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Remarks for Unity Event 7-27-2000

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR UNITY EVENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
July 27, 2000**

Good afternoon. I am pleased that Senator Daschle, Leader Gephardt, and other members of Congress have come here today to speak with one voice about the right way to keep our nation's prosperity and progress growing. As we speak, Congress is packing up and preparing to leave town for its summer recess. But the Republican leadership is leaving behind a trunk full of unfinished business vital to the health of our economy and the well being of our people.

We have spent the last seven years charting a course of fiscal discipline – making tough choices, paying down the national debt and investing in our people. That strategy has paid off in a big way: more than 22 million new jobs, the longest economic expansion and the largest budget surplus in our nation's history. Instead of continuing on that path, the Republican majority has spent most of this year, and especially the last few weeks, squandering our progress. They have passed reckless tax cut after reckless tax cut that would drain away our hard-earned surplus and put us back in the red.

When you add them all up, the Republican tax bills passed by the 106th Congress would cost nearly \$2 trillion over 10 years. Even by the most optimistic estimates, this would not leave one dime for strengthening Social Security and Medicare ... for a voluntary and affordable Medicare prescription drug benefit ... for education and school construction. And it would make it impossible for us to get America out of debt by 2012.

There is a better way. We can do all these things and still give working Americans targeted tax relief. Let me be clear: We support the right kind of tax cuts for working Americans. I have proposed a program of cuts that will give a middle class American family substantially more benefits than the Republican plan at less than half the cost. Two-thirds of that relief will go to the middle 60 percent of Americans – including my carefully targeted marriage penalty relief. My tax cuts will also help families save up to \$2,800 on the cost of college by making tuition tax deductible. My \$3,000 long term care tax credit will help millions of American families shoulder the enormous financial burden of caring for chronically ill family members. We are also offering a tax cut that will help millions of families pay up to \$2,400 for child care. And we will expand the EITC, providing up to \$1,100 of tax relief for millions of hard working families.

Today, we have more evidence that our plan will help more of the people who really need it. We are releasing a state-by-state analysis that shows that the estate tax repeal recently passed by the Republican majority would benefit only about two percent of American families -- the wealthiest two percent in the nation – providing them with an average tax cut of \$800,000. And fully half of those benefits would go to just one-tenth of one percent of all Americans.

In contrast, our Medicare prescription drug benefit would provide affordable coverage for 39 million seniors and people with disabilities with average incomes of about \$20,000. This report shows clearly that our approach puts the interests of American families first and ensures that the nation's unprecedented prosperity benefits everyone.

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We need to raise the minimum wage by a dollar over two years.

We need to demand more from our schools and invest more in them, including reducing class size, improving teacher quality and modernizing 6,000 of our schools that are literally falling apart.

And we need to stop the delay and pass strong hate crimes legislation.

This is not just a list to be read, it's a list to be acted on. I hope when the Congressional majority comes back, they bring with them a renewed commitment to make this a year of real progress for the American people.

And now I would like to introduce Debbie Boudouvas [BOO-dew-vas], who lives not far from here in Arlington, Virginia, and attends George Washington University.

Revised Final 7/27/00 11:30am
Edmonds/ Gottheimer

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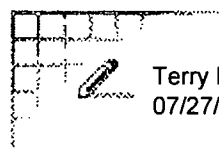
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Terry Edmonds
07/27/2000 09:28:37 AM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: REVISED FINAL--Unity Remarks

2

Revised Final 7/27/00 9am
Edmonds/ Gottheimer

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There is a better way. We can do all these things and still give working Americans targeted tax relief. I have proposed a program of cuts that will give a middle class American

Draft 7/26/00 3:30pm
Edmonds/ Gottheimer

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We have spent the last seven years on a course of fiscal discipline – making tough choices, paying down the national debt and investing in our people. That strategy has paid off in a big way. We now have the longest economic expansion and the largest budget surplus in our nation's history. But instead of continuing on that path, the Republican They have spent the last few weeks squandering our progress by passing tax cut after tax cut that would drain away our hard-earned surplus and put us back into the red.

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There is a better way. We can do all these things and still give working Americans targeted tax relief to help them send their children to college, to care for sick family members, and to pay for child care, and school construction. *7/27/00* *7/27*

Today, we have more evidence that our plan will help more of the people who really need it. We are releasing state-by-state analysis that shows that the estate tax, recently passed by the Republican majority would benefit only 43,000 recipients with average incomes of \$XXXX. In contrast, our Medicare prescription drug benefit would provide affordable coverage for 39 million seniors and people with disabilities with average incomes of \$17,000. Our approach puts the people's interest ahead of the special interests.

Instead of spending their time spending every last dime, the Republican majority should get to work on the people's business.

So, when they go off for their vacations, the Congressional majority should take along this list of required summer reading that the American people have given us. It's a list of what we need to get done when they get back to Washington.

Draft 7/26/00 8:45pm
Edmonds/ Gottheimer

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And we need to stop the delay and pass strong hate crimes legislation.

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And now I would like to ask Senator Daschle to say a few words...

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Edmonds/ Gottheimer

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{

Joseph J. Minarik

07/27/2000 06:42:36 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP, Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Unity event remarks

Fifth paragraph (of 8:45 PM version), second sentence, we need an "estate tax _____" something. It can be estate tax elimination, estate tax cut, or estate tax bill (my rank ordering from best to, well, not best).

Last line of that paragraph, how about "*the wealthiest* one-tenth of one percent of all Americans." It isn't a random draw, in which case one might be less offended (like for Publishers Clearing House).

Karin Kullman

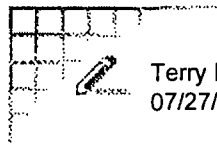
07/27/2000 10:10:12 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: REVISED FINAL--Unity Remarks

Real person's last name is "Boudouvas" -- there are no "L"s in her name. See red below.

Forwarded by Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP on 07/27/2000 10:08 AM



Terry Edmonds
07/27/2000 09:28:37 AM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:
Subject: REVISED FINAL--Unity Remarks

2

Revised Final 7/27/00 9am
Edmonds/ Gottheimer

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Message Sent To: _____

Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
aedmonds1@home.com @ inet
Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP@EOP
Michele Ballantyne/WHO/EOP@EOP
Fern Mechlowitz/WHO/EOP@EOP
Rachael F. Goldfarb/WHO/EOP@EOP
John Podesta/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP
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Elliott H. Baer/OPD/EOP@EOP
Melissa G. Green/OPD/EOP@EOP
Joseph N. Crisci/OPD/EOP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart/WHO/EOP@EOP
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family substantially more benefits than the Republican plan at less than half the cost. Two-thirds of that relief will go to the middle 60 percent of Americans – including my carefully targeted marriage penalty relief. My cuts will also help them send their children to college, to care for sick family members, and to pay for child care, and school construction.

Today, we have more evidence that our plan will help more of the people who really need it. We are releasing a state-by-state analysis that shows that the estate tax repeal recently passed by the Republican majority would benefit only about two percent of American families -- the wealthiest two percent in the nation – providing them with an average tax cut of \$800,000. And fully half of those benefits would go to just one-tenth of one percent of all Americans.

In contrast, our Medicare prescription drug benefit would provide affordable coverage for 39 million seniors and people with disabilities with average incomes of about \$20,000. This report shows clearly that our approach puts the interests of American families first and ensures that the nation's unprecedented prosperity benefits everyone.

Instead of spending their time spending every last dime, the Republican majority should get to work on the people's business.

So, when they go off on their vacations, the Congressional majority should take along this list of required summer reading that the American people have given us. It's a list of what we need to get done when they get back to Washington.

We need to strengthen and modernize Social Security and Medicare and add a Medicare prescription drug benefit that is available and affordable for all seniors and people with disabilities.

We need to stand up to the special interests and pass a strong and enforceable Patient's Bill of Rights. We also need to pass common sense gun legislation that would close the gun show loophole, require child safety locks for all handguns and ban the importation of large capacity ammunition clips.

We need to raise the minimum wage by a dollar over two years.

We need to demand more from our schools and invest more in them, including reducing class size, improving teacher quality and modernizing 6,000 of our schools that are literally falling apart.

And we need to stop the delay and pass strong hate crimes legislation.

This is not just a list to be read, it's a list to be acted on. I hope when the Congressional majority comes back, they bring with them a renewed commitment to make this a year of real progress for the American people.

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with
300
more
children
who
suffer
spending
rewarding work
& family

And now I would like to introduce Debbie Boudloulvas [BOO-dew-vas], who lives not far from here in Arlington, Virginia, and attends George Washington University.

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR UNITY EVENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
July 27, 2000**

Good afternoon. I am pleased that Senator Daschle, Leader Gephardt, and other members of Congress have come here today to speak with one voice about the right way to keep our nation's prosperity and progress growing. As we speak, Congress is packing up and preparing to leave town for its summer recess. But the Republican leadership is leaving behind a trunk full of unfinished business vital to the health of our economy and the well being of our people.

We have spent the last seven years charting a course of fiscal discipline – making tough choices, paying down the national debt and investing in our people. That strategy has paid off in a big way: more than 22 million new jobs, the longest economic expansion and the largest budget surplus in our nation's history. Instead of continuing on that path, the Republican majority has spent most of this year, and especially the last few weeks, squandering our progress. They have passed reckless tax cut after reckless tax cut that would drain away our hard-earned surplus and put us back in the red.

When you add them all up, the Republican tax bills passed by the 106th Congress would cost nearly \$2 trillion over 10 years. Even by the most optimistic estimates, this would not leave one dime for strengthening Social Security and Medicare ... for a voluntary and affordable Medicare prescription drug benefit ... for education and school construction. And it would make it impossible for us to get America out of debt by 2012.

There is a better way. We can do all these things and still give working Americans targeted tax relief. I have proposed a program of cuts that will give a middle class American family substantially more benefits than the Republican plan at less than half the cost. Two-thirds of that relief will go to the middle 60 percent of Americans – including my carefully targeted marriage penalty relief. My cuts will also help them send their children to college, to care for sick family members, and to pay for child care, and school construction.

Today, we have more evidence that our plan will help more of the people who really need it. We are releasing a state-by-state analysis that shows that the estate tax recently passed by the Republican majority would benefit only about two percent of American families -- the wealthiest two percent in the nation – providing them with an average tax cut of \$800,000. And fully half of those benefits would go to just one-tenth of one percent of all Americans.

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And now I would like to ask Senator Daschle to say a few words...

Real Person →

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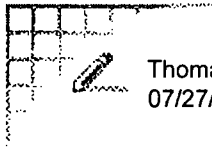
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Thomas L. Freedman
07/27/2000 10:29:32 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: REVISED FINAL--Unity Remarks 

Hey. I like the remarks, but had one addition. I think we need to beef up the section on our tax cuts, there is a para that describes the tax cuts but it will be crucial that he is seen as favoring tax cuts so the rhetoric here could be stronger and we need to give the section a little more description, describing each cut in our package. At the end of the day, our tax cuts when described beat their tax cuts. I called Joel and he said pass this along to you.