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July 24, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

**FROM: MICHAEL WALDMAN
TERRY EDMONDS**

SUBJECT: OUTLINE FOR SPEECH TO THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

As you know, on Sunday you are delivering the keynote address to the 75th national convention of the Disabled American Veterans. This 1-million member group represents service-connected disabled veterans and their families. Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown served as executive director of DAV's Washington office prior to joining your cabinet. They are most interested in hearing from you on the Administration's domestic agenda, particularly in the areas of veterans' benefits and health care. They are less concerned about foreign policy and defense issues. We are proposing non-partisan remarks that focus on the theme of "the duty we owe one another as Americans," with special emphasis on the duty we owe our veterans.

I. Introduction/Acknowledgments

II. Theme: Duty we owe one another as Americans

III. Duty we own our disabled veterans

- Special thanks to veterans of World War II -- salute the service of Bob Dole and all those present here today who fought in that war.
- Sixth anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act
- Appointment of Jesse Brown
- Benefits/health care/budget
- Agent Orange and Gulf War actions

IV. Duty we owe each other -- parents, children

- economy -- deficit reduction, 10 million jobs, 3.7 million homeowners
- budget/Medicaid
- crime -- Brady Bill, assault weapons ban, support for communities (curfews, school uniforms, etc.)

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
75TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
NEW ORLEANS, LA
JULY 28, 1996**

Acknowledgments: Gregory Reed, Senior Vice Commander; Tom McMasters, National Commander; Barbara Hicks, Auxiliary Commander; and Art Wilson, National Adjutant; Secretary Jesse Brown.

Let me begin by saying that when I ran for President, I promised veterans that I would appoint a true advocate for veterans as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. It did not take long to find that person. He is one of your own. Jesse Brown honed his skills while serving as executive director of the DAV. He shares with all of us a deep desire to make life better for all veterans. He is doing a remarkable job, and I thank him for his service.

I am honored to join you in celebrating three quarters of a century of service to your country. I want to thank you, on behalf of every American, not only for your bravery and sacrifice in defense of liberty, but for all you continue to do for each other, for your families, and for our country.

Last year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Many of you fought in that great struggle. With your lives before you, you left everything -- families, loved ones, home -- to fight for a just cause. From the Aleutians to Okinawa, and from the Mediterranean to the North Sea, you put your lives on the line for freedom. Fortunately, you made it back home. So many of your friends did not. We lost more than 400,000, and 700,000 more were wounded, many of you among them. But still our veterans never faltered. You gave everything so that future generations of Americans might be free. Your country owes you a debt of gratitude we know we can never fully repay. But allow me to say to you and every American who served in World War II, including the Republican candidate for President, Bob Dole, thank you for your courage. Thank you for your sacrifice. But the need for vigilance in defense of freedom did not stop with the end of World War II. Freedom has come under attack again and again -- in Korea, in Vietnam, in the Persian Gulf, in Bosnia. America, and much of the world thanks all of you who answered the call.

But your tradition of service extends beyond the battlefield. This is also the 50th anniversary of your involvement in the VA Voluntary Service Program. Last year, you donated more volunteer hours at VA hospitals around the country than any other organization. I also want to thank you for your recent donation of another 141 vans to VA hospitals to help transport patients. And I want to congratulate the two people you selected as volunteers of the year -- Tillman Rutledge, who has been a 20-year volunteer at the Audie Murphy VA Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas; and Dorothy Marie Waters, who at age 82 has devoted 43 years of volunteer service at the North Chicago VA Medical Center. They are the best examples of what you stand for and what America stands for.

In war and in peace, you have never stopped giving. And you remind us that we all have a duty to one another as Americans -- especially as we enter the 21st century -- an age of great possibility and unprecedented new challenges.

When I ran for President, I had a clear and straightforward vision of what kind of America I hoped our country could be like as we entered a new century. I wanted us to be a country that offered the American Dream to everyone who was willing to work for it. I wanted us to remain the world's strongest force for peace and freedom. And I wanted us to be a nation finding strength in its diversity...coming together, not pulling apart, around a renewed sense of community. I believed we had to return to the basic bargain of our democracy: opportunity for all -- responsibility from all.

I believe that the mission of government in these times is to give people the tools to make the most of their own lives. We have an obligation -- a duty if you will -- to strengthen families so they can build strong communities; to nourish and educate our children so they can grow into leadership roles in the next century; to maintain our leadership as the world's strongest force for peace; and to honor those who have devoted their lives in service to their families, communities and country.

Just look at what we have accomplished together: Our deficit is now less than half what it was four years ago. We have helped create 10 million new jobs -- 6 million veterans have received training and job search assistance and more than 2 million of them now have jobs. We have the lowest combined rates of inflation and unemployment in 27 years. The veterans' unemployment rate has been cut by almost a third -- from 7.2% in January of 1993 to 4.9% in January of 1996. Homeownership is at a 15-year high. We have an all-time high in exports and new business formations for three years in a row. So, we are moving in the right direction.

But the only way we will continue to move forward is if we continue to work together and honor the duty we owe one another. I believe there is no more important obligation than the one we owe to all of you. Jesse Brown and I recognize a simple truth: the troops of tomorrow will only be as strong as our commitment to the veterans of today. When our men and women leave the service, we must not let them down. From education to employment, from buying a home to getting quality medical care, our veterans deserve our nation's unwavering support. And for the past three-and-a-half years we have given it to you. Even as we cut government spending, I have asked for a \$1 billion increase in funding for the VA. More than half is for medical care and other discretionary programs. Also in that request are funds for a new hospital and nursing home in Brevard County, Florida and a replacement hospital at Travis Air Force Base in California.

We have also reached out to veterans service organizations, appointing veterans as delegates to the White House Conference on Aging and the Presidential delegation to Vietnam. We established the first-ever Interagency Veterans Policy Group to coordinate and spur progress on issues of concern to veterans and military organizations.

One such issue -- for more than two decades -- has been the suffering our nation unintentionally caused its own troops by exposing them to Agent Orange in Vietnam. In May, I announced that Vietnam veterans with prostate cancer and peripheral neuropathy are entitled to disability payments based upon their exposure to Agent Orange. We will also propose legislation to provide an appropriate remedy for children of Vietnam veterans who suffer from spina bifida. We also fought for a law that permits the VA to pay compensation benefits, pending research results, to chronically disabled Persian Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses.

But we must do more -- especially for our disabled veterans, many of whom are overcoming tremendous odds to contribute to our progress. That is why today, as we celebrate the sixth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I want to reiterate the pledge I made in 1992. Our disability policy must be based on three simple creeds: inclusion, independence and empowerment. My Administration has made vigorous enforcement of all laws protecting people with disabilities a top priority. And we will continue to do so until all the barriers against people with disabilities come down. Consistent with that commitment, my budget for 1997 proposes an increase in the resources available to enforce the ADA.

But what good is freedom and opportunity if our people -- particularly older Americans and Americans with disabilities are afraid to leave their homes or walk their streets because of the threat of crime. We must intensify our fight against crime. The deaths of two police officers within a 24-hour period this past week here in New Orleans painfully drove that point home. I want to personally offer my condolences to the families of officers Joey Thomas and Chris McCormick who died while protecting the citizens of this city. We must not let their deaths be in vain. We must not turn our backs on the Crime Bill we passed that is putting 100,000 more police officers on the streets. We must not walk away from our efforts to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. That is what the assault weapons ban is all about. And that is what the Brady Bill is doing -- 60,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have not been able to get handguns because of that legislation.

Perhaps no other group of Americans understands more the duty we owe to future generations. You risked your lives and your health for all of us. Now, we must work together to see that the freedom and opportunity you made possible is there for future generations. That is why we are fighting to strengthen Medicare. That is why we are committed to preserving our national guarantee of medical coverage for older Americans, pregnant women, low income children and people with disabilities. Last year the Republican Congress sent me legislation to repeal that guarantee. I vetoed it last year, and I will veto it again if they send it to me again.

You who have given so much to preserve freedom and opportunity for generations that followed, understand how important it is to honor the duty we now owe your children and grandchildren. That is why we think that the best tax cut is one that helps more young people go to college. I have also asked the Congress to make two years of education after high school as universal as a high school education is today by giving people a refundable tax credit worth \$1500 a year to go to any community college in America for two years. That is how we honor

our obligation to our children.

But the key to our success in the 21st century is the same as it has been throughout the 220 years of our history -- strong families. That is why I have worked hard to give people the tools to succeed at work and at home. Do we need welfare reform? Of course we do. But no one has worked harder to bring this about than me. In the last four years, we have given 40 states permission to try experiments to move people from welfare to work in a way that was tough on work, but good for children. Today 75 percent of welfare recipients are a part of these experiments. The New York Times has called our approach a "quiet revolution." And it is working. I am proud that there are 1.3 million fewer people on welfare than the day I took office. We can continue this progress and bring about real welfare reform if the Congress sends me a bill that honors work and protects children.

But we must do more. We have to raise the minimum wage. We must pass the Kennedy-Kassabaum bill

also know that we have an obligation to of we have , with Jesse Brown's help, we have tried to honor that commitment. We know that In each of my budgets, I have requested increases for VA health care and other programs. We have worked to expand benefits and improve services for women veterans, homeless veterans, former prisoners of war and veterans exposed to environmental hazards. requests, I haveassume leadership them. full of vast Your tradition of service reminds us that we all than any other organiza.a demonstration what what it means to

the freedom and prosperity You who have given so much to preserve the freedom and promise of America

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But your tradition of service extends beyond the battlefield. This is also the 50th anniversary of your involvement in the VA Voluntary Service Program. Last year, you donated more volunteer hours at VA hospitals around the country than any other organization. I also want to thank you for your recent donation of another 141 vans to VA hospitals to help transport patients. And I want to congratulate the two people you selected as volunteers of the year -- Tillman Rutledge, who has been a 20-year volunteer at the Audie Murphy VA

Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas; and Dorothy Marie Waters, who at age 82 has devoted 43 years of volunteer service at the North Chicago VA Medical Center. They are the best examples of what you stand for and what America stands for.

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One such issue -- for more than two decades -- has been the suffering our nation unintentionally caused its own troops by exposing them to Agent Orange in Vietnam. In May, I announced that Vietnam veterans with prostate cancer and peripheral neuropathy are entitled to disability payments based upon their exposure to Agent Orange. We will also propose legislation to provide an appropriate remedy for children of Vietnam veterans who suffer from spina bifida. We also fought for a law that permits the VA to pay compensation benefits, pending research results, to chronically disabled Persian Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses.

And you should also know that we are committed to making sure ours is the best-equipped, best-trained, best-prepared military in the world

But we must do more -- especially for our disabled veterans, many of whom are overcoming tremendous odds to contribute to our progress. That is why today, as we celebrate the sixth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I want to reiterate the pledge I made in 1992. Our disability policy must be based on three simple creeds: inclusion, independence and empowerment. My Administration has made vigorous enforcement of all laws protecting people with disabilities a top priority. And we will continue to do so until all the barriers against people with disabilities come down. Consistent with that commitment, my budget for 1997 proposes an increase in the resources available to enforce the ADA.

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pregnant women, low income children and people with disabilities. Last year the Republican Congress sent me legislation to repeal that guarantee. I vetoed it last year, and I will veto it again if they send it to me again.

You who have given so much to preserve freedom and opportunity for generations that followed, understand how important it is to honor the duty we now owe your children and grandchildren. That is why we think that the best tax cut is one that helps more young people go to college. I have also asked the Congress to make two years of education after high school as universal as a high school education is today by giving people a refundable tax credit worth \$1500 a year to go to any community college in America for two years. That is how we honor our obligation to our children.

But the key to our success in the 21st century is the same as it has been throughout the 220 years of our history -- strong families. I believe that people should get the help they need to succeed at work and at home. That is why I fought so hard to pass the Family and Medical Leave Law. That is why we are committed to raising the minimum wage. And that is why we are going to make sure the American people get the right kind of welfare reform. Do we need welfare reform? Of course we do. And no one has worked harder to make it a reality than me. In the last four years, we have given 40 states permission to try experiments to move people from welfare to work in a way that was tough on work, but good for children. Today 75 percent of welfare recipients are a part of these experiments. The New York Times has called our approach a "quiet revolution." And it is working. I am proud that there are 1.3 million fewer people on welfare than the day I took office. We can continue this progress and bring about real welfare reform if the Congress sends me a bill that honors work and protects children.

Finally, let me say that you who have dedicated your lives to giving are leading America's forward march into the 21st century. We need more citizens like you, who never grow weary of helping your neighbors and never give up the fight for a better future. A wise man once said, "There are those who give with joy and that joy is their reward...Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes He smiles upon the earth." [Gibran]. I know he is smiling down at you today.

Thank you and God bless you all.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 18, 1996

I am pleased to join with all Americans in celebrating the sixth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I declared when I ran for President in 1992 that America must have a national disability policy based on three simple creeds: inclusion, independence, and empowerment. We must make sure that all Americans understand it is just as wrong to discriminate against someone because of a disability as it is to discriminate against someone because of race, gender, or religion. We must make sure that all Americans understand that excluding someone from full participation in society simply because of a disability is simply wrong.

The promise of the ADA -- and all other disability rights laws -- will never be fully realized until we rise to these challenges. To do that we must first make sure that the ADA is consistently and vigilantly enforced. My Administration has made vigorous enforcement of all laws protecting people with disabilities a top priority. And we will stay this course until all barriers against individuals with disabilities come down. Consistent with this commitment, my budget for 1997 proposes a 3.9 percent increase in the resources available to enforce the ADA. We are on the path to balancing the budget in seven years; funds are tight all across the government; but this is a national priority.

As we celebrate the sixth anniversary of the ADA, we must remember that a civil rights law alone will not achieve our goal of inclusion, independence, and empowerment for people with disabilities. That is why we passed the Family and Medical Leave Act -- and why I have proposed extending it so that employees can take time off for their children's or parents' routine medical visits.

And that is why I am committed to preserving our national guarantee of Medicaid coverage for people with disabilities. For over 30 years, Medicaid has been a lifesaver for millions of Americans. The Republican Congress sent me legislation to repeal that guarantee. I vetoed it last year, and I will veto it again if they send it to me again.

And we must strengthen the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. IDEA makes it possible for students with disabilities to take full advantage of the opportunities of the new global economy and the information revolution. I know how much IDEA means to the millions of students with disabilities and to their parents, and I strongly support it. Each of us must do whatever we can to expand opportunity and demand responsibility from all of our citizens. We can't afford to waste a single person as we go forward toward the twenty-first century. You can count on this Administration to do its part, and I know I can count on Americans across our great land to do theirs.

Bill Clinton

05/30/96 10:00 AM -- about 1280 words

**GUEST EDITORIAL FOR
UNIFORMED SERVICES JOURNAL**

Last year, as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, our grateful nation paid homage to the World War II generation. From the windswept beaches of Normandy to the craggy rocks of Corregidor, meeting some of the Americans who fought in that struggle has been one of the greatest privileges I have had as President. We will never forget those who suffered and sacrificed so that future generations of Americans might be free.

America owes all our military men and women -- active duty, retired, veteran, Reserve, National Guard -- a tremendous debt. But honoring your deeds is not enough. Our peace, liberty, and prosperity are the legacy of your service. We must protect the benefits you have earned and preserve the ideals you work so hard to defend: the American dream at home and American leadership around the world.

To meet that responsibility, we must continue to strengthen our nation's Armed Forces -- and we are. As I pledged from the beginning of our Administration, ours is the best-equipped, best-trained, best-prepared military in the world. Our military readiness has never been higher. We are the only nation with the logistics, mobility, intelligence and communications to conduct large-scale, effective military operations anywhere in the world.

Whether standing down aggression in the Persian Gulf, restoring democracy in Haiti, safeguarding peace in Bosnia, or saving lives in Rwanda, our servicemen and women have proven their capability time and time again over the last three years. To maintain that high state of readiness and to keep our military strong, our funding and support must not falter.

In December 1994, I increased the Defense budget by \$25 billion over the next six years. We added nearly \$4 billion to the budget in the last two years to meet unexpected contingencies. And instead of trimming \$46 billion from defense budgets over the next six years to reflect better inflation estimates, we retained \$31 billion of that total in the defense budget so the services can buy even more capability in the future than previous budgets would have allowed.

We have also carefully structured our modernization strategy so our forces can be equipped with the next generation of military technology to meet the challenges of our time. The V-22 Osprey, the F-22 fighter, and the F/A-18 E/F fighter begin to enter production at the turn of the century. Since 1993, we have requested almost \$6 billion to develop and procure state-of-the-art theater missile defenses (TMDs) designed to shoot down short-range missiles armed with conventional, chemical, biological or nuclear warheads. We are also committed to the development and deployment of even more advanced area-defense TMDs, able to protect areas more than 10 times the size of current TMDs. And we are pledged to develop by the year 2000 a National Missile Defense (NMD) system that could be deployed as soon as 2003, should a long-range missile threat to America's shores emerge.

In order to recruit, train, and retain the high quality men and women who make our military the best in the world, we also must provide a high quality of life. We know that our people are our most precious resource. We will be there for them, as they have always been there for America.

Last year, we set aside the funds to ensure that military personnel receive the highest pay raise allowed by law through the end of the century. This unprecedented action removed the uncertainty that previous year-to-year decisions imposed on our troops. In addition, we are committed to maintain and improve the quality of life for service members and their families around the globe -- including better housing, community support, youth programs and child care.

When we call on our troops to protect America's interests, we call on their families as well. Their special sacrifice may not make the headlines -- but we could not be successful without it. We are reaching out to the families of the men and women who are helping to preserve the peace in Bosnia and elsewhere, keeping them informed and in touch with their loved ones, and helping with the things that matter the most -- like day care, health care, and paying the bills.

We also recognize another simple truth: The troops of tomorrow will only be as strong as our commitment to our veterans today. When our men and women leave the service, we must not let them down. From education to employment, from buying a home to getting quality medical care, our veterans deserve our nation's unwavering support.

We must uphold the commitment established by President Franklin Roosevelt to give veterans preference for federal jobs -- and we are. Even as we shrink the federal workforce to its lowest level since the Kennedy Administration, the percentage of permanent jobs in this government going to America's veterans has grown in the last three years. The federal government continues to lead the nation in the percentage of veterans and disabled veterans in its workforce. And we have taken steps to ensure that our citizen soldiers -- the Guard and the Reserves -- are not penalized on the job because of their service to the nation.

We must rally the resources for veterans benefits -- and we are. Even as we cut government spending, I have asked for a \$1 billion increase in funding for the VA. More than half is for medical care and other discretionary programs. Also in the request are funds for a new hospital and nursing home in Brevard County, Florida, and a replacement hospital at Travis Air Force Base in California.

We are committed to active communication with our veterans, and to bringing them in on the decisions that affect their lives. We have reached out to veterans service organizations, appointing veterans as delegates to the White House Conference on Aging and the Presidential delegation to Vietnam. Our administration established, for the very first time, an Interagency Veterans Policy Group to oversee coordination and spur progress on issues of concern to veterans and military organizations.

One such issue -- for more than two decades -- has been the suffering our nation unintentionally caused its own troops by exposing them to Agent Orange in Vietnam. In May, I announced that Vietnam veterans with prostate cancer and peripheral neuropathy

are entitled to disability payments based upon their exposure to Agent Orange. Our administration will also propose legislation to meet the needs of veterans' children afflicted with spina bifida -- the first time the offspring of American soldiers will receive benefits for combat-related health problems.

We are also determined to pursue answers and provide relief for Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses. I fought for landmark legislation to pay compensation to chronically disabled veterans with undiagnosed illnesses. And I have charged a Presidential Advisory Committee with making sure we spare no effort in the search for causes and the provision of care.

We will continue to strive to meet the special concerns of women, the disabled, and the homeless, and the precious debt we owe to veterans' families. Caring for those who served our country so heroically is not a policy option or a partisan program. It is a national tradition and a national responsibility.

Our administration is working hard to meet that responsibility every day. Time and again, America's military men and women have answered the call to duty -- not just in moments of crisis and war, but throughout our nation's history. We are grateful for all they have done for us, and we know what we owe to them. We must -- and we will -- fulfill that promise with strength and devotion of our own.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Sacramento, California)

For Immediate Release

July 23, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE COMMUNITY OF SACRAMENTO

WEAVE Counseling Center
Sacramento, California

11:45 A.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you, Gail, for that fine introduction. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for the warm welcome in more ways than one. (Laughter.) This is a beautiful Sacramento day. It's a little hot, but it's still awfully pretty. You have so many trees in this community -- a lot of you at least are under the trees, and that's good. (Applause.)

The Mayor told me Sacramento had 380,000 people and 250,000 trees, and I think that's about the right ratio. I wish every community had that many.

Let me say, Mr. Mayor, I'm delighted to be here again and to be here with you. I've enjoyed working with you especially on developing a new plan for the future of McClellan and for dealing with a lot of your other defense and base-closing issues in this community. But you blew my cover today. You pointed out that I have been here four times. This morning before we got here I was complaining to my staff that I had not come to Sacramento enough. But I still think I haven't been here enough -- I like coming here, and so I thank you. (Applause.)

Thank you, Chief Venegas, for your words and for your work and for the remarkable work that you and the others in law enforcement are doing in this community. I want to thank Congressman Fazio and Congressman Matsui. I can tell you that they are clearly among the most well-respected people in Congress in either party because they put their work where their words are. They actually try to deliver; they actually try to do something that will make a difference in the lives of people and I admire them so much. (Applause.)

I also want to thank Congressman -- I want to thank your wife, Doris Matsui, who works in the White House and has done a remarkable job for us. Thank you, Doris. (Applause.) Your Lieutenant Governor, Gray Davis, is here today; I thank him for being here. Thank you, Gray. (Applause.) Thank you, Art Torres, for being here. (Applause.)

I'd also like to thank the law enforcement officials who are here -- the Central Sierra Chiefs, the Sacramento Law Enforcement and Community Chaplains, the people involved in the Safe Streets effort. And there are more than 40 Sacramento neighborhood associations represented here, people who are making this a safer and better place to live. (Applause.)

Most of all I want to tell you that I'm honored to be here today, to thank Gail Jones and the people at WEAVE, and all of you who work to fight against domestic violence. As a father, as a husband, as someone who knows personally something about this issue, I want to join with families throughout California and our nation in pledging to do all that I can to stop violence against women and innocent children. (Applause.)

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No child should ever have to grow up in home where a gun is fired, a knife is flashed, a hand is raised in anger. And we have to work to do something about this. (Applause.)

If I might, I'd like to explain to you how this issue of domestic violence, which is a very big one for me and for Hillary, plays into my larger view of what we should be doing as a country. When I was a governor and when we had more private time, Hillary and I spent a lot of time, especially around holidays, in shelters run by friends of ours in Little Rock with women and with children, talking to them, encouraging them, asking them about their circumstances, getting them to look to the future and trying to support in whatever we could the activities of the wonderful people who are engaged in that work in our home town.

But this is a very important part of what I think we should be doing as a country. When I became President I did so with a simple, clear vision of how I wanted our country to look as we move into the next century, which is only four years away. There are three things I want for America. I want the American Dream to be alive for every single man and woman and boy and girl who is willing to work for it, no matter what their race, their background, their income, their gender, their condition of disability. (Applause.)

I want this country to continue to be the light of the world and the leader of the world for peace and freedom and security and prosperity, in a new era in which the Cold War is fading away, but we still have to deal with things like terrorism and ethnic, religious and racial hatreds crossing national lines, the proliferation of weapons, the proliferation of drug dealing and organized crime. This country needs to be fighting that fight around the world to keep it better here at home for our people. (Applause.)

And finally, as you look around this crowd today and you see a picture of America, I want our country to go into the next century strengthened by our diversity, not weakened by it. I want us to be coming together, not drifting apart. (Applause.)

To achieve that vision, we all need to do what we can to create more opportunity for all of our people, to demand more responsibility from all of our people, and to create a real community in America where we know we're going forward together, we're going up or down together, we're determined to make the most of this together. For me, that means giving people the tools to make the most of their own lives and to build strong families. It means asking people to assume responsibility not just for themselves, but for their families, their neighborhoods, their communities and their country. It means reforming government to make it smaller and less bureaucratic and less burdensome, but also to make sure it is strong enough to fulfill the responsibilities that we have to meet together -- things like keeping a clean environment, making sure the water and food we use are safe, making sure our young people have the educational opportunities they need, building a strong economy and making our streets safe. (Applause.)

Today we're talking about strengthening our families. One of the most important things we can do is to reform our welfare system to make it possible for people to move to independence so they can support their children and so they can raise them well. But I think it's important that we ask and answer this question in the midst of this great welfare debate. What is it that we want for poor children and poor families in America? I think what we want is what we want for middle-class families and for wealthy families. We want people to be able to succeed at work and at home, and we don't want to have to choose one or the other. (Applause.)

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In the last four years, we've given 40 states permission to try experiments to move people from welfare to work in a way that was tough on work, but good for children. There are now 1.3 million fewer people on welfare than there were the day I took office. And child support collections have gone up 40 percent, as we get people to support their children. (Applause.)

Do we need welfare reform legislation? We do. We do because states shouldn't have to get approval every time they want to try an experiment. We do because we need to do more to strengthen child support collection across state lines. If everybody paid the child support they owe we would move 800,000 women and children off welfare tomorrow morning -- if everybody paid that. (Applause.)

On the other hand, we want a bill that actually is welfare reform. You can put wings on a pig, but you don't make it an eagle. (Laughter.) We want real welfare reform. The Olympics are going on -- I like to jog, but I couldn't make it in the 100-meter dash. We want real welfare reform.

Today the Senate, I want you to know, took some major steps to improve the bill going through Congress. It significantly increases support for the nutritional and the health care needs of young children who happen to be on welfare. And that's encouraging. (Applause.) If we can keep this progress up, if we can make it bipartisan, then we can have a real welfare reform bill that honors work and protects children coming to the White House for my signature. We can reduce the welfare rolls more and we can achieve for poor families what we want for all families -- having people succeed at home and at work. That is my goal, and that is what I want America's goal to be. (Applause.)

The first thing we have to do if we want families to succeed is to create an economy in which there is opportunity, in which people can find jobs. We changed the economic strategy of America in 1993. After quadrupling the debt for 12 years, we had a lot of debt, a huge annual deficit, and the slowest job growth since the Great Depression. We said we'd cut the deficit in half, expand trade in American products and do more to invest in our people, in technology, in research, in environmental protection, in things that will create the jobs of tomorrow.

And after four years we now have a deficit that is 60 percent lower than it was when I took office, the deficit going down. (Applause.) You need to know that the government's deficit is going to go down four years in a row under one administration for the first time since the 1840s. And I'm proud of that. (Applause.)

And that economy with lower interest rates has produced over 10 million new jobs, 3.7 million new home owners, the fastest rate of home ownership growth in 30 years and the lowest rates of unemployment and inflation in 27 years. We are moving the economy in the right direction. (Applause.)

California has its lowest unemployment rate in five years. And for the first time in a decade, the average wages of working people are finally beginning to go up instead of to be stagnant. We are moving it in the right direction. (Applause.)

This is not a record to reverse, but not a record to rest on, either. We have to do more, and the previous speakers alluded to some things. We ought to pass that health care reform bill that says you don't lose your health insurance when you change jobs or somebody in your family gets sick. (Applause.) We ought to make it easier for people who work in small businesses or people who are self-employed to start saving through a pension plan that they can keep even when they lose their jobs, and they can keep throughout a lifetime, that will be secure. (Applause.) We ought to raise the minimum wage. It's

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going to be at a 40-year low if we don't do it, and we're working on it.
(Applause.)

The best tax cut of all we could give is to give people a tax deduction for the cost of college tuition for their children or themselves. (Applause.) And on top of that, I have asked the Congress to make two years of education after high school as universal as a high school education is today by giving people a refundable tax credit worth \$1,500 a year to go to any community college in America for two years. That's what we ought to do. (Applause.)

To try to help people succeed at home and work, the first bill I signed was the Family and Medical Leave law, which says you don't lose your job if you take 12 weeks off when there's a baby born or a sick parent in your home, you have a genuine emergency. (Applause.) Twelve -- listen to this -- 12 million Americans have used the family leave law in the last three years, and every study shows there has been no significant damage to American business. We are creating jobs at a rapid rate, not losing them. It is good for the business community to take care of the families of working people. It is the right thing to do, and it is good. (Applause.)

We tried to help families raise their children by challenging the entertainment community to come up with a ratings program for children's television and a V-chip on new televisions so people can control the access of their young children to programs with excessive violence or other inappropriate material. And we're doing our best and I hope we win to stop the advertising of tobacco products to children and the sales and distribution to them. That is wrong and not right. (Applause.)

But as the Chief said a moment ago, all the economic opportunity in the world doesn't amount to much if people aren't safe in their homes, on their streets, if our children aren't safe in their schools. We have worked very hard to help communities fight crime. We did pass a bill in 1994 to create 100,000 more police officers on the street. Forty-four thousand of those police officers have already been funded. We are ahead of schedule and under budget on that. California has gotten over 6,000 of those new officers. We have awarded Sacramento County \$12.5 million to hire or redeploy 191 new officers -- 56 of them are already patrolling the streets of Sacramento. That is a good thing for the United States. (Applause.) And in California and in Sacramento, the serious crime is coming down, not going up, for a change. We need to keep doing that.

Mr. Matsui mentioned the Brady Law. When that passed, a lot of people said we were going to take their guns away. There's not a single hunter in California or my home state or anyplace else who's lost a hunting rifle because of the Brady Bill and the assault weapons ban. But I'll tell you who has lost out -- 60,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have not been able to get handguns because of the Brady Bill. It was the right thing to do. (Applause.)

We have more to do, more to do in our schools. In the last few weeks I've been in Long Beach, California; yesterday I was in Monrovia, California, to celebrate California communities that are using things like school uniforms, tougher enforcement of truancy laws, curfews, things designed to reduce school drop-out, to reduce juvenile violence. There is a lot more to do, but we can move in the right direction if we do this as a community. The most important thing the Chief might have said is that you've got people in your community working with the police officers to try to prevent crime before it happens and catch criminals when it does. That is the most important thing. I want to encourage you to stay with it. (Applause.)

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We will never be fully successful until we deal with this issue of domestic violence and treat it as a public, not just a private, issue. It is a terrible, terrible problem. There's no such thing as a perfect family -- we all know that. But there's a lot of difference in a family with a few problems and a family that is terrorized by violence. This is not a women's issue; this is an American issue. And every man in America ought to be just as concerned about it. (Applause.)

We passed the Violence Against Women Act. We set up a program to provide funds to help communities train police officers who would be specially equipped to do this. One of the most impressive Americans I have met since I have been President is a young police officer in Nashville, Tennessee, who grew up in a family of five or six children that was ripped apart by domestic violence. He is devoting his entire life to strengthening the ability of his police department and police departments around the country to deal with domestic violence. And the murder rate from domestic violence in his community has dropped by 50 percent since he started doing his work. That is what we need everywhere in America, people like that who care about that issue. (Applause.)

The WEAVE Center here gets help under this program, and soon California will receive \$11.5 million in grants to community groups to help fight domestic violence. Our program on police and community policing has recently awarded \$300,000 to the city police department and the county sheriff's department to help train police officers here to do more to fight domestic violence.

We've also launched a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week toll-free hotline so people in trouble could find out how to get emergency help, find shelter or report abuse to authorities. Listen to this -- in just five months this hotline has become a lifeline to thousands of women who had nowhere else to turn. It has answered more than 35,000 calls -- a national hotline on domestic abuse. And I never miss an opportunity to give you the number. It's 1-800-799-SAFE. I want more people to call that hotline. It's saving lives and I'm proud of it. (Applause.)

To give you an idea of what a big problem this is. Listen to this. The National Legal Services Corporation, present in most communities in our country, says that one in every three cases they handle is a family law case -- one in three. In 1995, 59,000 of them were attempts by poor women to get legal protection from abusive husbands; 9,300 of them involved neglected and abused children. If we want to protect people against domestic violence we must not destroy the Legal Services Corporation, we ought to let them do their jobs so they can help the rest of us protect people. (Applause.)

We have to do more to hear the cries for help, as well. And Gail mentioned this. We cannot do what we need to do on the issue of domestic violence unless we do something about the stunning fact that the 911 emergency number system today is completely overburdened. Today it is groaning under the weights of hundreds of thousands of calls a year. Victims of domestic abuse, victims of all violent crime are having a harder and harder time getting through. Sometimes they have to wait up to 30 minutes for the phone to be answered. That can be way too long. Sometimes they never get through at all. Last year in Los Angeles, 325,000 calls were abandoned before the operator could answer. Who knows how many of them involved life-threatening emergencies.

The reason for the problem is simple and straightforward. Today most calls to 911 are important and serious, but they're not emergencies. They should be handled elsewhere. In some areas, 90 percent of all the calls to 911 are not emergencies. Callers may have a legitimate reason to reach the police, but their calls don't involve crimes in progress or

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life-threatening situations that need immediate action through 911. It just is the only number they know and so, they call it.

So I have asked the Attorney General to work with the Federal Communications Commission, our nation's law enforcement leaders and the telecommunications industry to relieve the burden on 911 by establishing a new number like 911 for non-emergency telephone calls to the police. (Applause.) I asked the telephone companies to help us meet this challenge to make it happen. People ought to be able to get in touch with law enforcement easily in any situation, but we have to make sure that emergency situations get the special attention they need. Citizens will also have to do their part. They'll have to learn this new numbers, and they'll have to be responsible. They'll have to use 911 when there is an emergency so they don't keep other emergencies from being addressed.

We need a new national community policing number that's just as simple and easy to remember as 911, so that if you have a tip for the police, if you see a suspicious activity, if a car alarm is going off, you will still be able to call a community policing number. But if you have a real emergency, like domestic violence, you can call 911 and this time, your call will go through. (Applause.)

Let me say finally that none of these measures will substitute for people like you supporting programs like WEAVE. And if you're lucky enough not to have ever faced this sort of problem, then you'll just have to do it out of the goodness of your heart. But that's what in the end will save our country and enable us to go into the next century as the strongest and best country in the world -- the goodness of our collective heart.

When Hillary and Chelsea and I went down to open the Olympics, I had the opportunity to speak to the American team. And I looked at them and I realized just looking at them -- great looking people -- that if they were not in that room with me, identified as the American team, if they were just out there in the Olympic Village wandering around, you could look at them and you wouldn't have any earthly idea where they're from. They could look like they're representing a Latin American country, a Caribbean country, a Middle Eastern country, an Asian country, an African country, a Nordic country. Why? Because this is not a country defined by our race, this is a country defined by our values -- by the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the belief in the dignity of all people. (Applause.)

And what we in government should be doing is empowering you to make the most of your own lives, to meet your challenges, to protect your values. I see some hats out here of some of our young people who are involved in the AmeriCorps program. And I just want to say to you that, to me, more than any other single thing our administration has done, that symbolizes what kind of America we're trying to build.

All kinds of folks can be in AmeriCorps. They may come from poor families, they may come from wealthy families. They're mostly someplace in between. They get some credit -- some money to pay for their college education by devoting a year or two of their lives to helping other people meet the challenges of their lives -- meeting our common responsibilities. That's what WEAVE does. That's what Sacramento is doing. And if America does it, nothing can keep our best days from lying in the future.

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

END

12:10 P.M. PDT

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within weeks. The NTSB has no rule-making power, but more than 80 percent of its safety proposals are enacted.

Airport security experts applauded Clinton's move, saying that random searches of baggage could be a powerful deterrent to a would-be terrorist. "It certainly is something that could be implemented literally tomorrow," said Michael Cherkasky, managing director of Kroll Associates, an international security company that has done studies on airport security.

Airline industry analysts said the added measures will be labor intensive, expensive and could add significantly to flight delays, particularly at this time of year. "He's making this announcement at the peak of the summer season, when the carriers traditionally are full," said David Stamey, vice president of Avitas Aviation, a Reston, Va.-based consulting company.

Increased security measures also could reduce the amount of time each airplane is in the air, Stamey said, cutting revenues in relation to the fixed costs of purchasing or leasing planes.

United Airlines, the nation's largest carrier, conceded that the new measures would add to its costs but offered no dollar estimates. "It's likely we'll face increased manpower demands due to these safety initiatives," said spokesman Richard Martin in Chicago.

(Optional add end)

Sen. Larry Pressler, R-S.D., while applauding the effort, said Clinton's initiatives were long overdue.

"The administration has just vanished on airport security funding until today," Pressler said at a news conference at which he called for several billion dollars for new monitoring devices in airports and renewed funding of the Aviation Trust Fund, used for air traffic control. He said Congress has been lax on deadlines for tighter security required by the 1990 Airport Security Act.

"Unfortunately, at the airport you're going to have to wait longer and pay more," Pressler said. "That's the bad news. But we cannot allow our airports to be targets for terrorists."

Steve Loucks, a spokesman for the American Society of Travel Agents, said he believes most Americans want improved security and are willing, for the moment, to pay its costs and suffer its inconveniences. But, he said, public patience with higher fares and travel delays could wear thin as the memory of the TWA tragedy fades assuming there isn't a repeat.

"Unfortunately," he said, "the public's collective memory is relatively short."

TWA Recorder Has Sudden Noise Before Silence (East Moriches, N.Y.)By Liam Plevin= (c) 1996, Newsday=

EAST MORICHES, N.Y. An audiotape of noises in the cockpit of TWA Flight 800 recorded "a brief, fraction-of-a-second sound" just before it was silenced some time before the plane plunged into the Atlantic Ocean nine days ago, investigators said Thursday.

The revelation about the tape discovered by the divers late Wednesday which investigators will compare to a sudden noise that was attributed to the bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103 seven years ago came as President Clinton visited with families of victims at the airport from which the plane departed shortly before the explosion.

Federal officials who are investigating the cause of the explosion also said that 12 more bodies were retrieved from the wreckage and brought to shore Thursday, bringing to 126 the number of corpses that have been recovered, 111 of which have been positively identified by the Suffolk County medical examiner.

Yet the attention of investigators concentrated on the cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder, the so-called black boxes recovered just before midnight Wednesday, and what they might reveal about the cause of the crash.

Clinton and the investigators urged people not to jump to conclusions about what blew the plane from the sky and to continue considering both sabotage and mechanical failure as possibilities.

But experts said the sudden noise at the end of the cockpit voice recorder could tip the scale toward a bomb

or a missile.

"There's still a narrow window of opportunity for this to be a catastrophic failure of the fuselage, but it's a damn small possibility," said one National Transportation Safety Board official.

Even James Kallstrom, the head of the FBI's New York office and a lead investigator, appeared to lean toward the sabotage theory, even as he left all possibilities open during a news conference Thursday.

"We haven't discounted any theories, actually," said Kallstrom. "We're still here. We know there was a catastrophic explosion. It's caused by some sort of a bomb, obviously. We're not further describing how that, where that would be, whether it was carried on or something hit the plane from outside and caused it to explode. Or a mechanical problem that has nothing to do with terrorism or criminality."

The tape from the cockpit voice recorder was in good condition, said Robert Francis of the NTSB, who is heading the investigation. It contained 31 minutes of sound that made it appear as if everything about Flight 800's takeoff from John F. Kennedy Airport was routine.

But about 11&1/2 minutes after the plane lifted into the sky headed for Paris, Francis said, the recording ended abruptly. "All four (cockpit voice recorder) channels recorded a brief, fraction-of-a-second sound just prior to the end of the tape," Francis said, which could suggest the pilots had no warning of equipment problems.

Francis said federal experts in Washington are analyzing the sound, which people familiar with the process said will involve creating a computerized image of the noise that will be compared with other sound images.

"Every sound has its own signature," said Barry Trotter, a former NTSB senior investigator. "What they do is enhance the signal, slow it down, spread it out and put it on a computer screen."

Trotter, who led the investigation into the 1990 crash of an Avianca airliner in Cove Neck, N.Y., said the NTSB has a "library of sounds" from prior crashes including the brief and sudden explosion that investigators later identified as the bomb they ultimately blamed for downing Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988. Trotter said it would be impossible for the human ear to distinguish between a bomb blast and a fuel explosion but that they would appear very different as computer images.

"A bomb would have a very sharp jump up, it would have a steeper spike, as opposed to a fuel explosion which would have more of a slope to it," he said.

The flight data recorder was damaged by the impact, and Francis said that damage could complicate efforts to find out how the plane was performing just before the explosion including whether the plane was climbing or descending, how fast it was accelerating and how the engines were functioning.

(Optional add end)

Federal officials, recently stung by criticism of the pace of recovering bodies, also announced they are focusing almost exclusively on finding the remaining 104 people who were on the plane, some of which may be trapped in a mass of debris on the ocean floor about 10 miles off the coast of Long Island.

"We are going to try to get as many of the victims as we possibly can," said Francis. "If we have to move wreckage to do it, then we'll do that."

The decision was apparently made in an effort to help ease the concerns of families who have been waiting to bury their relatives. Many of those families met privately Thursday with Clinton, who arrived at JFK Airport in the morning and, after a briefing on the investigation, went to the Ramada Plaza, a hotel near the airport where many families have been cloistered since soon after they received news of the crash.

"I don't think he was there for the substance as much as just the presence of the president of the United States," said Richard Penzer, whose sister, Judy, was killed in the crash. "He was very reassuring as a human being."

DRAFT

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REBUILDING OF SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
FRUITLAND, TENNESSEE
AUGUST 19, 1996

Acknowledgments: Rev. Daniel Donaldson, for introduction...

Before I make my remarks I would like to present Rev. Donaldson and Rev. Bill Vaughan, the minister of New Shiloh United Methodist Church, with a plaque for your rebuilt churches that reads as follows: "We must come together as one America to rebuild our churches, restore hope, and show the forces of hatred they cannot win."

This is the best birthday gift I could have imagined. As your President, and as a fellow citizen of this great country, I am proud to stand with family and friends to help in the resurrection of Salem Baptist Church. I just came from a tour of the New Shiloh United Methodist Church which is also rebuilding in the aftermath of an arson fire. Both of the congregations of these churches are being assisted in their rebuilding efforts by a remarkable outpouring of support from people of all faiths and races within this community and across the nation. What you are doing together in rebuilding these churches, shows what we can achieve when we seize opportunity...take responsibility...and come together as a community to do what is right and good. It also shows us the power of faith and love. I am reminded of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, who once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence...in a descending spiral of destruction."

Your light and your love have raised the toppled walls of this church, and fortified the spirit of America. By your working together, you are not only rebuilding churches, you are mending divisions and upholding the founding principles of our democracy -- equality and religious freedom for all. You are showing us the way we must meet every challenge of the new century -- pulling together as an American community, strengthened by our diversity, united by our values.

Government must do its part. And I am pleased that last week, we obtained guilty pleas from two former Ku Klux Klan members in connection with the burning of churches in South Carolina. We also indicted two other Klansmen as co-conspirators in that and other attacks. We will spare no effort to catch and prosecute all those who are responsible for these crimes. But we know that in the end our success depends on people like you banding together to face down evil and build up hope.

As we gather here today, let us be mindful of our many blessings as Americans. We are the freest, most prosperous country on earth. And we are standing on the brink of a new century that promises to open the door to the American Dream to even more of our citizens. But Americans have always heeded the scripture which teaches us that, "Much is required from those to whom much is given..." Thank you for showing us, once again, the meaning of those words. And thank you for allowing us to join you in living them here today. Thank you. Now, let's go to work.

to make learning come to life. My Administration is doing its part. We have proposed a five-year, \$2 billion fund to support local grassroots efforts to put the future at the fingertips of every child. In the Telecommunications Act I signed, we made sure that schools and hospitals in isolated rural and inner city areas would get first crack at being hooked up to the Internet. In April, I signed an executive order making it much easier to get computers no longer needed by the federal government into America's classrooms. And in May of this year, I was pleased to announce at a White House ceremony that a consortium of national parent, teacher, and school board organizations had stepped up to meet our challenge by pledging to mobilize 100,000 teachers to teach 500,000 other teachers how to teach using computers, software and networks.

But we know that the key to meeting our nation's technology literacy challenge lies with the kind of public-private partnership that drives the work you are doing here. The Challenge 2000 initiative, that is supported by the Joint Venture Silicon Valley Initiative and my Administration, is not just about technology. ^{In addition to preparing} ~~In addition to preparing~~ Silicon Valley ^{preparing} ~~preparing~~ students for the high-tech jobs of the future. ~~You are redesigning curricula and creating learning environments that closely mirror the workplace of the 21st century. That means learning that is not confined to the four walls of a classroom. It means organizing students into learning teams. And it means more emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving.~~

^{That there are other} ~~This has led to some truly innovative learning projects.~~ ^{That's part of it} In the Blossom Valley Learning Consortium, upper grade students have worked with lower grade students to jointly create and publish books. Profits from the sale of these books were donated to a charity helping the homeless. In the Overfelt Familia schools, math teachers from K-12 meeting for the first time, revised the entire curriculum when they discovered that only 30 percent of the material taught from grade to grade was new. And right here in the San Jose School District, the River Alliance has created partnerships with the city and the Children's Discovery Museum that will allow students to collect and analyze data on ecosystems in the nearby Guadalupe River. I understand that a year ago, when the Overfelt Familia was developing its proposal, one of the students had to hand deliver papers and reports because none of the schools had phones, E-mail or faxes. Today, every school in that team is connected to the Internet.

We must continue that kind of progress. It is making a difference -- not only here in Silicon Valley, but all across this state. I want to thank all the companies here today who have contributed their time, money and expertise to make Challenge 2000 and all the other partnerships across California a success. I have seen for myself how these partnerships can lift schools and students to new heights.

Last February, I visited a school in the Union City, New Jersey School District which was so bad it was about to be closed under the State's school bankruptcy law. There were a lot of first generation immigrants in that school who desperately needed a quality education. Bell Atlantic went in and put computers in all the classrooms and in the homes of a lot of the parents. Parents were able to E-mail their childrens' teachers and learning was taking place

³ For example ^{San Jose State} ~~San Jose State~~ " ^{University College of Engineering} ~~University College of Engineering~~ runs Saturday ^{Academy} ~~Academy~~ to ^{train} ~~train~~ its students for ^{adv} ~~adv~~ engineers ^{in the high tech industry} ~~in the high tech industry~~

in a new and exciting way. The results have been astounding. The dropout rate is now below the state average and test scores are above the average. I believe you are beginning to see the same thing happen here.

Make no mistake: what we are doing is the equivalent of going into a dusty adobe settlement in early 19th century California and giving every child a slate and a piece of chalk to write with. It is akin to walking into a rough-hewn classroom in the Sierras of the 1860s and wiring it for electricity for the first time. It is like going to the Central Valley in the 1930s to the canvas classrooms of the Dust Bowl refugees and giving every child a book. Chalk boards. Electricity. Accessible books. There was a time -- believe it or not, when all these were rare. Now we take them for granted.

We need more communities to do what you are doing -- businesses, government, teachers, parents and students all joining together to make excellence and technology a reality in every school. If we stay the course, we will produce a generation of American students that are ready and willing to lead America into the high-tech future of the 21st century.

Thank you and God bless you all.

DRAFT

Comments from Kelif

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
CHALLENGE 2000 --
JOHN MUIR MIDDLE SCHOOL
SAN JOSE, CA
AUGUST 7, 1996**

96 AUG 6 PM 1:10

Education

Acknowledgments: David Auberle [AH-BER-LEE], student for introduction; Glen Toney, Chairman of the Joint Venture Silicon Valley 21st Century Initiative; Mike Carr, principal; Larry Kubo, parent; Carol Summers, teacher; Lt. Governor Gray Davis; Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren.

First of all, I want to thank all the students here who interrupted their summer vacations to be with us today. Your presence is a sign that the young people of America do care about their futures and their communities. It is our job, as adults, to nurture that caring... to provide educational and economic opportunity for all our children...and to demand that they take personal responsibility for making the most of their God-given abilities. We can not guarantee that every child will succeed. But we can do everything in our power to create clear pathways to success. The way we will do that is the way you are doing it here -- through partnerships with business, educators and the community, all united behind the common goal of making sure the students of today are equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

A strong and growing economy is the essential first step along the pathway to a successful future for our young people. There must be opportunity at the end of the road to make our investment in education count. Last week, we learned that there is indeed growing opportunity for all those who are willing to work for it in America. In fact, our economy grew at a robust 4.2 percent in the last quarter and we produced nearly 200,000 more new jobs in July. This is good news for the American people and further proof that our economic strategy is working.

But this did not happen by accident. Four years ago today, the economy was drifting, unemployment was nearly eight percent, job growth was weak, the deficit was at an all-time high, and great American industries were falling behind. For the last three-and-a-half years, we have had in place a comprehensive plan to cut the deficit, shrink the size of government, expand exports and invest in the skills of our people. That strategy is paying off in a big way. Just look what we have achieved together: American industry is on the rebound. We have 900,000 new construction jobs. Once again we lead the world in autos and semiconductors. 4.4 million people have become new home owners; and 10 million Americans have refinanced their existing home loans to get lower mortgage rates.

We now have a record number of women-owned businesses. Exports are at an all-time high. The deficit has been cut by more than half so that it is the smallest since 1981. We have produced 10 million new jobs -- more than 600,000 right here in California. And real wages, which had fallen for a decade, are on the rise again. Thanks to the hard work of

employees and businesses throughout our country, we now have what I like to call our economic dream team: Strong growth. Low inflation. New jobs. Higher wages. This is a gold medal line up and the strongest American economy in a generation.

Clearly, this is a record to build on, not to rest on. Now we must press forward, not only to keep the economy growing, but also to make sure that every American has the skills, the training and the education to take advantage of the vast new opportunities that our vibrant economy is opening up. That is what I want to talk with you about today.

This is a time of dramatic transformation in the United States. The dimensions of economic change are the greatest they have been since we moved from farm to factory and from rural areas to cities and towns 100 years ago. In his book, "The Road Ahead," Bill Gates says that the micro chip is the greatest advancement in communications in 500 years, since Gutenberg printed the first Bible in Europe. We are also moving at a rapid rate toward a new century and a more global economy. We are moving away from the Industrial Age into the Information and Technology Age. And we are moving into a time when most people will be working with their minds far more than their hands. In the midst of all these dramatic changes, it is obvious that education, which has always been central to the development of good citizens in America, is now more important than ever before.

It is also obvious, by the motto of the San Jose School District that you understand something I have been aware of for many years. Quality education begins with the understanding that "All Students can learn...All students can succeed." The key to fulfilling that motto is high standards and high expectations. When parents and educators and the community believe in young people, they will believe in themselves. That is what makes this school work and it is the common ingredient I have seen in all the schools that work.

The other common ingredient in successful schools and quality education is community involvement. More and more communities are coming to realize that we all have a stake in preparing our students to be good workers and good citizens. And no where is this more evident than in the growing movement to make every student and teacher in America technologically literate -- and to equip their schools with the hardware and software to make this a reality.

Last September, at the Exploratorium in San Francisco, I challenged California's high-tech companies to join forces with schools, students and citizens to see to it that 20 percent of the classrooms in this state were connected to the Information Superhighway by the end of the school year. I know that some of you were already moving in that direction. But the Vice President and I were pleased to join 20,000 California citizens March 9th on NetDay to help you meet that challenge. Now we are well on our way to fulfilling our broader goal of making sure that every classroom in America has access to the Internet by the dawn of the new century.

But this is not just about putting computers in classrooms. We must have teachers

who can work with students to make the most of them. We must have the right software to make learning come to life. And we have to make sure that our schools and communities are doing everything possible to prepare our students to step into the high-tech, high-wage, high-skill jobs of the future -- like those that are being created right here in Silicon Valley.

My Administration is doing its part. We have ^{all} proposed a five-year, \$2 billion fund to support local grassroots efforts to put the future at ^{liberates} the fingertips of every child. In the Telecommunications Act I signed, we made sure that schools and ~~hospitals in isolated rural and inner-city areas would get first crack at being hooked up to the Internet.~~ In April, I signed an executive order making it much easier to get computers no longer needed by the federal government into America's classrooms. And in May of this year, I was pleased to announce at a White House ceremony that a consortium of national parent, teacher, and school board organizations had stepped up to meet our challenge by pledging to mobilize 100,000 teachers to teach 500,000 other teachers how to teach using computers, software and networks.

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But we know that the key to meeting our nation's technology literacy challenge lies with the kind of public-private partnership that drives the work you are doing here. The Challenge 2000 initiative and other public-private partnerships like it throughout California are not just about technology. They are about Silicon Valley preparing Silicon Valley students for the high-tech jobs of the future. You are redesigning curricula and creating learning environments that closely mirror the workplace of the 21st century. That means organizing students into learning teams. It means more emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving. And it means learning that is not confined to the four walls of a classroom.

This has led to some truly innovative learning projects. For example, San Jose State University's College of Engineering runs Saturday academies to begin training high school students for advanced engineering jobs in the high tech industry. In the Palo Alto School District, Challenge 2000 has helped put high-end, multi-media computers ~~into~~ their two high schools, ~~where~~ students and teachers have created their own web site. In the Blossom Valley Learning Consortium, upper grade students have worked with lower grade students to jointly create and publish books. Profits from the sale of these books were donated to a charity helping the homeless. And right here in the San Jose School District, IBM has invested \$2 million dollars for the development of a new curriculum that will give teachers the computer training they need to teach their students. I understand that a year ago, when the Overfelt Familia was developing its Challenge 2000 proposal, one of the teachers had to hand deliver papers and reports because none of the schools had voice mail, E-mail or faxes. Today, every school in that team is connected to the Internet.

We must continue that kind of progress. It is making a difference -- not only here in Silicon Valley, but all across this state. I want to thank all the companies here today who have contributed their time, money and expertise to make Challenge 2000 and all the other partnerships across California so successful. I have seen for myself how these partnerships

can lift schools and students to new heights.

Last February, I visited a school in the Union City, New Jersey School District which was so bad it was about to be closed under the State's school bankruptcy law. There were a lot of first generation immigrants in that school who desperately needed a quality education. Bell Atlantic went in and put computers in all the classrooms and in the homes of a lot of the parents. Parents were able to E-mail their childrens' teachers and learning was taking place in a new and exciting way. The results have been astounding. The dropout rate is now below the state average and test scores are above the average. I believe you are beginning to see the same thing happen here.

Make no mistake: what we are doing is the equivalent of going into a dusty adobe settlement in early 19th century California and giving every child a slate and a piece of chalk to write with. It is akin to walking into a rough-hewn classroom in the Sierras of the 1860s and wiring it for electricity for the first time. It is like going to the Central Valley in the 1930s to the canvas classrooms of the Dust Bowl refugees and giving every child a book. Chalk boards. Electricity. Accessible books. There was a time -- believe it or not, when all these were rare. Now we take them for granted.

We need more communities to do what you are doing -- businesses, government, teachers, parents and students all joining together to make excellence and technology a reality in every classroom. If we stay the course, we will produce a generation of American students that are ready and willing to lead America into the high-tech future of the 21st century.

Thank you and God bless you all.

DRAFT

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
JOINT VENTURE SILICON VALLEY 21st CENTURY EDUCATION INITIATIVE
JOHN MUIR MIDDLE SCHOOL

SAN JOSE, CA
AUGUST 7, 1996

David Auberle

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Others programs like this Summit CA

But we know that the key to meeting our nation's technology literacy challenge lies with the kind of public-private partnership that drives the work you are doing here. The ~~Joint Venture Silicon Valley 21st Century Initiative~~ is not just about technology. In addition to preparing Silicon Valley students to use information and communications technology, you are redesigning curricula and creating learning environments that closely mirror the work ^{place} ~~environment~~ of the 21st century. That means learning that is not confined to the four walls of a classroom. It means organizing students into ~~self-directed~~ learning teams. And it means more emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving.

challenge 2000 that JVS and my Adm is supporting

This has led to some truly innovative learning projects. In the Blossom Valley Learning Consortium, upper grade students have worked with lower grade students to jointly create and publish books. Profits from the sale of these books were donated to a charity helping the homeless. In the Overfelt Familia ^{Schools} math teachers from K-12 meeting for the first time, revised the entire curriculum when they discovered that only 30 percent of the material taught from grade to grade was new. And right here in the San Jose School District, the River Alliance has created partnerships with the city and the Children's Discovery Museum to allow students to collect and analyze data on ecosystems in the nearby Guadalupe River. I understand that a year ago, when the Overfelt Familia was developing its proposal, ^{the students} ~~one of the students~~ had to hand deliver papers and reports because none of the schools had phones, E-mail, or faxes. Today, every school in that ~~district~~ ^{team} is connected to the Internet.

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Teachers across this state we know that we need to get all the companies who have participated in the challenge & other business to the money resources time

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Thank you and God bless you all.

MAKING CALIFORNIA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

America Is Moving In the Right Direction Under President Clinton

- **Stronger Economy.** The combined rate of unemployment and inflation is at its lowest level since 1968.
- **10.2 Million New Jobs.** The economy has created more than 10.2 million new jobs under President Clinton. Private sector job growth rate nearly 8 times greater than during previous Administration.
- **Renewed Growth in Key Industries.** After a decade of enormous job losses in construction, manufacturing, and autos, these industries have made a remarkable recovery -- more than one million new jobs combined under President Clinton.
- **Deficit Cut in Half.** The President's economic plan will cut the deficit for four years in a row for the first time since Harry Truman was President -- the largest reduction in history.
- **Keeping Guns Away from Criminals.** More than 60,000 fugitives and felons blocked from buying handguns because President Clinton fought to pass the Brady Bill.
- **Safer Communities.** The crime rate is down. violent crime fell 4 percent in 1995 -- the largest decline in more than a decade, and the number of murders decreased 8 percent -- one of the largest drops in three decades.
- **Stronger Families.** Teen pregnancy is falling, the poverty rate is decreasing, and the number of people on welfare is declining.

California Is Moving In The Right Direction Under President Clinton

- **Unemployment Rate in California Has Dropped from 9.7% to 7.1%.**
- **616,400 New Jobs Added in 41 Months -- After 57,900 Lost During the Previous 4 Years.**
- **Consumer Confidence is Up 54%, After Falling During the Previous Administration.**
- **Crime Is Down.** In *Los Angeles*, the number of robberies reported fell by 5% in 1995. In *San Diego*, the reported number of crimes dropped by 16% in 1995. And in *San Francisco*, the number of burglaries was down 12 percent in 1995.
- **\$15,000 of Reduced Federal Debt for Every Family of Four in California.** The President's economic plan is reducing the federal debt for each family of four by about \$15,000.
- **2,146,915 Working Families Receive a Tax Cut.** The President's expanded Earned Income Tax Credit is helping 2,146,915 working families make ends meet.
- **6,126 New Police Officers in California.** The President's Crime Bill puts 6,126 new police officers on the street, strengthens drug courts helping keep adult and juvenile offenders from cycling through the legal system, and helps protect women and children from domestic violence and sexual offenders.
- **298,000 Workers Protected by Family and Medical Leave.** The Family and Medical Leave Act allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth of a child or to care for a sick family member. This law covers about 297,914 workers in California.

ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN CALIFORNIA UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON

President Clinton's strategy to strengthen the economy is based on reducing the federal budget deficit, lowering trade barriers, and empowering workers, families, businesses and communities to succeed. Here are some of the results for the nation and California after the first 41 months of the Clinton Administration:

Improved Economic and Fiscal Conditions in the United States:

- Under the Clinton Economic Plan, the deficit will be lowered by more than \$1 trillion over 7 years -- the deficit will be cut for four years in a row for the first time since Harry Truman was President.
- 10.2 million new jobs created. Combined rate of unemployment and inflation at lowest level since 1968.
- Federal government workforce will drop by 272,900 -- creating lowest workforce since the Kennedy Administration.

Improved Economic Conditions in California:

- The unemployment rate has dropped from 9.7% to 7.1%.
- 616,400 new jobs added in 41 months -- after 57,900 lost during the previous 4 years.
- 631,000 new private-sector jobs added in 41 months -- after 167,100 lost during the previous 4 years.
- New business incorporations have increased 5% per year -- after decreasing 11% during the previous 4 years.
- Business failures have dropped 5% per year -- after increasing 22% per year during the previous 12 years.
- Consumer confidence has increased 54%.
- The Help Wanted Index has increased 16%.

What President Clinton's Accomplishments Have Achieved for the People of California:

\$15,000 OF REDUCED FEDERAL DEBT FOR EVERY FAMILY OF FOUR IN CALIFORNIA: The national debt will be more than \$1 trillion lower over 7 years than was projected before the passage of the President's economic plan. That's about \$15,000 of reduced federal debt for each family of four in California.

10 TIMES MORE CALIFORNIA FAMILIES RECEIVE A TAX CUT THAN A TAX INCREASE: As a result of the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, 2,146,915 working families in California will receive a tax cut. This compares to an increase in the income tax rate for only the 218,777 wealthiest taxpayers in California.

TAX CUT FOR 178,917 SMALL BUSINESSES IN CALIFORNIA: The President helped entrepreneurs, proprietors, and other small businessmen and women by expanding the annual expensing allowance from \$10,000 to \$17,500. About 178,917 small businesses in California are likely to benefit from the expansion of the expensing allowance this year alone *and many more will benefit over the coming years.*

4,959,000 CALIFORNIA WORKERS PROTECTED BY FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT: The Family and Medical Leave Act allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth of a child, to care for a sick family member, or if they become too sick to work. This law covers about 4,959,089 workers in California, and protects the jobs of 297,914 workers in California who are likely to use unpaid leave this year alone.

1.65 MILLION STUDENTS AND FORMER STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA WILL BE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM STUDENT LOAN REFORMS: Approximately 1.65 million California borrowers -- 1.16 million current borrowers and 490,000 new borrowers in the next few years -- can take advantage of the new direct student loan program by participating directly in the program or by consolidating guaranteed loans into direct loans. Some will benefit from lower interest rates, and all will benefit from more repayment options, including income contingent repayment.