

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

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

OA/ID Number: 17510
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Framing on Domestic Agenda 3/29/00 [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	0	0	0	0

lexis.comsm [Change Client](#) [Options](#) [Feedback](#) [Sign Off](#) [Help](#)

[Search](#) [Search Advisor](#) [Get a Document](#) [Check a Citation](#) [ECLIPSESM](#) [History](#)

View: [Cite](#) | [KWIC](#) | [Full](#) [PREVIOUS](#) 20 of 187 [NEXT](#) [Text Only](#) | [Download](#) | [Fax](#) | [Email](#)
[FOCUSTM](#) - [Narrow Results](#) | [Save As ECLIPSE](#) | [More Like This](#) | [More Like Selected Text](#)

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : News Group File, All
 Terms: **state legislature and gun and date aft march 1, 2000** ([Edit Search](#))

The Associated Press State & Local Wire March 24, 2000

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

◆ [View Related Topics](#)

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The Associated Press.

March 24, 2000, Friday, PM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 285 words

HEADLINE: Mothers urge women to join Million Mom march in Washington

BYLINE: By DENNIS PATTERSON, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: RALEIGH

BODY:

Brenda Howerton says she is worried about her granddaughter, who will soon be going to school.

"I am frightened for her," Howerton said at a rally Thursday outside the Capitol for the Million Mom march in Washington. "I am frightened that someone will show up in her school and shoot her."

She said marching in Washington May 14 with other mothers who want tougher **gun** control laws would be "the greatest Mother's Day gift of all."

"I had to carry two children, two wonderful boys, to the grave because of **gun** violence," Howerton, of Durham, told about 100 people at the rally. "It never stops hurting."

One of Howerton's sons, who was mentally disturbed, was killed by Greensboro police in a controversial shooting in 1994. The other was murdered in another shooting.

"If each of you brings 10 friends, we can have 1,000 people from North Carolina," state coordinator Rachel Smith of Raleigh told the crowd. "We are the million moms."

Smith said she became concerned about her own children after the shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado last year.

"Metal detectors and clear plastic book bags are not the answer," she said.

Howerton said she hopes the march will convince congressmen and legislators to tighten **gun** laws.

"Our congressmen, our legislators, are being held hostage by the NRA (National Rifle Association)," she said. "This is not a political conversation; it's about our children's lives."

Howerton said she did not expect the movement to end with the Washington march. Protesters could turn their attention to the **state Legislature**.

"This is just the beginning," she said. "When we come back from Washington, we will be making plans for what's next."

GRAPHIC: AP Photos RAX202-203

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: March 25, 2000

View: [Cite](#) | [KWIC](#) | [Full](#) | [ECLIPSE](#) 20 of 187 [NEXT](#) | [Text Only](#) | [Download](#) | [Fax](#) | [Email](#)
[FOCUS™ - Narrow Results](#) | [Save As ECLIPSE](#) | [More Like This](#) | [More Like Selected Text](#)

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **News Group File, All**

Terms: **state legislature and gun and date aft march 1, 2000** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 28, 2000 - 1:34 PM EST

[Search](#) | [Search Advisor](#) | [Get a Document](#) | [Check a Citation](#)
[ECLIPSE\(TM\)](#) | [History](#) | [Change Client](#) | [Options](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sign Off](#) | [Help](#)
[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.

lexis.com™

[Change Client](#) | [Options](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sign Off](#) | [Help](#)

[Search](#) | [Search Advisor](#) | [Get a Document](#) | [Check a Citation](#)

[ECLIPSE™](#) | [History](#)

View: [Cite](#) | [KWIC](#) | [Full](#)

[PREVIOUS](#) 12 of 187 [NEXT](#)

[Text Only](#) | [Download](#) | [Fax](#) | [Email](#)

[FOCUS™ - Narrow Results](#) | [Save As ECLIPSE](#) | [More Like This](#) | [More Like Selected Text](#)

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : [News Group File, All](#)

Terms: [state legislature and gun and date aft march 1, 2000](#) ([Edit Search](#))

The Denver Post, March 26, 2000 Sunday

Copyright 2000 The Denver Post Corporation
The Denver Post

March 26, 2000 Sunday 2D EDITION

SECTION: DENVER & THE WEST; Pg. B-02

LENGTH: 421 words

HEADLINE: Keeping youths, **guns** apart Activists: Firearms too easy to get

BYLINE: By Cindy Brovsky, Denver Post Staff Writer,

BODY:

Almost a year after the Columbine massacre, a young person can illegally get a handgun in Colorado quicker than a pizza delivery, participants at a youth violence workshop said Saturday.

But one victim's father predicted voters who are fed up with the **state Legislature's** failure to pass stricter **gun** laws will make changes themselves.

Tom Mauser, whose son, Daniel, was among the 15 people killed at the high school on April 20, is promoting a ballot measure that would close the so-called **gun**-show loophole.

The Legislature voted down the proposal that would require background checks at all **gun** shows. Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic, of which Mauser serves as director of political affairs, hopes to put the issue on the November ballot.

'It was discouraging to see what happened in the (legislative) session because they could not accept common-sense proposals,' Mauser said during the workshop. 'But that will tick off voters to promote change.'

Other speakers at the University of Denver symposium, 'Reactions to Youth Violence: The Legacy of Columbine,' agreed young people have easy access to handguns. About 30 people, mostly DU professors and students, attended the morning session.

Jefferson County District Attorney Dave Thomas said undercover officers have investigated people as young as 15 for obtaining handguns illegally.

'We're seeing in Jeffco that kids of any age can purchase firearms very easily,' Thomas said.

The University of Colorado began a national study of youth violence before the Columbine shootings.

The study showed that youth in Colorado and nationally could readily get a **gun** from home, or buy or steal one, said Tonya Aultman-Bettridge of the CU Center for the Study of Prevention of Violence.

'One youth said he could get a **gun** in his house more quickly than a pizza delivered,' Aultman-Bettridge said. Thomas agreed with that.

Many of the youths carry **guns** for safety but never plan to hurt or kill anyone, Aultman-Bettridge said.

But she acknowledged that no research has been done to show the best way to keep handguns away from youths, especially those who may become violent.

Former Colorado first lady Dottie Lamm, who now teaches at DU, encouraged people to get involved in the issue. Lamm is helping to organize the 'Million Mom March,' where people concerned about **gun** laws will bring their message to Washington, D.C., on Mother's Day.

LOAD-DATE: March 27, 2000

View: [Cite](#) | [KWIC](#) | [Full](#) [PREVIOUS](#) 12 of 187 [NEXT](#) [Text Only](#) | [Download](#) | [Fax](#) | [Email](#)
[FOCUS™ - Narrow Results](#) | [Save As ECLIPSE](#) | [More Like This](#) | [More Like Selected Text](#)

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : [News Group File, All](#)

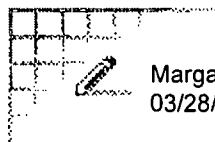
Terms: **state legislature and gun and date aft march 1, 2000** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 28, 2000 - 1:32 PM EST

[Search](#) | [Search Advisor](#) | [Get a Document](#) | [Check a Citation](#)
[ECLIPSE\(TM\)](#) | [History](#) | [Change Client](#) | [Options](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sign Off](#) | [Help](#)
[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

Copyright © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.



Margaret M. Suntum
03/28/2000 08:39:56 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: briefing by Secretary Richardson, Gene Sperling, and Martin Baily

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 28, 2000

PRESS BRIEFING BY
SECRETARY OF ENERGY BILL RICHARDSON,
NATIONAL ECONOMIC ADVISOR GENE SPERLING,
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS MARTIN BAILY

The James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

7:45 P.M. EST

MR. SPERLING: Today's announcement by OPEC and the projected declines in the price of oil and gas appear to be good news. As word of an increase of this range has filtered out, oil prices have already fallen 20 percent, from a high of \$34.13 on March 7 to just over \$27.00 today. We're obviously pleased that the futures markets now project oil and gas prices to fall each and every month for the rest of this year.

After experiencing both damaging highs and lows, both consuming and producing nations seek to find a Goldilocks oil price that is just right for both market stability and global economic growth. We feel that today's decision moves us in that direction.

That said, there is still significant inherent uncertainty in the oil market, particularly with such low

the price of oil over the last few weeks, you've seen a fairly significant reduction. I think as stocks are replenished, as there is increased production, I think there will be some relief for all Americans at the gas pump.

Q Isn't there a refinery problem, though, because you've got a backup difficulty in refineries? Once they start buying more oil and they have more oil to buy at cheaper prices, doesn't it take a while?

MR. LOCKHART: Sure. There's obviously some lag. There was some lag in the price -- when the price of a barrel of crude oil went up, as in the price of gas. So there is some lag. But I think Americans who have watched this story closely understand that, but will also understand that they'll be looking for the cost savings that the oil companies get to be translated into -- directly to the price at the gas pump as soon as possible.

Q Q So even if this imbalance is corrected, you're going to have something of delayed gratification here for consumers.

MR. LOCKHART: I wouldn't expect, if OPEC makes an announcement at 2:00 p.m., to have people going out and changing the prices at the gas pump at 2:15 p.m. That's not how the oil market works. I think people understand that. But I do expect that oil companies who will benefit from increased production and increased supply will pass on their savings to consumers.

Q Joe, the supplemental is going through a rough ride, especially in the Senate. Senator Lott seems to be saying we can wait until after the emergency. What is the White House doing about it?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, it's a peculiar thing with the fate of the supplemental. And it says something about how Congress does its work. We sent up some time ago a supplemental which we think met very important urgent needs -- counter-narcotic program in Colombia, very important and high priority for this administration; replenishing the LIHEAP money which needs to be done and was very important in the Northeast this year; peacekeeping in Kosovo which we think is very important. We sent that up, and when it got to the House, they saw it within their wisdom, the Republican leadership, to load it up with another \$3 billion or \$4 billion worth of spending. So when it went over to the Senate, the Senate Majority Leader said, oh, I'm sorry, this is too big, we can't do this.

So I think Republicans have to get together and decide whether they're going to play politics or whether they're going to try to get the people's business done. We remain ready to work with them, but this seems to be to be a problem between the leadership in the House and the leadership in the Senate, and

they ought to get these problems worked out, because these are programs that can't wait. Our drug strategy depends on addressing the problem in Colombia, and there is a limit to how much time we can wait.

Q Back to OPEC, assuming there is an agreement announced, does that mean -- is that issue over? Do you see a need to reassess energy policy and --

MR. LOCKHART: I think -- let me say a couple of things on that. I think no matter what OPEC does, we're going to continue to monitor this closely. It's a very important issue. I think the fact that we have addressed the production problem the way we had done, it brings credit to the President and to the Secretary of Energy, because as I said earlier a couple of months ago, OPEC was of a view that production was at the right level. And I think we have successfully made the case that there was an imbalance, and it was important to address the production shortage.

So we will continue to monitor this as the days and weeks and months go by, but I think secondly, it does raise an important issue of what we're doing as far as long-term energy dependence. This Congress has shown no willingness to move forward on the President's proposals of tax incentives for alternative fuels for alternative energy programs. And I think they're quick to run to the gas pump and criticize, but when it comes to actually doing something, they don't really have any concept of how we move forward.

I think if something can come out of this over the last few months -- if Congress can take a new look at the proposals the President presented, and actually get some of them passed, we'll be in better shape for the long run.

Q Well, Joe, they actually have several concepts. I mean, one is to increase drilling, potentially, to increase the amount of domestic production. Would the President consider any of that?

MR. LOCKHART: No, the President has said that he is opposed to that. I think ultimately the long-term solution is in alternative energies, sources. We can do that through a series of tax incentives and other proposals the President has put forward. And I think it's important for Congress to do more than say we have to deal with energy dependence and actually do something.

Q Joe, as the President's chief media advisor --

MR. LOCKHART: Is that a promotion or a demotion?
(Laughter.)

Q -- are you able to imagine that if a young German

mother had drowned in 1938 while trying to get her boy to Denmark, that the Danes would have sent the boy back to his divorced and remarried father in Hamburg?

MR. LOCKHART: I can't possibly think what case you're making, so -- (laughter) -- let's just move back on.

P.J. gives me a note here, which I will read, as a readout on this morning's meeting. The President and President Mubarak had a full range, a discussion of a full range of issues during their meeting and their lunch. On the Middle East peace process, they agreed to work together on both the Palestinian and Syrian tracks. The President has made a specific request, as he said this morning, of President Assad to come back in the aftermath of Sunday's meeting, with some ideas of how to move the process forward. He hopes that all parties will remain fully engaged on all tracks.

On the bilateral issues with the government of Egypt, they spent some time talking about our military-to-military cooperation, trade issues. And finally they discussed some regional issues, including Iraq and Iran.

Q Joe, the issue of Mozambique -- we understand that U.S. forces are pulling out of Mozambique, as well as the fact that funding that you had given over there is lowering, it's depleting. Is that it for Mozambique, the United States effort?

MR. LOCKHART: No, I think there's a shift, and I think the government of Mozambique would agree that the military effort is now nearing completion and will be phased out. I think the government is very pleased with the efforts that the U.S. government provided, as far as the immediate relief that we were able to provide through our military assets.

I think now, there is a shift towards helping along the civilian front, as far as aid, as far as what USAID is doing. We have some \$50 million already allocated for this effort, and we will look at other requests as this effort of rebuilding and reconstruction continues.

Q Well, they say that \$50 million was almost gone.

MR. LOCKHART: I think a lot of what they've done of the initial money was towards getting in relief supplies, things that the military does and can do in a way that no other federal agency can do. But I think there is a good amount of aid there as far as trying to help them recover from this, and we will continue to work with the government of Mozambique.

Q Joe, Dan Burton has asked Justice for an outside counsel to investigate the White House e-mails. What's the White House response to that?

MR. LOCKHART: I think the Justice Department will have to make that decision. I will only remind people that Dan Burton asking for an outside counsel or a special counsel is like the sun coming up in the morning; it happens once a week or once a month, and you all will have to remember all of the pressing issues that he called for outside counsels on and what came of them.

Q Does the President believe it was right or wrong for the State Department Inspector General to begin a criminal investigation of the Vice President's campaign leader, Mr. Coelho? And if he believes that this was right, does he believe that Mr. Coelho should step aside until the \$18,000-a-month apartment and the chauffeured Mercedes matter is somehow justified?

MR. LOCKHART: The President has never expressed a view to me on what the Inspector General may or may not be doing at the State Department. I think the President believes that Mr. Coelho is doing a fine job with the Gore campaign.

Q Joe, the President's going to be in South Carolina tomorrow speaking at a predominantly black college. Obviously, South Carolina's much in the news for the issue of the confederate flag. What is the President going to say about the confederate flag, and is he going to take a shot at George Bush and his position on it?

MR. LOCKHART: I expect the President will discuss it, because it's obviously an issue that's very front and center in South Carolina. But I don't expect I will preview what he's going to say.

Q Joe, in what form did Clinton ask Assad to come back? Is that something he's communicated since the meeting?

MR. LOCKHART: No. During the meeting, he discussed, and we have subsequently communicated, that it's certainly our hope that, given where we are in this process, that President Assad and the Syrians will spend some time working through some of their ideas and come back to us.

Q Can you tell us how long the meeting lasted this morning, and then the lunch -- what time everything ended --

MR. LOCKHART: The lunch broke at about 1:00 p.m. --

MR. CROWLEY: About an hour for the two meetings, about an hour for --

MR. LOCKHART: Okay. So they went from the time that the pool spray ended up until about 1:00 p.m., with a small break between the two meetings and then the lunch.

Q Joe, just to follow up on the special counsel issue, the White House is now the subject of a civil suit over part of that issue, the FBI files issue. So the Justice Department is representing the White House as basically their defense attorneys in that case. And at the same time, there's now a criminal investigation into whether things were mishandled. Isn't that indeed a conflict, as Mr. Burton points out? Or would you not acknowledge there's any difficulty in the Justice Department playing both roles --

MR. LOCKHART: No, that is why I think the Justice Department took the step to stay the civil case while they looked at other issues. So I think they've addressed that.

Q Joe, Congressman Matsui said yesterday that as time goes by on the China vote, Democrats may be less inclined to vote for it. Where are we in terms of persuading Congress to pass, to vote on this? And are you concerned that Democrats are peeling away?

MR. LOCKHART: No, I don't think I've got any particular concern at this point. I think, in fact, the President has been making the case very effectively and aggressively with members on both sides of the aisle for why this is in our national interest and why we need a vote, and a positive vote, on this. I expect that he'll make a dozen or so calls this week to members to make that case.

What we need, though, is the Republicans to set a date for the vote. It should be soon. I don't think that this should be used as a partisan issue in an election year, and the vote should be delayed for political reasons. We're hoping that they will set a date soon. I think the Senate is moving on this, and hopefully the House will move soon.

Q If the President opposes the U.S. flag protection amendment the Senate's voting on today, does he believe in the right to publicly burn crosses as well as the flag?

MR. LOCKHART: Pardon?

Q If the President opposes the U.S. flag amendment, as you're familiar with, they're voting on it in the Senate -- if he opposes that, does he believe in the right to publicly burn crosses as well as publicly burning flags?

MR. LOCKHART: I think the President abhors both.

Q Joe, this morning President Mubarak said that he would -- or that he may meet with Barak when he gets back to Cairo. Is there any chance for him talking with Assad or trying to work the Syria-Israel part of this equation?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I don't want to speak for

President Mubarak or his plans, but, obviously, he occupies a unique position of leadership within the region. He talks to the leaders. He's been an important part of the peace process for the last two decades, as has Egypt been over the last two decades. And it's certainly our hope that he will use his influence in whatever way he feels is appropriate to move this process forward.

Q Did the President make any specific requests of President Mubarak, as far as any kind of mediation?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm not aware of any specific request.

Q Joe, House Minority Leader Gephardt is proposing what sounds like -- almost like a Republican plan on some high technology initiatives. He wants to increase the number of H1B visas; he wants to permanently extend the R&D tax credit -- a whole list of proposals. Do you have a view on that?

MR. LOCKHART: Well, as I understand his proposal, he's got a number of things on Internet taxes which track exactly with what our views are. He's got a proposal about phasing out the telecom excise tax. We agreed in policy terms that that's a worthy goal; we have to figure out how it gets paid for in the overall framework of what we're doing with Social Security and Medicare and what we're doing with cutting taxes. So we look forward to working with them on that, and we have been a strong supporter of the R&D tax credit.

What was the last one?

Q The H1B visa.

MR. LOCKHART: Again, H1B visas -- we reached an agreement with Congress the last time this came up, and I believe that Representative Gephardt agrees with us that you have to have a balanced approach here. You need to make sure that you balance the needs of American industry and their need for high-skilled workers with the training of American workers to make sure that that balance doesn't get out of whack.

Q Did the EgyptAir investigation come up this morning, and if so, who brought it up? And if it was Mr. Mubarak, what were his concerns?

MR. LOCKHART: I'll have to check on that. I think -- I'll just have to check.

Q The Egyptians are saying that Mr. Mubarak invited the President to come to Egypt in the fall, hoping there is an agreement by then -- Egypt being the host of the next North Africa-Mideast Economic Conference. Is that a thought that the President is considering?

MR. LOCKHART: I'm sure the President warmly received the invitation, but I have no travel announcements.

Q Getting back to the Confederate flag issue, the President -- you and the President spoke very strongly about your disdain for what is happening in South Carolina. Many of those persons who voted to keep the Confederate flag will be with him tomorrow, correct?

MR. LOCKHART: Not that I know of.

Q Well, some of those people might be there the way we understand. But either way, will the President say -- make those strong statements --

MR. LOCKHART: I expect the President -- I know the President has views on this subject. I expect him to express them tomorrow.

Q As strongly as you have in the past?

MR. LOCKHART: That's for tomorrow. We've got plenty of other things to talk about today.

Q The Washington Post says that -- in a profile on Secretary Albright that she has a very diminished role now in foreign policy and lost her influence and so forth.

MR. LOCKHART: Well, I think for people outside of Washington this may take some explaining, but let me take a second on this. In the peculiar world of Washington and Washington politics, the way you know you have influence and power is when people start taking shots at you. And the way you know you have no influence and no power is when people ignore you. So in our own peculiar little world here, I think that story highlights the fact that the Secretary of State has a very important role in the formulation of foreign policy and is a highly skilled and trusted advisor to the President.

Q Joe, does the President agree with the National Abortion Rights Action League in their effort to get the United Nations to revoke the Vatican's observer status? If he does agree with it, does he think we ought to withdraw our ambassador to the Vatican?

MR. LOCKHART: I've never heard him discuss the first issue, and I have no reason to believe we'll be withdrawing our ambassador.

Q Can you tell us who is participating in the outreach meeting with Arab Americans today or what the general topics of discussion are?

MR. LOCKHART: I'll try to get a list. The topics will

generally be determined by those who have been invited to the meeting, issues that they have on their minds that the two Presidents can discuss with them.

Q Joe, what would be wrong conceptually with reducing gasoline taxes by some small amount over the -- during this year? It's effectively an emergency spending measure --

MR. LOCKHART: I think, conceptually, if you talk to economists on this, they'll argue that not only will consumers not get the benefit from that, that it will actually be a windfall for oil companies and OPEC. So that's on the economic argument. On the budgetary argument, you have to figure out then how are you going to pay for the highway construction projects that are actually quite important, that this tax goes to pay for.

I don't know that at this point it makes that much sense to dip into the surplus to pay for something that most economists will tell you won't have any impact at all, and in fact, most of the Republican leadership will tell you -- as Don Young has called it, one of the dumbest ideas he's heard in a long time.

I think it does highlight the approaches that some of the leaders up there are taking. I think there are some people here who want to go to a gas station, get on television, score some political points. That's fine; that's their right. But I think the important thing that we can do is to do the difficult work, to do the hard work on the diplomatic front, to make the case to the OPEC nations and we'll see how it all turns out.

Q Joe, you've said that you want the oil companies to immediately pass on any savings to the consumer if production goes up and the price of a barrel of oil drops. Is there anything realistically that the federal government can do to make them do that?

MR. LOCKHART: I think that we shouldn't assume that the oil companies won't act responsibly.

Q Tomorrow's news conference, what's the opening statement about, what's the purpose of it?

MR. LOCKHART: I expect the President, in addition to his overarching desire to spend more time with you -- (laughter) -- will use tomorrow's opening statement to go through what he hopes to get accomplished for the rest of this year on his domestic agenda, whether it be shoring up Social Security, Medicare, providing a prescription drug benefit, getting a real minimum wage bill passed, getting through permanent, normal trade relations for China -- a whole host of other issues -- gun control and those issues; and what he hopes to do in the coming months to help make that more possible.

Q Why does he feel the need to re-launch this agenda?

MR. LOCKHART: I think for the last two or three weeks we've been focused on the world at large. It's important to get Congress focused back on our domestic agenda. We're getting into April. The House of Representatives has only been in 25 days. I think most Americans would like a job like that, whereby in the first quarter they only worked 25 days. It's time for Congress to get to work. I think the President will be sending a strong message that we can get a lot done this year and we've got to get started soon.

Q Thank you.

END

1:30 P.M. EST

#179-03/28

Message Sent To: _____

Brian S. Mason/WHO/EOP@EOP
Margaret M. Suntum/WHO/EOP@EOP
backup@wilson.ai.mit.edu
wh-outbox-distr@pub.pub.whitehouse.gov
Kathleen K. Ahn/WHO/EOP@EOP
Deborah Ake/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jeannetta P. Allen/OA/EOP@EOP
Ralph Alswang/WHO/EOP@EOP
Eli G. Attie/OVP@OVP
Karen L. Barbuschak/OA/EOP@EOP
Mark H. Bartholomew/OA/EOP@EOP
Leslie Bernstein/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mark J. Bernstein/WHO/EOP@EOP
Todd A. Bledsoe/WHO/EOP@EOP
Antony J. Blinken/NSC/EOP@EOP
Patrick E. Briggs/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karen C. Burchard/WHO/EOP@EOP
Katharine Button/WHO/EOP@EOP
Barbara D. Woolley/WHO/EOP@EOP
Brian A. Reich/OVP@OVP
Mary E. Cahill/WHO/EOP@EOP
pcaplan@fbr.com
George G. Caudill/WHO/EOP@EOP
Nanda Chitre/WHO/EOP@EOP
Delia A. Cohen/WHO/EOP@EOP
Justin L. Coleman/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lana Dickey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Elliot J. Diringer/CEQ/EOP@EOP
Jackson T. Dunn/WHO/EOP@EOP
Daniel W. Burkhardt/WHO/EOP@EOP
Dawn M. Chirwa/WHO/EOP@EOP
Debra D. Bird/WHO/EOP@EOP
Dorinda A. Salcido/WHO/EOP@EOP
Anne M. Edwards/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sharon Farmer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jennifer Ferguson/OMB/EOP@EOP
Martha Foley/WHO/EOP@EOP
Rachel E. Forde/WHO/EOP@EOP
Paul D. Glastris/WHO/EOP@EOP
Dario J. Gomez/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Wendy E. Gray/NSC/EOP@EOP
John A. Gribben/WHO/EOP@EOP
William Hadley/OA/EOP@EOP
Michael A. Hammer/NSC/EOP@EOP
William C. Haymes/OA/EOP@EOP
Marty J. Hoffmann/WHO/EOP@EOP
Maureen A. Hudson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sheyda Jahanbani/NSC/EOP@EOP
Thomas D. Janenda/WHO/EOP@EOP
David T. Johnson/NSC/EOP@EOP
Wayne C. Johnson/OA/EOP@EOP
Joel Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP
John_See@ed.gov
David E. Kalbaugh/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mark A. Kitchens/WHO/EOP@EOP
Catherine T. Kitchen/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sarah S. Knight/WHO/EOP@EOP

Jim Kohlenberger/OVP@OVP
Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP
Ann F. Lewis/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura D. Schwartz/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura S. Marcus/WHO/EOP@EOP
Irma L. Martinez/WHO/EOP@EOP
Andrew J. Mayock/WHO/EOP@EOP
Megan C. Moloney/WHO/EOP@EOP
Melissa M. Murray/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sean P. Maloney/WHO/EOP@EOP
Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP@EOP
Steven J. Naplan/NSC/EOP@EOP
Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP
Nathan B. Naylor/OVP@OVP
Ellen E. Olcott/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP
Julia M. Payne/WHO/EOP@EOP
Denver R. Peacock/WHO/EOP@EOP
TDIXON@smtpgate.mac.whca.mil
Linda Ricci/OMB/EOP@EOP
Heather M. Riley/WHO/EOP@EOP
Robin M. Roland/WHO/EOP@EOP
Peter Rundlet/WHO/EOP@EOP
Robert B. Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP
G. Timothy Saunders/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jason H. Schechter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Steven J. Naplan/NSC/EOP@EOP
Brooks E. Scoville/WHO/EOP@EOP
Christopher K. Scully/WHO/EOP@EOP
Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP
Mark C. Sheppard/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP@EOP
June Shih/WHO/EOP@EOP
Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP
Richard L. Siewert/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jennifer H. Smith/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mary L. Smith/OPD/EOP@EOP
Maria E. Soto/WHO/EOP@EOP
Dana C. Strand/WHO/EOP@EOP
Michael J. Sullivan/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sarah E. Gegenheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Tracy F. Sisser/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sylvia M. Mathews/OMB/EOP@EOP
Serena C. Torrey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP
June G. Turner/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thomas M. Rosshirt/OVP@OVP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP
Loretta M. Ucelli/WHO/EOP@EOP
Victoria L. Valentine/WHO/EOP@EOP
Janice H. Vranich/WHO/EOP@EOP
Robert S. Weiner/ONDCP/EOP@EOP
Lowell A. Weiss/WHO/EOP@EOP
Woyneab M. Wondwossen/WHO/EOP@EOP
Debra S. Wood/WHO/EOP@EOP
Natalie S. Wozniak/NSC/EOP@EOP
carolmast@aol.com
dmilbank@tnr.com
john_see@ed.gov

skgmd@umich.edu
tingen-terri@dol.gov
usia01@access.digex.com
62955104@eln.attmail.com
newsdesk@usnewswire.com
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jason H. Schechter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Aprill N. Springfield/WHO/EOP@EOP
Alberto O. Feraren/OA/EOP@EOP
Hildy Kuryk/WHO/EOP@EOP
Pubs_Backup
Michael K. Gehrke/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sally Katzen/OMB/EOP@EOP
David Vandivier/OMB/EOP@EOP
Carolyn T. Wu/WHO/EOP@EOP
John H. Corcoran III/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lindsey E. Huff/NSC/EOP@EOP
Patrick M. Dorton/OPD/EOP@EOP
MichaelT@ag.state.ar.us
Rachel A. Redington/WHO/EOP@EOP
Irma L. Martinez/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sharon H. Yuan/OPD/EOP@EOP
Anne W. Bovaird/WHO/EOP@EOP
Charles J. Payson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Fern Mechlowitz/WHO/EOP@EOP
Michele Ballantyne/WHO/EOP@EOP
Melissa G. Green/OPD/EOP@EOP
Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Francisco J. Sanchez/WHO/EOP@EOP
Fern Mechlowitz/WHO/EOP@EOP
Anne W. Bovaird/WHO/EOP@EOP
Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP
Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
Matthew T. Schneider/WHO/EOP@EOP
David Vandivier/OMB/EOP@EOP
Lisa Ferdinando/WHO/EOP@EOP
Beth Nolan/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lindsey E. Huff/NSC/EOP@EOP
Bridget T. Leininger/WHO/EOP@EOP
Samir Afridi/WHO/EOP@EOP
Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP
Kymberly M. Escobar/CEQ/EOP@EOP
Justin G. Cooper/WHO/EOP@EOP
sean.carr@cnn.com
Lisa Ferdinando/WHO/EOP@EOP
masonjulie@aol.com
Debra D. Alexander/WHO/EOP@EOP
Adrienne K. Elrod/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lisel Loy/WHO/EOP@EOP
jonathan.kaplan@varsitybooks.com
Rebecca J. Salay/WHO/EOP@EOP
kit.judge@mail.house.gov
Abigail C. Smith/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jordanindc@aol.com
Deanne E. Benos/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jenni R. Engebretsen/WHO/EOP@EOP
Gilbert S. Gonzalez/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sonya N. Hebert/WHO/EOP@EOP
Stephen N. Boyd/WHO/EOP@EOP
Emily Karcher/WHO/EOP@EOP

inventories, and we will continue to monitor the situation very closely. We also need Congress to take long overdue action on the President's tax initiatives and research initiatives to increase our energy security through energy conservation, energy efficiency, and support for domestic oil production.

Congress should certainly act immediately to ensure that the authority for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is not allowed to expire on Friday, March 31st.

In addition to the effective, quiet diplomacy of the President and the Vice President, who together reached out to at least eight heads of state in the last ten days, I want to note the exceptional talents and the exceptional and truly unrelenting efforts of our Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson, who, along with his team, has literally traveled the globe, been up at all hours of night and morning on the phone relentlessly on behalf of American consumers and on behalf of trying to have a more stable energy and economic climate for both producing and consuming nations alike.

And with that, I'd like to introduce our Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson.

SECRETARY RICHARDSON: Thank you, Gene. That was overly generous.

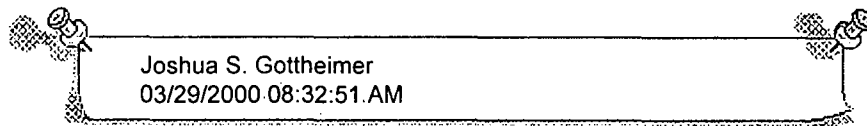
Today's announcement is good news for the American consumer, good news for producer countries, good news for consuming countries. It's good news for the international community.

Today, OPEC's announcement of a 1.7 million barrels-per-day increase over current production quotas is important. We're also anticipating more oil from non-OPEC nations, leakage over the new quota levels, and increased production from Iraq.

We know that many countries helped shape today's result, which is good for both producing and consuming nations. And particularly, I'd like to recognize the great efforts of Saudi Arabia. These increases will help stabilize all markets, encourage world economic growth, and increase equilibrium between supply and demand.

In January of this year, virtually all OPEC and non-OPEC producing nations were opposing production increases. Today, they announced increases in quotas. We've engaged in intensive international diplomacy for the last several months. And as Gene mentioned, the President and the Vice President have made some very crucial phone calls.

In our meetings with oil-producing countries, we simply and forcefully made our case that increased production is in the



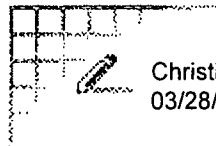
Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Statement by the President: OPEC

----- Forwarded by Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP on 03/29/2000 08:32 AM -----



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Statement by the President: OPEC

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 28, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today's announcement that OPEC members will increase production is a positive development. These increases will help sustain worldwide economic growth and provide greater balance between oil supply and demand. While oil prices are projected to fall this year, we will continue to closely monitor developments in world oil markets in the coming months.

Congress should waste no more time in getting to work on the critical measures to improve America's energy security that I have proposed. Congress has failed to act on energy security measures, including new tax incentives to support domestic oil producers, tax incentives and investments to promote the use of alternative and more efficient energy technologies, the establishment of a regional home heating oil reserve, and reauthorization of

the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. These measures should be passed into law without delay.

30-30-30

Message Sent To:

Kay Casstevens/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lisa M. Kountoupes/WHO/EOP@EOP
Martha Foley/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joanna E. Slaney/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lisa Zweig Molyneux/OMB/EOP@EOP
Maria E. Soto/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lee Ann Brackett/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jodi R. Sakol/OVP@OVP
Jennifer E. McGee/OMB/EOP@EOP
Daniel F. Feldman/NSC/EOP@EOP
Heather H. Howard/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jennifer L. Dewitt/WHO/EOP@EOP
Zina C. Pierre/WHO/EOP@EOP
Kimberlin L. Love/OVP@OVP
David Halperin/NSC/EOP@EOP
Ted Widmer/NSC/EOP@EOP
Paul K. Orzulak/NSC/EOP@EOP
David B. Stockwell/NSC/EOP@EOP
Seth J. Applebaum/WHO/EOP@EOP
Cynthia M. Jasso-Rotunno/WHO/EOP@EOP
Tanya L. Lombard/WHO/EOP@EOP
Orson C. Porter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Craig Hughes/WHO/EOP@EOP
Ann Marie Wallace/WHO/EOP@EOP
Andrew J. Mayock/WHO/EOP@EOP
Vincent Fry/WHO/EOP@EOP
Bridget T. Leininger/WHO/EOP@EOP
Daniel L. Cruise/WHO/EOP@EOP
Van-Alan H. Shima/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thomas A. Kalil/OPD/EOP@EOP
George E. Lewis/OA/EOP@EOP
LaJaycee Brown/WHO/EOP@EOP
Wanda M. Evans/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lauren K. Gillespie/WHO/EOP@EOP
Rebecca Hunter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sonya N. Hebert/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lissa Muscatine/WHO/EOP@EOP
Helen L. Langan/WHO/EOP@EOP
Adrian E. Miller/WHO/EOP@EOP
Taneesha J. Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karen D. Scott/WHO/EOP@EOP
Susan R. Greenberg/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sean R. Dobson/OPD/EOP@EOP
Daphne Z. Stavropoulos/WHO/EOP@EOP
Rebecca J. Salay/WHO/EOP@EOP
Ellen Mellody/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jennifer I. Hoelzer/NSC/EOP@EOP
Devanshu Patel/WHO/EOP@EOP
Angela Blake/WHO/EOP@EOP
Linda Sinoway/WHO/EOP@EOP
Kelley A. Van Auken/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mara A. Silver/WHO/EOP@EOP
Rachel A. Redington/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sean R. Dobson/OPD/EOP@EOP
Justin L. Coleman/WHO/EOP@EOP
Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mariah S. Sieber/OMB/EOP@EOP
Cheryl T. Macias/WHO/EOP@EOP
Omarosa O. Manigault/WHO/EOP@EOP

Michael A. Hammer/NSC/EOP@EOP
Lindsay R. Drewel/WHO/EOP@EOP
Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
Katherine A. Eltrich/OMB/EOP@EOP
Cathy R. Mays/OPD/EOP@EOP
pike@nlc.org
Jennifer L. Dewitt/WHO/EOP@EOP
Stephen N. Boyd/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mark D. Magana/WHO/EOP@EOP
Christine L. Anderson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Christine A. Stanek/WHO/EOP@EOP
Anne M. Edwards/WHO/EOP@EOP
David E. Kalbaugh/WHO/EOP@EOP
G. Timothy Saunders/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura D. Schwartz/WHO/EOP@EOP
Catherine T. Kitchen/WHO/EOP@EOP
Barbara D. Woolley/WHO/EOP@EOP
Cynthia M. Jasso-Rotunno/WHO/EOP@EOP
Andrew J. Mayock/WHO/EOP@EOP
Megan C. Moloney/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura S. Marcus/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thomas D. Janenda/WHO/EOP@EOP
Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP
Kim B. Widdess/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karen L. Barbuschak/OA/EOP@EOP
Wayne C. Johnson/OA/EOP@EOP
Margaret M. Suntum/WHO/EOP@EOP
Natalie S. Wozniak/NSC/EOP@EOP
Wendy E. Gray/NSC/EOP@EOP
Steven J. Naplan/NSC/EOP@EOP
Robert S. Weiner/ONDCP/EOP@EOP
John A. Gribben/WHO/EOP@EOP
Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP
Douglas J. Band/WHO/EOP@EOP
Edwin R. Thomas III/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sherman A. Williams/WHO/EOP@EOP
William W. McCathran/WHO/EOP@EOP
Julia M. Payne/WHO/EOP@EOP
June Shih/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sarah S. Knight/WHO/EOP@EOP
Tracy F. Sisser/WHO/EOP@EOP
Woyneab M. Wondwossen/WHO/EOP@EOP
Patrick E. Briggs/WHO/EOP@EOP
Debra S. Wood/WHO/EOP@EOP
Daniel W. Burkhardt/WHO/EOP@EOP
Maureen A. Hudson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lana Dickey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
Elliot J. Diringer/CEQ/EOP@EOP
Nanda Chitre/WHO/EOP@EOP
Melissa M. Murray/WHO/EOP@EOP
Katharine Button/WHO/EOP@EOP
Eli G. Attie/OVP@OVP
wh-outbox-distr@pub.pub.whitehouse.gov
Pubs_Distribution
backup@wilson.ai.mit.edu
Sean P. Maloney/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marsha Scott/WHO/EOP@EOP
Linda Ricci/OMB/EOP@EOP
Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP@EOP

Heather M. Riley/WHO/EOP@EOP
McGavock D. Reed/OMB/EOP@EOP
Delia A. Cohen/WHO/EOP@EOP
Maureen T. Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP
Peter Rundlet/WHO/EOP@EOP
William C. Haymes/OA/EOP@EOP
Jason H. Schechter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marty J. Hoffmann/WHO/EOP@EOP
Dorinda A. Salcido/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sarah E. Gegenheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thomas M. Rosshirt/OVP@OVP
Minyon Moore/WHO/EOP@EOP
Charles M. Brain/WHO/EOP@EOP
Dario J. Gomez/WHO/EOP@EOP
Carolyn T. Wu/WHO/EOP@EOP
Deborah B. Mohile/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sondra L. Seba/WHO/EOP@EOP
Tania I. Lopez/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jena V. Roscoe/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jackson T. Dunn/WHO/EOP@EOP
Robert B. Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Charles H. Cole/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jennifer Ferguson/OMB/EOP@EOP
Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Carrie A. Street/WHO/EOP@EOP
Paul D. Glastris/WHO/EOP@EOP
Maria E. Soto/WHO/EOP@EOP
Christopher K. Scully/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP
Matt Gobush/NSC/EOP@EOP
Marty J. Hoffmann/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jeffrey M. Smith/OSTP/EOP@EOP
Jeffrey L. Farrow/WHO/EOP@EOP
Linda L. Moore/WHO/EOP@EOP
Orson C. Porter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Bridget T. Leininger/WHO/EOP@EOP
Craig Hughes/WHO/EOP@EOP
Victoria L. Valentine/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP
Abigail C. Smith/WHO/EOP@EOP
Veronica DeLaGarza/WHO/EOP@EOP
Richard L. Siewert/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jennifer H. Smith/WHO/EOP@EOP
Shannon M. Hinderliter/WHO/EOP@EOP
Michael J. Sullivan/WHO/EOP@EOP
James E. Kennedy/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jeffrey H. Oakman/WHO/EOP@EOP
Melissa B. Ratcliff/OVP@OVP
Mark A. Kitchens/WHO/EOP@EOP
Deborah Ake/WHO/EOP@EOP
Debra D. Alexander/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lindsey E. Huff/NSC/EOP@EOP
David Vandivier/OMB/EOP@EOP
Leslie Bernstein/WHO/EOP@EOP
Erica R. Morris/WHO/EOP@EOP
Kathleen K. Ahn/WHO/EOP@EOP
Ruby Shamir/OPD/EOP@EOP
William Hadley/OA/EOP@EOP
David Vandivier/OMB/EOP@EOP



Charles E. Kieffer

03/28/2000 10:11:03 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jacob J. Lew/OMB/EOP@EOP, Sylvia M. Mathews/OMB/EOP@EOP

cc: Robert L. Nabors/OMB/EOP@EOP, Anil Kakani/OMB/EOP@EOP

Subject: POTUS draft press conf statement

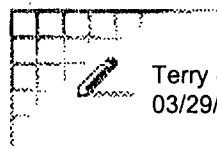
The draft statement says nothing about urging Congress to pass legislation that he has proposed to deal with oil prices (like the one he issued today).

supp budget without request

The draft says nothing about the supp (something like "I urge the Congress to pass my request to keep the peace and build stability in Kosovo, to support the Colombian government's fight against drug traffickers, to provide needed heating and cooling assistance for families that have been badly affected by increased oil prices, and to provide further assistance to the victims of Hurricane Floyd."

*(25 year old)
murdered at
31 year old*

*for pressing
urgent needs
at home &
abroad*



Terry Edmonds
03/29/2000 10:44:18 AM

See p 3

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: DRAFT--Press Conf Topper. Comments to Edmonds by 11am.

Draft 3/29/00 10:40am

Edmonds

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE
THE EAST ROOM
March 29, 2000**

Good afternoon. I want to begin by saying that yesterday's announcement that OPEC members will increase oil production is good news for our economy and good news for the American consumer. These increases will help sustain economic growth here in America and around the world, and provide a greater balance between oil supply and demand. While home heating costs and the price at the pump are expected to fall this year, we will continue to monitor developments in world markets in the coming months.

Since January, our Administration has taken significant action to address the issue of high oil prices -- from helping more low-income and elderly citizens pay their heating bills...to the creation of a regional product reserve in the Northeast...to calling for the immediate reauthorization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. In addition, Congress should act on my proposal to strengthen America's long-term energy security, including new tax incentives and investments to support domestic oil producers and to promote the use of alternative and more efficient energy technologies.

~~SECRET~~

This is one bit of good news, but the Congress has an opportunity and a responsibility to make progress on a number of other important issues for the American people this year.

First, we must work together to reduce the staggering toll of gun violence in America. We can this by passing my proposal for more prosecutors and stronger gun enforcement. And we can do it by finally passing a strong juvenile justice bill that closes the gun show loophole, requires child safety locks on all new handguns and bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. But for nine months, the leadership in Congress, egged on by the gun lobby, has stood in the way of progress.

Exactly 14 days ago, the House passed a resolution put forth by Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California, that simply said, the House and Senate conferees should meet to settle their differences on a juvenile justice bill that has been languishing in Congress.

For 14 days, the clock has been ticking, but we have heard nothing but deafening silence from the leadership. Today time runs out -- and still no action. Another missed deadline... another missed opportunity. It appears that the opponents of reform have run out of sensible arguments -- so now they want to run out the clock. This makes no sense. With crime at a twenty-five year low, and the Brady law keeping guns out of the hands of half a million felons, fugitives and stalkers, the argument is over. Gun safety measures work. It's time to build on that success, and pass common sense gun legislation.

Three weeks ago, I asked the Congress to finish the gun bill and send it to me by the anniversary of the Columbine tragedy, April 20. They still have time to meet that deadline. Again, I call on them, for the sake of our children, stop the delay. Protecting our children from gun violence should not be a partisan issue.

There are a lot of other things we can accomplish for the American people this year. We can expand health care and protect people in managed care. We can give working families a higher minimum wage. We can ensure that our kids get a world class education in first class schools. We can use the surplus to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, provide a prescription drug benefit and pay down the debt entirely for the first time since 1835. And we can keep the economy growing by opening new markets here at home in our hardest-pressed communities -- and by opening new markets for American products and services around the world. We especially need to give America's businesses, farmers and workers access to the world's largest consumer market in China.

There are bills in Congress that I could sign today to do all of these things. Many of them are supported by bipartisan majorities in either the House or the Senate.

First, to make sure the benefits of Medicare keep pace with the benefits of modern medicine, we must reform Medicare and add a voluntary prescription drug benefit. Three out of five older Americans lack dependable, affordable prescription drug coverage. Since I first raised this issue last year, virtually every member of Congress now says they support a new prescription drug benefit. I call on Congress to pass a bill that assures that all Medicare beneficiaries have an option to choose an affordable, accessible drug benefit. If they do, I will sign it.

Second, to protect the interest of 190 million Americans in health plans, we should pass a strong, enforceable and bipartisan patients' bill of rights. This is not a partisan issue anywhere in America. The House already passed a strong patients' bill of rights, but the insurance lobby continues to oppose it. I say, let everybody vote his or her conscience on a real patients' bill of rights. If it passes--and it will--I will sign it.

Third, to honor work and strengthen our families, we should raise the minimum wage by one dollar over two years. A bipartisan majority in the House voted to do so earlier this month.

But Republican leaders held that pay raise for working families hostage to tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans—tax breaks that could make it impossible to pay down the debt or strengthen Social Security and Medicare. I will veto that bill if it comes to my desk. And I say to Congress: send me a clean straightforward bill that raises the minimum wage by a dollar over two year, and I will sign it.

Fourth, we must invest more in our public schools and demand more from them. But we know that our children can't learn in schools that are literally falling apart. Yesterday, a bipartisan school construction bill was introduced in the House that would provide \$24.8 billion in tax credit bonds to modernize up to 6,000 schools. If the Republican leadership does not prevent it, the Congress could vote on this proposal tomorrow. I call on the Congress to seize this opportunity. Pass this bipartisan legislation, and I will sign it.

Fifth, to save the lives of thousands of young people who every year get hooked on cigarettes, we must pass legislation allowing the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco like the dangerous substance that it is. There is strong, bipartisan support for the idea that the FDA should regulate tobacco. Pass it and I will sign it.

The Justice Department also has sued the tobacco manufacturers to recover the cost to taxpayers of tobacco-related illnesses and to make sure they are held accountable for actions they take. Some in Congress want to undermine this effort. That would be wrong. We need to give American taxpayers their day in court.

Finally, I urge the Congress to pass my supplemental budget request without delay. This is urgent funding for pressing needs at home and abroad: to provide further assistance to the victims of Hurricane Floyd; to support the Colombian government's fight against drug traffickers; to provide needed heating and cooling assistance for families struggling to cope with rising oil prices; and to keep the peace and build stability in Kosovo. *help the families that were affected*
provide for our troops
to make sure SSA can make g

When Congress adjourns this summer, we ought to be able to look back and say that we took real steps towards making America better. The issues have been decided. The American people want and deserve action. The only thing left is for the Congressional leadership to break the grip of special interests and do the people's business.

Thank you.

Message Sent To:

while maintaining our high level of readiness

international economic issue facing America today. Congress should pass permanent normal trade relations with China this Spring.

Fifth, we must invest more in our public schools and demand more from them. But we know that our children can't learn in schools that are literally falling apart. Yesterday, a bipartisan school construction bill was introduced in the House that would provide \$24.8 billion in tax credit bonds to modernize up to 6,000 schools. If the Republican leadership does not prevent it, the Congress could vote on this proposal tomorrow. ~~I call on the Congress to seize this opportunity.~~ Pass this bipartisan legislation, and I will sign it.

Sixth, to save the lives of thousands of young people who every year get hooked on cigarettes, we must pass legislation allowing the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco like the dangerous substance that it is. There is strong, bipartisan support for the idea that the FDA should regulate tobacco. Pass it and I will sign it.

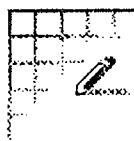
The Justice Department also has sued the tobacco manufacturers to recover the cost to taxpayers of tobacco-related illnesses and to make sure they are held accountable for actions they take. Some in Congress want to undermine this effort. That would be wrong. We need to give American taxpayers their day in court.

Finally, I urge the Congress to pass my supplemental budget request without delay. This is urgent funding for pressing needs at home and abroad: to help the families that were victims of Hurricane Floyd; to help keep illegal drugs out of our nation by supporting the Colombian government's fight against drug traffickers; to provide needed energy assistance for families struggling to cope with rising oil prices; to keep the peace, provide for our troops and build stability in Kosovo; and to provide needed debt relief to the world's poorest nations.

When Congress adjourns this summer, we ought to be able to look back and say that we took real steps towards making America better. The issues have been decided. The American people want and deserve action. The only thing left is for the Congressional leadership to break the grip of special interests and do the people's business.

Thank you.

Message Sent To: _____

 Terry Edmonds
03/29/2000 01:15:04 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Final Press Conf Topper

Final 3/29/00 1:00pm
Edmonds

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE
THE EAST ROOM
March 29, 2000**

Good afternoon. I want to begin by saying that yesterday's announcement that OPEC members will increase oil production is good news for our economy and good news for the American consumer. These increases will help sustain economic growth here in America and around the world, and provide a greater balance between oil supply and demand. While home heating costs and the price at the pump are expected to fall this year, we will continue to monitor developments in world markets in the coming months.

Combine

Since January, our Administration has taken significant action to address the issue of high oil prices – from helping more low-income and elderly citizens pay their heating bills...to calling for the creation of a regional product reserve in the Northeast...to asking Congress to immediately reauthorize the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. In addition, Congress should act on my proposal to strengthen America's long-term energy security, including new tax incentives and investments to support domestic oil producers and to promote the use of alternative and more efficient energy technologies.

This is one bit of good news, but the Congress has an opportunity and a responsibility to make progress on a number of other important issues for the American people this year.

First, we must work together to reduce the staggering toll of gun violence in America. We can this by passing my proposal for more prosecutors and stronger gun enforcement. And we can do it by finally passing a strong juvenile justice bill that closes the gun show loophole, requires child safety locks for all new handguns and bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. But for nine months, the leadership in Congress, egged on by the gun lobby, has stood in the way of progress.

Exactly 14 days ago, the House passed a resolution put forth by Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California, that simply said, the House and Senate conferees should meet to settle their differences on a juvenile justice bill that has been languishing in Congress.

For 14 days, the clock has been ticking, but we have heard nothing but deafening silence from the leadership. Today time runs out -- and still no action. Another missed deadline... another missed opportunity. It appears that the opponents of reform have run out of sensible arguments -- so now they want to run out the clock. This makes no sense. With crime at a twenty-five year low, and the Brady law keeping guns out of the hands of half a million felons, fugitives and stalkers, the argument is over. Gun safety measures work. It's time to build on that success, and pass common sense gun legislation.

Three weeks ago, I asked the Congress to finish the gun bill and send it to me by the anniversary of the Columbine tragedy, April 20. They still have time to meet that deadline. Again, I call on them, for the sake of our children, stop the delay. Protecting our children from gun violence should not be a partisan issue.

The American people expect us to work for them this year on a host of other important issues. There are bipartisan bills in Congress addressing many of them that I could sign today.

Cut
argument for ca. +
all
First, to make sure the benefits of Medicare keep pace with the benefits of modern medicine, we must reform Medicare and add a voluntary prescription drug benefit. ~~Three out of five older Americans lack dependable, affordable prescription drug coverage. Since I first raised this issue last year, virtually every member of Congress now says they support a new prescription drug benefit.~~ I call on Congress to pass a bill that assures that all Medicare beneficiaries have an option to choose an affordable, accessible drug benefit. If they do, I will sign it. *103*

Second, to protect the interest of 190 million Americans in health plans, we should pass a strong, enforceable and bipartisan patients' bill of rights. This is not a partisan issue anywhere in America. The House already passed a strong patients' bill of rights, but the insurance lobby continues to oppose it. I say, let everybody vote his or her conscience on a real patients' bill of rights. If it passes--and it will--I will sign it. *107*

Third, to honor work and strengthen our families, we should raise the minimum wage by one dollar over two years. A bipartisan majority in the House voted to do so earlier this month. But Republican leaders held that pay raise for working families hostage to tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans--tax breaks that could make it impossible to pay down the debt or strengthen Social Security and Medicare. ~~I will veto that bill if it comes to my desk.~~ And I say to Congress: send me a clean straightforward bill that raises the minimum wage by a dollar over two year, and I will sign it.

Fourth, we can keep the economy growing by opening new markets here at home in our hardest-pressed communities -- and by opening new markets for American products and services around the world. We especially need to give America's businesses, farmers and workers access to the world's largest consumer market in China. There is no more important long-term,

call on them, for the sake of our children, stop the delay. Protecting our children from gun violence should not be a partisan issue.

The American people expect us to work for them this year on a host of other important issues. There are bipartisan bills in Congress addressing many of them that I could sign today.

First, to make sure the benefits of Medicare keep pace with the benefits of modern medicine, we must reform Medicare and add a voluntary prescription drug benefit. Three out of five older Americans lack dependable, affordable prescription drug coverage. Since I first raised this issue last year, virtually every member of Congress now says they support a new prescription drug benefit. I call on Congress to pass a bill that assures that all Medicare beneficiaries have an option to choose an affordable, accessible drug benefit. If they do, I will sign it.

Second, to protect the interest of 190 million Americans in health plans, we should pass a strong, enforceable and bipartisan patients' bill of rights. This is not a partisan issue anywhere in America. The House already passed a strong patients' bill of rights, but the insurance lobby continues to oppose it. I say, let everybody vote his or her conscience on a real patients' bill of rights. If it passes--and it will--I will sign it.

Third, to honor work and strengthen our families, we should raise the minimum wage by one dollar over two years. A bipartisan majority in the House voted to do so earlier this month. But Republican leaders held that pay raise for working families hostage to tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans--tax breaks that could make it impossible to pay down the debt or strengthen Social Security and Medicare. I will veto that bill if it comes to my desk. And I say to Congress: send me a clean straightforward bill that raises the minimum wage by a dollar over two year, and I will sign it.

Fourth, we can keep the economy growing by opening new markets here at home in our hardest-pressed communities -- and by opening new markets for American products and services around the world. We especially need to give America's businesses, farmers and workers access to the world's largest consumer market in China. There is no more important long-term, international economic issue facing America today. Congress should pass permanent normal trade relations with China this Spring.

Fifth, we must invest more in our public schools and demand more from them. But we know that our children can't learn in schools that are literally falling apart. Yesterday, a bipartisan school construction bill was introduced in the House that would provide \$24.8 billion in tax credit bonds to modernize up to 6,000 schools. If the Republican leadership does not prevent it, the Congress could vote on this proposal tomorrow. I call on the Congress to seize this opportunity. Pass this bipartisan legislation, and I will sign it.

Sixth, to save the lives of thousands of young people who every year get hooked on cigarettes, we must pass legislation allowing the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco like the dangerous substance that it is. There is strong, bipartisan support for the idea that the FDA should regulate tobacco. Pass it and I will sign it.

The Justice Department also has sued the tobacco manufacturers to recover the cost to taxpayers of tobacco-related illnesses and to make sure they are held accountable for actions they

take. Some in Congress want to undermine this effort. That would be wrong. We need to give American taxpayers their day in court.

Finally, I urge the Congress to pass my supplemental budget request without delay. This is urgent funding for pressing needs at home and abroad: to help the families that were victims of Hurricane Floyd; to help keep illegal drugs out of our nation by supporting the Colombian government's fight against drug traffickers; to provide needed energy assistance for families struggling to cope with rising oil prices; to keep the peace, provide for our troops and build stability in Kosovo; and to provide needed debt relief to the world's poorest nations.

When Congress adjourns this summer, we ought to be able to look back and say that we took real steps towards making America better. The issues have been decided. The American people want and deserve action. The only thing left is for the Congressional leadership to break the grip of special interests and do the people's business.

Thank you.

Draft 3/29/00 10:40am
Edmonds

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE
THE EAST ROOM
March 29, 2000**

Good afternoon. I want to begin by saying that yesterday's announcement that OPEC members will increase oil production is good news for our economy and good news for the American consumer. These increases will help sustain economic growth here in America and around the world, and provide a greater balance between oil supply and demand. While home heating costs and the price at the pump are expected to fall this year, we will continue to monitor developments in world markets in the coming months.

Since January, our Administration has taken significant action to address the issue of high oil prices – from helping more low-income and elderly citizens pay their heating bills...to calling for the creation of a regional product reserve in the Northeast...to asking Congress to immediately reauthorize the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. In addition, Congress should act on my proposal to strengthen America's long-term energy security, including new tax incentives and investments to support domestic oil producers and to promote the use of alternative and more efficient energy technologies.

This is one bit of good news, but the Congress has an opportunity and a responsibility to make progress on a number of other important issues for the American people this year.

First, we must work together to reduce the staggering toll of gun violence in America. We can this by passing my proposal for more prosecutors and stronger gun enforcement. And we can do it by finally passing a strong juvenile justice bill that closes the gun show loophole, requires child safety locks for all new handguns and bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. But for nine months, the leadership in Congress, egged on by the gun lobby, has stood in the way of progress.

Exactly 14 days ago, the House passed a resolution put forth by Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California, that simply said, the House and Senate conferees should meet to settle their differences on a juvenile justice bill that has been languishing in Congress.

For 14 days, the clock has been ticking, but we have heard nothing but deafening silence from the leadership. Today time runs out -- and still no action. Another missed deadline... another missed opportunity. It appears that the opponents of reform have run out of sensible arguments – so now they want to run out the clock. This makes no sense. With crime at a twenty-five year low, and the Brady law keeping guns out of the hands of half a million felons, fugitives and stalkers, the argument is over. Gun safety measures work. It's time to build on that success, and pass common sense gun legislation.

Three weeks ago, I asked the Congress to finish the gun bill and send it to me by the anniversary of the Columbine tragedy, April 20. They still have time to meet that deadline. Again, I

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 3/29/00ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAPSubject: Remarks at Press Conference

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	LOCKHART	☐	☒
PODESTA	☒	☐	LEWIS	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	MARSHALL	☐	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
LEW	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
BAILY	☐	☐	NOLAN	☐	☐
BERGER	☒	☐	REED	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	SPERLING	☒	☐
BRAIN	☒	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
BURSON	☐	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
EDMONDS 	☒	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	<u>Eric Lui</u>	☒	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐	<u>Leanne Shimakawa</u>	☒	☐
JOHNSON, B.	☐	☐	<u>Chris Jennings</u>	☒	☐
JOHNSON, J.	☒	☐		☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Terry Edmonds y62777

RESPONSE:

—

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE
THE EAST ROOM
March 29, 2000**

Good afternoon. I want to begin by saying that yesterday's announcement that OPEC members will increase oil production is good news for our economy and good news for the American consumer. These increases will help sustain economic growth here in America and around the world, and provide a greater balance between oil supply and demand. While home heating costs and the price at the pump are expected to fall this year, we will continue to monitor developments in world markets in the coming months.

Since January, our Administration has taken significant action to address the issue of high oil prices – from helping more low-income and elderly citizens pay their heating bills...to the creation of a regional product reserve in the Northeast...to calling for the immediate reauthorization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. In addition, Congress should act on my proposal to strengthen America's long-term energy security, including new tax incentives and investments to support domestic oil producers and to promote the use of alternative and more efficient energy technologies.

This is one bit of good news, but the Congress has an opportunity and a responsibility to make progress on a number of other important issues for the American people this year.

First, we must work together to reduce the staggering toll of gun violence in America. We can this by passing my proposal for more prosecutors and stronger gun enforcement. And we can do it by finally passing a strong juvenile justice bill that closes the gun show loophole, requires child safety locks on all new handguns and bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. But for nine months, the leadership in Congress, egged on by the gun lobby, has stood in the way of progress.

Exactly 14 days ago, the House passed a resolution put forth by Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California, that simply said, the House and Senate conferees should meet to settle their differences on a juvenile justice bill that has been languishing in Congress.

For 14 days, the clock has been ticking, but we have heard nothing but deafening silence from the leadership. Today time runs out -- and still no action. Another missed deadline... another missed opportunity. It appears that the opponents of reform have run out of sensible arguments – so now they want to run out the clock. This makes no sense. With crime at a twenty-five year low, and the Brady law keeping guns out of the hands of half a million felons, fugitives and stalkers, the argument is over. Gun safety measures work. It's time to build on that success, and pass common sense gun legislation.

Three weeks ago, I asked the Congress to finish the gun bill and send it to me by the anniversary of the Columbine tragedy, April 20. They still have time to meet that deadline. Again, I call on them, for the sake of our children, stop the delay. Protecting our children from gun violence should not be a partisan issue.

There are a lot of other things we can accomplish for the American people this year. We can expand health care and protect people in managed care. We can give working families a higher minimum wage. We can ensure that our kids get a world class education in first class schools. We can use the surplus to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, provide a prescription drug benefit and pay down the debt entirely for the first time since 1835. And we can keep the economy growing by opening new markets here at home in our hardest-pressed communities -- and by opening new markets for American products and services around the world. We especially need to give America's businesses, farmers and workers access to the world's largest consumer market in China.

There are bills in Congress that I could sign today to do all of these things. Many of them are supported by bipartisan majorities in either the House or the Senate.

First, to make sure the benefits of Medicare keep pace with the benefits of modern medicine, we must reform Medicare and add a voluntary prescription drug benefit. Three out of five older Americans lack dependable, affordable prescription drug coverage. Since I first raised this issue last year, virtually every member of Congress now says they support a new prescription drug benefit. I call on Congress to pass a bill that assures that all Medicare beneficiaries have an option to choose an affordable, accessible drug benefit. If they do, I will sign it.

Second, to protect the interest of 190 million Americans in health plans, we should pass a strong, enforceable and bipartisan patients' bill of rights. This is not a partisan issue anywhere in America. The House already passed a strong patients' bill of rights, but the insurance lobby continues to oppose it. I say, let everybody vote his or her conscience on a real patients' bill of rights. If it passes--and it will--I will sign it.

Third, to honor work and strengthen our families, we should raise the minimum wage by one dollar over two years. A bipartisan majority in the House voted to do so earlier this month. But Republican leaders held that pay raise for working families hostage to tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans—tax breaks that could make it impossible to pay down the debt or strengthen Social Security and Medicare. I will veto that bill if it comes to my desk. And I say to Congress: send me a clean straightforward bill that raises the minimum wage by a dollar over two year, and I will sign it.

Fourth, we must invest more in our public schools and demand more from them. But we know that our children can't learn in schools that are literally falling apart. Yesterday, a bipartisan school construction bill was introduced in the House that would provide \$24.8 billion in tax credit bonds to modernize up to 6,000 schools. If the Republican leadership does not prevent it, the Congress could vote on this proposal tomorrow. I call on the Congress to seize this opportunity. Pass this bipartisan legislation, and I will sign it.

Fifth, to save the lives of thousands of young people who every year get hooked on cigarettes, we must pass legislation allowing the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco like the dangerous substance that it is. There is strong, bipartisan support for the idea that the FDA should regulate tobacco. Pass it and I will sign it.

The Justice Department also has sued the tobacco manufacturers to recover the cost to taxpayers of tobacco-related illnesses and to make sure they are held accountable for actions they take. Some in Congress want to undermine this effort. That would be wrong. We need to give American taxpayers their day in court.

Finally, I urge the Congress to pass my supplemental budget request without delay. This is urgent funding for pressing needs at home and abroad: to provide further assistance to the victims of Hurricane Floyd; to support the Colombian government's fight against drug traffickers; to provide needed heating and cooling assistance for families struggling to cope with rising oil prices; and to keep the peace and build stability in Kosovo.

When Congress adjourns this summer, we ought to be able to look back and say that we took real steps towards making America better. The issues have been decided. The American people want and deserve action. The only thing left is for the Congressional leadership to break the grip of special interests and do the people's business.

Thank you.

Finally, I urge the Congress to pass my supplemental budget request without delay. This is urgent funding for pressing needs at home and abroad: to provide further assistance to the victims of Hurricane Floyd; to support the Colombian government's fight against drug traffickers; to provide needed heating and cooling assistance for families struggling to cope with rising oil prices; and to keep the peace and build stability in Kosovo.

When Congress adjourns this summer, we ought to be able to look back and say that we took real steps towards making America better. The issues have been decided. The American people want and deserve action. The only thing left is for the Congressional leadership to break the grip of special interests and do the people's business.

Thank you.

Draft 3/24/00 5:30pm
Glastris/Edmonds

7007
Prumy
Sachs
for 29 2000

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FRAMING THE DOMESTIC AGENDA
WASHINGTON, DC
MARCH 29, 2000

When I ran for President seven years ago, most of you were in high school or junior highthere was great pessimism in some quarters about the ability of our democracy ever to solve the challenges we faced. We had a stagnant economy, high interest rates and high employment. Crime, welfare, drug abuse, teen pregnancy—all were getting worse. Politicians seemed more interested in partisanship than progress—with one side saying government was the ultimate cause of all our problems, the other saying government was the only solution. And any sensible ideas that did come up seemed always to get blocked by powerful special interests.

The Vice President and I offered a third way. We believed we could overcome the special interests if we started operating from the vital center – the common ground where progress has always taken root in America. Its hallmark is common-sense solutions rooted in commonly shared values: opportunity for all Americans, responsibility from all Americans, in a community of all Americans. I said that instead of government trying to do everything or refusing to do anything, its proper role ought to be to provide the tools and create the conditions for people to solve problems themselves.

The American people agreed with this view. And together, over the last seven years, we have transformed America. We've passed a new economic plan in 1993, turned record government deficits into record surpluses, and are now actually paying down the debt that tripled in the 12 years before I took office. We are experiencing the longest economic expansion in American history, with over 20 million new jobs and rising wages for every income group. We cut through the special-interest deadlock and passed the Brady Bill and the crime bill, and today crime is at its lowest level in 25 years. We put progress over partisanship and passed family leave, which over 20 millions Americans have now used to care for a newborn child or a sick loved one and medical leave. And we found the courage to end the cycle of dependency by ending welfare as we knew it. Now the welfare rolls are half what they used to be and millions have moved from welfare to work.

In each case, we overcame gridlock, extremism and special interests by working from the vital center—the common ground where real progress has always taken root in America. Now we find ourselves at a remarkable moment. Not only are we enjoying great prosperity and social progress, with little internal crisis and few external threats. But because of the progress we have made, the American people have a renewed faith in the possibility of change, a greater hunger for reforms, and a broad consensus about the steps we need to take to achieve them.

In the State of the Union, I presented a roadmap for where the country is going, step by step. Today, I want to talk about the significant steps we can take this year to build on our progress and keep us moving in the right direction.

Common-sense laws to keep guns out of the wrong hands. Help for older people to buy prescription drugs. A higher minimum wage so that working families don't have to raise children in poverty. There is a wide array of good legislation like this in Congress--common-sense legislation with strong bipartisan support. Each and every one of these bills could be passed and put on my desk before the congressional summer recess. All we need is for the Republican leadership to stop blocking these bills with procedural games in order to please special interests and extremists in their party.

Nothing – not the election, not partisanship, not special interests should get in the way of getting these things done for the American people this year. Governing from the vital center means standing up to those who play politics and put narrow special interests over the interests of the American people.

We know we can do this. We proved it last week. Despite the conventional wisdom that nothing substantial can happen in Washington in an election year, Congress passed, and I will soon sign, legislation eliminating the earnings limit on Social Security. It's the right thing to do, and it shows that in an election year, passing good policy benefits everyone.

We need to act from that same vital center to pass other important legislation.

First, to honor work and strengthen our families, we should raise the minimum wage. People who work 40 hours a week should have to raise their children in poverty. The last time we increased the minimum wage, in 1996, our opponents said it would be a "job killer." Since then we've *created* over 10 million new jobs. There is not a single reasonable argument against raising the minimum again by a dollar over two years. In fact, a bipartisan majority in the House voted to do so earlier this month. But Republican leaders held that pay raise for working families hostage to tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans—tax breaks that could make it impossible to pay down the debt or strengthen Social Security and Medicare. I will veto that bill if it comes to my desk. And I say to Congress: send me a clean straightforward bill that raises the minimum wage by a dollar over two year, and I will sign it.

Second, to renew our democracy and stem the rising tide of campaign spending, we must pass strong campaign finance reform. Finally, after years of debate, a majority of lawmakers in both parties agree about this. The House has already passed campaign finance reform, and the votes are there in the Senate. But Republican Senate leaders won't let it come up for a vote. That's wrong. Let the Senate vote, up or down, on campaign finance reform. If it passes -- and I believe it will -- I will sign it.

Third, to protect the interest of 160 million Americans who use managed care, we should pass a strong, enforceable and bipartisan patients' bill of rights. If you're in an HMO, you ought to have the right to see a specialist; to be taken to the nearest emergency room; to keep the same doctor throughout a treatment; and to have the ability to enforce your rights in court. This is not a partisan issue anywhere in America. Republicans get sick just as surely as Democrats and Independents do. Over 200 medical and consumer organizations have endorsed this patients' bill of rights, and a bipartisan majority in the House passed it. But Republican leaders in the Senate

won't let it come up for a vote because the health insurance lobby is against it. I say, let everybody vote his or her conscience on the patients' bill of rights. If it passes--and it will--I will sign it.

Fourth, to help stop 12 children a week from losing their lives to gun violence, we must pass common-sense gun legislation. We need to make it harder for criminals and children to get their hands on guns and reduce the staggering toll of gun violence in America. We must require child safety locks; ban the importation of large ammunition clips; close the gun show loophole, and hold adults accountable when they allow young people to get their hands on deadly guns. The American people want this. Responsible gun makers, like Smith and Wesson, want this. It's time for Congress to get this done. Send me this legislation and I will sign it.

Fifth, to make sure the benefits of Medicare keep pace with the benefits of modern medicine, we must reform Medicare and add a voluntary prescription drug benefit. Nobody designing Medicare today would leave out prescription drugs. Yet two out of three older and disabled Americans lack dependable, affordable prescription drug coverage. Since I first raised this issue last year, a broad, bipartisan consensus has developed—across the nation and here in Washington—that adding voluntary prescription drug coverage is something we can do and must do this year. I call on Congress to do it, and I will sign it.

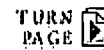
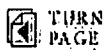
Sixth, to save the lives of thousands of young people who every year get hooked on cigarettes, we must pass legislation allowing the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco like the dangerous substance that it is. There is strong, bipartisan support for the idea that the FDA should regulate tobacco. In fact, a bipartisan majority the Senate voted for the proposition before the tobacco companies and the Senate leadership killed a larger tobacco bill....Pass it and I will sign it.

When Congress adjourns this summer, we ought to be able to look back and say that we took real steps towards making America better. We ought to be able to say that we raised the minimum wage. We passed common-sense gun safety legislation. We passed a patients' bill of rights. We reformed the campaign finance system. We reformed Medicare and added a voluntary prescription drug benefit. We took action to protect children from tobacco. It is to everyone's advantage to get these things done and to no one's advantage to do nothing. The issues have been decided. The American people want action. The only thing left is for the Congressional leadership to break the grip of special interests so we can do the people's business.

Acting from the vital center means rewarding work and family. It means giving businesses the same incentives to invest in new markets here in America that we give them to invest in new markets overseas. It means continuing to expand global trade and, especially giving America's business, farmers and workers access to the world largest consumer market in China. It means expanding health care for America's children. It means making sure working women get equal pay for equal work. And nothing is more central to America's future than making sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed. That means investing more and demanding more from our public schools. That is an agenda that is both vital and central to our continued growth and prosperity. In this year of transition, let's not

abandon the path that got us here. Let's elect progress over partisanship. That's what the American people sent us here to do and that's what they deserve.

Thank you.



Inaugural Address.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: We stand to-day upon an eminence which overlooks a hundred years of national life--a century crowded with perils, but crowned with the triumphs of liberty and law. Before continuing the onward march let us pause on this height for a moment to strengthen our faith and renew our hope by a glance at the pathway along which our people have traveled.

It is now three days more than a hundred years since the adoption of the first written constitution of the United States--the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union. The new Republic was then beset with danger on every hand. It had not conquered a place in the family of nations. The decisive battle of the war for independence, whose centennial anniversary will soon be gratefully celebrated at Yorktown, had not yet been fought. The colonists were struggling not only against the armies of a great nation, but against the settled opinions of mankind; for the world did not then believe that the supreme authority of government could be safely intrusted to the guardianship of the people themselves.

We can not overestimate the fervent love of liberty, the intelligent courage, and the sum of common sense with which our fathers made the great experiment of self-government. When they found, after a short trial, that the confederacy of States was too weak to meet the necessities of a vigorous and expanding republic, they boldly set it aside, and in its stead established a National Union, founded directly upon the will of the [p.4597] people, endowed with full power of self-preservation and ample authority for the accomplishment of its great object.

Under this Constitution the boundaries of freedom have been enlarged, the foundations of order and peace have been strengthened, and the growth of our people in all the better elements of national life has indicated the wisdom of the founders and given new hope to their descendants. Under this Constitution our people long ago made themselves safe against danger from without and secured for their mariners and flag equality of rights on all the seas. Under this Constitution twenty-five States have been added to the Union, with constitutions and laws, framed and enforced by their own citizens, to secure the manifold blessings of local self-government.

The jurisdiction of this Constitution now covers an area fifty times greater than that of the original thirteen States and a population twenty times greater than that of 1780.

The supreme trial of the Constitution came at last under the tremendous pressure of civil war. We ourselves are witnesses that the Union emerged from the blood and fire of that conflict purified and made stronger for all the beneficent purposes of good government.

And now, at the close of this first century of growth, with the inspirations of its history in their hearts, our people have lately reviewed the condition of the nation, passed judgment upon the conduct and opinions of political parties, and have registered their will concerning the future administration of the Government. To interpret and to execute that will in accordance with the Constitution is the paramount duty of the Executive.

Even from this brief review it is manifest that the nation is resolutely facing to the front, resolved to employ its best energies in developing the great possibilities of the future. Sacredly preserving whatever has been gained to liberty and good government during the century, our people are determined to leave behind them all those bitter controversies concerning things which have been irrevocably settled, and the further discussion of which can only stir up strife and delay the onward march.

The supremacy of the nation and its laws should be no longer a subject of debate. That discussion, which for half a century threatened the existence of the Union, was closed at last in the high court of war by a decree from which there is no appeal--that the Constitution and the laws made in pursuance thereof are and shall continue to be the supreme law of the land, binding alike upon the States and the people. This decree does not disturb the autonomy of the States nor interfere with any of their necessary rights of local self-government, but it does fix and establish the permanent supremacy of the Union.

The will of the nation, speaking with the voice of battle and through the amended Constitution, has fulfilled the great promise of 1776 by proclaiming "liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof."

The elevation of the negro race from slavery to the full rights of citizenship is the most important political change we have known since the adoption of the Constitution of 1787. No thoughtful man can fail to appreciate its beneficent effect upon our institutions and people. It has freed us from the perpetual danger of war and dissolution. It has added immensely to the moral and industrial forces of our people. It has liberated the master as well as the slave from a relation which wronged and enfeebled both. It has surrendered to their own guardianship the manhood of more than 5,000,000 people, and has opened to each one of them a career of freedom and usefulness. It has given new inspiration to the power of self-help in both races by making labor more honorable to the one and more necessary to the other. The influence of this force will grow greater and bear richer fruit with the coming years.

No doubt this great change has caused serious disturbance to our Southern communities. This is to be deplored, though it was perhaps unavoidable. But those who resisted the change should remember that under our institutions there was no middle ground for the negro race between slavery and equal citizenship. There can be no permanent disfranchised peasantry in the United States. Freedom can never yield its fullness of blessings so long as the law or its administration places the smallest obstacle in the pathway of any virtuous citizen.

The emancipated race has already made remarkable progress. With unquestioning devotion to the Union, with a patience and gentleness not born of fear, they have "followed the light as God gave them to see the light." They are rapidly laying the material foundations of self-support, widening their circle of intelligence, and beginning to enjoy the blessings that gather around the homes of the industrious poor. They deserve the generous encouragement of all good men. So far as my authority can lawfully extend, they shall enjoy the full and equal protection of the Constitution and the laws.

The free enjoyment of equal suffrage is still in question, and a frank statement of the issue may aid its solution. It is alleged that in many communities negro citizens are practically denied the freedom of the ballot. In so far as the truth of this allegation is admitted, it is answered that in many places honest local government is impossible if the mass of uneducated negroes are allowed to vote. These are grave allegations. So far as the latter is true, it is the only palliation that can be offered for opposing the freedom of the ballot. Bad local government is certainly a great evil, which ought to be prevented; but to violate the freedom and sanctities of the suffrage is more than an evil. It is a crime which, if persisted in, will destroy the Government itself. Suicide is not a remedy. If in other lands it be high treason to compass the death of the king, it shall be counted no less a crime here to strangle our sovereign power and stifle its voice.

It has been said that unsettled questions have no pity for the repose [p.4599] of nations. It should be said with the utmost emphasis that this question of the suffrage will never give repose or safety to the States or to the nation until each, within its own jurisdiction, makes and keeps the ballot free and pure by the strong sanctions of the law.

But the danger which arises from ignorance in the voter can not be denied. It covers a field far wider than that of negro suffrage and the present condition of the race. It is a danger that lurks and hides in the sources and fountains of power in every state. We have no standard by which to measure the disaster that may be brought upon us by ignorance and vice in the citizens when joined to corruption and fraud in the suffrage.

The voters of the Union, who make and unmake constitutions, and upon whose will hang the destinies of our governments, can transmit their supreme authority to no successors save the coming generation of voters, who are the sole heirs of sovereign power. If that generation comes to its inheritance blinded by ignorance and corrupted by vice, the fall of the Republic will be certain and remediless.

The census has already sounded the alarm in the appalling figures which mark how dangerously high the tide of illiteracy has risen among our voters and their children.

To the South this question is of supreme importance. But the responsibility for the existence of slavery did not rest upon the South alone. The nation itself is responsible for the extension of the suffrage, and is under special obligations to aid in removing the illiteracy which it has added to the voting population. For the North and South alike there is but one remedy. All the constitutional power of the nation and of the States and all the volunteer forces of the people should be surrendered to meet this danger by the savory influence of universal education.

It is the high privilege and sacred duty of those now living to educate their successors and fit them, by intelligence and virtue, for the inheritance which awaits them.

In this beneficent work sections and races should be forgotten and partisanship should be unknown. Let our people find a new meaning in the divine oracle which declares that "a little child shall lead them," for our own little children will soon control the destinies of the Republic.

My countrymen, we do not now differ in our judgment concerning the controversies of past generations, and fifty years hence our children will not be divided in their opinions concerning our controversies. They will surely bless their fathers and their fathers' God that the Union was preserved, that slavery was overthrown, and that both races were made equal before the law. We may hasten or we may retard, but we can not prevent, the final reconciliation. Is it not possible for us now to make a truce with time by anticipating and accepting its inevitable verdict?

Enterprises of the highest importance to our moral and material well-being unite us and offer ample employment of our best powers. Let all [p.4600] our people, leaving behind them the battlefields of dead issues, move forward and in their strength of liberty and the restored Union win the grander victories of peace.

The prosperity which now prevails is without parallel in our history. Fruitful seasons have done much to secure it, but they have not done all. The preservation of the public credit and the resumption of specie payments, so successfully attained by the Administration of my predecessors, have enabled our people to secure the blessings which the seasons brought.

By the experience of commercial nations in all ages it has been found that gold and silver afford the only safe foundation for a monetary system. Confusion has recently been created by variations in the relative value of the two metals, but I confidently believe that arrangements can be made between the leading commercial nations which will secure the general use of both metals. Congress should provide that the compulsory coinage of silver now required by law may not disturb our monetary system by driving either metal out of circulation. If possible, such an adjustment should be made that the purchasing power of every coined dollar will be exactly equal to its debt-paying power in all the markets of the world.

The chief duty of the National Government in connection with the currency of the country is to coin money and declare its value. Grave doubts have been entertained whether Congress is authorized by the Constitution to make any form of paper money legal tender. The present issue of United States notes has been sustained by the necessities of war; but such paper should depend for its value and currency upon its convenience in use and its prompt redemption in coin at the will of the holder, and not upon its compulsory circulation. These notes are not money, but promises to pay money. If the holders demand it, the promise should be kept.

The refunding of the national debt at a lower rate of interest should be accomplished without compelling the withdrawal of the national-bank notes, and thus disturbing the business of the country.

I venture to refer to the position I have occupied on financial questions during a long service in Congress, and to say that time and experience have strengthened the opinions I have so often expressed on these subjects.

The finances of the Government shall suffer no detriment which it may be possible for my Administration to prevent.

The interests of agriculture deserve more attention from the Government than they have yet received. The farms of the United States afford homes and employment for more than one-half our people, and furnish much the largest part of all our exports. As the Government lights our coasts for the protection of mariners and the benefit of commerce, so it should give to the tillers of the soil the best lights of practical science and experience.

Our manufactures are rapidly making us industrially independent, and are opening to capital and labor new and profitable fields of employment. Their steady and healthy growth should still be matured. Our facilities for transportation should be promoted by the continued improvement of our harbors and great interior waterways and by the increase of our tonnage on the ocean.

The development of the world's commerce has led to an urgent demand for shortening the great sea voyage around Cape Horn by constructing ship canals or railways across the isthmus which unites the continents. Various plans to this end have been suggested and will need consideration, but none of them has been sufficiently matured to warrant the United States in extending pecuniary aid. The subject, however, is one which will immediately engage the attention of the Government with a view to a thorough protection to American Interests. We will urge no narrow policy nor seek peculiar or exclusive privileges in any commercial route; but, in the language of my predecessor, I believe it to be the right "and duty of the United States to assert and maintain such supervision and authority over any interoceanic canal across the isthmus that connects North and South America as will protect our national interest."

The Constitution guarantees absolute religious freedom. Congress is prohibited from making any law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The Territories of the United States are subject to the direct legislative authority of Congress, and hence the General Government is responsible for any violation of the Constitution in any of them. It is therefore a reproach to the Government that in the most populous of the Territories the constitutional guaranty is not enjoyed by the people and the authority of Congress is set at naught. The Mormon Church not only offends the moral sense of manhood by sanctioning polygamy, but prevents the administration of justice through ordinary instrumentalities of law.

In my judgment it is the duty of Congress, while respecting to the uttermost the conscientious convictions and religious scruples of every citizen, to prohibit within its jurisdiction all criminal practices, especially of that class which destroy the family relations and endanger social order. Nor can any ecclesiastical organization be safely permitted to usurp in the smallest degree the functions and powers of the National Government.

The civil service can never be placed on a satisfactory basis until it is regulated by law. For the good of the service itself, for the protection of those who are intrusted with the appointing power against the waste of time and obstruction to the public business caused by the inordinate pressure for place, and for the protection of incumbents against intrigue and wrong, I shall at the proper time ask Congress to fix the tenure of the minor offices of the several Executive Departments and prescribe the [p.4602] grounds upon which removals shall be made during the terms for which incumbents have been appointed.

Finally, acting always within the authority and limitations of the Constitution, invading neither the rights of the States nor the reserved rights of the people, it will be the purpose of my Administration to maintain the authority of the nation in all places within its jurisdiction; to enforce obedience to all the laws of the Union in the interests of the people; to demand rigid economy in all the expenditures of the Government, and to require the honest and faithful service of all executive officers, remembering that the offices were created, not for the benefit of incumbents or their supporters, but for the service of the Government.

And now, fellow-citizens, I am about to assume the great trust which you have committed to my hands. I appeal to you for that earnest and thoughtful support which makes this Government in fact, as it is in law, a government of the people.

I shall greatly rely upon the wisdom and patriotism of Congress and of those who may share with me the responsibilities and duties of administration, and, above all, upon our efforts to promote the welfare of this great people and their Government I reverently invoke the support and blessings of Almighty God.

MARCH 4, 1881.

Source: James D. Richardson, ed., A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, James A. Garfield (U.S. Bureau of National Literature and Art, 1910), 6:4596-4602

 TURN
PAGE

TURN 
PAGE

Draft 3/29/00 10:40am
Edmonds

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE
THE EAST ROOM
March 29, 2000**

Good afternoon. I want to begin by saying that yesterday's announcement that OPEC members will increase oil production is good news for our economy and good news for the American consumer. These increases will help sustain economic growth here in America and around the world, and provide a greater balance between oil supply and demand. While home heating costs and the price at the pump are expected to fall this year, we will continue to monitor developments in world markets in the coming months.

Since January, our Administration has taken significant action to address the issue of high oil prices – from helping more low-income and elderly citizens pay their heating bills...to the creation of a regional product reserve in the Northeast...to calling for the immediate reauthorization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. In addition, Congress should act on my proposal to strengthen America's long-term energy security, including new tax incentives and investments to support domestic oil producers and to promote the use of alternative and more efficient energy technologies.

This is one bit of good news, but the Congress has an opportunity and a responsibility to make progress on a number of other important issues for the American people this year.

First, we must work together to reduce the staggering toll of gun violence in America. We can this by passing my proposal for more prosecutors and stronger gun enforcement. And we can do it by finally passing a strong juvenile justice bill that closes the gun show loophole, requires child safety locks on all new handguns and bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. But for nine months, the leadership in Congress, egged on by the gun lobby, has stood in the way of progress.

Exactly 14 days ago, the House passed a resolution put forth by Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California, that simply said, the House and Senate conferees should meet to settle their differences on a juvenile justice bill that has been languishing in Congress.

For 14 days, the clock has been ticking, but we have heard nothing but deafening silence from the leadership. Today time runs out -- and still no action. Another missed deadline... another missed opportunity. It appears that the opponents of reform have run out of sensible arguments – so now they want to run out the clock. This makes no sense. With crime at a twenty-five year low, and the Brady law keeping guns out of the hands of half a million felons, fugitives and stalkers, the argument is over. Gun safety measures work. It's time to build on that success, and pass common sense gun legislation.

Three weeks ago, I asked the Congress to finish the gun bill and send it to me by the anniversary of the Columbine tragedy, April 20. They still have time to meet that deadline. Again, I call on them, for the sake of our children, stop the delay. Protecting our children from gun violence should not be a partisan issue.

There are a lot of other things we can accomplish for the American people this year. We can expand health care and protect people in managed care. We can give working families a higher minimum wage. We can ensure that our kids get a world class education in first class schools. We can use the surplus to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, provide a prescription drug benefit and pay down the debt entirely for the first time since 1835. And we can keep the economy growing by opening new markets here at home in our hardest-pressed communities -- and by opening new markets for American products and services around the world. We especially need to give America's businesses, farmers and workers access to the world's largest consumer market in China.

There are bills in Congress that I could sign today to do all of these things. Many of them are supported by bipartisan majorities in either the House or the Senate.

First, to make sure the benefits of Medicare keep pace with the benefits of modern medicine, we must reform Medicare and add a voluntary prescription drug benefit. Three out of five older Americans lack dependable, affordable prescription drug coverage. Since I first raised this issue last year, virtually every member of Congress now says they support a new prescription drug benefit. I call on Congress to pass a bill that assures that all Medicare beneficiaries have an option to choose an affordable, accessible drug benefit. If they do, I will sign it.

Second, to protect the interest of 190 million Americans in health plans, we should pass a strong, enforceable and bipartisan patients' bill of rights. This is not a partisan issue anywhere in America. The House already passed a strong patients' bill of rights, but the insurance lobby continues to oppose it. I say, let everybody vote his or her conscience on a real patients' bill of rights. If it passes--and it will--I will sign it.

Third, to honor work and strengthen our families, we should raise the minimum wage by one dollar over two years. A bipartisan majority in the House voted to do so earlier this month. But Republican leaders held that pay raise for working families hostage to tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans--tax breaks that could make it impossible to pay down the debt or strengthen Social Security and Medicare. I will veto that bill if it comes to my desk. And I say to Congress: send me a clean straightforward bill that raises the minimum wage by a dollar over two year, and I will sign it.

Fourth, we must invest more in our public schools and demand more from them. But we know that our children can't learn in schools that are literally falling apart. Yesterday, a bipartisan school construction bill was introduced in the House that would provide \$24.8 billion in tax credit bonds to modernize up to 6,000 schools. If the Republican leadership does not prevent it, the Congress could vote on this proposal tomorrow. I call on the Congress to seize this opportunity. Pass this bipartisan legislation, and I will sign it.

Fifth, to save the lives of thousands of young people who every year get hooked on cigarettes, we must pass legislation allowing the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco like the dangerous substance that it is. There is strong, bipartisan support for the idea that the FDA should regulate tobacco. Pass it and I will sign it.

The Justice Department also has sued the tobacco manufacturers to recover the cost to taxpayers of tobacco-related illnesses and to make sure they are held accountable for actions they take. Some in Congress want to undermine this effort. That would be wrong. We need to give American taxpayers their day in court.

Finally, I urge the Congress to pass my supplemental budget request without delay. This is urgent funding for pressing needs at home and abroad: to provide further assistance to the victims of Hurricane Floyd; to support the Colombian government's fight against drug traffickers; to provide needed heating and cooling assistance for families struggling to cope with rising oil prices; and to keep the peace and build stability in Kosovo.

When Congress adjourns this summer, we ought to be able to look back and say that we took real steps towards making America better. The issues have been decided. The American people want and deserve action. The only thing left is for the Congressional leadership to break the grip of special interests and do the people's business.

Thank you.