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Draft Op-ed

Political fight

In the last few weeks, the American people have been bombarded with an avalanche of numbers and economic acronyms surrounding the balanced budget debate now raging in Washington. CBO. OMB. CPI. Multiple baselines. Savings gaps. Technical adjustments. It's enough to make your head spin. The truth is, the bottom line for most Americans is not some magic number that hopefully eventually everyone can agree on. The bottom line for most of us consists of a good hard look at how each plan -- the President's and the Congress' -- will affect the everyday lives of families.

The President has said all along that a balanced budget is essential to lifting the burden of debt from our children, and securing our long-term economic growth. But, unlike the Republican plan, he has charted a course to a balanced budget that protects the values that bind us together as a nation. His approach preserves our commitment to our parents, protects opportunity for our children, defends our public health and environment, and stops a tax increase that undercuts the value of work. The President's plan proves once and for all that we don't need to violate our values and hurt our people in order to balance the budget in seven years.

has cut nearly in half and new

Americans have always believed that we owe a duty to our parents. That's why the President's budget secures the Medicare Trust Fund into the future, without imposing new costs on hard-pressed seniors. And it preserves Medicaid as a guarantee of quality health care for poor children, pregnant women and older and disabled Americans. Those are the values that matter most to Americans.

The Republican budget, on the other hand, would ~~wreck~~ havoc on those values. With their devastating cut of \$270 billion, Medicare would become a second class system. Under their plan, seniors who depend on Medicare would pay more and get less. In the year 2002, couples would pay \$286 more per year than under the President's budget, while spending per couple will be \$1,600 less.

wreck

The consequences for those who depend on Medicaid are even worse. For three decades, the Medicaid program has meant that if your child was disabled, in an accident, or your husband got Alzheimer's, or your parent needed nursing home care, you would get the help you need. The Republicans want to repeal this guarantee and replace it with an underfunded "block grant" that will force states to have to deny coverage to millions of people. Under their plan, families 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.

The American people have always understood that education is the key to a prosperous future -- both for individuals and for our country. As we stand on the edge of the global economy, that is more important than ever. We need to prepare our young people, and their parents for the high-wage jobs of the 21st century. That's why the President's budget moves us forward with an even greater commitment to education -- from Head Start to student loans to summer jobs to help for dislocated workers.

The Republican budget goes in the other direction -- backwards. Their budget cuts would deny college scholarships to 380,000 deserving students and deny Head Start to 180,000 preschoolers in 2002. There's no way we can compete and win in the global economy with that kind of cutback in education.

Pres. believes we have duty to conserve earth's resources
For decades now, the American people have become ever more conscious of the need to protect our environment. After all, none of us can live without clean air, clean water, and safe food. That's why the President's budget strengthens enforcement of laws that protect the health of all Americans. *health*

decades of effective enforcement
The Republican plan ignores this vital need. It would roll back important public health protections and place Americans at risk from hazardous pollutants. Their plan would protect polluters at the expense of working families. That does not make ecological, economic, or common sense. *already - cutback on clean air, water, COVA, statement, toxic*

Finally, the President believes we should reward hard-working families struggling to raise their children in dignity. That's why he has proposed a modest tax cut targeted to help middle class families raise their children, pay for an education and save for the future.

The Republican budget, on the other hand, provides a huge tax cut targeted at the wealthiest Americans. And they would raise taxes on 8 million families who earn less than \$30,000 a year. Ronald Reagan called the Earned Income Tax Credit, "The best anti-poverty, the best pro-family, the best job creation measure to come out of Congress." That's why the President wants to continue its expansion. The Republicans would repeal it.

So, as Americans try to sort out the arcane details of the budget debate, they should ask themselves a simple question: What kind of America do we want to pass on to our children and grandchildren in the 21st century? President Clinton's budget is the only one which honors our bed-rock values. So, think about it. The choice is ours.

Draft 12/8/95

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

RADIO ADDRESS ON MEDICAID

THE WHITE HOUSE

December 9, 1995

Good morning. As you know, we are engaged in a great debate over how best to balance the budget.

We must balance the budget. My administration has cut the deficit nearly in half. Now we must finish the job. But we must balance the budget in a way that reflects our most fundamental values -- increasing opportunity, strengthening families, recognizing the duty we owe each other.

This past week, I took two steps to advance these values. First, I vetoed the Republican budget plan that was sent to me by the Congress.

In so doing, I vetoed the most massive cuts in Medicare and Medicaid in history . . . deep cuts in education and the environment . . . and a tax increase on working people. This effort to balance the budget through wrongheaded cuts and misplaced priorities is now over.

Then, I sent to the Congress a plan to balance the budget in seven years, without devastating cuts in these vital areas. My seven year balanced budget plan reflects our values and protects our priorities. It reflects a good faith effort to find common ground on the budget.

At stake is more than just numbers and abstract programs and proposals. This debate is really about people -- the lives they lead, their hopes, their desire for a better life.

Nowhere is the choice clearer than in our different approaches to Medicaid. For three decades, Medicaid has meant that if your child was disabled in an accident, if your husband got Alzheimers, if your parent needed nursing home care, you would get the help you need.

The Republican budget would cut Medicaid by \$163 billion. And it would repeal the guarantee of health care for poor children, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and older Americans.

This is not an afterthought, or an unintended consequence. They are actually insisting on it. What would this mean?

In 2002 alone, the Republican budget could deny quality health care coverage to nearly 8 million people. It could deny meaningful care to over a million people with disabilities. And even to 150,000 veterans.

Today, a poor child who gets sick has access to a family doctor. Under this bill, nearly four million poor children could be denied quality medical care. If they got sick, they would have to pray for charity care at a crowded hospital emergency room.

Today, pregnant women know that they can get prenatal care, for their sake and the sake of their unborn child.

Under the Republican plan, hundreds of thousands of pregnant women could be denied regular check-ups and other basic services.

Today, elderly women who have devoted themselves to their families know that they can count on medical care, even if they don't have much money. But under the Republican plan, as many as 330,000 older Americans could be denied nursing home care.

Today, middle class parents know that -- in the awful event that their child is disabled in an accident, and their savings are gone -- they will get help to keep the child at home. Under the Republican plan, hundreds of thousands of disabled children could lose help for home care.

Earlier this week, I had the pleasure of meeting the Striggles family from Forestville, Maryland. Franklin Striggles works hard as a security guard. He and his wife Denise have health insurance from his job. But it doesn't begin to pay the cost of caring for their son Angelo, an energetic seven year old who has spina bifida and is confined to a wheelchair.

To see Angelo and his family, it's clear how much love and learning he gets from living at home with his brother and sister. It pains me to think that if the Striggles family lost Medicaid coverage, Angelo could be torn from his family, and placed in a state institution.

If the Republican cuts in Medicaid take effect, the blunt reality is that as many as four million children will simply be denied needed medical care. They will either be turned away from medical facilities, denied preventive care, or be turned out too soon. This is unacceptable in a country that cares about its children. And I will not permit it to happen.

Last week, I vetoed these cuts. Now the Republicans continue to insist on unconscionable cuts in health care for our children as part of a balanced budget. So I will say one more time: If necessary, I will veto those deep cuts in health care for children . . . again, and again, and again.

These cuts simply are not necessary to balance the budget. My 7 year balanced budget plan trims Medicaid and keeps costs down. It cuts federal spending, lets states be more efficient, and targets the money more wisely. It does all this, but it doesn't end the guarantee of health care for millions of Americans.

We expect every family to pay its bills . . . and care for its children. Our country can do the same. We don't have to hurt our children, to balance the budget in their name.

It's time for men and women of both parties to put aside narrow interests, and together pursue the national interest. I have reached out, to bridge the differences between us, so that our country can move forward. If we work together, we can get the job done.

Thank you for listening.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 7, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

Indian Treaty Room

Old Executive Office Building

6:05 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: I'd like to just say a couple of opening words. First, I want to welcome the bipartisan delegation of House members who are here and thank them for coming as we continue to discuss the question of our mission in Bosnia and search for unity on that.

I also want to say that I took a step today which I hope will help us to find unity on the budget. I presented a budget that is a seven-year balanced budget that protects Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment, doesn't raise taxes on working families, and meets the conditions that were set out in the resolution to which we all agreed. And I hope it will be taken as a gesture in good faith that will start us on the road to real negotiations over this budget, and that will bring about a constructive resolution for the American people.

So I'm very hopeful about that, and I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to have a discussion about Bosnia with the members who are here present. And some of them I think have recently returned from a trip of their own to Bosnia, so I think we'll have a lot to discuss. And I thank you for being here. And I thank you for being here. (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, Chairman Kasich said late today your budget came up there 400 in the whole. And he said by submitting this document you have breached the contract you signed with them a few days ago.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I disagree with that. You know, if you look at -- we thought there would be new budget estimates coming out of the Congressional Budget Office by now, but they haven't been. That's fine, and I haven't attacked them for not doing it, even though they said they would. And I don't think that's very constructive.

Our budget -- let me point out two things. All this is is a -- the balanced budget plan is a plan over seven years. No one can know what will happen between now and then, but we do know what's happened for the last three years. For the last three years, both the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and

Budget have underestimated the deficit reduction as a result of the 1993 economic plan, although we have been closer to accurate than the CBO.

We know that our plan was submitted based on basically splitting the difference of all the experts in America who predict what the economy will do. And therefore, it is mainstream and it's good, and it's a good place to start discussions. And I think that's the attitude they ought to take. And if they have a -- I've made a proposal; now I'd like to see what theirs is.

Thank you.

END

6:08 P.M. EST

draft 12/6/95 1:30pm

**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, to preserve our commitment to our parents, I am vetoing the biggest Medicare and Medicaid cuts in history.

To protect our values of providing opportunity for all, I am vetoing deep education cuts. To defend our public health and natural beauty, I am vetoing a massive environmental rollback. 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 has passed the Congress 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.

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]

**SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1995
FINAL**

tba

MORNING RUN

9:00 am-
10:00 am

**PHONE/OFFICE TIME
OVAL OFFICE**

10:00 am-
10:15 am

**MEETING
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Leon Panetta**

10:15 am-
10:30 am

**BRIEFING
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Tony Lake**

10:30 am-
10:50 am

**ONE-ON-ONE MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER SHIMON
PERES OF ISRAEL
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Tony Lake
WHITE HOUSE PHOTO ONLY**

- Prime Minister Peres is escorted into the Oval Office by the Chief of Protocol, Ambassador Molly Raiser and poses for photographs with the President.
- The meeting begins.
- Upon conclusion of the meeting, the President escorts Prime Minister Peres to the Cabinet Room.

10:50 am-
11:20 am

**EXPANDED MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER SHIMON
PERES OF ISRAEL
CABINET ROOM
Staff Contact: Tony Lake
CLOSED PRESS**

- The President and Prime Minister Peres arrive in the Cabinet Room and proceed to seats.
- The meeting begins.
- Upon conclusion of the meeting, the President and Prime Minister Peres depart.

11:25 am

THE PRESIDENT and Prime Minister Peres proceed to the Map Room via the Colonnade
POOL PRESS

11:30 am-
12:30 pm

WORKING LUNCH WITH PRIME MINISTER SHIMON PERES OF ISRAEL
MAP ROOM
Staff Contact: Tony Lake
CLOSED PRESS

- The President and Prime Minister Peres arrive in the Map Room.
- Lunch is served.
- Upon conclusion of lunch, the President and Prime Minister Peres proceed to respective holding rooms.

12:30 pm-
12:45 pm

BRIEFING
LIBRARY
Staff Contact: Tony Lake, Michael McCurry

12:50 pm

THE PRESIDENT and Prime Minister Peres proceed to OEOB 450

1:00 pm-
1:25 pm

JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PRIME MINISTER SHIMON PERES OF ISRAEL
OEOB 450
Remarks: Dan Benjamin
Staff Contact: Tony Lake, Michael McCurry
OPEN PRESS

- The President and Prime Minister Peres are announced into the room and proceed to respective podiums.
- The President makes a brief statement.
- Prime Minister Peres makes a brief statement.
- The President and Prime Minister Peres take questions.
- After a brief hold, the President escorts Prime Minister Peres to West Executive Drive and bids farewell.

1:35 pm

THE PRESIDENT proceeds to the Oval Office

1:40 pm-
1:45 pm

MEETING
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Stephanie Streett, Anne Walley

1:45 pm-
5:30 pm

**PHONE/OFFICE TIME
OVAL OFFICE**

5:30 pm

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady proceed to the Diplomatic Reception Room

5:30 pm-
tba

**HOLIDAY RECEPTION
STATE FLOOR
Staff Contact: Ann Stock
Event Coordinator: Sarah Farnsworth
CLOSED PRESS**

Note: This is a two-tiered reception.

5:30 pm

- The President and the First Lady do a photo line in the Diplomatic Reception Room. [Approximately 500 people]

- Upon conclusion of the photo line, the President and the First Lady proceed to the Residence.

8:15 pm

- The President and the First Lady return to the Diplomatic Reception Room for a photo line. [Approximately 500 people]

- Upon conclusion of the photo line, the President and the First Lady depart.

BC AND HRC RON

THE WHITE HOUSE

December 1995

Presidential Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Ireland World AIDS Day	2 Depart For Germany (early a.m.) Bonnholder, Germany Depart For Spain (p.m.) RON Madrid, Spain
					Residence Closed for Holiday Decorating	
3 Madrid, Spain Return to United States Kennedy Center Honors, DC	4 Day & Evening Off	5 Meeting With Refugees From the Former Yugoslavia Drop By Briefing on Bosnia Peace Accord Budget Meeting Oregon Special Election Primary	6 Budget Event Drop By Bosnia Briefing WH Conference on AIDS Paragon of Peace WH Holiday Reception	7 Interview With People Magazine DNC Lunch, Off Complex Congressional Meeting (T) Congressional Meeting (Budget) (T) Meeting With Campaign Notary Hold Evening (ss)	8 Meeting With Democratic Governors Das Santos of Angola (2 1/2 hrs) VP Meeting Tape Radio Address Tape 60 Minutes Interview Oregon Reception, Off Complex	9 Arkansas RON Arkansas
10 Arkansas Photo With Social Aides Christmas in Washington Private Dinner RON DC	11 Meeting, Lunch & Press Conf. With PM Peres of Israel Holiday Reception (2)	12 Meeting With Campaign Notary Briefing & Interview Bosnia Event Congressional Meeting Drop By Mtg With Texas Democratic Officials Ambassador Credentials (1)	13 DNC Coffee Event (T) Briefing For Interview Interview With New York Times Holiday Reception (2) Depart For Paris (p.m.)	14 Paris, France Depart Paris en Route DC (p.m.)	15 Down Time (9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.) Intern Photo Presentation of Citizen's Medal to Families of US Diplomats DNC Afternoon Coffee WH Holiday Dinner	16 Live Radio Address Family Time Holiday Party
17 Holiday Party	18 Hannukah Briefing For Interview Interview Holiday Reception DNC Dinner, Off Complex	19 Briefing For Nickelodeon Nickelodeon Taping, Off Complex DNC Jewish Lunch, Off Complex Holiday Press Reception (2)	20 Hold 8.30 a.m. - 9.30 a.m. (SS) Briefing For Interview Interview With LA Times Budget Meeting 2hrs. Holiday Press Reception (2)	21 DNC Coffee Hold 30 Min (DS) VP Lunch Budget Meeting 1hr Holiday Party (T) Hold Evening (ss)	22 Budget Meeting 1hr Tape Radio Address Holiday Children's Party (afternoon) Residence Staff Party	23 Evening Off
24 Phone Call to the Troops Day Off Evening Off	25 Christmas Day	26 Family Time	27	28	29	30 Live Radio Address
31 Day & Evening Off						

November 95

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January 96

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12/08/95 SAT 04:52 FAX

January 1996

Presidential Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day Day Off Evening Off	2 Hold Evening	3 Blair Dinner @ WH	4 VP Lunch United Negro College Fund Dinner @ WH	5 Tape Radio Address Evening Off	6
7 Dinner With Galtson Group @ WH	8 LG Lunch, Off Complex Evening Off	9 Carol Moseley Braun Fundraiser, Off Complex DNC National Democratic Club Fundraiser	10 Hold Evening	11 Hold For CG Fundraising Dinner, NYC RUS New Hampshire	12 CG Travel, New Hampshire Hold For CG Fundraising Dinner, Nashville RON Nashville	13 LG Events, Nashville Live Radio Address RON DC
14 Hold For Camp David Evening Off	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Hold For MLK Event (T) Evening Off	16 WH Leadership Conf. on Youth Drug Abuse (T)	17 Hold Evening Anniv. of Northridge Earthquake	18 VP Lunch Drop By OK City Scholarship Fund Meeting DNC Dinner @ WH	19 Meeting 1 Hour (DS)	20 Live Radio Address
21	22	23 Hold For State of the Union	24 Hold For State of the Union	25 VP Lunch Hold Evening	26 US Conf. of Mayors, DC (T) Hold 30 min. (SS)	27 Live Radio Address
28 Phone Call To Winner of Super Bowl	29	30 Hold per AW Oregon Special Election	31 Hold per AW Hold Evening			

December 95

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February 96

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ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN FLORIDA UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON

President Clinton's strategy to strengthen the economy is based on reducing the federal budget deficit, lowering trade barriers, and empowering workers, families, businesses and communities to succeed. Here are some of the results for Florida after the first 34 months of the Clinton Administration:

Improved Economic Conditions in Florida:

- The unemployment rate has dropped from 7.4% to 6.7%.
- 3 times as many new jobs **per year** -- 217,818 vs. 69,850 average during the previous 4 years. In 33 months, Florida has added 599,000 total jobs, after adding 279,400 during the previous 4 years combined.
- Over 4 times as many new private sector jobs **per year** -- 198,691, vs. 48,150 average during the previous 4 years. In 33 months, Florida has added 546,400 private sector jobs, after adding 192,600 during the previous 4 years combined.
- 2,100 new manufacturing jobs added in 33 months -- after 55,500 lost during the previous 4 years combined.
- Bankruptcy filings have dropped 7% **per year** -- after increasing 24% **per year** during the previous 4 years.
- Business failures have dropped 25% **per year** -- after increasing 28% **per year** during the previous 12 years.
- Home building has increased 6% **per year** after dropping 4% per year during the previous 12 years.
- Consumer confidence has increased 58%, after falling 49% during the previous 4 years.
- Bank lending has increased by \$19.5 billion -- after dropping by \$3.9 billion during the previous 4 years.

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

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

10 TIMES MORE FLORIDA FAMILIES RECEIVE A TAX CUT THAN A TAX INCREASE: As a result of the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, 895,441 working families in Florida will receive a tax cut. This compares to an increase in the income tax rate for only the 87,826 wealthiest taxpayers in Florida.

TAX CUT FOR 71,456 SMALL BUSINESSES IN FLORIDA: The President helped entrepreneurs, proprietors, and other small businessmen and women by expanding the annual expensing allowance from \$10,000 to \$17,500. About 71,456 small businesses in Florida are likely to benefit from the expansion of the expensing allowance this year alone *and many more will benefit over the coming years.*

2,004,000 FLORIDA WORKERS PROTECTED BY FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT: The Family and Medical Leave Act allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth of a child, to care for a sick family member, or if they become too sick to work. This law covers about 2,004,330 workers in Florida, and protects the jobs of 120,409 workers in Florida who are likely to use unpaid leave this year alone.

502,100 STUDENTS AND FORMER STUDENTS IN FLORIDA WILL BE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM STUDENT LOAN REFORMS: Approximately 502,100 Florida borrowers -- 351,500 current borrowers and 150,600 new borrowers in the next few years -- can take advantage of the new direct student loan program by participating directly in the program or by consolidating guaranteed loans into direct loans. Some will benefit from lower interest rates, and all will benefit from more repayment options, including income contingent repayment.

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

[Acknowledgments: Senator Dodd for introduction; Governor Chiles; Lt. Governor MacKay; Senator Bob Graham; Representatives Carrie Meek and Sam Gibbons, and all my many friends in Florida. I also want to thank Don Shula, Dan Marino, Irving Fryar and the Miami Dolphins football team for that remarkable 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.]

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 ~~Bill Clinton~~ ^{my campaign} on the political map, when you helped me win a decisive straw poll victory [December 15, 1991]. ⁵ That victory convinced ~~Al Gore~~ and me that the American people were serious about wanting new leadership in Washington -- leadership that shared their values. 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} ~~us~~ and for your support these past three years.

My fellow Americans, I come to you ^{today} ~~tonight~~ 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 formation and technology-driven age. We are moving from the Cold War into the era of the global village which is characterized by greater closeness and interdependence. This is a time of enormous 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 America 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. We 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. Haiti is on the right track and we should be proud of that fact.

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.

New known faces another challenge abroad

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.

Dec. '94 Summit of Americas appears here

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.

~~Their plan would end the guarantee of quality medical care that now exists for 26 million Americans -- a guarantee that has been on the books for three decades now.~~ 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.

we must have a balanced bud - but
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I very much want to work with the Republican Congress to get a balanced budget. But I will not -- I will not permit the repeal of guaranteed medical coverage for senior citizens, for disabled people, for poor children and pregnant women. That would violate our values. It is not necessary. So, if they continue to make 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

who would pay more under the Republican plan. We have to build on the successes of the last three years -- but we must not turn back the clock.

Let me close by reminding all of you of how far we have come. We're in better shape than we were three years ago, ~~and you deserve the lion's share of the credit.~~ 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 share for America.

America is now in the best position to lead the world in 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, the bill I am confident we will prevail*

Thank you and God bless you all.

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. We 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. Haiti is on the right track and we should be proud of that fact.

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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.

Thank you and God bless you all.

President William J. Clinton
Prepared Remarks
Democratic Party of Arkansas
Honors Senator David Pryor

[Introduction by Jimmie Lou Fisher]

[Acknowledgments: David and Barbara Pryor; Governor Tucker; Senator Bumpers; Congresswoman Blanche Lambert Lincoln; State Party Chair Bynum Gibson; Maurice Mitchell; Mary Steenburgen and Ted Danson.]

Jimmie Lou Fisher introduced me before I gave a speech that some of you may remember in October in 1991. And as it turns out, that speech went over pretty well. So, Jimmie Lou, if I'm smart, I'll follow you on stage anywhere, anytime.

Hillary sends her love and her regrets that she could not be here with us. She and I always look forward to coming home and spending time with our friends. I'm especially happy that we've come together to honor a man who in many ways, brought us together.

Most of us here have worked with David Pryor one way or another, including myself and important members of my staff, like Bruce Lindsey and Mack McLarty. I have been lucky to know David Pryor for most of my adult life. Beyond providing an example of what a public servant should be, David Pryor has been a mentor, friend and adviser.

I will never forget how David Pryor put everything on hold and put his heart and soul, literally, into our campaign in 1992, from New Hampshire to the White House. He has always been there for us.

On one hand, I know we're all happy that David will have more time to spend with his family. I know how much that means to him. And I also know that retirement means he'll have a lot more time to work on his golf game. That part I not too happy about, because it'll make him even tougher on the course.

But I'll tell you this: David may be retiring from the Senate, but if I have my way, he won't stop being a busy man. I still need David Pryor, and more important, our country still needs David Pryor.

If he believes in a cause, no effort is too great. He has been a grand champion of our finest values. Since his days here as a young state legislator 30 years ago, he has fought especially hard for the elderly. He once worked as a nursing home orderly to call attention to the bad care that elderly patients receive. And when he couldn't get members of Congress to listen, he held hearings in a trailer in a parking lot. His work led to the creation of the House Select Committee on Aging.

And David Pryor, as chair and now ranking member of the Special Committee on Aging, has continued fight for seniors. He led the way to nursing home reforms and he's taken on those who would limit availability or raise the cost of prescription drugs that older patients need. I am thankful for David Pryor especially now as we fighting to prevent enormous cuts in Medicare and Medicaid.

It's fitting that we honor David for many reasons, for the gentleman, family man, statesman and patriot that he is. And I think it's timely that we honor him now. David Pryor knows about tough fights and hard decisions.

While he was Governor, he faced the brunt of the recession, and he carried our state through a difficult time, all the while balancing hard choices with those things our people value. David has always brought that sense of balance to the table, and I have always counted on it. There have been so many times in the Congress that he has taken to the floor to try to restore some humanity, sanity and civility into the national political debate.

These are all things that we're trying to do now as we look for common ground on two fronts: In our budget debate and in our actions on Bosnia.

David Pryor has always believed in bringing the debates away from Washington and to the people, and so as we honor him tonight, I'd like to talk a little about them.

Two big things happened this week on the budget. First, Congress sent me a budget and I vetoed it. And I was proud to veto the biggest Medicare and Medicaid cuts in history; deep cuts in education and the environment and a tax hike on working people. And second, I proposed a budget that balances in seven years, but does it in a way that reflects our values.

Two versions; one stated goal. But there are crucial differences. My budget increases investment in education; theirs would deny college scholarships to 380,000 deserving students. My budget secures Medicare without new costs on beneficiaries; theirs would cause Medicare to "wither on the vine." And while their budget would raise taxes on 8 million working families, my budget gives tax cuts to people who actually need them.

And the sharpest difference is on Medicaid. For three decades, Medicaid has been a legal guarantee of quality health care for poor children, pregnant women, the disabled and senior citizens. Seven out of 10 nursing home residents get help from Medicaid.

The Republican budget would cut Medicaid by \$163 billion. And it would repeal the guarantee of health care for these vulnerable Americans. Now, remember, the Republicans insist that this be a part of the budget. Let me tell you what this would mean.

In 2002 alone, the Republican budget could deny quality health care coverage to nearly 8 million people. It could deny meaningful care to more than a million people with disabilities... to 150,000

veterans... and to 330,000 nursing home residents.

Under their budget, nearly four million poor children could be denied quality medical care from a family doctor. Hundreds of thousands of pregnant women could be denied regular check ups and other basic services.

And senior citizens, the people that Senator Pryor has worked so hard to protect, would be hit very hard. Today, every senior citizens knows that they will not be denied medical care simply because they do not have the money. Women who have devoted themselves to their families for years know they can count on medical care, or nursing home care if necessary. But the Republican plan eliminates the guarantee of nursing home care for as many as 300,000 people. Nearly one million older Americans could be pushed out of Medicare altogether.

So that's why I want to be clear about this. I very much want to work with the Republican Congress to get a balanced budget. But I wonder if a balanced budget is really the priority in their proposal. The question that we should be asking is, what is the goal here, what is the agenda? If the goal is to balance the budget in seven years, then let's do it in the way that protects our principles and our values and protects the economic interests of working families.

But if the goal is to take away vital access to medical care from people who need it, then that is quite another thing; that's a different agenda. And in that agenda, a seven-year plan is just a means to a mean, unjustifiable end. We cannot and we dare not allow that to happen.

I will not permit the repeal of guaranteed medical coverage for senior citizens, for disabled people, for poor children and pregnant women. That would violate our values, it is not necessary, and therefore, if the Republicans continue to insist on unconscionable cuts in health care for poor children and the elderly, I will veto it again.

Our proposal shows that these cuts simply are not necessary to arrive at a balanced budget. My seven-year plan reforms Medicaid and keeps costs down. It cuts federal spending, lets states be more efficient and targets the money more wisely. It does all that, but it doesn't take away the guarantee of quality health care for millions of American. It upholds our values; it balances hard choices with necessity and common sense and decency. And that's what we will continue to press for in this budget debate.

I am determined that we will reach common ground and achieve a balanced budget. We all agree that is what we want.

I have made a good faith effort to reach out with my proposal to balance the budget in seven years. And it is my hope that we can reach across party lines to get the job done together.

Our responsibility is to uphold American values, and that's true not just at home.

Last week, I was in Northern Ireland, and I saw first-hand how American leadership can make a difference. From Belfast to Haiti, to the Middle East, the United States is leading the world away from violence and toward peace. And that holds true for Bosnia, too.

I know you have seen the horrific pictures, and I know that it can be so overwhelming that it is almost numbing. But America has a chance to end this misery for good.

It was our determined diplomacy, backed by NATO's resolve, that brought the Balkan leaders to the peace table in Dayton, Ohio. And now that they have made a commitment to peace, our responsibility truly begins.

All parties have asked for NATO's help in securing the peace. The United States, as NATO's leader, must be a key part of the mission.

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 that we hold dear.

David Pryor has shown us that values are more than what we talk about. They are about how we live, how we treat one another, how we take responsibility for ourselves and for making the world better in any way we can.

David Pryor has made the world a lot better for a lot of people. We can best honor him by doing all we can to continue the legacy his years in public life have given us.

America remains the greatest country on earth. We are better than we were three years ago. Our nation is on the move. Our economy is growing. Many of our most difficult social problems are beginning to yield to the efforts and common sense values of the American people. We have proved again that we are a model for peace and reconciliation in the world. We are moving in the right direction. And I believe the best is yet to come. Working together, that is the future we can bring home.

Thank you and God bless.

REVISEDTo: Turkey Edmunds
From: Tony BlinkenOn Haiti

Just over one year ago, American diplomacy backed by military muscle forced a brutal military regime in Haiti to surrender power and gave democracy another chance. This has been good for America -- and good for Haiti. The tide of refugees from Haiti -- ~~which stood at has gone from~~ about 16,000 in the month prior to our intervention -- ~~has been dramatically reduced to almost zero now.~~ And the people of Haiti, with help from the international community, are slowly building a democracy and a working economy. All of this takes time, and there will 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. Haiti is on the right track and we should be proud of that fact.

And President Aristide, as he said, he would, has been a force for reconciliation.

On Cuba

Only one country in our hemisphere continues to resist the powerful trend toward democracy: Cuba. My administration is working to encourage its peaceful transition to a free and open society. That means on the one hand tightening our enforcement of the embargo to maintain the pressure for reform. But it also means taking steps to encourage the free flow of ideas -- which is one of our most powerful weapons in the struggle for democracy. Earlier this fall, I authorized our news media to open bureaus in Cuba. ~~And we~~ we are allowing more people to travel there for educational, religious and human rights purposes. And we are permitting U.S. nongovernmental organizations to provide assistance to their Cuban counterparts -- churches, human rights groups, dissidents -- who can act as agents for peaceful change. We will continue to do everything we can to promote ~~such peaceful~~ change, protect human rights and move Cuba into the camp of democracy.

23RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Orlando Sentinel Tribune

December 18, 1991 Wednesday, 3 STAR

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A10

LENGTH: 398 words

HEADLINE: MOST FOUND STRAW POLL A LOAD OF HAY;
CLINTON'S CAMP WAS PLEASED, BUT MOST PUNDITS AGREED THAT THE TV DEBATE ;
ECLIPSED THE FLORIDA VOTE.

BYLINE: By Peter Mitchell Of The Sentinel Staff

BODY:

The reviews are in and Florida's much ballyhooed presidential straw poll was, well, not that big a deal after all.

"An event of symbolic importance only, but the kind of event that matters to political insiders and financial contributors," The New York Times dubbed it Tuesday.

An "extremely unpredictable indicator of candidate strength," The Wall Street Journal had said a day earlier.

In the end, the Sunday straw poll highlighting last weekend's state Democratic convention in Orlando was overshadowed by the televised presidential debate later that night.

On Tuesday, national pundits were still debating the debate's results. But Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton's decisive straw poll victory, which his campaign aides said cost some \$30,000, was drawing mainly local attention.

In Florida, Clinton campaign aide Jeff Eller said the strong straw poll finish created "a perception . . . that this is a candidate that's getting stronger all the time," flooding Tuesday fund-raisers in Miami and Fort Lauderdale with standing-room-only crowds.

Florida's five largest papers ran front-page convention stories Monday, but nearly no out-of-state papers did. Most major newspapers placed the straw poll results deep inside their Monday editions.

USA Today ran a four-paragraph report on page 10 in which Democratic National Chairman Ron Brown called the straw poll a meaningless "beauty contest." But the story also noted "the showing indicates Clinton has a leg up in preparation of Florida's March primary."

The convention lacked surprises. A front-runner won and no one broke new ground. Quipped state party spokeswoman Kathy Jurado, "I guess the surprise is a Democratic convention came off without a hitch."

Yet, state party leaders were happy with the results of the biennial pep rally, Jurado said.

Orlando Sentinel Tribune, December 18, 1991

"I think that what we wanted to accomplish at our straw ballot was accomplished," Jurado said. "That is, we have active organizations in place for those (presidential) candidates" who competed.

"This is what our delegates look forward to," she said.

Meanwhile, at least one Democrat, Clinton himself, sees real importance in the way he captured most of the 1,775 delegate votes.

"It was the first opportunity real Democratic voters had to see all of us," Clinton said on CBS This Morning Monday. "I think it's a real indication of how this campaign will come out."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

COLUMN: Vote '92

LOAD-DATE: May 15, 1993

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1991 Facts on File, Inc.
Facts on File World News Digest

December 31, 1991

SECTION: UNITED STATES; Politics

PAGE: Pg. 981 F1

LENGTH: 334 words

HEADLINE: Democrats Meet in Prime-Time Debate

BODY:

The six major Democratic presidential candidates appeared December 15 in a prime-time television debate. The event, conducted by NBC, was the first of seven debates planned by major broadcast outlets. [See p. 876A3]

Former California Governor Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown Jr. attracted attention with angry attacks on the political system. Taking on a "political outsider" stance, he blasted the other candidates for accepting political action committee funds. He also tangled with moderator Tom Brokaw of NBC News, after Brown gave out his campaign's toll-free 800 number, a violation of the debate's ground rules.

All the candidates criticized President Bush for his economic policies at home and for failing to adjust to post-Cold War realities in his foreign policy.

Afterward, many observers said that no candidate other than Brown had succeeded in making a strong impression, but that Brown had hurt himself by being too shrill in getting his message across.

Some analysts said Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey had performed best. At one point, Kerrey confronted Brown when the latter railed against the influence of special interests. Kerrey demanded, "Are you saying I'm bought and paid for? I resent that." Also participating were Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, former Senator Paul Tsongas (Massachusetts) and Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder.

Clinton Wins Florida Straw Poll -- Clinton December 15 won a nonbinding, largely symbolic straw poll of 1,768 politicians and activists at Florida's midterm state Democratic convention.

Clinton took 950 votes, or 54%. Harkin won 549 votes (31%), Kerrey received 181 (10%) and Tsongas received 32 (2%). Wilder and Brown, neither of whom attended the convention, received 24 votes (1%) and four votes, respectively.

Clinton had made the biggest effort to attract support at the convention, and officials of rival campaigns claimed that the vote would have been significant only if Clinton had failed to win.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

18TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1991 Newsday, Inc.
Newsday

December 19, 1991, Thursday, NASSAU EDITION

SECTION: VIEWPOINTS; Pg. 122
Other Edition: Suffolk Pg. 118

LENGTH: 641 words

HEADLINE: Debaters Take a Break From Cuomo

BYLINE: Mary McGrory

BODY:

WHAT WAS MOST interesting about the first Democratic debate was the fact that two names constantly on Democratic tongues were not mentioned: Gov. Mario Cuomo of New York, who is still pacing the ramparts of Albany to decide whether to be a candidate, and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who is always invoked by Democrats trying to explain why they voted against the gulf war.

With former Gov. Jerry Brown of California playing an enfant terrible with silvering sideburns, it was a little difficult to concentrate on anyone who was not present. Brown was throwing spitballs and tossing notes for the entire 90 minutes, practically begging to be sent to the principal's office. His insistence on giving his 800 number to would-be contributors rattled ringmaster Tom Brokaw and trivialized the proceedings.

Sen. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska took on Brown on PAC money, of which Brown has consumed millions in his day. But Kerrey showed some fire, and for people seeing the six-pack for the first time, it may have been a welcome change from the programmed responses that are guaranteed in these encounters.

Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas, the front-runner in Florida according to a weekend straw poll, noted that Brown had fed often on PACs during his political career, which has included several runs at the presidency, two terms as governor of California and lately as his party's state chairman.

Brown retreated under fire. He moved to the relative safety of the more neutral ground of "the system," which he claims is distorting and corrupting the American political process.

Former Sen. Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts, his face drawn, his diction disheveled as always, probably thought he did well. He made a histrionic appeal for all to take the pledge against accepting PAC money. At present he is the front-runner in New Hampshire. Nothing he said should have disturbed his status.

Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa also introduced a note of melodrama. In discussing the middle-class income tax cut, he took out a dollar and said the proposed cut would amount to only one dollar a day.

Newsday, December 19, 1991

Gov. L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia had the satisfaction of quieting the others. "Gentlemen, gentlemen," he remonstrated as his brothers barked at each other. "You are not addressing the concerns of the American people."

Clinton, his followers think, did himself good by staying out of the food fights. He did not, however, get much of a chance to draw the distinction he thinks makes him uniquely appealing as a candidate, especially to the South.

Clinton did not challenge Kerrey when he expressed unreconstructed opposition to the gulf war, which Clinton says he would have voted for. Due to the curious form of questioning, by which not all candidates were asked the same question, not everyone got a crack at what George Bush regards as a major issue. But of those who did, none, for once, sought the comforting shadow of Powell, who was quoted in Bob Woodward's book "The Commanders" as favoring sanctions over military action.

Kerrey, the group's only Medal of Honor winner, feels armored. So the general got the night off.

So did Cuomo, giving the candidates the liberating feeling that they were not just auditioning for his vice-presidential consideration.

Democrats are getting fed up with the New York governor. The late-night-show jokes about his indecisiveness proliferate. People wonder about his addiction to Albany, his grim, overbuilt capital.

"Will he travel well?" they ask at Christmas parties. A homebody presidential candidate? Would a campaign bring out the gypsy in him? Is this strategy disguised as agony - make the campaign short, keep the New York Legislature at bay until the last possible moment, and keep the declared contenders a little insecure?

We may know this week. Or we may not.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Let me continue with my narrative, ladies and gentlemen. I want to tell you about the experience that Bill Clinton's home state has had under his leadership. He's moved 17,000 people off the welfare rolls and on to the work rolls. He's introduced innovative policies in education and in health care. He has gone to work creating jobs, high-wage manufacturing jobs at 10 times the national average. And for the last two years in a row, his state has been number one among all 50 in the creation of jobs in the private sector. Now, that's the kind of leadership that we need nationally instead of what we've had from Bush and Quayle. And those are some of the reasons why the other 49 governors, Republicans and Democrats alike, when they voted, voted to name Bill Clinton the most effective governor in the entire United States of America.

(Applause.) That's the kind of leadership we need.

But, ladies and gentlemen, this state of Florida has the decision to make, and it's in your hands. You can determine the future of this country, whether we move toward hope or lapse into fear, whether we have change or stay within the same old rut we've been in. So I ask you do you want four more years of trickle-down economics?

AUDIENCE: No!

SEN. GORE: Four more years of "read my lips"?

AUDIENCE: No!

SEN. GORE: Four more years of a phony environmental presidency?

AUDIENCE: No!

SEN. GORE: Do you want four more years of Dan Quayle?

AUDIENCE: No!

SEN. GORE: Do you want four more years of George Bush?

AUDIENCE: No!

SEN. GORE: Is it time for them to go?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

GOV. CLINTON: They've run out of time, they've run out of excuses, they've run out of energy. With your help, they're going to be run out of office. I give to you the next President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton.

(Cheers, applause.)

GOV. CLINTON: Thank you, thank you. Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Gore has made a pretty good case against the crowd that's in there, but I do want to remind you of one thing. Next time you hear my opponent talk about this election being about trust, you just remember that we've only made one decision in common, and the decision is -- (audio break) --

I am so proud to be back here in Florida, so proud to have the support of all of you. I like the banner over that says "We love Hillary." (Cheers, applause.) I thank the -- (inaudible) -- band for coming out here and wearing their beautiful uniforms on a warm day to be with us. (Cheers, applause.) I like the "Grandmothers for Clinton and Gore" over there. (Cheers, applause.) There was a wonderful young girl I met on the way end that said, "Thank you, Governor. My mother and I, we're a family, too", which I like. (Cheers, applause.) And sitting right down there is a woman who came up to me and said, "Governor, my name is Sele Nass (sp), I am 96 years old. I have lived here for 65 years, and I'm for you and Al Gore in this election. (Cheers, applause.) And I kissed her right out here in public, I plead guilty.

My fellow Americans, I owe a lot to Florida. On December 16 of last year in the Florida straw poll, the Democrats here gave me a victory which started me on my way. (Cheers, applause.) On Super Tuesday, they said the

only test really was whether I could win in Florida and by what margin, and you gave me an overwhelming victory, and for that I'm grateful. (Cheers,

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applause.) But make no mistake about it. What Al Gore told you is true. The Republicans have believed for years that they owned Florida in the general election, and you can turn out the lights on trickle-down economics and open a new day for the United States of America. (Cheers, applause.)

Al Gore and I have worked hard to try to change the Democratic Party, to try to open it up -- (chorus of jeers and boos) -- wait a minute, let me show you something -- whoa, wait a minute -- wait a minute -- (sustained jeers and boos) -- let me say to you, my fellow Americans, you are just seeing an example of why we ought to throw Bush and Quayle out of the White House. (Mixed chorus of cheers and jeers.) They can't run on their record, they have no plan for America's future, so all they can do is bad-mouth their opponents and try to shout them down! They don't even believe in free speech any more! (Cheers, jeers.) And let me tell you what I want you to do. If George Bush or Dan Quayle comes here, here's what I want you to do. I want you to go to their rally, hold up our signs, but here's what I want you to do. I want you to be quiet and polite and let them speak, because their ideas cannot stand the test of honest debate and hearing. Don't be rude! Don't be crude! Treat 'em like Americans! (Cheers, jeers, applause.)

Let me tell you something, folks. This campaign has changed dramatically -- (audio break) --

GOV. CLINTON: (In progress) -- that we're lifting up all of our people, and we're going forward together. (Cheers and applause.)

I believe that Florida will be better off -- that Florida will be better off -- under an economic policy that says, trickle-down economics is a failure. It says, just cut taxes on the richest Americans and let the benefits trickle down. I say, we want to make millionaires the old fashioned way. No more across the board tax cuts, but give people incentives for investment in new plants, in new technologies, in new small businesses, in agriculture, in housing, putting the American people to work. That's what creates economic opportunity. That's what we need in this state, and that is what we need in this nation. (Cheers and applause.)

They say, "We need more trade with the rest of the world," and I say so, too. But their idea of being fair to the rest of the world is let other people take advantage of us and even spend tax dollars to move American jobs overseas. Did you see that? (Chorus of boos.) This administration ordered our own Customs Department to give the Japanese a break on cars even as they were discriminating against our auto parts. This administration has spent \$300 million nearly of your tax money -- listen to this -- if I were the other guys, I'd be screaming now, too. I wouldn't want you to hear this. (Laughter.)

This administration has spent money -- your money -- through the Agency for International Development to offer low interest loans to companies that will shut their plants down in America and move into Central America. (Chorus of boos.) Low interest loans that we couldn't get to modernize their plants here in America. They are spending -- they spent money last year to train workers in Central America than they spent to train workers who lost their job because of foreign competition in the United States. (Chorus of boos.) They have spent your money to hire someone who was photographed and shown on national television in the last week -- somebody working for you, one of your hired hands, now -- down in Central America was photographed talking to people who said they were business people from Florida. And the people said, "We want to know if we can shut our plant down in Florida and move it down to your country. Our workers are reliable. Are the workers reliable here?" And this person who works for the United States taxpayer said, "Oh, the workers here are more reliable than they are in Florida." (Chorus of boos.)

Now, I believe in expanded trade, but I want fair trade. I want other people

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to treat our products fairly, and I believe we should spend our tax money rebuilding the American economy, not moving jobs overseas. (Cheers and applause.)

They say they've got a health care plan. I say it's more money down the same old broken system. I believe we need to become finally the last advanced country in the world to control health care costs and provide basic health care to all of our people, and provide access to long term care to the elderly and to the disabled in this country. We've got to do it. (Cheers and applause.)

Just last week, a group of -- again -- Republican and Democrat health experts who have served in several administrations in the past examined my plan and the Bush plan. They said the Bush plan by the end of the decade wouldn't control health care costs and would leave 27 million Americans without health insurance. They said our plan would control health care costs, would save hundreds of billions of dollars in the private sector for investment, and would save the average American family \$1,200 a year by the end of the decade. You tell me who should be elected President on November the 3rd. (Cheers and applause.)

They say it's fine to tell you one thing and do another. They promised you to protect the Florida coast; now they're trying to make sure it's drilled. In the last -- listen to this: in the last State of the Union address, the President sent a budget to the United States Congress that was rejected -- and I want to hear this -- that was rejected by 75 percent of the Republicans in the House of Representatives. This guy can't work with his own party because there's nothing but negativism and charge-throwing, no hope, no uplift, no programs, no progress for the future.

My fellow Americans, I got into this race, and I came to Florida not to run down George Bush, but to lift up America. And that's what this election ought to be about. (Cheers and applause.) And when I tell you what I want to do as President, it's not just some campaign promise I cooked up for the election; it is the work of a lifetime for me. I know we can create jobs in America again. I know we can lift incomes in America again. I am mad that two thirds of our people are working harder for lower wages than they were making ten years ago, and you ought to be mad, too. (Applause.)

I know we can face our problems. I am tired of being told that we can't do anything about the health care crisis. I am tired of seeing a nation that won't face its health care problems like AIDS, like long-term care, like the women's health problems that would have been addressed in that bill that Mr. Bush vetoed for political reasons. I want us to face our problems. I want us to make progress. That's why I entered this race. And what you have to decide is simply this: Do you really believe that this country is going to be better off if you give them another four years?

AUDIENCE: No!

GOV. CLINTON: Is there any reason to believe that trickle down economics will work any better the next four than it has in the last 12?

AUDIENCE: No!

GOV. CLINTON: If we offer a departure from the political paralysis in Washington, if I want to give you a national government dedicated to investment, to education, to dealing with the health care crisis, to bringing the American people together to helping us to compete and win in the global economy isn't that really what America needs today?

AUDIENCE: Yes!

GOV. CLINTON: This election is not about Bill Clinton and Al Gore, it's about you and the people like you we've seen on these bus trips all

across America. I'm tired of people breaking down and crying in front of me,

REVISEDTo: Terry Edmunds
From: Tony BlinkenOn Haiti

Just over one year ago, American diplomacy backed by military muscle forced a brutal military regime in Haiti to surrender power and gave democracy another chance. This has been good for America -- and good for Haiti. The tide of refugees from Haiti -- which stood at has gone from about 16,000 in the month prior to our intervention -- has been dramatically reduced to almost zero now. And the people of Haiti, with help from the international community, are slowly building a democracy and a working economy. All of this takes time, and there will 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. Haiti is on the right track and we should be proud of that fact.

On Cuba

Only one country in our hemisphere continues to resist the powerful trend toward democracy: Cuba. My administration is working to encourage its peaceful transition to a free and open society. That means on the one hand tightening our enforcement of the embargo to maintain the pressure for reform. But it also means taking steps to encourage the free flow of ideas -- which is one of our most powerful weapons in the struggle for democracy. Earlier this fall, I authorized our news media to open bureaus in Cuba. And we are allowing more people to travel there for educational, religious and human rights purposes. And we are permitting U.S. nongovernmental organizations to provide assistance to their Cuban counterparts -- churches, human rights groups, dissidents -- who can act as agents for peaceful change. We will continue to do everything we can to promote such peaceful change, protect human rights and move Cuba into the camp of democracy.

Senator Dodd - intros - 3 questions

averages

Florida Dem. Party Convention

4 years ago - straw poll victory

Medicare - Medicaid

Miami - Dolphins

Craig Smith - 66257

2000

V.P. will be there - speaking on Sat. 10 minutes
Medicare/Medicaid

Gov. Lawton Chiles - praise
Buckley McKay - Lt. Gov
Kn. Bob Graham 10 minutes 4 years ago -
Sam Simpson
Carroll Meeks

record -
Florida specific
(Haiti) check w/ NSC
Cuba - NSC - Risk Neccio
NSC
Laura Schwartz - disc.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 13, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Washington Convention Center
Washington, D.C.

10:50 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Senator Lieberman, for your work, your example, and your wonderful introduction. You know, I knew 25 years ago when I worked for that guy that I'd have a big payoff some day. (Laughter.)

Thank you, Al From, for your long and devoted work for the DLC. To you and all the other staff members; to the other leaders of the DLC who are here -- my good friends, Senator Robb and Governor Romer. I see Congressman McCurdy and others in the crowd who have worked so hard for this organization for so many years.

A week ago today I was in Israel, representing America at the funeral of Prime Minister Rabin. As I reflected on the terrible events that took his life, it was clear to me, again, how in the world of the global village, the post-Cold War world, the information technology age, we are both coming together and coming apart. Precisely because Prime Minister Rabin tried to unite his portion of the world in peace, an assassin took his life.

Last night I went to Ford's Theater for its annual benefit performance. And as I looked at the balcony where President Lincoln lost his life to an assassin, because he was determined to preserve the Union and end slavery, I was struck by the fact that the entire history of our great land has been dominated by three great ideas -- love of liberty, belief in progress, and the struggle to find common ground.

We have worked throughout this entire life of our country to make our motto, E pluribus unum -- from many, one -- more than a slogan; instead, a driving force of unity and of strength. We have now to face the fact that we cannot achieve the first two

objectives -- liberty and freedom -- or progress and prosperity -- unless we can achieve the third, common ground.

We established in our country a Constitution and a rule of laws, limitations of powers, separation of powers, authority at the state and local level. All these things were designed to give us a way to resolve our differences in a lawful, reconciling manner so that we could preserve our liberty and always make progress. It's worked pretty well for us for well over 200 years now.

If you look at the world and the problems it faces, and you look at home and the problems we face, it is clear that the responsibility of the United States today is to lead the world away from division; to show the world that the center can hold; that a free and diverse people, through democratic means, can form a lasting union. This is the challenge of our time and our responsibility as Americans.

That is, in a larger sense, why you and I joined the Democratic Leadership Council. We knew that to keep America strong, the old ways of governing would have to be abandoned. We wanted a government committed to standing up for the values and interests of ordinary Americans, a government that offers more opportunity with less bureaucracy, that insists on responsibility from all its citizens, that strengthens our sense of community, the idea that we are all in this together and that everyone counts.

I ran for President in 1992 to restore the American Dream for all our people, to bring the American people together, and to assure that America would remain the world's strongest force for peace and freedom, democracy and prosperity, into the 21st century. I have pressed that vision with a simple strategy rooted in economic growth, common-sense government and mainstream values. And, my fellow Americans, this country is in better shape than it was three years ago. (Applause.)

Of course, we still have formidable challenges. But American is on the move. We passed our economic plan, and when we did, our critics said it would bring on a deep recession. But they were wrong. Today the economy is growing. The American people have produced 7.5 million new jobs, a 15-year high in homeownership, an all-time high in new business formation, and the lowest combined rates of inflation and unemployment in 25 years. It is a good thing for the country. (Applause.)

A child born today has a better chance of going to college and getting a good job. It's a little easier for people to be good parents and good workers. The infant mortality rate is at an all-time low. Every day there are more opportunities for more Americans to tap into the technological marvels of the

information economy and to build a prosperous future.

Common-sense government is moving forward, thanks in no small measure to the DLC members who have come to work at the White House. According to the Office of Management and Budget this morning, there are now 200,000 fewer people working for the United States government than on the day I became President. (Applause.) And I might say, almost no Americans have noticed that for two very good reasons. One is, as an employer the United States treated the federal employees with dignity and respect, with genuinely good severance packages and early retirement packages. (Applause.) And I am proud of that. We didn't just throw those people into the street. (Applause.)

The second is that the federal employees who stayed behind working for you are doing more with less, and they deserve our respect and appreciation. If no one noticed that 200,000 are gone, it's because those who are left are doing their jobs better. And I'm proud of that. (Applause.)

It is not only true that we are now moving quickly to the smallest federal government we have had since President Kennedy was here, but listen to this: Today, federal employees are a smaller percentage of the civilian work force than at any time since 1933, before the New Deal. That is an astonishing statistic. Does it mean that government still never does anything it shouldn't, or that there's never a regulation that doesn't make sense? No, it doesn't. But it means that the Democrats have taken the lead in reducing the deficit and reducing the burden of unnecessary government, while keeping a government strong enough to advance our values and our interests. That is our mission, and we are achieving it, and you should be proud of it. (Applause.)

This country is stronger and safer. For the first time since the dawn of the Nuclear Age, there is not a single nuclear missile pointed at an American child. And from Northern Ireland to Haiti, to the Middle East, the United States is leading the world to peace.

Now, we are working for peace in Bosnia, to stop the slaughter of innocents, to prevent the war from spreading, to bring real peace to Europe. Our military might, through NATO, stopped the Bosnian Serb attacks on the safe areas. Our mediators helped the parties to reach a cease-fire and agree on principles of a settlement, and now to come to Dayton, Ohio, to forge a lasting peace. If this peace is achieved, my fellow Americans, our responsibility does not end, for NATO must help to secure it, and as NATO's leader, the United States must participate.

The war of ethnic and religious hatred in Bosnia strikes at the heart of our ideal. It's the sort of thing that led to hatred in the hearts of people in the Middle East and cost Prime Minister Rabin his life. It's the sort of thing that cost Abraham Lincoln his life. We have to -- we have to -- stand against this.

It's convenient now to forget, but there was a time when Bosnia, too, found unity in its diversity; when Sarajevo was one of the most beautiful and peaceful, multiethnic cities in all of

Europe. It can happen again if we stand up for our principles and stand up for our interests; if we are willing to be leaders for peace.

That responsibility extends to the other threats in the world today that are related to racial and ethnic and religious divisions, especially to terrorism. Just this morning, the terrorist attacks against American citizens in Saudi Arabia provided a brutal reminder that our people are not immune -- not immune here at home as we learned at the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City, and not immune abroad.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their loved ones at this time of their loss. We owe it to them, and to all of our citizens, to increase our efforts to deter terrorism, to make sure that those responsible for this hideous act are brought to justice, to intensify and pressure the isolation of countries that support terrorism. And we must spare no effort to make sure our own law enforcement officials have what they need to protect our citizens.

That's why, even before Oklahoma City, I sent legislation to Capitol Hill asking for additional resources to deal with the threat of terrorism. The Senate passed the bill quickly, but the bill has stalled for months and months in the House. I ask again for the House of Representatives to pass the antiterrorism legislation. (Applause.)

Just as we try to advance our principles abroad, we know we have, first and more importantly, to stand by them at home. Our nation is coming together around traditional values even as we move forward economically and try to bring more common sense to our government. All across America, though they are still too high, the American people should know that the crime rate is down, the welfare rolls and food stamp rolls are down, teen pregnancy has dropped for two years in a row, and for the first time in more than a decade, the poverty rate is down.

We still have a lot to do; you know that better than anyone. And I encourage the development of the new ideas that you are pushing, how you are going beyond what we are advocating now in the G.I. Bill of Rights and tax benefits for child rearing and education. I encourage this project.

There are still too many people who are in trouble. There are too many young people without parents or others to teach them right from wrong who are turning to drugs and to violence. There are too many places in our country that still have both too little opportunity and too little responsibility. But we are coming together.

And I'm proud of what we did in the administration with

welfare reform efforts to support 35 states, with the crime bill that Senator Lieberman mentioned, with a 40-percent increase in child support collections and a cut in the student loan default rate by 50 percent since this administration took office. I am proud of that. (Applause.)

My fellow Americans, we have to see this debate about the budget in the context of the remarks I have just made. This is a very great country. No one is so well-positioned for the 21st century as the United States, as long as we stick to our strategy of economic growth, common-sense government and mainstream values. There is no country so well-positioned.

But we now have to make a fundamental choice. In 1992, most voters believed the choice was between an active approach to our problems and a more passive one. Today, in the budget debate you see two very different active approaches to America's challenges. We face a choice that will be a test of our values, a test of our vision; a choice that goes to the very heart of our identity as a nation and to the very core of the future we will chart.

What is the vision of the congressional Republicans as manifest in their budget? Their budget would render our government incapable of supporting our values and advancing our common interests. It is bereft of the simple understanding that we rise or fall together. They would support policies that would make us far more a divided, winner-take-all society; a community with fewer connections and less common purpose, in which we say to all Americans without regard to opportunity or obligation, fend for yourselves.

Ours is a vastly different vision. We know government cannot do everything. We know there is not a program for every problem. We know we should not ask government to do for people what they ought to be doing for themselves. We know more must be done at the state and local level and in partnership with private citizens. But we know our government has fundamental responsibilities to lead, to act, to move forward.

We know that the government of the 21st century must be a constant challenge to our people to seize opportunities and assume responsibilities. We know that, above all, we must give people the tools, the skills, the opportunities they need to make the most of their own lives -- not through a one-size-fits-all, old-style bureaucracy, but by liberating the creative energies of millions and millions of Americans in their homes, their businesses, their schools and their communities. This must be the vision that animates our nation. We don't want a winner-take-all society. We want a society in which all have a chance to win together. (Applause.)

I think it is very important that you understand that this

great debate in Washington is not -- is not -- about balancing the budget. It is about balancing our values as a people.

The American people want and deserve a balanced budget. Since I took the oath of office, we have cut the federal deficit in half. And listen to this. When I became President, we had the highest deficit we've had ever. And the prospect was for it getting larger. Today -- today, the United States of America has the smallest deficit of any industrialized country in the world except Norway. Every other country has a deficit that is a larger percentage of its income than we do. You should be proud of that, my fellow Democrats. And I am, too. (Applause.)

Five months ago, I proposed a balanced budget that eliminates the deficit, cuts hundreds of wasteful and outdated programs, but preserves Medicare and Medicaid, invest in education, technology and research, protects the environment and defends and strengthens working families. And it maintains the ability of the United States to lead the world toward peace, and freedom, and democracy and prosperity. My budget reflects those values and fulfills our interest. The Republican congressional budget simply does not.

I believe we have a duty to care for our parents so that they can live their lives in dignity. That duty includes securing Medicare, slowing the rate of growth of inflation, protecting our senior citizens and giving them every opportunity to maximize the options that are out there.

But the Republican budget rests on massive cuts -- three times bigger than any previous ones in our history -- designed apparently to let the system wither away. We believe our children should have the opportunity to make the most of their own lives. We think schools should be run by teachers and principals, not by bureaucrats in the central office or in Washington, D.C. But the Republican budget slashes college scholarships and college loans, funds to cut class size and provide computers, and rewards schools which agree to be held accountable for meeting the highest standards, in direct contradiction to the work that Democrats and Republicans have done to establish national education goals, high standards and more accountability -- the things that Governor Romer has led this country in for five or six years. The last Congress was supporting that direction; this budget would undermine it.

We believe we have a duty to preserve God's Earth for future generations. We are committed to reform so that environmental protection doesn't trap business in a tangle of red tape. And, indeed, we are now reducing by 25 percent the time businesses have to spend in filling out compliance forms with the EPA. But we must not -- we must not -- abandon our commitment to clean air, clean water, safe drinking water, safe food. These things

are at the core of the quality of life we owe to ourselves and, most important, to our future. (Applause.)

And we believe, as Senator Lieberman says, that we should not tax working people into poverty. The working family tax cut is something the DLC supported for years. But I want to make it clear that we were building on an idea supported by Republicans at least as much as Democrats.

President Ford signed the Earned Income Tax Credit into law. President Reagan said it was the best antipoverty program ever designed because it rewarded work. It was increased under President Bush. The DLC idea was simple. We would simply double it so we could say to everybody in America: If you are willing to work 40 hours a week and you have children in the home, you will not be in poverty. Therefore, there is no incentive to be on welfare. Move to work. Your tax system will not put you in poverty, it will lift you out of it. That is what we did, and it was the right thing to do. (Applause.)

Now, the Republican budget would cut the tax credit by even more than we raised it -- raising taxes on 17 million working families, rising to an average of \$574 a year for families with two or more children. If you've got a breadwinner out there trying to feed two children on \$12,000 a year or \$13,000 a year, \$574 is a lot of money. And it is wrong, and I will fight it. (Applause.)

I support a balanced budget, but I oppose the Republican budget plan. (Applause.) I had looked forward to working with this Congress to achieve a balanced budget consistent with our values and consistent with our obligation to keep this economy growing. This week, instead of following a path of reconciliation, they have gone their own way and brought the government to the brink of two serious problems.

They're following a strategy announced by the Speaker last April. In an unprecedented move, they have passed one bill and sent it to me, and apparently are about to send another that say that we will keep the government going, and we will raise the debt limit so America can meet its financial obligations, if and only if, we can in this interim legislation increase Medicare premiums on all senior citizens by 25 percent, have deep cuts in education and the environment, and repeal 30 years of bipartisan Republican and Democratic commitments to protect the environment and the public health in ways that will increase pollution and decrease support for clean air, clean water and safe food. This is irresponsible and it is wrong. (Applause.)

For example, if Congress forces the government to default on its obligations and interest costs rise, they will rise for government; thereby, undermining the ability of the Republicans

to meet their balanced budget targets. One-tenth of one percent interest rate increase adds \$42 billion to the deficit over a 10-year period. But interest rates would also rise for businesses, and for the 10 million American homeowners whose variable mortgage rates are tied to federal interest rates, and for consumers.

Here we are trying to drive interest rates down so we can keep the economic recovery going. That is what we should be doing. Not putting a ball and chain on every American who is trying to soar in the global economy.

The Republican Congress has said to me with brutal simplicity, you will sign our cuts in Medicare, education, the environment, or we will shut the government down. You will agree to support our budget and all of its major elements. You will agree to support what we have called regulatory reform, repealing 30 years of bipartisan commitment to a clean environment and a safe food supply, or we will push the government into default.

Well, America doesn't respond very well to those kind of pressure tactics. It's no way to find common ground. So, this morning, just before I came here, I vetoed their bill on the debt ceiling. (Applause.) Thank you very much. I did not relish doing this. My job as President is to take care of the American people. And I have done my best to take good care of this country. We are safer. We are more secure. We are more prosperous. We have a government that helps more and costs less in the last three years. That is what I want for America.

But in the end, what we stand for, the values we embrace and the things we fight for will shape the future that we will all live with. I will do everything I can to minimize disruption in these next several days. There are limits to what we can do until Congress does its job and allows us to resolve our budget differences in a forthright manner.

But I was elected President to restore the American Dream for all of our people, to keep our nation the strongest in the world and to bring our people together. I cannot, and will not, under pressure sign a budget that will rob the American Dream for millions of Americans, divide our people instead of uniting them, and undermine our ability to remain the strongest nation in the world and the greatest force for those things we believe in.

You have to understand what is going on here. The strategy that was adopted and announced last April was to precipitate this crisis in the hope of forcing me to accept the budget and the other priorities in their Contract. They have not done the normal work of budgeting.

Here we are, six weeks into the new budget year -- six weeks

into the new budget year -- and this Congress has only passed three of the 13 required budget bills. The Senate and the House have each passed balanced budget plans, which I find objectionable but which are different from one another, and they have not met, resolved their differences and sent it to me.

The Founding Fathers set up a system to deal with this. The Congress passes bills. The President signs or vetoes them. Then the Congress can either override the veto or work with the President to find a bill that either the President will sign or they can get two-thirds of the Congress to support so they can override the veto. That is the wisdom of the Founding Fathers. This strategy is nothing more or less than an attempt to evade that system.

As long as they insist on plunging ahead with a budget that violates our values in a process that is characterized more by pressure than constitutional practice, I will fight it. I am fighting it today. I will fight it tomorrow. I will fight it next week and next month. (Applause.) I will fight it until we get a budget that is fair to all Americans. (Applause.) Thank you.

And let me say to you that I am honored to have been given the opportunity to wage this contest, to stand up for the values and the interests of ordinary Americans. And I ask you to think about this, as I close, in two ways. This struggle is about things that the Founding Fathers knew we would always have to face, so it is as old as our history. It is also about our challenge as Americans and as leaders in the world moving to the 21st century.

Our Founding Fathers had this dream that people of different religious backgrounds and beliefs could build a strong nation together. They knew it was flawed; Thomas Jefferson knew it was flawed on slavery. But they set up a system where we could just keep working on it, year in and year out, decade in and decade out, as we work through the problems and became better, and fashioned a life that was a purer and purer and purer example of the values which they enshrined.

We are now called upon to be faithful to the vision of our founders: The vision that Andrew Jackson had that true and lasting prosperity rests on equal opportunity for all and special privileges for none. The wisdom of Abraham Lincoln that a house divided against itself cannot stand. The wisdom of Theodore Roosevelt that the heritage of America is in no small measure the heritage of the natural resources and bounty that God gifted us with here in our own land.

This is also the challenge of the modern times. The forces of integration which offer so much hope are pitted against the

forces of disintegration -- the people who killed Americans in Iraq; the fanatic who killed that brave and good Prime Minister in Israel, our partner for peace; the people who everywhere would sow discord over harmony.

At the end of this month, I hope I will be going to Great Britain and to Ireland to do what I can to continue to further the peace process there. How many people have died in Ireland in the 20th century because of hatred and division -- religious hatred and division? In his great poem, "The Second Coming," about the Irish civil war, William Butler Yeats said this: "Things fall apart. The center cannot hold. Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world. The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere the ceremony of innocence is drowned. The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity."

My fellow Americans, we have worked too hard for too long to bring our country to this point. If we have our convictions and we stand for them firmly, reasonably, responsibly; if we hold out our hands in cooperation, but always stand up for what we know is right, this country's future will be even brighter than its brilliant past. It is our responsibility to make that happen.

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

END

11:25 A.M. EST