, 18,000 to homeless individuals and families, and 10,000 to low-income families moving to new housing constructed through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, with the remaining 60,000 vouchers allocated to local areas to help address the large unmet need for affordable housing. These new vouchers build on the 110,000 new housing vouchers secured through the President's leadership in the past two years. As part of the FY 1999 competition, HUD awarded nearly 800 welfare to work housing vouchers to two tribes, and assuming Congress approves new welfare to work vouchers, the Administration will maintain a similar policy in FY 2001.
- Access to Jobs Program. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) authorized \$750 million over five years for the President's Job Access initiative and reverse commute grants to develop flexible transportation solutions, such as van services, to help welfare recipients and other low-income workers (up to 150% of poverty) travel to job opportunities and employment-related services. The President's budget proposes to double funding for this initiative to \$150 million in FY2001. To increase mobility and access to employment opportunities for Native American families moving from welfare to work and other low-income workers, DOT will set aside \$5 million for Indian tribes under the FY2001 DOT Job Access grant program and propose, through appropriations language, allowing tribes

to apply directly to the Federal Transit Administration for these grants.

- Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Expansion. The Administration requested a major expansion of the CDFI program to continue building a national network of community development banks. The final budget increases CDFI funding from \$95 million in FY2000 to \$125 million in FY2001 -- a \$30 million increase. In order to increase access to capital in Indian Country, the budget proposes, for the first time, a \$5 million set-aside within the CDFI Fund to establish a training and technical assistance program focused on eliminating barriers to capital access.
- Housing Improvement Program. The budget provides \$32 million at BIA - a doubling of the \$16 million in 2000 - to repair or replace dilapidated homes across Indian Country.
- Indian Housing. The budget provides \$650 million in block grants for Indian housing, an increase of \$30 million over FY 2000.
- Indian Homeownership Intermediaries. The budget proposes to set aside \$5 million within the Indian Housing Block Grant to create non-profit homeownership intermediaries in Indian Country. They will serve as a catalyst for the creation of a private homeownership market in Indian Country and will support local capacity-building intermediaries or "one-stop mortgage centers."
- Economic Development Planning Grants. The President's budget expands language within the Native American set-aside of the Community Development Block Grant to allow for stand-alone economic development planning grants.
- Strengthening Tribal Environmental Programs. The President's budget increases funding for the EPA's General Assistance Program (GAP) by \$10 million for a total of \$53 million. GAP grants fund tribal institutional capacity building for implementing environmental programs on Indian lands. GAP grants have increased from \$8 million in 1993 to the FY 2001 proposed level of \$53 million.
- Tribal/EPA Cooperative Agreements to Implement Federal Environmental Programs. The President's budget proposes appropriations language authorizing the Administrator of the EPA to enter into cooperative agreements with tribes or tribal consortia so that they may assist EPA in implementing Federal environmental programs. EPA will also provide grants to tribes and tribal consortia for this work.
- Remove Cap on Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Grants to Tribes. Appropriations language is proposed that permanently removes the one-third of one percent cap on the tribal share of the EPA Clean Water Act nonpoint source grants to tribes. These additional resources will help protect water quality on Indian lands.
- Agricultural Extension Program. This Initiative provides extension agents on large Indian reservations. These extension agents, employees of the State Cooperative Extension System, work with tribal advisory committees to develop educational programs in agriculture or agriculture-related youth programs that respond to tribal priorities. Since funding began in 1990, it has remained at \$1.7 million, supporting about 26 projects in 15 states. This year the President proposes to increase funding to \$5 million - the first increase since 1990.
- Promoting Self-Sufficiency. The FY2001 budget proposes \$44 million, an increase of \$9 million over 2000, for the Administration of Native Americans (ANA) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ANA funds projects that are expected to result in sustained improvements in the social and economic conditions of Native Americans within their communities. ANA will set-aside \$2 million for tribal energy development projects and another \$2 million to continue its work on developing tribal codes in order to promote business development in Indian Country.

- Tribal Energy Program. The budget proposes \$5 million, an increase of \$1 million, for the Tribal Energy Program at the Department of Energy which assists tribal governments in implementing energy programs, including with renewable energy resources such as wind energy.
- Business Assistance at the Small Business Administration. The budget proposes new funding to create Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) in Indian Country to provide business and technical assistance to Native American entrepreneurs. These new tribal SBDCs will work in tandem with the seventeen existing Tribal Business Information Centers. A total of \$4.5 million is provided for this initiative. The Administration will propose authorizing legislation to establish the tribal SBDCs. This legislation will ensure that SBDCs will be available to all parts of Indian Country, including the poorest areas.
- Expanding Business LINC to Indian Country. For the first time, the budget proposes \$1.25 million to expand the Vice President's successful BusinessLINC program to Indian Country. BusinessLINC establishes mentor-protege relationships between large and small businesses. The goal of BusinessLINC is to encourage large firms to provide technical assistance, business advice, networking, investment, and joint venturing opportunities for locally-owned smaller firms.
- Tribal Colleges Initiative. The budget proposes to set-aside \$5 million within the HUD Community Development Block Grant program for competitive grants awarded to tribal colleges to assist their communities with neighborhood revitalization, housing, and economic development. These colleges will provide technical assistance and capacity building support to their surrounding communities through assistance in the creation of community development corporations; assistance in the development and coordination of supportive services for welfare-to-work initiatives; coordination and support for the rehabilitation of housing for low- to moderate-income families; and assistance in the promotion of economic development through small business incubators and job training programs.
- Native American Economic Development Access Center. The President's budget proposes an additional \$2 million at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to establish a Native American Economic Development Access Center. This Access Center will, for the first time, link over twelve agencies through a single toll-free number so that Native American callers can receive access to information about federal programs for economic development. The purpose of the Access Center will be to answer questions in a problem-solving manner rather than requiring callers to be familiar with specific federal programs. The Access Center will also have a website.
- Technical Assistance Funding for the Tribal Colleges. The budget proposes to set aside \$1 million out of the Revenue Aligned Budget Authority for the tribal colleges to do outreach to help Native Americans access federal funds.
- New Markets Investments Initiative. The United States is currently in the midst of the longest peacetime expansion in its history. The strength and duration of this expansion has helped bring economic

opportunity to millions of people once cut off from the economic mainstream. But too many urban and rural areas, and Native American reservations, have not participated in this growth. These areas have tremendous potential as New Markets. The President's expanded New Markets initiative will spur \$22 billion in new capital investment in businesses in these economically distressed areas through a package of tax credits and loan guarantees. The package includes the following components:

- More Than Doubling the New Markets Tax Credit - The President proposes to more than double the New Markets tax credit to spur \$15 billion dollars in new investment in community development in economically distressed areas. An entity making new equity investments in a selected community development project would be eligible for a tax credit worth 25 percent of the cost of the investment. A variety of vehicles providing equity and credit to businesses in underserved areas would be eligible. The total cost of the tax credits amounts to about \$5 billion over 10 years.
- Expanded Empowerment Zones - The proposed expanded wage credits, tax incentives, and new round of urban and rural EZs will extend and improve economic growth in the 31 existing urban and rural Empowerment Zones, administered by HUD and USDA, and support the proposed third round of 10 new empowerment zones to be designated in 2001. The total cost of these proposals will be \$4.4 billion over 10 years.
- America's Private Investment Companies (APICs) - Modeled after the Overseas Private Investment Corporation's (OPIC) successful investment fund program, APICs would provide guaranteed debt to private investment companies, licensed by HUD, to help leverage private equity capital and lower the cost of capital for investments in low- and moderate-income communities. For every dollar that private investors provide, the government will guarantee two dollars in debt to expand the APIC's pool of capital available for making investments and enhance the return on those investments to the private investors. APICs will make equity investments in larger businesses that are expanding or relocating in inner cities and rural areas.
- New Market Venture Capital Firms (NMVCs) - The President is asking for \$51.7 million in his 2001 budget to allow SBA to match equity investment and technical assistance funds to finance 10-20 new investment partnerships - New Markets Venture Capital Firms -- selected to provide both long-term growth capital and expert guidance to entrepreneurs who need both in order to transform their small businesses and great ideas into thriving companies.
- Other Elements of New Markets - Other elements include: increasing the funding for SBA's microenterprise lending program; creating PRIME--a program providing technical assistance to low-income entrepreneurs; boosting CDFI funding; expanding support for BusinessLINC to encourage large businesses to work with small businesses in new markets; and establishing a New Markets University Partnerships pilot project which, under the auspices of HUD, would provide universities with funding to develop local community partnerships, assistance to intermediaries, and technical and business development assistance to new and existing firms. In addition, to better serve Native American communities, the President proposes additional funding to expand the New Markets initiative to Indian Country, which are described herein.

Protecting Sovereignty and Promoting Self-Determination.

- Tribal Contracting and Self-Governance. BIA and IHS will continue to promote Tribal self-determination through local decision-making. Tribal contracting and self-governance compact agreements now represent 41 percent of BIA's operations budget, and forty-two

percent of IHS' budget. The self-governance agreements give Tribes greater flexibility to administer Federal programs on reservations.

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Contract Support Costs. Within the overall BIA increase, the budget continues to support Tribal self-determination by proposing \$134 million, a \$9 million or 7 percent increase over 2000 for contract support costs. This funding provides \$5 million for new and expanded contracts and \$129 million for existing contracts.
- Trust Services. The Administration is committed to improving trust services and management through its trust reform efforts at the Interior Department. The budget proposes \$108 million, a 48 percent increase over 2000, for improved trust services in the BIA for activities such as probate, real estate appraisals, and other services.
- Indian Trust Fund Balances. The Administration is committed to resolving disputed Indian trust fund account balances through informal dispute resolution and supports the unique government-to-government relationship that exists in Indian trust land management issues. After Tribal consultations, BIA submitted its "Recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior for Settlement of Disputed Tribal Accounts" to Congress in November 1997. Legislation reflecting these recommendations was proposed in 1998, but not enacted. The Department will continue efforts to resolve trust fund account balances.
- Trust Land Management. As part of BIA's commitment to resolving trust land management issues, Interior worked with Congress in 1999 to repropose legislation (S. 1586) to establish an Indian Land Consolidation program to address the ownership fractionation of Indian land. Interior began implementing three pilot projects in Wisconsin, in cooperation with Tribes, to purchase small ownership interests in highly fractionated tracts of land from willing sellers. In the nine months of this effort, more than 8,000 small ownership interests have been consolidated. The budget proposes \$13 million in 2001 for this program, and Interior will work with Congress to get legislation enacted in the 106th Congress, limiting future fractionation.
- Trust Management Improvement Project. In addition to the \$13 million for the Indian Land Consolidation program, the budget provides \$83 million for DOI's Office of Special Trustee, including the trust management improvement project. Current activities include verifying individual Indian's account data and converting these data to a commercial-grade accounting system. Ownership, lease, and royalty information related to the underlying trust assets will also be verified and converted to a recently acquired commercial asset management system.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 25, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON PROPOSED FUNDING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS

South Grounds

1:17 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I am delighted to be joined today by Senator Akaka and Senator Johnson; Sue Masten, the President of the National Congress of American Indians; Kelsey Begaye, the President of the Navajo Nation; and other distinguished tribal leaders from all across our country.

I'd also like to thank a few members of Congress who are not here today, but who have been vital to our efforts to increase support for Native Americans: Senators Daschle, Domenici, Bingaman, Inouye, Nighthorse Campbell and Dorgan; and Representatives Kildee, Kennedy and Hayworth.

Before I leave to give out the Baldrige Awards, I just want to say a few words about the importance of bringing the promise of prosperity to Indian country. Nearly four centuries ago, not far from where we stand today, the Powahatan Confederacy enjoyed a prosperous trading partnership with the newly settled European colonists.

As our country grew, many tribes gave up their land, water and mineral rights in exchange for peace, health care and education from the national government. They formed solemn and lasting pacts with our country -- agreements the United States, to be charitable, has not always lived up to.

While some of today's tribes have found success in our new economy, far too many have been caught in a cycle of poverty and unemployment. Too many have suffered from government's failure to invest proper resources and education, infrastructure and health care. The facts, of course, are all too familiar. American Indian unemployment remains unacceptably high, reaching 70 percent on some reservations. One-third of American Indians and Alaska natives still live in poverty and many lack decent health care.

Indians are the victims of twice as many violent crimes as other Americans. Nearly half the roads and bridges on reservations are in serious disrepair. Many schools are crowded and crumbling. More than 80 percent of the people in Indian country are not connected to the Internet, and one-third of Indian children never finish high school.

These facts are discouraging but, clearly, not irreversible. That's because of something no statistic can measure accurately: the potential of the more than 2 million members of tribal nations in the United States. I am confident that with the right tools and the right support we can, together, bring new opportunity with new investment, to Native Americans and to Indian reservations. That's something I made clear back in 1994, when I met with leaders from over 550 federally recognized tribes in our first government-to-government meeting here at the White House, and when I visited the Pine Ridge Reservation last summer. I want to make that even more clear today.

We're in the midst of the longest, strongest period of economic growth in our history. There is no better time than now to make sure Indian country has the tools to succeed in the new economy. If not now, when will we ever step forward to bring the hope of a good job, decent health care, safe communities, quality education and new technology to every corner of this nation -- from Penobscot, Maine, to Window Rock, Arizona?

I was proud to announce in my State of the Union address the single largest budget increase, nearly \$1.2 billion, for new and existing programs that assist tribal nations. This bipartisan budget proposal includes funding to increase economic opportunity, health care, education and law enforcement for Indian communities, in a cooperative effort with all agencies of our government.

One of the first steps must be to make sure American Indian children, and children everywhere in America, have the education they need to succeed. My budget more than doubles last year's funding to replace and repair schools on reservations, and to address the growing digital divide, with grants to tribal colleges for information and technology training.

The information superhighway links people and communities across very great distances, but we can't abandon our old highways either. Our budget includes unprecedented funding to improve roads and bridges in Indian country. It also takes steps to strengthen tribal communities through improved public safety and health care. It increases funding for law enforcement officials and alcohol and substance abuse programs. Finally, it includes a 10 percent increase for the Indian Health Service, to expand access to high quality health care.

Working with members of both parties, representatives from tribal communities, and leaders from the private sector, together we can pass this budget and give the people in Indian country the tools they need and deserve to succeed.

These are important steps, and we have an historic opportunity to achieve them this year. I ask Congress to work with me to seize this vital opportunity.

An old adage of the Sioux says, "Each of us were created in these lands, and from them will spring the future generations of our people." We should all begin this new century by honoring our historic responsibility to the new generations of the first Americans.

Thank you.

Q Mr. President, at least two OPEC nations seem to have decided that they're going to increase their oil output. I'm wondering if the United States put direct pressure on them, and why do you think they are doing this?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think that they're doing it because they believe it's in their long-term best interest. They don't want oil prices to go as low as they dipped at the bottom, not all that long ago, and we shouldn't either. But they know if oil prices are too high, one of two things will happen -- either they will provoke an economic downturn among their customers, and then the demand will fall off and the price will drop; or they will provoke more competition from non-OPEC members and the supply will go up in ways they don't have control over. So I think that they would be making a sound decision to try to stabilize prices at a lower rate.

Q Was there diplomatic pressure put on them to do this from the United States?

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- we are in constant contact with all the oil producers and all these other -- as we are with other countries around the world. I wouldn't characterize it that way, however. I think this is a decision they will make on their own based on what they believe is in their interest.

Q Are you easing the import restrictions on dual-use technology to Iraq, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What we are reviewing is whether there is some way to continue our policy of meeting human needs without allowing Saddam Hussein to rearm. I think it's clear to everybody who has looked at the facts, however, that they're exporting about as much oil now as they were before the embargo was imposed. And any continued suffering from lack of food and medicine on the part of Iraqi children or the poor is the result of Saddam Hussein's policies, not this embargo.

If you look at the difference in the health indicators of children in the north of Iraq where this program, the oil for food program, has been administered by the United Nations, and in the rest of Iraq where it's been administered by Saddam Hussein, it's perfectly clear that he has increased the misery of his people and has blamed us for something that is no longer -- clearly no longer attributable to the international community.

Nonetheless, if there is a way to further free up resources for the overall health and development of the people of Iraq, without doing anything that will make it easier for him to rearm in ways that will be damaging to his neighbors and to the stability of the region, we ought to be open to that. And we ought to be careful and constructive in listening to arguments about it.

Yes, April.

Q Mr. President, what are your thoughts about the black Secret Service filing a suit against the Service in reference to promotions there, and especially in light of the fact that you supported the Secret Service officers that filed suit against Denny's several years ago?

THE PRESIDENT: I knew what the facts were there. This case has just been filed. There are a lot of members of racial and ethnic minorities who have done very well in the Secret Service, and I think that it's better not to comment on the merits of the case. I will say this -- I try never to pass up a chance to say I think that it is a superb organization; they do a wonderful job. And we have been, my family and I, very well served by men and women in the Secret Service of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. And I think that, beyond that, I shouldn't comment because it's in litigation and there are very specific facts that are alleged that it would be wrong to comment on.

But I think the Secret Service has given a lot of different kinds of Americans a chance to serve, and they have done it superbly well there.

Go ahead, John.

Q Mr. President, I know that you hate to talk politics, sir, and I don't mean to keep you here for a long time. And I realize that you don't want to influence the race, but we are about to go into a very important week here in the primary season. And I'm wondering, sir, without asking you to handicap the race, who do you see as being the stronger Republican candidate to go up against the eventual Democratic nominee in November?

THE PRESIDENT: Sounds like a handicap question to me. (Laughter.) I'll give you a straight answer which won't sound straight. I don't think you can know now. I mean, what happens is, in national political life, one person begins and is in total control of the way he or she presents himself or herself, and is hot as a firecracker. And then a fuller picture comes out, and maybe even an attack or two comes out, and then that person once again returns to the ranks of human beings, and people make more reasoned and seasoned judgments.

And we're in a period where there's been a shift in that. But I think you have no way of knowing whether today's facts will be November's facts. So I don't think that -- for our Democrats, my advice, not only to the Vice President, but for all of our people out there running is, run on what we believe in; run on what we've done; run on what you want to do. And don't worry about what the Republicans are doing. Just go out there and make your case to the American people, and don't worry about it and time will take care of it. And then eventually these races, including the presidency, will be joined. There will be two choices. There will be debates, and people will draw their own conclusions.

But I don't think -- I think it is utterly impossible on today's facts to answer the question that you've asked with any confidence, because look how different today's facts are than the facts six months ago. And six months from now, they might be different again.

Q Mr. President, there were reports today of really some horrendous atrocities in Chechnya, allegedly carried out by the Russians. Does this give you even more concern than you've had in the past about Russian behavior there?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course it does. The reports are very troubling, and I think they again make the case for the right kind of unfettered access to Chechnya and to the people there by the appropriate international agencies.

I think, you know, in every conflict of any duration, there are always excesses. I'm not excusing anything. I'm saying that if you look at the fact that this is the second incarnation in this decade of the conflict in Chechnya; if you look at the bitter feelings, the tensions there -- and I think it is imperative for the Russians to allow the appropriate international agencies unfettered access to do the right inquiries, to find out what really went on and to deal with it in an appropriate way. I think that these reports should increase the sense of conviction that people all over the world have about that.

Q One quick question on China. Key democrats are saying right now that the chances of getting your trade policies through Congress are not very good, rather bleak -- and it comes at a time when China has been doing a lot of sabre rattling and also has been telling, basically, the United States to mind its own business regarding Taiwan. Do you really think you can get those trade policies through in this environment?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the environment is unfortunate, but I think you have to see those statements in terms of those -- in the context of the election in Taiwan for presidency. I think that's what's going on here. Keep in mind, the United States has had now for two decades a one China policy that says we believe in one China, but we believe the differences between Taiwan and Beijing have to be resolved in a diplomatic manner; and we support a cross strait dialogue.

So in the context of this season, the President of Taiwan announced that he thought they ought to start acting like there was not one China, that they should be state-to-state relations. Then the Chinese made some military maneuvers which raised questions. We said the same thing

then we said in light of their statements here. But it would be a mistake for either side to abandon a policy that has served both well for the last 20 years.

Now, having said that, in the absence of some destructive action, it would be a terrible mistake for the United States, and for those who basically find this an uncomfortable vote, to use this as an excuse to isolate China and almost guarantee the very things they say they're worried about.

Look, this is an economic no-brainer. It's almost -- it's amazing to me that anybody could say the contrary. China opens all their markets to us for reducing tariffs, allowing us to invest there, allowing us to open business there. In some areas, we no longer have to transfer technology. We get special rights outside the WTO if they bombard our markets unfairly with cheap products that forge a big surge and throw a lot of Americans out of business. We have special rights in this agreement to go against them, something most members of Congress don't know. So it is clearly an economic plus.

So the real issue is, from the point of view of national security, do you want them in the international system, as responsible players, or do you want to say, we don't want you in the international system until you're governed exactly the way we think you should be, and until you do exactly what we think you should; and until that time, we will keep you out, so there.

Now, based on all your knowledge of human nature, which do you think is more likely to produce constructive partnerships and constructive conduct on the part of the Chinese? All I can tell you is, I know this is an election year. I know that some members are receiving pressure -- in both parties, I might add. I think it is very interesting that most of the religious groups, for example, that have done missionary work in China and have seen the impact of religious persecution or the absence of religious liberty there -- virtually all of them that have actually worked in China strongly favor China's coming into the WTO -- because they understand once there are millions and millions of Internet connections, once the Chinese are open to the world, once they are involved in an international system, the government will be more likely to be responsible and the people will be more likely to find their own freedom.

And I believe that if we do not do this, that our country will be regretting this five, 10, 15, 20 years from now. We will be shaking our heads saying, what in the world got a hold of our judgment in the year 2000? If we do it, 10 years from now, we will marvel that it was ever even a hard debate. That's what I believe. And so I'm going to stick with it, and I believe we'll make it.

Now, the statement on Taiwan may get harder, but you have to see it in the context of the electoral politics playing out in Taiwan, and not necessarily assume that some destructive action will follow -- just as I saw the Taiwanese provocative comments in the context of the Taiwanese elections.

Thank you. Thank you all very much.

THE PRESS: Thank you, sir.

END

1:35 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 6, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
BUILDING ECONOMIC SELF-DETERMINATION IN INDIAN COMMUNITIES

Grand Hyatt Hotel
Washington, D.C.

1:55 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you for the wonderful welcome. Thank you for the song. Thank you, Dominic, for giving us a picture of opportunity and hope for the future. I'm very glad that you're not only a good student but a good entrepreneur and a good promoter. Dominic was kind enough to give me one of his bracelets before I came out. (Laughter and applause.) So I'm his latest walking advertisement, and I'm glad to shill for him. (Laughter.)

I would like to thank the members of the administration, the 15 agencies that have come together with the White House to sponsor this conference. I thank Secretary Daley, Secretary Riley, Secretary Glickman, Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez, who are here. I'd like to thank Deputy Assistant Secretary Michael Anderson; Kevin Gover, Mark Van Norman; Angela Hammond, and two young people on our staff, Julie Fernandes and Mary Smith, who work with Mickey Ibarra and Lynn Cutler; all of them worked very hard on this conference. I thank them. Thank you. (Applause.)

I'm proud to be here with Chief Marge Anderson; Governor Walter Dasheno; Chief Joyce Dugan; Chairman Frank Ettewagechik; Chairman Roland Harris; Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison; President Ivan Makil; Governor Mary Thomas; Chairman Brian Wallace; President John Yellow Bird Steele. I thank all of you.

I have looked forward to this day for quite a long time. The Iroquois teach us that every decision we make, every action we take, must be judged not only on the impact it makes today but on the impact it makes on the next seven generations. It is, therefore, fitting on the eve of a new century and a new millennium, that we come together today to determine what we must do to build a stronger future for our children, for our grandchildren, for future generations of Native Americans, and indeed for all Americans.

For too many Americans, our understanding of Native Americans is frozen in time -- in sepia-toned photography of legendary chieftains; in the ancient names of rivers, lakes, and mountain ranges; in the chapters of old history books. But as we have all seen at this conference, the more than 2 million members of tribal nations in the United States -- from energetic, young entrepreneurs like Dominic to innovative leaders like the ones sitting here with me today -- are a vital part of today's America and must be an even more vital part of tomorrow's America. (Applause.)

We are living in a time of great opportunity and hope, with our economy the strongest in a generation. Soon we will have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years; the lowest unemployment in 28 years; the highest home ownership in history. Social problems are

finally beginning to bend to our efforts as a nation -- the crime rate, the lowest in 25 years; the welfare rolls, the smallest percentage of our people in 29 years. We are taking strong steps toward the America I dreamed of when I first ran for this office beginning in late 1991 -- an America where there is opportunity for all, responsibility from all, a community of all our people.

It is a time of unprecedented prosperity for some of our tribes as well. Gaming and a variety of innovative enterprises have enabled tribes to free their people from lives of poverty and dependence. The new wealth is sparking a cultural renaissance in parts of Indian country, as tribes build new community centers, museums, language schools, elder-care centers.

But we also know the hard truth -- that on far too many reservations across America such glowing statistics and reports mean very little indeed. While some tribes have found new success in our new economy, too many more remain caught in a cycle of poverty, unemployment, and disease. The facts are all too familiar. More than a third of all Native Americans still live in poverty. With unemployment at a 28-year low, still on some reservations more than 70 percent of all adults do not have regular work. Diabetes in Indian country has reached epidemic proportions. Other preventable diseases and alcoholism continue to diminish the quality of life for hundreds of thousands.

At a time of such great prosperity, when we know we don't have a person to waste, this is an unacceptable condition. That's why we're here today -- to find new ways to empower our people, especially our children, with the tools and the opportunity to build brighter futures for themselves and their families. Our government alone cannot solve the problems of Indian country, nor can tribal governments be left to fend alone for themselves.

Everyone must do his or her part -- tribal and federal governments, along with the private sector. We all have to work together to empower our people with the tools they need to succeed. Most of all, every individual must take responsibility to seize the opportunities of this new time and to break the cycle of poverty.

As President, I have worked very hard to honor tribal sovereignty and to strengthen our government-to-government relationships. Long ago, many of your ancestors gave up land, water, and mineral rights in exchange for peace, security, health care, education from the federal government. It is a solemn pact. And while the United States government did not live up to its side of the bargain in the past, we can and we must honor it today and into that new millennium. (Applause.)

Four years ago, when I became the first President since James Monroe in the 1820s to invite the leaders of every tribe to the White House, I issued a memorandum directing all federal agencies to consult with the Indian tribes before making decisions on matters affecting your people. This spring I strengthened that directive so that decisions made by the federal government regarding Indian country are always made in cooperation with the tribes.

In the last six months, Jackie Johnson has joined the staff at HUD, Carrie Billy at Education, Rhonda Whiting at the Small Business Administration, to help coordinate and promote Native American initiatives at these agencies. Raynell Morris will join the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to help Mickey Ibarra and Lynn Cutler with Native American initiatives and outreach. I welcome all to my administration. (Applause.)

We also, as all of you know, have been working very hard for more

than a year now on a race initiative designed to address the opportunity gaps for all Americans, and I thank those of you who have had a role in that. The most recent public event we did with the race initiative was an hour-long conversation on Jim Lehrer's Public Broadcasting System show. The Native American community was represented by a delightful, energetic young man named Sherman Alexie, whose new movie, *Smoke Signals*, is receiving very good reviews around the country, and I had it brought to me at the White House and watched it. He's got a great talent, and I wish him well. (Applause.)

Today I want to talk about opportunity and about three tools of opportunity every American needs to thrive in the 21st century; how we can bring these tools to every person in every corner of Indian country, from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, to Window Rock, Arizona, to Cherokee, North Carolina.

(Yells from the audience.)

THE PRESIDENT: That's okay. (Laughter.)

The first and most important tool of opportunity, of course, is education. Throughout history, in the United States education has been the key to a better life for generations of Americans. This will clearly be even more true in a global, knowledge-based economy that will reward children, but only children who have the skills to succeed and to keep learning for a lifetime.

Today fewer than two-thirds of our Native Americans over the age of 25 hold high school degrees. Fewer than 10 percent go on to college. If the trend continues, then the future for Native American children will become even bleaker. The opportunity gap between them and their peers will widen to a dangerous chasm. In a few moments, therefore, I will sign an executive order directing our administration to work together with tribal and state governments to improve Native American achievement in math and reading, to raise high school and post-secondary graduation rates, to reduce the influence of poverty and substance abuse on student performance, to create safe, drug-free schools, to expand the use of science and technology. I believe in this. I have done what I could to support Native American higher education and will continue to do so.

We have also tried to open the doors of college to all, with more Pell grants, tax credits which make the first two years of college now virtually free to all Americans, increased work-study slots, and Americorps community service slots -- other things we have tried to do to make college education more affordable. But we have to have more people who are able to take advantage of it.

The second tool is high-quality health care. Native American communities will never reach their full potential if people continue to be hobbled by disease -- diseases often preventable, easily treatable. Native Americans are three times as likely to suffer from diabetes as white people. Therefore, they should get three times the benefit of the remarkable advances that we made in the last year in the diabetes prevention effort. (Applause.)

The American Diabetes Association said that what we did for diabetes not too long ago was the most important step forward since the discovery of insulin -- in treatment, in prevention, in research. Every tribe should know what is in the law, what the benefits are; it should be in a position to take maximum advantage of it.

Last summer, as I said when I signed this legislation, I wanted to make sure that it helped all Americans with diabetes but especially those in our Native American communities. Earlier this year I launched

an initiative to help eliminate health disparities between racial and ethnic minority groups by the year 2010. I want you to make sure Congress fully funds this initiative as well.

Today, I am pleased to announce that we're going to make an adjustment in our new children's health insurance program to ensure that Native American children get the health care they need. (Applause.) In the balanced budget bill which passed Congress last year, we had \$24 billion over a five-year period to extend health insurance to 5 million more children. The action I'm taking today makes sure that the money is fairly allocated so that Native American children who are disproportionately without health insurance will now have their fair chance to be covered. (Applause.)

I also want you to know that I am committed to working with Congress and Secretary Shalala to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service, Dr. Michael Trujillo, who is here today, to the rank of Assistant Secretary for Health and Human Services. (Applause.) By elevating the head of the Indian Health Service, we can ensure that the health needs of our Native Americans get the full consideration they deserve when it comes to setting health policy in our country

The third tool is economic opportunity, in the form of jobs, credit, small business. Very few grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, and banks are doing business on reservations. As a result, money that could be used to build tribal economies and create jobs is spent too often off reservation.

I've issued a new directive to boost economic development in Indian country. The directive will do three things. It will ask the Department of Commerce to work with the Interior Department and with the tribal governments to study and develop a plan to meet the technology infrastructure needs of Indian country. No tribe will be able to attract new business if it doesn't have the phone, fax, Internet, and other technology capabilities essential to the 21st century. (Applause.)

The directive calls on several agencies to coordinate and strengthen existing Native America economic development initiatives. And I might say in particular, I think micro-credit institutions have a terrific potential to do even more than some of you have already done for the last several years in Indian country. The community development financial institutions that we have established in this country in the last few years have played an important role in providing credit to people who otherwise could not get it to start small businesses or to expand small businesses. I have asked the Congress for a significant expansion in the Community Development Financial Institutions Act. I believe in micro-lending.

The United States last year through our aid programs financed 2 million small loans in developing nations around the world. Think how much good we could do if we could finance 2 million small loans in developing communities in the United States of America. (Applause.) We're also directing the Department of Treasury and HUD to work with tribal governments to create and improve one-stop mortgage shopping centers to help more Native Americans obtain loans more easily. And our first pilot will be in the Navajo nation. (Applause.)

Last, I am proud to announce the plan by the United States Department of Agriculture to help seven tribes get a foothold in our high-tech economy. The Department will help these tribes establish small technology companies to obtain government contracts for software development and other services.

I have asked HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo to visit several

reservations to determine what more his department and our administration can do to boost economic development there. A few weeks ago he met with leaders of 60 Alaskan native villages; today he's visiting Pine Ridge and Lower Brule Indian reservations in South Dakota.

The next millennium must be a time of great progress and prosperity for our Native American communities, and we can make it so. Today American Indian population is still very young. In the last census 39 percent of all Native Americans were under the age of 20. I kind of wish I were one of them. (Laughter.)

But this statistic is one that should bring us great hope, even as it poses your and my greatest challenge. We have a new large generation of young people who, if given the tools, the encouragement, and the opportunity, can work together to lead their families out of the stifling poverty and despair of the past.

So let us work to bring this generation and the next seven generations a world of abundant hope and opportunity, where all tribes have vanquished poverty and disease and all people have the tools to achieve their greatest potential.

I leave you with the words of the Lakota song we heard a few moments ago. "Beneath the President's flag, the people stand, that they may grow for generations to come." Let us stand together under America's flag to build that kind of future for generations to come. Thank you, and God bless you.

END

2:14 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 6, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON:

A Record of Partnership with American Indians and Alaska Natives

"My administration has worked in partnership with tribal leaders...to protect American Indian religious freedom, promote tribal self-determination, preserve tribal natural resources and provide economic opportunities for Native Americans. I look forward to continuing this government-to-government relationship in order to build on the progress we have made in Indian Country."

President Bill Clinton

On April 29, 1994, President Clinton became the first President to invite the leaders of all federally recognized Tribes to the White House. On this historic occasion, the President pledged that his Administration would work with Tribal leaders to establish a true government-to-government partnership. The Clinton Administration has delivered on this commitment by:

Strengthening the Relationship Between the Federal Government and Tribal Nations

In 1994, the President executed a Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies directing agencies to consult, to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with tribal governments prior to taking actions that affect federally recognized tribal governments.

On May 14, 1998, the President issued an executive order that strengthens and makes effective across Administrations the 1994 Government-to-Government memorandum. This executive order serves to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Indian tribal governments in the development of regulatory practices on Federal matters that significantly or uniquely affect their communities, to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribal governments, and to streamline the application process for and increase the availability of waivers to Indian tribal governments.

Expanding the role of American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout his Administration

Appointed 59 Native Americans to all levels of his Administration, including 10 to top positions requiring Senate confirmation and 30 to Presidential appointment positions.

Created the Office of Tribal Justice to promote government-to-government relations with Indian Tribes and ensure aggressive representation of tribal sovereignty in the courts.

Established the American Indian Environmental Office to work with Tribes to protect water quality and the environment in Indian Country.

Created a permanent White House working group composed of all Executive Branch Departments to advance Tribal sovereignty across the administration.

Protecting Religious Freedom

Signed an executive order that requires federal agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

Successfully fought for passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in order to protect the right of free exercise of Tribal religions.

Directed federal agencies to ensure efficient collection and distribution of available eagle feathers and eagle parts to American Indians and Alaska Natives for traditional religious purposes.

Promoting Tribal Self-Determination

Supported passage and implementation of the Indian Self-Determination Act and the Tribal Self-Governance Act, which give Tribal governments control of most federal resources spent within Indian Country.

Successfully fought attempts to penalize tribes for exercising their powers of self-governance and allowing states to tax Tribal governments on new trust lands.

Increasing Educational Opportunities

Proposed a 59% increase in funding for construction and facilities improvement and repair for Native American Schools in his FY 1999 budget.

Provided a 10 percent increase (from \$60 million to \$66 million) for the Indian Education Act in his FY 1999 budget. Serving nearly half a million Native American students, the Act's programs include grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs), Indian tribes and organizations, Indian-controlled schools, and individuals to address special educational and cultural academic needs of Native Americans.

Signed an executive order that aims to ensure that tribal colleges and universities are more fully recognized as accredited institutions, have access to the opportunities afforded other institutions, and have Federal resources committed to them on a continuing basis.

Providing Economic Development Opportunities in Indian Country

Established an Office of Native American Programs within the Minority Business Development Association at the Department of Commerce, with eight Native American Business Development Centers and a business consultant, that provides management and technical assistance to Native American businesses.

Signed the Community Development Banking and Regulatory Improvement Act, which promotes more lending in Indian Country;

Protecting Tribal Natural Resources

Established for the first time the right of Alaska Natives to fish for subsistence purposes.

Requested more than \$160 million (a 15 percent increase) in his FY 1999 budget for EPA support of tribal environmental protection programs on reservations. As a part of this program, EPA will

continue to support tribal capacity to implement, operate, and enforce Federal environmental laws.

Supported the exercise of Northwest Tribes' treaty fishing rights.

Improving Health and Safety for American Indian and Alaska Native Families

Supported funding for continued implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act and tribal consensus amendments to protect Indian families and culture.

Signed into law the Indian Tribal Justice Support Act to improve criminal law enforcement in Indian Country.

Directed the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior to work with tribal leaders and propose improvements for public safety and criminal justice in Indian Country. As a result of this process, the President's FY 1999 budget contains a \$182 million initiative within the Justice and Interior Departments to raise the level of law enforcement in Indian country to national standards.

Devoted \$54 million in his FY 1999 budget to hiring police officers through the COPS program exclusively in Indian country.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 6, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES FOR NATIVE AMERICANS
RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH CARE, AND EDUCATION

August 6, 1998

Today, President Clinton will attend a conference sponsored by the White House and fifteen federal agencies, "Building Economic Self-Determination in Indian Communities." He will announce several initiatives aimed at improving economic self-sufficiency, increasing educational opportunities, and providing health care to Native Americans. The initiatives focus on: improving student achievement in reading and math for grades K-12; assessing the technology infrastructure needs of Indian country; coordinating existing federal economic development programs for Native Americans; creating a one-stop mortgage center in Indian country to streamline the mortgage process; creating technology-based jobs in Indian country; and adjusting the state funding from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to reflect accurately states' populations of Native American children. In addition, the President will call on Congress to pass legislation to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary.

Creating Educational Opportunities for Native American Students

Native American Education Executive Order. Today, President Clinton will sign an executive order designed to improve the academic performance of American Indian and Alaska Native students in grades K-12. The order focuses special attention on the following five goals: (1) improving student achievement in reading and mathematics; (2) increasing high school completion and post-secondary attendance rates; (3) reducing the influence of long-standing factors that impede educational performance, such as poverty and substance abuse; (4) creating strong, safe, and drug-free school environments conducive to learning; and (5) expanding the use of science and educational technology. This order is structured to address Indian educational needs through participation at the federal, regional, and local levels. At the federal level, the order establishes an Interagency Task Force to plan initiatives, develop an education resource guide, and assist in implementing a comprehensive research agenda on Indian education. At the regional level, the order mandates a series of regional forums to identify promising practices. Finally, at the local level, the order establishes pilot sites that will receive comprehensive technical assistance in support of the goals of the order.

Expanding Economic Development in Indian Country

Executive Directive for Economic Development in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities. The President will announce a directive with three components:

Technology Infrastructure Study. The President will direct the Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and tribal governments, to issue a report within nine months on the technology infrastructure needs within Indian country, including distance learning facilities, telecommunications capabilities, and manufacturing facilities.

Strategic Plan to Coordinate Economic Development. The President also will direct the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, and the Small Business Administration to develop, within 90 days, a strategic plan for coordinating economic development initiatives for Native American and Alaska Native communities. The plan will build upon current efforts in the agencies and detail future efforts on matters such as providing technical assistance, enhancing infrastructure, and developing software.

One-Stop Mortgage Center. The President also will direct the Departments of Treasury and Housing and Urban Development, in partnership with local tribal governments and in cooperation with other federal agencies, to initiate a project to help streamline the mortgage lending process in Indian country in order to improve access to mortgage loans on Indian reservations. The agencies will initiate this effort through a year-long pilot program on the Navajo Nation and in at least one other location.

Providing \$70 Million to Create Technology-Based Jobs in Indian Country. The President will announce that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through its Bringing Rural America Venture Opportunities (BRAVO) initiative, will direct \$70 million to assist seven American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in establishing small start-up technology companies to obtain government contracts.

Improving Health Care for Native Americans

Legislation to Elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary. The President will call on Congress to pass legislation to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary. This change will strengthen government-to-government relationships; facilitate communication and consultation with the Tribes on matters of Indian health; and raise awareness of Indian health concerns throughout the Department of Health and Human Services and the entire federal government.

Increase Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding in states with large numbers of Native American children by about \$20 million. The President will announce a change in the state-by-state allocation of the \$24 billion in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to count Native American children appropriately. Under this program, states receive a share of funds based on their proportion of uninsured children below 200 percent of poverty. When the Census Bureau produced these counts last September, it did not count vulnerable Native American children as "uninsured." Thus, even though such children are eligible for CHIP coverage, states with a large number of Native American children did not receive the appropriate share of funds. The President will announce that the Administration will revise these allotments. These revised allotments will be published in October. This effort will build upon the Administration's commitment to improve health care coverage for Native American children. Both the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs and HHS's Indian Health Service are committed to increase enrollment of uninsured Native American and Alaska Native children, including through the development and distribution of culturally relevant referral information to schools and social services.

Equal Pay
child Safety Seats
Women's Outreach office
in W/H

~~Equal Pay~~
child safety seats
Women's Outreach office
in Wt

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 11, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON EQUAL PAY

The Rose Garden

12:20 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Let me welcome you all here today. And before I acknowledge the members of Congress and our participants, I need to say just a few words about the terrible fire that has surrounded and engulfed part of Los Alamos, New Mexico. I have been briefed on the situation. The fire is continuing to blaze. The residents have been evacuated. We have taken steps to protect our lab and the assets there. And most important, I just want to give my sympathies to the people who have lost their homes.

Yesterday I declared an emergency for the area, making them eligible for disaster assistance, and today our FEMA Administrator, James Lee Witt, Secretary Richardson, our Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck, and the Director of the National Park Service Bob Stanton are all there, or will be shortly, to assess the situation and to monitor our efforts.

This is a very, very difficult situation and I know that the prayers and support of all Americans will be with the people out there.

I'd like to welcome Senator Harkin, Senator Feinstein, Representative DeLauro, Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, Representative Mink, Woolsey, Moore, Jackson Lee, and Eddie Bernice Johnson -- all of whom are here today. With Secretary Herman and Martin Bailly, the Chair of our Council of Economic Advisors; Janice Lachance; our EEOC Chair, Ida Castro; and all the other people who are here representing working families.

In just a few moments, I'll introduce the woman to my left, who will speak after me and is really what this day is all about.

The first Mother's Day of the 21st century is shaping up to be a time of commitment and action, led by women in America. On Sunday, mothers from around the nation will march for safer communities free of gun violence. Today, women and men are coming together to uphold core American values of equality, dignity, and justice.

This has been designated Equal Pay Day. It marks the fact that the average woman had to work more than four months into this year just to earn what the average man earned last year. But equal pay is about more than dollars and cents. It's about right and wrong, because it's wrong when women still earn about 75 cents for every dollar earned by a man in the same line of work; it's wrong that average female workers have to work an extra 17 weeks to catch up to the wages of average male workers.

It's true, of course, that some of these differences can be explained by education, age, and occupation. But even after adjusting for these factors, there remains a sizable pay gap. As women grow older, the gap grows wider. It is widest for women of color. African

American women earn 64 cents for every dollar earned by white men. In other words, they'd have to work all of last year and into July of this year before they earned as much as the average white male earned in 1999. For Hispanic women -- listen to this -- equal pay day won't come until late October.

Equal pay is about all our mothers and sisters, our wives and daughters. It's about fathers and brothers and sons and husbands. It's a family issue. When women aren't paid equally, the entire family pays the price.

We also know the cost extends far beyond one's work life. If you're making less, you'll get less Social Security. You'll have less to put aside for retirement. The average woman who's about to retire -- if she even gets a pension -- can expect about half the pension benefits of the average man who retires.

Now is the time to close the wage gap. (Applause.) You have often heard me ask this question in the context of other national challenges, but if we have the lowest unemployment in over 30 years, and the longest economic expansion in history, and over 21 million new jobs, with the lowest poverty rate in 20 years, and the lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment rates ever recorded, the lowest female unemployment rate in 40 years and the lowest female household poverty rate on the record, if we can't solve this problem now, when in the world will we ever get around to it? Now is the time to deal with this.

Wages for women are up, and the pay gap has narrowed since the passage of the Equal Pay Act. But the gap is still far, far too wide, and women and their families are paying a terrible price.

Today, I received a report from the Council of Economic Advisors on opportunities for women in the new economy, particularly in information technology fields -- jobs such as computer scientists and programmers. Information technology now accounts for about a third of our growth, although only 8 percent of direct employment. But these are high-wage jobs that pay about 80 percent above the national average.

The CEA study shows that overall employment in information technology has grown by more than 80 percent since 1993. That's amazing. Overall employment has nearly doubled since 1983. But fewer than one of three of these high-tech, high-wage jobs are filled by women. Moreover, women are most under-represented in new economy jobs where the pay is highest. For example, electrical engineering is just 10 percent female today. That is another digital divide.

The report also found that after accounting for education and age and occupation, the pay gap in information technology jobs is, unfortunately, about the same as it is in other occupations. If we're going to make the most of the new economy we have to close the door on discrimination wherever it exists, and open the door for higher opportunities for all women who wish to work and are qualified to do so.

Today, I'm announcing a number of steps to do just that. First, our budget for the coming year includes a new \$20 million initiative for the National Science Foundation for grants to universities to remove barriers to career advancement for women scientists and engineers, and encourage more women to pursue these fields.

This is especially important because we know the pay gap narrows sharply for women who have higher levels of education. When only one out of 10 engineers is a woman, and only 30 percent of those in math and computer science jobs are women, we simply have to do more.

It's important for reasons of fairness and justice. It's also important for our leadership in the global economy.

Second, I'm establishing an equal pay task force at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to ensure that our EEOC field staff have the full range of support they need to effectively investigate charges of pay discrimination. (Applause.)

Third, and perhaps most important, again today I renew my call to Congress to send the clear message that wage discrimination against women is just as unacceptable as discrimination based on race or ethnicity. (Applause.)

The best way to do that is by acting this year: Support legislation to strengthen existing wage discrimination laws. Support our Equal Pay Initiative in next year's budget to provide \$10 million for EEOC efforts to help in wage discrimination, and \$17 million for Secretary Herman's efforts to train women in non-traditional jobs, including those in high-tech fields. (Applause.)

Thirty-five years ago, when President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act -- now more than 35 years ago -- he said, I quote, "It adds to our laws another structure basic to democracy." For over seven years now, the Vice President and I have tried to build on that basic idea, to include more women in every aspect of our administration's life, and to create more opportunities for all Americans, women and men equally. We have not succeeded in closing the pay gap. We need the help of Congress to do it. It is very, very important.

We all say we want to support work and family. We all say we want to open new doors of opportunity. Now's our chance and we ought to take it.

I'd like to introduce now someone who knows about the equal pay challenge because she has lived with wage discrimination. She has fought against wage discrimination and, thankfully, she has won.

She came here from Baltimore today to tell her story. Ladies and gentlemen, Karen Simmons-Beathea. (Applause.)

* * *

THE PRESIDENT: I just wanted to say one final thing; some of the members have alluded to it. But because of the way we introduced each other, seriatim, I don't think we adequately expressed our appreciation to Karen Simmons-Beathea who really represents what this is all about, and I think we ought to give her another hand. (Applause.)

And I will just leave you with this thought. There are a few issues that we're working on today that, unfortunately, tend to get cast in Washington, D.C. in terms of a partisan divide. But out in the country there isn't one. You know, when I was a young boy, I lived with a working grandfather and a working grandmother; I was raised by a working mother. Nobody has lived in one of these families for any period of time without having at least one encounter with some kind of problem we're talking about. And if it ever happens to you, especially when you are a child, you never get over it.

If you go out and talk to Americans around this country, Republicans and Independents and Democrats will all tell you more or less the same thing about this issue. This is not a political or a partisan issue anywhere else. Now, you heard Eleanor Holmes Norton saying if somebody doesn't like our bills or they want to talk about the practical impact, well, we can talk about how to word the language and deal with the practical consequences. But whether we do something or

not and whether what we do is meaningful or not is not a political or a partisan issue in America, and it shouldn't be here.

And if all of the people who have ever experienced anything like what Karen talked about today, they'll talk to all of the members of Congress about it, we would get something done, something meaningful this year. Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END 1:05 P.M. EDT

President Clinton Announces New Equal Pay Initiative**THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary**

For Immediate Release

January 24, 2000

**PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES NEW EQUAL PAY
INITIATIVE AND URGES PASSAGE OF PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT**

Today, President Clinton will unveil a \$27 million Equal Pay Initiative in his FY 2001 budget and urge prompt passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act in order to combat unfair pay practices against women. The Initiative includes \$10 million for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to 1) bolster the ability of the EEOC to identify and respond to wage discrimination; 2) teach businesses how to meet legal requirements; and 3) launch an equal pay public service announcement campaign to inform employers and employees alike of their rights and responsibilities. The Initiative also dedicates \$10 million for the Labor Department to train women in non-traditional jobs, and provides \$7 million for the Labor Department to help employers improve their pay policies, provide non-traditional apprenticeships, and implement industry partnerships.

PRESIDENT UNVEILS NEW INITIATIVE. The President's budget includes a \$27 million initiative to help the EEOC and Labor Department fight wage discrimination. The Initiative includes \$10 million for the EEOC to:

- provide, for the first time, training and technical assistance to about 3,000 employers on how to comply with equal pay requirements under the law;
- develop public service announcements to educate employees and employers on their rights and responsibilities under equal pay laws; and
- train over 1,000 EEOC staff in identifying and responding to wage discrimination, the first such training since EEOC assumed responsibility for the Equal Pay Act in 1978.

The Initiative also provides \$17 million for DOL to:

- train women in non-traditional jobs -- for instance, in the high technology industry;
- expand access to high-quality employment-related information and career guidance through the One-Stop Career Center delivery system;
- fund projects to increase women's participation in non-traditional apprenticeships;
- provide employers with the necessary assistance to assess and improve their pay policies; and
- continue to educate the public on the importance of equal pay; and
- strengthen industry partnerships to help women retain jobs and progress in the workforce.

PRESIDENT ALSO CALLS FOR PASSAGE OF LONG-OVERDUE LEGISLATION. The President again will urge Congress to pass the "The Paycheck Fairness Act" introduced by Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), to strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination. The highlights of this legislation include a new data collection provision; increased penalties under the Equal Pay Act (EPA); a non-retaliation provision; and a provision for increased training, research, and a pay equity award.

What's New - January 2000

African American History Month

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 15, 2000

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION
INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
AND IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

January 15, 2000

Today, in his weekly radio address, President Clinton will announce that his Fiscal Year 2001 budget proposes a significant increase for civil rights enforcement to help ensure equal opportunity for all Americans. The President's budget request of \$695 million for civil rights enforcement agencies represents a 13 percent increase over last year's funding levels. The President today, citing the need to do all we can to build One America, also will call for immediate passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

BOOSTING CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS. The FY 2001 budget request of \$695 million for civil rights enforcement agencies represents a 13 percent increase over last year's funding levels. Highlights of the President's proposal include:

- Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. The President's budget includes \$98 million for the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department -- an increase of 86 percent over the 1993 funding level. The proposed funding will permit the Justice Department to expand significantly investigations and prosecutions of criminal civil rights cases (including hate crimes and police misconduct), as well as fair housing and lending cases. Funds are also included to fund the Division's enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The President's FY 2001 budget provides \$322 million for the EEOC, 14 percent more than the enacted FY 2000 budget. Funds will go to several purposes, including the agency's effort to reduce the backlog of private sector cases through a combination of regulatory reforms, the use of alternative dispute resolution, increased staffing, and investments in information technology.
- Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP). The Administration's budget also provides \$76 million for OFCCP. The request includes funds to encourage Federal contractor compliance through increased outreach, education, and technical assistance, including providing contractors with the necessary tools to evaluate their equal employment practices.
- Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Fair Housing Initiatives. The Administration's budget proposes \$50 million, a 14 percent increase above last year, for HUD's efforts to reduce housing discrimination. Included in the request is a 16 percent increase, a \$29 million, for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) for funding private fair housing groups that seek to eliminate and prevent housing discrimination. The proposal includes \$7.5 million for the final year of a three-year audit-based enforcement initiative that exposes both blatant and subtle forms of housing discrimination and \$2.5 million to fund training for housing providers to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to housing. Also, the Administration seeks \$21 million, a 5 percent increase, for the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) to support the creation of additional state and local fair

housing organizations that would jointly work on behalf of underserved populations.

- Department of Agriculture's Office of Civil Rights. The President's budget increases funding for United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) civil rights programs from \$18 million to \$21 million. The USDA's civil rights programs will emphasize outreach to disadvantaged farmers, involve small and disadvantaged businesses in USDA programs, increase conflict resolution activities and more effectively process complaints.

- Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. The President's budget proposal of \$76 million provides an increase of \$5 million over the 2000 enacted budget to fund staff training and technological improvements to speed the resolution of civil rights issues.

URGING PASSAGE OF EXPANDED FEDERAL HATE CRIMES LAW. The President today will also urge Congress to enact the bipartisan Hate Crimes Prevention Act as one of the first pieces of legislation it passes in the new millennium. The current federal hate crimes statute prohibits acts of violence that are based on a person's race, color, religion, or national origin and that are intended to interfere with certain federally protected activities. The proposed legislation would allow prosecutions to be brought even if the acts of violence did not interfere with federally protected activities. In addition, the legislation would authorize the Department of Justice to prosecute individuals who commit violent crimes against others because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender, or disability. Current federal law does not cover these cases. Finally, the President today will announce that his budget includes \$20 million to promote police integrity and for hate crimes training for federal, state, and local law enforcement.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:
Working on Behalf of African Americans

"If every American really believed that we were one nation under God; if every person really believed that we are all created equal; if every person really believed that we have an obligation to try to draw closer together and to be better neighbors with others throughout the world, then all the rest of our problems would more easily melt away. And so I ask you -- keep in your mind -- the enormous potential you have to reach the heart and soul of America, to remind them that we must be one."

-- President Clinton
Remarks to the Congressional Black Caucus
September 20, 1999

EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

Historic Economic Gains. The unemployment rate and poverty rate for African Americans are both at the lowest levels on record, with an unemployment rate of 7.0% in September 2000 (down from 14.2% in 1992) and a poverty rate of 23.6% in 1999 (down from 33.1% in 1993). Median household income for African Americans is up from \$24,300 in 1993 to \$27,910 in 1999.

Tax Cuts For Working Families. President Clinton and Vice President Gore's 1993 Economic Plan provided tax cuts to 15 million hard-pressed working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average family with two children who received the EITC received a tax cut of \$1,026. In 1997, the EITC lifted 1.1 million African Americans out of poverty. This year the President and Vice President have proposed expanding the EITC to provide tax relief to 6.4 million additional working families.

Minimum Wage Increased. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefiting 1.3 million African American workers. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have called for passage of an additional \$1.00 an hour increase.

Tripled Small Business Loans. Between 1993 and March 2000 the Small Business Administration (SBA) approved more than 16,100 loans to African American entrepreneurs under the 7(a), 504, and Microloan programs. In 1999 alone, the SBA granted 2,456 loans, worth \$386.3 million, to African American small business owners -- more than three times the number of loans granted in 1992.

Created Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. Spurring economic development in distressed communities, the Clinton-Gore Administration has created 31 Empowerment Zones and more than 100 Enterprise Communities, including 50 rural ECs, which are creating new jobs, new opportunities and stronger communities. This would have a dramatic effect in the areas with high unemployment, weak economies, shortages of affordable housing and other problems. The President won \$70 million in funding for Rural and Urban Empowerment Zones in FY 2000 -- after Congress initially provided no funding.

Encouraging Investment in Underserved Communities with the New Markets Initiative. President Clinton's New Markets Initiative will help bring economic development and renewal to communities that have not benefited from the soaring economy by spurring more than \$22 billion in new investment in urban and rural areas. The President has taken three New Markets Tours of underserved communities, which have helped generate more than \$1 billion in private sector investment commitments.

Closing the Digital Divide. Increasing access to technology and bridging the growing "digital divide" has been a top priority for President Clinton and Vice President Gore. The Clinton-Gore Administration's FY01

budget includes a comprehensive initiative to bridge the digital divide, broaden access to computers and training, and create new opportunity for all Americans.

BUILDING ONE AMERICA:

President's One America Initiative. President Clinton has led the nation in an effort to become One America: a place where we respect others' differences and embrace the common values that unite us. The President has been actively involved in public outreach efforts to engage Americans in this historic effort, and followed up on the work of the Initiative on Race by appointing Robert B. (Ben) Johnson as Assistant to the President and Director of the new White House Office on the President's Initiative for One America. The office is working to ensure that we have a coordinated strategy to close the opportunity gaps that exist for minorities and the underserved in this country, and build the One America we want for all of our nation's children.

An Administration that Looks Like America. The President has appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history, with twice as many African American appointees as any previous administration. African Americans make up 12 percent of the Clinton Cabinet, 14 percent of Administration appointees, and 17 percent of Federal bench nominations. The President has appointed more African Americans to federal judgeships (62 total) than were appointed during the last sixteen years combined (57 total).

INVESTING IN EDUCATION:

Increased Funding and Grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have increased funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) by over \$250 million between FY92 and FY98 -- an increase of nearly 25 percent. Today, America's 105 HBCUs are educating almost 300,000 African American students.

Record College Enrollment. The percentage of African American high school graduates enrolling in college increased from 48 percent in 1992 to 59 percent in 1997 -- the highest number ever.

Proposing the Largest Head Start Expansion in History. Since 1993, the Clinton-Gore Administration has increased funding for Head Start by 90 percent. The President's FY01 budget increases funding for Head Start by another \$1 billion -- the largest increase ever proposed for the program -- to provide Head Start and Early Head Start to approximately 950,000 children. This funding will bring within reach the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002 and builds the foundation for the long-term goal of universal pre-school. In 1998, 36 percent of the children enrolled in Head Start were African American.

Turning Around Failing Schools. 11 million low-income students now benefit from Title I- Aid to Disadvantaged Students, and all our children are benefiting from higher expectations and a challenging curriculum geared to higher standards. In the 1996-97 school year, 28 percent of the children benefiting from the Title I program were African American.

Class Size Reduction Initiative. Last year President Clinton and Vice President Gore won a second installment of \$1.3 billion for the President's plan to help school districts hire and train an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. Already, 29,000 teachers have been hired through this initiative. This year, the FY01 budget includes \$1.75 billion for this program, an \$450 million increase -- enough to fund about 49,000 teachers.

Placing Quality Teachers in Underserved Areas. This year, the President and Vice President proposed a new \$1 billion teacher quality plan to

recruit, train and reward good teachers. The Teaching to High Standards Initiative includes a Hometown Teacher Recruitment program to empower high-poverty school districts to develop programs to recruit homegrown teachers to address the shortage of qualified teachers. It also includes \$50 million for Teacher Quality Rewards, which will reward school districts that have made exceptional progress in reducing the number of uncertified teachers and teachers teaching outside their subject area.

Preparing Students for College With GEAR UP. The President and Vice President created and expanded GEAR UP; a mentoring initiative, to help over 750,000 low-income middle school children finish school and prepare for college. This year the President has proposed a 62.5 percent increase to serve 1.4 million students. On September 12, 2000, President Clinton released 80 new GEAR UP grants totaling \$46 million.

New Tax Incentives to Make College More Affordable. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have proposed the College Opportunity Tax Cut, which would give families the option of taking a tax deduction or claiming a 28 percent credit for tuition and fees to pay for higher education. When fully phased in, this proposal would provide up to \$2,800 in tax relief annually to help American families pay for college.

Helping Students Finish College. This year, the President and Vice President proposed new College Completion Challenge Grants to help reduce the college drop-out rate, with pre-freshman summer programs, support services and increased grant aid to students. This \$35 million initiative will improve the chances of success for nearly 18,000 students. Currently, 29 percent of African Americans drop out of college after less than one year, compared to 18 percent of whites.

Dual Degree Programs for Minority-Serving Institutions. The Clinton-Gore Administration has proposed a new program to increase opportunities for students at minority-serving institutions that offer four-year degrees. Students would receive two degrees within five years: one from a minority-serving institution, and one from a partner institution in a field in which minorities are underrepresented.

IMPROVING OUR NATION'S HEALTH:

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program. In the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, President Clinton won \$24 billion to provide health care coverage to up to five million uninsured children. In October 1999 the President announced new outreach efforts to enroll millions of eligible, uninsured children. This year, the budget includes several of Vice President Gore's proposals to accelerate enrollment of children in CHIP. The President and Vice President are also proposing a new FamilyCare program, which would give States the option to cover parents in the same plan as their children. African American children make up 25 percent of all uninsured children -- more than twice their percentage of the overall population.

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities by 2010. President Clinton's initiative will help eliminate racial disparities in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. President Clinton and Vice President Gore won a 200% increase for this initiative in FY00, and this year they have proposed \$35 million in funding to continue the effort.

Addressing HIV/AIDS. Minority communities make up the fastest growing portion of the HIV/AIDS caseload. Last year, the President won a \$210 million investment -- a 45 percent increase -- to improve prevention efforts in high-risk communities and expand access to new HIV therapies. This year's budget continues that investment.

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER:

Putting 100,000 More Police on the Streets. In 1999, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Clinton-Gore Administration met its commitment to fund 100,000 police officers for our communities. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced a distressed neighborhood grant program to increase community policing in high-crime and underserved neighborhoods. To help keep crime at record lows, in fall 1999, the President won funding for the first installment toward his goal to hire up to 50,000 more officers by 2005.

Preventing Hate Crimes. The President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, which provides for longer sentences for hate crimes, and hosted the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have repeatedly called for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act in order to strengthen hate crimes laws. The President's FY 2001 budget includes \$20 million to promote police integrity and for hate crimes training for federal, state, and local law enforcement.

Working to End Racial Profiling. To help determine where and when racial profiling occurs, the President directed Cabinet agencies to collect data on the race, ethnicity, and gender of individuals subject to certain stops by federal law enforcement. The President has also supported increased resources for police integrity and ethics training and to improve the diversity of local police forces.

Expanding Civil Rights Enforcement. In FY 2000, President Clinton won a six percent increase in funding for federal civil rights enforcement agencies including \$82 million for the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department, a 19 percent increase. In the FY01 budget, the President and Vice President have proposed \$698 million in funding for civil rights enforcement agencies, a 13 percent increase, to expand investigations and prosecutions of criminal civil rights cases (including hate crimes and police misconduct) and fair housing and lending practices; help the EEOC reduce the backlog of private-sector cases; and allow HUD to take steps to reduce housing discrimination.

Working to Pass Common-Sense Gun Laws. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have repeatedly called on Congress to build on the success of the Brady Law by quickly passing a set of common sense gun safety measures designed to keep guns out of the wrong hands and save lives. The Administration has proposed legislation, that passed in the Senate last year with a tie-breaking vote by Vice President Gore, that would require background checks on all firearm sales at gun shows; require child safety locks for every handgun sold; bar the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips; and ban the most violent juvenile offenders from owning guns for life.

More than Half a Million Felons, Fugitives and Domestic Abusers Denied Guns. Since the President signed the Brady Bill into law, more than 536,000 felons, fugitives and domestic abusers have been prevented from purchasing guns through Brady background checks. This year, the President and Vice President have proposed a State-based licensing system for handgun purchases. Under the proposal, every purchaser of a handgun must first have a valid state-issued photo license, showing that the buyer has passed a Brady background check and a gun safety training requirement.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 19, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The Rotunda
National Archives

11:40 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. To the members of Congress who are here; members of the Cabinet and the administration, my fellow Americans: In recent weeks I have begun a conversation with the American people about our fate and our duty to prepare our nation not only to meet the new century, but to live and lead in a world transformed to a degree seldom seen in all of our history. Much of this change is good, but it is not all good, and all of us are affected by it. Therefore, we must reach beyond our fears and our divisions to a new time of great and common purpose.

Our challenge is twofold: first, to restore the American dream of opportunity and the American value of responsibility; and second, to bring our country together amid all our diversity into a stronger community, so that we can find common ground and move forward as one.

More than ever these two endeavors are inseparable. I am absolutely convinced we cannot restore economic opportunity or solve our social problems unless we find a way to bring the American people together. To bring our people together we must openly and honestly deal with the issues that divide us. Today I want to discuss one of those issues: affirmative action.

It is, in a way, ironic that this issue should be divisive today, because affirmative action began 25 years ago by a Republican president with bipartisan support. It began simply as a means to an end of enduring national purpose -- equal opportunity for all Americans.

So let us today trace the roots of affirmative action in our never-ending search for equal opportunity. Let us determine what it is and what it isn't. Let us see where it's worked and where it hasn't, and ask ourselves what we need to do now. Along the way, let us remember always that finding common ground as we move toward the 21st century depends fundamentally on our shared commitment to equal opportunity for all Americans. It is a moral imperative, a constitutional mandate, and a legal necessity.

There could be no better place for this discussion than the National Archives, for within these walls are America's bedrocks of our common ground -- the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights. No paper is as lasting as the words these documents contain. So we put them in these special cases to protect the parchment

from the elements. No building is as solid as the principles these documents embody, but we sure tried to build one with these metal doors 11 inches thick to keep them safe, for these documents are America's only crown jewels. But the best place of all to hold these words and these principles is the one place in which they can never fade and never grow old -- in the stronger chambers of our hearts.

Beyond all else, our country is a set of convictions: We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Our whole history can be seen first as an effort to preserve these rights, and then as an effort to make them real in the lives of all our citizens. We know that from the beginning, there was a great gap between the plain meaning of our creed and the meaner reality of our daily lives. Back then, only white male property owners could vote. Black slaves were not even counted as whole people, and Native Americans were regarded as little more than an obstacle to our great national progress. No wonder Thomas Jefferson, reflecting on slavery, said he trembled to think God is just.

On the 200th anniversary of our great Constitution, Justice Thurgood Marshall, the grandson of a slave, said, "The government our founders devised was defective from the start, requiring several amendments, a civil war, and momentous social transformation to attain the system of constitutional government and its respect for the individual freedoms and human rights we hold as fundamental today."

Emancipation, women's suffrage, civil rights, voting rights, equal rights, the struggle for the rights of the disabled --all these and other struggles are milestones on America's often rocky, but fundamentally righteous journey to close the gap between the ideals enshrined in these treasures here in the National Archives and the reality of our daily lives.

I first came to this very spot where I'm standing today 32 years ago this month. I was a 16-year-old delegate to the American Legion Boys Nation. Now, that summer was a high-water mark for our national journey. That was the summer that President Kennedy ordered Alabama National Guardsmen to enforce a court order to allow two young blacks to enter the University of Alabama. As he told our nation, "Every American ought to have the right to be treated as he would wish to be treated; as one would wish his children to be treated."

Later that same summer, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King told Americans of his dream that one day the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners would sit down together at the table of brotherhood; that one day his four little children would be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. His words captured the hearts and steeled the wills of millions of Americans. Some of them sang with him in the hot sun that day. Millions more like me listened and wept in the privacy of their homes.

It's hard to believe where we were just three decades ago. When I came up here to Boys Nation and we had this mock congressional session I was one of only three or four southerners who would even vote for the civil rights plank. That's largely because of my family. My grandfather had a grade school education and ran a grocery store across the street from the cemetery in Hope, Arkansas, where my parents and my grandparents are buried. Most of his customers were black, were poor, and were working people. As a child in that store I saw that people of different races could treat each other with respect and dignity.

But I also saw that the black neighborhood across the street was the only one in town where the streets weren't paved. And when I returned to that neighborhood in the late '60s to see a woman who had cared for me as a toddler, the streets still weren't paved. A lot of you know that I am an ardent movie-goer. As a child I never went to a movie where I could sit next to a black American. They were always sitting upstairs.

In the 1960s, believe it or not, there were still a few courthouse squares in my state where the rest rooms were marked "white" and "colored." I graduated from a segregated high school seven years after President Eisenhower integrated Little Rock Central High School. And when President Kennedy barely carried my home state in 1960, the poll tax system was still alive and well there.

Even though my grandparents were in a minority, being poor, Southern whites who were pro-civil rights, I think most other people knew better than to think the way they did. And those who were smart enough to act differently, discovered a lesson that we ought to remember today: Discrimination is not just morally wrong, it hurts everybody.

In 1960, Atlanta, Georgia, in reaction to all the things that were going on all across the South, adopted the motto, "The city too busy to hate." And however imperfectly over the years, they tried to live by it. I am convinced that Atlanta's success -- it now is home to more foreign corporations than any other American city, and one year from today it will begin to host the Olympics -- that that success all began when people got too busy to hate.

The lesson we learned was a hard one. When we allow people to pit us against one another or spend energy denying opportunity based on our differences, everyone is held back. But when we give all Americans a chance to develop and use their talents, to be full partners in our common enterprise, then everybody is pushed forward.

My experiences with discrimination are rooted in the South and in the legacy slavery left. I also lived with a working mother and a working grandmother when women's work was far rarer and far more circumscribed than it is today. But we all know there are millions of other stories -- those of Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Americans, people with disabilities, others against whom fingers have been pointed. Many of you have your own stories, and that's why you're here today -- people who were denied the right to develop and use their full human potential. And their progress, too, is a part of our journey to make the reality of America consistent with the principles just behind me here.

Thirty years ago in this city, you didn't see many people of color or women making their way to work in the morning in business clothes, or serving in substantial numbers in powerful positions in Congress or at the White House, or making executive decisions every day in businesses. In fact, even the employment want ads were divided, men on one side and women on the other.

It was extraordinary then to see women or people of color as television news anchors, or, believe it or not, even in college sports. There were far fewer women in minorities as job supervisors, or firefighters, or police officers, or doctors, or lawyers, or college professors, or in many other jobs that offer stability and honor and integrity to family life.

A lot has changed, and it did not happen as some sort of random evolutionary drift. It took hard work and sacrifices and countless acts of courage and conscience by millions of Americans. It took the political courage and statesmanship of Democrats and

Republicans alike, the vigilance and compassion of courts and advocates in and out of government committed to the Constitution and to equal protection and to equal opportunity. It took the leadership of people in business who knew that in the end we would all be better. It took the leadership of people in labor unions who knew that working people had to be reconciled.

Some people, like Congressman Lewis there, put their lives on the line. Other people lost their lives. And millions of Americans changed their own lives and put hate behind them. As a result, today all our lives are better. Women have become a major force in business and political life, and far more able to contribute to their families incomes. A true and growing black middle class has emerged. Higher education has literally been revolutionized, with women and racial and ethnic minorities attending once overwhelmingly white and sometimes all male schools.

In communities across our nation police departments now better reflect the make-up of those whom they protect. A generation of professionals now serve as role models for young women and minority youth. Hispanics and newer immigrant populations are succeeding in making America stronger.

For an example of where the best of our future lies just think about our space program and the stunning hook-up with the Russian space station this month. Let's remember that that program, the world's finest, began with heroes like Alan Shepard and Senator John Glenn, but today it's had American heroes like Sally Ride, Ellen Ochoa, Leroy Child, Guy Bluford and other outstanding, completely qualified women and minorities.

How did this happen? Fundamentally, because we opened our hearts and minds and changed our ways. But not without pressure -- the pressure of court decisions, legislation, executive action, and the power of examples in the public and private sector. Along the way we learned that laws alone do not change society; that old habits and thinking patterns are deeply ingrained and die hard; that more is required to really open the doors of opportunity. Our search to find ways to move more quickly to equal opportunity led to the development of what we now call affirmative action.

The purpose of affirmative action is to give our nation a way to finally address the systemic exclusion of individuals of talent on the basis of their gender or race from opportunities to develop, perform, achieve and contribute. Affirmative action is an effort to develop a systematic approach to open the doors of education, employment and business development opportunities to qualified individuals who happen to be members of groups that have experienced longstanding and persistent discrimination.

It is a policy that grew out of many years of trying to navigate between two unacceptable pasts. One was to say simply that we declared discrimination illegal and that's enough. We saw that that way still relegated blacks with college degrees to jobs as railroad porters, and kept women with degrees under a glass ceiling with a lower paycheck.

The other path was simply to try to impose change by leveling draconian penalties on employers who didn't meet certain imposed, ultimately arbitrary, and sometimes unachievable quotas. That, too, was rejected out of a sense of fairness.

So a middle ground was developed that would change an inequitable status quo gradually, but firmly, by building the pool of qualified applicants for college, for contracts, for jobs, and giving more people the chance to learn, work and earn. When affirmative action

is done right, it is flexible, it is fair, and it works.

I know some people are honestly concerned about the times affirmative action doesn't work, when it's done in the wrong way. And I know there are times when some employers don't use it in the right way. They may cut corners and treat a flexible goal as a quota. They may give opportunities to people who are unqualified instead of those who deserve it. They may, in so doing, allow a different kind of discrimination. When this happens, it is also wrong. But it isn't affirmative action, and it is not legal.

So when our administration finds cases of that sort, we will enforce the law aggressively. The Justice Department files hundreds of cases every year, attacking discrimination in employment, including suits on behalf of white males. Most of these suits, however, affect women and minorities for a simple reason -- because the vast majority of discrimination in America is still discrimination against them. But the law does require fairness for everyone and we are determined to see that that is exactly what the law delivers. (Applause.)

Let me be clear about what affirmative action must not mean and what I won't allow it to be. It does not mean -- and I don't favor -- the unjustified preference of the unqualified over the qualified of any race or gender. It doesn't mean -- and I don't favor -- numerical quotas. It doesn't mean -- and I don't favor -- rejection or selection of any employee or student solely on the basis of race or gender without regard to merit.

Like many business executives and public servants, I owe it to you to say that my views on this subject are, more than anything else, the product of my personal experience. I have had experience with affirmative action, nearly 20 years of it now, and I know it works.

When I was Attorney General of my home state, I hired a record number of women and African American lawyers -- every one clearly qualified and exceptionally hardworking. As Governor, I appointed more women to my Cabinet and state boards than any other governor in the state's history, and more African Americans than all the governors in the state's history combined. And no one ever questioned their qualifications or performance. And our state was better and stronger because of their service.

As President, I am proud to have the most diverse administration in history in my Cabinet, my agencies and my staff. And I must say, I have been surprised at the criticism I have received from some quarters in my determination to achieve this.

In the last two and a half years, the most outstanding example of affirmative action in the United States, the Pentagon, has opened 260,000 positions for women who serve in our Armed Forces. I have appointed more women and minorities to the federal bench than any other president, more than the last two combined. And yet, far more of our judicial appointments have received the highest rating from the American Bar Association than any other administration since those ratings have been given.

In our administration many government agencies are doing more business with qualified firms run by minorities and women. The Small Business Administration has reduced its budget by 40 percent, doubled its loan outputs, dramatically increased the number of loans to women and minority small business people, without reducing the number of loans to white business owners who happen to be male, and without changing the loan standards for a single, solitary application. Quality and diversity can go hand in hand, and they must. (Applause.)

Let me say that affirmative action has also done more than just open the doors of opportunity to individual Americans. Most economists who study it agree that affirmative action has also been an important part of closing gaps in economic opportunity in our society, thereby strengthening the entire economy.

A group of distinguished business leaders told me just a couple of days ago that their companies are stronger and their profits are larger because of the diversity and the excellence of their work forces achieved through intelligent and fair affirmative action programs. And they said we have gone far beyond anything the government might require us to do because managing diversity and individual opportunity and being fair to everybody is the key to our future economic success in the global marketplace.

Now, there are those who say, my fellow Americans, that even good affirmative action programs are no longer needed; that it should be enough to resort to the courts or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in cases of actual, provable, individual discrimination because there is no longer any systematic discrimination in our society. In deciding how to answer that let us consider the facts.

The unemployment rate for African Americans remains about twice that of whites. The Hispanic rate is still much higher. Women have narrowed the earnings gap, but still make only 72 percent as much as men do for comparable jobs. The average income for an Hispanic woman with a college degree is still less than the average income of a white man with a high school diploma.

According to the recently completed Glass Ceiling Report, sponsored by Republican members of Congress, in the nation's largest companies only six-tenths of one percent of senior management positions are held by African Americans, four-tenths of a percent by Hispanic Americans, three-tenths of a percent by Asian Americans; women hold between three and five percent of these positions. White males make up 43 percent of our work force, but hold 95 percent of these jobs.

Just last week, the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank reported that black home loan applicants are more than twice as likely to be denied credit as whites with the same qualifications; and that Hispanic applicants are more than one and a half times as likely to be denied loans as whites with the same qualifications.

Last year alone the federal government received more than 90,000 complaints of employment discrimination based on race, ethnicity or gender. Less than three percent were for reverse discrimination.

Evidence abounds in other ways of the persistence of the kind of bigotry that can affect the way we think even if we're not conscious of it, in hiring and promotion and business and educational decisions.

Crimes and violence based on hate against Asians, Hispanics, African Americans and other minorities are still with us. And, I'm sorry to say, that the worst and most recent evidence of this involves a recent report of federal law enforcement officials in Tennessee attending an event literally overflowing with racism -- a sickening reminder of just how pervasive these kinds of attitudes still are.

By the way, I want to tell you that I am committed to finding the truth about what happened there and to taking appropriate action. And I want to say that if anybody who works in federal law

enforcement thinks that that kind of behavior is acceptable, they ought to think about working someplace else. (Applause.)

Now, let's get to the other side of the argument. If affirmative action has worked and if there is evidence that discrimination still exists on a wide scale in ways that are conscious and unconscious, then why should we get rid of it as many people are urging? Some question the effectiveness or the fairness of particular affirmative action programs. I say to all of you, those are fair questions, and they prompted the review of our affirmative action programs, about which I will talk in a few moments.

Some question the fundamental purpose of the effort. There are people who honestly believe that affirmative action always amounts to group preferences over individual merit; that affirmative action always leads to reverse discrimination; that ultimately, therefore, it demeans those who benefit from it and discriminates against those who are not helped by it.

I just have to tell you that all of you have to decide how you feel about that, and all of our fellow countrymen and women have to decide as well. But I believe if there are no quotas, if we give no opportunities to unqualified people, if we have no reverse discrimination, and if, when the problem ends -- the program ends, that criticism is wrong. That's what I believe. But we should have this debate and everyone should ask the question. (Applause.)

Now let's deal with what I really think is behind so much of this debate today. There are a lot of people who oppose affirmative action today who supported it for a very long time. I believe they are responding to the sea change in the experiences that most Americans have in the world in which we live.

If you say now you're against affirmative action because the government is using its power or the private sector is using its power to help minorities at the expense of the majority, that gives you a way of explaining away the economic distress that a majority of Americans honestly feel. It gives you a way of turning their resentment against the minorities or against a particular government program, instead of having an honest debate about how we all got into the fix we're in and what we're all going to do together to get out of it.

That explanation, the affirmative action explanation for the fix we're in is just wrong. It is just wrong. Affirmative action did not cause the great economic problems of the American middle class. (Applause.) And because most minorities or women are either members of that middle class or people who are poor who are struggling to get into it, we must also admit that affirmative action alone won't solve the problems of minorities and women who seek to be a part of the American Dream. To do that, we have to have an economic strategy that reverses the decline in wages and the growth of poverty among working people. Without that, women, minorities, and white males will all be in trouble in the future.

But it is wrong to use the anxieties of the middle class to divert the American people from the real causes of their economic distress -- the sweeping historic changes taking all the globe in its path, and the specific policies or lack of them in our own country which have aggravated those challenges. It is simply wrong to play politics with the issue of affirmative action and divide our country at a time when, if we're really going to change things, we have to be united. (Applause.)

I must say, I think it is ironic that some of those -- not all, but some of those who call for an end to affirmative action also

advocate policies which will make the real economic problems of the anxious middle class even worse. They talk about opportunity and being for equal opportunity for everyone, and then they reduce investment in equal opportunity on an evenhanded basis. For example, if the real goal is economic opportunity for all Americans, why in the world would we reduce our investment in education from Head Start to affordable college loans? Why don't we make college loans available to every American instead? (Applause.)

If the real goal is empowering all middle class Americans and empowering poor people to work their way into the middle class without regard to race or gender, why in the world would the people who advocate that turn around and raise taxes on our poorest working families, or reduce the money available for education and training when they lose their jobs or they're living on poverty wages, or increase the cost of housing for lower-income, working people with children?

Why would we do that? If we're going to empower America, we have to do more than talk about it, we have to do it. And we surely have learned that we cannot empower all Americans by a simple strategy of taking opportunity away from some Americans. (Applause.)

So to those who use this as a political strategy to divide us, we must say, no. We must say, no. (Applause.) But to those who raise legitimate questions about the way affirmative action works, or who raise the larger question about the genuine problems and anxieties of all the American people and their sense of being left behind and treated unfairly, we must say, yes, you are entitled to answers to your questions. We must say yes to that.

Now, that's why I ordered this review of all of our affirmative action programs; a review to look at the facts, not the politics of affirmative action. This review concluded that affirmative action remains a useful tool for widening economic and educational opportunity. The model used by the military, the Army in particular -- and I'm delighted to have the Commanding General of the Army here today because he set such a fine example -- has been especially successful because it emphasizes education and training, ensuring that it has a wide pool of qualified candidates for every level of promotion. That approach has given us the most racially diverse and best-qualified military in our history. There are more opportunities for women and minorities there than ever before. And now there are over 50 generals and admirals who are Hispanic, Asian or African Americans.

We found that the Education Department targeted on -- had programs targeted on under-represented minorities that do a great deal of good with the tiniest of investments. We found that these programs comprised 40 cents of every \$1,000 in the Education Department's budget.

Now, college presidents will tell you that the education their schools offer actually benefit from diversity; colleges where young people get the education and make the personal and professional contacts that will shape their lives. If their colleges look like the world they're going to live and work in, and they learn from all different kinds of people things that they can't learn in books, our systems of higher education are stronger.

Still, I believe every child needs the chance to go to college. Every child. That means every child has to have a chance to get affordable and repayable college loans, Pell Grants for poor kids and a chance to do things like join AmeriCorps and work their way through school. Every child is entitled to that. That is not an argument against affirmative action, it's an argument for more opportunity for more Americans until everyone is reached. (Applause.)

As I said a moment ago, the review found that the Small Business Administration last year increased loans to minorities by over two-thirds, loans to women by over 80 percent, did not decrease loans to white men, and not a single loan went to a unqualified person. People who never had a chance before to be part of the American system of free enterprise now have it. No one was hurt in the process. That made America stronger.

This review also found that the executive order on employment practices of large federal contractors also has helped to bring more fairness and inclusion into the work force.

Since President Nixon was here in my job, America has used goals and timetables to preserve opportunity and to prevent discrimination, to urge businesses to set higher expectations for themselves and to realize those expectations. But we did not and we will not use rigid quotas to mandate outcomes.

We also looked at the way we award procurement contracts under the programs known as set-asides. There's no question that these programs have helped to build up firms owned by minorities and women, who historically had been excluded from the old-boy networks in these areas. It has helped a new generation of entrepreneurs to flourish, opening new paths to self-reliance and an economic growth in which all of us ultimately share. Because of the set-asides, businesses ready to compete have had a chance to compete, a chance they would not have otherwise had.

But as with any government program, set-asides can be misapplied, misused, even intentionally abused. There are critics who exploit that fact as an excuse to abolish all these programs, regardless of their effects. I believe they are wrong, but I also believe, based on our factual review, we clearly need some reform. So first, we should crack down on those who take advantage of everyone else through fraud and abuse. We must crack down on fronts and pass-throughs, people who pretend to be eligible for these programs and aren't. That is wrong. (Applause.)

We also, in offering new businesses a leg up, must make sure that the set-asides go to businesses that need them most. We must really look and make sure that our standard for eligibility is fair and defensible. We have to tighten the requirement to move businesses out of programs once they've had a fair opportunity to compete. The graduation requirement must mean something -- it must mean graduation. There should be no permanent set-aside for any company.

Second, we must, and we will, comply with the Supreme Court's Adarand decision of last month. Now, in particular, that means focusing set-aside programs on particular regions and business sectors where the problems of discrimination or exclusion are provable and are clearly requiring affirmative action. I have directed the Attorney General and the agencies to move forward with compliance with Adarand expeditiously.

But I also want to emphasize that the Adarand decision did not dismantle affirmative action and did not dismantle set-asides. In fact, while setting stricter standards to mandate reform of affirmative action, it actually reaffirmed the need for affirmative action and reaffirmed the continuing existence of systematic discrimination in the United States. (Applause.)

What the Supreme Court ordered the federal government to do was to meet the same more rigorous standard for affirmative action programs that state and local governments were ordered to meet several years ago. And the best set-aside programs under that standard have

been challenged and have survived.

Third, beyond discrimination we need to do more to help disadvantaged people and distressed communities, no matter what their race or gender. There are places in our country where the free enterprise system simply doesn't reach. It simply isn't working to provide jobs and opportunity. Disproportionately, these areas in urban and rural America are highly populated by racial minorities, but not entirely. To make this initiative work, I believe the government must become a better partner for people in places in urban and rural America that are caught in a cycle of poverty. And I believe we have to find ways to get the private sector to assume their rightful role as a driver of economic growth.

It has always amazed me that we have given incentives to our business people to help to develop poor economies in other parts of the world, our neighbors in the Caribbean, our neighbors in other parts of the world -- I have supported this when not subject to their own abuses -- but we ignore the biggest source of economic growth available to the American economy, the poor economies isolated within the United States of America. (Applause.)

There are those who say, well, even if we made the jobs available people wouldn't work. They haven't tried. Most of the people in disadvantaged communities work today, and most of them who don't work have a very strong desire to do so. In central Harlem, 14 people apply for every single minimum-wage job opening. Think how many more would apply if there were good jobs with a good future. Our job has to connect disadvantaged people and disadvantaged communities to economic opportunity so that everybody who wants to work can do so.

We've been working at this through our empowerment zones and community develop banks, through the initiatives of Secretary Cisneros of the Housing and Urban Development Department and many other things that we have tried to do to put capital where it is needed. And now I have asked Vice President Gore to develop a proposal to use our contracting to support businesses that locate themselves in these distressed areas or hire a large percentage of their workers from these areas -- not to supplement what we're doing in affirmative action, not to substitute for it, but to supplement it, to go beyond it, to do something that will help to deal with the economic crisis of America. We want to make our procurement system more responsive to people in these areas who need help.

My fellow Americans, affirmative action has to be made consistent with our highest ideals of personal responsibility and merit, and our urgent need to find common ground, and to prepare all Americans to compete in the global economy of the next century.

Today, I am directing all our agencies to comply with the Supreme Court's Adarand decision, and also to apply the four standards of fairness to all our affirmative action programs that I have already articulated: No quotas in theory or practice; no illegal discrimination of any kind, including reverse discrimination; no preference for people who are not qualified for any job or other opportunity; and as soon as a program has succeeded, it must be retired. Any program that doesn't meet these four principles must be eliminated or reformed to meet them.

But let me be clear: Affirmative action has been good for America. (Applause.)

Affirmative action has not always been perfect, and affirmative action should not go on forever. It should be changed now to take care of those things that are wrong, and it should be retired when its job is done. I am resolved that that day will come. But the

evidence suggests, indeed, screams that that day has not come.

The job of ending discrimination in this country is not over. That should not be surprising. We had slavery for centuries before the passage of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments. We waited another hundred years for the civil rights legislation. Women have had the vote less than a hundred years. We have always had difficulty with these things, as most societies do. But we are making more progress than many people.

Based on the evidence, the job is not done. So here is what I think we should do. We should reaffirm the principle of affirmative action and fix the practices. We should have a simple slogan: Mend it, but don't end it. (Applause.)

Let me ask all Americans, whether they agree or disagree with what I have said today, to see this issue in the larger context of our times. President Lincoln said, we cannot escape our history. We cannot escape our future, either. And that future must be one in which every American has the chance to live up to his or her God-given capacities.

The new technology, the instant communications, the explosion of global commerce have created enormous opportunities and enormous anxieties for Americans. In the last two and a half years, we have seen seven million new jobs, more millionaires and new businesses than ever before, high corporate profits, and a booming stock market. Yet, most Americans are working harder for the same or lower pay. And they feel more insecurity about their jobs, their retirement, their health care, and their children's education. Too many of our children are clearly exposed to poverty and welfare, violence and drugs.

These are the great challenges for our whole country on the homefront at the dawn of the 21st century. We've got to find the wisdom and the will to create family-wage jobs for all the people who want to work; to open the door of college to all Americans; to strengthen families and reduce the awful problems to which our children are exposed; to move poor Americans from welfare to work.

This is the work of our administration -- to give the people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives, to give families and communities the tools they need to solve their own problems. But let us not forget affirmative action didn't cause these problems. It won't solve them. And getting rid of affirmative action certainly won't solve them.

If properly done, affirmative action can help us come together, go forward and grow together. It is in our moral, legal and practical interest to see that every person can make the most of his life. In the fight for the future, we need all hands on deck and some of those hands still need a helping hand.

In our national community we're all different, we're all the same. We want liberty and freedom. We want the embrace of family and community. We want to make the most of our own lives and we're determined to give our children a better one. Today there are voices of division who would say forget all that. Don't you dare. Remember we're still closing the gap between our founders ideals and our reality. But every step along the way has made us richer, stronger and better. And the best is yet to come.

Thank you very. And God bless you.

END

12:28 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 15, 1997

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Today I'm pleased to announce a major new step in our efforts to protect America's children -- a universal system for attaching child safety seats in cars. This system, developed by a blue-ribbon commission of industry and consumer groups, will make safety seats easier to install and more secure on the road. It will save young lives.

In my State of the Union address, I issued a call to action to all Americans to prepare our people for the 21st century. Building strong families is central to that mission. That's why we must do all that we can to help parents do all that they can to live up to one of the greatest responsibilities anyone can have -- to care for a child.

Parents are always on the lookout to make sure their children are safe. That's especially true when you get in the car. Thousands of children are killed in car accidents every year; tens of thousands more are injured.

Even though America's cars and roads are the safest in the world, we must make them safer. That's why today -- the final day of National Child Passenger Safety Week -- I'd like to talk with you about the steps we're taking to save more lives on the road.

First, we will continue to stress the fundamental rules of safety: seat belts, safety seats for small children, children 12 and under buckled up and in the back seat. Last month, I instructed the outgoing Transportation Secretary, Federico Pena, to develop a plan to get more Americans to wear seat belts. I'm delighted to be joined today by our new Transportation Secretary, Rodney Slater, who came to us from the Federal Highway Administration. He knows a lot about this issue and he will present that plan to me in March. When he does, I will be ready to review it and act on it.

We must also continue to support law enforcement in its effort to increase compliance with safety laws.

Second, we have taken action to make it clear that, on America's roads, there is no room for alcohol or drugs. We fought to make it illegal for all young people under 21 to drive with any alcohol in their blood, and 34 states now have these zero-tolerance laws. We're also developing a plan to make teens pass a drug test as a condition of getting a driver's license.

Third, we've worked to make air bags, one of our most important safety tools, safer for children. All cars and safety seats now come with warning labels to remind drivers to keep children in the back seat. Plans are underway to permit manufacturers to install less powerful air bags and to phase in a new generation of "smart" air bags.

Air bags have saved a lot of lives. With these improvements, they'll save even more.

And today, we're taking a fourth step -- we will make child safety seats safer. These seats are the most effective safety device to protect very young children. In car crashes, they reduce the risk of death or serious injury to infants by 70 percent. They cut the fatality and injury rate for children aged 1 to 4 in half. But while all 50 states have car seat laws, studies show that 40 percent of the time young children do not even ride in safety seats; and even when they are placed in child safety seats, 80 percent of the time children are either not fully secured or the car seats are not properly attached.

The fact is, despite parents' best efforts, car seats are hard to install. Not all 100 models of car seats fit in all 900 models of passenger cars. And even when they do, it's no simple task to put them in place. Seat belts are not designed primarily to hold child safety seats. Anyone who's wrestled with a car seat knows what I'm talking about. Thousands of frustrated parents have called our Transportation Department hotline with questions about how to use car seats properly.

Parents are not alone in their concerns -- automobile and car seat makers, consumer organizations, the medical community all have felt there was too much confusion surrounding child seat safety. In response to this problem, my administration convened a blue-ribbon panel, with representatives from all these groups, to find ways to make it easier for parents to protect their children with safe, secure car seats.

Today, I am pleased that we are acting on the panel's number one proposal -- a universal system for attaching car safety seats. Under a Transportation Department plan, every car safety seat would have two standard buckles at its base. Every car would be equipped with standard latches in the back seat designed specifically to fasten to these buckles. There would also be universal attachments to secure the top of the safety seat to the car's interior, so car seats would be locked in from top to bottom.

This plan will go out for public comment next week. If approved, the new safety system could be on the market by 1999.

A car seat can protect a child from the violence of the worst crashes. So today, we are acting to solve a problem that's been around for too long -- we're taking steps to make sure that your child's car set will stay put in your car every time. With this plan, we're moving closer to the day when safe, well-attached car seats will be the rule of the road.

Together, these efforts represent a new spirit of cooperation in America -- with industry and government working with the American people to support our families as they seek to make life safer and better for our children.

Thanks for listening.

END

Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach[National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2000](#)[National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 2000](#)[Women's Equality Day 2000](#)[Increasing Opportunities for Women-Owned Small Businesses](#)[Violence Against Women Act](#)[The First Lady's Weekly Column](#)**Lauren Supina, Director**

Sondra Seba, Agency Representative
LaJaycee Brown, Agency Representative
Angela Blake, Special Assistant to the Director

The President created the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach in June of 1995 to better serve and listen to his constituents. The office serves as a liaison between the White House and women's organizations, listening to women's concerns and proposals and bringing these ideas to the President and others in the Administration. Inside and outside of the White House, the office advocates issues that are important to women. The office schedules events and speeches for White House officials and presidential appointees and holds events and roundtables to amplify the President's pro-woman, pro-family agenda.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 11, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND CONFERENCE

The Washington Hilton
Washington, D.C.

1:52 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen; distinguished members of the Children's Defense Fund board; Secretary Reich and Secretary Riley -- did you see the way Secretary Reich rushed out when they said the President of the United States? (Laughter.) That's not true; I pushed him through the door so I could get a laugh out of it. (Laughter.)

My dear friend, Marian Wright Edelman, as usual, your introduction has left me nothing to say. (Laughter.)

I will say this: I know a lot of people will come here and tell you how much they appreciate people who are children's advocates; not very many people appreciate it enough to marry one -- and I did. (Laughter and applause.) I also have savaged the ranks of the CDF board. My wife had to resign because she was married to a presidential candidate. And then Donna Shalala had to resign because I gave her a job. (Laughter.) Which on Sunday, she'd probably rather swap for being chair of the Children's Defense Fund board.

I am delighted to be here. I look out on this crowd and I see many old friends that -- you know, a lot of people ask me what it's like to be President. And I don't know if I can explain it, but it is different. (Laughter.) And the other day -- people either want to walk around on tippy-toe or take a baseball bat and whack your head off. There seems to be nothing in between. And the other day Hillary had a number of people into the White House on the first floor to some sort of meeting. And I got off on the floor and I had to go someplace else. And all of a sudden, all these people were there. And walked out into this crowd and I started shaking their hands. And the guy who was with me said, "Oh, Mr. President, I'm so sorry that you had to deal with all those people." I said, "That's all right, I used to be one." (Laughter.)

I hope I will be again some day. (Laughter.)
Meanwhile, I'm going to depend on you and the American people to keep me just as close to humanity as I possibly can.

I've just come from a remarkable event in Maryland with a number of members of the Congress who are friends of the Children's Defense Fund. We were there -- Secretary Reich was there with me; we flew back. And we were at a plant that belongs to Westinghouse. It used to be a defense plant and it is increasingly becoming a domestic technology plant. And we went there to announce an economic conversion program to try to help more people who are losing their jobs from military cutbacks either in the private or the public sector find new opportunities moving toward the economy of the 21st century. (Applause.)

This is a very important thing. We've been reducing defense since 1985, and no nation would so reduce one sector of its economy that provided so many high-wage, high-growth jobs that was on the cutting edge of new technology. No other nation would ever have done what we've done with no clear strategy but what to do with all those resources, all those people, to try to help to build our economic base. So we will continue to reduce defense, as we must, but we're trying to plan for the future of those people and those incredible resources.

I saw military technology turn into an electric car that will drive over 80 miles an hour and which may hold the promise of ending our dependence on foreign oil and cleaning up our atmosphere. I saw a police car with a computer screen with visual imaging developed for defense technology, which can now be used immediately to transmit to police officers who have it pictures of missing children immediately while they're in their car. (Applause.) I saw a plane with radar technology which just came back from dealing with the difficult incident in Waco, Texas; and another plane -- defense technology -- another plane with a different sort of technology now which can be put on all of our commercial air flights to detect wind shears, which is one of the major causes of airline misfortunes now among commercial airlines.

I say all this because -- everybody says, well, that's a great idea, and it's self-evident, and why haven't we been doing this. But it is simply reflective of a problem we have had in this country for some time, which is that we have undervalued the importance of increasing the capacity of our people. We have talked a lot about a lot of things in America, but when you strip it all away and you look at where we have been sort of out of sync with many other countries and with where we have to go in the future, it is clear that on a broad range of areas, we have simply undervalued the importance of making a commitment to the idea that we don't have a person to waste, that everybody counts, and that what you can do affects not only your future but mine as well. (Applause.)

These, of course, are the arguments that the Children's Defense Fund has been making since its inception in its struggles to get a better deal for America's children. They have become far more important arguments in the last decade.

In 1985, a remarkable thing happened, a thing altogether laudatory in our country: our senior citizens became less poor than the rest of us -- a thing we can be proud of. People used to have to live in absolute agony wondering what would happen to their parents. You still do if you have long-term care problems. But most elderly people now, because of Social Security and supplemental security income and Medicare, can look forward to a security -- and because of the pension reforms of the last several years, can look forward to a security in their later years that 10 or 20 or 30 years ago was utterly unheard of. And it is really a testimony to the far-sightedness of our country.

However, at the same time, in the same decade, we began to experience a new class of poor people who were dramatically undervalued. They were little children and their poor parents -- usually their single poor parents. And they had no advocates in many councils of power. If it hadn't been for the Children's Defense Fund and a few others who walked with them through life, many of the good things which have been done would not have been done, and all the things which were done were not enough to reverse the trends of the 1980s when the elderly became less poor and the children became more poor.

Now, because many of you in this room have continued this fight, and because of the decisions the American people made in the last election, we once again have a chance to invest in the hopes and the dreams of our children. (Applause.)

I have asked the United States Congress to embrace a program that recognizes, as was said earlier, that we have two big deficits in this country. We have a huge budget deficit, but we also have a huge investment deficit. It was a cruel irony of the last 12 years that we not only took the government debt from \$1 trillion to \$4 trillion, with annual deficits now in excess of \$300 million projected for the next few years unless we change it, but we found a way in all of that to actually reduce our investment in our future at the national level.

How could it happen? Well, it happened because of a big military buildup, it happened because of a big tax cut early, it happened because health care costs have been completely out of control, it happened because an underperforming economy didn't produce many revenues. But it happened also because there were not enough people who said we must constantly invest in the most important thing in a modern society -- the capacity of the people to be healthy and strong and good.

So you have all these anomalies. The United States, the world's strongest economy, has the third worst record in the Western Hemisphere for immunizing its children against preventable childhood diseases. The United States, a country that has dominated the economy of the world for the last half a century, has higher rates of adult illiteracy and school dropout and dysfunction among adults than most of its major competitors, and the highest rate of incarceration of any country in the world -- something we rank first in.

That bespeaks our inability to make the diversity of our country a source of strength instead of weakness, and to deal with the stark dilemmas of poverty in ways that at least give the children a chance to do better. Well, now we have a chance.

The good news is we know a lot about what works. We've known for years through clear studies that, though not perfect, Head Start and WIC and immunizations really do make a difference. We know that if you give children a better life and you strengthen their families, you make the economy stronger and you free up money to be spent on things like that economic conversion program I just visited today.

We know that if we focus on people and their capacities, it really does work. That's why I was really pleased that the first bill I signed was the Family and Medical Leave Act because it will, even to those who oppose it, make their businesses more productive, not less, by securing family life and making it possible for people to be good parents. (Applause.) That's why the long-term economic plan and the short-term economic stimulus I asked the Congress to embrace includes funds to put our people first for 700,000 summer jobs for young people; for the beginnings of summer Head Start programs where they don't exist; for beginning to set up the infrastructure of immunization where it isn't so that we can start to do the work that has to be done.

We have simply got to invest in our people in ways that work. Marian has already said it, but I will reiterate -- this budget if funded by the Congress, will fully fund Head Start and WIC -- (applause) -- will create a network of immunization efforts which will permit us to finally immunize our little children against

preventable childhood diseases. (Applause.) Something that will save, over the long run, ten bucks for every dollar we put into it. How do you explain -- I mean, how can you possibly justify to anybody, that our country with the power of it's economy, that produces the vast majority of vaccines produced anywhere in the world, is better only than Bolivia and Haiti in this hemisphere in immunizing our children?

And you know, you have to have a certain core of immunization to make sure that there will be no outbreak of diseases. We are dangerously, perilously close to falling below that core of immunized children in many different areas. This is a big deal, folks.

So I hope that we will have this attitude now, that we ought to invest as we cut the deficit. The plan that I presented to the Congress reduces the deficit dramatically, has 150 specific budget cuts, starts with an example from the White House staff. We cut the staff in the next fiscal year 25 percent below the staffing levels that I found when I came. We cut \$9 billion out the administrative costs of federal agencies. And I mean they're real cuts; they're going into the budget. They cannot be escaped. (Applause.)

I'm glad you're clapping for that, you know, because the people that are attacking me act like anybody that wants any money from the government just loves all that bureaucracy you have to put up with. I know better. (Laughter and applause.)

We also raised some tax money. I saw the proof of an article by David Stockman coming out in a magazine soon which talked about how the clear problem is that the tax base of this country was dramatically, fundamentally and permanently eroded in 1981; that Social Security's about the same percentage of gross national product today it was back in 1981.

So we have to raise some more money if we want to reduce the debt. But we also try to reverse the investment gap in things that you didn't come here to talk about, like transportation and clean water and better sewage systems, and things that will strengthen the environment and put people to work and increase our productivity. (Applause.) And things like community development operations to add jobs to high unemployment areas; in national service, which Marian mentioned, and in other areas that will increase the capacity of people to work, to grow, to learn, to flourish.

Now, there are people, believe it or not, who, number one, don't want to pass a stimulus package at all because they say the economy's great. That's because most people in Washington are employed. Talk to them about that, will you. (Laughter.) And who think that this program would be even better if it didn't have any new investment at all.

Now, to be fair to those people, there are basically three lines of attack -- you're going to the Hill; I want you to know I need your help. I need your help because there are a lot of people without jobs, there are a lot of people without adequate jobs. Most of the new jobs created in this last round -- 365,000 last month -- hallelujah, that's great. But more than half of them were part-time jobs that don't have health care benefits for the kids and the families. (Applause.)

You need to know what they are saying -- the people against whom you must argue. They will say, number one, we can cut

the deficit even more if we just didn't have any investment. Or if we didn't take -- pass any of the President's spending programs, we could cut the deficit as much and raise taxes less.

The problem with that argument is those people think there is absolutely no difference between putting another child in Head Start and keeping somebody working in an agency when the job is no longer needed and can be phased out, in supporting a regulatory apparatus that has long since lost its justification, in funding a pork barrel project that can't possibly be justified. In other words, these people think anything the government spends is equally bad. Educating a kid to go to college is the same as continuing the subsidy for sheep or any other program. No difference. Government spending is government spending is government spending. There is no difference.

Now, do you believe that in your own lives?

Q Noooo.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I mean, in your lives. If you take home a check every month, is it the same whether you spend it on making a house payment, making a car payment, saving money for your child's education, or just paying for an extra helping at dinner? Of course not. There are distinctions in the relative impact of how you spend your pay, how your business invests its money, and how your government invests your money. And so when people tell you there's no difference, tell them that's wrong. (Applause.)

And then there is a crowd that say, well, these programs don't really make any difference; Head Start doesn't work and there's no proof Head Start works. Now, this is an interesting argument. (Laughter.) These people say -- most of those who think there's no proof Head Start works still believes trickle-down economics did. (Applause.)

Until I proposed phasing in the full funding of this program, many of those who themselves objected had previously voted to expand it. To be fair, President Bush praised Head Start at every turn. A few years ago, Senator Dole introduced his own legislation to expand it. Sure, there are serious criticisms rooted in the fact that this is now not a new program. There are people who say it's not evenly good across the country. That is true. There are people who say it could be managed better. That's true. There are people who say that cognitive improvements don't always last more than two years after children stop attending, depending on where they are. That's true.

One big deal is how strong the parents' involvement really is. There are those who say -- (applause) -- there ought to be more school-based programs or more home-based programs, and we've worked hard on that at home. All that's true. That is not an excuse not to fully fund Head Start. (Applause.)

Our program will serve more children, but it will also strengthen the quality of Head Start and put some flexibility back into the program so that it can meet the needs of the different communities that are served. But those who choose to ignore the overwhelming evidence of the program's success have an obligation to tell us why more children with high self-esteem and better grades and better thinking skills and better predictable long-term performance is such a bad idea. I think it's a great idea. (Applause.)

But we must, in fairness to the criticisms, become our own most severe critics. That's where you come in, because all of

you live out there where these programs work. You could give a better criticism of what's wrong with most of these public programs that those who don't want to fund them. Most of you could. So tell them you know it is up to us to be our own most severe critics.

I just asked the Vice President to review every program in the government; come back to me in six months with all kinds of other things that we can stop doing or that we can modify, or that we can push back to people at the grassroots level. If we who believe in government don't have the courage to change it, we cannot expect those who don't to help us in our efforts. (Applause.)

And this is just the beginning. Just two days ago I asked Secretary Shalala to draft a new child welfare initiative to combine family support and family preservation services -- (applause) -- to do more to build on the work of Senator Rockefeller and Congressmen Matsui and Congresswoman Shroeder; and to do more for families at risk, especially those at risk of foster care placement, even as we try to strengthen our efforts to enforce child support enforcement for those who have been abandoned by one parent. (Applause.)

Now, there is a third argument against this effort. There are those who say, yes, Head Start's a good deal; WIC is a good deal; the immunization's a good deal; and, yes, we ought to invest as opposed to consume. There is a distinction to be drawn in the way this money is spent and investment is better -- investment in our children, our future. But we still ought not to do it because we need even more deficit reduction.

And let me say, that is an argument you must treat with respect. We have gone from a \$1-trillion deficit to a \$4-trillion deficit in 12 years. We have imposed a crushing burden on the present, and a bigger one on the future. And if you think about it, it's really an income transfer. Now that we're spending 15 cents of every dollar you pay the government -- most of you are middle class people -- and we spend 15 cents of every dollar you pay the government paying interest on the debt. Those bonds are largely held by upper income people. So there are now a lot of liberals in the Congress who are rethinking their old positions on things like the mechanisms by which we move to balance the budget on the theory that we're spending all this money having an income transfer from middle-class taxpayers, lower-income taxpayers, to people who hold the bonds because we didn't have the discipline to run our budgets better.

And if we don't do something about the deficit -- we just keep on spending like we are -- by the end of the decade, your annual debt will be \$653 billion a year. The interest service will be about 22 cents of your tax dollar. Twenty cents on the dollar of every dollar in America, public and private, will go to health care. So we have to change.

But my answer to those who say, well, let's just don't invest because this deficit is such a big problem, is, number one, we got into this mess over 12 years, and we have more than four years to get out of it. (Applause.) Number two, we are reaping the benefits of the clear and disciplined and determined effort that the congressional leadership has now agreed to make with me to bring the deficit down. We have interest rates at very, very low rates. We have the stock market back up.

People say, hey, this thing is going to work. All of you can now look at whether you should refinance your home or your car. Businesses should refinance their debt. If we get all this debt refinanced in the next year, that will add \$80 to \$100 billion

back in our economy. We are reaping the benefits of a disciplined program to reduce the deficit today. But if we do not also at the same time recognize that for 12 years we have ignored our obligations to invest in our jobs, in our people, in our education, if we don't do that we will pay for that neglect tomorrow, just like we're paying for yesterday's neglect today. We can do both things. (Applause.)

There's another argument you need to make -- and I'm speaking for my wife now, as well as for me -- which is that if you just cut out all these programs that we believe in, if you just cut them plumb out, you'll still have an increase in the deficit again, starting in about five years, because of the explosion in health care costs. The real, ultimate answer to the deficit problem is to bring health care cost in line with inflation and provide a decent system of health care for all Americans. (Applause.)

And we can do that. So, with discipline, with a willingness to both cut and tax, with a willingness to reduce consumption expenditures and increase investment in our future, we can do the things that we have to do. But we can't walk away from any of our challenges and expect the results America needs. If we walk away from the health care challenge, it doesn't matter what they do on all these other cuts, you'll be swallowed up in debt five or six years again -- if we walk away from the health care challenge.

If we walk away from the challenge to raise some more revenues and cut the spending we must, we'll lose control of our economic destiny even if we spend more money on the programs you want. You'll be raising and educating healthier, more well-educated kids to a weaker economy.

But if we reduce the deficit and we forget about the fact that in the world we live in, the only thing that really counts is people, every factory can be moved overseas. Three trillion dollars in money crosses national lines every day. Everything is mobile except us; we're here, we don't want to move. (Laughter.) All we've got's each other now in America. (Applause.)

That's what we've got. And if we ignore that, we don't think those little kids that live in the Mississippi Delta, in my home state, many of whom never see a dentist the whole time of their childhood, need a better shot in life because of us as well as them; if we don't believe that those kids that are sitting out there in the barrios in Los Angeles, in the black community, in the Hispanic community, in the Asian-American community, waiting for the resolution of the Rodney King trial only because it stands for everything else that ever happened to them -- (applause) -- not because of the trial but because of what it stands for -- if we don't think that we need to prove that a county like Los Angeles County with people from 150 different racial and ethnic groups can live together and learn together and grow together and if they play by the rules can have the right to earn a decent living, and we don't think that effects the rest of us, we haven't learned very much in the last 12 years. (Applause.)

And so I ask you to do this: I ask you to go to the Congress and ask them to support this program. And go with respect, because I promise you most of these people are trying to come to grips with the dilemmas of this time. And they have gotten one big message; that is that we made a horrible mistake to let the deficit get out of hand like we did in the last 12 years. And they deserve respect for getting that message. And they now have a President who will take the lead and fade some of the heat for the unpopularity of the decisions which have to be made. Go with respect for that. Say you had to do that and we respect that. (Applause.)

But remind them that out in the country where you live, bringing down the deficit is important if it gives people jobs and raises people's incomes, and if there are people out there who can seize the opportunities of the future. And what you represent is the future. You represent the needs of the people who will not be able to perform even with a sensible economic policy unless we do better in health care, in education, and in dealing with the needs of our poorest children. That is what you represent. None of this other stuff will amount to a hill of beans unless we put the American people first in all of these decisions.

That is the message I plead with you to bring to the Congress. (Applause.) Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END2:20 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 11, 1998

March 11, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES
INFORMATION AGENCY

SUBJECT: Steps to Combat Violence Against Women and
Trafficking in Women and Girls

As we celebrate International Women's Day today, we highlight the achievements of women around the world. We also acknowledge that there is much work yet to be done to ensure that women's human rights are protected and respected. The momentum generated by the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 continues to encourage our government, as well as nations around the world, to fulfill our commitments to improve the lives of women and girls.

I have, once again, called upon the Senate to give its advice and consent to ratification to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, thus enabling the United States to join 161 other countries in support of the Convention. This Convention is an effective tool that can be used to combat violence against women, reform unfair inheritance and property rights, and strengthen women's access to fair employment and economic opportunity. Ratification of this Convention will enhance our efforts to promote the status of women around the world. As we look at Afghanistan and the egregious human rights violations committed against women and girls at the hands of the Taliban, we recognize that this is an issue of global importance.

My Administration is working hard to eliminate violence against women in all its forms. Our efforts help to combat this human rights violation around the world and here in the United States. As part of the 1994 Crime Bill, I signed into law the Violence Against Women Act. This legislation declares certain forms of violence against women to be Federal crimes and provides for critical assistance to States, tribes, and local communities in their efforts to respond to this problem. The Department of Justice is implementing the Violence Against Women Act and working with communities across the country to promote criminal prosecution and provide services to victims. Through the Department of Health and Human Services, we have established for the first time a nationwide domestic violence hotline, so that women throughout the country can call one toll-free number and be connected to a local domestic violence support center. We have come a long way since 1994, and I am proud of our efforts.

Each day recognition of the importance of this issue grows around the world. In recent years, many countries have begun to respond to calls for legislation and government programs addressing violence against women. The international community increasingly regards

violence against women as a fundamental human rights violation, an impediment to a nation's development, and an obstacle to women's full participation in democracy.

Today I am directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to continue and expand their work to combat violence against women here in the United States and around the world. We have made great progress since the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, but there remains much to be done. We must continue to work to implement the Act fully and to restore the Act's protection for immigrant victims of domestic violence here in the United States so that they will not be forced to choose between deportation and abuse.

The problem of trafficking in women and girls, an insidious form of violence, has received a great deal of attention from the world community. This is an international problem with national implications. Here in the United States, we have seen cases of trafficking for the purposes of forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, and exploitative domestic servitude. The victims in these cases often believe they will be entering our country to secure a decent job. Instead, they are virtual prisoners, with no resources, little recourse, and no protection against violations of their human rights. My Administration is committed to combating trafficking in women and girls with a focus on the areas of prevention, victim assistance and protection, and enforcement. Our work on this issue has been enhanced by a strong partnership with nongovernmental groups and the U.S. Congress.

I am also directing the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the President's Interagency Council on Women to increase national and international awareness about trafficking in women and girls. I want to ensure that young women and girls are educated about this problem so that they will not fall prey to traffickers' tactics of coercion, violence, fraud, and deceit.

I also want to provide protection to victims. And finally, I want to enhance the capacity of law enforcement worldwide to prevent women and girls from being trafficked and ensure that traffickers are punished.

Therefore, I direct:

I. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, to strengthen and expand our efforts to combat violence against women in all its forms around the world. These efforts should be responsive to government and nongovernment requests for partnerships, expert guidance, and technical assistance to address this human rights violation.

II. The President's Interagency Council on Women to coordinate the United States Government response on trafficking in women and girls, in consultation with nongovernmental groups.

III. The Attorney General to examine current treatment of victims of trafficking including to determine ways to insure: the provision of services for victims and witnesses in settings that secure their safety; precautions for the safe return of victims and witnesses to their originating countries; witness cooperation in criminal trials against traffickers; and consideration of temporary and/or permanent legal status for victims and witnesses of trafficking who lack legal status.

IV. The Attorney General to review existing U.S. criminal laws and their current use to determine if they are adequate to prevent and deter trafficking in women and girls, to recommend any appropriate legal changes to ensure that trafficking is criminalized and that the

consequences of trafficking are significant, and to review current prosecution efforts against traffickers in order to identify additional intelligence sources, evidentiary needs and resource capabilities.

V. The Secretary of State to use our diplomatic presence around the world to work with source, transit, and destination countries to develop strategies for protecting and assisting victims of trafficking and to expand and enhance anti-fraud training to stop the international trafficking of women and girls.

VI. The Secretary of State to coordinate an intergovernmental response to the Government of Ukraine's request to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in women and girls from and to Ukraine. The U.S.-Ukraine cooperation will serve as a model for a multi-disciplinary approach to combat trafficking that can be expanded to other countries.

VII. The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, to expand and strengthen assistance to the international community in developing and enacting legislation to combat trafficking in women and girls, to provide assistance to victims of trafficking, and to continue to expand efforts to train legal and law enforcement personnel worldwide.

VIII. The Secretary of State and the Director of the United States Information Agency to expand public awareness campaigns targeted to warn potential victims of the methods used by traffickers.

IX. The President's Interagency Council on Women to convene a gathering of government and nongovernment representatives from source, transit, and destination countries and representatives from international organizations to call attention to the issue of trafficking in women and girls and to develop strategies for combating this fundamental human rights violation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 4, 1998

November 4, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Guidebook for Victims of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is one of the most serious public health issues and criminal justice issues facing our Nation. About 30 percent of female murder victims are killed by intimates each year. Women aged 16-24 experience the highest rates of intimate violence. In 1996, women experienced an estimated 840,000 incidents of rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault at the hands of intimates. While this number has declined from 1.1 million incidents in 1993, we must strive to eliminate domestic violence both for its effects on victims as well as on their children. Domestic violence does not discriminate -- it affects individuals of every age, race, gender, class, and religion.

My Administration is committed to fighting the scourge of domestic violence. As part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, I fought for and signed into law the historic Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which provides a comprehensive approach to domestic violence, both through prosecuting offenders and providing assistance to victims. Through VAWA, my Administration has provided almost half a billion dollars through STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) grants to the states for law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services to prevent and respond to violence against women. The extension of the Brady Law prohibits anyone convicted of a domestic violence offense from owning a firearm. The Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act of 1996 makes it a Federal crime to cross State lines intending to injure or harass another person.

In 1995, I established the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice, elevating the fight against domestic violence to the national level for the first time. Since 1996, the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE) has provided immediate crisis intervention, counseling, and referrals to those in need, responding to as many as 10,000 calls each month.

Domestic violence affects all aspects of our society -- the family, the community, and the workplace. As the Nation's largest employer, the Federal Government has tried to set an example for private employers to protect and provide assistance to workers who are victims of domestic violence. In 1995, I signed an executive memorandum requiring all Federal departments to begin employee awareness efforts on domestic violence. Last year, the Vice President announced that the Office of Personnel Management had developed a guide-book for dealing with workplace violence that outlines a wide array of strategies for preventing violence at work and for helping supervisors, security, and employee assistance staff to recognize the signs of violence, including domestic violence.

Building upon these efforts, it is important to provide a resource guide to the thousands of Federal employees across the country, whether they are a victim of domestic violence or a family member, neighbor, friend, or co-worker of someone who is being abused. I accordingly direct you

to prepare within 120 days a guidebook that will (1) assist Federal employees who are victims of domestic violence by providing up-to-date information about available resources and outline strategies to ensure safety; and (2) help those who know a Federal employee who is being abused to prevent and respond to the situation. This guidebook should list private as well as public resources such as counseling, law enforcement, workplace leave policies, and substance abuse programs. In developing this guidebook, you should consult with all interested parties, including the private sector and other Federal agencies and offices -- particularly, the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services.

This guidebook, in conjunction with my Administration's continuing efforts to combat domestic violence, will help to promote the safety of all Federal workers and their families.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

30-30-30

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of Communications

For Immediate Release

September 29, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:

Supporting Women and Families

EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

- Protecting Families. The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. Millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment. The President also proposed expanding the Family & Medical Leave Act to allow workers up to 24 hours per year of unpaid leave for parent-teacher conferences or routine medical care for a child.
- Cutting Taxes for 15 Million Working Families by extending the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In 1997, the EITC lifted 4.3 million people, including 2.2 million children, out of poverty -- double the number of people lifted out of poverty by the EITC in 1993.
- Increasing the Minimum Wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15, giving six million women a raise.
- Narrowing the Wage Gap. Last year, the median earnings of women working full-time increased 3 percent. In 1997, the median earnings of women represented 74 percent of the median earnings for men, remaining the narrowest gap ever.
- Fighting for Paycheck Equity. Called on Congress to pass legislation to strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination.
- Highest Homeownership Rate in History. There are more than 68 million American families who own homes, more than six million new homeowners since the President took office. Women's homeownership is increasing at a faster rate than the rest of the country -- up five percent since the first quarter of 1994.
- Increasing Pension Security. Fought for legislation that has expanded pension coverage, made pensions more secure for 40 million American workers and retirees, and simplified pension plan administration. Promoting new efforts to encourage retirement savings.
- Saving Social Security First. In 1999, nearly 60 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries will be women. Social Security will be the major source of retirement income for a majority of these women. President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century and has urged that budget surpluses be reserved for a bipartisan plan to strengthen Social Security.

CARING FOR OUR CHILDREN:

- Extending Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This is the single largest investment in Health Care for children since 1965. The President fought to ensure that the Balanced Budget included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to millions of uninsured children.
- Fought for and Won \$500 Child Tax Credit for 26 Million Families

with Over 40 Million Children under Age 17. Twelve million children from families with income below \$30,000 will receive the child tax credit as a result of the President's efforts.

- Largest Four-Year Drop in Child Poverty Since 1960s. Under President Clinton, the child poverty rate has declined from 22.7 percent to 19.9 percent -- the biggest four-year drop in nearly 30 years (1965-1969). While this marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.
- Ensuring Safe Food for America's Families, making food safety a priority. Issued new standards to reduce and prevent contamination of meat, poultry, and seafood; signed the Food Quality Protection Act with special safeguards for kids; issued new regulations that improve the safety of fruit and vegetable juices; and created a President's Council on Food Safety which will develop a comprehensive food safety strategic plan for federal agencies.
- Held First-Ever White House Conference on Child Care and White House Conference on Early Child Development and Learning. In April 1997, the President and First Lady held the White House Conference on Early Child Development and Learning to highlight the benefits of early nurturing by parents. And in October 1997, the White House Conference on Child Care began a dialogue on the child care challenges facing parents today -- availability, affordability, and assuring safety and quality.
- Proposed the Largest Single Investment in Child Care in the Nation's History. Between FY93 and FY97, federal funding for child care increased by nearly 79 percent, providing child care services for over one million children. If enacted, the President's \$21 billion child care proposal will give child care subsidies to millions of children and increase tax credits for three million working families to help them pay for child care.
- Signed Landmark Adoption and Safe Families Act. This law will help thousands of children waiting in foster care move more quickly into safe and permanent homes.
- Signed the Comprehensive Childhood Immunization Initiative. Thanks to President Clinton, immunization rates among two-year-olds have reached historic highs.
- Took Steps to Ensure Children Have Safe Medications. Unveiled an FDA regulation that protects children by requiring manufacturers to study appropriate dosage levels of drugs for pediatric populations.
- Launched New Strategies to Reduce the High Rate of Teen Pregnancies. Teen (aged 15 to 19 years) births have fallen six years in a row, by 12 percent from 1991 to 1996.
- Increased Child Support Collections by Nearly 70%. Signed into law the toughest child support crackdown in history.
- Imposed Strict Measures to Keep Cigarettes out of the Hands of Our Children by restricting youth-targeted advertising; and the FDA made 18 the minimum age to purchase tobacco products nationwide, requiring photo I.D.s for anyone under the age of 27. And the President is fighting to enact comprehensive tobacco legislation.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

- Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest

investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

- Providing Early Education to More than 830,000 Children with Head Start. 200,000 more children are enrolled in Head Start today than in 1992.
- Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade. More than 1000 colleges have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In addition, the President is working to enact an early literacy bill such as the America Reads Initiative that will provide more tutors after school, improve the teaching of reading in our schools, and help parents help their children learn to read.
- Fighting for Critical Education Investments. The President has called on Congress to pass critical education priorities included in his FY99 Budget that include initiatives to recruit quality teachers, rebuild crumbling schools and reduce class size.
- Striving for Excellence with National Education Standards. Seeking high national standards for all students, the President has proposed a first-ever national test in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math.
- Expanding Choice and Accountability in Public Schools. Supported increase of public charter schools, from only one charter school in the nation in 1993 to more than 1,000 charter schools this year.
- Promoting National Service and educational opportunities through AmeriCorps.
- Fought for Passage of Education Tax Breaks to Promote Lifelong Learning.
- Representing the largest single increase in higher education since the G.I. Bill, the Balanced Budget includes a \$1,500 Hope Scholarship to make the first two years of college universally available, and a 20-percent tuition tax credit for college juniors, seniors, graduate students, and working Americans pursuing lifelong learning.
- Largest Increase in Pell Grants in 20 Years. Nearly 4 million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,000, 30% larger than when the President took office.

IMPROVING OUR NATION'S HEALTH:

- Protected and Strengthened Medicare, Benefiting the 22 Million American Women Enrolled in Medicare. The Balanced Budget Act extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits, including more affordable annual mammograms for all beneficiaries, cervical cancer screening, and tests to help detect osteoporosis. The President has also put forth a new proposal that will provide greater access to health insurance for Americans ages 55 to 65, including an option to buy into Medicare.
- Increased Funding for Breast Cancer Research. Since the President took office, funding for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment has doubled, from about \$275 million in FY 1993 to \$577 million in the President's FY 1999 budget. In addition, the President has implemented the Mammography Quality Standards Act to ensure the quality of mammograms. Women can now find a certified

mammography facility by calling 1-800-4-CANCER.

- Providing Protection with the Patients' Bill of Rights. The President is calling on Congress to pass Federally enforceable consumer health care protections that include: guaranteed access to needed health care specialists including direct access to an OB-GYN; access to emergency room services when and where the need arises; continuity of care protections to ensure that patients' care will not abruptly change if their provider is dropped; access to a timely internal and independent external appeals process for consumers to resolve their differences with their health plans; a limit on financial incentives to doctors to limit care and assurances that doctors and patients can openly discuss treatment options. Women are particularly vulnerable without these health care protections because they are greater users of health care services, they make three-quarters of the health care decisions for their families, and they have specific health care needs that are directly addressed by a patients' bill of rights.
- Preventing Discrimination Based on Genetic Information Both by Health Plans and Employers. Urging Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to prohibit health plans from inappropriately using genetic screening information to deny coverage, set premiums, or to distribute confidential information. The President also has supported legislation that ensures that employers do not use genetic information to discriminate against employees.
- Fought for Greater Health Security for America's Families. The President signed into law the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act which helps millions of Americans who move from one job to another, who are self-employed, or who have pre-existing medical conditions keep their health insurance.
- Endorsed Legislation That Would Ban Drive-thru Mastectomies, allowing women to stay in the hospital at least 48 hours following a mastectomy.
- Ended Drive-Thru Deliveries. Proposed and signed into law legislation requiring insurers to cover at least 48 hours of a post-natal hospital stay (72 hours for a Cesarean).

MAKING OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES SAFER:

- Putting 100,000 More Police on the Streets. At this time, nearly 80,000 officers have been funded through the 1994 Crime Bill, on the way to 100,000 more police on the streets and in our communities. And violent crime has dropped six years in a row - the longest period of decline in 60 years.
- Signed the Assault Weapons Ban, the Brady Bill and an Extension of Brady into Law. The Brady Law has already kept handguns away from 250,000 persons including felons, fugitives and individuals convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors or who are under restraining orders. The President signed into law the extension of the Brady Law, which prohibits anyone convicted of a domestic violence offense -- misdemeanor or felony -- from owning or possessing a firearm.
- Will Hold the First-Ever White House Conference on School Safety. On October 15, 1998, the President will host the White House Conference on School Safety. The participants will explore solutions to this national challenge: How do schools, families and communities work together to make sure that every child is safe in every school in America.

- Signed Megan's Law and the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, requiring states to set up sex offender registration systems and allows community notification when sex offenders move into neighborhoods.
- Championed and Signed the Violence Against Women Act, the cornerstone of the President's efforts to fight domestic violence, and created an office at the Department of Justice dedicated to combating violence against women.
- More than Tripled Funding to Domestic Violence Shelters and instituted new penalties against men who stalk, threaten or abuse women across state lines.
- Established Nationwide 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline. The hotline (1-800-797-SAFE) provides immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need. Since the hotline opened, there have been 229,000 calls -- averaging 8,000 calls a month -- from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

PROMOTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR WOMEN:

- Reversed the "Gag Rule" limiting the information federally funded family planning clinics could give to women.
- Greater Support for Family Planning. The President's FY99 proposal will increase Title X Family Planning grants by \$15 million -- a 46 percent increase since FY92.
- Signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, establishing a safety-zone around women's health clinics.

STRENGTHENING EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS:

- Increasing Civil Rights Enforcement. Proposed for the largest single increase in funding to enforce existing civil rights laws in nearly two decades. Through new reforms and heightened commitment to enforcement, the Administration will seek to prevent discrimination before it occurs and to punish those who do discriminate in employment, education, housing and health care, and against those with disabilities. The Clinton Administration's FY99 budget contains \$602 million for civil rights enforcement agencies and offices -- an increase of \$86 million over last year's funding.
- Increasing Funding for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The cornerstone of the improved civil rights enforcement effort is a \$37 million increase (15 percent) for the EEOC. Through increased use of mediation, improved information technology and an expanded investigative staff, the EEOC will reduce the average time for resolving private-sector complaints from over 9.4 months to 6 months and cut the backlog of cases from 64,000 to 28,000, by the year 2000.

GENERATING MORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN:

- Women Are Starting Businesses at Twice the Rate of All Businesses. Women own nearly 40 percent of all firms in the United States. These eight million women-owned firms employ 18.5 million -- one in every five U.S. workers -- and contribute \$2.3 trillion to the economy. The Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership is working to foster this growth.
- Tripled the Number of Small Business Loans to Women Entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved nearly 50,000 loans to women

entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. Last year alone, the Small Business Administration granted more than 10,000 loans, worth \$1.67 billion, to women small business owners, triple the number of loans granted in 1992.

WOMEN AS PARTNERS IN DECISION MAKING:

- Appointed More Women than Any Other President -- 41 percent of Administration appointees are women.
- Women Hold 29 Percent of the Top Positions -- 29 percent of the positions requiring Senate confirmation (PAS) are held by women. Additionally,
 - 34 percent of Presidential appointments, including boards and commissions, are held by women.
 - 39 percent of non-career Senior Executive Service positions are held by women.
 - 58 percent of Schedule C positions are held by women.
- Appointed the First Women Ever to Serve as Attorney General, Janet Reno, and Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. Including the Attorney General and Secretary of State, women make up 27 percent of the Clinton Cabinet: Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor; Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Carol Browner, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Janet Yellen, Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors; and Charlene Barshefsky, United States Trade Representative all serve in the President's Cabinet.
- 30 Percent of All of the President's Judicial Nominees Are Women.
- Nominated the Second Woman to Serve on the Supreme Court. During his first year in office, President Clinton nominated Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the United States Supreme Court. Justice Ginsburg is only the second woman to serve on the nation's highest court.

9/98

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 21, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT EVENT

The East Room

1:11 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Sarah, for your wonderful remarks and for the powerful example of your life. I was watching you speak today, thinking of your story, wondering how many other stories like yours there might have been if our society had responded more properly, and how many more there will be now because we are going to do the right things.

I thank Attorney General Reno and Secretary Shalala, and of course, Senator Biden and Senator Hatch and Senator Boxer, Senator Harkin, Senator Kerry, Senator Moseley-Braun, Senator Wellstone -- we've nearly got a quorum. (Laughter.) Congresswoman DeLauro, Congresswoman Mink, Congresswoman Morella, Congresswoman Blanche Lambert-Lincoln. I thank you all for being here.

This is an important day for me. This is an issue with which I have dealt as President, as a governor, as an attorney general, as a citizen, going for years with my wife to the shelters in our state for battered women and their children, and as a human being. And I have looked forward to this day for a very long time.

We spend a lot of time in Washington, and we are now having a great and fascinating debate about what the role of this government ought to be and how we're going to get into the next century, and how we're going to create opportunity for all the American people. This is a good thing that we're doing. It's exciting. And I'm having a good time. But, you know, let's be honest with each other. If children aren't safe in their homes, if college women aren't safe in their dorms, if mothers can't raise their children in safety, then the American Dream will never be real for them, no matter what we do in economic policy, no matter how strong we are in standing against the forces that would seek to undermine our values beyond our borders. This is key to everything else we want to do.

So I applaud the members of the Congress, and especially those who have been recognized already -- especially Senator Biden and Senator Hatch -- for recognizing that we had to take responsibility for trying to come to grips with issues that we ordinarily would think of as issues that belong to local law enforcement or local social agencies, or even to the privacy of the home.

When we were fighting so hard last year to pass the crime bill, with the emphasis on more police and more punishment and more prisons and more prevention, one of the things that almost got lost was the Violence Against Women Act. I think it almost got lost for a very regrettable reason in this day and time -- the Republicans and the Democrats weren't fighting about it. We really had a national consensus that we had to do something. And because we knew we had to do something

and it passed, it was almost unnoticed.

But, you know, domestic violence is now the number one health risk for women between the ages of 15 and 44 in our country. If you think about it, it's a bigger threat than cancer or car accidents. The incidents of rape is rising at three times the rate of the crime rate. The FBI estimates that a woman is beaten in this country once every 12 seconds. And we know, too, that often when a spouse is beaten, the children as well.

For too long, domestic violence has been considered purely a private matter. From now on, it is a problem we all share. (Applause.) What are we going to do about it? The first thing we have to do is do what we can to prevent violence. One part of the crime bill I am proudest of will help in our efforts to stop repeat offenses against women. It will prohibit individuals with a restraining order against them from purchasing or possessing a gun. No ifs, ands or buts. (Applause.)

When crimes do occur, we must restore the rights of victims to their proper place. That means giving them the right to speak at sentencing hearings. And above all, it means helping victims rebuild their lives. We'll require sexual offenders to pay restitution to their victims. We must help people who suffer violence put their lives back on track and put the burdens on the criminals where they belong.

To help in prevention and in assisting victims, the crime bill establishes a Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice. Today I am pleased to announce that Bonnie Campbell of Iowa will be the first director of that office. As Iowa's first female attorney general, Bonnie Campbell helped to enact strong domestic violence and anti-stalking laws in that state. She worked with counties and college campuses to raise awareness about domestic violence. And she endorsed a victims rights amendment to the state constitution. A big part of her new job will be helping states and communities to deal with domestic violence.

Today we are making available \$26 million to help the states open rape crisis centers, to staff domestic violence hotlines, to provide victims advocates, to pay for more officers and more training. This is the first down payment on a six-year commitment of \$800 million for this purpose. (Applause.)

This is part of a report I should make at least to these members of Congress who are here about the crime bill. The work has already begun. In just four months we have awarded more than 16,000 police officers to half the police departments in America. We're taking guns and criminals off the streets. The three-strikes-and-you're-out law is being enforced in Iowa and in many other states throughout the country. In short, we are under budget and ahead of schedule. And I want more of that from our government.

We passed this crime bill with bipartisan support. And I'd be the last person to say that it's the end-all and be-all, the ultimate answer to all the problems of crime in America. But I will not permit the crime bill to be undercut. It is just starting to make a difference in the lives of America. We have to keep going. We have to make a difference in the lives of everyone, but especially the women and the children we are called here today to pledge our allegiance to protect.

Let me begin this introduction of Bonnie Campbell and end it with a simple thank you. It's hard to get anybody with good sense to leave Iowa to come to Washington. (Laughter.) And I thank her for doing it and for the shining example she has set in public service and for the excellent work I am confident she will do in this important

position.

Bonnie. (Applause.)

END1:20 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 14, 1995

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

The Roosevelt Room

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. In recent weeks, all of us have had reason to focus on two of the biggest problems facing our country -- the problem of continuing racial divisions and the problem of violence in our homes, violence against women and children.

Today, I want to talk to you about that violence in our homes. It is prevalent, unforgivable and sometimes deadly. In the latest statistics from the Justice Department, we find that close to a third of all women murdered in this country were killed by their husbands, former husbands or boyfriends.

For too long, domestic violence has been swept under the rug, treated as a private family matter that was nobody's business but those involved. Fortunately, that's changing.

In recent years, a huge public outcry against domestic violence has been rising all across the nation. In our churches, schools and throughout communities, we've begun to bring this problem out in the open and deal with it. Now everyone knows it is cowardly, destructive of families, immoral and criminal to abuse the women in our families.

Just last week at the White House, I met with a group of women who are survivors of domestic abuse. One woman told me of being battered and terrorized for more than 20 years, all the while blaming herself for the brutality she endured. It wasn't until her husband attacked her son that she got up the courage to leave the marriage and to seek help.

It's important to remember that when children witness or are victimized by violence in the home, they often later grow up to abuse their own families. So it can become a vicious cycle, as many abusers were once those abused themselves.

The good news is we can do something about this. The same day I met with the women survivors, I also met a remarkable Nashville police sergeant named Mark Wynn, a young man who himself grew up in a home where his father abused his mother and the children. But that experience motivated him to become a police officer and to dedicate his life to preventing domestic violence. For the past 10 years, he's been educating police nationwide about the seriousness of this problem and what to do about it. And he spearheaded the creation of a special domestic violence unit in the Nashville Police Department that has helped to reduce domestic murders by 70 percent in the last six months alone.

One year ago, we made a major commitment in Washington to ensuring the securities of our families with the bipartisan passage of my anti-crime bill. That law banned assault weapons from our streets and our schools; imposed tougher penalties for repeat offenders, including the three-strikes-and-your-out law. It provided resources for community-based prevention programs to give our

children something to say yes to. And it put 100,000 more police officers behind our efforts at effective community policing. That's an increase of about 20 percent in the number of police who are protecting our citizens. In just a year, 25,000 of these new officers are already out there working to help make your life safer. And I've put aside \$20 million to train our police to effectively deal with the problems of domestic violence.

The Crime Bill also included the landmark Violence Against Women Act. For the first time in our history, the federal government is now a full partner in the effort to stop domestic violence. The Violence Against Women Act combines tough new sanctions against abusers, with assistance to police, to prosecutors and to shelters in the fight against domestic violence.

Just last week, we awarded grants to organizations in 16 different states to assist in their efforts to stop the violence and support the victims. And soon we'll establish an 800 number where women facing abuse can get assistance, counseling and shelter.

Yet at the very moment our nation has been focused on the abuse against women by their husbands -- or former husbands or boyfriends -- the House of Representatives has voted to cut \$50 million from our efforts to protect battered women and their children, to preserve families and to punish these crimes. I'm happy that the Senate agreed with me to fully fund the Violence Against Women Act, and I certainly hope the House will reconsider its decision.

Violence against women within our families will not go away unless we all take responsibility for ending it. So let me close today by speaking directly to the men of America -- not just as President, or a father or a husband, but also as a son who has seen domestic violence firsthand.

We all know how much we owe to the sacrifices of the women who are our mothers, our wives, our sisters, our daughters. I was fortunate enough to be raised by a loving mother who taught me right from wrong and made me believe I could accomplish anything I was willing to work hard for. Hillary and I were blessed to celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary just this week. And of course, our daughter Chelsea is the great joy of our lives.

I know that all of us support stronger law enforcement efforts to deal with violence against all of the mothers, all of the wives, all of the daughters in America. But the real solution to this problem starts with us, with our personal responsibility and a simple pledge that we will never, never lift a hand against a woman for as long as we live. And that we will teach our children that violence is never the answer. Then we can do all we can to end violence in our homes, in our neighborhoods and in everyone else's homes and neighborhoods throughout our beloved country.

Thank you for listening.

END

VAWA HAS BEEN AN ADMINISTRATION PRIORITY

General Talking Points

Everyone at the White House – the President, Vice President and First Lady -- is committed to getting VAWA reauthorized this year. The President pushed for the original VAWA in 1994 and signed it into law as part of his crime bill.

It is an historic piece of legislation that for the first time provides a federal framework for combating violence against women and that has changed the way we hold offenders accountable and provide services to victims. Over \$1.5 billion dollars in Federal grant funds have gone to the states to improve the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, and to provide critical services to victims and their families. VAWA programs are working: the number of women experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate partner declined 21 percent from 1993 to 1998. In addition, in 1996, 1997, and 1998, intimate partners committed fewer murders than in any year since 1976. The domestic violence hotline has received over 500,000 calls since it was established in February 1996.

Although tremendous strides have been made, domestic violence still devastates the lives of many women and children. VAWA, which has bipartisan support, must be reauthorized to ensure that we maintain and increase our support for these important programs and make critical improvements to the statute.

It would be a national disgrace if VAWA is not reauthorized.

What the Administration has done to push for VAWA

- The President called on Congress to reauthorize VAWA at 9/13/00 Hate Crimes event.
- VAWA was included among the Administration priorities for the meeting with Democratic leaders (9/5/00) (see fact sheet on "Challenging Congress to Act Now on America's Priorities")
- The Vice President has issued several statements calling for reauthorization of VAWA.
- At a White House event on June 12, 2000, the First Lady joined members of the law enforcement community and a bipartisan group of lawmakers to urge Congress to reauthorize VAWA. She announced key law enforcement support for reauthorization and highlighted the progress of VAWA, releasing reports from the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services documenting the success of the law.
- On September 25, 2000, the President did an event in Santa Fe, NM, releasing VAWA grants to NM and calling on Congress to reauthorize VAWA. The next day, after stories on the President's event focused blame for VAWA languishing on the Republican leadership, the House overwhelmingly approved VAWA.
- White House staff – from DPC, Counsel's Office, Leg Affairs, VPOTUS and FLOTUS staff – are in ongoing coordination with women's groups and the Hill about legislative strategy.

Legislative update

Senate

The bill has passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senators Biden and Hatch have a compromise that we understand may be considered under unanimous consent. Senator Biden

and Senator Domenici resolved the concerns of the Budget Committee, which had had a hold on the bill (they agreed to a 3 year extension of the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund (VCRTF), instead of the 5 years in the original provision included in VAWA). We are hopeful that it can be consider under UC shortly.

House

The Judiciary Committee approved the bill with bipartisan support earlier in the summer. The bill has also been referred to the Commerce and Education and Workforce Committees, which have not indicated that they plan to take action.

Last week, Reps. Hyde and McCollum wrote to Hastert asking him to move VAWA. Also last week, Gephardt wrote a letter with the ranking members of the committees of jurisdiction (Conyers, Dingell and Clay), urging Hastert to move VAWA. Finally, this week, 50 House Republicans also wrote to Hastert urging him to move VAWA. And yesterday, the Washington Post ran a story that VAWA was in jeopardy, mainly blaming the House GOP leadership.

We have learned that the Judiciary Committee's report hasn't been filed, but we're not sure why. This bill has bipartisan support and we just hope the Republican leadership will clear the way for consideration.

FYI Background: One scenario is for VAWA to pass the Senate, and have the House take the Senate version up under suspension of the rules. This would avoid the committee problems we face in the House. The other alternative is much more difficult to imagine working -- we would need to develop a House strategy, since the Republicans seem to be playing some games with VAWA and the bill is stalled in two committees. We would need a more aggressive strategy with Hastert.

You should know that the women's groups still like the House bill better (it has more funding and includes "dating violence" -- some of the grant programs could fund programs addressing violence in unmarried couples -- a provision Hatch opposes). Although the groups acknowledge that the Senate bill is better for 2 critical reasons (it has the battered immigrant women provisions and VCRTF), they don't yet seem to recognize that there isn't time for a conference, and that the best (and perhaps only workable) scenario is just to have the House pass the Senate bill, which we can definitely live with. Because the groups haven't accepted this strategy yet, I wouldn't commit to it -- you could just say "Since our prospects are better in the Senate, we are working to get the ball rolling there and then we are exploring ways to get the House to move quickly so that this gets done because it would be a disgrace if Congress act."

**PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES NEW MEXICO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GRANTS AND URGES CONGRESS
TO PASS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN LEGISLATION**

September 25, 2000

Today President Clinton will call on Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and will announce the final Department of Justice (DOJ) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants for New Mexico at the Chavez Community Center in Santa Fe. This funding of \$1.7 million is part of this fiscal year's \$173 million in Justice VAWA grants, bringing nationwide VAWA funding to a total of over \$1.6 billion. These grants help to make our streets, schools, and homes safe for all women and children. The grants announced today will: strengthen tribal law enforcement and prosecution efforts to combat violence against Native women; help develop coordinated responses to domestic violence and child abuse in rural areas; encourage state, local, and tribal governments to treat domestic violence as a serious violation of criminal law; and strengthen civil legal assistance programs. The President will urge Congress to act expeditiously to reauthorize VAWA, set to expire on September 30, so that the nearly 900,000 women who experience violence at the hands of an intimate partner every year will have a fighting chance to live lives free from violence.

VAWA'S SUCCESS IN COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. Over the last seven years, the Clinton Administration has led an historic effort to reduce crime in our nation's communities and, in particular, to recognize and respond to the problem of violence against women. In 1994, with the President's strong support, Congress passed the landmark Violence Against Women Act, as part of the Administration's crime bill, which established new Federal criminal provisions and key grant programs to improve the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, and to direct critical services to victims. VAWA programs are making a difference across the country. A recent report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics shows that domestic violence has declined since 1993. The number of women experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate partner declined 21 percent from 1993 to 1998, and in 1996, 1997, and 1998, intimate partners committed fewer murders than in any year since 1976. DOJ and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have awarded over \$1.6 billion in Federal grants to support the work of prosecutors, law enforcement officials, the courts, victim advocates, health care and social service professionals, and intervention and prevention programs. In addition, the Act established the Domestic Violence Hotline, which has received over 500,000 calls.

VAWA MUST BE REAUTHORIZED. Although tremendous strides have been made, domestic violence still devastates the lives of many women and children. Nearly one-third of women murdered each year are killed by their intimate partners and violence by intimates accounts for over 20 percent of all violent crimes against women. If Congress fails to reauthorize VAWA, many critical programs may be jeopardized. Reauthorization legislation, which has broad bipartisan support, will help to: maintain existing programs; expand the investigation and prosecution of crimes of violence against women; provide greater numbers of victims with assistance; maintain and expand the domestic violence hotline, shelter, rape prevention and

education programs; and support effective partnerships between law enforcement, victim advocates and communities.

VAWA GRANTS IN NEW MEXICO. Today the President will announce approximately \$1.7 million in VAWA funding for New Mexico that will be used to combat domestic violence. Here is how some of the grantees – a legal services center, tribes, and a battered women's shelter will use this funding:

- El Refugio, Inc., a legal services center, which partners with a local domestic violence program, will provide training for law enforcement and judicial staff on domestic violence issues and legal representation to victims of domestic violence in restraining order and divorce cases. Previous civil legal assistance funding has enabled the center to provide legal representation and advocacy for victims of domestic violence who desperately need legal assistance.
- The Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc., provides services to the Pueblos of Tesuque, Pojoaque, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Picuris, Nambe, San Juan, and Taos. VAWA funds have enabled the Council to support legal services for victims, train tribal law enforcement, and provide direct victim services to the eight northern Pueblo communities. The Council will use this new grant to maintain and improve collaboration among social services, tribal police departments, tribal prosecutors, tribal courts, and the PeaceKeepers Domestic Violence Program.
- Morning Star House is a community-based advocacy program for women and children in Albuquerque. VAWA funding previously supported community outreach, interagency collaboration, services for women and children, and legal advocacy. Continuation funding will identify a network of safe houses for Indian women and children and develop a plan for a permanent shelter that is culturally appropriate for Indian women and children.
- With this new grant, Taos Pueblo will continue to work collaboratively with the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, the New Mexico/Colorado Tribal Judges Association and the Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals to implement its Family Protection Code. The Tribal Court and victim advocate have used previous funding to coordinate training for court staff and to encourage the implementation of mandatory arrest policies in the tribal police department.

The White House
Office of the First Lady

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2000

CONTACT: LISSA MUSCATINE
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**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON JOINS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT
TO CALL FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT**

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today will join members of the law enforcement community and a bipartisan group of lawmakers to urge Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). She will announce key law enforcement support for reauthorization and will highlight the progress of VAWA, releasing reports from the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services documenting the success of the law. In addition, she will announce that the National Domestic Violence Hotline, established under VAWA, received nearly 500,000 calls from February 1996 to May 31, 2000. Finally, the First Lady will announce that Attorney General Janet Reno and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala will call on their Cabinet colleagues to use their agency resources to address the problem of domestic violence. The Vice President also is joining the call for reauthorization, sending a letter to every Member of Congress asking them to make reauthorization a priority.

The First Lady will be joined by Attorney General Joseph Curran, Jr. of Maryland; Sheriff Kathy Witt of Fayette County, Kentucky; Rose Pulliam, associate director of the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Senator Barbara Boxer; and Rep. Constance Morella.

VAWA'S SUCCESS IN COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Over the last seven years, the Clinton Administration has led an historic effort to reduce crime in our nation's communities and, in particular, to recognize and respond to the problem of violence against women. In 1994, with the First Lady's strong support, Congress passed the landmark Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) as part of the Administration's crime bill. The Act established new Federal criminal provisions and key grant programs to improve the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, and to direct critical services to victims. Reports released today by DOJ and HHS show that these programs have awarded \$1.5 billion dollars in Federal grants to states to help law enforcement agencies and communities across the nation promote the safety of women and hold offenders accountable. These grants have supported the work of prosecutors, law enforcement officials, the courts, victim advocates, health care and social service professionals, and intervention and prevention programs.

A recent report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics shows that domestic violence has declined since 1993 and that VAWA programs are working. For example, the number of women

experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate partner declined 21 percent from 1993 to 1998. In addition, in 1996, 1997, and 1998, intimate partners committed fewer murders than in any year since 1976.

VAWA MUST BE REAUTHORIZED

Although tremendous strides have been made, domestic violence still devastates the lives of many women and children. Nearly one-third of women murdered each year are killed by their intimate partners, violence by intimates accounts for over 20 percent of all violent crimes against women, and women were raped and sexually assaulted 307,000 times in 1998 alone. If Congress fails to reauthorize VAWA, many critical programs may lose their funding. Reauthorization will help ensure that we maintain support of existing programs, expand the investigation and prosecution of crimes, provide greater numbers of victims with assistance, maintain and expand the domestic violence hotline, shelter, and rape prevention and education programs, and support creative partnerships between law enforcement, victim advocates and communities that have proven so effective. In addition, reauthorization will:

- Strengthen the VAWA criminal provisions;
- Expand protections of federal criminal laws and grant programs to women in dating relationships;
- Protect immigrant women and children from domestic violence;
- Enhance the full faith and credit provisions;
- Facilitate filing and service of protection orders; and
- Ensure that children remain in the custody of non-abusive parents.

LAW ENFORCEMENT RALLIES BEHIND REAUTHORIZATION

VAWA programs have provided tremendous support to law enforcement in their efforts to combat violence against women. DOJ has awarded more than \$800 million dollars in VAWA grants to law enforcement officials, prosecutors, victim advocates, and courts to address the problem of violence against women at the state, local, and tribal levels. These grants have enabled states to train personnel in handling cases of violence against women, increase prosecutions, assist victims, and build innovative partnerships between law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim services providers.

The First Lady today will stand with law enforcement to recognize the importance of VAWA to the law enforcement community. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), the National Sheriffs Association, and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) all support reauthorization. The First Lady also will release a resolution from NAAG in support of reauthorization, and a letter from IACP to President Clinton supporting reauthorization.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

February 26, 1999

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES \$223 MILLION IN GRANTS
TO HELP DETECT AND STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Also Announces Reno to Study Strategies to Stop Cyber Stalking

Washington, DC -- Vice President Gore announced today that the federal government will provide \$223 million to help states and communities detect and stop violence against women and provide shelter for the victims of domestic violence.

"There is no greater affront to our laws, to our families, or to the human spirit than domestic violence -- acts of terror and abuse committed by a spouse or a partner," Vice President Gore said. "That is why President Clinton and I have worked hard to provide grants that help law enforcement and domestic violence networks work together to help us end the scourge of domestic violence in our country."

The Vice President announced two separate grant programs to help stop domestic violence and hold abusers accountable. Both grants finance efforts by communities to create and adopt locally responsive approaches that encourage collaboration among all sectors, including victim service providers, victims' advocates, prosecutors, police officers, and judges involved in the fight to end violence against women.

Specifically, the programs include:

S.T.O.P Violence Against Women Formula Grants: Under the S.T.O.P (Services, Training, Officers and Prosecutors) grant program administered by the Justice Department, 56 States and Territories will receive a portion of over \$138 million to develop and strengthen the criminal justice system's response to violence against women and to support and enhance services for victims. The states must allocate at least 25 percent of the grant funds to law enforcement, 25 percent to prosecution, and 25 percent to victim services.

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies: The Justice Department will award thirty-two States and five Territories will receive a portion of \$23 million to help coordinate involvement of their entire criminal justice systems in the fight to end domestic violence. Grant funds may be used for implementing mandatory or pro-arrest programs and policies; developing policies and training in criminal justice agencies; improve tracking of domestic violence cases; and creating centralized domestic violence units consisting of police, prosecutors, and the judiciary or other criminal justice agencies.

The Vice President also announced a federal grant to help states protect victims of domestic violence:

Battered Women's Shelter Grants: The Department of Health and Human Services Battered Women's Shelter Grants will provide over \$62 million which is distributed by States to local domestic violence agencies and service providers and used to provide shelter for women and children. The grants will also be used for counseling to victims of domestic violence; legal advocacy and

assistance services; emergency assistance, such as transportation and food; information and referral services; community education; services to men who batter; as well as connections to other services, such as child protection.

In addition to the grants, the Vice President also announced that he has asked Attorney General Reno to conduct a comprehensive review of "cyber stalking" and to report back to him in 90 days on strategies to combat this serious problem. "Cyber stalking" is persistent or unwanted threats or harassment that are communicated via Internet.

"The information age has brought us different threats to the safety of women and children. The Internet is presenting us with cases we have never seen before," Vice President Gore said. "And make no mistake -- this kind of the harassment can be as frightening and as real as being followed and watched in your neighborhood or in your home."

The Clinton-Gore Administration has taken strong steps to fight domestic violence. They fought for and the President signed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), as part of the 1994 Crime Act. For the first time, VAWA enabled the federal government to work in partnership with states and communities to enact a comprehensive approach to fighting domestic violence and violence against women, combining tough new penalties with programs to prosecute offenders and services to help women victims of violence. Today, the Vice President reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to strengthening efforts to fight domestic violence by voicing support for the reauthorization of VAWA.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Santa Fe, New Mexico)

For Immediate Release

September 25, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT REAUTHORIZATION EVENT

Genoveva Chavez Community Center
Santa Fe, New Mexico

2:32 P.M. MDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Connie, you can drink my water anytime. (Laughter.) Didn't she do a good job? I was really proud of her. Thank you. (Applause.)

Thank you, Greg Neal, for welcoming us here in this beautiful, beautiful center. I'd like to thank your Congressman, Representative Tom Udall, for joining us today. Thank you, Tom, for being here. (Applause.)

And Attorney General Patsy Madrid, thank you for being here. (Applause.) A little bird told me this was your birthday today, so thank you for spending your birthday with us, in a worthy cause.

Santa Fe Mayor pro tem, Carol Robertson Lopez, thank you for being here. (Applause.) I thank the members of the city council and county commission and many others who have come here. Our former U.S. Attorney, John Kelly, and my college classmate, thank you for being here. (Applause.) I've got a lot of other personal friends here, as well as those of you who are involved in these endeavors and I thank you.

But most of all I want to express my appreciation to the brave women in this audience who have survived the horrors and fears of domestic violence for being with us today and for being in this very public setting. Connie, I thank you for sharing your story with us and for somehow finding the strength to help other women deal with theirs.

We are here today to salute your efforts, to recognize that progress has been made and to remind all Americans that the struggle with domestic violence is far from over. We're also here because, on Saturday night, on the very eve of National Domestic Violence Awareness month, the Violence Against Women Act will actually expire without congressional action.

We're here to say to Congress we owe it to women like Connie Trujillo and millions of others, and their children and families, to reauthorize and to strengthen the Violence Against Women Act and to do it this week, now, before the clock runs out. (Applause.)

For too long, women like those who have been victimized in this room today fought a lonely battle. For too long, domestic violence was an issue kept behind closed doors, treated as a purely private family matter. Despite the fact that it usually does occur at home, despite the fact that victims are almost always women and children, domestic violence is not just a family problem that neighbors can ignore, not just a woman's problem men can turn away from, it is America's problem.

The statistics speak for themselves. Domestic violence is the number one health risk for women between the ages of 15 and 44 in our nation. Close to a third of all the women murdered in America were killed by their husbands, former husbands or boyfriends. Every 12 seconds another woman is beaten, amounting to nearly 900,000 victims every single year. And we know that in half the families where a spouse is beaten, the children are beaten, too.

Domestic violence is a crime that affects us all. It increases health costs, keeps people from showing up to work, prevents them from performing at their best, keeps children out of school, often prevents them from learning. It destroys families, relationships and lives, and often prevents children from growing up to establish successful families of their own. It tears at the fabric of who we are as a people and what we want for our children's tomorrows.

For many years, when Hillary and I were living in Arkansas, we lived very close to the domestic violence shelter and center in our hometown. We spent lots of hours there, talking to the women and the children and listening to their stories. I'm very proud of the fact that after we moved to Washington, Hillary traveled all around the world to highlight the fact that violence against women and children is not an American problem, it's a global problem, with different manifestations; and in many places violent practices masquerade as cultural traditions. That is wrong.

And I have to tell you that every time I come into a setting like this, I think about the encounters that -- because of Hillary's efforts -- I've had with village women in remote places in Africa and in Latin America. And it is truly chilling to think about all the different rationalizations people have cooked up all over the world to justify men beating up on women and twisting the lives of their children.

We have come a long way in the United States in recognizing that this is criminal conduct; that there may be deep-seated emotional reasons for it which treatment is a better answer for than incarceration in some cases. But it's a crime. And it's a crime against the people who suffer and against the children who are tormented by it, very often for the rest of their lives, and against the larger society that we are trying to build.

For eight years now, the Vice President and I have tried to convey this simple message. Our message to the perpetrators is that you should be punished; and to the victims is we want you to have safety and security. No American should live in fear, least of all in his or her own home.

The Violence Against Women Act was part of our landmark 1994 Crime Bill. It was the very first time in the history of America that the nation's government, in a comprehensive effort, joined those of you here and your counterparts all across America in standing up and making common cause on this issue.

The Violence Against Women Act imposes tough penalties for actions of violence against women. It also helps to train police and prosecutors and judges so they can better understand domestic violence, something which, believe it or not, is still a significant problem all across the United States.

It helps to train people to recognize the symptoms when they see it. It helps people, perhaps most important of all, to take appropriate, systematic steps to prevent it. The law gives grants to shelters who need more beds and better programs; it provides assistance to law enforcement, the courts and communities, to help them respond to

domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking when they occur.

It established a 24-hour, seven-day, toll-free, national domestic violence hotline, to help women get emergency help and counseling, find a shelter, report abuse to authorities. Since 1996, this hotline has given more than 500,000 people a place to call to find help when they need it most.

The Act has offered hope to countless numbers of women by letting them know they are not alone. Police officers who often shy away from so-called family squabbles should now get involved. Physical violence is unacceptable in our homes.

The law's impact is no clearer than here in Santa Fe, where the Act and its much needed funding has helped make the city's streets, schools and homes safer. With the Act's help, Connie and her Esperanza Shelter for Battered Families provided counseling and shelter to nearly 2,000 families last year.

With the Act's help, eight northern Indian pueblo councils here in Santa Fe now have the means to give legal advice and victims counseling to native American women, and proper training to tribal police departments, courts and prosecutors. With the Act's help, the Morning Star Program in Albuquerque provides safe houses and support groups for victims and their families. All told, the Violence Against Women Act has dedicated nearly -- listen to this -- \$1.7 billion since 1994 to programs combatting domestic violence around our nation, including more than \$173 million this year alone.

Today, the Department of Justice will award nearly \$2 million in Violence Against Women Act funds to combat domestic violence here in New Mexico, to strengthen tribal law enforcement, address child abuse and domestic violence in rural areas and improve civil legal assistance programs. (Applause.)

Now, has all this made a difference? Well, thanks to your work in programs like the ones here in Santa Fe, we know that the Violence Against Women Act is having a real impact on domestic abuse. According to a recent study from 1993 to 1998, violence against women by an intimate partner fell by 21 percent. In the years 1996, '97 and '98, intimate partners committed fewer murders than at any other time since 1976, when there were far fewer people in this country.

So while we have made strides in our war against domestic violence, you only have to look around to know we've still got miles to go. We cannot turn our backs on the millions of women and children trapped in the cycle of domestic violence. We can't allow them to face a nightmare alone.

Let me say to you, this really shouldn't be a partisan issue. When Congress first passed the Violence Against Women Act, we had strong support from Republicans, as well as Democrats. This summer, in a bipartisan effort, both the House and the Senate Judiciary Committees approved extending and reauthorizing and approving the Violence Against Women Act -- both Republicans and Democrats.

Why is this not law now? The committees have approved it. We have more than enough votes in both houses to pass it. Because this issue, for reasons I cannot understand, has been used as a political football in Washington. All the congressional leadership has to do is to put it up for a vote and it will fly through.

And so again I implore the leadership of Congress not to play games with the safety and future of women and children. (Applause.)

I ask all of you and those who will hear this message all across America tonight: contact your senators and your representatives and tell them to ask the majority leadership in Congress simply to schedule this for a vote. This is not rocket science. There is no complication here. Everybody knows what this law is. Everybody knows what it will do. Everybody knows what it has done. Yes, we're close to an election and, yes, there are a lot of things that various people want to get done in Congress between now and the end of the session when they go home for the election. Nobody wants to get anything any more done than I do, but it is wrong to delay this one more hour. Schedule the bill for a vote. (Applause.)

I have spent a lot of time in the last eight years trying to make peace around the world, trying to get people from Northern Ireland, to the Middle East, to the Balkans, to the African tribal conflicts, to lay down their ancient hatreds and stop dehumanizing people who are different from them. I spent a good deal of time trying to make peace within our borders, trying to get people to give up old hatreds of those who are different than them because they're of a different race or religion, or because they're gay, to give up all that.

But it is very hard for us to make peace around the world, or even around the land, unless we are first committed to making peace within our homes. (Applause.) And I think we should stay at this until the day when we are truly shocked if we hear a little boy or a girl say something at school about witnessing a violent incident in their home, when it is so rare, people gasp in astonishment.

We're a long way from there. But we owe it to our kids and all the women and children who have already been injured, to keep at it, until we reach that day.

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

END 2:48 P.M. MDT

Violence Against Women Act

Fact Sheet: Violence Against Women Act II

In 1994, Congress passed and the President signed landmark legislation to fight violence against women. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) established new criminal provisions and key grant programs that improve the criminal and civil justice systems' response to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, and direct critical services to victims. This comprehensive law sent a clear message across the nation: violence against women is not only wrong, it is a crime. In the past six years, the Violence Against Women Act has protected the safety of countless women and held offenders accountable for their actions.

But there is still much work to be done. Violence still devastates the lives of too many women and children. Nearly one-third of women murdered each year are killed by their intimate partners. Violence by intimates accounts for over 20% of all violent crime against women in America. Women were raped and sexually assaulted 307,000 times in 1998 alone, and approximately one million women are stalked each year.

Congress must act now to pass the Violence Against Women Act II (VAWA II) with the following key measures to sustain and increase our efforts to combat violence against women:

I. Secure and strengthen key VAWA grant programs

In passing VAWA II, Congress should reauthorize and improve the VAWA grant programs to help keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable.

- **Reauthorize VAWA grant programs:** In the past six years, more than \$1.5 billion in VAWA grant funds have created a national domestic violence hotline and supported the work of prosecutors, law enforcement officials, the courts, victim advocates, health care and social service professionals, and intervention and prevention program staff. Unless Congress extends these programs now, the authorizations for nearly all of VAWA's critical grant programs will expire this year.
- **Ensure that VAWA grant programs cover victims in dating relationships:** Today, some jurisdictions may not use VAWA grant funds to target dating violence. New Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) data confirm that dating violence is a serious problem: the highest rates of domestic violence are among young persons ages 16 - 24, and more than four in ten incidents of domestic violence involve non-married partners. Our laws must provide these victims with access to services targeting their needs.
- **Direct critical resources toward victims who are traditionally underserved.** Some victims, including those who are elderly or disabled, live in rural areas, speak little or no English, or come from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, face particular difficulties when they seek services. We must ensure that VAWA grant programs reach out to these victims.
- **Support monitoring and stewardship of the shelter program.** A set-aside of 1.5% of the battered women's shelter program is essential to extend monitoring and stewardship activities. The additional staff resources and technical assistance capacity are critically needed and will result in enhanced sharing of information and best practices and improved monitoring of federal resources.
- **Set aside 5% of Justice Department grant funds for tribes.** A recent BJS study estimated that the rate of violent crime against Native American women is more than twice that committed against women generally. We must direct resources to tribes so that they can provide culturally appropriate assistance to victims in their communities and hold offenders accountable.
- **Provide critical support for key programs.** Legislation is needed to continue or strengthen programs targeted at judges and courts, the Domestic Violence Victims' Civil Legal Assistance

Program, and the Grants to Combat Violent Crimes Against Women on Campuses.

II. Strengthen federal law enforcement's ability to protect all victims

VAWA and subsequent legislation authorized federal law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute interstate domestic violence, stalking, violations of protection orders, and related firearms violations. Over 250 prosecutions have been brought under these provisions. Now we must close loopholes that hamper our ability to most effectively prosecute these crimes and strengthen these laws to better protect Native American victims and those in dating relationships.

III. Protect immigrant women and children from domestic violence

VAWA included important protections for battered immigrant women that lessened the ability of abusers to use immigration laws to coerce, control, or intimidate them. Unfortunately, new federal laws have inadvertently undermined these provisions. VAWA II would restore these protections.

IV. Enhance the efficacy of protection orders

VAWA requires states and territories to give full faith and credit to protection orders issued by other jurisdictions. VAWA II would eliminate some persisting barriers to enforcement of such orders and would facilitate enforcement of tribal protection orders. In addition, VAWA II would remove a financial obstacle by requiring STOP grant recipients to ensure that victims do not have to pay filing or service costs for protection orders in both civil and criminal cases.

VI. Ensure that children remain in the custody of non-abusive parents

VAWA II contains two measures to reduce the impact of domestic violence on children. First, it helps victims who flee abuse to obtain custody orders without returning to dangerous jurisdictions. Second, it would establish grants for supervised visitation centers. These centers protect victims and their children, and minimize the danger of parental abduction, by providing secure environments for visitation and exchange of children.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 3, 1996

October 3, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Guidelines to States for Implementing
the Family Violence Provisions

Domestic violence has a devastating impact on families and communities. Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans are subjected to assault, rape, or murder at the hands of an intimate family member. Our children's futures are severely threatened by the fact that they live in homes with domestic violence. We know that children who grow up with such violence are more likely to become victims or batterers themselves. The violence in our homes is self-perpetuating and eventually it spills into our schools, our communities, and our workplaces.

Domestic violence can be particularly damaging to women and children in low-income families. The profound mental and physical effects of domestic violence can often interfere with victims' efforts to pursue education or employment -- to become self-sufficient and independent. Moreover, it is often the case that the abusers themselves fight to keep their victims from becoming independent.

As we reform our Nation's welfare system, we must make sure that welfare-to-work programs across the country have the tools, the training, and the flexibility necessary to help battered women move successfully into the work force and become self-sufficient.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage States to implement the Wellstone/Murray Family Violence provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (Public Law 104-193, section 402(a)(7)). These provisions invite States to increase services for battered women through welfare programs and help these women move successfully and permanently into the workplace. The Family Violence provisions are critical in responding to the unique needs faced by women and families subjected to domestic violence.

As we move forward on our historical mission to reform the welfare system, this Administration is committed to offering States assistance in their efforts to implement the Family Violence provisions.

Accordingly, I direct the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to develop guidance

for States to assist and facilitate the implementation of the Family Violence provisions. In crafting this guidance, the Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice should work with States, domestic violence experts, victims' services programs, law enforcement, medical professionals, and others involved in fighting domestic violence. These agencies should recommend standards and procedures that will help make transi-tional assistance programs fully responsive to the needs of battered women.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services is further directed to provide States with technical assistance as they work to implement the Family Violence provisions.

Finally, to more accurately study the scope of the problem, we should examine statutory rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault as threats to safety and barriers to self-sufficiency. I therefore direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make it a priority to understand the incidence of statutory rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault in the lives of poor families, and to recommend the best assessment, referral, and delivery models to improve safety and self-sufficiency for poor families who are victims of domestic violence.

I ask the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to report to me in writing 90 days from the date of this memorandum on the specific progress that has been made toward these goals.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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