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OA/ID Number: 10981
FolderID:

Folder Title:
6-28-95 DNC Presidential Gala Washington, D.C.

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draft 6/27/95 12 noon

**REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE GALA
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUNE 28, 1995**

Acknowledgements and introduction. [Senator Dodd, Chairman Fowler, and Truman Arnold]. Thank all of you for your support. You have made this the single most successful DNC finance event ever. This shows that our party has support throughout the country. This shows that a growing number of people support our vision of opportunity and responsibility and are concerned by the reckless policies being pursued by the Republican-controlled Congress.

JOKE: I know I'm one of the youngest presidents this country has ever had, so when I got to the door this evening, I was rather pleasantly bemused when they asked to see my ID. I pulled out my driver's license to show them how old I was, and they said, "That's not the ID we want to see. We want to see your voters card. This is an event for Democrats only."

Let me assure you, I am a Democrat. And I want to talk a little bit tonight about what that means in these changing times.

Keep the American Dream alive. Two-and-a-half years ago, when we began this journey, the American Dream was in danger of becoming the Impossible Dream. We inherited a huge deficit and a stagnant economy. In fact, for the first time in memory, our children were in danger of becoming the first generation of Americans not to do as well as their parents. It bothered me that more than half of our people were working a longer work week for the same or lower wages than they were making 15 years earlier. It bothered me that all the social problems and tensions we had in this country were driving us apart, when we needed to be coming together. So we set out to restore the American Dream. To reinvigorate the middle class. To preserve our freedom, maintain our democracy, and do what is necessary to help the people of this country make the most of their lives. In the face of the tremendous challenges and opportunities posed by new technology and the global economy, we have dedicated ourselves to doing all we can to empower people to come together and prosper in this new environment. And, we are making significant progress.

Accomplishments. We've helped create 6.7 million jobs for working Americans. Cut the deficit three years in a row. No other President has done that since Harry Truman. We're making government smaller and more efficient -- cutting 270,000 positions. And this has allowed us to target our investments on the things that affect the day-to-day lives of the American people -- Head Start. School-to-Work and Goals 2000. Student loans. Family and Medical Leave. Expanded EITC, which amounts

to about \$1,000 tax break for a working family with two children earning less than 28,000. We've also formed a real partnership with the private sector to help sell American products. But, our work is not yet done.

Debate in Washington. There is a great debate going on in Washington about the proper role of government. There are those who say our primary problems are personal and cultural, not economic and political. There are those who say the biggest problems we face are due to the fact that the federal government has too much authority, and more ought to be given to the state and local level. At one level they are right. If people don't do what they are supposed to, nothing the rest of us can do will make anybody get an education, or be a good parent, or stay out of a gang. But, I'm a Democrat because I believe the problems we face are personal and cultural, but not exclusively personal and cultural. And I think we're put on this earth to try to help other people reach their full potential. And we're better off when we do that.

So, we all agree that government should be smaller and more efficient, and that individual responsibility is essential to our success. The debate now turns to precisely what a smaller, better government should do for the American people.

I believe that government must be a partner to help people who work hard make the most of their lives.

Balanced Budget. To build a secure future for working families and all Americans, we must reduce the deficit and balance the budget.

Agreement. For the first time in a long time, the leaders in both parties share the will to balance the federal budget. We need to seize this opportunity. The real question is how can we do it in a way that is good for the long-run and the short-run futures of America.

Differences. There is bipartisan agreement about a balanced budget. But, there are differences between my approach and what Congressional leaders want to do. The difference is between necessary cuts and unacceptable pain. Yes, there is a budget deficit, but there is also an education deficit and an investment deficit in the American people. I believe we have to reduce the deficit and at the same time continue to invest in the things that make us strong: education, technology, health care, the environment. My proposal does not give big tax cuts to upper-income people who really don't need them. We will save that money and put it back into education and medical care for the elderly and others who are in real need. So, let's find a way to balance the budget and still invest in the education and training

and empowerment of all the people we expect to lead us into the 21st century. That's what it means to be a Democrat. And that's why I'm proud to be one.

When we talk about investing in people, here's what we mean:

Education. You and I are winners. We have the education and training to thrive in this global economy. I feel very fortunate just to stand here tonight. I'm the first person in my family to get a college education. I had student loans and I paid them back, but I needed them badly. For people to have the chance to make the most of their lives in the 21st century, we must give them the choice of lifelong learning -- constant re-education and training. We must give our children the same opportunities we had. Cutting education now would be like cutting the Defense Department at the height of the Cold War.

Environment. If you have no faith in government at all, then you're not doing anything wrong by letting polluters rewrite the laws like they are doing now in Congress. I don't believe that and most Americans don't either. We must not forsake our stewardship of the environment. We must keep the air and water safe and clean for future generations.

Minimum Wage. If you believe that the market always solves all problems, and the government only messes things up, it's understandable why you would be against raising the minimum wage. But we know better. If we don't raise the minimum wage this year, it's going to be at the lowest level in 40 years next year. If we are serious about reforming welfare and moving people to work, we must make work pay. We ought to raise the minimum wage. It's the right thing to do.

Welfare reform. Real welfare reform moves people from dependence to independence -- from a welfare check to a paycheck. The Democratic approach to welfare reform achieves this without simply cutting people off or hurting their children. This will save more money down the road than the other Congressional proposals.

Crime bill. One of our most important challenges and responsibilities is to make sure that Americans feel more secure in their homes and neighborhoods. That our children can learn in school and not fear for their safety. That's why I fought hard to put 100,000 new police officers on the street. That's why we fought hard to pass an assault weapons ban. That's why we will keep those commitments.

There are two other important issues that define us as Democrats: One, is our historic leadership in the fight for American workers and American jobs. The second is our absolute commitment to fairness in the treatment of people -- especially those who offer

themselves for public service.

Japanese Trade Talks. As we approach the midnight deadline for a trade agreement with Japan, let me be clear about what's at stake for the American people. We cannot create enough jobs and grow the American economy alone if we don't have the right kind of relationship with the rest of the world. For the past 21 months, my Administration has made good faith efforts to open the Japanese market to foreign competitive autos and auto parts. Japanese autos hold a 24 percent market share in the United States. The Big Three hold a 1.5 percent market share in Japan. In auto parts, the foreign share of the U.S. market is 32.5 percent. That share is only 2.6 percent in Japan. Our goal is simple -- fair access to Japan's market -- the same access which Japan enjoys in our market. We will proceed under U.S. law with the imposition of sanctions unless a fair, market-opening solution is reached by midnight tonight.

Dr. Foster and Fairness. Both the small "d" and the big "D" concepts of democratic fairness were abused by the recent move by 43 Senators to block a full up or down vote for the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster to be surgeon general. All of us in this room know that this action by those Senators was not about my right to choose a surgeon general. It was about the right of every American woman to choose. A minority of Senators twisted the rules to impose a litmus test for the rest of America. That was wrong. It was divisive. And it flies in the face of the will of an overwhelming majority of Americans.

Going Up and Down Together. In the face of all these challenges, I still believe our nation is in the best position of any country to seize the opportunities of the 21st century, but only if we understand that we will go up and down together. It is folly for any of us to believe that we can live and function and make the most of our lives all by ourselves. That's why we are Democrats. We have always embraced the idea that beyond our families, we have work, we have communities, we have states, and we are part of a country. We must go forward together. We have been divided long enough. There are children out there to be saved and a world to be made, and that is what we intend to do.

Thank you and God bless you all.

**Remarks
For
The Vice President
at
Clinton/Gore Dinner
Somerset, New Jersey
June 22, 1995**

(ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FROM ADVANCE)

It was November 1, 1992. The countdown to the election was underway. Only two days left in the campaign. President Clinton and I had one more joint appearance to make. We chose to make it here. In New Jersey. At the Meadowlands. And what a choice that was.

20,000 ^{people} showed up, waving signs, cheering, chanting. You energized us, you energized each other, and you energized New Jersey. Because of your enthusiasm that night, then chairman of the Democratic Party, Ron Brown, could shout, "I feel victory in the air."

And he did. Because it was there.

Two days later, the election results came in. For the only the third time since WWII, New Jersey supported a Democratic candidate for President. New Jersey supported Bill Clinton.

And the Clinton Administration hasn't forgotten those 20,000 Meadowland supporters. Or the many other New Jerseyians who went to the polls to make Governor Clinton, President Clinton. Because you worked hard for the President, he is working hard for you.

Take the economy.

Since his election, President Clinton has turned the American economy around. He

created 6.7 million jobs for working Americans. That means 125,000 new jobs right here in New Jersey. He cut the deficit for three years in a row. No President has done that since Harry Truman. That means \$10,000 of reduced federal deficit for every family of four in New Jersey.

Take "Reinventing Government."

The President has reduced the federal workforce by 270,000. Making government work better and cost less. Making government "consumer friendly." Making government "cost effective." Making government something to cheer about.

Take the day-to-day lives of the American people.

Bill Clinton expanded Head Start. Gave students School-to-Work and Goals 2000. Protected student loans. Battled Republican opposition for the Family and Medical Leave Act.

And we can't forget the environment. The other day, an intern in my office told me about the Jersey Shore. Her family vacations there every year. One year, the ocean was so polluted that all she saw was syringes and garbage. But just last year, she went back to that same beach. This time the ocean was so clean that she saw dolphins and whales.

I saw New Jersey's commitment to a clean environment firsthand when I visited the Maurice River (NOTE: pronounced MORRIS River) just a couple of months ago. I was there, with Bill Bradley and Frank Lautenberg and Bill Hughes, to congratulate the people of Southern New Jersey who worked to save that river. And to make it the first river that the National Park Service agreed to manage through Local Management plans.

Together, we have made a lot of progress.

But there's a lot more to do.

And that's why it is so upsetting to see Republicans in Congress assaulting everything we've achieved. They want to kill environmental legislation that has brought decades of progress to areas like the Jersey Shore. They want to stop us from putting 100,000 new police officers on the streets. They want to cut spending on education, school lunches, and Public Television. They want to gut Medicare. They want to destroy entire government agencies instead of improving upon what already works. They want all of this because they want a balanced budget.

Well, the Clinton Administration wants a balanced budget, too. But, as the President said just yesterday, there is a "big difference between my plan and the congressional plan -- it's the difference between necessary cuts, and unacceptable pain." We want to reduce the deficit. We already have. We know the American people want to reduce it more. And we will.

But we will do it responsibly. We will keep vital services. We will keep worthwhile programs.

President Clinton and I remember your tremendous support in 1992. We know that starting here may make the rest of the campaigning difficult. Because, judging by past experiences, New Jersey will be a tough act to follow.

But we know that the rest of the country will follow your lead. They will look to you for leadership. They will look to you for your dedication -- and they will learn. They will learn that support like yours wins elections. Support like yours gets results. Support like yours puts Presidents like Bill Clinton in the White House. And support like yours will help to keep him there for four more years.

Today, it gives me great pleasure to present the man who has given New Jersey, and

the United States so much to cheer about from that moment at the Meadowlands ending
on ~~our~~ campaign to this moment in Somerset as we *are about to* open another. The President of the United
States. Bill Clinton.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Edison, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

June 22, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO FORD PLANT EMPLOYEES

Ford Edison Assembly Plant
Edison, New Jersey

4:19 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I like your spirit.
(Applause.)

Q Give 'em hell, Bill!

THE PRESIDENT: You help and I will. (Laughter.)

I want to thank Denton and Earl and Peter for being here with me today. I want to say a special word of thanks to Ford Motor Company for being a good partner with the United States of America to build our economy, to get a fair trade policy, and to do a lot of things we need to do in this country. Ford has been a good citizen of this nation and has helped immeasurably to further the aims of this administration. I thank you, Peter, and I thank all of you for the contribution you have made to that. (Applause.)

Some of you may know that my main claim to your affection is that I own a car that's older than some of the people who work here. I own a 1967 Mustang. (Applause.) And Mustangs were made here in this plant from '65 to '70, here and in San Jose, California. And I own one of them. And I enjoy having it. (Applause.)

I want to talk to you today very briefly about two things -- one of them has already been discussed; trade. And the other is what we can do here at home to build up our economy and strengthen our people.

I ran for the job that I now hold because I was really concerned that we were going to raise the first generation of Americans who wouldn't do as well as their parents. It bothered me that more than half of our people were working a longer work week

for the same or lower wages they were making 15 years earlier. It bothered me that we were coming apart with all of the social problems and tensions we had in this country when we need to be working together.

You've proved in this plant that if you work together you can compete and win and do well. And that's what America has to do. And I have done everything I could for two and a half years to try to restore the American Dream -- not only to create jobs, but to raise incomes and to give working families some security, that if they do work hard and play by the rules they're going to be all right and our children are going to be all right. That, it seems to me, is the most important thing we can do. (Applause.)

There are a lot of things we can talk about, but I just want to talk about two today that are very important. The first is, what do we do about the economy here at home. The second is, how do we relate to the rest of the world.

And let me talk a little about the economy here at home. When I became President, we had just finished 12 years in which we had quadrupled -- increased by four-fold -- the national debt -- by four-fold. But we were reducing our commitment to the things that make us rich -- to education, to technology, to building the skills and the technology and the kind of partnerships that really generate jobs and incomes in the world today. So what I tried to do was to flip that around. I tried to bring the deficit down, but to increase our investment in education, technology, basic research, and to form a real partnership with the private sector to help to sell American products.

Now, we have reduced the deficit by about \$1 trillion over a seven-year period. We have increased our investments in education, research and technology. We are working more closely with business than ever before. And we have to show for it a lower unemployment rate and over 6.7 million new jobs. I am proud of that. But we have to remember that we've been getting into the rut we've been in for 20 years. And I'll just give you two examples. We created 6.7 million new jobs, the unemployment rate went down, but the average income of the American people didn't go up. We have to keep working on that. People have to be rewarded for their work. We can't expect working people to make a profit for their companies unless they can also make a profit for themselves. (Applause.)

Now, you've got a unique situation in Washington where the leaders of Congress want to balance the budget, and that's a good thing. And I do, too, and that's a good thing. Why is that important? I'll tell you why it's important -- because if it were not for the interest we have to pay -- I want you all to listen to this -- if it weren't for the interest we have to pay on the debt this country ran up in just the 12 years before I became President -- forget about the other 200 years -- just those 12 years, our budget would be in balance today. And we would have more money to spend on your children's education; more money to spend on the

health care of elderly people through Medicare and Medicaid; more money to spend on new technologies to guarantee Americans good jobs in the future.

So we need to get rid of this deficit. But the question is, how should we do it? Keep in mind, every day my objective is, more jobs, higher income, more security for people who are working hard. That's what I go to work and try to guarantee. So there's a big difference between my budget and the one the leaders of Congress have proposed because I think mine will do more for jobs, incomes and security of families.

Here's what the differences are. First, we cut spending except for defense, Social Security and medical costs about 20 percent across the board, except for education; we increase spending on education. I think your children should be able to go to college -- (applause) -- they should be able to get good training programs, they should be able to be in good pre-school programs. I think that's important.

Second, we want to slow the rate of growth in the medical costs the federal government pays -- that's Medicare and Medicaid, which is mostly for elderly people and disabled people. But I don't want to charge middle and lower-middle income elderly people on Medicare more money for the same health care, and I don't want to see them have to give up their health care. So we cut medical costs less than the Congress does because I think it's important to protect Medicare and to protect the people who are on it who have paid into it and who don't have enough money to live on as it is.

Third, we have a much smaller tax cut than they do, and our is targeted not to upper-income people, but to middle class people and focused on education and child rearing. I think everybody ought to get a tax deduction for the cost of sending their kids to college. I am for that. (Applause.)

The fourth thing we do is to save money on welfare spending. But I'll be -- I want to be honest with you -- we don't save as much money as the Congress does because I think we should hold some money back to give to the purpose of education and training and child care for people on welfare so you can actually get them to work. We don't want to cut these kids off and put them in the street. We want people to go to work and be good parents and good workers. So we ought to invest enough in child care and education to get that done. So we do that. (Applause.)

And the fifth thing that my plan does is to balance the budget over 10 years. They balance the budget over seven years. If you go to 10 instead of seven, you can increase education, not cut it; you can protect elderly people on Medicare; you can invest enough in welfare to get real welfare reform to put people to work; and you don't have to risk a recession.

The Wharton Business School over in Philadelphia, not far from

here, did an analysis of the congressional budget and estimated that they're cutting so much out of the economy so fast it would drive unemployment up and slow the economy down. We want to lower interest rates, free up money, balance the budget in ways that grow the economy.

So when you hear these debates -- I want to work with the Congress, I don't want a partisan fight, I want to put America first. I want you to know, if somebody tells you that we don't need to balance the budget, that's not true, because every year we don't balance the budget, we're spending more and more of your tax money on interest payments and less money on things that we all want. We do need to do it. But the aim is your jobs, your incomes, your family security. And the test of every decision we make should be, is it going to increase those. And I think my budget does that.

Now, the second point I want to make is we can't grow the American economy alone if we don't have the right kind of relationship with the rest of the world. We know -- you sell these trucks here all over the world, don't you? And we know that your earnings are above the national average, aren't they? And we know that generally that jobs related to trade in America pay better than jobs that have no relationship to the global economy. We also know that because of all the changes you and others have been through, millions of people like you in America in the last 15 years -- we are the high-quality, low-cost producer of many, many, many products that can be sold all over the world. (Applause.)

So, I have done my best to negotiate agreements that would open markets around the world and make everybody else's market as open as ours. We're opening markets to the south of us in Latin America, and you're selling some trucks down there. We're opening markets with Europe and other countries. We have had all kinds of new trade agreements.

Even with Japan, we have had 15 new trade agreements, so that we're selling rice and apples and cellular telephones over there for the first time. This movement toward open trade now that America is competitive is a good thing for us. Why? Because we have open markets. So we can't stop some people from being at risk from low-cost competition if it's generally low cost and good quality. We can't stop that. But if we don't get a fair deal going the other way, then we get it coming and going. We don't have a chance to create the high-wage jobs from trade to replace the low-wage jobs that we lose. And we don't have the chance to give people the security they deserve if they are competitive in the world market.

That is what is at stake. Now, here's the problem. Our relationship with Japan has simply been different than that with everybody else. And their system of protecting their products and their markets is different from the things you can normally reach with a trade agreement. They're not necessarily tariffs, they're

not necessarily quotas. It's a highly complicated system of doing business that works to freeze us out.

You know, you leader has said he didn't know the exact numbers. I'll tell you what the exact numbers are over the last 20 years. Twenty years ago we had less than one percent of the Japanese market in automobiles. You know what it is today -- 1.5 percent. Big deal. Since we have been trading cars both ways, we have shipped a total, cars and trucks, of 400,000 vehicles to them. They have shipped a total of 40 million to us.

Q Boooo!

THE PRESIDENT: Now, that's a hundred to one. Now, if all this were fair and they didn't want to buy anything we had produced, and we were buying what they had to produce, it would be fine. In auto parts -- forget about what you do here, let's just talk about auto parts. With the whole rest of the world, we have a \$5.8 billion surplus. That's a huge number of jobs. Every billion dollars is about 17,000 more jobs; it's a lot of jobs. With them, we have a deficit in auto parts of over \$12 billion a year.

Now, you say, well, if it were fair it would be all right. These luxury cars that are at issue here in our trade dispute -- you can buy some of them for \$9,000 -- they're made in Japan, right -- you can buy some of them for \$9,000 less here in America than they pay in Japan for them. A carburetor made in Japan costs three times as much there as it does here. I am for free trade, but I am for fair trade, and that's not fair. And you know it's not fair.

And guess what -- it's not good for them. They're rolling in doe, but their economy is not growing. Their people look like they're making more money than you are, but they're paying 40 percent more for all of their consumer products. So the average working stiff in Japan is not doing much better than a lot of people in other countries, not doing as well as many American workers, and would be doing much better if they had free and open competition and it drove down the prices that their consumers are paying, because, as you well know, when you pay the bills every month, every worker is also a consumer.

What I am trying to do is not just good for us, it's good for them. They're a great democracy. We work together on a lot of things. But you know we had to change -- all of us did. A lot of you went through gut-wrenching changes in the last 20 years to make sure this plant would be recognized for its low error rate and its high-quality production. We all have to change. Their system is not fair. And that is what we are trying to get done. We're trying to open it so that you will have free access to their markets like they have to ours. And it's a fight worth making. (Applause.)

Now, today and tomorrow, in Switzerland, the representatives

of our government and the Japanese are talking, and they're trying to avoid what's going to happen next week. But on the 28th, if we don't have an agreement that will take us toward opening their markets and fair treatment for American products and American workers, then I have ordered the U.S. Trade Representative to put tariffs of one hundred percent on 13 of their luxury cars. (Applause.)

I want to say again, I think you can compete with anybody where you get a fair shot. If people don't what we produce, that's a different story. But I think it is wrong for America to be leading the way in opening our markets and putting our workers at risk in competition and not have the same rights in every other major market in countries that are as rich as we are. That is not right. (Applause.) You deserve a fair chance.

So I want you to think about this. Every time you wonder what we're doing up there or you see a fight going on in Washington, you just remember my test is: Will it create jobs? Will it raise incomes? Will it make working people more secure if they're doing their part? That's what I think about every day. If everybody in this country had a job, if every job paid enough to support children, we wouldn't have a lot of the problems we have to today. (Applause.)

You know, there's a lot of talk about how angry voters are -- or angry men are. Well, you know, one reason is that 60 percent of the hourly-wage earners in this country are working a longer work week for about 15 percent less than they were making 10 years ago. If that wouldn't make you mad, I don't know what would.

Now, you can lead the way. The auto companies now can lead the world. And they can lead America back toward a high-wage, high-growth economy. I don't want any special breaks, but I do want a fair deal. If you get a fair deal, if you have a government that works for you, that invests in your education, that gets rid of this deficit, that looks toward the future, I think you can take care of your families and your communities and the future of our country. But I'm going to be in there plugging for you. You stay with us, and we'll get the job done together. (Applause.)

Thank you very much.

END

4:36 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Edison, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

June 22, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO NEW JERSEY PRESIDENTIAL GALA

Garden State Convention Center
Somerset, New Jersey

8:56 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Let me begin by joining with Al and Tipper and Hillary and thanking tonight's dinner chairs, Al Decotis, Lew Katz, Ray Lesniak, Jack Rosen, and Bob Raymar. They were terrific, and so were all of you. Thank you for your remarkable help. (Applause.)

I am also delighted to be here with two of my former colleagues, former Governor Brendan Byrne and former Governor Jim Florio. I thank them and their wonderful wives for coming tonight. (Applause.) I'm glad to see them. (Applause.)

I want to say something selfish. I think New Jersey did a good thing for New Jersey by reelecting Frank Lautenberg. But we needed him back, and I saw it today on the floor of the Senate. And this country needs Bill Bradley, and you must -- you must -- send him back to the United States Senate and the United States. (Applause.)

I have always loved coming here. I have been, frankly, rather astonished from the beginning of my campaign that the state of New Jersey was so good to me, beginning way back in 1991, when I was a stranger from a small southern state, as my former adversary, Mr. Bush, used to say. And every time I came here I always felt at home. I felt that I understood the people; I felt a certain kinship.

And when we began our general election campaign here with the bus tour, and then ended up in the Meadowlands and then New Jersey -- I have heard it a thousand times -- always closes Republican, but it didn't close enough to take the state away from the Clinton-Gore ticket -- I was profoundly grateful. (Applause.)

And now I come to say to you, I thank you for this

MORE

remarkably successful dinner. It will enable Terry McAuliffe and Laura Hartigan and all of our finance staff to continue on their goal of financing our campaign next year and this year so that I can devote my energies to being President and to running in a responsible way. And you have done a very great thing. But I also want to tell you that we need your help, beginning tomorrow morning, to talk to everyone you can about what is really at stake in this election.

I have to tell you that there are differences now in Washington more profound than the partisan differences even of the last two years, and certainly of the last 50 years. There are also opportunities to work together. And which way we take in the next few months will be determined in part by what the American people say. And whether we keep going forward, or take a huge lunge off center will be determined by how the American people vote in 1996.

I want to say to all of you that I never could have dreamed when I started this that our partnership, the one Hillary and I have enjoyed with Al and Tipper Gore, would have been remarkable -- as remarkable as it has been. I thank Tipper for her tireless advocacy for the interests of mental health, and women and young girls and so many other things that she has fought for. (Applause.) And I have said this repeatedly, but I believe with all my heart that Al Gore will go down in American history as the most influential and productive Vice President in our country's history. (Applause.)

The other day we had the White House Conference on Small Business in Washington. There were 3,500 delegates there and I think we had only appointed about 300; the rest were elected from their states, and well over half of them were Republican. And all they had been -- a lot of them had just been fed this sort of propaganda, this steady stream of propaganda people put out. And the Vice President got up and introduced me and we talked about our reinventing government program.

We reminded them that we had increased their ability to write off their capital expenses by about 70 percent, that we had offered a capital gains tax for small businesses, and that we had reduced regulations dramatically, and we were about to reduce 16,000 more, and we brought them out -- the 16,000 regulations, including half of the paperwork regulations of the Small Business Administration. And these people, a lot of them were literally dumbfounded; they didn't know whether to believe it, because that's not what the propagandizers had been telling them for two years. But it was true; they liked it. And we ought to be the candidate of small businesses in 1996, thanks in large measure to Al Gore. And I thank him for that. (Applause.)

Hillary and I began this day publicly at Arlington National Cemetery, doing something else that is a symbol of what the choices in 1996 will be all about. We dedicated a memorial, the ground-breaking of a memorial to the 1.8 million American women who have served in our Armed Forces, but have never been recognized before. (Applause.)

In our administration, we have not only promoted things like family and medical leave, and child care for people to move from welfare to work, but greater investment in medical research affecting women, greater access to mammograms, a greater commitment to the future of women's health. (Applause.) But I was able to announce today something I am very proud of: Since our administration has been in office we have opened 260,000 more positions and different roles for women in the United States military. I am proud of that, and I hope all of you are as well. (Applause.)

The Vice President gave you a summary of the record of our administration. It's led to lower inflation, lower unemployment, more jobs and a better future. But this is still a troubled time for our country, and we are trying to decide which way to go, with all the challenges we face in a confusing time, that I believe has far more hope than fear ahead for America. I ran for President because I wanted to restore the American Dream of opportunity for those who would behave responsibly, and because I wanted to bring this country together. I was sick and tired of seeing politicians exploit the differences of race and religion and region and income and background among Americans, to drive wedges between us for their own personal benefit. And I still believe that's what we ought to be doing in your Nation's Capital. (Applause.)

Today, because of the November elections, you can ask Senator Lautenberg and Senator Bradley, we are back to debating first principles. Things that we used to take for granted are no longer taken for granted in the United States Congress. There are a whole group of people in this Congress who believe that all of the problems of America are personal and cultural, and if people would just get up every day and behave themselves there would be nothing wrong in this country; and, therefore, we don't even need a government.

There are those of us who believe that some of these problems are economic and social, and that, of course, they're personal and cultural; if people don't behave there's nothing you can do for them, but that we are going up or down together and we need a partnership in this country.

That is a fundamental debate. And if you want to know the difference between a Republican and Democrat in Washington today, it is largely around that issue. Are the problems just personal and cultural; or are they personal, cultural, and political and economic and social?

There are people today in Washington who believe that the federal government is absolutely worthless except for national security, and therefore, the most important thing to do is to balance the budget as quickly as possible. It doesn't matter what else you cut. Then there are those of us who honestly believe we should balance the budget, but believe we have an education deficit as well, and believe we have to do this in a way that will grow the economy, create jobs, raise incomes, and reinforce the partnership between business and government that ought to exist. (Applause.)

There are people in Washington today who believe the environment is a nice thing, and people who think right will protect it but that the government should do nothing to protect it. You heard the Vice President say a committee of the House today voted to allow blanket offshore oil drilling all over the United States. You don't know the half of it. That is just scratching the surface.

But they honestly believe the government has no role in trying to protect our common natural resources. And then there are those of us who believe that we can find ways to protect the environment and grow the economy, and that if we want this country to be around for our grandchildren and our grandchildren's grandchildren, we had better protect the environment while we are growing the economy. (Applause.)

There are people in Washington today who believe that the only answer to crime is to lock more people up for a longer period of time; and that things like the Brady Bill and the assault weapons ban are a ridiculous infringement on the right of everybody else to do whatever they want to do; and that what we really should do is do nothing but take everybody we ever catch and lock them up, throw the key away, and forget about everything else. Then there are those of us who believe that fighting crime is a more complicated thing, and that the best thing to do is to prevent it in the first place, like dealing with any other problem, and that we ought to listen to law enforcement and work with them. (Applause.)

And I'm telling you, folks, these are big, profound debates. And that's really what this election

MORE

is all about. There are those of us who believe that you can be passionately in favor of life and still be for a woman's right to choose. And they don't believe that. (Applause.)

So -- and don't kid yourself, that's what this fight over Dr. Foster was all about. It was not about my right to choose a surgeon general, it was about a woman's right to choose. (Applause.) It was not about whether he was capable of being a powerful role model for young people. He's one of the few people in America, one of the very few people in America who enjoyed a prominent social and economic position, who gave years and years and years of his life to reaching out to poor children and telling them they should not have sex when they weren't married, they should not become pregnant as teenagers, they should not get on drugs, they should not be violent, they should stay in school.

He went into poor tenements in Nashville, he rode dusty country roads in Alabama to bring health care to women and children who did not have and would never have seen a doctor. One of his patients said that he had personally talked her out of having an abortion. But because he had observed the constitutional right to choose, he wasn't pure enough, he wasn't politically correct enough for the people who are trying to create a "brave new world" in Washington with a stranglehold on the other party. And you better stand up against it and help us fight against it. (Applause.)

These are big choices. Now, we both want to balance the budget. That's good. They want to do it in seven years, with a huge tax increase. We say, if you do it in 10 years, have a smaller tax increase targeted to education, you can increase investment in education and medical research and technology and our economic partnerships; you don't have to cut Medicare so much that you really hurt older people who don't have enough to live on as it is. You can have a decent, humane budget and still balance it if you do it in the right way, not the wrong way. That's the difference between us. (Applause.)

They think the most important thing to do in the area of crime is to repeal the assault weapons ban. Jim Florio gave his governorship for it, and if I have to give the White House for it, I'll do it. It will be over my dead body if they do that. (Applause.) Thank you.

Let me just say one thing in closing. We can do this one of two ways. We can fight, or we can

MORE

work together in good faith. Something happened to our whole country when that bomb blew up in Oklahoma City. It was an awful, heartbreaking, wrenching event and it shook this nation to the core. And we lost some of the edge that we felt for those who were different from us and who disagreed with us. We were all a little less willing to demonize people with whom we simply disagree.

And then something good happened to this country when that brave young Air Force pilot, Scott O'Grady, survived for six lonely days in Bosnia and was rescued. And we saw what was best about America. And nobody cared if he had an Irish or a Polish name, or if his skin was black, brown or white. He had done something very brave and profoundly good that didn't have much to do with the kind of partisanship that covers so much of what is done in Washington.

And it was in that honest spirit that I offered the Republicans a balanced budget that the Democrats and the rest of the country, in my judgment, can, in good conscience, support; that will grow and not shrink the economy, and build up, not tear down the middle class; that will help people to move from welfare to work, not just throw innocent children off of welfare. (Applause.) That is the spirit that I am trying to capture.

It was in that spirit that I agreed to have that conversation with the Speaker of the House up in New Hampshire a few days ago. I tell you, my friends, I did not sign on to be President just to say no, just to divide the country, just to try to prove I can be more clever than they are in these political debates. But I will not back down from my commitment that we have to grow the economy, build the middle class, reach out a helping hand to the poor, be fair to those who through no fault of their own need some help, preserve our environment and bring this country together. (Applause.) I am telling you, that is the most important thing we have to do. (Applause.)

You know, one of the greatest honors of being President is being able to represent you when I go to other countries. I just was in the Ukraine and the beautiful city of Kiev. And I spoke outdoors at the university; there were tens of thousands of people there. And all along the road, four and five deep, people were there waving their American flags, cheering as Hilary and I rode by. And you know, I looked at her and I said what I always say -- they're not cheering for me, they're cheering for America, for

what we are, for what we represent, for the hope that they feel. (Applause.)

Many of you have supported our administration's efforts in trying to make peace in the Middle East. They haven't asked "me" to do that, they have asked "us" to do that. Many of you have been involved in our efforts to try to help support the peace process in Northern Ireland. They didn't ask "me" to do that, they asked "us" to do that. America -- that's what they think "we" are -- bringing people together, bridging differences, moving forward.

There is no country in this world better positioned for the 21st century, better positioned to hand down our dreams to our children than the United States. But now we are back to debating first principles in Washington.

We thank you for your financial investment tonight, but we ask you for your voice. We ask you for your labors. We ask you for your passion. We ask you for your heart. We are going to have to fight and debate and struggle to make sure that in this season we make the right decisions.

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

END

9:15 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Little Rock, Arkansas)

For Immediate Release

June 23, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT "AMERICA'S HOPE, ARKANSAS' PRIDE" LUNCHEON

William J. Clinton Ballroom
Excelsior Hotel
Little Rock, Arkansas

1:35 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. Thank you for being here. Thank you for being in such a good frame of mind. And thank you for making Hillary and Al and Tipper and me feel so wonderful today.

You know, I've always kind of resented Al Gore -- (laughter) -- for being a little smarter than I am and knowing a little more about various things. And now he's gotten funnier than I am. I really -- (laughter.)

I thank you, Maurice Mitchell and Skip Rutherford and Jay Dunn and Doug Hatterman (ph) and all the others who worked. I have to mention one person I know is not here and another person I have not yet seen. I know a lot of people worked hard on this, but I know that my longtime friend, Merle Peterson, who's away, and Jimmy Ray Jones sat in a room and called a lot of you and harassed you until you bought tickets to this. (Laughter.) And I want to thank them and all the rest of the committee for the work that they did. (Applause.)

I would like to thank Mack McLarty and all those from Arkansas who work in the administration; as well as those who work here in the Arkansas office who tried to give you a lifeline through the fog that Washington can become. I thank them for representing me. I want to say a special word of thanks to Mack for all the many things he's done over the last two and a half years. I got a vivid picture of one of them yesterday when we were in New Jersey at a Ford plant, and where, doubtless, had made various vehicles that the McLarty dealerships had sold over the years. But I couldn't help thinking, you know, Mack has basically become the country's point person in all of our developing economic and political relationships with Latin America, which have expanded by more in the last two and a half years than in any previous point in history. And this Ford plant in New Jersey was making trucks being sold in Latin America. And I never realized it before, but there

MORE

was McLarty always thinking about what it's going to be like 20 years from now when he's running all those Ford dealerships again. (Laughter.) You can be very proud of the leadership he has given to our country, and I thank him for his long friendship.

And Bruce Lindsey, Marcia Scott, all the other people from Arkansas, and the people who run this office, they have enabled me to try and stay in touch with you in times when it has not always been easy. And Carole Rasco is not here -- she's getting ready for our economic conference in the Pacific Northwest. But I see some people here particularly involved in health care and social services I know call her -- I thank them for the work they've done to make it possible for us to try to stay in touch with one another.

I also want to say a special word of thanks to Congresswoman Blanche Lambert Lincoln and Congressman Ray Thornton. And congratulations, Congressmen, to you and to our senators and to our Governor on Red River. Nice work, Truman Arnold is very happy he can keep working for the -- (applause) -- Truman Arnold woke up this morning thinking he could keep working for our reelection and for our party now.

We wish you well, Congressman Thornton. I wish you weren't retiring, but whatever you decide to do, I imagine you will make a good show of it. You always have. And you've really served our state well, and you've served our nation well, and we thank you for that.

I want to say, as Hillary did, a special word of thanks to Senator Bumpers and Senator Pryor. They have fulfilled a lot of roles that maybe on some occasions they would rather not have done in the last two and a half years. And we've had some rough spots in the road. We've had some ups and downs, but they have always, always, always been there. And in very personal ways that will probably never become fully known or appreciated, I can tell you that I am profoundly grateful to both of them.

I saw David on television the other night speaking to the Small Business Conference, talking about the importance of balancing the budget and doing it in a humane way and the right way. And a lot of those Republicans were really listening to him in ways that only he can communicate. I think of all the times when David has taken the floor of the Senate to try to restore just a little bit of humanity and sanity to a national political debate that has gotten way too out of hand too often in the last two years, and I thank him for that.

And let me also say I am especially glad to

see Governor and Mrs. Tucker here today, and especially grateful for the reception you gave them. As an Arkansan, I felt exactly the same way. (Applause.) And thank you, Governor, for being here. We're proud of you. Thank you. (Applause.)

I might also note that the last time I checked the unemployment rate in Arkansas is down to 4.1 percent, which is -- after what we suffered all those years, that's another reason to rejoice.

You know, I was listening to the Vice President go through that whole litany, and I have to say I'm also especially indebted to the people who have spoken here before me -- to Tipper for all the work she's done in mental health and for the courageous and sometimes lonely battles she always wages within the administration to remind all of us that that's a very important part of health care; and to Tipper and to Hillary, for the work they've done to try to make sure we increase our emphasis on women's health concerns.

And I was very proud of Hillary yesterday in particular. She took me along and I spoke to a remarkable event in front of the Arlington Cemetery yesterday where we broke ground, long overdue, on America's first memorial for the 1.8 million women who have worn the uniform of our country in military service. (Applause.)

One of the things that I am quite proud of that almost nobody knows -- there are a lot of achievements of this administration that fall into that category -- one of the things that I'm very proud of that almost nobody knows, that I think is part of the enduring influence of my wife and my wonderful departed mother is that in the last two and a half years we have opened up to women in the services 260,000 positions previously denied them in the service of their country. And I'm very proud of it, and the military is very proud of it. (Applause.)

I said that last comment and the Vice President was up here giving our record and it reminded me about a week ago, maybe two weeks ago now, we had an event at the Treasury Department. And we were announcing one of our continuing Al Gore genius moves to reinvent the government and make it easier to deal with, and this one had to do with the fact that next year in 32 states people can file their taxes, state and federal together, electronically -- no paper, no hassle, file them both together. We'll distribute it, we'll do all the work. And we always try to have a real person, like one of you at one of these announcements to explain how this will actually change people's lives.

So, it was just before the Small Business Conference started and we got this John Deere dealer from west Texas come who happened to be a supporter of

mine, probably the only person in the whole county -- (laughter) -- there he was. But anyway, he ran a good-sized John Deere dealership, and he got up there and he said -- I got so tickled -- he said -- he brought all the paper that he'd been using on his taxes and he said, I can throw all this away and it's great. And he explained how much money he was going to save, but he said, you know, he said, you fellows have been doing a great job of reinventing government. What you need to do is reinvent communication because it ain't getting out to the rednecks that I sell John Deeres to. (Laughter.)

You know, some nights I watch the news and I feel like that old country song, "They Changed Everything About Me But My Name." (Laughter.) That's beginning to change as well. I want to have -- for just a moment I want to have a serious conversation. The Vice President has outlined a great deal of what we have done and I use the word "we" in the largest sense. One of them, our proudest achievements, has very little to do with me except that I made it possible, and I think the history books will reflect that Al Gore was the most influential and effective Vice President of the United States in the history of our republic through the 21st century. (Applause.)

We were at the Small Business Conference the other day; we hauled out 16,000 federal regulations that we were getting rid of because of the reinventing government task force, cutting half the regulations of the Small Business Administration, 40 percent of the regulations of the Department of Education, dramatically changing the way the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is going to work, reducing the paperwork burdens of the Environmental Protection Agency by 25 percent, setting up a hotline so that if a small business person calls the EPA now, that person cannot be fined if he or she is calling for help to try to figure out to solve a problem. (Applause.)

These are important changes in the way our government relates to people. But I have to tell you that what is going on in America today is more than just whether this administration is achieving things that are or are not known about. This is a period of deep and profound change in the whole world and in this country: the way we work, the way we live, the conditions in which we raise our children, the opportunities available to us and the challenges confronting us. They're different. And all of us are the product of our own experiences. I tell everybody that works at the White House all the time, especially young people who see things they don't understand, I keep telling everybody we all see the world through the

MORE

prism of our own experience. Even our imaginations are limited by what we have known and felt and seen.

And, yet, all these things are happening around us, some utterly wonderful and some utterly horrible that go beyond our ability even to imagine a resolution of. A lot of good things -- the end of the Cold War, the growth of the information age, the fact that a kid in the most remote mountain school in Arkansas can now hook into an Internet which will pull information out of a library in Australia, just for example -- now, these are wonderful things. And we see all these things, and it's just staggering it's so wonderful.

We see a lot of our old problems appear to be getting better. The crime rate as a whole is dropping in almost every major city in America. That's the good news. And I could give you 50 other examples of good news. We had the biggest expansion of trade opportunities in our country in the last two years that we have had in a generation, maybe ever.

But underneath that it seems that every opportunity has within it the possibility of something new going wrong. Crime rate goes down, but the arbitrary rate of violence among teenagers goes up, giving us chilling feelings about what the crime rate might be like in 10 or 15 years. And more and more young kids are just being kind of left alone out there to raise themselves, struggling to figure out what to do, stuck in home environments, community environments and school environments that aren't likely to help them to turn around the challenges they face.

All this wonderful technology and this easily accessible information has its dark underside. You can get on the Internet now and tap into one of these fanatic extremists and they will explain to you how you, too, can make a bomb just like the one that blew up the federal building in Oklahoma City. The explosion of technology means that a radical religious group in Japan can figure out how to get a little bitty vial of gas and walk into a subway and break it open and kill a bunch of totally innocent people and put hundreds of others in the hospital.

So you see the point I'm trying to make -- there is so much good in the world, so much new possibility, but the Scripture tells us that the darkness that is in the human soul will be with us until the end of time, and those dark forces are finding new expressions as well. And we're all sitting around here trying to figure out how to make sense of

this and what to do, so that what is really going on in Washington, which is confusing to people, is not much different than what's going on inside a lot of people's heads, which is confusing to people. And it's because it is really new.

I am proud of the fact that this administration negotiated agreements which means that there are no nuclear weapons pointed at the children of Arkansas since the dawn of the nuclear age. I'm proud of that. (Applause.) But the paradox is -- let me just give you the paradox -- the paradox is a year or so ago, Hillary and I went to Riga, Latvia, to celebrate the withdrawal of Russian troops there for the first time since before World War II; tens of thousands of people in the street weeping with joy, loving America. A poll just came out and said that Bill Clinton was the most popular politician in Latvia. I'm trying to figure out how to get on the ballot there, give them some electoral votes. (Laughter.)

But then we go into -- it was a wonderful survey -- it wasn't me, I was America. It didn't have anything to do with me. I was the United States. But then we go behind closed doors into a meeting and the first thing they ask me for is an FBI office. Why? Because when you rip away the iron hand of communism, and you take out the Russian army -- there is this huge port, the largest city in Northern Europe that most people couldn't even find on a map here, that they're now terrified will become a great transit point for drug trafficking and organized crime of all kinds. The most popular thing we've done in Russia in the last year is not dismantling the nuclear weapons, it's opening an FBI office in Moscow. Why? Because they got rid of communism, and they didn't have things like the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Securities and Exchange Commission, so within no time at all, half of their financial institutions were controlled by organized crime.

I say this to make a point. We have to go back deep inside now to our basic values and our basic institutions. And the debates we are having in Washington now are over fundamental things that we used to take for granted.

When I was Governor here, in all the years until the last year when I ran for President, we only had an unemployment rate below the national average one month -- one month. A lot of my legislators are out there. They remember how we struggled with that -- but we had a consensus. We disagreed on the details, and we fought at election time, but there was a general consensus that if we made our state more attractive

MORE

economically, and that if we continued to invest in the skills of our people, that in the end that strategy would be rewarded. And it might take a decade to turn it around, but it would be rewarded.

And I'm convinced that everybody in this room, in addition to the great leadership we have in our state today, played a role in the fact that we have an unemployment rate below the national average today. It did not happen overnight. It's all of you who are entrepreneurs, all of you who built your own companies, all of you who came in here and invested in our state from beyond our state's borders, sometimes from beyond our nation's borders. It happened -- being driven in a direction.

But we basically accepted fundamental assumptions. A lot of that is out the window now. And I want you to try to understand what we're going through and why sometimes it doesn't seem to make sense when you see it over the airwaves. We are debating now really first principles in Washington. For example, there's a significant number of people in Congress who believe all of our problems are personal and cultural in nature, and if everybody would just wake up tomorrow and behave themselves, we wouldn't have any problems, and, therefore, we don't need the government to do anything. Whatever the government does will only make it worse. And if we just give you the money back, everything would be fine, because all of our problems are personal and cultural.

Now, at a certain level that is true, isn't it? I mean, no matter what we do with the government in Arkansas or Washington, if people won't behave themselves and do right and make the most of their own lives, nobody can do that for you. That's something you have to do for yourselves. At some point, no matter how much adversity people face, some people make it and some don't. And it's their responsibility.

On the other hand, if you play the odds you know that really successful communities, states and nations do the best they can to make sure that everybody has the best chance to make the most of their own lives. I don't see it that way. I don't think that it's either -- that it's an either/or thing; that all of our problems are personal or cultural on the one hand, or political or economic on the other. I think the answer is both. But because things are changing and people are confused the extreme sides of the debate are really being argued out all over again, just as they were literally decades ago at the beginning of this century when the excesses of the Industrial Revolution were being felt.

MORE

Let me give you another example leading from that. A debate -- we never had that debate in Arkansas. We never saw any inconsistency between fighting teenage pregnancy on the one hand and trying to get more responsibility and investing more money in preschool education on the other. The idea was both, right?

Give you another example -- a lot of people feel flowing from the first debate that since the government only messes things up, the fundamental responsibility of the government is to maintain national defense, cut taxes and balance the budget as quickly as possible without regard to the other consequences of what's being done. They honestly believe this. This is not a -- I'm being, I think, fair and accurate.

Then there are others who feel that the budget deficit is a terrible thing, but not the only deficit the country has; and that if we don't educate our kids, and if we don't at least take care of our fundamental obligations to the elderly people on Medicare who don't have enough money to live on as it is, that the country will come apart at the seams more; and that we have certain common responsibilities. And some people think that if we never balance the budget, it's better to keep investing that money.

But I don't see it that way. I think that we ought to balance the budget, because we never had a permanent deficit between 12 years ago -- I mean, 12 years before I took office -- we haven't had a balanced budget since '69. But in the '70s all of you will remember we had all that stagflation. Oil prices were going crazy, and the reasons for the deficits were largely localized and -- we never had a built-in deficit every year, year in and year out, in this country's history until 1981. And we've taken it down by a trillion dollars over a seven-year period since I've been in office.

We ought to balance the budget. Next year -- we'll be seeing more money on interest on the debt next year than we will spend on national defense. The budget would be balanced this year, right now, because of the cuts we've already made, were it not for the interest we have to pay just in the 12 years before I showed up, up there. That's how big a problem it is. It erodes our competition position in world markets. It drives our incomes down. And it undermines our ability to borrow to invest in the future.

You know, there's a difference between

MORE

borrowing money to build a business or buy a house, and borrowing money to go out to eat tonight. There's a big difference. And we've got it all mixed up. You can't tell what we're doing now. So we need to do that.

But we also have to realize -- I think that we do have more than one deficit. And at the end -- in this information age and this global economy, for us to be cutting education is like cutting defense at the height of the Cold War. I don't think it makes any sense. (Applause.)

But there is this ideological debate over -- and the third big debate, maybe the most important one of all, is the one that there are people who honestly believe that if you think all of our problems are personal and cultural and moral, if you believe the government can't do anything right but mess up a one-car parade, the only thing it's supposed to do is national defense, cut taxes and balance the budget, then a lot of the same people believe that anyone who disagrees with them are intrinsically a threat to the republic and anything you do to beat them or put them in a bad light is all right -- so that the politics of demonization, the meanness quotient of our politics, the distortion level of it has increased quite a bit in recent years.

Now, I think it's good to fight and argue, but I think we're around here after way over 200 years because, no matter how the arguments came out, we kept this thing going in the middle of the road and going forward -- not too far left, not too far right, but always forward. And that's why we're still around.

But I'm just telling you these are fundamental debates that are going on so that it's no longer the kind of normal debate you see in Washington. Instead of the range of difference being like this, it's more like this now. And it's because of all these changes that are going on in the country and in the world.

Let me just give you some specific examples because I think it's a phony debate. I think we need to worry about going forward, not how far we can get out on these extremes. I think we need to return to our basic values. You know, go back and read the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence. We got together as a nation because we thought it was self-evident that all people were endowed by God with certain inalienable rights; among them life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and that it was necessary to form governments to pursue these ends.

And our Constitution was created with the flexibility to enable us to change to meet the challenges of new times, and with the iron-clad guarantees of the Bill of Rights that there were limits beyond which government could not go in infringing upon the freedoms of individuals. And all of our debates, if we'll get back to those basic things and the facts, will lead us to a practical solution that will push us ahead. But I'll just give you some examples.

The family leave law: There were people who were ideologically opposed to the family leave law because they said government shouldn't tell business anything. But the truth is that most parents are also workers today. Whether you think it's a good idea or a bad idea, whether it's a single-parent household or a two-parent household, most parents are also workers. If you believe that the family is the most important institution in our society, on the one hand, and you also believe that if we're not competitive globally, on the other, we're in deep trouble, then this country has no more important objective than enabling people to not have to make a false choice. We must enable people to be successful parents and successful workers. That's why I was for the family leave law. (Applause.)

But not everybody feels this way. That's a big debate up there. And when you hear this rhetoric you have to understand that. There are a lot of people -- there are honest people who honestly believe that it was a wrong thing to do.

It sure didn't hurt the economy -- we've had 6.7 million new jobs since it passed. Record numbers of new business formations in 1993 and 1994. So all those predictions that it was going to hurt the economy or be burdensome were wrong. It's an ideological debate.

Second, the environment: Most people, I believe, here think that we have to be able to grow the economy in a way that preserves the environment so our grandchildren and our grandchildren's grandchildren will still have Arkansas to live in. And a big part of what we define of Arkansas is that. (Applause.) And most of the time when we fought about the environment when we were -- when I was governor, we fought over how to achieve that goal, and whether the government was going too far, the regulations should be done in a certain way -- another way. But we were fighting over how to achieve that goal.

That is not the debate up there anymore. The debate is far more fundamental. There are people who believe, well, it's a nice thing to preserve the

environment, but in the end nobody will ever really let it go down the tubes; and the government will mess it up; get the government out of it. And if the environment is abused in the short run, so what, somehow the planet will regenerate itself.

Let me tell you -- a committee of Congress just the other day voted to eliminate all controls on offshore oil drilling in the United States -- all of them, everywhere, without regard to any evidence of how much oil is there or whether it's worth the risk, or whether there's any evidence of safe drilling, or what the differences in the areas are, or what would happen to tourism, or what would happen to retirement, or what would happen to anything. Why? Because they're ideologically opposed to the government having any kind of partnership at all with the private sector on this.

And that's just one example. But I'm telling you, folks, it is an economic as well as an environmental issue. We're on our way to Portland, Oregon, the Vice President and I are, when we leave you. And we're dealing with a terrible set of problems up there, where a lot of the timber people want to cut more timber in the forest, and because the waters have been more polluted they're losing the salmon. And that's just one example.

I believe we've got to find a way to do both. Our state has used the Nature Conservancy more than any state in the country, I think, to buy land to set aside, because, as Will Rogers said, "they ain't making no more of it." And the people who supported it were the businesspeople in our state. This is a fundamental debate.

I'll give you a third example: Dr. Foster. Al Gore alluded to him. Dr. Foster. There are people in Washington, and they were -- they had enough influence to keep his nomination from coming to a vote -- who believe that he is unfit for any public office ever because he performed a few legal abortions, and, therefore, he should never be considered for any public service; and if the people who wanted to be president in the other party knew what was good for them, they would vote no. And since we had enough votes to confirm him, they could not even let him come to a vote.

Now, here's a guy, unlike the rest of -- most of the rest of us, who's actually done something to try to reduce teen pregnancy, to try to reduce the number of abortions, and to try to tell kids on a consistent, disciplined way, who don't have other role models to tell them, that they should not have sex

before they're married. Here's a guy who's actually gone out and organized a program that was recognized not by me, but by my predecessor, President Bush, in an organized, disciplined fashion to tell young people: I don't care what kind of problems you've got; I don't care what your peer pressures are; I don't care what you're going through; you have no business having sex; you cannot promote teen pregnancy; and you ought not to do it to your life; you ought to stay off drugs, stay in school, and do a good job with your life.

Here's a guy who's ridden country dusty road in Alabama and brought health care to people that they never could have gotten otherwise. Here's a man who's delivered thousands of babies, and had at least one of his former patients stand up and publicly say: I was going to have an abortion, and he talked me out of it. He talked me out of it.

In other words, here's a guy who has actually lived what other folks say they believe in. But in this sort of new world that's taken hold up here, he wasn't political correct and pure enough to serve as surgeon general, even though he had actually done the things they say they wish to do. This is a profound debate. And so they were even willing to abuse the filibuster process.

Clarence Thomas could have been kept off the Supreme Court if the Democrats had said, well, we don't have enough votes to beat him, but we sure got enough votes to keep him from coming to a vote. But they said, no, that would be morally wrong. The President has a right to make an appointment. The committee has a right to make the recommendation. And the Senate ought to vote. But not in this new world. In this new world there are no rules except winning and losing, because one side is all good and the other side is all bad.

If we had had that attitude for the last 219 years, we wouldn't be here today. (Applause.) We wouldn't be here today. (Applause.)

So what is to become of us as a people? I ran for this job because I wanted to do two things, two big things: I wanted to restore the American Dream. I wanted to get the economy going. I wanted to lift stagnant wages and get the jobs coming back into the economy and fix the education system so people could actually get out of this awful two-decade slump we've been in where even when the economic numbers get better, nobody ever gets a raise. But I also wanted to bring the country together.

Now, the second issue is even more important than the first. And it can be a very good thing that we are having these big debates over fundamental questions. But I want you to understand just how deep and fundamental these debates are.

If you look at the budget debate here, I applaud the Republicans for being for a balanced budget, and I hope all the Democrats will be, for the reason I just explained. It is not right for our country to have a permanent deficit. I wasn't for the amendment because we ought to have the right to borrow when we need to. But we shouldn't be in a system of permanent deficits.

But my budget reflects what I just talked to you about. My budget reflects the idea that we need to keep going forward. So I believe that I'm right -- I think we should balance the budget, but increase our investment in education. I think we have to cut the rate at which we're increasing health expenditures, but not so much that we're going to close down rural hospitals or urban hospitals; and not so much that we're going to burden elderly people who don't have enough to live on as it is, and can't afford to pay a whole lot more for their health care, and shouldn't be asked to give up health care.

I believe that we ought to cut spending on welfare, but not so much that we don't invest in child care and basic training so we can actually move people from welfare to work instead of just throwing poor kids in the street. The objective of welfare reform should be to help people, again, become good workers and good parents, not just to save money.

I believe any tax cut we have should be so small it doesn't require us to cut these other things, and should be focused on the people who need it to help them raise their kids and educate them. That's why I proposed a tax deduction for the cost of education after high school. I think that's important.
(Applause.)

And I know if you cut the tax cut back and focus it on education and child rearing and take 10 years instead of seven to balance the budget, then you don't have to cut education, and you don't have to imperil Medicare and Medicaid, and you don't have to go from a welfare reform plan that should be tough on work but good to children to one that doesn't have any work and sticks it to kids. It moves us ahead. But it's not an ideologically extreme position. It says we have two things we want to do, balance the budget and bring our country together and raise incomes and move

MORE

forward. And we can do them both. And that's what's going on up there now. These are big, fundamental questions.

I just want to say in closing that a lot of what's happened to you here, a lot of the outrageous, outrageous things that have been said about our state, and a lot of the lickin' that you've taken is a product of the confusion and the disorientation of the times, and the idea that there are no rules and people just sort of flailing around trying to win another one to get to tomorrow. That is not what made this country great. That is not what made this country great. And it's not what you taught me to do here.

And I just want you to know, the greatest thing that ever happens to me is when I get to be all of you. Hillary and I were in Ukraine for the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. And I gave a speech at the university there and there, I don't know, 60,000 people or something in the streets. And then everywhere we drove there were four or five deep waving American flags. And I met all these old veterans from World War II who fought with the Americans then, telling me everything they did and showing me all their medals, you know. They weren't waving at me, they were waving at America. (Applause.) They were waving at America.

You know, everything the Vice President said -- I'm glad I had a chance to play a major role in what we're doing in the Middle East and what we're doing in Northern Ireland and what's happening in Haiti, and the deneutralization of the world -- I'm glad about all that. But the only reason I had that chance is because for a little while in our country's history I get to become all of us, the United States. And I am telling you I've been there.

There is no country in the world as well positioned as we are for the next century. There is no country -- (applause) -- because we do have a limited government that allows the private sector to flourish and entrepreneurs to do well, but we have enough ability to work together to solve common problems that we can do that. We have the potential for the right balance and the right flexibility.

There is no country that is any better positioned because of our terrific geographic and economic and racial, ethnic and religious diversity. But unless we learn how to recover both the sense of personal responsibility and a sense of appreciation for people who are different from us, unless we learn how to resolve our differences without demonizing people

and how to look toward the long run, we could squander the most colossal opportunity our country has ever had.

Because of the way technology works in the 21st century, Arkansas cannot only have a lower unemployment rate than the rest of the country, our people can actually enjoy a standard of living equal to that of any people in the world. And that can happen everywhere. But it depends upon whether we can go back to these first principles and go forward with a sense of balance and mutual respect.

At the end of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln said, "We cannot be enemies. We must be friends." That is what I say to you. And when you get angry about things you think are happening and when things happen you don't understand, just remember, this is still the greatest country in the world. (Applause.) It is still the greatest country in the world.

Stand up and fight for what you believe in. But fight against people who want to throw this country way off the track. And fight for the idea that we can pull together. After that Oklahoma City bombing, America was shaken to its very core. But it threw some of the meanness out of all of us. And it made all of us reexamine where we are. And our sort of heart and our common sense were reasserted. After that wonderful young Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady survived six hideous days in Bosnia, and was rescued by a brilliant American operation, we were all exhilarated, and that put some of the energy back in all of us.

What I want you to know is to get to tomorrow, we have to have the heart and the openness to other people that we found in the tragedy of Oklahoma City, and the self-confidence and energy that we had when that boy came home. And if we do that, we're going to be just fine.

That is the issue in 1996. That is what you're investing in. It's my last election. I'll never run for anything else. (Laughter.) You'll never have to come to one of these again. You'll never be dunned again. (Laughter.) You'll never have to stand in line again if you don't want to. But just know this time, this time, the stakes are the highest they have ever been -- higher than they were in '92 because of where we have moved and where we can go. It is worth the fight. And I can't make it without you, but together I think we will.

God bless you. And thank you. (Applause.)
END 2:16 P.M. CDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Little Rock, Arkansas)

For Immediate Release

June 23, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT "AMERICA'S HOPE, ARKANSAS' PRIDE" LUNCHEON

William J. Clinton Ballroom
Excelsior Hotel
Little Rock, Arkansas

1:35 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. Thank you for being here. Thank you for being in such a good frame of mind. And thank you for making Hillary and Al and Tipper and me feel so wonderful today.

You know, I've always kind of resented Al Gore -- (laughter) -- for being a little smarter than I am and knowing a little more about various things. And now he's gotten funnier than I am. I really -- (laughter.)

I thank you, Maurice Mitchell and Skip Rutherford and Jay Dunn and Doug Hatterman (ph) and all the others who worked. I have to mention one person I know is not here and another person I have not yet seen. I know a lot of people worked hard on this, but I know that my longtime friend, Merle Peterson, who's away, and Jimmy Ray Jones sat in a room and called a lot of you and harassed you until you bought tickets to this. (Laughter.) And I want to thank them and all the rest of the committee for the work that they did. (Applause.)

I would like to thank Mack McLarty and all those from Arkansas who work in the administration, as well as those who work here in the Arkansas office who tried to give you a lifeline through the fog that Washington can become. I thank them for representing me. I want to say a special word of thanks to Mack for all the many things he's done over the last two and a half years. I got a vivid picture of one of them yesterday when we were in New Jersey at a Ford plant, and where, doubtless, had made various vehicles that the McLarty dealerships had sold over the years. But I couldn't help thinking, you know, Mack has basically become the country's point person in all of our developing economic and political relationships with Latin America, which have expanded by more in the last two and a half years than in any previous point in history. And this Ford plant in New Jersey was making trucks being sold in Latin America. And I never realized it before, but there

MORE

was McLarty always thinking about what it's going to be like 20 years from now when he's running all those Ford dealerships again. (Laughter.) You can be very proud of the leadership he has given to our country, and I thank him for his long friendship.

And Bruce Lindsey, Marcia Scott, all the other people from Arkansas, and the people who run this office, they have enabled me to try and stay in touch with you in times when it has not always been easy. And Carole Rasco is not here -- she's getting ready for our economic conference in the Pacific Northwest. But I see some people here particularly involved in

health care and social services I know call her -- I thank them for the work they've done to make it possible for us to try to stay in touch with one another.

I also want to say a special word of thanks to Congresswoman Blanche Lambert Lincoln and Congressman Ray

Thornton. And congratulations, Congressmen, to you and to our senators and to our Governor on Red River. Nice work, Truman Arnold is very happy he can keep working for the -- (applause) -- Truman Arnold woke up this morning thinking he could keep working for our reelection and for our party now.

We wish you well, Congressman Thornton. I wish you weren't retiring, but whatever you decide to do, I imagine you will make a good show of it. You always have. And you've really served our state well, and you've served our nation well, and we thank you for that.

I want to say, as Hillary did, a special word of thanks to Senator Bumpers and Senator Pryor. They have fulfilled a lot of roles that maybe on some occasions they would rather not have done in the last two and a half years. And we've had some rough spots in the road. We've had some ups and downs, but they have always, always, always been there. And in very personal ways that will probably never become fully known or appreciated, I can tell you that I am profoundly grateful to both of them.

I saw David on television the other night speaking to the Small Business Conference, talking about the importance of balancing the budget and doing it in a humane way and the right way. And a lot of those Republicans were really listening to him in ways that only he can communicate. I think of all the times when David has taken the floor of the Senate to try to restore just a little bit of humanity and sanity to a national political debate that has gotten way too out of hand too often in the last two years, and I thank him for that.

And let me also say I am especially glad to see Governor and Mrs. Tucker here today, and especially grateful for the reception you gave them. As an Arkansan, I felt exactly the same way. (Applause.) And thank you, Governor, for being here. We're proud of you. Thank you. (Applause.)

I might also note that the last time I checked the unemployment rate in Arkansas is down to 4.1 percent, which is -- after what we suffered all those years, that's another reason to rejoice.

You know, I was listening to the Vice President go through that whole litany, and I have to say I'm also especially indebted to the people who have spoken here before me -- to Tipper for all the work she's done in mental health and for the courageous and sometimes lonely battles she always wages within the

administration to remind all of us that that's a very important part of health care; and to Tipper and to Hillary, for the work they've done to try to make sure we increase our emphasis on women's health concerns.

And I was very proud of Hillary yesterday in particular. She took me along and I spoke to a remarkable event in front of the Arlington Cemetery yesterday where we broke ground, long overdue, on America's first memorial for the 1.8 million women who have worn the uniform of our country in military service. (Applause.)

One of the things that I am quite proud of that almost nobody knows -- there are a lot of achievements of this administration that fall into that category -- one of the things that I'm very proud of that almost nobody knows, that I think is part of the enduring influence of my wife and my wonderful departed mother is that in the last two and a half years we have opened up to women in the services 260,000 positions previously denied them in the service of their country. And I'm very proud of it, and the military is very proud of it. (Applause.)

I said that last comment and the Vice President was up here giving our record and it reminded me about a week ago,

maybe two weeks ago now, we had an event at the Treasury Department. And we were announcing one of our continuing Al Gore genius moves to reinvent the government and make it easier to deal with, and this one had to do with the fact that next year in 32 states people can file their taxes, state and federal together, electronically -- no paper, no hassle, file them both together. We'll distribute it, we'll do all the work. And we always try to have a real person, like one of you at one of these announcements to explain how this will actually change people's lives.

So, it was just before the Small Business Conference started and we got this John Deere dealer from west Texas come who happened to be a supporter of mine, probably the only person in the whole county -- (laughter) -- there he was. But anyway, he ran a good-sized John Deere dealership, and he got up there and he said -- I got so tickled -- he said -- he brought all the paper that he'd been using on his taxes and he said, I can throw all this away and it's great. And he explained how much money he was going to save, but he said, you know, he said, you fellows have been doing a great job of reinventing government. What you need to do is reinvent communication because it ain't getting out to the rednecks that I sell John Deeres to. (Laughter.)

You know, some nights I watch the news and I feel like that old country song, "They Changed Everything About Me But My Name." (Laughter.) That's beginning to change as well. I want to have -- for just a moment I want to have a serious conversation. The Vice President has outlined a great deal of what we have done and I use the word "we" in the largest sense. One of them, our proudest achievements, has very little to do with me except that I made it possible, and I think the history books will reflect that Al Gore was the most influential and effective Vice President of the United States in the history of our republic through the 21st century. (Applause.)

We were at the Small Business Conference the other day; we hauled out 16,000 federal regulations that we were getting rid of because of the reinventing government task force, cutting half the regulations of the Small Business Administration, 40 percent of the regulations of the Department of Education, dramatically changing the way the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is going to work, reducing the paperwork burdens of the Environmental Protection Agency by 25 percent, setting up a hotline so that if a small business person calls the EPA now, that person cannot be fined if he or she is calling for help to try to figure out to solve a problem. (Applause.)

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These are important changes in the way our government relates to people. But I have to tell you that what is going on in America today is more than just whether this administration is achieving things that are or are not known about. This is a period of deep and profound change in the whole world and in this country: the way we work, the way we live, the conditions in which we raise our children, the opportunities available to us and the challenges confronting us. They're different. And all of us are the product of our own experiences. I tell everybody that works at the White House all the time, especially young people who see things they don't understand, I keep telling everybody we all see the world through the prism of our own experience. Even our imaginations are limited by what we have known and felt and seen.

And, yet, all these things are happening around us, some utterly wonderful and some utterly horrible that go beyond our ability even to imagine a resolution of. A lot of good things -- the end of the Cold War, the growth of the information age, the fact that a kid in the most remote mountain school in Arkansas can now hook into an Internet which will pull information out of a library in Australia, just for example -- now, these are wonderful things. And we see all these things, and it's just staggering it's so wonderful.

We see a lot of our old problems appear to be getting better. The crime rate as a whole is dropping in almost every major city in America. That's the good news. And I could give you 50 other examples of good news. We had the biggest expansion of trade opportunities in our country in the last two years that we have had in a generation, maybe ever.

But underneath that it seems that every opportunity has within it the possibility of something new going wrong. Crime rate goes down, but the arbitrary rate of violence among teenagers goes up, giving us chilling feelings about what the crime rate might be like in 10 or 15 years. And more and more young kids are just being kind of left alone out there to raise themselves, struggling to figure out what to do, stuck in home environments, community environments and school environments that aren't likely to help them to turn around the challenges they face.

All this wonderful technology and this easily accessible information has its dark underside. You can get on the Internet now and tap into one of these fanatic extremists and they will explain to you

how you, too, can make a bomb just like the one that blew up the federal building in Oklahoma City. The explosion of technology means that a radical religious group in Japan can figure out how to get a little bitty vial of gas and walk into a subway and break it open and kill a bunch of totally innocent people and put hundreds of others in the hospital.

So you see the point I'm trying to make -- there is so much good in the world, so much new possibility, but the Scripture tells us that the darkness that is in the human soul will be with us until the end of time, and those dark forces are finding new expressions as well. And we're all sitting around here trying to figure out how to make sense of this and what to do, so that what is really going on in Washington, which is confusing to people, is not much different than what's going on inside a lot of people's heads, which is confusing to people. And it's because it is really new.

I am proud of the fact that this administration negotiated agreements which means that there are no nuclear weapons pointed at the children of Arkansas since the dawn of the nuclear age. I'm proud of that. (Applause.) But the paradox is -- let me just give you the paradox -- the paradox is a year or so ago, Hillary and I went to Riga, Latvia, to celebrate the withdrawal of Russian troops there for the first time since before World War II; tens of thousands of people in the street weeping with joy, loving America. A poll just came out and said that Bill Clinton was the most popular politician in Latvia. I'm trying to figure out how to get on the ballot there, give them some electoral votes. (Laughter.)

But then we go into -- it was a wonderful survey -- it wasn't me, I was America. It didn't have anything to do with me. I was the United States. But then we go behind closed doors into a meeting and the first thing they ask me for is an FBI office. Why? Because when you rip away the iron hand of communism, and you take out the Russian army -- there is this huge port, the largest city in Northern Europe that most people couldn't even find on a map here, that they're now terrified will become a great transit point for drug trafficking and organized crime of all kinds. The most popular thing we've done in Russia in the last year is not dismantling the nuclear weapons, it's opening an FBI office in Moscow. Why? Because they got rid of communism, and they didn't have things like the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Securities and Exchange Commission, so within no time at all, half of their financial institutions were controlled by organized crime.

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I say this to make a point. We have to go back deep inside now to our basic values and our basic institutions. And the debates we are having in Washington now are over fundamental things that we used to take for granted.

When I was Governor here, in all the years until the last year when I ran for President, we only had an unemployment rate below the national average one month -- one month. A lot of my legislators are out there. They remember how we struggled with that -- but we had a consensus. We disagreed on the details, and we fought at election time, but there was a general consensus that if we made our state more attractive economically, and that if we continued to invest in the skills of our people, that in the end that strategy would be rewarded. And it might take a decade to turn it around, but it would be rewarded.

And I'm convinced that everybody in this room, in addition to the great leadership we have in our state today, played a role in the fact that we have an unemployment rate below the national average today. It did not happen overnight. It's all of you who are entrepreneurs, all of you who built your own companies, all of you who came in here and invested in our state from beyond our state's borders, sometimes from beyond our nation's borders. It happened -- being driven in a direction.

But we basically accepted fundamental assumptions. A lot of that is out the window now. And I want you to try to understand what we're going through and why sometimes it doesn't seem to make sense when you see it over the airwaves. We are debating now really first principles in Washington. For example, there's a significant number of people in Congress who believe all of our problems are personal and cultural in nature, and if everybody would just wake up tomorrow and behave themselves, we wouldn't have any problems, and, therefore, we don't need the government to do anything. Whatever the government does will only make it worse. And if we just give you the money back, everything would be fine, because all of our problems are personal and cultural.

Now, at a certain level that is true, isn't it? I mean, no matter what we do with the government in Arkansas or Washington, if people won't behave themselves and do right and make the most of their own lives, nobody can do that for you. That's something you have to do for yourselves. At some point, no matter how much adversity people face, some people make it and some don't. And it's their responsibility.

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On the other hand, if you play the odds you know that really successful communities, states and nations do the best they can to make sure that everybody has the best chance to make the most of their own lives. I don't see it that way. I don't think that it's either -- that it's an either/or thing; that all of our problems are personal or cultural on the one hand, or political or economic on the other. I think the answer is both. But because things are changing and people are confused the extreme sides of the debate are really being argued out all over again, just as they were literally decades ago at the beginning of this century when the excesses of the Industrial Revolution were being felt.

Let me give you another example leading from that. A debate -- we never had that debate in Arkansas. We never saw any inconsistency between fighting teenage pregnancy on the one hand and trying to get more responsibility and investing more money in preschool education on the other. The idea was both, right?

Give you another example -- a lot of people feel flowing from the first debate that since the government only messes things up, the fundamental responsibility of the government is to maintain national defense, cut taxes and balance the budget as quickly as possible without regard to the other consequences of what's being done. They honestly believe this. This is not a -- I'm being, I think, fair and accurate.

Then there are others who feel that the budget deficit is a terrible thing, but not the only deficit the country has; and that if we don't educate our kids, and if we don't at least take care of our fundamental obligations to the elderly people on Medicare who don't have enough money to live on as it is, that the country will come apart at the seams more; and that we have certain common responsibilities. And some people think that if we never balance the budget, it's better to keep investing that money.

But I don't see it that way. I think that we ought to balance the budget, because we never had a permanent deficit between 12 years ago -- I mean, 12 years before I took office -- we haven't had a balanced budget since '69. But in the '70s all of you will remember we had all that stagflation. Oil prices were going crazy, and the reasons for the deficits were largely localized and -- we never had a built-in deficit every year, year in and year out, in this country's history until 1981. And we've taken it down

by a trillion dollars over a seven-year period since I've been in office.

We ought to balance the budget. Next year -- we'll be seeing more money on interest on the debt next year than we will spend on national defense. The budget would be balanced this year, right now, because of the cuts we've already made, were it not for the interest we have to pay just in the 12 years before I showed up, up there. That's how big a problem it is. It erodes our competition position in world markets. It drives our incomes down. And it undermines our ability to borrow to invest in the future.

You know, there's a difference between borrowing money to build a business or buy a house, and borrowing money to go out to eat tonight. There's a big difference. And we've got it all mixed up. You can't tell what we're doing now. So we need to do that.

But we also have to realize -- I think that we do have more than one deficit. And at the end -- in this information age and this global economy, for us to be cutting education is like cutting defense at the height of the Cold War. I don't think it makes any sense. (Applause.)

But there is this ideological debate over -- and the third big debate, maybe the most important one of all, is the one that there are people who honestly believe that if you think all of our problems are personal and cultural and moral, if you believe the government can't do anything right but mess up a one-car parade, the only thing it's supposed to do is national defense, cut taxes and balance the budget, then a lot of the same people believe that anyone who disagrees with them are intrinsically a threat to the republic and anything you do to beat them or put them in a bad light is all right -- so that the politics of demonization, the meanness quotient of our politics, the distortion level of it has increased quite a bit in recent years.

Now, I think it's good to fight and argue, but I think we're around here after way over 200 years because, no matter how the arguments came out, we kept this thing going in the middle of the road and going forward -- not too far left, not too far right, but always forward. And that's why we're still around.

But I'm just telling you these are fundamental debates that are going on so that it's no longer the kind of normal debate you see in Washington. Instead of the range of difference being like this,

MORE

it's more like this now. And it's because of all these changes that are going on in the country and in the world.

Let me just give you some specific examples because I think it's a phony debate. I think we need to worry about going forward, not how far we can get out on these extremes. I think we need to return to our basic values. You know, go back and read the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence. We got together as a nation because we thought it was self-evident that all people were endowed by God with certain inalienable rights; among them life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and that it was necessary to form governments to pursue these ends.

And our Constitution was created with the flexibility to enable us to change to meet the challenges of new times, and with the iron-clad guarantees of the Bill of Rights that there were limits beyond which government could not go in infringing upon the freedoms of individuals. And all of our debates, if we'll get back to those basic things and the facts, will lead us to a practical solution that will push us ahead. But I'll just give you some examples.

The family leave law: There were people who were ideologically opposed to the family leave law because they said government shouldn't tell business anything. But the truth is that most parents are also workers today. Whether you think it's a good idea or a bad idea, whether it's a single-parent household or a two-parent household, most parents are also workers. If you believe that the family is the most important institution in our society, on the one hand, and you also believe that if we're not competitive globally, on the other, we're in deep trouble, then this country has no more important objective than enabling people to not have to make a false choice. We must enable people to be successful parents and successful workers. That's why I was for the family leave law. (Applause.)

But not everybody feels this way. That's a big debate up there. And when you hear this rhetoric you have to understand that. There are a lot of people -- there are honest people who honestly believe that it was a wrong thing to do.

It sure didn't hurt the economy -- we've had 6.7 million new jobs since it passed. Record numbers of new business formations in 1993 and 1994. So all those predictions that it was going to hurt the economy or be burdensome were wrong. It's an ideological debate.

Second, the environment: Most people, I believe, here think that we have to be able to grow the economy in a way that preserves the environment so our grandchildren and our grandchildren's grandchildren will still have Arkansas to live in. And a big part of what we define of Arkansas is that. (Applause.) And most of the time when we fought about the environment when we were -- when I was governor, we fought over how to achieve that goal, and whether the government was going too far, the regulations should be done in a certain way -- another way. But we were fighting over how to achieve that goal.

That is not the debate up there anymore. The debate is far more fundamental. There are people who believe, well, it's a nice thing to preserve the environment, but in the end nobody will ever really let it go down the tubes; and the government will mess it up; get the government out of it. And if the environment is abused in the short run, so what, somehow the planet will regenerate itself.

Let me tell you -- a committee of Congress just the other day voted to eliminate all controls on offshore oil drilling in the United States -- all of them, everywhere, without regard to any evidence of how much oil is there or whether it's worth the risk, or whether there's any evidence of safe drilling, or what the differences in the areas are, or what would happen to tourism, or what would happen to retirement, or what would happen to anything. Why? Because they're ideologically opposed to the government having any kind of partnership at all with the private sector on this.

And that's just one example. But I'm telling you, folks, it is an economic as well as an environmental issue. We're on our way to Portland, Oregon, the Vice President and I are, when we leave you. And we're dealing with a terrible set of problems up there, where a lot of the timber people want to cut more timber in the forest, and because the waters have been more polluted they're losing the salmon. And that's just one example.

I believe we've got to find a way to do both. Our state has used the Nature Conservancy more than any state in the country, I think, to buy land to set aside, because, as Will Rogers said, "they ain't making no more of it." And the people who supported it were the businesspeople in our state. This is a fundamental debate.

I'll give you a third example: Dr. Foster. Al Gore alluded to him. Dr. Foster. There are people in Washington, and they were -- they had enough influence to keep his nomination from coming to a vote

-- who believe that he is unfit for any public office ever because he performed a few legal abortions, and, therefore, he should never be considered for any public service; and if the people who wanted to be president in the other party knew what was good for them, they would vote no. And since we had enough votes to confirm him, they could not even let him come to a vote.

Now, here's a guy, unlike the rest of -- most of the rest of us, who's actually done something to try to reduce teen pregnancy, to try to reduce the number of abortions, and to try to tell kids on a consistent, disciplined way, who don't have other role models to tell them, that they should not have sex before they're married. Here's a guy who's actually gone out and organized a program that was recognized not by me, but by my predecessor, President Bush, in an organized, disciplined fashion to tell young people: I don't care what kind of problems you've got; I don't care what your peer pressures are; I don't care what you're going through; you have no business having sex; you cannot promote teen pregnancy; and you ought not to do it to your life; you ought to stay off drugs, stay in school, and do a good job with your life.

Here's a guy who's ridden country dusty road in Alabama and brought health care to people that they never could have gotten otherwise. Here's a man who's delivered thousands of babies, and had at least one of his former patients stand up and publicly say: I was going to have an abortion, and he talked me out of it. He talked me out of it.

In other words, here's a guy who has actually lived what other folks say they believe in. But in this sort of new world that's taken hold up here, he wasn't political correct and pure enough to serve as surgeon general, even though he had actually done the things they say they wish to do. This is a profound debate. And so they were even willing to abuse the filibuster process.

Clarence Thomas could have been kept off the Supreme Court if the Democrats had said, well, we don't have enough votes to beat him, but we sure got enough votes to keep him from coming to a vote. But they said, no, that would be morally wrong. The President has a right to make an appointment. The committee has a right to make the recommendation. And the Senate ought to vote. But not in this new world. In this new world there are no rules except winning and losing, because one side is all good and the other side is all bad.

If we had had that attitude for the last 219 years, we wouldn't be here today. (Applause.) We wouldn't be here today. (Applause.)

So what is to become of us as a people? I ran for this job because I wanted to do two things, two big things: I wanted to restore the American Dream. I wanted to get the economy going. I wanted to lift stagnant wages and get the jobs coming back into the economy and fix the education system so people could actually get out of this awful two-decade slump we've been in where even when the economic numbers get better, nobody ever gets a raise. But I also wanted to bring the country together.

*1 Nam for pres
for 2 big
reasons*

Now, the second issue is even more important than the first. And it can be a very good thing that we are having these big debates over fundamental questions. But I want you to understand just how deep and fundamental these debates are.

If you look at the budget debate here, I applaud the Republicans for being for a balanced budget, and I hope all the Democrats will be, for the reason I just explained. It is not right for our country to have a permanent deficit. I wasn't for the amendment because we ought to have the right to borrow when we need to. But we shouldn't be in a system of permanent deficits.

But my budget reflects what I just talked to you about. My budget reflects the idea that we need to keep going forward. So I believe that I'm right -- I think we should balance the budget, but increase our investment in education. I think we have to cut the rate at which we're increasing health expenditures, but not so much that we're going to close down rural hospitals or urban hospitals; and not so much that we're going to burden elderly people who don't have enough to live on as it is, and can't afford to pay a whole lot more for their health care, and shouldn't be asked to give up health care.

I believe that we ought to cut spending on welfare, but not so much that we don't invest in child care and basic training so we can actually move people from welfare to work instead of just throwing poor kids in the street. The objective of welfare reform should be to help people, again, become good workers and good parents, not just to save money.

I believe any tax cut we have should be so small it doesn't require us to cut these other things, and should be focused on the people who need it to help them raise their kids and educate them. That's why I

proposed a tax deduction for the cost of education after high school. I think that's important.
(Applause.)

And I know if you cut the tax cut back and focus it on education and child rearing and take 10 years instead of seven to balance the budget, then you don't have to cut education, and you don't have to imperil Medicare and Medicaid, and you don't have to go from a welfare reform plan that should be tough on work but good to children to one that doesn't have any work and sticks it to kids. It moves us ahead. But it's not an ideologically extreme position. It says we have two things we want to do, balance the budget and bring our country together and raise incomes and move forward. And we can do them both. And that's what's going on up there now. These are big, fundamental questions.

I just want to say in closing that a lot of what's happened to you here, a lot of the outrageous, outrageous things that have been said about our state, and a lot of the lickin' that you've taken is a product of the confusion and the disorientation of the times, and the idea that there are no rules and people just sort of flailing around trying to win another one to get to tomorrow. That is not what made this country great. That is not what made this country great. And it's not what you taught me to do here.

And I just want you to know, the greatest thing that ever happens to me is when I get to be all of you. Hillary and I were in Ukraine for the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. And I gave a speech at the university there and there, I don't know, 60,000 people or something in the streets. And then everywhere we drove there were four or five deep waving American flags. And I met all these old veterans from World War II who fought with the Americans then, telling me everything they did and showing me all their medals, you know. They weren't waving at me, they were waving at America. (Applause.) They were waving at America.

You know, everything the Vice President said -- I'm glad I had a chance to play a major role in what we're doing in the Middle East and what we're doing in Northern Ireland and what's happening in Haiti, and the deneutralization of the world -- I'm glad about all that. But the only reason I had that chance is because for a little while in our country's history I get to become all of us, the United States. And I am telling you I've been there.

There is no country in the world as well

MORE

positioned as we are for the next century. There is no country -- (applause) -- because we do have a limited government that allows the private sector to flourish and entrepreneurs to do well, but we have enough ability to work together to solve common problems that we can do that. We have the potential for the right balance and the right flexibility.

There is no country that is any better positioned because of our terrific geographic and economic and racial, ethnic and religious diversity. But unless we learn how to recover both the sense of personal responsibility and a sense of appreciation for people who are different from us, unless we learn how to resolve our differences without demonizing people and how to look toward the long run, we could squander the most colossal opportunity our country has ever had.

Because of the way technology works in the 21st century, Arkansas cannot only have a lower unemployment rate than the rest of the country, our people can actually enjoy a standard of living equal to that of any people in the world. And that can happen everywhere. But it depends upon whether we can go back to these first principles and go forward with a sense of balance and mutual respect.

At the end of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln said, "We cannot be enemies. We must be friends." That is what I say to you. And when you get angry about things you think are happening and when things happen you don't understand, just remember, this is still the greatest country in the world. (Applause.) It is still the greatest country in the world.

Stand up and fight for what you believe in. But fight against people who want to throw this country way off the track. And fight for the idea that we can pull together. After that Oklahoma City bombing, America was shaken to its very core. But it threw some of the meanness out of all of us. And it made all of us reexamine where we are. And our sort of heart and our common sense were reasserted. After that wonderful young Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady survived six hideous days in Bosnia, and was rescued by a brilliant American operation, we were all exhilarated, and that put some of the energy back in all of us.

What I want you to know is to get to tomorrow, we have to have the heart and the openness to other people that we found in the tragedy of Oklahoma City, and the self-confidence and energy that we had when that boy came home. And if we do that, we're going to be just fine.

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That is the issue in 1996. That is what you're investing in. It's my last election. I'll never run for anything else. (Laughter.) You'll never have to come to one of these again. You'll never be dunned again. (Laughter.) You'll

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never have to stand in line again if you don't want to. But just know this time, this time, the stakes are the highest they have ever been -- higher than they were in '92 because of where we have moved and where we can go. It is worth the fight. And I can't make it without you, but together I think we will.

God bless you. And thank you. (Applause.)

END

2:16 P.M. CDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Edison, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

June 22, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO FORD PLANT EMPLOYEES

Ford Edison Assembly Plant
Edison, New Jersey

4:19 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I like your spirit.
(Applause.)

Q Give 'em hell, Bill!

THE PRESIDENT: You help and I will. (Laughter.)

I want to thank Denton and Earl and Peter for being here with me today. I want to say a special word of thanks to Ford Motor Company for being a good partner with the United States of America to build our economy, to get a fair trade policy, and to do a lot of things we need to do in this country. Ford has been a good citizen of this nation and has helped immeasurably to further the aims of this administration. I thank you, Peter, and I thank all of you for the contribution you have made to that. (Applause.)

Some of you may know that my main claim to your affection is that I own a car that's older than some of the people who work here. I own a 1967 Mustang. (Applause.) And Mustangs were made here in this plant from '65 to '70, here and in San Jose, California. And I own one of them. And I enjoy having it. (Applause.)

I want to talk to you today very briefly about two things -- one of them has already been discussed; trade. And the other is what we can do here at home to build up our economy and strengthen our people.

I ran for the job that I now hold because I was really concerned that we were going to raise the first generation of Americans who wouldn't do as well as their parents. It bothered me that more than half of our people were working a longer work week

for the same or lower wages they were making 15 years earlier. It bothered me that we were coming apart with all of the social problems and tensions we had in this country when we need to be working together.

You've proved in this plant that if you work together you can compete and win and do well. And that's what America has to do. And I have done everything I could for two and a half years to try to restore the American Dream -- not only to create jobs, but to raise incomes and to give working families some security, that if they do work hard and play by the rules they're going to be all right and our children are going to be all right. That, it seems to me, is the most important thing we can do. (Applause.)

There are a lot of things we can talk about, but I just want to talk about two today that are very important. The first is, what do we do about the economy here at home. The second is, how do we relate to the rest of the world.

And let me talk a little about the economy here at home. When I became President, we had just finished 12 years in which we had quadrupled -- increased by four-fold -- the national debt -- by four-fold. But we were reducing our commitment to the things that make us rich -- to education, to technology, to building the skills and the technology and the kind of partnerships that really generate jobs and incomes in the world today. So what I tried to do was to flip that around. I tried to bring the deficit down, but to increase our investment in education, technology, basic research, and to form a real partnership with the private sector to help to sell American products.

Now, we have reduced the deficit by about \$1 trillion over a seven-year period. We have increased our investments in education, research and technology. We are working more closely with business than ever before. And we have to show for it a lower unemployment rate and over 6.7 million new jobs. I am proud of that. But we have to remember that we've been getting into the rut we've been in for 20 years. And I'll just give you two examples. We created 6.7 million new jobs, the unemployment rate went down, but the average income of the American people didn't go up. We have to keep working on that. People have to be rewarded for their work. We can't expect working people to make a profit for their companies unless they can also make a profit for themselves. (Applause.)

Now, you've got a unique situation in Washington where the leaders of Congress want to balance the budget, and that's a good thing. And I do, too, and that's a good thing. Why is that important? I'll tell you why it's important -- because if it were not for the interest we have to pay -- I want you all to listen to this -- if it weren't for the interest we have to pay on the debt this country ran up in just the 12 years before I became President -- forget about the other 200 years -- just those 12 years, our budget would be in balance today. And we would have more money to spend on your children's education; more money to spend on the

health care of elderly people through Medicare and Medicaid; more money to spend on new technologies to guarantee Americans good jobs in the future.

So we need to get rid of this deficit. But the question is, how should we do it? Keep in mind, every day my objective is, more jobs, higher income, more security for people who are working hard. That's what I go to work and try to guarantee. So there's a big difference between my budget and the one the leaders of Congress have proposed because I think mine will do more for jobs, incomes and security of families.

Here's what the differences are. First, we cut spending except for defense, Social Security and medical costs about 20 percent across the board, except for education; we increase spending on education. I think your children should be able to go to college -- (applause) -- they should be able to get good training programs, they should be able to be in good pre-school programs. I think that's important.

Second, we want to slow the rate of growth in the medical costs the federal government pays -- that's Medicare and Medicaid, which is mostly for elderly people and disabled people. But I don't want to charge middle and lower-middle income elderly people on Medicare more money for the same health care, and I don't want to see them have to give up their health care. So we cut medical costs less than the Congress does because I think it's important to protect Medicare and to protect the people who are on it who have paid into it and who don't have enough money to live on as it is.

Third, we have a much smaller tax cut than they do, and our is targeted not to upper-income people, but to middle class people and focused on education and child rearing. I think everybody ought to get a tax deduction for the cost of sending their kids to college. I am for that. (Applause.)

The fourth thing we do is to save money on welfare spending. But I'll be -- I want to be honest with you -- we don't save as much money as the Congress does because I think we should hold some money back to give to the purpose of education and training and child care for people on welfare so you can actually get them to work. We don't want to cut these kids off and put them in the street. We want people to go to work and be good parents and good workers. So we ought to invest enough in child care and education to get that done. So we do that. (Applause.)

And the fifth thing that my plan does is to balance the budget over 10 years. They balance the budget over seven years. If you go to 10 instead of seven, you can increase education, not cut it; you can protect elderly people on Medicare; you can invest enough in welfare to get real welfare reform to put people to work; and you don't have to risk a recession.

The Wharton Business School over in Philadelphia, not far from

here, did an analysis of the congressional budget and estimated that they're cutting so much out of the economy so fast it would drive unemployment up and slow the economy down. We want to lower interest rates, free up money, balance the budget in ways that grow the economy.

So when you hear these debates -- I want to work with the Congress, I don't want a partisan fight, I want to put America first. I want you to know, if somebody tells you that we don't need to balance the budget, that's not true, because every year we don't balance the budget, we're spending more and more of your tax money on interest payments and less money on things that we all want. We do need to do it. But the aim is your jobs, your incomes, your family security. And the test of every decision we make should be, is it going to increase those. And I think my budget does that.

Now, the second point I want to make is we can't grow the American economy alone if we don't have the right kind of relationship with the rest of the world. We know -- you sell these trucks here all over the world, don't you? And we know that your earnings are above the national average, aren't they? And we know that generally that jobs related to trade in America pay better than jobs that have no relationship to the global economy. We also know that because of all the changes you and others have been through, millions of people like you in America in the last 15 years -- we are the high-quality, low-cost producer of many, many, many products that can be sold all over the world. (Applause.)

So, I have done my best to negotiate agreements that would open markets around the world and make everybody else's market as open as ours. We're opening markets to the south of us in Latin America, and you're selling some trucks down there. We're opening markets with Europe and other countries. We have had all kinds of new trade agreements.

Even with Japan, we have had 15 new trade agreements, so that we're selling rice and apples and cellular telephones over there for the first time. This movement toward open trade now that America is competitive is a good thing for us. Why? Because we have open markets. So we can't stop some people from being at risk from low-cost competition if it's generally low cost and good quality. We can't stop that. But if we don't get a fair deal going the other way, then we get it coming and going. We don't have a chance to create the high-wage jobs from trade to replace the low-wage jobs that we lose. And we don't have the chance to give people the security they deserve if they are competitive in the world market.

That is what is at stake. Now, here's the problem. Our relationship with Japan has simply been different than that with everybody else. And their system of protecting their products and their markets is different from the things you can normally reach with a trade agreement. They're not necessarily tariffs, they're

not necessarily quotas. It's a highly complicated system of doing business that works to freeze us out.

You know, you leader has said he didn't know the exact numbers. I'll tell you what the exact numbers are over the last 20 years. Twenty years ago we had less than one percent of the Japanese market in automobiles. You know what it is today -- 1.5 percent. Big deal. Since we have been trading cars both ways, we have shipped a total, cars and trucks, of 400,000 vehicles to them. They have shipped a total of 40 million to us.

Q Boooo!

THE PRESIDENT: Now, that's a hundred to one. Now, if all this were fair and they didn't want to buy anything we had produced, and we were buying what they had to produce, it would be fine. In auto parts -- forget about what you do here, let's just talk about auto parts. With the whole rest of the world, we have a \$5.8 billion surplus. That's a huge number of jobs. Every billion dollars is about 17,000 more jobs; it's a lot of jobs. With them, we have a deficit in auto parts of over \$12 billion a year.

Now, you say, well, if it were fair it would be all right. These luxury cars that are at issue here in our trade dispute -- you can buy some of them for \$9,000 -- they're made in Japan, right -- you can buy some of them for \$9,000 less here in America than they pay in Japan for them. A carburetor made in Japan costs three times as much there as it does here. I am for free trade, but I am for fair trade, and that's not fair. And you know it's not fair.

And guess what -- it's not good for them. They're rolling in doe, but their economy is not growing. Their people look like they're making more money than you are, but they're paying 40 percent more for all of their consumer products. So the average working stiff in Japan is not doing much better than a lot of people in other countries, not doing as well as many American workers, and would be doing much better if they had free and open competition and it drove down the prices that their consumers are paying, because, as you well know, when you pay the bills every month, every worker is also a consumer.

What I am trying to do is not just good for us, it's good for them. They're a great democracy. We work together on a lot of things. But you know we had to change -- all of us did. A lot of you went through gut-wrenching changes in the last 20 years to make sure this plant would be recognized for its low error rate and its high-quality production. We all have to change. Their system is not fair. And that is what we are trying to get done. We're trying to open it so that you will have free access to their markets like they have to ours. And it's a fight worth making. (Applause.)

Now, today and tomorrow, in Switzerland, the representatives

of our government and the Japanese are talking, and they're trying to avoid what's going to happen next week. But on the 28th, if we don't have an agreement that will take us toward opening their markets and fair treatment for American products and American workers, then I have ordered the U.S. Trade Representative to put tariffs of one hundred percent on 13 of their luxury cars. (Applause.)

I want to say again, I think you can compete with anybody where you get a fair shot. If people don't what we produce, that's a different story. But I think it is wrong for America to be leading the way in opening our markets and putting our workers at risk in competition and not have the same rights in every other major market in countries that are as rich as we are. That is not right. (Applause.) You deserve a fair chance.

So I want you to think about this. Every time you wonder what we're doing up there or you see a fight going on in Washington, you just remember my test is: Will it create jobs? Will it raise incomes? Will it make working people more secure if they're doing their part? That's what I think about every day. If everybody in this country had a job, if every job paid enough to support children, we wouldn't have a lot of the problems we have to today. (Applause.)

You know, there's a lot of talk about how angry voters are -- or angry men are. Well, you know, one reason is that 60 percent of the hourly-wage earners in this country are working a longer work week for about 15 percent less than they were making 10 years ago. If that wouldn't make you mad, I don't know what would.

Now, you can lead the way. The auto companies now can lead the world. And they can lead America back toward a high-wage, high-growth economy. I don't want any special breaks, but I do want a fair deal. If you get a fair deal, if you have a government that works for you, that invests in your education, that gets rid of this deficit, that looks toward the future, I think you can take care of your families and your communities and the future of our country. But I'm going to be in there plugging for you. You stay with us, and we'll get the job done together. (Applause.)

Thank you very much.

END

4:36 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Edison, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

June 22, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE POOL

Landing Zone
Ford Assembly Plant
Edison, New Jersey

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. Today 43 Republicans in the Senate failed the fundamental test of fairness. By choosing to side with extremists who would do anything to block a woman's right to choose, those senators have done a disservice to a good man, done a disservice to the nominating process, and sent a chilling message to the rest of the country.

The American people are smart enough to see through what just happened. They know this is not about my right to choose a surgeon general, this is about the right of every woman to choose. The committee recommended Dr. Foster to the Senate. A clear and substantial majority of senators were prepared to vote for his nomination. But a determined minority succumbed to political pressure and abused the filibuster rule.

It's wrong for a man as qualified and committed as Dr. Foster to be denied this chance to serve our country. He has gone where too few of us have ever dared to go. He has ridden the rickety elevators in high-rise projects to talk to young people about the importance of abstinence and avoiding teen pregnancy. He has traveled the back roads of rural Alabama, bringing health care and hope to women and children who would otherwise have never seen a doctor. He has been a father figure to many children who do not see their own fathers.

He has actually done something, in short, about the problems a lot of people in Washington just talk about. He's done something about teen pregnancy. He's done something to convince young people to abstain from sex. He's done something about women's health and crime prevention and giving young people hope for the future. One of his former patients even talked about how he talked her out of having an abortion.

Now, you would think that those who deplore teen pregnancy, advocate abstinence and oppose abortion would want to support a man who has actually done something to advance the aims they say they share, instead of just use them as political weapons. But, no, in their brave new world, raw political power and political correctness -- pure political correctness -- are all that matter. They are determined to call the tune to which the Republican Party in Congress and in their presidential process march.

Well, they won a victory today, but America lost. And all those young people who came up here from Tennessee, what about them? What about those young people that came here believing in the congressional process and told the members of Congress that Dr. Foster had encouraged them to avoid sex, to stay away from teen pregnancy, not to do drugs, to stay in school? They had a role model and they saw their role model turned into a political football. In 1995, Henry Foster was denied even the right to vote.

A minority in the Senate may have denied him this job, but I am confident that he will go on to serve our country. I think more of Henry Foster today than the first day I met him. This is not a good day for the United States Senate. But it is a good day for Henry Foster. He didn't get what he deserved, but he is still deserving. Those who denied him the right to a vote, they may have pleased their political bosses, but they have shown a lack of leadership that will surely be remembered.

Thank you very much.

Q Mr. President, what do you intend to do with the nomination, sir? Are you going to leave it on the Senate calendar?

Q Do you plan to withdraw the nomination now?

Q Are you going to appoint Dr. Foster to another position, sir?

END