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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
12-11-95

**REMARKS BY PRESIDENT
WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIA SATELLITE
FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION
MIAMI, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 10, 1995**

95 DEC 8 PG: 51

Bob Auer

[Acknowledgments: Senator Dodd; Terry Brady, State Party Chair; Attorney General Bob Butterworth. I'd also like to send kind greetings to all my friends down there -- especially Governor Chiles; Lt. Governor MacKay; and Senator Bob Graham. With all the

frustration we've been facing in Washington lately, I want to send a special thank you to Don Shula, Dan Marino, Irving Fryar and the Miami Dolphins football team for that inspiring come-from-behind victory last week against the Atlanta Falcons. What better example of the American spirit. With their backs against the wall, they reached deep inside themselves and pulled out a thrilling victory.

~~We ought to be able to do the same thing for the~~

~~American people.]~~

I am pleased to be able to speak with you today at this important convention. As we move into the presidential campaign season, I can't help but recall that it was almost four years ago to the day that Florida put my campaign on the map, when you helped me win a decisive straw poll victory [December 15, 1991]. That victory convinced me that the American people were serious about wanting new leadership in Washington --

~~American's desire for new leadership that shared their values.~~

~~and new direction~~
and new direction
for our country.

~~committed to~~
Leadership that understood that honoring those values
was the key to moving this country forward into the 21st
~~century~~. I want to thank you again for your faith in me
and Al Gore and for your support these past three years.

My fellow Americans, I come to you today with a
simple and straightforward message. We live in a very
great country in a time of great change. We are moving
forward from ~~an industrial~~ ^{the Industrial Age} to ~~a technology-driven age~~ ^{The Age of Technology}.
We are moving from the Cold War ~~into the era of the~~ ^{to}
global village which is characterized by ~~greater closeness~~
~~and interdependence~~. This is a time of enormous
~~possibility for our country~~
~~potential~~, and your country is ready for it.

No other nation is better able to lead the world toward peace and freedom and prosperity than the United States. But we must be true to our values, and we must have a clear vision of the future in order to make it real.

I ran for President in 1992 to restore the American Dream for all our people and to make sure we went into the next century still the most powerful country in the world, the greatest force for peace and freedom and prosperity.

I said I would do it by having an economic policy that produced jobs and growth, expanding the middle class and shrinking the underclass; by giving us a modern government that is smaller, less bureaucratic, and more entrepreneurial.

And most important, by being true to old-fashioned American values: responsibility and opportunity for all, the value of work, the understanding that we have to help families stay strong and stick together; and a sense of community. We are all stronger when we work together. We have obligations to our parents, our children, and each other.

The country is in better shape than it was three years ago. We still have challenges, and we have to keep going in the right direction, but America is on the move. We have reduced the deficit in the three consecutive years of this Administration. It has now been cut in half. Over seven years, that works out to about \$15,000 of reduced federal debt for each family of four in Florida. In the past three years we've also seen more than seven million new jobs created -- more than 590,000 of them right here in Florida. We have a record number of new businesses and 2.5 million more homeowners.

Home building in the State of Florida has increased 6 percent per year after dropping 4 percent per year during the previous 12 years.

America is also safer and stronger today than we were three years ago. For the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age, there is not a single Russian missile pointed at an American child. And American leadership is opening the door to peace and reconciliation all over the world. From Northern Ireland to the Middle East to Haiti to Bosnia, the United States is leading the world to peace.

America has a chance to end the misery in Bosnia for good. It was our diplomacy, backed by NATO's resolve, that brought the Balkan leaders to the peace table in Dayton. And now that they have made a commitment to peace, our responsibility truly begins. If we walk away from Bosnia now, our allies will do the same. And the peace will fail, the slaughter will resume, and the conflict could spread like poison throughout the region. NATO, the alliance of democracies that has shielded our security for half a century, would be shaken to its core. And American leadership in Europe and around the world would pay a terrible price. That is why we must help the peace.

The Bosnia peace mission is clearly defined with realistic goals to be reached in a definite period of time. The force will be strong with strong rules of engagement. I am convinced that the risks to our troops have been minimized to the maximum extent possible. We go not to fight a war, but to wage a peace. We do it for the people of Bosnia, for the stability of Europe, for American leadership and for the values we hold dear.

We also have a special interest in promoting peace and democracy in two nations just off your shores -- Haiti and Cuba.

Just over one year ago, American diplomacy backed by military muscle forced a brutal military regime in Haiti to surrender power. We gave democracy another chance. You know better than anyone that this has been good for America -- and good for Haiti. The tide of refugees from Haiti -- which stood at about 16,000 in the month prior to the intervention -- has been dramatically reduced. The people of Haiti, with help from the international community, are slowly building a democracy and a working economy. And President Aristide, as he said he would, has been a force for reconciliation. All of this takes time, and there may be setbacks along the way.

But just one week from now, Haiti will hold presidential elections which will freely transfer power from one democratically elected president to another for the first time in that nation's history. This is an extraordinary achievement. America should be proud that we helped restore democracy to Haiti.

Cuba is a different story. It is the only country in our hemisphere which continues to resist the powerful trend toward democracy.

My Administration is working to encourage its peaceful transition to a free and open society.

We will continue to do everything we can to promote peaceful change, protect human rights and move Cuba into the camp of democracy.

But with all the progress we've made, both at home and abroad, the thing that I am most proud of is the tangible evidence that this country is coming together around our values again. In almost every state, the crime rate is down, the murder rate is down, the food stamp rolls are down, the welfare rolls are down. Teen pregnancy has dropped for two years in a row, and the poverty rate is down. America is coming back together and we are moving forward together.

We are moving in the right direction.

Now we have to make some decisions that keep us on the right track. That's what this budget debate is really all about. It isn't just about dollars and sense. It goes to the heart of who we are as a people, what we believe, what we stand for, and what kind of America we want our children and grandchildren to inherit in the 21st century.

Last Wednesday, using the pen that was used to sign Medicare and Medicaid into law in 1965, I vetoed the Republican budget.

I did it to preserve our commitment to our parents, to protect opportunity for our children, to defend our public health and environment, and to stop a tax increase that undercuts the value of work.

The following day, I gave the Congress a budget that balances in seven years without devastating cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, education and the environment and that does not raise taxes on working families.

Let me tell you why I vetoed their budget. Americans have always believed that we owe a duty to our parents.

The Republican budget that I vetoed would turn Medicare into a second class system. The Medicare system that has served older Americans so well for 30 years would be over. I'm not going to let that happen. My seven-year balanced budget plan secures the Medicare Trust Fund into the future, without imposing new costs on hard-pressed seniors. And it preserves **Medicaid's** guarantee of quality health care for poor children, pregnant women, and older and disabled Americans.

There are many differences between the Republican budget that I vetoed and the one I presented last week.

But, perhaps the starkest one of all is the different treatment of Medicaid. As I told Governor Chiles in a White House meeting with governors on Friday, the Republican budget would be a disaster for states like Florida that depend on Medicaid. [It would ask the states to do more and more and more for the elderly, for the disabled, for poor children and pregnant women and give them less help to do it It would force them to make unconscionable and unnecessary choices between senior citizens and disabled people, between people with AIDS and nursing home residents.]

The Republicans are insisting that we repeal the guarantee that no poor child, pregnant mother, poor senior citizen or disabled person will be denied quality medical care. That would eliminate the guarantee of nursing home care for as many as 300,000 people. All told, if current patterns of coverage prevail, some 8 million people could be denied health care coverage under Medicaid -- nearly half of them children. No one would want to do this in any state, but many states would have no choice.

INSERT 1

I very much want to work with the Republican Congress to get a balanced budget.

INSERT 1

Medicaid is a guarantee not only to seniors who might need nursing home care; it is also a guarantee to their families against having their financial security threatened if a older parent falls seriously ill. The Republican plan could change all that. Families tomorrow could find themselves forced to pay large sums for quality nursing home care that Medicaid guarantees today. It could force working families to choose between quality nursing home care for their parents and quality education and health care for their own children. We should not force our working families to have to make that type of choice.

But I will not -- I will not permit the repeal of
guaranteed medical coverage for senior citizens, for
disabled people, ^{PEOPLE w/ AIDS} for poor children and pregnant women.

That would violate our values. It is not necessary. So,
if they continue to make this a part of their budget, I will
veto it again, and again, and again.

We are going to win this battle. Nothing less than the
heart and soul of this nation are at stake. That's why I
am asking for your continued support. Now, more than
ever, all of us who share the same values and the same
vision for this great country, need to stand together for
the American people.

We need to stand together, on behalf of the elderly, the disabled, pregnant women and poor children to protect Medicare and Medicaid. We need to stand together on behalf of the millions of young people in this country who would be denied the chance for a good education if the Republicans are successful in slashing Head Start, college loans and college scholarships. We need to stand together to reward hard working families by providing the child care mothers need to move from welfare to work and by refusing to raise taxes on eight million working families. We have to build on the successes of the last three years -- but we must not turn back the clock.

INSERT 2

INSERT 2

~~My fellow Americans:~~ some Republicans in Congress have made clear their strategy of trying to force through harmful health care, education and environmental cuts by threatening to shut the government down. They tried it a month ago. They failed.

(A) Now we are engaged in negotiations on how to best to balance the budget consistent with our values. I have made serious efforts to work in good faith with the Republicans while still keeping faith with the priorities I have laid out. I have now proposed a seven year balanced budget plan and even proposed a specific compromise to finish our work on this years budget and keep the government open.

We have serious differences on Medicare, Medicaid, education, the environment and tax fairness. But we should be able to agree on this: no one should threaten to shut down the government right before Christmas.

(A) As the Holidays Approach,
I sincerely hope there will be
~~a sort of~~ a spirit in the
Congress that will make
It possible for us to
begin good faith negotiations.

(AFTER INSERT 2)

. . .

Let me close by reminding all of you of how far we have come. America is in better shape than we were three years ago. But we can't stop now. We need a vision and policies that prepare our children for the vast challenges and opportunities of the 21st century; that promote life-long learning so our workers can meet the demands of change; that empower communities to solve their own problems; that ensure the safety of our citizens on our streets, in our schools and in our homes; that help us come together as a community. That's the vision we all share for America.

America is now in the best position to lead the world into the 21st century. Now what we have to do is put our values into action and come together in the spirit of community.

I want you to promise yourself that when you walk out of this room today, and for the next year, you are going to engage your fellow Americans in talking about these fundamental values and the shared vision we have for our future, and for our children. If we do, I am confident we will prevail.

Thank you and God bless you all.

**QUESTIONS FOR PRESIDENT CLINTON
ADDRESS VIA SATELLITE
1995 FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION
DECEMBER 10, 1995**

1. There's so much bickering in Washington about what the federal budget is going to do to programs like Medicare and Medicaid. Florida has so many hundreds of thousands of elderly people who rely on these programs. Any cuts could be a matter of life and death. What are the real facts?
2. What's the most important thing you have done in your first term to give our kids a better education -- and a brighter future?
3. You fought to put more police officers on our streets -- but we're worried that this state and country are too violent. What can we do to prevent violent crime?
4. What achievements are you most proud of in your first term -- and what is your major goal for the second term -- because you're going to have a second term!

BUDGET PLANNING DECEMBER 11, 1995

ISSUES FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT

HEALTH CARE:

1. Reporter briefings – walkthrough Medicare/Medicaid key issues and differences between our plan and theirs
2. TONGS
3. Elderly Women Report (Mrs. Clinton Speech)
4. Disability Roundtable (Mrs. Gore)
5. Medicare/Medicaid State-by-State
6. Nursing Home vs. Homes and Family Farms
7. Tyson/Stiglitz on Block Grants and Economic Downturns
8. Low-Income Medicare Recipients

ENVIRONMENTAL:

TAX:

1. Release of State-by-State and District-by-District Analysis
2. Exploding Tax Cut
3. Larry Summers tax briefing with Members on Hill

EDUCATION:

TECHNOLOGY

2. Possible VPOTUS event with Democratic Members [this week]

our COPS program has already provided funding for over 25,000 new officers, including 1,349 in Florida, and grants have gone to nearly half the police and sheriff's departments in the country.

Community policing is more than just policing -- it is crime prevention. It takes cops from behind the desk and out of the squad car and puts them back on the streets where they become involved with people and help them to keep their communities safe and free from crime. And community policing is working. For the first time in years, the overall national crime rate and murder rate are both going down.

Unfortunately, the Republican Congress is attempting to eliminate this success and replace it with a block grant that will not guarantee one new officer. When that bill arrives on my desk, I will veto it. We are providing safety to communities throughout the country and I will not let that be jeopardized.

We have implemented many other programs that are already helping to prevent crime from occurring.

For example, my Violence Against Women program is the first program to be fully directed towards curbing domestic violence. It is providing protection and peace of mind for women and their families concerned about violent sex offenders.

The Brady Law has already prevented over 40,000 felons and fugitives from purchasing handguns. And we took assault weapons away from drug dealers and gang members.

We are making progress, we are taking our streets back, and we are going to continue to move forward.

Q4. What achievements are you most proud of in your first term? And what is your major goal for the second term -- because you're going to have a second term!

① Turning around

② More county police

③ Easy well funded plan

21 → ① Clear gap

② articles

③ forming crime units

④ have well framework: new prop

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
ADDRESS VIA SATELLITE
1995 FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION
DECEMBER 10, 1995

Q1. There's so much bickering in Washington about what the federal budget is going to do to programs like Medicare and Medicaid. Florida has so many hundreds of thousands of elderly people who rely on these programs. Any cuts could be a matter of life and death. What are the real facts?

A: The fact is: MEDICARE is a program that works, helping 37 million elderly and disabled Americans get the health care they need. True, we need to strengthen the Medicare system and secure the trust fund, but my balanced budget shows that you can balance the budget and accomplish these goals -- without making radical changes in the basic structure of the system.

The fact is: the Republican Medicare proposal is not designed to strengthen the Medicare system, but to meet arbitrary budget targets, which include a huge tax cut for the wealthy, and to meet extreme ideological goals, which include letting Medicare "wither on the vine."

The fact is: The Republican's Medicare plan will force Florida's 2.6 million older and disabled Americans to pay more for a weakened, second class medical system. In 2002, couples will pay \$286 more per year than under the President's budget while spending per couple will be \$1,600 less. Their proposal would:

- Hit Florida Particularly Hard. Medicare spending in Florida would be cut by \$28 billion over seven years. A full 10% of the Republican's \$270 billion in Medicare cuts fall on Florida's aging and vulnerable residents.
- Force many hospitals to close and cost the typical hospital \$17 million over seven years, according to the American Hospital Association.
- Undermine the traditional fee-for-service program by cutting spending in the fee-for-service program far more than in the new private health care plans in some years. The Republican plan also allows doctors to overcharge in new private plan options.

The fact is: MEDICAID is a vital program for 36 million Americans, including 4 million older Americans. Medicaid isn't just for poor families: 70% of nursing home residents are covered by Medicaid. Together the elderly and the disabled account for about 70% of spending.

There are things we can do to improve the Medicaid program, and just last Friday I spoke with Governor Chiles about ways we can give states more flexibility in carrying out the program. But the Republican Medicaid proposal does not try to improve the current Medicaid program -- it tries to destroy it. Their Medicaid proposal would:

- Cut an unprecedented \$7.7 billion from Florida's Medicaid spending over seven years by limiting per capita spending growth to 1.6% per year. That is 77% less than the private sector growth rate of 7.1%!
- Deny coverage to up to 8 million people in 2002, including 850,000 older Americans, 320,000 nursing home residents, and 1.3 million individuals with disabilities
- Roll-back critical safeguards, repealing enforcement measures that protect nursing home residents from abuse and poor treatment and weaken spousal impoverishment provisions.

Q2. What's the most important thing you have done in your first term to give our kids a better education -- and a brighter future?

A:

- When I ran for President, I pledged to make education one of my top priorities, to ensure that every child has the same chance we all had to make something of his/her life.
- I am proud of the fact that, since taking office, my Administration has met that pledge, expanding our investments in education, even as we have brought the deficit under control.
- And I am proudest of the fact that we have been able to create a new vision of education -- a vision of education as a life-long learning process that expands opportunities to learn along every step of life's journey, from pre-school through retirement.
- Existing programs. In part, that has meant expanding investments in vital programs that have already proved their worth in giving even our poorest children the tools to succeed in the new economy.
- Head Start. My Administration has expanded funding for comprehensive health and educational services to 100,000 disadvantaged pre-school children.

- **Basic and Advanced Skills.** We have increased funding for programs, such as Title I, that help millions of students achieve high academic standards.
- **New initiative.** But it has also meant filling the gap where educational opportunities have been lacking. I have fought for:
 - **Goals 2000**, which provides thousands of schools and millions of children the opportunity to raise their educational standards.
 - **National Service Act**, which gave 45,000 AmeriCorps members over the past two years opportunities to serve their communities while earning funds for education and training.
 - **Student Loan Reform Act**, which simplifies borrowing for students, parents, and schools by eliminating the special interests and the financial middle-men -- the banks.
 - **School to Work Opportunities Act**, providing \$245 million for states to plan and develop programs that will give young people -- including those who do not plan to go to college -- the training and advanced skills they need to move smoothly from school to work.
- **Still Hope to Pass.** We have already expanded funding for dislocated workers, but we need to go further. The **GI Bill for America's Workers** would streamline and consolidate the confusing array of job training programs that now exist.
- **Looking Forward.** I remain committed to this vision. My seven-year balanced budget plan invests an additional \$35 billion in educational programs, while eliminating the deficit by 2002. The Congressional majority, by contrast, cuts more than \$30 billion from our existing programs. That's a lot like cutting our defense program at the height of the cold war. I won't do it -- because it is bad for our children and bad for our economy.

Q3. You fought to put more police officers on our streets -- but we're worried that this state and country are too violent. What can we do to prevent violent crime?

A: Since I took office, reducing violent crime in this country has been one of my top priorities. That is why I am so proud of my Crime Bill, which is going to place 100,000 new community police officers on the streets and in the neighborhoods of this country over the next few years. In just its first year,

final

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

REMARKS ON VETO OF

RECONCILIATION BILL

THE OVAL OFFICE

December 6, 1995

Throughout our history, American Presidents have used the power of the veto to protect our values as a nation. In that spirit today, I am acting to protect the values that bind together our national community.

I have consistently said that if Congress sends me a budget that violates our values, I will veto it. Three decades ago, this pen was used to honor our values, when President Johnson used it to sign Medicare into law. [*hold up pen*] Today, I am vetoing the biggest Medicare and Medicaid cuts in history, deep cuts in education, a rollback of environmental protection, and a tax increase on working families.

I am using this pen to preserve our commitment to our parents, protect opportunity for our children, defend our public health and natural beauty, and to stop a tax increase that undercuts the value of work.

We must balance the budget, but we must do it in a way that helps our people and their priorities. And therefore, today I am vetoing the Republican budget plan.

[sign veto statement]

Let me be clear: America must balance its budget. It is wrong to pass on to our children a legacy of debt. And our long-term economic growth depends on it. But as we move forward, we must remember that we act not in the name of abstract theory, but to help our people and to honor their values.

The Republican budget that I have vetoed does not reflect those values. In very real, very concrete ways, it would restrict the future of families like the ones gathered here today.

American families want to make the most of their lives, to pass opportunity on to their children. They deserve our respect and our help -- and above all, we shouldn't make it harder for them to fulfil their dreams.

Americans believe we owe a duty to our parents. We must secure Medicare, and I have spelled out exactly how to do that. But the Republican budget I veto today would turn Medicare into a second class system. The Medicare system that has served all senior citizens would be over.

This budget would end Medicaid's guarantee that no senior citizen and no American in need will be denied medical care.

It would cut off care for thousands of pregnant women and disabled children. And it would repeal standards that ensure quality for nursing homes.

Americans believe that education means opportunity, and opportunity is the key to the American dream. But this budget cuts education by \$30 billion. It would essentially end the Direct Student Loan program. It would deny college scholarships to 360,000 deserving students. And it would deny preschool to 180,000 children in the Head Start program.

Americans believe we must protect the earth that God gave us, and guarantee for our children safe food and clean water.

But this budget would give oil companies the right to drill in the last unspoiled Arctic wilderness in Alaska.

It is loaded with special interest provisions that squander natural resources. And already, short-term budget cuts have forced us to pull back enforcement of clean water, clean air, even inspections of toxic waste sites in our neighborhoods.

Americans believe that people who work hard and save for retirement should be able to retire with dignity. But this bill would give companies the green light to raid their pension funds.

Americans believe that we must reform our broken welfare system. But cutting child care that helps mothers move from welfare to work, cutting help for abused and disabled children, and cutting school lunch isn't welfare reform. Real welfare reform should be tough on work and tough on responsibility, not tough on children. Let's not lose this historic chance to end welfare as we know it.

And Americans believe that no one who works hard should be taxed into poverty. But this budget raises taxes on our hardest pressed working people, even as it gives unnecessarily large tax relief to those who need it least.

Eight million working families would pay more in new taxes than they would receive from any tax cut.

With my veto today, this Republican effort to balance the budget through extreme cuts and misplaced principles is now over. Now it is up to all of us to show we can balance the budget and be true to our values and our priorities.

Tomorrow, I will present to the congressional leadership a plan to balance the budget in seven years, while protecting health care, education, and the environment -- and without raising taxes on hard-pressed working families. It is up to the Republicans to show that they will protect these principles, as they pledged to do.

America is on the move. Our economy is the envy of the world. Our country is a beacon for peace, reconciliation and community for all nations. Now we must reflect those same virtues as we finish the job of balancing the budget. Let's work together and get the job done.

Remarks to Senior Citizens in North Miami Beach

September 19, 1995

The President. Thank you. Wow. Thank you so very much, Governor Chiles and Lieutenant Governor MacKay and Attorney General Butterworth and members of the legislature and Mayor, other local leaders and, especially, Ginger, thank you for that wonderful introduction and that wonderful comment about the joys of old age. *[Laughter]* The last year has brought me prematurely closer to those joys—*[laughter]*—as I have worked along in Washington.

I did come here today to talk about Medicare and Medicaid, but I'd like to put them, if I might, into a little bit of context about what's going on in our country today for all the American people. We are, all of us, privileged to be living through one of the most interesting periods in our country's history, where the way we work and the way we live is changing very, very rapidly.

I think that you could argue that since we got started as a country, we've had about four periods of really profound change: obviously, leading up to and then after the Civil War; and then when we changed our economy from a rural to an industrial economy between about 1895 and about 1916; and then the Great Depression and World War II and the cold war; and now, coming out of that.

I believe this is the most profound period of change we have faced in 100 years in the way we live and the way we work. And whenever those kinds of things happen, we have to think anew about what our basic values are, what kind of people we are, what our obligations to one another are across the generations and across incomes and in different ways of making a living, and we have to chart a course for our country's future.

For me, that means that we have to have a period that is governed by new ideas rooted in old-fashioned values. This is still a country, fundamentally, that's about individual liberty and individual responsibility, devotion to family and devotion to community, rooted in the idea that we all ought to work if we can, and we all have responsibilities, not only to ourselves but to each other, and that we also have a responsibility to be a beacon of hope

to the rest of the world. And that is what we have tried to do.

We've tried to change the economic policy of the country in a way that would bring the deficit down but invest more in education and technology, and it seems to be working. We've got 7.3 million new jobs. Florida is growing jobs at 3 times the rate it was growing them before our administration came in. And we've reduced the deficit from \$290 billion a year to \$160 billion a year in only 3 years. So we need new ideas and a new direction.

We have found a way to do this while increasing our investment in the education of our children, something I know all of you care deeply about and something that is more important than ever before. We know we've got to cut some things. Your Government is much smaller than it was the day I became President. We've reduced the size of the Federal Government by 160,000, and by the time I finish this term we'll have the smallest Federal Government we've had since President Kennedy was the President of the United States, trying to give you a more entrepreneurial, less bureaucratic, less cumbersome Government, but still one that could fulfill our fundamental values.

Today, even as we speak, the Congress, in the Senate at least, is debating the very important subject of welfare reform, something I've worked on for 15 years, almost as long as I've worked on issues affecting senior citizens in America. What we all want, I think, is for people on welfare to be able to live the way the rest of America lives. We want people to be able to succeed as workers and as parents. We want the values of family and work and responsibility to triumph. We don't want anybody to be trapped, generation after generation, on welfare. And we know it would be good for the rest of us as well if they were liberated and became taxpayers instead of tax drawers. We know that.

Since I've been President, waiting for the Congress to act, I've done what I thought I could to move people from welfare to work and help them succeed as parents. Florida is one of 34 States now that have received permission to get out from under old-fashioned Federal rules to put people to work. And in just one of Governor Chiles's experi-

ments in the last year, the Florida Family Transition Program, they've moved over 800 people from welfare to work. It's one thing to talk about it, quite another thing to do it. And so, congratulations, Governor, for doing it.

Now, this bill that they're debating in the Senate today has broad bipartisan support because it will help to move people from welfare to work, and it will help families to stick together. And I want to say more about that in the context of Medicare and Medicaid in a moment.

So if welfare reform remains a bipartisan effort to promote work, protect children, and collect child support from people who ought to pay it, we will have welfare reform this year, and it will be a very great thing. But if the Congress gives into extremist pressure and walks away from this bipartisan American common ground, they will kill welfare reform. So I ask you to do what you can without regard to your party to encourage your Senators and your Members of Congress to give this country a welfare reform bill that is pro-family, pro-work, pro-responsibility and pro-child. We can do that, and we ought to do it.

Now, what's all that got to do with Medicare and Medicaid? Everything. Why? Because now we have also a bipartisan consensus in Washington for balancing the Federal budget, something that hasn't been done since 1969, although the deficits in the seventies were pretty small and basically related to economic slowdowns. So there is a broad bipartisan agreement that we ought to do it. I believe we ought to do it. And I'm glad to help supporters in the Congress from both parties who want to do that. We had to have a one-party effort to take the deficit from \$290 to \$160, and we need everybody's help to go all the way. And I'm for that.

But how we decide to balance the budget will tell us a lot about what kind of people we are, what our values are, what we're going to take into the next century, what we're going to say to our young people about what they can look forward to as they grow up into productive adults and then they grow into old age. It will say a lot about what we think our obligations are across generational and income lines.

One of the things that has dismayed me about this discussion of Medicare and Medicaid has been the suggestion that anybody that doesn't support the congressional plan is somehow a wealthy older person who is insufficiently sensitive to the needs of the younger generation. That is a load of bull. I can tell you that in all my experience in public life, and I have been working on these issues for 20 years now, the thing that has always humbled me—and my State, Arkansas, had, when I was serving, in every year the second or the third highest percentage of people over 65 in the country—the thing that always amazed me was how much the seniors in my State wanted to take care of their children and their grandchildren, how much they supported efforts to improve education, how much they supported efforts to strengthen the economy, how much they were not interested only in their own issues.

And so I say to you, if you say you don't like this plan in Congress, that doesn't mean that the rest of us think you're either rich or greedy. You have a right to see that there is decency and honor and obligation across generational and income lines as we balance the budget. We have to do it in a fair and decent and honorable way.

Now, here's the problem. It is true that medical costs in the budget have become a bigger and bigger and bigger part of the Federal budget. It is true that medical inflation is going up faster than the inflation rate as a whole. It is also true that we're all living longer. So we've got a higher percentage of Americans on Medicare and elderly people on Medicaid. Praise the Lord, we're all living longer. That's a good thing. I hope it extends to Presidents. *[Laughter]*

It's also true that the system itself, through fraud, abuse, and other problems, has had a higher rate of inflation so that, unfortunately, both the Government and people on Medicare have been paying more every year for the same health care in ways that are unacceptable. And that if we want to balance the budget, we need to slow the rate of growth in health care spending.

It's also true that the Medicare Trust Fund has to be protected. Now, let me talk a little about that. You pay Medicare. You know—if you're involved in Medicare, you know how

it works. You know how it works. There's a Part A which is basically hospital and related services paid for by a payroll tax and that goes to providers and essentially that is in the Trust Fund. And there's a Trust Fund. There's a Part B that deals with all kinds of other services, primarily physician services, medical equipment, and other things, which are paid for out of general tax revenues and contributions by seniors directly—payments.

Here is what I want to say to you about this Medicare issue: We have proposed a balanced budget—I have—that slows the rate of medical inflation and payments to providers to fix the Trust Fund for another 10 years. And we have proposed to do it exactly like the people who are in charge of the Trust Fund, the Trustees, say we need to do. And it doesn't cost seniors anything more than they are otherwise going to pay in the ordinary course of medical inflation.

The Congress, the majority in Congress have proposed Medicare cuts that are more than twice that much. And less than half of them are going into the Trust Fund. The rest are going to pay for the 7-year balanced budget and the tax cut.

So I say, I will work with anybody, anytime, anywhere to fix the problems of the Medicare Trust Fund. But it is wrong to take more money from people whose average income is way below \$20,000 to pay for a 7-year balanced budget and cuts in other areas and a big tax cut for people who don't need it. That is not right. So let's fix the Trust Fund, but let's don't dishonor our obligations across generational and income lines by pretending that we're fixing the Trust Fund when we're taking money from seniors to pay for a tax cut that is too large. That is not right.

Audience member. Hear! Hear! Tell 'em!

The President. Let's look at the Medicaid problem. Medicaid has nowhere near the political support in the country now that Medicare does because most people think it's a welfare program. And they think, if it's a welfare program, we can probably cut it some.

I have proposed to slow the rate of spending in Medicaid. Their cuts are 3 times as great as mine. The problem is that 70 percent, almost, of Medicaid spending goes to elderly people and disabled people for nurs-

ing home care and in-home care. And if these cuts are as large as they are said to be—and for hospital care for low-income people—if these cuts are as large as they are said to be, then we will have people who through no fault of their own, who don't have any money, who either won't be able to get in nursing homes, won't be able to get in-home care, and millions of kids who won't be able to get hospital care.

If you take \$450 billion out of the system over the next 7 years, I question whether we can keep our urban and rural hospitals open, whether the great teaching centers—making us the finest medical country in the world in terms of the quality of health care—will be able to do well. And there is a limit to how much seniors can afford to pay. Seventy-five percent of the people over 65 in this country live on less than \$24,000 a year.

I came here to say to you, we're going to make some changes in this program. We need to save the Trust Fund, but don't you be fooled into thinking it costs \$270 billion to save the Trust Fund. It costs less than half of that. And the rest of that money is going to go right into the general treasury and be used to pay for a 7-year budget and a tax cut that's too big. And I don't think that is an appropriate thing to do. And I don't think you think it is an appropriate thing to do.

I am not promising pie in the sky. Everybody here knows that the average senior on Medicare is paying the same percentage of income out of pocket for health care as you were paying before Medicare came in in the first place, because medical inflation has gone up so much. You all know that there's a lot of fraud and abuse in the system. And, by the way, both parties agree on that, and I think we'll reach an agreement on it. And I want you to know what I'm trying to do about that. We have doubled—doubled—prosecutions for fraud and abuse since I've been President. We have tripled—tripled—the number of FBI agents working on health care fraud since I've been President.

We need your help. The United States Attorney for this district, Kendall Coffey, is here. He gave a report to the group upstairs about what he's trying to do here. We need senior groups all over America to help us to uncover fraud and abuse. A congressional

study said as much as 10 percent of the money may go into fraud and abuse. If that's true, we can put that into savings, and it doesn't have to come out of anybody's pocket, except people who shouldn't be spending the money in the first place.

We are going to have to make some changes. We do have an obligation to preserve Medicare for you, for the people who come behind you, for your children, and for your grandchildren. It's a program that works. But we also have an obligation to make sure that Medicare and Medicaid do their job for America's seniors and do their job for the poor children of this country.

It isn't popular to speak up for the poor children today. It isn't popular—sort of the fashion is to say, well, if they're poor, whatever they get they deserve. The Bible says the poor will always be with us. And all those little poor children, they're going to be grown up some day. And if they don't have decent health care and decent nutrition and good role models and people who care about them, do you think they're going to be good citizens who can take care of my generation when we get old? So just because they're poor, and they're on Medicaid, too, we shouldn't forget about them. We shouldn't act like we have no responsibility to them. It's not their fault what families they were born into. It's not their fault what their family circumstances are.

So what I want you to do is this: I want you in one voice to say, to all of us—we don't care if you're Republicans or Democrats—go balance the budget, go fix the Medicare Trust Fund, make the changes you have to make to do that, but do not take money from elderly people that barely have enough to live on, that have made their contributions all their lives, and give it to people who aren't even asking for a tax cut and don't need it. Don't do that. That doesn't make any sense. It defies common sense. Slow the rate of growth in that Medicaid program but don't do it so much that we can't take people into nursing homes, don't do it so much we can't deliver home care to people who need it and that's cheaper, don't do it so much that we have to turn away poor children who will be scarred forever if we don't take decent, mini-

mal care for them. That's not necessary. We don't have to do that to balance the budget. Send a voice that I know is in your heart.

I have been—as I said, I have been working on issues of health care, consumer rights for seniors for 20 years. I had my first long-term care conference as an attorney general almost 20 years ago. And I know that the senior population in this country is generous and forward-looking. But I also know that the only way we can continue to have a growing, healthy, strong senior population that is generous and forward-looking is to be decent and honorable and fair.

It is fair and decent to fix the Trust Fund. It is right to do what we can to crack down on fraud and abuse and to slow the rate of medical inflation and to slow the rate of medical inflation in the Medicaid and the Medicare program. But it is not right to pay for an arbitrary balanced budget and a very large tax cut, a lot of which goes to people who don't need it and, to be fair to them, have not even asked for it, to turn around and run the risk of putting Medicare out of the reach of seniors, putting Medicaid out of the reach of seniors, and undermining our solemn obligation to honor one another across the generations. That's what we need to do.

We can get into the 21st century with a growing economy, a balanced budget, a stable future, but only if we do it consistent with our fundamental values. What is proposed up there is not consistent with our values and doesn't make common sense. But we can make common sense, balance the budget, save the Trust Fund and leave Medicare and Medicaid in good shape for you and the people that come behind you.

So tell the Congress and everybody else in Washington to throw away the partisan, political, extremist ideology and the rhetoric and get down to work on doing America's job for America's future.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. at Point East Senior Center. In his remarks, he referred to Robert Butterworth, Florida attorney general, and Ginger Crossman, who introduced the President.

To achieve that, we need old-fashioned values: freedom and responsibility, work and family, community, excellence, accountability, and a real devotion to the American dream, and a willingness to stand up for this country. But to get there we need some new ideas. We can't keep doing business as usual. That's the only reason I ran for President in 1992.

We are going through a period of change as profound as anything that's happened in this country in a hundred years. This is like when we moved from being a rural agricultural country into being an industrial urbanized country. Now we're going from being an industrial economy to a high-technology information-based economy. We're going from the cold war relationships in our global foreign policy to a global economy, where we're becoming integrated economically and there are all kinds of pressures for disintegration—disintegration of families, of communities, of national economic policy—and the growth of extremism all over the world, political and religious and ethnic extremism. You know it. You see it when a bus blows up in Israel. You see it when radicals run for office or stop elections in other, secular Islamic countries. You see it when the sarin gas explodes in the subway in Japan or when, God forbid, the Federal building blows up in Oklahoma City.

So this is a confusing world. There's a lot of wonderful things happening and a lot of troubling things happening. We cannot continue to do things the way we always did.

Our administration has a clear economic policy for this global economy, reduce the deficit, but increase our investment in people, in education, in technology, in research, in things that will grow the economy. Look at the places that are left behind. Help the places who need help because of defense cutbacks. Help the places who need incentives for people to invest in inner cities and rural areas. And don't forget that the people come first.

What are the results? In 2½ years, the good news is, 7 million jobs, 2½ million homeowners, 2 million new businesses, a record number of self-made millionaires, the stock market's at 4,700, corporate profits at an all-time high. But guess what? The me-

dian income has dropped one percent. Why? Because we still have a lot of people who can't do very well in this new global economy. And I'm telling you, go back to our values. Everything we do—everything we do has to be directed toward helping people who are willing to work hard and do their best to be good workers, good parents, and successful in this global economy. That's what we have to do.

Look at our social problems. Believe it or not—you couldn't tell it maybe from the daily press, but in this country in the last 2 years, the crime rate is down, the murder rate is down, the people on welfare's numbers are down, the food stamp rolls are down. The divorce rate is down. Even the abortion rate is down. But we still have some terrible problems. Why? Because young people feel like nobody's looking out for their future. The juvenile crime rate is up. Casual drug use among people under 18 is up. And so we have to find ways to work together.

That's what our crime bill was all about that the people in Congress are trying to undo. We put 100,000 police on the street, not just to catch criminals but to prevent crime and to give our young people some role models and some people they could relate to, people who would be standing up for their future and telling them there are things you ought to be saying yes to as well as saying no to crime and violence and drugs. And we need to do more of that, not less. We need a different approach that recognizes that we have to do both things.

Today, finally, the Senate moved away from partisan extremism and 87 people voted in the Senate, 87 of 100, for a welfare reform bill that has the elements that I've been advocating now for 2½ years. It encourages work. It provides child care for people on welfare so they can go to work without worrying their hearts out about their kids. And it is very tough in collecting child support that is owed by people; even if they cross State lines, you ought not to be able to run away from the obligation to take care of your own children. That's what we did today.

The point I want to make about all this is that we need to try new and different approaches. And when we do, we can get results. When we fall back into these old pat-

terms of turning everything in Washington into a partisan fight, all it does is turn the American people off and doesn't do a single, solitary thing to move the American people into the future.

Now we have a chance with this budget to find real common ground. I want to balance the budget. The leaders of the Democratic Party want to balance the budget. I have presented a balanced budget plan. But the question is, can we balance the budget consistent with our values and with these new ideas? Why are we balancing the budget? To take the debt off these kids here, to free up money to be borrowed at lower interest rates, to create jobs, to stop spending your tax money paying interest on the debt and start spending it educating our children or taking care of our health needs or fighting crime. That's why we want to balance the budget.

Therefore, I say to you, I don't have to take a back seat to them in balancing the budget. When I took office—I've only been in Washington 2½ years—and most of them had been here forever and a day, and we cut the deficit from \$290 billion to \$160 billion in 3 years. I want to do it.

But I do not believe that the way to cut the deficit is to cut the number of children in Head Start, cut the number of young people in national service, increase the cost of student loans. That is wrong. That is cutting off our nose to spite our face. Cutting the education budget today would be like cutting the defense budget at the height of the cold war. In the global economy, education is our national security weapon, and we dare not cut it.

Al Gore has done a lot to give this country a different kind of Government. You heard him say we've cut the size of the Government, we've abolished 16,000 pages of regulation. Carol Browner from Florida, running the EPA, has cut by 25 percent the paperwork burdens of the EPA. But I'll be darned if I think the way to move into the global economy is to wreck the environment or the public health of this country in the name of balancing the budget. That is not necessary, and it is not right.

I've already said, I was up in Jacksonville with the magnificent sheriff there talking

about the crime bill today. There are those who say in the name of balancing the budget, they want to stop the effort to put 100,000 police on the street and send less money in the form of a blank check to local governments. I say we know how to lower the crime rate; there is no constituency in America for raising the crime rate. Why in the wide world would we seek to balance the budget in ways that will raise the crime rate when we know how to lower it? Let's keep lowering the crime rate, put the police on the street, put the prevention programs out there, put the prison programs out there. Let's don't wreck the crime bill. Let's keep bringing the crime rate down.

I'll give you just two other ideas that are out there to balance the budget. One of the most important things we did that we got next to no credit for in 1993 was cutting the taxes of 15 million working families with 50 million Americans in them, including 10 times as many people in Florida as paid a tax increase. The reason for this was very simple in my mind. I really believed the biggest problem in America today is the stagnant wages of middle-class people who are working harder for less. I really want people to go to work off welfare. I believe if you tell people you want them to work, work has to pay.

Most parents today have to work. We have no higher duty than to make sure that people who work and have children can be both successful at work and successful in the raising of their children, our most important job.

So what do we do? We expanded the family tax credit to give all those people a tax cut so there would never be an incentive to be on welfare. What do they want to do in Washington? They want to raise taxes on the lowest income working people and give everybody else a tax cut. It doesn't make sense; that is not the way to balance the budget.

And finally, let's talk about Medicare and Medicaid. The discussion has appalled me in Washington. The people who are proposing \$450 billion worth of cuts in Medicare and Medicaid act like if you're not for their plan, you don't want to save the Medicare Trust Fund; if you're not for their plan, you must be some greedy, wealthy older person who just doesn't want to pay your fair share.

Let me tell you something, folks. One of the most important decisions we have to make as we change this economy is what our obligations to each other are. Lawton Chiles said we needed a country that's a community, not a crowd. Are we going to be a community or a crowd? Are we going to define ourselves by what we can do together, or what we can do cut alone as a bunch of isolated individuals?

Now, the truth is that most elderly people in this country are more than willing to do what's right, have already done what's right all their lives and care a great deal about the welfare of their children and their grandchildren and the future of this country. And it is a bum rap to say that those of us who have questions about whether we should just jerk \$450 billion out of Medicare and Medicaid don't want to balance the budget and don't care about our country. That is not true, and it is not necessary to balance the budget.

I want you to tell people that. When you hear people say we've got to cut all this money out of Medicare because of the Trust Fund, you just remember one thing: Not one red cent that senior citizens pay in medical bills will go into that Trust Fund, not a penny. It's all going to fund the budget program and the tax cut. Don't ever forget it.

So I say to you, let's balance the budget, but let's do it in a way that reflects our shared values and what we owe to each other. We can balance the budget without cutting education. We can balance the budget without endangering the environment. We can balance the budget without letting the crime rate go up again, and we can certainly balance the budget, slow the rate of health care inflation, fix the Medicare Trust Fund without soaking the elderly people of this country, 75 percent of whom are struggling to get by today on less than \$24,000 a year. We can do these things.

The last thing I want to tell you is—I thought about it today a lot because I was up in Jacksonville—if you are President of the United States at a time when everything is kind of going haywire and changing, you cannot always do what is popular and be right. Sometimes you have to do what's going to be right in 10 or 20 years. That's what you have to do.

Now, I am well aware that I hurt myself terribly in north Florida when I became the first President in the history of the United States, while he was in office as opposed to after he left, to say to the National Rifle Association, "You are wrong about the Brady bill. You are wrong about assault weapons. We need to make our children safer." I'm aware of that.

And believe you me, I am aware that every political adviser I had said, "Look at the States you won last time. You're crazy if you take on the tobacco companies over teenage smoking." But I tell you, folks, 3,000 children a day begin to smoke, and 1,000 of them every day will shorten their lives because of doing that. And I say who cares what the political consequences are if we save 1,000 lives a day from now on. It is worth doing. It is worth doing.

When I sent the United States military to liberate Haiti from its dictators, everybody said I was crazy; there was no political support for it in the country; it was impossible. But I said the United States was promised by those military dictators that they would go. They gave their word to us, and we must keep our word for freedom's sake. We did, and we were right. Unpopular, yes. Right, yes. You have to do what's right over the long run.

I'll give you a more mundane example. When the Vice President and I decided to invest massive amounts of his time and the most talented people we could find to work in the White House to reinvent the Government, my political advisers said, "This is nuts. No President has ever made a single vote on management. No one will ever believe the Government runs well anyway. No one will ever believe the Government gets smaller anyway."

Well, let me tell you something, folks: That may all be true, but we cannot do what we need to do for the United States in the new information age unless we have a smaller, less bureaucratic, more efficient, less costly, better Government. So it's going to be the smallest it's been since John Kennedy, and it's going to put out twice as much output, and we're going to have more examples like the Small Business Administration where we cut the budget by 40 percent and doubled the

loan volume to create small business in America. You're going to have a lot of that. There may not be any votes in it, but it's the right thing for America.

When I stuck up for the elemental principle that we should reform affirmative action because there were some problems with it but that there was still discrimination in this country, and we ought to reach out and try to make sure everybody was considered without regard to their gender or their racial or ethnic background, not given quotas, not given reverse discrimination, but at least given consideration for equal opportunity, I was told, "This is dumb politics. Look at the polls. You're crazy." All I know is, look around this room. We're going up or down together, folks. Our ethnic diversity is the greatest resource we have if we use it in a sensible way. So we should amend affirmative action but not end it.

The Vice President said something I'm really proud of. He will tell you, we were told by expert after expert after expert about politics that the First Lady should not go to China. They said, "Oh, it's a no-win deal. If you go over there, people that are concerned about human rights will attack her and attack you. And whatever you say, if you say anything strong, well, you'll put our relationship haywire. It's a lose-lose deal." But you know what? Somebody needs to speak up on behalf of the United States for the principles of freedom and liberty and decent treatment for women here at home and throughout the world. What happens to women and little girls throughout the world will have a great deal to do with the world we live in. And I'm proud of what she did, and we did the right thing to send her there.

Well, you get the idea. So what I want you to do is to go out of here and say, "Look, you may not agree with everything Bill Clinton and Al Gore do." [Laughter] "I don't agree with everything Bill Clinton and Al Gore do. They make mistakes. But you've got to give them one thing: they've got a clear vision of what they want America to look like; they've got new ideas and old values; they are committed to working with Democrats and Republicans to find common ground based on those values; and they're doing what's right for the next generation, even if

it is politically unpopular, and in a time of change, that's what we've got to do."

I want you to take that out to every person in Florida. We need to win Florida. But more importantly, America needs to stay on the right course: more jobs, higher incomes, safer streets, a cleaner environment, an opportunity to lead in a world that is safer and better, and to come together. If we do that, the best is yet to be.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:35 p.m. in the Sheraton Bal Harbour. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on House Action To Reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act

September 19, 1995

I congratulate the Members of the House of Representatives on their overwhelming vote to approve a 5-year reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. This legislation will assure that Americans who are living with HIV and AIDS will continue to receive the life-sustaining services that they need. The Ryan White CARE Act is a lifeline to thousands of Americans who otherwise have nowhere to turn. I hope the House and Senate can quickly work out their differences on this legislation and send me a final bill as soon as possible.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged in Denver, Colorado

September 20, 1995

The President. The reason I wanted to come here today is because by coming I hope to honor the work that this home has done and also to point out how dramatically our Nation has been able to improve care for elderly people in the last several years because of the commitments we have made through the Medicare and Medicaid program.

And as you know, there's a big debate in Washington going on now about balancing the budget and what we have to do to balance

older people. Seventy-five percent of the people in this country who get the benefits of Medicare and Medicaid live on less than \$24,000 a year. We can fix Medicare without burdening them.

That is my commitment: Fix the Medicare system. You don't have to stick it to the older people in this country who barely have enough money to live on. So let's balance the budget and do it right so we can grow the economy, reduce the crime rate, and bring this country together. That is my commitment, and I think it's yours.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. at Jacksonville International Airport.

Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion With Senior Citizens in North Miami Beach, Florida

September 19, 1995

The President. Thank you for taking a little time to meet with me and the Governor today. I wanted to just say a few words. First of all, let me thank Governor Chiles for being here. You know, when he was a Senator, he was the chairman of the Budget Committee, so he knows a lot about what we're going through in Washington.

Gov. Lawton Chiles. These people knew me when I had the Aging Committee, before I had the pleasure to know you. [Laughter]

The President. That's right. Before you were aging. [Laughter]

I'd like to just talk for a couple of minutes and then spend the rest of the time listening to you, trying to answer your questions or at least hearing your concerns about this. You all know we're in a major debate in Washington about balancing the budget, and we're trying to balance the budget. I think that's a good thing to do. Our country never had a permanent deficit in our Government accounts until the 12 years before I became President, and I've tried to change that.

When I became President, the annual deficit was \$290 billion a year; we've now got it down to \$160 billion a year. That's a huge decrease in only 3 years, and I'm proud of that. But we have to ask ourselves now that we're going to go all the way and balance

this budget: Why are we doing it, and how are we going to do it in a way that reflects our basic values as Americans, our sense of personal responsibility, our sense of family responsibility, our responsibility to our communities? And maybe most important, what are the obligations we owe to each other across generational lines and across income lines in America? How can we balance the budget in a way that permits us to honor these values and these obligations?

We want to balance the budget because we'd like to take this debt off of our children and grandchildren, because we would like not to spend so much money every year paying off interest on the debt so we'd have more money to invest in things like education and health care and the economy, but we have to do it in the right way.

Now, I have offered the Congress a balanced budget that increases our investment in education, because I think we owe the next generation quite a lot—in a global economy they'll need more education and because so many of our children, particularly poorer children, need the tools to work themselves into the middle class. I have offered a balanced budget that continues our fundamental obligations to clean air, clean water, safe food, public health, and the environment. And I have offered a balanced budget that deals with the need to slow the rate of growth in medical expenses so that health care does not consume the entire budget and does not take more and more of our income and more and more of your income.

Now, in addition to that, there is this issue with the Medicare Trust Fund, which the congressional majority, the Republican majority, has made a great deal of. But I'd like to talk a little about the Medicare Trust Fund and what its relationship is to the budget, and then we can hear from you.

The Congress has proposed to balance the budget in 7 years and to pay for a \$250 billion tax cut and to cut Medicare by about \$270 billion over that 7-year period and to cut Medicaid by about \$180 billion over that 7-year period.

My proposals, which balance the budget in 10 years with a much smaller tax cut, have a Medicare reduction that's less than half of theirs and a Medicaid reduction that's about

a third of theirs. Now, if you hear them talk, they will say two things. They will say, first of all, we're not cutting anything; we're just slowing the rate of inflation in these programs. And secondly, they'll say we have to cut Medicare because it's necessary for the Trust Fund. So I would like to deal with both of those issues if I might.

First of all, on the Trust Fund, there's a legitimate issue with the Trust Fund. Our administration brought it up in '93 and in '94 in the health care debate. And many of the same people who are saying we have to cut Medicare by \$270 billion today were denying that we could have any reductions at all just last year and denying that there was big problem with the Trust Fund. But there is a problem with the Trust Fund. And so our obligation, not only to the people on Medicare today, but to the people we want to have Medicare in the future, our obligation is to fix the Trust Fund.

The actuaries say that we need to put about \$90 billion into fixing the Trust Fund. That is, if we put \$90 billion in, we will secure it for another decade, and during that decade, we'll have time to figure out what we're going to do when all the baby boomers retire and they get on Medicare because then there will be a lot more people on Medicare.

But neither proposal really deals with that. We're just talking about how to add a few more years, 10, 11, 12 years to the Trust Fund. My proposal takes it out 11 years from today. And that's better than we've been doing in most of the last 15 years. My proposal does it by recognizing that the Trust Fund essentially provides hospital care and other services and is paid for essentially by asking the providers to take less money in the future and by cracking down on fraud and abuse.

And by the way, we have a study which says that Medicare fraud and abuse is about 10 percent of our total cost. And we have the United States Attorney here for this part of Florida, and he can tell you what we're trying to do in Florida. But we have doubled the prosecutions on fraud and abuse, we have assigned 3 times as many FBI agents to try to crack down on fraud and abuse as any previous administration, and we've brought in more money from people who are skimming

the system illegally than ever before. So there is a lot of money there. And we can do that.

Their proposal would ask the beneficiaries of the system to pay more, dramatically more. And it's important that you realize that in their Medicare cuts, about half of them will be absorbed by providers or by improvements in fraud and abuse, but about half of them will come from beneficiaries. And none of that money goes into the Trust Fund. So let's get that on the table. This has nothing to do with the Trust Fund. And the only way you can get money from beneficiaries is either to charge more or give fewer services, or serve fewer people. And that all goes into the budget.

Now, on Medicaid, 30 percent of Medicaid goes to care for poor women and their poor children, but 70 percent of it goes to pay for health care for the elderly and the disabled. So this dramatic Medicaid cut, since the elderly people who get that are disproportionately low income, will have to either be paid for by their children or it means that we're going to serve fewer people. There will be fewer people in nursing homes, fewer people getting in-home services and things of that kind.

You just simply can't decree that the rate of medical inflation will go down to the level they say it will, because we have more and more older people coming onto the system all the time and, thank goodness, living longer, and living better.

So what we need to do is to find the right way to balance the budget, in a way that preserves the Medicare Trust Fund and extends it for at least a decade but does not, does not, cripple the health care system for today's elderly and those who will be coming on in the next decade. Seventy-five percent of the people on Medicare live on less than \$24,000 a year.

So I say to all of you, we need to be open to changes in the system—we can't continue to let it grow at 10 percent a year—but we need to do it in a way that recognizes our obligations across generational lines and across income lines. And we have to be very careful before we approve of a system that would cost our seniors a huge amount more or cause them to have to give up medical services in order to fund tax cuts that go to

people like me who don't really need it—and haven't asked for it, to be fair, haven't asked for it.

So, my point is we can have a tax cut if we target it toward raising children and educating people and middle income people who need it, we can have a balanced budget, and we can fix the Medicare Trust Fund, and we can do all of that without imposing undue burdens on Medicare and Medicaid recipients who simply cannot afford it. And that's the trick. That is what our obligation ought to be.

And I believe that a proposal that would basically reduce future spending in health care by \$450 billion, almost half a trillion dollars, you're either going to—you're going to do one of two things: You're going to either close a lot of hospitals in rural areas and urban areas and teaching hospitals and take a lot of doctors out of the system who won't serve anymore, or you're going to hurt the beneficiaries either by charging them more than they can afford or simply by not serving a lot of elderly people anymore.

So that's the point I've been trying to make going around America. We all have an obligation to fix the Trust Fund, but the proposals in Congress go way beyond that. About half the money in Medicare will go to fix the Trust Fund; the other half goes to their balanced budget tax cut plan. And there's no way around it; that's just the fact. And I just don't think that's right.

Governor, do you want to say anything?

[At this point, Governor Chiles explained that his State would be greatly affected by proposed Medicare and Medicaid cuts because its population is rapidly increasing.]

The President. I guess, the two things I want to hammer home are these: The trustees on which the Republican Congress have relied in saying that the Medicare Trust Fund is in trouble recommend an expenditure of between \$90 billion and \$100 billion to bail out the Trust Fund over the next 7 years. That's in Medicare; that's not \$270 billion, that's between \$90 billion and \$100 billion. I have proposed at around \$120 billion, to ask the providers to do some things that will save money in both Part A and Part B of Medicare. But the premium costs to elder-

ly people that go into Part B are all going into that general budget to fund the balanced budget tax cut plan.

The second point I want to make about Medicaid is, 4 percent inflation sounds like a lot, because we now have inflation down at an all-time low for the last 30, 40 years in America, down to about 2 percent and medical inflation down to 4 and 4½ percent.

The problem is, if you live in a State where—let's say you kept medical inflation to 4½ percent for 7 years, let's just say you could do it. That's 4½ percent per person, and that includes young people as well as older people, and that assumes no population growth. So if you're Florida and you have population growth and most of your health care goes to elderly people, we know that the older you get, the more health care you access, so the inflation will always be more there.

So that's why these numbers simply won't work and will have to be modified and why we must reduce the size of these cuts in order to achieve a balanced budget in a way that reflects our obligations across generational lines and across income lines. You just need to remember those two big points, and everything else flows from that.

Now, you know more about this than I do, so I'd like to stop now and hear from you and let you say whatever you'd like to say or ask whatever questions you'd like to ask in whatever order you want to proceed.

Who would like to go first?

Governor Chiles. Let the ladies go.

The President. Doctor, you want to go first?

[A Dade County doctor discussed the decline of nonprofit hospitals and gave an example of a patient who received inadequate follow-up care due to the practices of for-profit hospitals.]

The President. Now, does this person—is this person in an HMO or not?

[The doctor said that she was not sure whether the patient was in a Health Maintenance Organization but thought perhaps the same company owned both the hospital and the HMO. She continued to cite examples of practices that she felt amounted to fraud in the health care system.]

The President. Let me just point out that, if I might, I'd like to ask—our U.S. attorney is here, and I'd like to ask him to—Kendall Coffey—just to talk very briefly about what we're doing in this here in Florida because this is one area where I hope we can get bipartisan agreement with the Congress.

There is a lot of money to be saved in fraud and abuse. And our friends in the press corps who are covering this, you know, they hear this in every Government program, and people tend to get cynical. But in the Medicare, Medicaid program, it's expanded so fast and diversified so much, and we have so much—things like Alzheimer's that you were talking about—there is genuinely a lot of fraud and abuse. And I think if we could get an agreement—there are some good things, by the way, in their plan that I like about dealing with this. And if we can get an agreement on about how much money we could save, this could help us to go some way toward resolving our differences.

So, Mr. Coffey, maybe you could talk a little bit about what you're doing here in Florida to deal with this fraud and abuse problem.

[Mr. Coffey described Federal and State efforts to crack down on medical fraud and Medicare fraud in particular.]

The President. The one thing I want to say is I think we are finally organized to handle this now so that when people like you believe you know about this, it's very important that you make a referral to the U.S. Attorney's office, because I think a lot of people all across America have these feelings that things aren't right, but they don't know that anyone would ever prosecute it or look into it. We now are organized to handle these problems, and it's very important that not only those of you here but those who will hear about this meeting all across America will call their United States Attorneys and let them know when they think there is some evidence of a problem.

Q. Thank you.

The President. Who else would like to go? Yes, sir.

[A participant voiced his distrust of doctors and hospitals and his concern that they often overcharge for services and asked what the

Federal Government could do to regulate them.]

The President. Well, I think there are two things we can do, two things we have to do at the same time. One is to increase our capacity to investigate fraud and abuse, and that's what we've done. As I said, we've got 3 times as many FBI agents as ever before. We've already doubled the number of prosecutions. We're bringing in more funds. We're moving on that. And then we need help—organized seniors groups can help us a lot by telling us what you think is wrong. You may not always be right, but we won't know unless you give us leads.

The second thing we have to do is to simply slow the rate at which we're putting new money into the system. Now, in this area, there is pretty much bipartisan agreement on at least rough numbers of how much we should slow the rate of money which we're putting into Part A of the Medicare system. And so we have some—we've got agreement. We know if we slow the rate of growth into the provider pool—that's the Trust Fund, the Part A part—that we will force certain discipline on the system and will help to save it money and help to lengthen the Trust Fund. So I think that we're agreed on that—you know, not to the last dollar, but generally those are the two things that can be done about it.

I don't think that the answer to the fact that the system is consuming too much money, however, is to ask the seniors on fixed incomes to pay a whole lot more for the same health care.

Q. That's what worries us.

The President. That's what—what we've tried to do is to strike a proper balance. And my plan is to make full disclosure—is to try to continue the system we've had, but to fix the percentage of Medicare premiums that the seniors have to pay. So if the overall cost goes up, your out-of-pocket costs will go up, because the percentage will be a percentage of the bigger number. That way, we share the responsibility and there's some incentive not to overuse the system. But the main problem is the one that you have outlined.

Who else would like to go next. Yes, sir?

[A participant explained that Medicare and Social Security not only benefit the elderly but also younger people who are no longer burdened with the high cost of taking care of their elderly parents.]

The President. Governor Chiles and I were talking about that on the way in. I don't think people—that whole aspect of it hasn't been thought through. The extent to which, particularly if you look on the Medicaid budget, people who have to go into nursing homes, and people who get help with in-home care, a lot of the elderly people themselves have low incomes, but their children have—a lot of them are basically getting by on middle class incomes. And their incomes would also be dramatically lowered if they had to basically go back to try to take care of their parents and their grandparents who were also less independent than they have previously been. I think it's a very important point, and thank you for making it.

Q. It is.

Q. Can we get this across to the congressional majority?

Governor Chiles. Now, that's a different ball game. You'll have to help us.

The President. I think if you can make those points, that this could be, in effect, an indirect middle class tax increase if they overdo it, then it would register, I think, on people, because it certainly would be. I mean, basically it would be an indirect tax increase on young people who are fortunate enough to still have their parents and grandparents living. And I'm saying, of course, it's just like everything else, some could afford to pay it, some couldn't, which is why I like the universal nature of Social Security and Medicare, because it basically empowers and gives dignity to the lives of people. It also strengthens families' ability to take care of their children. So you don't have people choosing between their children and their parents. That was a very important point.

[A participant thanked the President for his support of Medicare and asked the Holy Spirit to guide him in his efforts.]

The President. Bless you. If we had a little more of the Holy Spirit, we could probably come close to—[laughter]

[A participant voiced her concerns about older people who could not afford medical care and about doctors who would no longer take elderly patients. She said that while this was not the case where there were many HMO's, there were other problems with HMO's, such as fraud and excessive profits.]

The President. I think we're going to have to do a lot more work on that because, you know, some of them are wildly popular and are doing a good job. Some of them have taken their management savings, for example, and given people who've joined them free prescription drug benefits—something that Medicare doesn't provide—which is a godsend for people who need it. So we shouldn't condemn the whole industry. I mean, some of them have done a wonderful job. But it also provides a vehicle through which people who care only about making a quick buck can justify just about any way to, in my opinion, to abuse people.

What were you going to say?

[A participant explained the fraudulent practices of some HMO's and what is being done to prevent further abuse.]

The President. Let me say, you know, I think we are getting close to agreement on the question of whether people should have more HMO choices available to them on Medicare and Medicaid but should not be forced into it.

And I'm adamantly opposed to that, any kind of forced—but even if you do that, then you have a problem that we have to be very vigilant about, that Governor Chiles talked about, because the healthiest people which used to go into HMO's and get the best deals, and then the HMO's could then decline to take people who might need, say, the drug benefit. And then 3 years from now, we could be spending even more money on the program than we are now because we let the people that don't cost much go into HMO's and get the regular fee and then everybody else will be out there, we'll have to spend even more on them.

So if this is not a—the HMO, it's a good option in many cases, if it's a well-run HMO. But it's certainly not a be-all and end-all to the problem of medical costs.

[A participant voiced her support for Medicaid but stated that reforms must be made to ensure that the system benefits those who need it and that all programs should be monitored. Another participant then stated that, despite the belief of some people, the elderly are not being selfish in their need for assistance. She also discussed the fact that the talents and capabilities of nurses are going unused in many hospitals.]

The President. Well, as you know, I strongly support that. And I was interested in a comment you made—I hadn't thought to make this point today, but I think it's worth making—when you said that a lot of seniors have children in their fifties who can't get health insurance.

We are—I tried to do something about that, as you know, unsuccessfully. We are losing now—a million Americans a year are losing their health insurance—non-seniors, under 65. This is happening in no other country in the world with an advanced economy. No other country would tolerate this.

Q. Outrageous.

The President. We lose one million a year. Now, we would lose more but for the Medicaid program. The Medicaid program not only helps seniors who need institutionalized care or who need in-home care, it helps some low-income people who are working poor people, who are not on welfare but are working poor—who are not on welfare but still have low incomes from other sources. And many States have tried to do what Governor Chiles has tried to do here, which is to achieve some savings in the Medicaid program by having a decent selection of HMO's and take the money and put it into providing subsidized insurance to the working poor.

All of that will go totally out the window if we reduce Medicaid spending by the amount we're talking about, so that instead of just being the only country in the world that doesn't provide health insurance for people under 65, the only country in the world with an advanced economy losing a million people a year—that number, that one million number will go up quite a lot. We will then begin to lose even more people who are younger.

So this is—that's another way in which this whole issue is an intergenerational thing. I will say again, I believe we can slow the rate of growth in Medicaid spending and Medicare spending. We have already done that in the last 2½ years. But I do not believe that you can just jerk \$450 billion out of the system and pretend that there will be no adverse consequences. That is the point I want to make.

Go ahead. What were you going to say?

[A participant praised the ombudsmen appointed by Governor Chiles to investigate complaints against nursing homes in Florida and stated the need for more control of physicians' fees for particular services.]

The President. Thank you. We have a big crowd of people downstairs, and it's kind of hot for them, so we probably ought to go down there. I do—I want to thank you for sharing this time with me. And I want to assure that I will take your concerns back to Washington, and the things that I can do something about by myself, I will do it. And I hope that this forum will serve to inform this debate that will occur in Congress over the next month or two.

And I hope all of you will speak out. And I hope you will make many points, but first of all, be clear on how much fraud and abuse you think is in the system, because I think that will help to focus people on that. And secondly, remind people of the point you made, that this is not just about elderly people. This is about our intergenerational way of life in America, how we live, how our families function. That's a very important point.

Q. Well, a lot of the older people are taking care of their little grandchildren.

Q. Right now they are, yes, unfortunately.

The President. I bet they are.

Q. Sure they are. And we've got to keep the older people well for the children.

The President. Thank you all. You were great. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. at Point East Senior Center.

necessary to apply economic pressure to UNITA.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 18, 1995.

**Executive Order 12972—
Amendment to Executive Order No.
12958**

September 18, 1995

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to amend Executive Order No. 12958, it is hereby ordered that the definition of "agency" in section 1.1(i) of such order is hereby amended to read as follows: "(i) "Agency" means any "Executive agency" as defined in 5 U.S.C. 105; any "Military department" as defined in 5 U.S.C. 102; and any other entity within the executive branch that comes into the possession of classified information."

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 18, 1995.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:33 p.m., September 19, 1995]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 19, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 21.

**Letter to the Chair of the Federal
Communications Commission on the
Children's Television Act of 1990**

September 18, 1995

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Children's Television Act of 1990 recognizes the power and value of television's influence on our nation's children. The Act sets forth a reasonable exchange—it requires commercial broadcasters to honor their public trust by offering programming that enhances children's learning. The dissemination of true educational programming across the public airwaves is a priceless gift to our children.

The American public had every reason to believe that when the Children's Television Act was signed into law, programming specifically designed to benefit children would become an important part of the choices on every broadcast channel. The American public has been disappointed, and American children have lost countless opportunities to learn and to be challenged intellectually.

I urge you again to review the purpose of the Children's Television Act and the broadcast programming our children are offered today. To paraphrase former FCC Commissioner Newton Minow, if we can't figure out how the public interest standard relates to children, the youngest of whom can't read or write, and all of whom are dependent in every way on adults, then we will never figure out the meaning of the public interest standard.

I believe the public interest should require broadcasters to air at least three hours per week, and preferably more, of quality children's programming at reasonable times of the day. The FCC and the broadcast industry have an unequalled opportunity to redefine how television can serve the public interest, especially with respect to our children. I urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 19.

**Remarks to the Community in
Jacksonville, Florida**

September 19, 1995

Thank you so much. Wow! Sheriff Glover, I don't ever want to be on the ballot against you. I'm glad to be here.

Thank you, Congresswoman Corrine Brown, for your friendship and your support, and thank you for your support of the crime bill, which has made our streets safer and made the children's future here more secure. Thank you, Governor Chiles, for being my friend and adviser and for your leadership. And thank you, Lieutenant Governor MacKay, for your long support and your leadership here. Mayor Delaney, we are de-

lighted to be here in this great and growing community. I want to thank you and the State's attorney, Harry Shorstein, and all the other local officials here.

And I want to say, as President, it's a particular honor for me to be here in Jacksonville not only because this is a vibrant, growing city that did get a professional football team—[*applause*]. Don't be discouraged by the rough starts. I've had a lot of rough starts in my life. The opera is not over.

I want to also say a special word of thanks to the people of Jacksonville for the remarkable contribution that has been made by this community over so many years to the national defense of the United States. We are grateful for that, and we continue to be grateful for that.

I want to say a special word of appreciation, too, to Florida's own, our Attorney General, Janet Reno, for the wonderful job that she has done as the Attorney General of the United States. And the Director of our COPS program, who is also here on my far left, Joe Brann, from California, who has come to Washington as a chief of police to work with us to get these police officers out in the United States. I thank them for being here, and I thank them for their leadership.

I want to thank all the schools that are represented here. I have a list. I may miss some, but I think we're joined by Kite Elementary School, Lake Forest Elementary, Moncrease Elementary, Ribalt Middle School, Raines and Ribalt High School, and the Edward Waters College Choir, thank you.

I'd also like to thank one more person—Police Officer Larisa Crenshaw, who walked down the street with me today, because she and these other officers in uniform behind me, they're what we're here to talk about. I thank her, and I thank these people for being willing to serve your community in law enforcement.

You know, when I ran for President in 1992, I had a vision of what I wanted America to look like as we enter the 21st century. I want this to be a high-opportunity country for all Americans, where entrepreneurs can flourish, where people who work hard can be in the middle class, where we shrink the under class and give everybody who is willing

to do what it takes to make the most of their own lives a chance to do it. I wanted us to have strong families and strong communities, with good education systems, good health care, a clean environment. But I knew that in order to do that we first had to tackle the problems of crime and drugs. Without safe streets, safe schools, and safe homes, America will never be what it ought to be.

We've worked hard for the last 2½ years to bring the deficit down, to invest more in education, to deal with all of these issues I talked about, and we've got more jobs and less crime in America than we had 2½ years ago. And I think that's pretty good evidence that our strategy is working to move this country forward.

On the issue of crime, I was astonished when I got to Washington, having been a Governor for 12 years—if there was one issue that had nothing to do with partisan politics all my life, it was crime. I never met a Republican or a Democrat that wanted to be a victim of crime. I couldn't imagine that there would ever be any partisan issue there. When I was a Governor, when I was attorney general, we all worked together on issues affecting public safety. And I can see that's what you do here in Jacksonville. When I got to Washington, I discovered that even though the violent crime rate had tripled from the 1960's to the 1990's, they had been fighting partisan battles over the crime bill for 6 long years—hot air in Washington, more crime on the streets.

In 1994, we ended the hot air and the partisan bickering and passed the crime bill, and crime is going down on the streets of America. The crime bill featured more police, helped the States to build more prisons, stronger punishment for people who deserve it but also more prevention to give our young people something to say yes to as well as something to say no to, the chance to avoid getting into trouble in the first place.

We made "three strikes and you're out" the law of the land. What that means is that people who are serious career criminals now will go to jail for the rest of their careers so they can't get out and continue to do violence and to victimize people. We banned deadly assault weapons from our streets and from our schools, while protecting hundreds

of sporting weapons for law-abiding hunters and sports men and women in this country. It was a good balance and the right one to strike.

We created an office to combat the problems of violence against women, in the home and on the street, a special problem in the United States and one the First Lady talked about when she went to China and represented us so well there just a few days ago.

The most important thing we did was to give the communities of this country the ability to hire 100,000 police officers to do what these 31 police officers behind me are going to do, to walk up and down the streets of America, like Marvin Street, to talk to neighbors, to talk to people, to get them involved in keeping their communities safe and free of crime.

We give the communities the resources they need to put the police officers on the street, and people like Sheriff Glover all over America take responsibility to train and deploy those officers. Then the officers help ordinary citizens, like the folks I just visited with, walking up and down the street, to find the commitment to do their part in fighting against crime.

If we're going to make our streets safe, if we're going to do what we have to do to give our children a chance at a future, we have got to have the help of grassroots citizens who are willing to work with police officers. If we can get them on the streets, you've got to help them do their jobs. In the 6 months since community police officers started patrolling this neighborhood, in 6 months, violent and property crimes have dropped by more than 8 percent in just 6 months. And they're just beginning.

What I want you to know is that, just like Sheriff Glover said that Jacksonville could do anything, America can do this. We do not have to put up with the high rates of crime we have. We do not have to put up with the high rates of drug abuse among our children we have. We can do something about it. You have evidence on this street, in this neighborhood. We can do something about it.

All over America today, the crime rate is down, the murder rate is down. We see people making progress to take control of their own lives, their families, their neighbor-

hoods, their schools, and get this country going in the right direction.

But let me tell you, there are also troubling signs on the horizon. And I'll just give you two. While drug use is down among people between the ages of 18 and 34, casual drug use, marijuana, among teenagers is going back up again. While the crime rate is down all over America and the murder rate is down, violent crime among teenagers is going up again.

The Justice Department issued a report the other day which showed that while the overall crime rate is down, violent crime among juveniles is going up, and a majority of members of gangs say that they think they are justified in shooting someone who treats them with disrespect. We actually had a case in another city not very long ago where a 16-year-old boy shot a 12-year-old boy who was sort of the neighborhood comic. And he thought the 12-year-old boy was treating him with disrespect.

Whatever happened to "count to 10" before you do something you might later regret? Whatever happened to kids being taught that sticks and stones can break your bones, but words can never hurt you? Whatever happened to people defining self-respect based on what they believe about themselves, not what somebody else says about them? Shoot, if the President followed that rule, he wouldn't have any respect. *[Laughter]*

You think about it. It's a big problem. Look at what happened in Los Angeles over the weekend. A family took one wrong turn and because they were in the wrong place, gang members felt they had the right to shoot at them and take their lives, kill an innocent child.

So what I want to tell you is, this is a moment of great hope. We know we can lower the crime rate. We know we can lower the murder rate. We know we can reduce drug abuse and drug dealing in our neighborhood. We know we can take our streets back. We know how to do it. Your sheriff has proved that he can do it, working with you, if you will help him. We know how to do this. This is one of the most important things that has happened to America in the last 20 years. We don't believe we are helpless in the face

of crime anymore. We know we can turn it around. But we also know that the job is not yet done.

Therefore, to go back to what the Congresswoman said at the beginning, we fought through one partisan political battle to get this crime bill. I heard people say on the floor of Congress that the crime bill was a fraud, that it wouldn't help to lower the crime rate, that we would never get 20,000 police on the street in 6 years, and we were promising 100,000 in 6 years. Well, in one year, we're over 25,000, and we're going to make it on time, ahead of the budget, ahead of the schedule.

And we now have a consensus among the American people. I believe that we ought to keep on lowering the crime rate. I don't believe—I haven't heard the first person write me a letter and say, "Dear Mr. President, I don't like the fact that the crime rate is going down. Please stop what you're doing." [Laughter] I haven't gotten one letter saying that.

Now, in Washington the Congress is trying to balance the budget. I support that. We ought to balance the budget. We never had a permanent deficit until the 12 years before I became President. We have taken the deficit from \$290 billion a year when I took office to \$160 billion this year, more than 40 percent reduction. And I want to finish the job.

We can balance the budget, and we should. But what I want to tell you is, we do not have to destroy our commitment to the education of our young people, to the training of unemployed people, to the economic future of America. We do not have to have dramatic increases in the health care costs of elderly people when 75 percent of them are living on less than \$24,000 a year. We do not have to sacrifice the environmental and public health and safety protections that give us clean air, clean water, and safe food. We do not have to do any of this to balance the budget.

I have given the Congress a balanced budget plan which does not do any of these things. And we certainly—we certainly do not have to come off of our commitment to put 100,000 police officers on the street and have more and more stories like the ones I heard walking up and down Marvin Street

today. We owe it to America to balance the budget and to reduce the crime rate until Americans are safe in their streets, safe in their homes, safe in their schools.

So I ask you, because you are fortunate enough to live in this growing and vibrant community, because you are fortunate enough to have elected leaders that work together across party lines and know that crime is an American problem and a human problem, because you are fortunate enough to have a sheriff who has proved to you that community policing works, because you are fortunate enough to have experienced a drop in the crime rate, I ask you to join with me and say to the United States Congress, this is not about partisan politics. We are lowering the crime rate in America. If we have more jobs and lower crime, America is going to be a better place. So let's continue to do that. Let's continue to do that.

And let us say: Balance the budget, yes. But do it and still send us our police officers, because we want our children to have a healthy, safe, strong, drug-free, crime-free, violence-free future. And now we know we can do it. Let's don't stop. Let's keep on until the job's done.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:47 a.m. at the Carvill Park Community Center. In his remarks, he referred to Sheriff Nathaniel Glover of Duval County; Gov. Lawton Chiles and Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay of Florida; Mayor John A. Delaney of Jacksonville; and Joseph Brann, Director, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Department of Justice.

Remarks on Departure From Jacksonville

September 19, 1995

Thank you very much. Thank you for coming out. Thank you for waiting in the hot sun. Thank you, Governor Chiles. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor MacKay. I thank your State's attorney for being here, and Congresswoman Corrine Brown, I thank you for being here. It's wonderful to see all of you.

You heard Governor Chiles say that we have just been with Sheriff Glover in one of the neighborhoods here in Jacksonville. I

want to say two or three things about being in this community. First of all, congratulations on your football team. I'm glad you got one. And I know the season got off to a rough start. But I've had a few seasons like that; it's not over. Just stay in a good humor about it.

I also want to thank the people of Jacksonville for the dramatic contribution that you have made over so many years to the national defense of the United States, so many people here serving in our military, supporting it, and we're very grateful to you for that.

And I'm sure you know that in the recent rounds of military reorganizations and base closings, Jacksonville is one of the communities in the United States that will actually gain several thousand jobs over the next few years because of the work you have done and the quality of support you have given to our military. So I thank you for that.

I want to make, if I might, just a couple of remarks, then I want to get out in the crowd and just say hello to all of you. I ran for President in 1991 and 1992 because I was afraid that our country was going in the wrong direction; that we had forgotten the basic values that make us strong, our devotion to work and family and responsibility and community; and that we were not changing to meet the demands of the 21st century.

The economy is different. You all know it. We have different challenges in holding our country together. And I made up my mind that if the people gave me a chance to serve, I was going to try to get the economy going again so we could grow the middle class and shrink the under class; I would try to make the fighting of crime a major priority so we could reduce the crime rate in America and make our streets and our schools and our homes safer; I would try to change the way the Government works, to be a genuine partner with people in their lives. And that's what we've been here celebrating today.

Florida is creating jobs at 3 times the rate it was when I became President. We have lowered the deficit. We have increased investment. We have a plan for a balanced budget. We're moving forward economically. The crime rate is down; the murder rate is down. All across America we are proving that we can lower the rate of crime in America

if we work together and put more police officers on the street under the plan that was enacted in the 1994 crime bill. I'm proud of that. People used to tell me we will never lower the crime rate. They were wrong. We can do it, and we can do it all over America.

We're now trying to reform the welfare system. I just want to say a word about that. I've worked with Governor Chiles on this for years. I'm all for reforming welfare if what we mean by reforming welfare is moving people from welfare to work and giving them a chance to be good parents and good workers. I am not for punishing poor children just because they were born poor. We ought to be reforming welfare in a way that liberates people. I'm all for having tough standards and tough requirements on people to go to school and go to work if they've got a chance to do it and to take care of their children. So when you watch this welfare reform debate in Washington ask yourself: Is this going to produce good workers and good parents? Is this going to make families stronger and children better? That is the test.

So I want to say to all of you, now I'm going on down to south Florida and then I'm going on across the country to Colorado, and I'm going to be talking with Americans all across the country about the debate in Washington about balancing the budget. And I want to say to all of you, Florida has a lot of interest in that debate. Every American should want the budget balanced. We never had a permanent deficit until the 12 years before I became President, and we've taken that deficit from \$290 billion a year down to \$160 billion in just 3 years. I'm proud of that. We should keep doing that.

But we also have responsibilities. You see it here in Jacksonville. We have responsibilities to the national defense. We have responsibilities to the children and the schools. We have responsibilities to lower the crime rate. We have responsibilities to the elderly who depend on Medicare and Medicaid for their health care. And I say to you, we can balance the budget without undermining the national defense, without cutting our commitment to put 100,000 police on the street, without cutting the number of children in Head Start and the number of young people who are getting college loans, and without burdening