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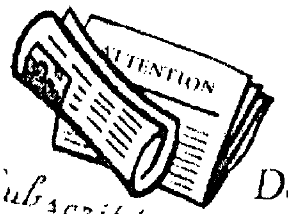

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release May 10, 2000

DELTA VISION, DELTA VOICES: MISSISSIPPI DELTA BEYOND 2000
President Clinton and Vice President Gore:
Highlighting the Future Economic Development of the Delta Region

May 10, 2000

BUILDING ON 7-YEARS OF EFFORT TO BRING PROSPERITY TO THE DELTA REGION, PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE WILL PARTICIPATE IN A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF THE DELTA. Today, in Arlington, Virginia, President Clinton and Vice President Gore will kick off Delta Vision, Delta Voices: The Mississippi Delta Beyond 2000, a two-day national conference to promote economic and community development in the Mississippi Delta region. The bipartisan conference -- the largest of its kind ever assembled -- will bring together over 750 people, including Cabinet secretaries, members of Congress, state governors, and leaders and constituents from the Delta region, to discuss ways to ensure that the region shares in the nation's unprecedented prosperity. The President will release a new report by an interagency task force on recommendations for the future of the Mississippi Delta, announce new infrastructure and community investments in the region, and urge Congress to pass the Delta Regional Authority Act. The Vice President will unveil new economic development initiatives and participate in a town hall meeting on bringing business, technology, and empowerment to the Delta region.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE REAL PROGRESS IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE DELTA. The Mississippi Delta region encompasses 7 states, 219 counties, and more than 8.3 million people. Although it has bestowed a rich cultural heritage upon our nation and contributed greatly to its productivity, this historically impoverished area still lags behind the rest of the nation in social and economic growth. To address these concerns, in 1990 the Delta Commission -- authorized by Congress and chaired by then-Governor Bill Clinton -- published a landmark report containing a 10-year plan with recommendations on revitalizing the Delta region. In the past 7-years, the Clinton-Gore Administration has made considerable progress in meeting the goals outlined in the report and in bringing prosperity to the Delta communities. For example:

-- Job Growth. The unemployment rate for the Delta region dropped from 7.5% in 1993 to 5.1% in February 2000, and approximately 80% of its counties experienced job growth over that period. -- Education. Federal education funds targeted to the Delta's high-poverty school districts have helped give students access to computers and the Internet. The Administration's E-Rate program, which helps classrooms get connected, provided over $250 million in funding between January 1998 and July 1999 to the seven Delta states. In addition, President Clinton's Class Size Reduction Initiative has enabled the region to hire 1,500 new teachers. -- **Housing**. Home ownership and rental **housing** opportunities for low- and moderate-income people have increased. USDA has assisted 43,000 Delta households in buying or improving their homes, and has offered $254 million in low-interest loans on more than 10,000 rental units in rural areas of the Delta. Funding to assist the homeless has more than tripled since President Clinton and Vice President Gore took office. -- Transportation. Most of the nearly 70 improvements to highways, airports, rail and port facilities recommended in the report have either been completed or substantially fulfilled, and many critical projects are underway, including strengthening and retrofitting the Interstate 40-Mississipi River Bridge; reducing congestion on the heavily traveled Interstate 55 in Memphis; and widening many arterial highways in the rural parishes of the Delta region. -- Investment. Innovations such as Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Community Development Financial Institutions have brought millions of public- and private-sector investments to the region. From 1994 to the beginning of 1999, rural Delta communities drew over $10.2 million from EZ/EC funding, and used it to leverage $107.4 million -- nearly 10 times as much -- from state, local, private business, and nonprofit sources.

BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO ENABLE THE CITIZENS OF THE DELTA REGION TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN AMERICA'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. Although significant progress has been made, more work remains before the Delta region can be an equal partner in our nation's economic prosperity. For example:

-- Unemployment. The Delta's rural areas still lag far behind the national unemployment rate of 3.9 percent. Some rural counties suffer from unemployment rates two to three times higher than the national average. -- Inadequate **Housing**. Many senior citizens and minorities in the region still suffer from inadequate **housing**. Fifty eight percent of rural elderly renters in three of the seven Delta states are "cost-burdened", meaning that more than 30 percent of their monthly income is spent on **housing**. -- Poverty. The poverty rate in the Delta region's distressed counties is 32 percent, compared to a national rate of 13 percent, and more than half of its 219 counties have had poverty rates higher than 20 percent for the past 40 years. -- Low Income. Per capita income in the Delta's distressed counties is only 53 percent of the national average of $28,525.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE WILL ANNOUNCE KEY INITIATIVES TO INCREASE GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY TO THE DELTA REGION. As part of this Administration's longstanding commitment to the revitalization of the Delta, President Clinton and Vice President Gore will announce new investments and steps to promote the region's social and economic development, including:

-- A new report by the Mississippi Delta Regional Initiative, a coalition of 20 federal agencies working with state, local, private-sector, and grassroots organizations from the Delta to promote economic and community development in the region. As a follow-up to the Delta Commission's 1990 report, today's report outlines the progress that has been made in the region, steps that still need to be taken, and recommendations for the future on ways to revitalize the regional economy, improve the quality of life, enhance tourism, protect the environment, and develop and implement regional planning. Major recommendations include creating a permanent regional planning and development entity and increasing technical assistance for the region's smallest, poorest communities by using -- circuit riders-- to help them learn about and apply for funding.

-- New federal funding for the Delta Region. The President and Vice President will unveil an array of new federal investments to provide infrastructure, job training and technology, and community support to the Delta:

Providing Infrastructure Improvements to Promote Growth and Increase Job Access

-- $30.7 million in critically needed USDA loans and grants to 19 communities for basic potable water systems, community facilities, and business assistance. -- $2.75 million in grants from the Department of Commerce -- matched with $2 million from non-federal sources -- for residential and industrial road, water and sewer projects. -- A $5.5 million grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs to North Little Rock, Arkansas for the creation of a veterans' cemetery.

Investing in Economic Development for the Delta's Future

-- A Mississippi Delta Tourism Initiative launched by the Departments of Transportation, Commerce, and the Interior to build on the $13 billion Delta tourism industry. -- $14.6 million in USDA loans, loan guarantees, and grants to assist businesses in the Delta region. -- $3.7 million in Department of Labor grants for employment training and job placement centers. -- $1.2 million in grants from the Department of Education for Community-Based Technology Centers. -- 3 additional workshops by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund targeted to organizations serving the Delta region. -- $210,000 in grants by the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration -- matched with $317,167 from non-federal sources -- to provide direct assistance to small businesses and to fund the design of a comprehensive economic development strategy for the 41 counties in the Arkansas Delta region. -- A new $4 million local loan fund created by the East Arkansas Enterprise Community and the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta that will leverage an additional $2 million from private financing sources. -- A commitment by Entergy Corporation to expand the new Delta BusinessLINC program. -- $150,000 from the Department of Transportation to expand the MentorNet program in the Delta region. -- 6 computer kiosks displaying federal job opportunities and 15 surplus computers to Delta region high schools, donated by the Office of Personnel Management.

Strengthening Delta Families and Delta Communities

-- $100,000 in resources from the U.S. Geological Survey, and $100,000 in software from ESRI Co. to improve accessibility to geographic and socio-economic data that will assist in regional planning. -- $170,000 in new EPA grants to train teachers on environmental safety and to encourage farmers to use environmentally sound land management practices. -- $224,320 in USDA grants for home-building assistance in Arkansas. -- $495,000 in new COPS grants by the Department of Justice to expand community policing.

-- Calling on Congress to enact the Delta Regional Authority Act to bring meaningful and lasting change to the region. The legislation would establish the Delta Regional Authority -- a permanent regional planning and development entity to work with state and local agencies in formulating plans and programs to boost the economic conditions of local communities and to encourage private-sector involvement in the region.

President Clinton's 2001 budget proposes an additional $159 million for the Delta region: $30 million for the creation of the Delta Regional Authority, and $129 million in targeted funds for job creation, education, **housing**, small business assistance, and other community development initiatives.

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release May 10, 2000

A COMPLETE LIST OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NEW INVESTMENTS TO HELP BRING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY TO THE DELTA REGION

May 10, 2000

At today's conference, Delta Vision, Delta Voices: Mississippi Delta Beyond 2000, President Clinton and Vice President Gore will focus national attention on the social and economic issues of the Mississippi Delta Region, and explore new ways to revitalize the region and bring it into full partnership in our nation's prosperity. The President and Vice President will unveil the following initiatives to promote social and economic development in the region:

INVESTMENTS IN BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO PROMOTE GROWTH AND INCREASE ACCESS TO JOBS. The following infrastructure improvements announced today by the President will help improve the economic viability of the Delta region, encourage new job creation by making it more attractive to businesses, and increase mobility and job access for its residents:

-- The Department of Agriculture will award $30.7 million in critically needed loans and grants to 19 communities for basic potable water systems, community facilities, and business assistance. These funds will benefit some of the Delta's hardest-pressed small towns and be used for necessary projects such as providing safe and adequate drinking water, purchasing firefighting and emergency rescue equipment, and repairing fire hydrants. The communities in which projects are receiving loans and grants are: White County, AR; Fulton County, AR; Fayette County, IL; Alexander and Pulaski Counties; IL; Franklin County, IL; White County, IL; Hopkins County, KY; Avoyelles Parish, LA (2); Evangeline Parish, LA; St. Landry Parish, LA; West Carroll Parish, LA: Washington County, MO; Mississippi County, MO; Butler County, MO (2); Ozark County, MO; Ripley County, MO (2); Prentiss County, MO; Holmes County, MS (2); Leake County, MS; Panola County, MS (2); City of Tchula, MS; Lauderdale County, TN; and Somerville County, TN.

-- The Department of Commerce (Economic Development Administration) will award $2.75 million in grants, matched with $2 million from non-federal sources, for residential and industrial road, water and sewer projects.

These funds will benefit the communities of Monticello, AR; Gassville, AR; Mountain Home, AR; and West Monroe, LA by putting in place the infrastructure necessary for long-term economic growth.

-- The Department of Veterans' Affairs will award a $5.5 million grant to North Little Rock, Arkansas for the creation of a veterans' cemetery. The state veterans' cemeteries complement the national cemeteries and are critical to ensure that the burial needs of veterans are met. The VA grant, which will be awarded before the end of this fiscal year, will serve the over 100,000 veterans living within a 75-mile radius of the cemetery's 82-acre site.

INVESTMENTS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE DELTA'S FUTURE. In a town hall meeting, Vice President Gore announced the following commitments aimed at enabling the Delta region to increase its economic strength over the long-term:

-- The Departments of Transportation, Commerce, and the Interior will launch a Mississippi Delta Tourism Initiative to build on the $13 billion Delta tourism industry. This public-private initiative is aimed at bolstering the economic potential of tourism through the development of a regional tourism strategy. The initiative will include a national summit to be held in Arkansas this fall, underwritten by $150,000 from ASU and the Ford Foundation; an agreement among the parties to implement the marketing plan; the possible designation of a National Delta Heritage Area to honor the region's cultural and historical significance; and a study of the region's role in the civil rights movement.

-- The Department of Agriculture will award $14.6 million in loans, loan guarantees, and grants to assist the Delta region's business community. These loans and grants will be used to provide assistance to businesses in the Delta region, including purchasing land and equipment, construction and remodeling costs, restructuring existing debt, and providing working capital. For one business in Louisiana, this funding assistance will save 40 existing jobs. The awardees include: Arkansas Rural Water Association; Sylvanina Nursery; The Pits, Inc.; Advance Coatings Company; Lewis & Son Rice Processing Corporation; Earle Industries, Inc.; Bethel Grain Co.; Under the Magnolia Day Care; Hopkinsville Elevator; Natchez Eola, LLC. Business Assistance projects are located in: Pulaski County, IL; Saline County, IL; Salem, MO; Clairborne County, MS: Holmes County, MS; Haywood County, TN (2); and Alcorn State University.

-- The Department of Labor will award $3.7 million in grants for employment training and job placement centers. The grants will be awarded to organizations in Knoxville, TN; Grambling, LA; Rolla, MO; and Bay St. Louis, MS for programs offering job training and placement to high-risk youth and adults.

-- The Department of Education will award $1.2 million in grants for Community-Based Technology Centers. The grants -- awarded to Concordia, Franklin and Tensas Parishes, LA; Chicot County, AK; and Vicksburg, MS -- will support CTCs that provide computer access and training to adults and children from disadvantaged backgrounds, allowing them to fully participate in the Information Age.

-- The Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund will target 3 program information workshops to organizations serving the Delta region, and will partner with training providers to strengthen the capacity of development finance institutions serving the Delta region. CDFIs provide critically needed financing to economically distressed areas, including loans and investments in small businesses, **housing**, and microbusinesses.

-- The Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration will award $210,000 in grants, matched with $317,167 from non-federal sources, to provide direct assistance to small businesses and to fund the design of a comprehensive economic development strategy for the 41 counties in the Arkansas Delta region. Under these grants, Mississippi Valley State University and the University of New Orleans will provide technical assistance to established small businesses, small towns, and community organizations. Arkansas State University will lead the effort to structure a region-wide economic development strategy.

-- The East Arkansas Enterprise Community and the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta (ECD) will jointly create a new $4 million local loan fund that will leverage an additional $2 million from private financing sources. By launching this fund with ECD -- one of the nation's leading community development financial institutions -- the East Arkansas Enterprise Community will satisfy one of its key planning objectives. The fund will target financing to underserved local small businesses in the East Arkansas region.

-- Entergy Corporation will expand the new Delta BusinessLINC program by recruiting another organization to serve as a BusinessLINC mentor to smaller protege companies in the Delta region. Entergy Corporation is the lead corporate partner for Delta BusinessLINC and has worked extensively with the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta to recruit mentor organizations.

-- The U.S. Department of Transportation will contribute $150,000 to expand the MentorNet program in the Delta region. DOT will recruit 50 agency professionals by September 2000, and 100 by September 2001 to mentor female students at community colleges and historically black colleges and universities throughout the Delta region, and will encourage other federal agencies to participate. MentorNet links female engineering and science students with female mentors to provide career guidance and networking opportunities.

-- The Office of Personnel Management will place in colleges and universities 6 computer kiosks displaying over 15,000 federal job opportunities daily, and will donate 15 surplus computers to Delta region high schools. The Federal Employment Information/Touch Screen Computer Kiosks will be donated to the University of Arkansas in Pine Bluff and to Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi. Three surplus computers will be donated to each of the following high schools: Pine Bluff High School, Dollarway High School, and Watson Chapel High School (feeder schools to University of Arkansas), and Jefferson County High School and Port Gibson High School (feeder schools to Alcorn State University).

INVESTMENTS TO STRENGTHEN DELTA FAMILIES AND DELTA COMMUNITIES. The Clinton-Gore Administration is committed to bringing opportunity, prosperity, and improved quality of live to Delta families and communities. Today, the President announced following the investments:

-- The U.S. Geological Survey will contribute $100,000 in resources, and ESRI Co. will contribute $100,000 in software, toward a public-private partnership to improve accessibility to geographic and socio-economic data that will assist in regional planning. The partnership will include the USGS, the University of New Orleans, the Greater New Orleans Regional Planning Commission, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, ESRI Co., and others. Through the partnership, scientists and urban and community planners will be able to share digital data and technology -- including information on water quality and land use, digital maps, and geographic information systems software -- to assist planners in making environmentally sound, economically beneficial decisions about growth.

-- The EPA will award $170,000 in new grants to train teachers on environmental safety and to encourage farmers to use environmentally sound practices. A $70,000 grant will be given to Mississippi Valley State University for teacher training on environmental health, hazardous wastes, and the use of Geographic Information Systems to better understand the relationship between human health and the environment. A $100,000 grant will be awarded through EPA's Clean Water Action Plan to assist Delta farmers in using environmentally sound practices that conserve, restore, and enhance natural resources.

-- The Department of Agriculture will award $224,320 for home-building assistance in Arkansas. This Self-Help **Housing** Technical Assistance grant from USDA Rural Development will provide necessary funding to assist 20 families in building homes throughout Lee County.

-- The Justice Department will issue $495,000 in new COPS grants to expand community policing. The COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) program has been instrumental in helping communities to cut crime nationwide. These new grants will be awarded to Helena, AK and Greenwood, LA to put more police officers on the streets. These funds are in addition to the $2.98 million in COP grants that were announced in April.

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release May 2, 2000

A Blueprint for the Future:
The Clinton Administration's
FY 2001 Budget and Legislative Proposals for
Teenagers and their Families

The Clinton-Gore Administration has supported policies that help parents balance their responsibilities at home and at work, provide teens with greater educational opportunities, engage young people in civic action, and make communities safer and stronger. The Administration's FY 2001 budget and legislative priorities include a wide range of new initiatives for teens and their families.

I. HELPING PARENTS BALANCE THEIR RESPONSIBILITES AT WORK WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THEIR TEENS

Parental Involvement In Schools Pays Off, but Parents need Support from Employers to Stay Involved. The President has called on Congress to allow eligible workers under the Family and Medical Leave Act to take up to 24 hours of additional leave each year to meet certain family obligations, such as participating in school activities, including parent-teacher conferences.

Today More Than Ever, Working Families Struggle with Child Care or After-School Opportunities for their Children and Teenagers.

Helping Over 8 Million Families Pay Child Care Expenses. The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit provides tax relief to those who, in order to work, pay for the care of a child under 13 or for a disabled dependent or spouse. The President's proposals, which cost $30 billion over 10 years, broaden this tax relief and will help over 8 million families pay their child care expenses.

Universal After-School Opportunities for Children and Teenagers Most In Need. The President's budget includes $1 billion to expand after-school and summer school for students across the nation -- more than doubling the $453 million enacted last year, and representing the largest expansion ever proposed. With this increase, the program can provide every child in every failing school with the chance to participate in quality extended learning programs and work toward higher academic standards. Studies have shown that extended learning programs such as after-school and summer school help improve student achievement in reading and math, as well as increase student safety and reduce juvenile crime. Under the President's proposal, the number of children served will nearly triple, from 850,000 to 2.5 million children.

II. GIVING PARENTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS IN THE NEW MEDIA AGE

Parents Need Good Information to Help Monitor and Protect their Children's Usage of Media. The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked with leaders from the entertainment and media industry to ensure support for the creation of a "family friendly" Internet; help parents control what comes into their living room with the V-Chip; and encourage more educational television. With leadership from the First Lady, the President is calling on leaders in the media and entertainment industry to take the next step and come together to adopt a voluntary uniform ratings system. Such a system will give parents easy to understand, uniform information that will enable them to monitor their children's media usage more effectively.

III. BUILDING STRONG SCHOOLS FOR AMERICA'S TEENS

Modernizing Our Schools. At least 2,400 new public schools will be needed nationwide by 2003 to accommodate rising enrollments and relieve overcrowding. This year, the Administration has proposed federal tax credits to pay the interest on nearly $25 billion in state and local bonds to modernize and rebuild up to 6,000 public schools that are overcrowded, out-of-date, and unsafe. In addition, the budget includes a new $1.3 billion school urgent/emergency renovation loan and grant proposal which would support emergency repairs on 5,000 public schools each year for the next five years.

Small, Safe and Successful High Schools. Research shows that smaller high schools can boost academic achievement and extracurricular involvement and lead to fewer discipline problems. The President's budget will include $120 million for a Small Schools Initiative to reinvent high schools on a smaller scale and make them more responsive to student needs. School districts could use this money to create small schools or break up existing large schools into smaller learning communities. School districts receiving grants would be expected to demonstrate increases in student achievement, graduation rates, the number of students pursuing postsecondary options, and decreases in classroom disruptions and violence.

Encouraging Students to Stay in School and Succeed in College. GEAR-UP is a nationwide initiative to encourage disadvantaged young people to have high expectations, stay in school, study hard, and take the right courses to go to and succeed in college. GEAR UP is funded at $200 million in FY 2000, enough to provide services to over 750,000 students. The FY 2001 budget provides a 62.5 percent increase to $325 million, enough to provide services to 1.4 million students. The TRIO programs seek to motivate and prepare students to go to and stay in college. The FY 2001 budget provides $725 million for TRIO, an increase of $80 million to help provide assistance to over 760,000 students, 37,000 more than in 2000.

IV. ENGAGING TEENS IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Keeping AmeriCorps on Track for 100,000 Members a Year. With a $73 million increase, AmeriCorps will be able to grow to 100,000 new members a year over the next four years. Since the launch of AmeriCorps five years ago, more than 150,000 Americans have served on the front lines in hard-pressed neighborhoods -- tutoring in schools, responding to natural disasters, helping to make our streets safer, building homes, and more. In fact, more Americans have served in AmeriCorps in the last five years than have served in the entire history of the Peace Corps.

Providing Community Coaches. For the first time, the Corporation for National Service will award $5 million in grants to place a "community coach" in nearly 1,000 schools. Community Coaches -- AmeriCorps members, teachers, and counselors -- can help students make the most of their community service and can act as a vital link between the school, the business sector, and the local community. This initiative is modeled after the Community Coaches program pioneered by the national youth leadership non-profit organization "Do Something." "Do Something" is already supporting community coaches in more than 100 schools in 75 communities across the country.

Rewarding Youth Service with Empowerment Grants. The budget also includes $3 million for new Youth Empowerment Grants, competitive fellowships that reward young social entrepreneurs dedicated to solving problems in their communities. The Corporation for National Service will award the grants to community-based organizations that sponsor young people who have designed and developed their own projects. These will include efforts to prevent youth violence, programs to improve civic participation, and initiatives that engage older students in tutoring and mentoring.

Supporting America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth. The budget will include $7.5 million for this national crusade to help all children grow into healthy, strong, and productive adults. America's Promise focuses on five promises for every child: (1) an ongoing relationship with a caring adult -- parent, mentor, tutor or coach; (2) a safe place with structured activities during non-school hours; (3) a healthy start; (4) a marketable skill through effective education; and (5) an opportunity to give back through service.

V. HELPING AMERICA'S MOST VULNERABLE TEENS

Youth Opportunity Grants, Job Training, and Summer Jobs. Youth Opportunity Grants provide comprehensive employment and training assistance to all out-of-school young people in high poverty areas. The President's FY2001 budget provides a 50 percent increase in funding to $375 million, enough to serve an additional 25,000 youth in high poverty areas for a total of 75,000 youth served per year. In addition, the FY2001 budget provides a $25 million increase, to the Youth Training Formula Grants, enough to provide job training and summer job opportunities to nearly 600,000 disadvantaged young people.

Preventing Youth Violence. Over the past year, the country has been traumatized by a spate of school shootings. The President has taken leadership to address the issue of preventing youth violence by establishing a National Campaign against Youth Violence and establishing the White House Council on Youth Violence to coordinate federal efforts. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President also launched a Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative. It empowers parents, principals, police, and mental health providers to collaborate on local solutions. An increase of more than $100 million in the initiative will invest a total of $247 million in FY 2001 to help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school and youth violence.

New Opportunities for High School Dropouts. The Youthbuild program, is targeted to 16-24 year old high school dropouts, and provides disadvantaged young adults with education and employment skills through rehabilitating and building **housing** for low-income and homeless people. The program also helps to expand the supply of **housing** in these categories. Funded at $42.5 million, the Youthbuild programs provides opportunities for approximately 2,000 trainees in 2000. The FY2001 increases funding by 76 percent to $75 million, enough to serve approximately 3,330 trainees.

Helping to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and Give Teen Mothers a Chance to Succeed. The FY 2001 budget proposes $25 million to support adult-supervised and supportive living arrangements, often called second chance homes, for unmarried teen parents and their children who cannot live at home or with other relatives, including services provided by community and faith-based organizations. This new initiative will be latest of the Administration's efforts to break the cycle of dependency and reduce teen pregnancy, which have resulted in the lowest teen pregnancy rates on record and an 18 percent decline in teen birth rates from 1991 to 1998.

Responsible Reintegration for Young Offenders. The FY 2001 President's Budget includes a new $75 million initiative in the Department of Labor to help young offenders under age 35 to successfully reintegrate into the mainstream society. Competitive grants will be made to partnerships between the criminal justice system and local workforce investment systems. This effort will be operated in conjunction with a $60 million initiative at the Department of Justice that focuses on community safety and the supervision of ex-offenders through "reentry partnerships" and "reentry courts." The Department of Health and Human Services will also target $10 million in targeted capacity expansion grants for substance abuse and mental health services to complement these efforts.

VI. PROMOTING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF AMERICA'S TEENS

Providing Access to Health Insurance for Children and Teenagers. The President's budget would accelerate enrollment of uninsured children and teenagers eligible for Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) by $5.5 billion over 10 years, allowing for an additional 400,000 uninsured children to be covered. The S-CHIP helps children in families with income too high to be eligible for Medicaid but too low to afford private insurance. Enrollment in S-CHIP doubled to 2 million children in 1999. However, despite this encouraging trend, millions of children remain eligible but unenrolled in both S-CHIP and Medicaid. The Administration's budget includes initiatives that would give states needed tools to increase coverage by:

- Allowing School Lunch Programs to Share Information with Medicaid ($345 million over 10 years). Since 60 percent of uninsured children are in the school lunch program, sharing eligibility information can efficiently help outreach efforts.

- Expanding Sites Authorized to Enroll Children in S-CHIP and Medicaid ($1.2 billion over 10 years). This includes schools, child care resource and referral centers, homeless programs, and other sites.

- Requiring States to Make their Medicaid and S-CHIP Enrollment Equally Simple ($4.0 billion over 10 years). Most states have carried over their S-CHIP simplification strategies like eliminating assets tests and using mail-in applications into the Medicaid program. This proposal would have all states do so to make enrollment easier for both programs.

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White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 18, 2000

THE PRESIDENT'S NEW MARKETS TRIP:
FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY
Highlighting Technology's Economic Opportunity At COMDEX
April 18, 2000

TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL CONTINUE HIS DIGITAL DIVIDE NEW MARKETS TRIP AT THE COMDEX CONFERENCE BY CHALLENGING THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY TO BRING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY TO ALL COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES AND YOUTH. President Clinton will address the technology industry's influential COMDEX Conference, to personally challenge high-tech companies to take a leadership role in bridging the digital divide. The President will be joined by students and mentors from Street-Level Youth Media, a community technology center that serves urban youth in Chicago. In addition, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky from Illinois, Fredric Rosen, and Chairman of ZD Events and Jason Chudnofsky, CEO of ZD events will accompany the President.

The President and students from Street-Level Youth Media will also tour the Wireless Pavilion on the floor of Comdex, where the President will see a demonstration of cutting-edge "wireless Web" technology. The educational applications of this technology will allow parents and students to access Web-based information on their school anytime, anywhere, using only a phone.

President Clinton Will Call for Specific Actions by Industry Leaders. In his remarks to COMDEX attendees, the President will challenge the leaders of the high-tech industry to redouble their efforts to bridge the digital divide. The President will ask industry leaders to:

- Endorse His National Call To Action To Create Digital Opportunity: Two weeks ago, President Clinton issued a National Call To Action at an event at the White House. Already, over 400 leading high-tech companies and community organizations have endorsed this pledge.
- Work With Local Schools To Ensure That All Children Are Technologically Literate: Companies can help reach this goal by donating computers, providing training to teachers so that they are as comfortable with a computers as they are with a chalkboard, supporting the development of high-quality educational software and online resources, and encouraging their employees to provide the technical assistance that schools need.
- Expand Internships To Expand High-Tech Career Opportunities for

Underserved Youth: The President will urge companies to expand internships, especially for young women, minorities, people with disabilities and young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

- Lead Grassroots Efforts In Local Communities to Bridge the Digital Divide: The President will challenge companies to forge partnerships between business, government and community groups to create comprehensive strategies for bridging the digital divide in schools, community centers and homes.

President Clinton Will Announce New Public and Private Sector Commitments to Bridge the Digital Divide:

- Over 200 new Community Technology Centers: The Department of Education will announce a combined public and private investment of $86 million over 3 years ($44 million in federal funding and $42 million in state, local, and corporate investments) to create 214 new community technology centers and expand 136 centers. President Clinton is proposing to increase funding for Community Technology Centers to $100 million in the FY2001 budget.
- Doubling of Neighborhood Network Centers to 1,000 Across the Country. The Department of **Housing** and Urban Development will announce today that it will expand the number of Neighborhood Network Centers to 1,000 over the next two years. These centers are computer-training facilities located in or near HUD-assisted **housing** developments that offer computer access, staff assistance and a range of training resources to **housing** residents.
- Preparing Every New Teacher to Use Technology in the Classroom: The deans of over 200 colleges of education will make a commitment to President Clinton to ensure that new teachers are prepared to use technology in the classroom. Currently, many schools of education do not prepare their graduates to integrate technology into the curriculum. The President's FY2001 budget proposes $150 million to work with schools of education to help them reach this goal - up from $75 million in FY2000.

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White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 8, 2000

March 7, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF **HOUSING** AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
DIRECTOR, DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Dedicating Federal **Housing** Administration (FHA) Revenues for Affordable **Housing**

One of the fundamental goals of my Administration has been to reinvent government, to make it serve the public better and restore public confidence in the institutions of government. The Department of **Housing** and Urban Development (HUD) has met these goals well. HUD's 2020 Management Reform Plan has transformed HUD from top to bottom, and helped HUD improve performance even as it has reduced the number of its employees. The Department has twice been recognized by the Kennedy School of Government for innovation in government.

Nowhere is the turnaround at HUD more evident than in FHA. In the early 1990s, FHA was in near-bankruptcy. Today, FHA and its Mutual Mortgage Insurance (MMI) Fund are financially healthier than they have been in decades. On March 6, HUD released the results of an actuarial review showing that the total value of the Fund in Fiscal Year 1999 was more than $5 billion above the total value reported for Fiscal Year 1998. These improvements in the Fund are due not just to recent economic prosperity, but also to fundamental changes in FHA. The Office of Management and Budget will assess the actuarial review to determine its accuracy, its implications for the overall status of FHA finances, and its consistency with my Administration's economic assumptions.

As you know, my Budget for Fiscal Year 2001 substantially expands our efforts to provide affordable **housing**. The Budget provides a total of $32 billion -- $6 billion more than last year -- with increases for all of HUD's core programs. And as the improved administration of HUD and the FHA make available additional resources, we will have the opportunity to do even more to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable **housing**.

Therefore, I direct you to report to me within 160 days your recommendations on how newly available funds can be used to further strengthen Federal **housing** programs and develop a plan to enhance comprehensive affordable **housing** opportunities.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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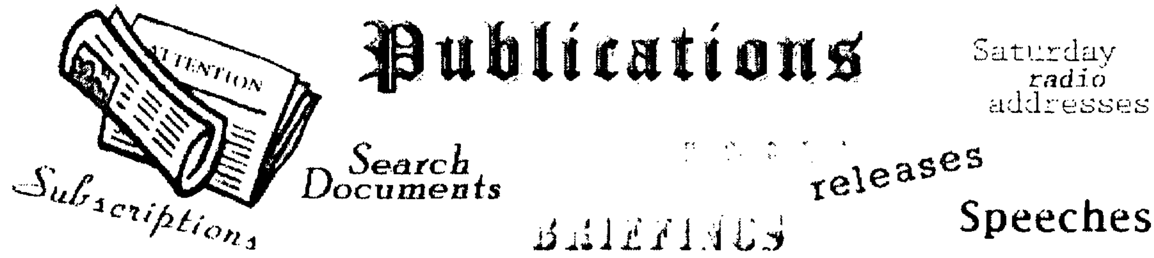

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 25, 2000

PRESIDENT CLINTON CALLS FOR PASSAGE OF
HIS HISTORIC FY2001 NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE
February 25, 2000

The President today, joined by tribal and congressional leaders, will call for passage of his $9.4 billion Native American FY2001 budget initiative, an increase in funding of $1.2 billion over FY 2000 -- the largest increase ever. Prior to the President's statement, tribal leaders will meet at the White House today with senior Administration officials to discuss the Native American initiative. This initiative recognizes that the entire federal government has a trust responsibility for Native American tribes. Accordingly, it provides funding across many agencies, rather than simply at the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Department of Health and Human Service's Indian Health Service (IHS), both of which traditionally have provided the bulk of funding for Native American communities. This initiative makes critical investments in education, health care, law enforcement, infrastructure, and economic development in Indian Country.

SELECTED FY2001 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS
OF THE CLINTON-GORE NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE

Educational Opportunities, School Construction and Repair
- More than double funding to $300 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) School Construction and Repair.
- $10 Million for Training and Recruiting New Native American Teachers.
- $5 Million for the new American Indian Administrator Corps.
- $50 Million in funding from the new School Renovation Loan and Grant Program.
- $77 Million, an Increase of $25 Million, for Tribal Colleges.

Community Empowerment, New Markets and Digital Divide Initiatives
- $10 Million to Address the Digital Divide.
- $5 Million for Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Expansion.
- $4.5 Million for Business Assistance at the Small Business

Administration.
-- $1.25 Million to Expand Business LINC to Indian Country.
-- $650 Million, an Increase of $30 Million, in Block Grants for Indian **Housing**.
-- $10 Million Increase to $53 Million to Strengthen Tribal Environmental Programs.

Public Safety
-- $439 Million, an Increase of $103 Million, to Improve Law Enforcement in Indian Country.

Health Care
-- $2.6 Billion, an Increase of $230 Million, for the Indian Health Service.

Building and Repairing Infrastructure
-- $349 Million, an Increase of $117 Million, to Build Roads and Bridges in Indian Country.
-- $49 Million, an Increase of $46 Million, for Tribal Infrastructure Projects.

Details of the initiative include:

Providing for Educational Opportunities, School Construction and Repair

-- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) School Construction and Repair. The President proposes $300 million, more than double the FY 2000 enacted level of $133 million, to replace and repair BIA-funded schools on reservations. This is the largest investment ever in a single year for BIA school construction and repair.

-- Training and Recruiting New Native American Teachers. The budget provides $10 million for the Education Department to continue the second year of the Administration's initiative to begin training and recruiting 1,000 new teachers for areas with high concentrations of American Indian and Alaska Native students.

-- New American Indian Administrator Corps. The budget proposes $5 million for a new Department of Education initiative, the American Indian Administrator Corps that will support the recruitment, training, and in-service professional development of 500 American Indians and Alaska Natives to become effective school administrators in schools with high populations of Native American students.

-- New School Renovation Loan and Grant Program. This new $1.3 billion initiative leverages nearly $7 billion of (approximately 8,300) renovation projects in high-need school districts with little or no capacity to fund urgent repairs. Within this program, the President has allocated $50 million for grants to public schools with high concentrations of Native American students.

-- Increased Funding for Tribal Colleges. The budget proposes a total of $77 million, an increase of $25 million over FY2000, for support to tribal colleges through funding at the National Science Foundation, and the Departments of the Interior, Education, Agriculture, **Housing** and Urban Development, and Transportation.

Empowering Communities, Expanding New Markets Initiatives

-- Addressing the Digital Divide. The Administration proposes this new initiative to encourage Native Americans to pursue as a course of study information technology and other science and technology fields as well as to increase the capacity of tribal colleges to offer courses in these areas. The budget provides $10 million, to be administered by the

National Science Foundation, for grants to tribal colleges for networking and access; course development; student assistance; and capacity building.

-- Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Expansion. The Administration requested an increase over last year's funding of the CDFI program to continue building a national network of community development banks. In order to increase access to capital in Indian Country, the budget proposes, for the first time, a $5 million set-aside within the CDFI Fund to establish a training and technical assistance program focused on eliminating barriers to capital access.

-- Business Assistance at the Small Business Administration. The budget proposes new funding to create Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) in Indian Country to provide business and technical assistance to Native American entrepreneurs. These new tribal SBDCs will work in tandem with the seventeen existing Tribal Business Information Centers. A total of $4.5 million is provided for this initiative.

-- Expanding Business LINC to Indian Country. For the first time, the budget proposes $1.25 million to expand the Vice President's successful

BusinessLINC program to Indian Country. BusinessLINC establishes mentor-protege relationships between large and small businesses. The goal of BusinessLINC is to encourage large firms to provide technical assistance, business advice, networking, investment, and joint venturing opportunities for locally owned smaller firms.

-- Indian **Housing**. The budget provides $650 million in block grants for the Indian **Housing** Block Grant program at the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development, an increase of $30 million over FY 2000. Within BIA, $32 million, a doubling over the 2000 level, will be used to repair or replace dilapidated homes across Indian Country.

-- Strengthening Tribal Environmental Programs. The President's budget increases funding for the EPA's General Assistance Program (GAP) by $10 million for a total of $53 million. GAP grants fund tribal institutional capacity building for implementing environmental programs on Indian lands. GAP grants have increased from $8 million in 1993 to the FY2001 proposed level of $53 million.

Promoting Public Safety

-- Improving Law Enforcement in Indian Country. The budget includes $439 million, an increase of $103 million over FY 2000, for the Departments of Justice and Interior for the third year of the President's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative. This funding will increase the number of law enforcement officers on Indian lands, provide more equipment, expand detention facilities, enhance juvenile crime prevention, and improve the effectiveness of tribal courts.

Providing Health Care

-- Indian Health Service. The President's budget proposes $2.6 billion, an increase for the Indian Health Service (IHS) of $230 million or 10 percent over the FY 2000 enacted level. This increase would enable IHS to continue expanding accessible and high-quality health care to its approximately 1.5 million Native American service users.

Helping to Build Infrastructure

-- Building Roads and Bridges in Indian Country. The President's budget proposes to give the Indian Reservations Roads program at the Department of Transportation the full authorization amount of $275 million with an additional $74 million from a highway receipts account for a total of

$349 million, which is an increase of $117 million over the previous year. This will allow Tribes to address the estimated backlog of $4 billion in needs on these roads and bridges. Within the BIA, $32 million will be used to maintain BIA and tribal roads on reservations.

-- Tribal Infrastructure Projects. The President and the Vice President propose $49 million, an increase of $46 million over FY 2000, for the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund infrastructure, planning, and public works projects.

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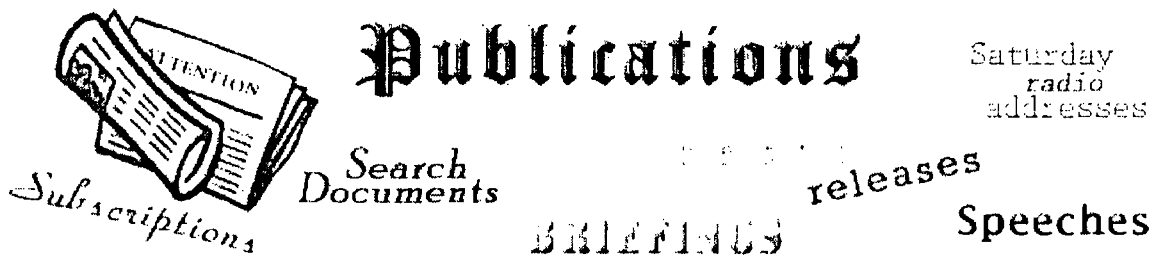

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 7, 2000

President Clinton and Vice President Gore:
Honoring Commitments
to Native Americans In the FY2001 Budget
February 7, 2000

Updated February 6, 2000

"I also . . . [want] to make special efforts to address the areas of our nation with the highest rates of poverty -- our Native American reservations and the Mississippi Delta. My budget includes . . . a billion dollars to increase economic opportunity, health care, education and law enforcement for our Native American communities. In this new century -- we should begin this new century by honoring our historic responsibility to empower the first Americans. And I want to thank tonight the leaders and the members from both parties who've expressed to me an interest in working with us on these efforts. They are profoundly important."

President Bill Clinton
State of the Union
January 27, 2000

In order to better serve Native American communities and to honor the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes, the President's budget includes a total of $9.4 billion for key new and existing programs that assist Native Americans and Indian reservations. This total is an increase of $1.2 billion over Fiscal Year 2000 - the largest increase ever. This initiative brings together several agencies in order to address the needs of Native American communities comprehensively. Some of the highlights include: $300 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs school construction and repair; $349 million through the Department of Transportation for roads in Indian Country; and $2.6 billion for the Indian Health Service. Other key components of the Native American initiative are:

Budget Initiatives for Native Americans:

Investing in Education and Training.

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) School Construction and Repair. The President has proposed $300 million, more than double the FY 2000 enacted level of $133 million, to replace and repair BIA-funded schools on reservations. This is the largest investment ever in a single year for BIA school construction and repair. Of these funds, $126 million would be used to assist in replacing at least six of the 185 BIA-funded schools on reservations. The remaining $174 million would provide for much-needed health and safety-related repairs and improvements that together comprise a roughly $700 million backlog. Within the BIA's school construction funds, up to $30 million may used to assist tribes or tribal consortia in issuing the bonds described below by using these funds to ensure principal repayment.

- Hiring well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. As part of President Clinton's national initiative to hire 100,000 teachers to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, the budget will provide $6 million for BIA-funded schools. These funds will enable local schools to recruit, hire, and train more teachers. Studies show that smaller classes enable teachers to give personal attention to students, which leads to their getting a stronger foundation in the basic skills. The studies also show that minority and disadvantaged students show the greatest achievement gains as a result of reducing class size in the early grades.

- Training and Recruiting New Native American Teachers. Only two-thirds of Native American students successfully complete high school --far fewer than other students. In addition, schools with high populations of American Indian students are typically plagued by high teacher turn-over. To address these challenges, the budget provides $10 million for the Education Department to continue the second year of the Administration's initiative to begin training and recruiting 1,000 new teachers for areas with high concentrations of American Indian and Alaska Native students.

- New American Indian Administrator Corps. The President and the Vice President propose $5 million for a new Department of Education initiative, the American Indian Administrator Corps, that will support the recruitment, training, and in-service professional development of 500 American Indians and Alaska Natives to become effective school administrators in schools with high populations of Native American students. As in the Native American teacher initiative, higher-education institutions are encouraged to form consortia with the tribal colleges in order to develop this program.

- Native American School Modernization Bonds. In addition to the $24.8 billion of School Modernization Tax Credit Bonds authorized in his budget for the construction and renovation of public schools, the President's budget includes a component for Native American schools. The Secretary of Interior would be authorized to allocate $400 million bonding authority ($200 million in 2001 and $200 million in 2002) to tribes or tribal consortia for the construction and renovation of BIA-funded schools. In addition to providing tax credits to the bondholders in lieu of interest payments, the President's budget includes $30 million to help ensure principal repayment for tribal issuers.

- New School Renovation Loan and Grant Program. This new $1.3 billion initiative leverages nearly $7 billion of (approximately 8,300) renovation projects in high-need school districts with little or no capacity to fund urgent repairs. Within this program, the President has allocated $50 million for grants to public schools with high concentrations of Native American students. The $1.3 billion initiative also includes a loan program targeted to those districts unable to finance the interest cost associated with facilities renovation and a smaller grant program to provide direct funding to needy school districts unable to finance the capital expenditures associated with school renovation.

- New Therapeutic Pilots at BIA Boarding Schools. The President and the Vice President propose $8.2 million for a new initiative to establish Therapeutic Residential Treatment Programs (TRTP) at 5-7 of the BIA boarding schools and dormitories. According to the Centers for Disease Control, American Indian students attending BIA schools are at a very high risk for severe problems associated with substance abuse, depression, poverty, neglect, homelessness, and physical abuse. Through the addition of appropriate professionals at each pilot site, necessary intervention treatments will be provided to students in a holistic manner, ranging from education to mental health to substance abuse treatment.

- Doubling the Family and Child Education (FACE) Program. The budget includes $12.8 million, a more than 100 percent increase over the FY 2000 level of $6 million, to double the FACE program at BIA from 22 to 44 sites. The FACE program is a two-generation education program that provides services such as early childhood educational programs to young children and provides training to parents to enhance their parenting skills, education, and literacy.

- Strengthening BIA-Funded Schools and Colleges Serving Tribes. The budget provides $562 million for the operation of elementary and secondary schools, tribally controlled community colleges, and assistance to Indian children attending public schools. This represents an increase of $43 million over the enacted 2000 level.

- Increased Funding for Tribal Colleges. The budget proposes increased funding for the Nation's tribal colleges. At the Department of Education, the budget provides for $9 million - a 50 percent increase over 2000 enacted - in order to improve and expand the capacity of the tribal colleges to serve Native American students in several ways, including developing academic programs. With this increase at the Education Department, 24 tribal colleges will receive funding. At the Department of the Interior, the budget proposes a $3 million increase to $38 million in order to fund the operations of the tribal colleges. Including these funds at Interior and Education, the budget includes a total of $77 million for support to tribal colleges through funding at the National Science Foundation, and the Departments of the Interior, Education, Agriculture, **Housing** and Urban Development, and Transportation.

- Tribal College Endowment Fund. The President's budget proposes to increase the authorized level from $4.6 million to $7.1 million, a 54 percent increase over 2000, for the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund at the Department of Agriculture in order to build educational capacity through student recruitment and retention; curricula development; faculty preparation; instruction delivery systems; and scientific instrumentation for teaching.

- Head Start. The President's budget boosts funding for Head Start by $1 billion - the largest funding increase ever - to provide Head Start and Early Head Start to approximately 950,000 children, nearing the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002. Since the President took office, funding for Head Start has risen by nearly 90 percent, enabling 160,000 more low-income children to participate in the program.

- Indian Head Start. The budget provides $175 million for Indian Head Start -- a $30 million increase over FY 2000.

Fighting Crime in Indian Country. The President's budget included key increases for law enforcement:

- Improves Law Enforcement in Indian Country. The budget proposes $439 million, an increase of $103 million over FY 2000, for the Departments of Justice and Interior for the third year of the President's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative. The initiative will improve public safety for the over 1.4 million residents on the approximately 56 million acres of Indian lands. This funding will increase the number of law enforcement officers on Indian lands, provide more equipment, expand detention facilities, enhance juvenile crime prevention, and improve the effectiveness of tribal courts. This initiative also includes increased funding for the unique needs of Indian Country such as legal assistance to indigent Native Americans; funding to support curriculum development at tribal colleges for law enforcement and legal studies; an alcohol and substance abuse diversion program; and sexual assault units to help prosecute sexual offenders. Although violent crime has been declining nationally for several years, it has been on the rise in Indian country. According to the Department of Justice, American Indians are the victims of violent crimes at more than twice the rate of all U.S. residents. Recognizing this, the President made a major commitment to improve law enforcement in Indian country.

- Law Enforcement **Housing** Opportunities. The budget proposes to permit, through HUD's Indian **Housing** Block Grant, tribes or tribally-designated **housing** entities to provide **housing** or **housing** assistance for qualified law enforcement officers.

Providing Health Care and Promoting Safety. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to providing health care to the Native American population. This budget moves forward on their vision to help realize this goal.

- Indian Health Service. The President's budget proposes $2.6 billion, an increase for the Indian Health Service (IHS) of $230 million or 10 percent over the FY 2000 enacted level. This increase would enable IHS to continue expanding accessible and high-quality health care to its approximately 1.5 million Native American service users to: improve preventive services designed to reduce the need for acute medical care; expand patient access to clinical services to help improve health status; improve emergency medical services in remote locations on American Indian and Alaska Native reservations; address the health and environmental conditions in American Indian and Alaska Native homes and communities by constructing safe water and waste disposal facilities; expand programs that provide substance abuse treatment and prevention and mental health services; strengthen existing disease surveillance capabilities; target additional assessment and treatment of diabetes and other chronic diseases; and provide preventive and corrective dental care to prevent disease and reduce tooth loss, such as water fluoridation.

- IHS Medicaid and Medicare Reimbursements. IHS will collect a total of $365 million in Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements in FY2001, helping to bring the total IHS program level to $3.1 billion.

- Indian Health Service (IHS) Contract Support Costs. Within the overall IHS increase, the budget continues to support Tribal self-determination by proposing a $40 million (+18%) increase for contract support costs, to cover the costs of new and existing tribal contracts and compacts.

- Helping to Reduce Racial Disparities in Health Status. Despite improvements in the Nation's overall health, continuing disparities remain in the burden of death and illness that certain minority groups experience. For example, American Indian and Alaska Natives are about three times as likely to die from diabetes as other Americans. Working with minority public health providers, advocates, and other consumer representatives, $35 million is provided for Centers for Disease Control to continue demonstration programs to enable select communities to develop innovative and effective approaches to address these disparities.

- Treatment for Substance Abuse. The Targeted Treatment Capacity Expansion Grant program at the Department of Health and Human Services provides funds to help communities address emerging substance abuse problems and unmet treatment needs. The President's budget proposes $163 million for Targeted Treatment Capacity Expansion grants, which is $49 million over the FY 2000 level of $114 million and will provide treatment for nearly 10,000 additional individuals. Last year, over fifteen percent of these competitive grants focused on substance abuse treatment for Native American youth and adults.

- Providing Care for Native American Seniors. The budget proposes $23.5 million, an increase of $5 million, to expand core nutrition and supportive services as well as caregiver services such as respite care and adult day care to Native American seniors.

- Highway Safety Grants. Because highway safety is a major problem on Indian reservations, the budget will double the amount to $2 million for highway safety grants in Indian Country. These grants are used for problem identification, planning, and implementation to address highway safety problems related to human factors and roadway environment in order to reduce crashes, deaths, and injuries.

- Elevating the Position of the Director of IHS. The President will also continue his efforts to elevate the Director of IHS to the position of Assistant Secretary.

Providing Infrastructure for Native American Communities. President Clinton and Vice President Gore are providing solid investments to build infrastructure in Native American communities.

- Building Roads and Bridges in Indian Country. The Transportation Department (DOT) will expand its program to improve roads and bridges on Indian reservations. The President's budget proposes to give the Indian Reservations Roads program the full authorization amount of $275 million with an additional $74 million from a highway receipts account for a total of $349 million, which is an increase of $117 million over the previous year. This will allow Tribes to address the estimated backlog of $4 billion in needs on these roads and bridges.

- Tribal Infrastructure Projects. The President and the Vice President propose $49 million, an increase of $46 million over FY 2000, for the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund infrastructure, planning, and public works projects. These projects will focus on technology, business development, and tribal economic development activities. EDA will give priority to projects that emphasize the attraction of outside capital to, and the location of basic commercial business operations in, Native American communities.

- USDA Rural Development Programs. The FY2001 budget proposes $26 million, an increase of $14 million over 2000 enacted to provide loans and grants through the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) rural development programs to construct and improve Native Americans' water and wastewater systems; community facilities such as health clinics and child care centers; and diversify and expand economic opportunities.

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure Investments. The FY2001 budget increases the Tribal share of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund appropriation from 0.5 to 1.5 percent. The percentage increase will add more than $5 million for Tribal wastewater infrastructure spending over FY 2000. The Administration also continues to request an additional $15 million for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs of Alaska Native villages.

- Construction Skills Training. Currently, Transportation funds $10 million per year for a construction skills training program targeted to all minorities. Last year, only $9 million was obligated because overall highway funding was less than authorized levels. The President's budget proposes to ensure this program is funded at its authorized levels thereby providing the full $10 million in FY2001 and setting aside $1 million for Native Americans.

Empowering Communities and Moving People from Welfare to Work.

- Addressing the Digital Divide. The Administration proposes this new initiative to encourage Native Americans to pursue information technology and other science and technology fields as areas of study as well as to increase the capacity of tribal colleges to offer courses in these areas. The budget provides $10 million, to be administered by the National Science Foundation, for grants to tribal colleges for networking and access; course development; student assistance; and capacity building.

- Extending Welfare-to-Work Grants. To help more long-term welfare recipients and low-income fathers go to work and support their families, the Administration's budget will give state, local, tribal, and community- and faith-based grantees an additional two years to spend Welfare-to-Work funds, ensuring that roughly $2 billion in existing resources continues to help those most in need. This will give grantees an opportunity to fully implement both the $3 billion Welfare-to Work initiative the Administration fought to include in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, which included $30 million in tribal grants, and the program eligibility improvements enacted last year with the Administration's support.

- Helping Low-Income Fathers and Working Families Support Their Children. The Administration's budget proposes $255 million for the first year of a new "Fathers Work/Families Win" initiative to help low-income non-custodial parents (mainly fathers) and low-income families work and support their children. Within these funds, $10 million will be set aside for applicants from Native American workforce agencies.

- New **Housing** Vouchers for Hard-Pressed Working Families. The Clinton-Gore budget includes $690 million for 120,000 new rental **housing** vouchers to help America's hard-pressed working families. Of the 120,000 new **housing** vouchers, 32,000 will be targeted to families moving from welfare to work, 18,000 to homeless individuals and families, and 10,000 to low-income families moving to new **housing** constructed through the Low Income **Housing** Tax Credit, with the remaining 60,000 vouchers allocated to local areas to help address the large unmet need for affordable **housing**. These new vouchers build on the 110,000 new **housing** vouchers secured through the President's leadership in the past two years. As part of the FY 1999 competition, HUD awarded nearly 800 welfare to work **housing** vouchers to two tribes, and assuming Congress approves new welfare to work vouchers, the Administration will maintain a similar policy in FY 2001.

- Access to Jobs Program. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) authorized $750 million over five years for the President's Job Access initiative and reverse commute grants to develop flexible transportation solutions, such as van services, to help welfare recipients and other low-income workers (up to 150% of poverty) travel to job opportunities and employment-related services. The President's budget proposes to double funding for this initiative to $150 million in FY2001. To increase mobility and access to employment opportunities for Native American families moving from welfare to work and other low-income workers, DOT will set aside $5 million for Indian tribes under the FY2001 DOT Job Access grant program and propose, through appropriations language, allowing tribes to apply directly to the Federal Transit Administration for these grants.

- Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Expansion. The Administration requested a major expansion of the CDFI program to continue building a national network of community development banks. The final budget increases CDFI funding from $95 million in FY2000 to $125 million in FY2001 -- a $30 million increase. In order to increase access to capital in Indian Country, the budget proposes, for the first time, a $5 million set-aside within the CDFI Fund to establish a training and technical assistance program focused on eliminating barriers to capital access.

- **Housing** Improvement Program. The budget provides $32 million at BIA - a doubling of the $16 million in 2000 - to repair or replace dilapidated homes across Indian Country.

included

- Indian **Housing**. The budget provides $650 million in block grants for Indian **housing**, an increase of $30 million over FY 2000.

- Indian Homeownership Intermediaries. The budget proposes to set aside $5 million within the Indian **Housing** Block Grant to create non-profit homeownership intermediaries in Indian Country. They will serve as a catalyst for the creation of a private homeownership market in Indian Country and will support local capacity-building intermediaries or "one-stop mortgage centers."

- Economic Development Planning Grants. The President's budget expands language within the Native American set-aside of the Community Development Block Grant to allow for stand-alone economic development planning grants.

- Strengthening Tribal Environmental Programs. The President's budget increases funding for the EPA's General Assistance Program (GAP) by $10 million for a total of $53 million. GAP grants fund tribal institutional capacity building for implementing environmental programs on Indian lands. GAP grants have increased from $8 million in 1993 to the FY 2001 proposed level of $53 million.

- Tribal/EPA Cooperative Agreements to Implement Federal Environmental Programs. The President's budget proposes appropriations language authorizing the Administrator of the EPA to enter into cooperative agreements with tribes or tribal consortia so that they may assist EPA in implementing Federal environmental programs. EPA will also provide grants to tribes and tribal consortia for this work.

- Remove Cap on Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Grants to Tribes. Appropriations language is proposed that permanently removes the one-third of one percent cap on the tribal share of the EPA Clean Water Act nonpoint source grants to tribes. These additional resources will help protect water quality on Indian lands.

- Agricultural Extension Program. This Initiative provides extension agents on large Indian reservations. These extension agents, employees of the State Cooperative Extension System, work with tribal advisory committees to develop educational programs in agriculture or agriculture-related youth programs that respond to tribal priorities. Since funding began in 1990, it has remained at $1.7 million, supporting about 26 projects in 15 states. This year the President proposes to increase funding to $5 million - the first increase since 1990.

- Promoting Self-Sufficiency. The FY2001 budget proposes $44 million, an increase of $9 million over 2000, for the Administration of Native Americans (ANA) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). ANA funds projects that are expected to result in sustained improvements in the social and economic conditions of Native Americans within their communities. ANA will set-aside $2 million for tribal energy development projects and another $2 million to continue its work on developing tribal codes in order to promote business development in Indian Country.

- Tribal Energy Program. The budget proposes $5 million, an increase of $1 million, for the Tribal Energy Program at the Department of Energy which assists tribal governments in implementing energy programs, including with renewable energy resources such as wind energy.

- Business Assistance at the Small Business Administration. The budget proposes new funding to create Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) in Indian Country to provide business and technical assistance to Native American entrepreneurs. These new tribal SBDCs will work in tandem with the seventeen existing Tribal Business Information Centers. A total of $4.5 million is provided for this initiative. The Administration will propose authorizing legislation to establish the tribal SBDCs. This legislation will ensure that SBDCs will be available to all parts of Indian Country, including the poorest areas.

- Expanding Business LINC to Indian Country. For the first time, the budget proposes $1.25 million to expand the Vice President's successful BusinessLINC program to Indian Country. BusinessLINC establishes mentor-protege relationships between large and small businesses. The goal of BusinessLINC is to encourage large firms to provide technical assistance, business advice, networking, investment, and joint venturing opportunities for locally-owned smaller firms.

- Tribal Colleges Initiative. The budget proposes to set-aside $5 million within the HUD Community Development Block Grant program for competitive grants awarded to tribal colleges to assist their communities with neighborhood revitalization, **housing**, and economic development. These colleges will provide technical assistance and capacity building support to their surrounding communities through assistance in the creation of community development corporations; assistance in the development and coordination of supportive services for welfare-to-work initiatives; coordination and support for the rehabilitation of **housing** for low- to moderate-income families; and assistance in the promotion of economic development through small business incubators and job training programs.

- Native American Economic Development Access Center. The President's budget proposes an additional $2 million at the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development to establish a Native American Economic Development Access Center. This Access Center will, for the first time, link over twelve agencies through a single toll-free number so that Native American callers can receive access to information about federal programs for economic development. The purpose of the Access Center will be to answer questions in a problem-solving manner rather than requiring callers to be familiar with specific federal programs. The Access Center will also have a website.

- Technical Assistance Funding for the Tribal Colleges. The budget proposes to set aside $1 million out of the Revenue Aligned Budget Authority for the tribal colleges to do outreach to help Native Americans access federal funds.

- New Markets Investments Initiative. The United States is currently in the midst of the longest peacetime expansion in its history. The strength and duration of this expansion has helped bring economic opportunity to millions of people once cut off from the economic mainstream. But too many urban and rural areas, and Native American reservations, have not participated in this growth. These areas have tremendous potential as New Markets. The President's expanded New Markets initiative will spur $22 billion in new capital investment in businesses in these economically distressed areas through a package of tax credits and loan guarantees. The package includes the following components:

- More Than Doubling the New Markets Tax Credit - The President proposes to more than double the New Markets tax credit to spur $15 billion dollars in new investment in community development in economically distressed areas. An entity making new equity investments in a selected community development project would be eligible for a tax credit worth 25 percent of the cost of the investment. A variety of vehicles providing equity and credit to businesses in underserved areas would be eligible. The total cost of the tax credits amounts to about $5 billion over 10 years.

- Expanded Empowerment Zones - The proposed expanded wage credits, tax incentives, and new round of urban and rural EZs will extend and improve economic growth in the 31 existing urban and rural Empowerment Zones, administered by HUD and USDA, and support the proposed third round of 10 new empowerment zones to be designated in 2001. The total cost of these proposals will be $4.4 billion over 10 years.

- America's Private Investment Companies (APICs) - Modeled after the Overseas Private Investment Corporation's (OPIC) successful investment fund program, APICs would provide guaranteed debt to private investment companies, licensed by HUD, to help leverage private equity capital and lower the cost of capital for investments in low- and moderate-income communities. For every dollar that private investors provide, the government will guarantee two dollars in debt to expand the APIC's pool of capital available for making investments and enhance the return on those investments to the private investors. APICs will make equity investments in larger businesses that are expanding or relocating in inner cities and rural areas.

- New Market Venture Capital Firms (NMVCs) - The President is asking for $51.7 million in his 2001 budget to allow SBA to match equity investment and technical assistance funds to finance 10-20 new investment partnerships - New Markets Venture Capital Firms -- selected to provide both long-term growth capital and expert guidance to entrepreneurs who need both in order to transform their small businesses and great ideas into thriving companies.

- Other Elements of New Markets - Other elements include: increasing the funding for SBA's microenterprise lending program; creating PRIME--a program providing technical assistance to low-income entrepreneurs; boosting CDFI funding; expanding support for BusinessLINC to encourage large businesses to work with small businesses in new markets; and establishing a New Markets University Partnerships pilot project which, under the auspices of HUD, would provide universities with funding to develop local community partnerships, assistance to intermediaries, and technical and business development assistance to new and existing firms. In addition, to better serve Native American communities, the President proposes additional funding to expand the New Markets initiative to Indian Country, which are described herein.

Protecting Sovereignty and Promoting Self-Determination.

- Tribal Contracting and Self-Governance. BIA and IHS will continue to promote Tribal self-determination through local decision-making. Tribal contracting and self-governance compact agreements now represent 41 percent of BIA's operations budget, and forty-two percent of IHS' budget. The self-governance agreements give Tribes greater flexibility to administer Federal programs on reservations.

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Contract Support Costs. Within the overall BIA increase, the budget continues to support Tribal self-determination by proposing $134 million, a $9 million or 7 percent increase over 2000 for contract support costs. This funding provides $5 million for new and expanded contracts and $129 million for existing contracts.

- Trust Services. The Administration is committed to improving trust services and management through its trust reform efforts at the Interior Department. The budget proposes $108 million, a 48 percent increase over 2000, for improved trust services in the BIA for activities such as probate, real estate appraisals, and other services.

- Indian Trust Fund Balances. The Administration is committed to resolving disputed Indian trust fund account balances through informal dispute resolution and supports the unique government-to-government relationship that exists in Indian trust land management issues. After Tribal consultations, BIA submitted its "Recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior for Settlement of Disputed Tribal Accounts" to Congress in November 1997. Legislation reflecting these recommendations was proposed in 1998, but not enacted. The Department will continue efforts to resolve trust fund account balances.

- Trust Land Management. As part of BIA's commitment to resolving trust land management issues, Interior worked with Congress in 1999 to repropose legislation (S. 1586) to establish an Indian Land Consolidation program to address the ownership fractionation of Indian land. Interior began implementing three pilot projects in Wisconsin, in cooperation with Tribes, to purchase small ownership interests in highly fractionated tracts of land from willing sellers. In the nine months of this effort, more than 8,000 small ownership interests have been consolidated. The budget proposes $13 million in 2001 for this program, and Interior will work with Congress to get legislation enacted in the 106th Congress, limiting future fractionation.

- Trust Management Improvement Project. In addition to the $13 million for the Indian Land Consolidation program, the budget provides $83 million for DOI's Office of Special Trustee, including the trust management improvement project. Current activities include verifying individual Indian's account data and converting these data to a commercial-grade accounting system. Ownership, lease, and royalty information related to the underlying trust assets will also be verified and converted to a recently acquired commercial asset management system.

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White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 2, 2000

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION:
FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY
February 2, 2000

not included

Today, President Clinton will unveil a comprehensive proposal to help bridge the digital divide and create new opportunity for all Americans. This issue has been a top priority for Vice President Gore, who has worked to bridge the Digital Divide by ensuring that all children have access to educational technology. Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to use this technology effectively are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political and social life. Unfortunately, unequal access to technology and high-tech skills by income, educational level, race, and geography could deepen and reinforce the divisions that exist within American society. President Clinton believes that we must make access to computers and the Internet as universal as the telephone is today -- in our schools, libraries, communities, and homes.

To make the most of these new opportunities, the President believes we must:

- Broaden access to technologies such as computers, the Internet, and high-speed networks;

- Provide people the skilled teachers and the training they need to master the information economy;

- Promote online content and applications that will help empower all Americans to use new technologies to their fullest potential.

President Clinton will announce specific proposals in his new budget to help accomplish these goals and help create digital opportunity for more Americans -- including $2 billion in tax incentives to encourage private sector activities such as computer donations, and $380 million in new and expanded initiatives to serve as a catalyst for public-private partnerships.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S NEW BUDGET INITIATIVES

1. $2 billion in tax incentives over 10 years to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers.

2. $150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce to use technology effectively.

3. $100 million to create 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods.

4. $50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families.

5. $45 million to promote innovative applications of information and communications technology for under-served communities.

6. $25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in under-served urban and rural communities.

7. $10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in Information Technology and other technical fields.

To Help Mobilize Public/Private Partnerships To Close the Digital Divide, President Clinton Will Lead A New Markets Trip during the week of April 9th: Closing the Digital Divide requires creative partnerships between industry, non-profit organizations and government. That's why President Clinton will lead a New Markets trip during the week of April 9th designed to mobilize a significant private and public effort to close the digital divide. This trip, which will include leading high-tech CEOs, will highlight communities that are using information technology to enhance our children's education, expand access to life-long learning, and create economic growth and high-tech, high-wage jobs.

THE CLINTON-GORE AGENDA FOR
CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY
February 2, 2000

Private sector competition and rapid technological progress are powerful forces to bridge the digital divide and make Information Age tools available for more and more Americans. The information technology industry is able to double the amount of computing power available at a given price every 12-18 months, and is now selling low-cost computers and "information appliances" -- such as specialized Internet access devices. Some companies are even offering free, advertiser-supported Internet access. By working with the private sector and community-based organizations, the Administration can accelerate the trend toward expanded access.

But access to technology is only the first step. We also need to give people the skills they need to use technology, to promote content and applications of technology that will help empower under-served communities, and to ensure that teachers can use technology effectively in the classroom. Below is a brief description of the initiatives that President Clinton and Vice President Gore are proposing to help accomplish these goals:

1. $2 billion over 10 years in tax incentives to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers: President Clinton's budget includes $2 billion in new tax incentives to encourage companies to donate computers to schools, libraries and community technology

centers, to sponsor schools, libraries, and community technology centers in designated Empowerment Zones, and to provide basic computer training, workplace literacy, or other basic education for their employees.

- Encouraging companies to donate computers. The President proposes to extend and expand tax deduction that gives companies an incentive to donate computers to schools, libraries and computer technology centers. This enhanced deduction allows companies to deduct more than the cost of their donation. Under current law, this deduction applies to donations of computers to schools only and expires after the year 2000. The President's proposal would extend this provision through June 30, 2004 and would expand it to donations to public libraries or community technology centers in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and high-poverty areas.

- Promoting corporate sponsorship of schools, libraries and community technology centers. The President proposes tax relief to encourage companies to sponsor schools and community technology centers in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and targeted low income areas. The President's proposal would allocate credits for $16 million in corporate sponsorship to each of the 31 existing Empowerment Zones and 10 proposed new Empowerment Zones and $4 million in corporate sponsorship for each of the more than 80 Enterprise Communities. In total, the President's proposal would help support up to nearly $1 billion in annual sponsorships to help improve schools and community technology centers.

- Supporting technology training for workers. The President's proposal would provide targeted tax relief to encourage companies to provide basic computer training, workplace literacy, or other basic education for employees that lack the basic skills to succeed in the modern workplace. Companies would be allowed to take a 20 percent tax credit for up to $5,250 in annual expenses per employee. Eligible employees generally would not have received a high school degree or its equivalent.

2. $150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce use technology effectively in the classroom: Under the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the United States has made enormous progress in connecting schools to the Internet, and increasing the number of modern computers in the classroom. However, access to computers and the Internet will not help students achieve high academic standards unless teachers are as comfortable with a computer as they are with a chalkboard. President Clinton's budget calls for $150 million in Department of Education grants -- double the last year's investment of $75 million -- to ensure that all new teachers entering the workforce are technologically literate and can integrate technology into the curriculum. The need for this investment is clear. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 20 percent of teachers report that they are "very well prepared" to integrate technology into classroom. And over the next 10 years, K-12 schools will need to hire 2 million new teachers to fill the vacancies left by retiring teachers and to accommodate increasing student populations.

3. $100 million to create up to 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural communities: The President's budget more than triples the Department of Education's support for Community Technology Centers - from $32.5 million in FY2000 to $100 million in FY2001. This initiative, championed by Congresswoman Maxine Waters was initially funded at $10 million in fiscal year 1999. The goal of the initiative is to help close the "digital divide" by providing computers and Information Age tools to children and adults that are not able to afford them at home. These community technology centers will help empower hundreds of thousands of low-income children and adults in a variety of ways. Children will be able to improve their performance in school by

having access to high-quality educational software after school and prepare for the high-tech workplace of the 21st century by getting certified with an information technology skill. Adults will be able to use computers and the Internet to take a self-paced adult literacy course; get access to America's Job Bank to see what jobs are available; learn to type up a resume and cover letter using word processing software; learn to start up their own "micro-enterprise" or Web-based business, or acquire new training. A study sponsored by the National Science Foundation confirms that Community Technology Centers are helping to bridge the digital divide. Of the users surveyed: 62 percent had incomes of less than $15,000; 65 percent took computer classes to improve their job skills; and 41 percent got homework help or tutoring at the center.

4. $50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families: The President's budget includes a new $50 million Department of Commerce pilot program to expand access to computers and the Internet for low-income families, and to give these families the skills they need to use these new Information Age tools effectively. This new program will provide competitive grants to public-private partnerships at the local level. Potential partners might include: local school districts seeking to expand parental involvement in education; high-tech companies willing to provide discounts on computers and access; libraries offering training on "information literacy"; employers seeking to upgrade the skills of their workforce using distance learning, and government agencies at all levels seeking to save taxpayer dollars through the electronic delivery of government services. The Administration will continue to work with the private sector and non-profit organizations on the most effective way to design this program.

5. $45 million to promote innovative applications of information technology for under-served communities: President Clinton's budget will increase the investment in the Department of Commerce's highly-successful Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) to $45 million -- triple the current level of $15 million. This program encourages innovative applications of information technology that help empower low-income communities -- public health information systems that raise childhood immunization rates in inner-cities, tele-mentoring for at-risk youth, and electronic networks that strengthen local communities by fostering communication and collaboration.

6. $25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of high-speed networks in under-served urban and rural communities: High-speed Internet access is becoming as important to the economic vitality of a community as roads and bridges are today. The President will propose a new $25 million program at the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in under-served urban and rural communities -- using grants and loan guarantees. The potential payoff from these kinds of investments is enormous. One company, for example, has helped people move from "welfare-to-work" by connecting their community with the high-speed networks needed to support telecommuting. This solves some of the biggest barriers associated with welfare-to-work -- lack of childcare and transportation.

7. $10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in information technology and other technical fields: The National Science Foundation will support efforts by tribal colleges to increase the number of Native Americans who are prepared to pursue careers in information technology and other technical fields. The ability to use technology is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, and jobs in the rapidly growing information technology sector pay almost 80 percent more than the average private sector wage.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to effectively use this technology are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political and social life. People are using the Internet to find lower prices for goods and services, work from home or start their own business, acquire new skills using distance learning, and make better informed decisions about their healthcare needs. The ability to use technology is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, and jobs in the rapidly growing information technology sector pay almost 80 percent more than the average private sector wage.

Technology, used creatively, can also make a big difference in the way teachers teach and students learn. In some classrooms, teachers are using the Internet to keep up with the latest developments in their field, exchange lesson plans with their colleagues, and communicate more frequently with parents. Students are able to log on to the Library of Congress to download primary documents for a history paper, explore the universe with an Internet-connected telescope used by professional astronomers, and engage in more active "learning by doing." Students are also creating powerful Internet-based learning resources that can be used by other students -- such as award-winning Web sites on endangered species, the biology of sleep, human perception of sound, and an exploration of the American judicial system.

Access to computers and the Internet has exploded during the Clinton-Gore Administration. Unfortunately, there is strong evidence of a "digital divide" -- a gap between those individuals and communities that have access to these Information Age tools and those who don't. In some instances, this divide is actually widening. A July 1999 report from the Department of Commerce, based on December 1998 Census Department data, revealed that:

- Better educated Americans more likely to be connected. Between 1997 and 1998, the technology divide between those at the highest and lowest education levels increased 25%. In 1998, those with a college degree are more than eight times likely to have a computer at home and nearly sixteen times as likely to have home Internet access as those with an elementary school education.

- The gap between high- and low-income Americans is increasing. In the last year, the divide between those at the highest and lowest income levels grew 29%. Households with incomes of $75,000 or higher are more than twenty times more likely to have access to the Internet than those at the lowest income levels, and more than nine times as likely to have a computer at home.

- Whites more likely to be connected than African-Americans or Hispanics. The digital divide is also persistent and growing along racial and ethnic lines. Whites are more likely to have access to the Internet from home than African-Americans or Hispanics have from any location. African-American and Hispanic households are roughly two-fifths as likely to have home Internet access as white households. The gaps between white and Hispanic households, and between white and African-American households, are now more than six percentage points larger than they were in 1994. However, for incomes of $75,000 and higher, the divide between whites and African-Americans has narrowed considerably in the last year.

- Rural areas less likely to be connected than urban users. Regardless of income level, those living in rural areas are lagging behind in computer ownership and Internet access. At some income levels, those in urban areas are 50% more likely to have Internet access than those earning the same income in rural areas. Low income households in rural areas are the least connected, with connectivity rates in the singles digits for both computers and Internet access.

In addition, data from the National Center for Education Statistics reveals a "digital divide" in our nation's schools. As of the fall of 1998, 39 percent of classrooms of poor schools were connected to the Internet, as compared to 62 percent for wealthier schools.

A STRONG RECORD OF WORKING TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked hard to close the digital divide, and to help create opportunity for more Americans in the Information Age.

- President Clinton and Vice President Gore have set a national goal of ensuring that every child is technologically literate. In addition to preparing children for the high-tech workplace of the 21st century, technology can help change the way teachers teach and students learn. Teachers can communicate more frequently with parents, keep up with the latest developments in their field, and exchange lesson plans with their colleagues. Students can conduct research using primary source material, learn the principles of genetics by breeding virtual fruit flies, and learn astronomy by using a professional telescope located 3,000 miles from their classroom.

As a result of the Clinton-Gore educational technology initiative:

- The number of classrooms connected to the Internet has increased from 3% in 1994 to 51% in 1998.

- The number of schools connected to the Internet has increased from 35% in 1994 to 89% in 1998.

- The "e-rate", part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, is providing $2.25 billion in 20% - 90% discounts to connect schools and libraries to the Internet, with the deepest discounts going to the poorest schools that need it most. The e-rate alone has provided Internet access for children in more than 1 million classrooms.

- Our total investment in educational technology at the federal level (including the e-rate) has increased from $23 million in 1993 to over $3 billion today.

- Grants supported by the Department of Education are training 400,000 new teachers to use technology effectively in the classroom.

In addition, President Clinton and Vice-President Gore have worked to:

- Expand access to technology for people with disabilities: President Clinton and Vice President Gore have been strong supporters of efforts to make technology more accessible for people with disabilities. Recent actions by the Federal Communications Commission will help ensure that telecommunications equipment, such as cellular phones, is designed to be accessible for people with disabilities.

- Expand access to technology in under-served communities: In addition to the Community Technology Center program, HUD Sec. Andrew Cuomo has created approximately 500 Neighborhood Network learning centers that bring state of the art technology to publicly-assisted **housing** across America. HUD's Neighborhood Networks are innovative private/public partnerships that establish computer-based multi-service centers to help people in publicly-assisted **housing** learn critical computer skills and prepare for 21st century jobs.

- Ensure that the Administration makes closing the Digital Divide a top priority. In December, 1999, President Clinton directed members of the Cabinet to take specific actions to address the digital divide: President Clinton is directing members of his Cabinet (Secretaries of Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, **Housing** and Urban Development, and Labor) to take specific steps to close the Digital Divide, including:

- Continuing to measure the nature and extent of the digital divide by examining the importance of income, education, race, gender, geography and age to Americans' access to Information Age tools;

- Expanding the network of Community Technology Centers to provide access to technology for those Americans who can't afford it;

- Promoting applications of the Internet that will empower low-income families, such as the ability to start their own business; and

- Upgrading the IT skills of workers in low-income communities.

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White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 31, 2000

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Missouri

not included

EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Unemployment Down to 2.6%: The unemployment rate in Missouri has declined from 6.2% to 2.6% since 1993.

353,600 New Jobs: 353,600 new jobs have been created in Missouri since 1993 -- an average of 51,746 jobs per year, compared to an average of just 15,800 jobs per year under the previous administration.

302,900 New Private Sector Jobs: Since 1993, 302,900 new private sector jobs have been created -- an average of 44,327 jobs per year, compared to an average of just 11,175 private sector jobs per year in the previous administration.

42,100 New Construction Jobs: 42,100 construction jobs have been created in Missouri since 1993 -- an average of 6,161 jobs per year. In contrast, an average of 1,525 construction jobs were lost each year during the previous administration.

215,000 Have Received a Raise: Approximately 111,000 Missouri workers benefited from an increase in the minimum wage--from $4.25 to $4.75 -- on October 1, 1996. They, along with about 104,000 others received an additional raise--from $4.75 to $5.15 -- on September 1, 1997.

Poverty Has Fallen: Nationally, the poverty rate has fallen from 15.1% in 1993 to 12.7% in 1998. In Missouri, the poverty rate has fallen from 16.1% in 1993 to 10.8% in 1998 -- down 5.3% under President Clinton. [Census Bureau]

A $500 Child Tax Credit to Help Families Raising Children: To help make it easier for families to raise their children, the balanced budget included a $500 per-child tax credit for children under 17. Thanks to President Clinton, the Balanced Budget delivers a child tax credit to 523,000 families in Missouri.

Business Failures Down 5.8%: Business failures have dropped 5.8% per year since 1993, after increasing 26.2% per year during the previous 12 years. [Oct. 98 data]

Home Ownership Has Increased in Missouri: Home Ownership in Missouri has increased from 68.2% to 68.6% since the fourth quarter of 1993.

Home Building Up 3.5%: Home building has increased by an average of 3.5% per year since 1993, after falling over 3.8% per year during the previous administration.

Over $25,000 of Reduced Federal Debt for Every Family of Four: The national debt will be $1.7 trillion lower in FY99 than projected in 1993 -- that's $25,000 less debt for each family of four in Missouri this year.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Over 16,100 Children in Head Start: 16,191 Missouri children were enrolled in Head Start in 1999. In FY00, Missouri will receive $88.3 million in Head Start funding, an increase of $41.9 million over 1993.

More High-Quality Teachers With Smaller Classes for Missouri's Schools: Thanks to the Class Size Reduction Initiative, Missouri received $20.5 million in 1999 to hire about 529 new, well-prepared public school teachers and reduce class size in the early grades. President Clinton secured funding for a second installment of the plan, giving Missouri an additional $22.3 million in 2000.

$8.3 Million in Goals 2000 Funding: This year [FY00], Missouri receives $8.3 million in Goals 2000 funding. This money is used to raise academic achievement by raising academic standards, increasing parental and community involvement in education, expanding the use of computers and technology in classrooms, and supporting high-quality teacher professional development. [Education Department, 12/3/99]

Nearly $7 Million for Technology Literacy: This year [FY00], Missouri receives $6.9 million for the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund which helps communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century.

$136.9 Million for Students Most in Need: Missouri receives $136.9 million in Title I Grants (to Local Educational Agencies) providing extra help in the basics for students most in need, particularly communities and schools with high concentrations of children in low-income families [FY00]. This includes $2.3 million in accountability grants, to help states and school districts turn around the worst performing schools and hold them accountable for results.

$145.5 Million in Pell Grants: This year [FY00], Missouri will receive $145.5 million in Pell Grants for low-income students going to college, benefiting 73,984 Missouri students.

Expanded Work-Study To Help More Students Work Their Way Through College: The FY00 budget includes a significant expansion of the Federal Work Study program. Alabama will receive $18.5 million in Work-Study funding in 2000 to help Missouri students work their way through college.

Nearly 2,000 Have Served in Missouri through AmeriCorps: Since the National Service program began in 1993, 1,849 AmeriCorps participants have earned money for college while working in Missouri's schools, hospitals, neighborhoods or parks. [through 11/98]

Tuition Tax Credits in Balanced Budget Open the Doors of College and

Promote Lifelong Learning: The balanced budget included both President Clinton's $1,500 HOPE Scholarship to help make the first two years of college as universal as a high school diploma and a Lifetime Learning Tax Credit for college juniors, seniors, graduate students and working Americans pursuing lifelong learning to upgrade their skills. This 20% tax credit will be applied to the first $5,000 of tuition and fees through 2002 and to the first $10,000 thereafter. 124,000 students in Missouri will receive a HOPE Scholarship tax credit of up to $1,500. 152,000 students in Missouri will receive the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit. [fully phased-in FY2000 estimate]

Expanded Job Training to Missouri's Dislocated Workers: Thanks to President Clinton, the FY99 budget includes a significant expansion in the dislocated worker program. Missouri will receive $12.8 million in 1999 to help 7,580 of Missouri's dislocated workers get the training and reemployment services they need to return to work as quickly as possible.

FIGHTING CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Violent Crime Falls 19% in Missouri: Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, America has experienced the longest continuous drop in crime on record. Since 1992, violent crime in Missouri has fallen 19% statewide. In Missouri's cities, serious crime, as indicated by the crime index, has fallen 10% in Kansas City, 2% in Springfield and 14% in St. Louis. Between 1992 and 1997, the murder rate in Kansas City has fallen 33% and 34% in Springfield. [1992 and 1997 Uniform Crime Reports]

2,063 More Police: The President's 1994 Crime Bill has funded 2,063 new police officers to date in communities across Missouri. [through 11/99] Reducing Crime with Drug Courts: Working to reduce drug-related crime in Missouri, the Clinton Administration has awarded Drug Court grants to the communities of Benton and St. Louis. The Administration had previously awarded grants to the Missouri communities of Kansas City and Jefferson City. Drug courts use the coercive power of the criminal justice system to combine drug testing, sanctions, supervision and treatment to push nonviolent, drug-abusing offenders to stop using drugs and committing crimes.

Nearly $3 Million to Combat Domestic Violence: Through the Violence Against Women Act, Missouri received $2.9 million in federal funds in FY98 to establish more women's shelters and bolster law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services.

Nearly $1.2 million in Grants for Battered Women: In FY99, Missouri received nearly $1.2 million in HHS's Family Violence Prevention Program grants to assist women and children fleeing domestic abuse.

$7.9 Million to Keep Drugs & Violence Out of Missouri's Schools: Missouri receives $7.9 million in FY00 for the Safe & Drug Free Schools Program, which invests in school security and drug prevention programs.

MOVING MISSOURI RESIDENTS FROM WELFARE TO WORK

133,058 Fewer People on Welfare: There are 133,058 fewer people on welfare in Missouri now than there were at the beginning of 1993 -- a 51% decrease. [through 6/99]

Child Support Collections Up 72%: Child support collections have increased by over $120 million -- or 72% -- in Missouri since FY92. [through FY98] Encouraging Responsible Choices - Preventing Teen Pregnancy in Missouri: Since 1993, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have supported innovative and promising teen pregnancy prevention strategies, with significant components of the strategy becoming law in the 1996 Personal Responsibility Act. The law requires unmarried minor parents to stay in school and live at home or in a supervised setting; encourages "second chance homes" to provide teen parents with the skills and support they need; and provides $50 million a year in new funding for state abstinence education activities. Efforts are making a difference, adolescent pregnancy rates and teen abortion rates are declining. And between 1991 and 1997, teen birth rates declined 20.2% in Missouri.

$94.7 Million for Missouri Welfare-to-Work: In 1998 and 1999, Missouri received a total of $56.6 million in Federal welfare-to-work state formula grants (the state matched $28.3 million in funding), helping Missouri welfare recipients get and keep jobs. In 1998 and 1999, a total of $9.8 million in competitive grants were awarded to Missouri localities to support innovative welfare-to-work strategies. Part of the President's comprehensive efforts to move recipients from welfare to work, this funding was included in the $3 billion welfare to work fund in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Helping People Get to Work: Through the Access to Jobs initiative, the Clinton-Gore Administration is working with communities across the country to design transportation solutions to help welfare recipients and other low-income workers get to and from work. Statewide, Missouri has received $939,813 this year to fund innovative transit projects. In addition to this funding, Kansas City, St. Louis, and Springfield have received a total of $1.56 million for these transportation projects.

INVESTING IN MISSOURI'S HEALTH

Health Care for Nearly 50,000 Uninsured Missouri Children: In 1997, President Clinton passed the largest single investment in health care for children since 1965 -- an unprecedented $24 billion over five years to cover as many as five million children throughout the nation. This investment guarantees the full range of benefits that children need to grow up strong and healthy. Two million children nationwide have health care coverage thanks to the President's plan, including 49,529 in Missouri. [HHS, Health Care Financing Administration, FY99 SCHIP enrollment data]

Helping Nearly 126,500 Missouri Women and Children with WIC: The Clinton Administration is committed to full funding in the Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). In FY99, Missouri received $68.5 million in total WIC grant funding, helping 126,480 women, infants and children in need receive health and food assistance, 7,200 more than in 1994. [through 8/99]

More Toddlers Are Being Immunized: As a result of the President's 1993 Childhood Immunization Initiative, childhood immunization rates have reached an historic high. According to the CDC, 90% or more of America's toddlers received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines in 1996, 1997, and again in 1998 --surpassing the President's 1993 goal. In Missouri in 1998, 98% of two-year olds received the vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis; 97% received the vaccine for polio; 93% received the vaccine for measles, and 97% received the vaccine for Haemophilus influenzae B, the bacteria causing a form of meningitis.

Increased Funding for Ryan White by $59.6 Million: Between 1993 and 1998, Missouri communities received $59.6 million in Ryan White formula and other HIV/AIDS program funds. This funding provides people living with HIV and AIDS medical and support services, including the AIDS Drug Assistance Program which helps those without insurance obtain much needed prescription drugs. [HHS, Health Resources and Services

Administration, 12/98]

Tobacco Plan Will Cut Smoking and Premature Deaths by 45% in Missouri: The Clinton Administration's tobacco proposal, combined with the recently enacted state tobacco settlements, will cut youth smoking and resulting premature deaths 45% in Missouri by 2004. Between 2000 and 2004, 78,200 of Missouri's youth will be kept from smoking and 25,000 will be spared a premature tobacco-related death. [Treasury Dept., 2/99]

2,360,000 Americans in Missouri Cannot Be Assured They Have Patient Protections: Even if Missouri enacted all the protections in the Patients' Bill of Rights, 2,360,000 people in Missouri cannot be assured they have the comprehensive patient protections recommended by the President's Advisory Commission. This is because the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) may preempt state-enacted protections. That is why the President has called on Congress to pass a federally enforceable patients' bill of rights so that everyone enrolled in managed care may have a basic set of protections. Notably, 1,160,000 Missouri women are in ERISA health plans and are therefore not necessarily protected. Women are particularly vulnerable without these protections because they are greater users of health care services, they make three-quarters of the health care decisions for their families, and they have specific health care needs addressed by a patients' bill of rights.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

10 Toxic Waste Sites Cleaned Up: Since 1993, the EPA has completed 10 Superfund toxic waste cleanups in Missouri. The sites are located in Ballwin, Imperial, Moscow Mills, Times Beach, Cape Girardeau, Liberty, Springfield, Republic, Verona, and Amazonia [through FY98]. This is five times the number of sites cleaned up during the previous twelve years combined.

$11.7 Million in Safe Drinking Water Funding: This year [FY99], thanks to President Clinton, Missouri will receive $10 million for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to provide low-interest loans to municipalities to build, improve, and prevent pollution of drinking water systems. In addition, Missouri will receive $1.7 million in Public Water Supply Supervision grants to help monitor drinking water quality and enforce health standards.

Revitalizing Brownfields in Missouri: As part of the Clinton-Gore Administration's efforts to clean up Brownfields, the EPA has awarded grants to communities in Missouri--Kansas City, St. Louis, Wellston, and Bonne Terre--for environmental clean-up and economic revitalization. These projects are intended to jump-start local clean-up efforts by providing funds to return unproductive, abandoned, contaminated urban properties to productive use.

SPEARHEADING URBAN AND RURAL RENEWAL EFFORTS

Revitalizing Missouri's Communities: The Greater Kansas City area was designated an Enterprise Community in December, 1994, and was awarded $3 million to create more jobs, **housing**, and economic opportunity for city residents. It was later declared an Enhanced Enterprise Community and awarded an additional $25 million for similar efforts. Additionally, East Prairie and St. Louis were both designated Enterprise Communities, and were awarded $3 million each to create economic opportunity for area residents. In 1999, St. Louis was designated a New Urban Empowerment Zone and Kansas City was named a Strategic Planning Community.

Expanding the Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit Will Help Develop 3,900 To

4,700 New Affordable **Housing** Units in Missouri Over the Next 5 Years: Last year, the President and Vice President pushed for a 40-percent expansion in the Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit. This year, the President and Vice President will try again to enact tax incentives to develop affordable **housing**. In Missouri alone, this proposal would mean an additional 3,900 - 4,700 quality rental **housing** units for low-income American families during the next five years.

PROVIDING DISASTER RELIEF

Over $319 Million in Federal Emergency Assistance: Since 1993, Missouri has received $319 million in disaster relief. [FEMA, 12/98]

EXPANDING FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT

Over $2.5 Billion in Federal Highway Aid: Since 1993, Missouri has received over $2.5 billion in federal highway aid. Included in this funding is $83 million for emergency relief in response to natural disasters. These funds have helped generate 108,248 jobs. [through FY98]

Over $215 Million in Aviation Funds: From FY93-FY98 Missouri received over $215 million in Airport Improvement Program funds to help build and renovate airports, and, when necessary, to provide funds for noise abatement to improve the quality of life for residents who live near airports.

Over $443 Million in Transit Funds: Missouri has received over $443 million in FTA funds since 1993.

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White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 31, 2000

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE'S
ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Iowa not included

EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Unemployment Down to 2.1%: The unemployment rate in Iowa has declined from 4.2% to 2.1% since 1993.

231,200 New Jobs: 231,200 new jobs have been created in Iowa since 1993 -- an average of 33,834 jobs per year, compared to an average of just 20,025 jobs per year during the previous administration.

211,700 New Private Sector Jobs: Since 1993, 211,700 new private sector jobs have been created in Iowa--an average of 30,980 jobs per year, compared to an average of just 17,825 private sector jobs per year in the previous administration.

32,400 New Manufacturing Jobs: 32,400 manufacturing jobs have been created in Iowa since 1993 -- an average of 4,741 jobs per year. In contrast, an average of only 425 manufacturing jobs were created each year during the previous administration.

18,700 New Construction Jobs: 18,700 construction jobs have been created in Iowa since 1993 -- an average of 2,737 jobs per year. In contrast, an average of only 1,800 construction jobs were created each year during the previous administration.

64,000 Have Received a Raise: Approximately 6,000 Iowa workers benefited from an increase in the minimum wage--from $4.25 to $4.75 -- October 1, 1996. They, along with about 58,000 more, received an additional raise-- from $4.75 to $5.15 -- on Sept. 1, 1997.

Business Failures Down 18.6% Per Year: Business failures in Iowa have dropped an average of 18.6% per year since 1993, after increasing 18% per year during the previous 12 years [Oct. 98 data].

A $500 Child Tax Credit to Help Families Raising Children: To help make it easier for families to raise their children, the balanced budget included a $500 per-child tax credit for children under 17. Thanks to President Clinton, the balanced budget delivers a child tax credit to 312,000 families in Iowa.

Home Ownership Has Increased in Iowa: Home ownership in Iowa has increased from 69.2% to 72.7% since the fourth quarter of 1993.

Over $25,000 of Reduced Federal Debt for Every Family of Four: The national debt will be $1.7 trillion lower in FY99 than projected in 1993 -- that's $25,000 less debt for each family of four in Iowa this year.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Over 7,000 Children in Head Start: 7,010 Iowa children were enrolled in Head Start in 1999. In FY00, Iowa will receive $39.7 million in Head Start funding, an increase of $19.5 million over 1993.

More High-Quality Teachers With Smaller Classes for Iowa's Schools: Thanks to the Class Size Reduction Initiative, Iowa received $9.4 million in 1999 to hire about 243 new, well-prepared public school teachers and reduce class size in the early grades. President Clinton secured funding for a second installment of the plan, giving Iowa an additional $10.2 million in 2000.

Nearly $4 Million in Goals 2000 Funding: This year [FY00], Iowa receives $3.9 million in Goals 2000 funding. This money is used to raise academic achievement by raising academic standards, increasing parental and community involvement in education, expanding the use of computers and technology in classrooms, and supporting high-quality teacher professional development. [Education Department, 12/3/99]

$2.7 Million for Technology Literacy: This year [FY00], Iowa receives $2.7 million for the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund which helps communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century.

$54.2 Million for Students Most in Need: Iowa will receive $54.2 million in Title I Grants (to Local Educational Agencies) providing extra help in the basics for students most in need, particularly communities and schools with high concentrations of children in low-income families [FY00]. This includes over $925,000 in accountability grants, to help states and school districts turn around the worst performing schools and hold them accountable for results.

$87 Million in Pell Grants: This year [FY00], Iowa will receive $87 million in Pell Grants for low-income students going to college, benefiting 45,678 Iowa students.

Expanded Work-Study To Help More Students Work Their Way Through College: The FY00 budget includes a significant expansion of the Federal Work Study program. Iowa will receive $12.4 million in Work-Study funding in 2000 to help Iowa students work their way through college.

Over 800 Have Served in Iowa through AmeriCorps: Since the National Service program began in 1993, 846 AmeriCorps participants have earned money for college while working in Iowa's schools, hospitals, neighborhoods or parks. [through 11/98]

Tuition Tax Credits in Balanced Budget Open the Doors of College and Promote Lifelong Learning: The balanced budget included both President Clinton's $1,500 HOPE Scholarship to help make the first two years of college as universal as a high school diploma and a Lifetime Learning Tax Credit for college juniors, seniors, graduate students and working

Americans pursuing lifelong learning to upgrade their skills. This 20% tax credit will be applied to the first $5,000 of tuition and fees through 2002 and to the first $10,000 thereafter. 67,000 students in Iowa will receive a HOPE Scholarship tax credit of up to $1,500. 82,000 students in Iowa will receive the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit. [fully phased-in FY2000 estimate]

Expanded Job Training to Iowa's Dislocated Workers: Thanks to President Clinton, the FY99 budget includes a significant expansion in the dislocated worker program. Iowa will receive $5.4 million in 1999 to help 3,200 of Iowa's dislocated workers get the training and reemployment services they need to return to work as quickly as possible.

FIGHTING CRIME AND VIOLENCE

670 More Police: The President's 1994 Crime Bill has funded 670 new police officers to date in communities across Iowa. [through 11/99]

Reducing Crime with Drug Courts: Working to reduce drug-related crime in Iowa, the Clinton Administration has awarded a Drug Court grant to the community of Des Moines. The Administration had previously awarded a grant to the Iowa community of Council Bluffs. Drug courts use the coercive power of the criminal justice system to combine drug testing, sanctions, supervision and treatment to push nonviolent, drug-abusing offenders to stop using drugs and committing crimes.

Over $2 Million to Combat Domestic Violence: Through the Violence Against Women Act, Iowa received $2.4 million in federal funds in FY98 to establish more women's shelters and bolster law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services.

Over $624,000 in Grants for Battered Women and Children: In FY99, Iowa received over $624,000 in HHS's Family Violence Prevention Program grants to assist women and children fleeing domestic abuse.

$3.6 Million to Keep Drugs & Violence Out of Iowa's Schools: Iowa receives $3.6 million in FY00 for the Safe & Drug Free Schools Program, which invests in school security and drug prevention programs.

MOVING IOWANS FROM WELFARE TO WORK

43,587 Fewer People on Welfare: There are 43,587 fewer people on welfare in Iowa now than there were at the beginning of 1993 -- a 43% decrease. [through 6/99]

Child Support Collections Up 94%: Child support collections have increased by $90 million' or 94% -- in Iowa since FY92. [through FY98]

Encouraging Responsible Choices' Preventing Teen Pregnancy in Iowa: Since 1993, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have supported innovative and promising teen pregnancy prevention strategies, with significant components of the strategy becoming law in the 1996 Personal Responsibility Act. The law requires unmarried minor parents to stay in school and live at home or in a supervised setting; encourages "second chance homes" to provide teen parents with the skills and support they need; and provides $50 million a year in new funding for state abstinence education activities. Efforts are making a difference, adolescent pregnancy rates and teen abortion rates are declining. And between 1991 and 1997, teen birth rates declined 16.2% in Iowa.

$26.3 Million for Iowa Welfare-to-Work: In 1998 and 1999, Iowa received $16.1 million in Federal welfare-to-work state formula grants (the state matched $8.1 million in funding), helping Iowa welfare recipients get and keep jobs. In addition, $2.1 million in competitive grants were awarded to Iowa localities to support innovative welfare-to-work strategies. Part of the President's comprehensive efforts to move recipients from welfare to work, this funding was included in the $3 billion welfare to work fund in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Helping People Get to Work: Through the Access to Jobs initiative, the Clinton-Gore Administration is working with communities across the country to design transportation solutions to help welfare recipients and other low-income workers get to and from work. Des Moines, Waterloo, Sioux City, and Cedar Rapids have received a total of $996,800 this year to fund innovative transit projects.

INVESTING IN IOWA'S HEALTH

Health Care for Nearly 10,000 Uninsured Iowa Children: In 1997, President Clinton passed the largest single investment in health care for children since 1965 -- an unprecedented $24 billion over five years to cover as many as five million children throughout the nation. This investment guarantees the full range of benefits that children need to grow up strong and healthy. Two million children nationwide have health care coverage thanks to the President's plan, including 9,795 in Iowa. [HHS, Health Care Financing Administration, FY99 SCHIP enrollment data]

Helping Over 64,000 Iowa Women and Children with WIC: The Clinton Administration is committed to full funding in the Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). In FY99, Iowa received $34.4 million in total WIC grant funding, helping 64,182 women, infants and children in need receive health and food assistance, 6,000 more than in 1994. [through 8/99]

More Toddlers Are Being Immunized: As a result of the President's 1993 Childhood Immunization Initiative, childhood immunization rates have reached an historic high. According to the CDC, 90% or more of America's toddlers received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines in 1996, 1997, and again in 1998 --surpassing the President's 1993 goal. In Iowa in 1998, 95% of two-year olds received the vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis; 92% received the vaccine for polio; 92% received the vaccine for measles, and 94% received the vaccine for Haemophilus influenzae B, the bacteria causing a form of meningitis.

Increased Funding for Ryan White by $6.0 Million: Between 1993 and 1998, Iowa communities received $6.0 million in Ryan White formula and other HIV/AIDS program funds. This funding provides people living with HIV and AIDS medical and support services, including the AIDS Drug Assistance Program which helps those without insurance obtain much needed prescription drugs. [HHS, Health Resources and Services Administration, 12/98]

Tobacco Plan Will Cut Smoking and Premature Deaths by 40% in Iowa: The Clinton Administration's tobacco proposal, combined with the recently enacted state tobacco settlements, will cut youth smoking and resulting premature deaths 40% in Iowa by 2004. Between 2000 and 2004, 31,500 of Iowa's youth will be kept from smoking and 10,100 will be spared a premature tobacco-related death. [Treasury Dept., 2/99]

1,420,000 Americans in Iowa Cannot Be Assured They Have Patient Protections: Even if Iowa enacted all the protections in the Patients' Bill of Rights, 1,420,000 people in Iowa cannot be assured they have the comprehensive patient protections recommended by the President's Advisory Commission. This is because the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) may preempt state-enacted protections. That is why the President has called on Congress to pass a federally enforceable patients' bill of rights so that everyone enrolled in managed care may have a basic set of protections. Notably, 700,000 Iowa women are in ERISA health plans and are therefore not necessarily protected. Women are particularly vulnerable without these protections because they are greater users of health care services, they make three-quarters of the health care decisions for their families, and they have specific health care needs addressed by a patients' bill of rights.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

8 Toxic Waste Sites Cleaned Up: Since 1993, the EPA has completed 8 Superfund toxic waste cleanups in Iowa. The sites are located in Des Moines, Hospers, West Point, Fairfield, Mason City, Maurice, Kellogg, and Charles City [through 6/99]. This is double the number of sites cleaned up during the previous two administrations combined.

$13 Million in Safe Drinking Water Funding: This year [FY99], thanks to President Clinton, Iowa will receive $11.7 million for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to provide low-interest loans to municipalities to build, improve, and prevent pollution of drinking water systems. In addition, Iowa will receive $1.2 million in Public Water Supply Supervision grants to help monitor drinking water quality and enforce health standards. Revitalizing Brownfields in Iowa: As part of the Clinton-Gore Administration's efforts to clean up Brownfields, the EPA has awarded grants to the Iowa communities of Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, and Coralville for environmental clean-up and economic revitalization. This project is intended to jump-start local clean-up efforts by providing funds to return unproductive, abandoned, contaminated urban properties to productive use.

SPEARHEADING URBAN RENEWAL EFFORTS

Revitalizing Iowa's Communities: Des Moines was designated an Enterprise Community in December, 1994 and was awarded $3 million to create more jobs, **housing**, and economic opportunity for city residents.

Expanding the Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit Will Help Develop 1,700 To 2,000 New Affordable **Housing** Units in Iowa Over the Next 5 Years: Last year, the President and Vice President pushed for a 40-percent expansion in the Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit. This year, the President and Vice President will try again to enact tax incentives to develop affordable **housing**. In Iowa alone, this proposal would mean an additional 1,700 - 2,000 quality rental **housing** units for low-income American families during the next five years.

PROVIDING DISASTER RELIEF

$298 Million in Federal Emergency Assistance: Since 1993, Iowa has received $298 million in disaster relief. This includes $31.2 million in assistance to those suffering from severe storms, flooding and tornadoes in 1998. [FEMA, 12/98]

EXPANDING FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT

Over $1.3 Billion in Federal Highway Aid: Since 1993, Iowa has received over $1.3 billion in federal highway aid. Included in this funding is $28.2 million for emergency relief in response to natural disasters and $452,824 for scenic byways. These funds have helped generate 56,930 jobs. [through FY98]

Over $124 Million in Aviation Funds: From FY93-FY98 Iowa received $124,620,000 in AIP funds to help build and renovate airports, and, when necessary, to provide funds for noise abatement to improve the quality of life for residents who live near airports.

Over $124 Million in Transit Funds: Iowa has received over $124 million in FTA funds since 1993.

Saving Lives and Property: In 1997 the United States Coast Guard saved 25 lives and $15.6 million of property in Iowa.

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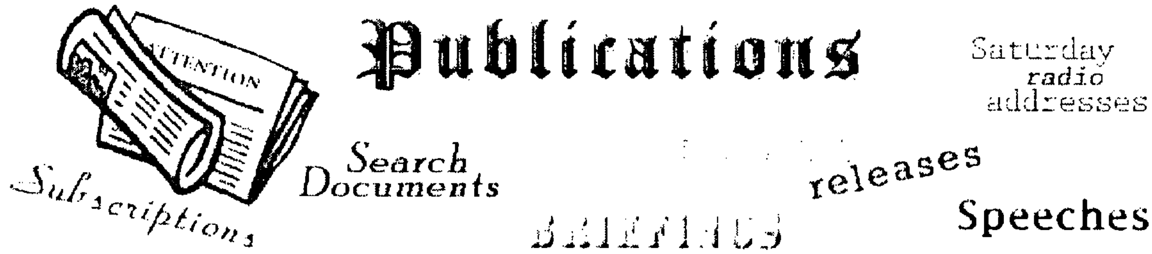

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 31, 2000

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE'S
ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Illinois not included

EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Unemployment Down to 4.2%: The unemployment rate in Illinois has declined from 7.2% to 4.2% since 1993.
702,300 New Jobs: 702,300 new jobs have been created in Illinois since 1993 -- an average of 102,776 jobs per year, compared to an average of just 26,800 jobs per year in the previous administration.
659,200 New Private Sector Jobs: Since 1993, 659,200 new private sector jobs have been created in Illinois-- an average of 96,468 jobs per year, compared to an average of just 18,700 private sector jobs per year in the previous administration.
38,200 New Manufacturing Jobs: 38,200 new manufacturing jobs have been created in Illinois since 1993 -- an average of 5,590 jobs per year. In contrast, an average of 12,900 jobs were lost each year under the previous administration.
50,600 New Construction Jobs: 50,600 construction jobs have been created in Illinois since 1993 -- an average of 7,405 jobs per year. In contrast, an average of 2,725 construction jobs were lost each year during the previous administration.
430,000 Have Received a Raise: Approximately 158,000 Illinois workers benefited from an increase in the minimum wage--from $4.25 to $4.75 -- on October 1, 1996. They, along with about 272,000 more, received an additional raise--from $4.75 to $5.15 -- on September 1, 1997.
Home Ownership Has Increased in Illinois: Home ownership in Illinois has increased from 62.5% to 67.8% since the fourth quarter of 1993.
Home Building Up 4.1%: Home building in Illinois has increased by an average of 4.1% per year since 1993, after decreasing over 4.8% per year during the previous administration.
Poverty Has Fallen: Nationally, the poverty rate has fallen from 15.1% in 1993 to 12.7% in 1998. In Illinois, the poverty rate has fallen from 13.6% in 1993 to 10.6% in 1997--down 3% under President Clinton. [Census Bureau]
A $500 Child Tax Credit to Help Families Raising Children: To help make it easier for families to raise their children, the balanced budget included a $500 per-child tax credit for children under 17. Thanks to President Clinton, the balanced budget delivers a child tax credit to

1,163,000 families in Illinois.

Over $25,000 of Reduced Federal Debt for Every Family of Four: The national debt will be $1.7 trillion lower in FY99 than projected in 1993 -- that's $25,000 less debt for each family of four in Illinois this year.

5.6% Growth in Total Bank Loans and Leases: Illinois has seen a 5.6% average growth rate in total bank loans and leases per year since 1993. In contrast total bank loans and leases fell over 3.1% during the previous administration.

6.3% Growth in Commercial and Industrial Loans and Leases: Since 1993, Illinois has experienced a 6.3% annual growth rate in commercial and industrial loans and leases. In contrast, commercial and industrial loans and leases fell over 7.0% during the previous administration.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Over 35,200 Children in Head Start: 35,211 Illinois children were enrolled in Head Start in 1999. In FY00, Illinois will receive $214.1 million in Head Start funding, an increase of $95.7 million over 1993.

More High-Quality Teachers With Smaller Classes for Illinois' Schools: Thanks to the Class Size Reduction Initiative, Illinois received $50.1 million in 1999 to hire about 1,289 new, well-prepared public school teachers and reduce class size in the early grades. President Clinton secured funding for a second installment of the plan, giving Illinois an additional $54.3 million in 2000.

$19.4 Million in Goals 2000 Funding: This year [FY00], Illinois receives $19.4 million in Goals 2000 funding. This money is used to raise academic achievement by raising academic standards, increasing parental and community involvement in education, expanding the use of computers and technology in classrooms, and supporting high-quality teacher professional development. [Education Department, 12/3/99]

$17.3 Million for Technology Literacy: This year [FY00], Illinois receives over $17.3 million for the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund which helps communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century.

$332.9 Million for Students Most in Need: Illinois will receive $332.9 million in Title I Grants (to Local Educational Agencies) providing extra help in the basics for students most in need, particularly communities and schools with high concentrations of children in low-income families [FY00]. This includes $5.6 million in accountability grants, to help states and school districts turn around the worst performing schools and hold them accountable for results.

$290.2 Million in Pell Grants: This year [FY00], Illinois will receive $290.2 million in Pell Grants for low-income students going to college, benefiting 142,600 Illinois students.

Expanded Work-Study To Help More Students Work Their Way Through College: The FY00 budget includes a significant expansion of the Federal Work Study program. Illinois will receive $44.5 million in Work-Study funding in 2000 to help Illinois students work their way through college.

Nearly 3,700 Have Served in Illinois through AmeriCorps: Since the National Service program began in 1993, 3,685 AmeriCorps participants have earned money for college while working in Illinois's schools, hospitals, neighborhoods or parks. [through 11/98]

Tuition Tax Credits in Balanced Budget Open the Doors of College and Promote Lifelong Learning: The balanced budget included both President Clinton's $1,500 HOPE Scholarship to help make the first two years of college as universal as a high school diploma and a Lifetime Learning Tax Credit for college juniors, seniors, graduate students and working

Americans pursuing lifelong learning to upgrade their skills. This 20%

tax credit will be applied to the first $5,000 of tuition and fees through 2002 and to the first $10,000 thereafter. 296,000 students in Illinois will receive a HOPE Scholarship tax credit of up to $1,500. 363,000 students in Illinois will receive the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit. [fully phased-in FY2000 estimate]

Expanded Job Training to Illinois' Dislocated Workers: Thanks to President Clinton, the FY99 budget includes a significant expansion in the dislocated worker program. Illinois will receive $39.7 million in 1999 to help 23,530 of Illinois' dislocated workers get the training and reemployment services they need to return to work as quickly as possible.

FIGHTING CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Crime Falls 9% in Illinois: Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, America has experienced the longest continuous drop in crime on record. Since 1992, serious crime in Illinois has fallen by 9%. Violent crime and property crime have also declined 10% and 9% respectively. In Illinois' cities, robbery has fallen 34% in Chicago and 28% in Springfield. Murder has fallen by 19% in Chicago. [1992 and 1997 Uniform Crime Reports]

Juvenile Arrests Down in Illinois: Illinois's juvenile property crime arrests have decreased 45% between 1992 and 1997. [FBI, Uniform Crime Report, 1992 and 1997]

5,333 More Police: The President's 1994 Crime Bill has funded 5,333 new police officers to date in communities across Illinois. [through 11/99]

Chicago Will Receive Targeted Funding to Hire More Community Police: Chicago was selected as a pilot city for the President's new effort to target high crime neighborhoods. The pilot program will provide full funding for new officers by waiving the usual matching requirements. Chicago will deploy new officers to help meet the unique needs of its community, such as combating gangs or targeting drug "Hot spots."

Reducing Crime with Drug Courts: Working to reduce drug-related crime in Illinois, the Clinton Administration has awarded Drug Court grants to the communities of Night, Kankakee, Peoria, Rockford, Chicago, and Cook County. The Administration had previously awarded grants to a number of Illinois communities including: Decatur, Joliet, Wheaton, Bloomington, St. Charles, Markham and Woodstock. Drug courts use the coercive power of the criminal justice system to combine drug testing, sanctions, supervision and treatment to push nonviolent, drug-abusing offenders to stop using drugs and committing crimes.

Over $8.5 Million to Combat Domestic Violence: Through the Violence Against Women Act, Illinois received $8.56 million in federal funds in FY98 to establish more women's shelters and bolster law enforcement, prosecution and victims' services.

Nearly $2.6 Million in Grants for Battered Women: In FY99, Illinois received nearly $2.6 million in HHS's Family Violence Prevention Program grants to assist women and children fleeing domestic abuse

$18.4 Million to Keep Drugs & Violence Out of Illinois Schools: Illinois receives $18.4 million in FY00 for the Safe & Drug Free Schools Program, which invests in school security and drug prevention programs.

MOVING ILLINOIS RESIDENTS FROM WELFARE TO WORK

344,320 Fewer People on Welfare: There are 341,188 fewer people on welfare in Illinois now than there were at the beginning of 1993 -- a 50% decrease. [through 6/99]

Child Support Collections Up 62%: Child support collections have been increased by over $114 million--or nearly 62% -- in Illinois since FY92. [through FY98]

Encouraging Responsible Choices--Preventing Teen Pregnancy in Illinois:

Since 1993, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have supported innovative and promising teen pregnancy prevention strategies, with significant components of the strategy becoming law in the 1996 Personal Responsibility Act. The law requires unmarried minor parents to stay in school and live at home or in a supervised setting; encourages "second chance homest" to provide teen parents with the skills and support they need; and provides $50 million a year in new funding for state abstinence education activities. Efforts are making a difference, adolescent pregnancy rates and teen abortion rates are declining. And between 1991 and 1997 teen birth rates declined 15.6% in Illinois.

$103.4 Million for Illinois Welfare-to-Work: In 1998, Illinois received $48.7 million in Federal welfare-to-work state formula grants (the state matched $24.3 million in funding), helping Illinois welfare recipients get and keep jobs. In addition, in 1999 and 1998 a total of $30.4 million in competitive grants were awarded to Illinois localities to support innovative welfare-to-work strategies. Part of the President's comprehensive efforts to move recipients from welfare to work, this funding was included in the $3 billion welfare to work fund in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Helping People Get to Work: Through the Access to Jobs initiative, the Clinton-Gore Administration is working with communities across the country to design transportation solutions to help welfare recipients and other low-income workers get to and from work. Chicago, Dupage County, and Rosiclare have received a total of $2.3 million this year to fund innovative transit projects.

INVESTING IN ILLINOIS'S HEALTH

Health Care for Nearly 43,000 Uninsured Illinois Children: In 1997, President Clinton passed the largest single investment in health care for children since 1965 -- an unprecedented $24 billion over five years to cover as many as five million children throughout the nation. This investment guarantees the full range of benefits that children need to grow up strong and healthy. Two million children nationwide have health care coverage thanks to the President's plan, including 42,699 in Illinois. [HHS, Health Care Financing Administration, FY99 SCHIP enrollment data]

Helping Over 240,000 Illinois Women and Children with WIC: The Clinton Administration is committed to full funding in the Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). In FY99, Illinois received $145.1 million in total WIC grant funding, helping 240,789 women, infants and children in need receive health and food assistance, 14,900 more than in 1994. [through 8/99]

More Toddlers Are Being Immunized: As a result of the President's 1993 Childhood Immunization Initiative, childhood immunization rates have reached an historic high. According to the CDC, 90% or more of America's toddlers received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines in 1996, 1997, and again in 1998 - surpassing the President's 1993 goal. In Illinois in 1998, 94% of two-year olds received the vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis; 91% received the vaccine for polio; 91% received the vaccine for measles, and 93% received the vaccine for Haemophilus influenzae B, the bacteria causing a form of meningitis.

Increased Funding for Ryan White by $149.4 Million Between 1993 and 1998, Illinois communities received $149.4 million in Ryan White formula and other HIV/AIDS program funds. This funding provides people living with HIV and AIDS medical and support services, including the AIDS Drug Assistance Program which helps those without insurance obtain much needed prescription drugs. [HHS, Health Resources and Services Administration, 12/98]

Tobacco Plan Will Cut Smoking and Premature Deaths by 41% in Illinois: The Clinton Administration's tobacco proposal, combined with the recently enacted state tobacco settlements, will cut youth smoking and resulting premature deaths 41% in Illinois by 2004. Between 2000 and 2004, 156,700 of Illinois's youth will be kept from smoking and 50,100 will be spared a premature tobacco-related death. [Treasury Dept., 2/99]

6,220,000 Americans in Illinois Cannot Be Assured They Have Patient Protections: Even if Illinois enacted all the protections in the Patients' Bill of Rights, 6,220,000 people in Illinois cannot be assured they have the comprehensive patient protections recommended by the President's Advisory Commission. This is because the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) may preempt state-enacted protections. That is why the President has called on Congress to pass a federally enforceable patients' bill of rights so that everyone enrolled in managed care may have a basic set of protections. Notably, 3,120,000 Illinois women are in ERISA health plans and are therefore not necessarily protected. Women are particularly vulnerable without these protections because they are greater users of health care services, they make three-quarters of the health care decisions for their families, and they have specific health care needs addressed by a patients' bill of rights.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

8 Toxic Waste Sites Cleaned Up: Since 1993, the EPA has completed 8 Superfund toxic waste cleanups in Illinois. The sites are located in Taylorville, Pembroke Township, Winnebago, LaSalle, Quincy, Marshall, Warrenville and Wauconda [through 6/99]. This is twice the number of sites cleaned up in Illinois during the previous two administrations combined.

$28.7 Million in Safe Drinking Water Funding: This year [FY99], thanks to President Clinton, Illinois will receive $25.9 million for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to provide low-interest loans to municipalities to build, improve, and prevent pollution of drinking water systems. In addition, Illinois will receive $2.8 million in Public Water Supply Supervisiongrants to help monitor drinking water quality and enforce health standards.

Revitalizing Brownfields in Illinois: As part of the Clinton-Gore Administration's efforts to clean up Brownfields, the EPA has awarded grants to counties and communities in Illinois --Cicago, East St. Louis, Calumet City, Canton, East Moline, Waukegan, and Cook County -- for environmental clean-up and economic revitalization. In addition, Brownfields grants will go to West Central Municipal Conference and the State of Illinois, which will select sites for further action. These projects are intended to jump-start local clean-up efforts by providing funds to return unproductive, abandoned, contaminated urban properties to productive use.

SPEARHEADING URBAN RENEWAL EFFORTS

Revitalizing Illinois' Communities: Chicago was designated an Empowerment Zone in December 1994 and was awarded $100 million to create more jobs, **housing**, and economic opportunity for city residents. As part of this project, First Chicago has initiated a $100,000 pilot program to help 75 to 100 qualified families buy their first homes. Additionally, East St. Louis and Springfield were both designated Enterprise Communities, and were awarded $3 million each for similar job creation efforts. In 1999, East St. Louis was designated a New Urban Empowerment Zone and Ullin was named a New Rural Empowerment Zone.

Expanding the Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit Will Help Develop 5,800 To 7,000 New Affordable **Housing** Units in Illinois Over the Next 5 Years: Last year, the President and Vice President pushed for a 40-percent expansion in the Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit. This year, the

President and Vice President will try again to enact tax incentives to develop affordable **housing**. In Illinois alone, this proposal would mean an additional 5,800 - 7,000 quality rental **housing** units for low-income American families during the next five years.

PROVIDING DISASTER RELIEF

$609 Million in Federal Emergency Assistance: Since 1993, Illinois has received $609 million in disaster relief. [FEMA, 12/98]

EXPANDING FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT

Over $4 Billion in Federal Highway Aid: Since 1993, Illinois has received over $4 billion in federal highway aid. Included in this funding is $41.7 million for emergency relief in response to ntural disasters and $596,800 for scenic byways. These funds have helped generate 174,578 jobs. [through FY98]

Over $490 Million in Aviation Funds: From FY93-FY98 Illinois received over $490 million in Airport Improvement Program funds to help build and renovate airports, and, when necessary, to provide funds for noise abatement to improve the quality of life for residents who live near airports.

Approximately $1.8 Billion in Transit Funds: Since 1993, Illinois has received approximately $1.8 billion in Federal Transit Funding. Major projects include: $77 million to Metra (the commuter rail division of the Northeaster Illinois Regional Transportation Authority) for the North Central Commuter Rail project. This project, the first new commuter rail service in the Chicago area since the 1920s, opened on August 18, 1996; a $2.8 million Livable Communities grant to the CTA approved in May 1995 to assist in the rehabilitation of the Tech/35th Street station on the CTA's Green Line. The station is located in Chicago's Empowerment Zone.

Saving Lives and Property: In 1997 the United States Coast Guard saved 14 lives and over $6.7 million in property in Illinois.

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White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 19, 2000

THE PRESIDENT TRIPLES HIS LONG-TERM CARE TAX CREDIT AND
URGES CONGRESS TO PASS A LONG-TERM CARE INITIATIVE IN 2000
January 19, 2000

Today, the Clinton Administration confirmed that the President's budget will include a $3,000 tax credit for people with long-term care needs or their caregivers -- tripling the credit over last year's proposal and increasing the total investment in long-term care to $28 billion over 10 years. This credit is the centerpiece of the President's historic long-term care initiative that has won praise from senior groups and health policy experts. The initiative tackles the complex problem of long-term care that affects millions of elderly, people with disabilities and families who care people in need. In addition to the (1) tax credit, the initiative will (2) provide funding for services which support family caregivers of older persons; (3) improve equity in Medicaid eligibility for people in home- and community-based settings; (4) encourage partnerships between low-income **housing** for the elderly and Medicaid; and (5) encourage the purchase of quality private long-term care insurance by Federal employees. This initiative complements the Administration's effort, spearheaded by the Vice President, to improve the quality of care in nursing homes. The President will commend Congress on giving this initiative serious consideration in the last session and urged it to finish the job this year.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS

- An increasing number of Americans have a range of long-term care needs. Over five million Americans have significant limitations due to illness or disability and thus require long-term care. Approximately, two-thirds are older Americans. Also, millions of adults and a growing number of children have long-term care needs because of health condition from birth or a chronic illness developed later in life.

- The aging of Americans will only increase the need for quality long-term care options. The number of Americans age 65 years or older will double by 2030 (from 34.3 to 69.4 million), so that one in five Americans will be elderly. The number of people 85 years or older, nearly half of whom need assistance with everyday activities, will grow even faster.

FINANCIAL AS WELL AS SUPPORT SERVICES ARE NEEDED

- Families, who are the primary caregivers for people with long-term care needs, pay a big price for this care. Although it is difficult to quantify, one study found that the economic value of care giving for families ranges from $4,800 to $10,400 per caregiver. As such, this new $3,000 tax credit could cover up to 60 percent of families? costs.

- Many family caregivers need supportive services to ensure that they do not place themselves at risk. Families and friends caring for people with long term care needs often need information and assistance in getting to supportive resources. Most of those who are the primary caregivers of older persons who have limitations in their level of functioning are elderly themselves. Frequently, these caregivers are providing physically demanding and psychologically exhausting care which places their own health and mental health at risk. These stresses tend to be even more severe for families of persons with Alzheimer's Disease, who generally have greater demands placed on their personal time, experience family conflicts, lack adequate sleep, and are faced with financial hardships because of jobs sacrificed or employment curtailed or compromised.

- Private insurance is an important but relative new and untested option. Only about 4 million Americans -- 1.5 percent of all Americans -- have private long-term care insurance. Employers are only beginning to learn how to provide these benefits to their workers.

PRESIDENT'S LONG-TERM CARE INITIATIVE. The Clinton Administration's long-term care initiative, which invests $10 billion over 5 years and $28 billion over 10 years, includes:

- Supporting families with long-term care needs through a $3,000 tax credit. This initiative acknowledges and supports millions of Americans with long-term care needs or the family members who care for and house their ill or disabled relatives through a $3,000 tax credit. This credit would be phased in beginning with $1,000 in 2001 and rising in $500 increments, so eligible people would receive $3,000 in 2005 and thereafter. The credit would be phased out beginning at $110,000 for couples and $75,000 for unmarried taxpayers. This new tax credit supports the diverse needs of families by compensating a wide range of formal or informal long-term care for people of all ages with three or more limitations in activities of daily living (ADLs) or a comparable cognitive impairment. It would provide needed financial support to about 2 million Americans, including 1.2 million older Americans, over 500,000 non-elderly adults, and approximately 250,000 children per year. It costs about $8.8 billion over five years and $26.6 billion over 10 years.

- Establishing a commitment to provide services to assist family caregivers of older persons. Recent studies have found that services like respite care can relieve caregiver stress and delay nursing home entry, and that support for families of Alzheimer's patients can delay institutionalization for up to a year. This nationwide program would support families who care for elderly relatives with chronic illnesses or disabilities by enabling states to utilize a visible, reliable network to provide: quality respite care and other support services; critical information about community-based long-term services that best meet a families' needs; and counseling and support, such as teaching model approaches for caregivers that are coping with new responsibilities and offering training for complex care needs, such as techniques to manage wandering and agitated behavior in late-stage Alzheimer's Disease. This program, which costs more than $1.25 billion over 10 years, would assist approximately 250,000 families nationwide.

- Improving Equity in Medicaid eligibility for people in home- and community-based care settings. Historically, Medicaid policy and practice has inadvertently discriminated against people with long-term care needs who want to live in the community by making it much easier to provide coverage in nursing homes than in the community. This proposal would enable states to provide services to nursing-home qualified beneficiaries at 300 percent of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) limit (about $15,000) without requiring a complicated and frequently time-consuming Federal waiver. This proposal contributes towards this goal of giving people with long-term care needs the choice of remaining in their homes and communities. It costs $140 million over 5 years, $370 million over 10 years.

- Encouraging partnerships between low-income **housing** for the elderly and Medicaid. This proposal would provide $100 million in competitive grants to qualified low-income elderly **housing** projects (Section 202 projects) to convert some or all units into assisted living, so long as Medicaid home and community-based services and services for non-Medicaid residents are readily available. As people living in these **housing** facilities age, their need for long-term care services rises, often leaving them with no choice but to move to a nursing home. This proposal fund the conversion of their units or the buildings that they live in into assisted living facilities. Only sites that agree to bring Medicaid home and community-based services into their converted assisted living facilities would qualify for grants, to ensure that low-income elderly have access to this opportunity.

- Having the Federal government serve as a model employer by offering quality private long-term care insurance to Federal employees. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to use its market leverage and set a national example by offering non-subsidized, quality private long-term care insurance to all federal employees, retirees, and their families at group rates. This proposal will provide employers a nationwide model for offering quality long-term care insurance. OPM anticipates that approximately 300,000 Federal employees would participate in this program.

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White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 29, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to announce that my budget for FY 2001 will include $690 million for 120,000 new **housing** vouchers to help America's hard-pressed working families. These **housing** vouchers subsidize the rents of low-income Americans, helping them to move closer to job opportunities. **Housing** vouchers are a critical part of my Administration's efforts to reform welfare, reward work, support working families, and provide affordable **housing** for low-income families.

In today's booming economy, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs -- far from where many low-income families live. These new **housing** vouchers will enable families to move closer to a new job, reduce a long commute, or secure more stable **housing** that will help them get or keep a job. We should use 32,000 of the 120,000 new **housing** vouchers to help families moving from welfare to work, and use 18,000 vouchers to help homeless individuals and families secure permanent **housing**.

Last year, we worked with Congress to secure 50,000 **housing** vouchers, the first in four years. This November, we fought hard to provide 60,000 additional vouchers for hard-pressed working families in the final FY 2000 budget agreement -- after having been eliminated by both the House and Senate bills. As we work on the next budget, I urge Congress to join me in a bipartisan effort to fund new **housing** vouchers that will make **housing** more affordable for more working Americans.

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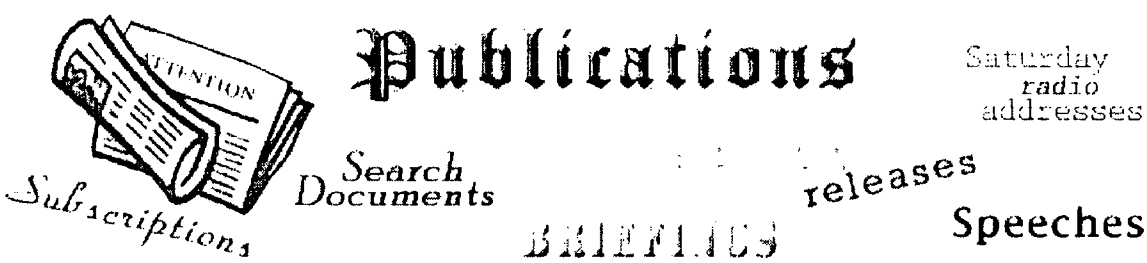

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 29, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S NEXT BUDGET WILL INCLUDE 120,000
NEW **HOUSING** VOUCHERS FOR AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES
December 29, 1999

Today, President Clinton will announce that his FY 2001 budget will include $690 million for 120,000 new **housing** vouchers to help America's hard-pressed working families. These **housing** vouchers subsidize the rents of low-income Americans, enabling them to move closer to job opportunities. Last year, the President secured 50,000 **housing** vouchers, the first in four years. This November, thanks to the President's leadership, 60,000 additional vouchers were included in the final FY 2000 budget agreement -- after having been eliminated in both the House and Senate bills. Now, as the President prepares to unveil his budget for the next fiscal year, he will urge Congress to fund this initiative and help make **housing** more affordable for more working Americans.

NEW VOUCHERS WILL HELP FAMILIES MOVE CLOSER TO JOBS. In today's booming economy, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs -- far from where many low-income families live. The new **housing** vouchers that are part of the President's new budget will help families move closer to a new job, reduce a long commute, or secure more stable **housing** that will help them get or keep a job. Families with **housing** vouchers pay about a third of their income in rent, with the vouchers paying the remainder of the cost (up to a maximum rent for a modest apartment in that locality.)

Of the 120,000 new **housing** vouchers proposed by the President, 32,000 will be targeted to families moving from welfare to work, 18,000 vouchers will help homeless individuals and families who would otherwise have the most difficult time securing permanent **housing**, and 10,000 vouchers will be used to help low-income families move to new **housing** constructed through the Low Income **Housing** Tax Credit. The remaining 60,000 vouchers will be allocated to local areas to help address the large unmet need for affordable **housing**.

HOUSING VOUCHER PROPOSAL BUILDS ON RECORD OF HELPING HARD-PRESSED WORKING FAMILIES. **Housing** vouchers are an integral part of the Administration's efforts to reform welfare, reward work, support working families, and provide affordable **housing** for low-income families.

110,000 **Housing** Vouchers Over Past Two Years. In FY 1999, the President proposed and Congress approved $283 million for 50,000 new welfare to work **housing** vouchers, which are now available to help 50,000 current or former welfare recipients in 35 states and two tribes to get or keep a job. Thanks to the President's leadership, the final FY 2000 budget included $347 million for an additional 60,000 **housing** vouchers for hard-pressed working families, as well as $10.8 billion for the renewal of all Section 8 rent subsidy contracts.

EITC Puts Money Back in Working Families' Pockets. In President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan, EITC was expanded to make work pay for 15 million working families, and in 1998, the EITC lifted 4.3 million Americans out of poverty.

Health Care for Low-Income Working Families. The President has successfully fought to increase low-income families' access to health care. The President, with bipartisan support from the Congress, created the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 allocated $24 billion dollars over the next five years to extend health care coverage to uninsured children through State-designed programs. States will cover up to 5 million children through a combination of Medicaid and CHIP outreach.

Job Access Transportation Grants to help those on Welfare get to Work. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) authorized $750 million over five years for the President?s Job Access initiative and reverse commute grants. The Job Access competitive grants assist states and localities to develop flexible transportation alternatives, such as van services, for welfare recipients and other low-income workers. This program was funded at $75 million in FY 1999 and FY 2000. Last May, Vice President Gore awarded $71 million in FY 1999 funds to 179 communities in 42 states around the country.

Millions Moving from Welfare to Work. In 1992, President Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it, and three years after the enactment of the welfare reform law, welfare reform is working. We've seen revolutionary changes to promote work and responsibility: welfare rolls are down by half to their lowest level in 30 years, nearly four times more of those on welfare are working, and the employment rate of people receiving welfare in the previous year has increased by 70 percent. All fifty states are meeting the law's overall work requirement, and numerous independent studies confirm that people are moving in record numbers from welfare to work.

Child Care for Working Families. Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, federal funding for child care has increased by 80 percent, helping parents pay for the care of about 1.25 million children. Last year, the President proposed an historic child care initiative, but Congress failed to include these critical investments in the final FY 2000 budget.

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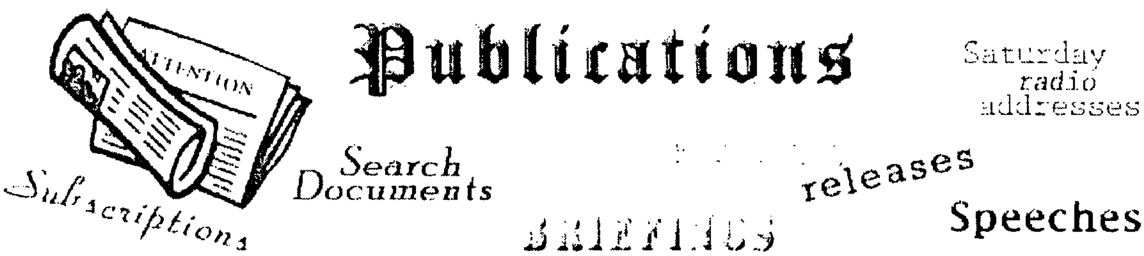

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 29, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

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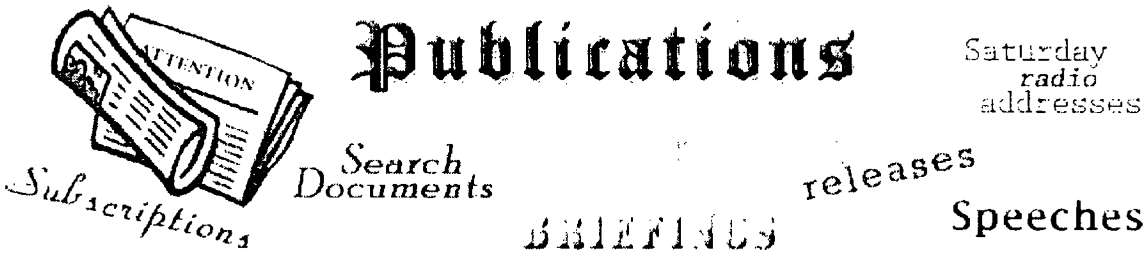

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Aboard Air Force One en route San Francisco, California)

For Immediate Release November 30, 1999

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have signed into law H.R. 3194, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2000. I am pleased that my Administration and the Congress were able to reach agreement on the first budget of the 21st Century -- producing a hard-won victory for the American people.

This legislation makes progress on several important fronts. It puts education first, honoring our commitment to hire 100,000 qualified teachers to lower class size in the early grades and doubling the funds for after school and summer school programs.

It makes America a safer place. The bill provides an acceptable funding level for my 21st Century Policing Initia-tive, which builds on the success of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. To date, the COPS program has funded more than 100,000 additional police officers for our streets. This bill funds the first increment of the 21st Century Policing initiative, which will place an additional 30,000 to 50,000 police officers on the street over the next 5 years, while expanding the concept of community policing to include community prosecution and law enforcement technology assistance. I appreciate the Congress' efforts to forge a bipartisan commitment to the program, which will build upon our successful efforts to reduce crime in our communities.

The bill strengthens our effort to preserve natural areas and protect our environment by its support of my Lands Legacy Initiative. I am very pleased that the bill does not include most of the environmental riders that would have put special interests above the national interest.

This budget agreement also strengthens America's leadership role in the world by paying our dues and arrears to the U.N.; by meeting our commitments to the Middle East peace process; by making critical investments in debt relief for the poorest countries, by enhancing the security of our over-seas personnel; by providing for new, critical peacekeeping missions; and by funding efforts to safeguard nuclear weapons in Russia.

Labor/Health and Human Services/Education Bill

Specifically, I am pleased that the legislation provides $1.3 billion for the second installment of my plan to help reduce class size in the early grades. The Republican proposal did not guarantee funding for the teachers hired last year and would have instead allowed Class Size dollars to be used for virtually any activity, including vouchers. The final budget agreement supports the over 29,000 teachers hired last year plus an additional 2,500 teachers.

The bill appropriately includes several other high priority education initiatives. One million students will continue to be served by the Reading Excellence Initiative and 375,000 more students than last year will have access to 21st Century Community Learning Centers. By providing $145 million for Public Charter Schools, approximately 650 more schools than last year will receive startup funding.

I commend the Congress for providing increases to several programs in my Hispanic Education Agenda that address the disproportionately low educational achievement and high dropout rates of Latino and limited English proficient students. The Hispanic Education Agenda includes programs such as Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs), Adult Education, Bilingual Education, the High School Equivalency and College Assistance Migrant Programs (HEP/CAMP), Hispanic-serving Institutions, and support services to promote the graduation of low-income college students (TRIO).

I am disappointed, however, that this legislation does not provide any of the funding that I specifically requested for Troops to Teachers. This lack of funding jeopardizes this program, which would have provided 3,000 new teachers in high-need subject areas and school districts.

I am pleased that the bill funds most of my major proposals for job training, worker protection programs, and grants for working with developing countries to establish core labor standards. For example, $1.6 billion is included for dislocated worker assistance, enabling the program to provide training and re-employment services to 858,500 dislocated workers. Since 1993, my Administration has succeeded in tripling funding for, and participation in, programs that help dislocated workers return to work.

As authorized in the bipartisan Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the Congress has provided $140 million to expand services to job seekers at One-Stop centers.

I am pleased that the bill provides the funds I requested for major youth job training programs. Specifically, the bill includes the $250 million I requested for Youth Opportunity Grants to finance the second year of the 5-year competitive grants that provide education, training, and support services to 58,000 youth in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. In addition, the bill provides the $1 billion for Youth Activities Formula Grants to provide training and summer employment opportunities to an estimated 577,700 youth. Also it includes $55 million for the final year of Federal funding for the School-to-Work initiative. The bill provides $1.4 billion for the Job Corps program, including financing for enhanced follow-up services for graduates, completion of a four-center expansion initiated in FY 1998, and construction of Head Start child care facilities on five Job Corps campuses.

The bill provides $83 million, or 8 percent above the FY 1999 enacted level, for labor law enforcement agencies, funding key initiatives to ensure workplace safety, address domestic child labor abuses, encourage equal pay, assist in complying with pension law, and promote family leave.

I am especially pleased that this legislation includes critically needed changes to the Welfare-to-Work program's eligibility requirements. We have worked closely with the Congress to ensure these changes were enacted this year. By simplifying eligibility, this legislation will allow the Welfare-to-Work program, within existing resources, to serve more effectively long-term welfare recipients and noncustodial parents of low-income children. The bill also establishes an alternative penalty that is tough, but fair, for States that have not implemented certain child support enforcement requirements.

This legislation fully funds my request for Head Start, adding up to 44,000 new slots for low-income children and continuing on the path to serve one million children by FY 2002.

Unfortunately, the bill reduces the Social Services Block Grant by $134 million below the FY 1999 level, undermining programs serving our most vulnerable families.

The bill includes historic investments in biomedical research, mental health, pediatric training, and a number of other critically important public health initiatives. It also makes an essential downpayment on my Safety Net proposal, which is designed to provide financial and technical support to those providing a disproportionate amount of care to the uninsured. Lastly, it provides payment restorations to hospitals, nursing homes, and other providers serving the 39 million elderly and disabled beneficiaries.

It also provides a $34.5 billion investment in health programs, 11.7 percent above the FY 1999 enacted level, including an historic increase of $2.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health. These new initiatives will strengthen the public health infrastructure, provide critical prevention and treatment services to individuals with mental illness, and invest in pediatric training programs. Specifically, the bill provides $40 million to support graduate medical education at freestanding children's hospitals, which play an essential role in the education of the Nation's pediatricians; $67 million above the FY 1999 funding level for the Mental Health Block Grant, a 23 percent increase over FY 1999 and the largest increase ever; $30 million for health education, prevention, and treatment services to address health disparities among minority populations; and an additional $62 million over FY 1999 funding levels to provide critical immunizations to children nationwide. The $239 million for the Title X Family Planning program will enable family planning clinics to extend compre-hensive reproductive health care services to an additional 500,000 clients who are neither Medicaid-eligible nor insured. In addition, the $25 million for the Health Care for the Uninsured Initiative will support the development of integrated systems of care and address service gaps within these systems.

It provides $25 million, a full down payment on our proposed $1 billion investment to develop integrated systems of care for the uninsured. It also dedicates an additional $15 million to identify the best ways to deliver health care coverage to this population. I am pleased that the bill includes a $73 million increase in funding for HIV prevention activities to help stop the spread of this disease; an increase of $183 million in the Ryan White CARE Act, which helps provide primary care and support for those living with HIV/AIDS; and an estimated $300 million in additional funds for AIDS-related research at the NIH. The bill also includes $80 million in funding to the Minority AIDS Initiative, which utilizes existing programs to reach African-Americans, Latinos, and other racial and ethnic minorities that are dispropor-tionately impacted by HIV/AIDS, as well as an additional $100 million to fight AIDS internationally. Finally, the Administration helped protect local authority over HIV prevention activities, successfully removing language from the District of Columbia appropriations bill that would have tied the hands of community health agencies in their ability to use needle exchange programs as part of their overall HIV prevention strategy.

The bill includes $264 million to expand HHS' bioterrorism initiative. It provides $52 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) national pharmaceutical stock- pile and $123 million for CDC to expand national, State, and local epidemiologic, laboratory, and surveillance planning capacity, as well as to conduct a vaccine study. The bill also fully funds my request to expand the number of Metropolitan Medical Response Systems that can respond to the health and medical consequences of a chemical, biological, or nuclear incident, and to enhance smallpox and anthrax vaccine research and development. I am particularly pleased that the bill funds the creation of a new national electronic disease surveillance system, which will also help detect outbreaks and strengthen the public health delivery system.

I commend the Congress for providing funding for my Nursing Home Initiative, including resources for more rigorous inspections of nursing facilities and improved Federal oversight of nursing home quality, and for funding the 31-percent increase in Home-Delivered Meals that I requested.

Finally, the bill also includes the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999, which invests $16 billion over 5 years to address the flawed policy and excessive payment reductions resulting from the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. It lifts caps on therapy services, increases payments for very sick nursing home patients, restores teaching hospital funding, and eases the transition to the new prospective payment system for hospital outpatients. It also includes provisions to limit cost-sharing requirements for Medicare beneficiaries and extends coverage of important immunosuppressive drugs. Unfortunately, it includes provisions that are not justifiable, such as a $4 billion payment increase to managed care plans that are already overpaid according to most experts. This is troubling because any excess payments from the Medicare trust fund put the program at greater risk.

Commerce/Justice/State Bill

Regrettably, the bill does not contain a needed hate crimes provision that was included in the Senate version of the bill. I urge the Congress to pass legislation in a timely manner that would strengthen the Federal Government's ability to combat hate crimes by relaxing jurisdictional obstacles and by giving Federal prosecutors the ability to prosecute hate crimes that are based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability, along with those based on race, color, religion, and national origin.

I am pleased that we were able to secure additional funds for the Legal Services Corporation. Adequate funding for legal services is essential to ensuring that all citizens have access to the Nation's justice system. Similarly, through negotiations with the Congress, the funding level for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) was increased above the FY 1999 enacted level. The additional funds will assist the EEOC in its continued progress in reducing the backlog of employment discrimination cases.

The bill funds my requested $13 million increase for the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. These funds will support law enforcement actions related to hate crimes, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and fair **housing** and lending.

The legislation contains adequate funding for the decennial census, and includes a compromise on language requiring the Census Bureau to allocate funds among eight functions or frame-works. With the decennial census approaching, I am confident that this language will not inhibit the Census Bureau's ability to actually conduct the census.

The United States has recently entered into the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Agreement. The Agreement ends years of conten-tion between the U.S. and Canada regarding expired fishing harvest restrictions and provides for improved fisheries management. I am pleased that legislative riders that would have hindered implementation of this important Agreement have been modified or removed from the bill. In addition, additional funds have been provided for implementation of the Agreement and for other salmon recovery efforts. These funds will allow us to work cooperatively with our partners -- Canada, a number of western States, and Treaty Tribes -- to implement the Agreement and to restore Pacific coastal salmon runs.

The bill does not provide additional requested funding to the Department of Justice for tobacco litigation, but does not preclude the expenditure of funds for this purpose. We will identify existing resources to pursue this important case. Smoking-related health expenses cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year through Medicare, veterans' and military health, and other Federal health programs. The $20 million I requested is needed to represent the interests of the tax-payers, who should not have to bear the responsibility for these staggering costs.

Critical funds were added to help our Nation's 24 million small businesses. The bill now includes $16.5 million for my New Markets Initiative to invest in targeted rural and urban areas. Also, funding levels were increased for the Small Business Administration's (SBA) operating expenses and disaster loan program. These funds will enable the SBA to provide critical services, including a fast and effective response to Hurricane Floyd.

I regret that a provision is included that would amend the recently enacted Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2000, that could limit the access of Federal government employees to contraceptive coverage.

Foreign Operations Bill and Other International Affairs Appropriations and Authorizations

I am pleased that we were able to reach bipartisan agreement with the Congress on a level of funding for international affairs programs that supports our continued engagement on key global issues. Most notably, we were able to agree to meet our obligations to the United Nations, which will allow us to keep our vote in the General Assembly. We also obtained additional funding for international peacekeeping efforts seeking to redress the instability and suffering caused by conflicts in East Timor, Kosovo, and Africa.

The bill includes my full request for the Wye River Agreement, which will support our partners in the Middle East as they accelerate their historic attempt to secure a permanent peace. We gained bilateral funding for the new Cologne debt reduction initiative, as well as agreement from the Congress to allow the International Monetary Fund to use existing resources to finance its portion of the initiative, allowing us to begin to lessen the crushing debt burden that many of the world's poorest nations face as they try to implement difficult economic and democratic reforms.

Unfortunately, the bill also includes a provision on international family planning that I have strongly opposed throughout my Administration. This is a one-time provision that imposes additional restrictions on international family planning groups. However, I insisted that the Congress allow for a Presidential waiver provision, which I have exercised today.

I have instructed USAID to implement the new restrictions on family planning money in such a way as to minimize to the extent possible the impact on international family planning efforts and to respect the rights of citizens to speak freely on issues of importance in their countries, such as the rights of women to make their own reproductive decisions. As I have stated before, I do not believe it is appropriate to limit foreign NGOs' use of their own money, or their ability to participate in the democratic process in their own countries. Thus, I will oppose inclusion of this restriction in any future appropriations bill.

The bill takes a step in the right direction in terms of paying our dues and our debts to the United Nations and other international organizations. The bill includes most of the funds requested for U.N. arrears, as well as the United Nations Reform Act, which authorizes payment of these arrears contingent upon certain U.N. reforms. My Administration is committed to making sure that all of our debts are paid, and, while doing so, pressing for reforms that will make the U.N. more efficient and effective.

International peacekeeping activities in this bill are funded at a level of $500 million, $300 million above the level in the bill that I vetoed. This additional funding is crucial and will support the United States' response to emergent peacekeeping requirements in Kosovo, Asia, and Africa. In each of these places, the United States has worked with allies and friends to end conflicts that have claimed countless innocent lives and thrown whole regions into turmoil. This funding will help America do its part to make and keep the peace in troubled regions.

On a number of other critical foreign policy priorities, we were able to achieve bipartisan agreements that will directly affect the lives of Americans and others alike. We fully funded a new initiative that will significantly expand our efforts to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa and elsewhere in the developing world. We significantly increased funding for programs aimed at reducing the threat of weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union and elsewhere. We agreed to a significant package of assistance to Kosovo and Southeastern Europe that will help to solidify the fragile peace that we and our NATO allies have secured. We initiated new programs that will help to provide alternatives to the child labor practices that are still too prevalent in much of the world. I am particularly pleased the bill provides my full request for embassy security to protect the men and women who serve our country abroad.

There are still important commitments and goals that were not adequately addressed in this bill. I am disappointed that we did not achieve all of the funding that we need to fully implement the multilateral portion of the Cologne debt initia-tive, and that we were not able to meet our commitments to provide multilateral environmental assistance through the Global Environment Facility. However, in total, this bill demonstrates that the bipartisan consensus that America must remain engaged in global affairs, which has guided our interaction with the rest of the world since the end of the Second World War, is still very much alive and well, and I am hopeful that it will continue to guide our foreign policy into the 21st Century.

I continue to believe that various provisions prohibiting implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in this bill are unneces-sary, as my Administration has no intent of implementing the Protocol prior to ratification. Furthermore, I will consider activities that meet our responsibilities under the ratified U.N. Framework Convention on Climate

Change to be consistent with this provision. Finally, to the extent these provisions could be read to prevent the United States from negotiating with foreign governments about climate change, it would be inconsistent with my constitutional authority. Accordingly, I will construe this provision as not detracting from my authority to engage in the many activities, both formal and informal, that constitute negotiations relating to climate change.

This legislation includes a number of provisions in the various Acts incorporated in it regarding the conduct of foreign affairs that raise serious constitutional concerns. These provisions would direct or burden my negotia-tions with foreign governments and international organizations, as well as intrude on my ability to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive diplomatic negotiations. Similarly, some provisions would constrain my Commander in Chief authority and the exercise of my exclusive authority to receive ambassadors and to conduct diplomacy. Other provisions raise concerns under the Appointments and Recommendation Clauses. My Administration's objections to most of these and other provisions have been made clear in previous statements of Administration policy and other communications to the Congress. Wherever possible, I will construe these provisions to be consistent with my constitutional prerogatives and responsi-bilities and where such a construction is not possible, I will treat them as not interfering with those prerogatives and responsibilities.

District of Columbia Bill

With respect to the District of Columbia bill, I am pleased that the majority and minority in the Congress were able to come together to pass a version that I can sign. While I continue to object to remaining riders that violate the principles of home rule, some of the highly objectionable provisions that would have intruded upon local citizens' right to make decisions about local matters have been modified from previous versions of the bill. My Administration will continue to strenuously urge the Congress to keep such riders out of the FY 2001 D.C. Appropriations Bill.

I commend the Congress for providing the Federal funds I requested for the District of Columbia. The bill includes essential funding for District Courts and Corrections and the D.C. Offender Supervision Agency and provides requested funds for a new tuition assistance program for District of Columbia residents. The bill also includes funding to promote the adoption of children in the District's foster care system, to support the Children's National Medical Center, to assist the Metropolitan Police Department in eliminating open-air drug trafficking in the District, and for drug testing and treatment, among other programs.

Interior and Related Agencies Bill

With respect to the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies bill, I commend the Congress for agreeing on an acceptable version -- one that does not include most of the highly objectionable provisions that would harm the environment and benefit special interest groups by allowing the inappropriate use of national forests and other public lands and resources.

In particular, we have reached a fair compromise on millsite claims under the 1872 Mining Law. Hardrock mining operations under existing approved plans of operations, as well as applications for new mining plans filed by the date of the Interior Solicitor's Opinion of November 7, 1997, would go forward without the Department of the Interior applying the five-acre-per-mining-claim millsite limitation. The Department of the Interior would impose this limitation on plans for new hardrock mining operations filed after November 7, 1997; it would also impose the limitation on amended plans of operations filed after November 7, 1997, that add millsite acreage.

Our agreement also will allow final rules to take effect in the near future that will provide a fair return to the taxpayers for the development of Federal oil resources; and will ensure more effective environmental protection in hardrock mining on Federal lands.

This bill provides two-thirds of the funds I requested for my Lands Legacy initiative and represents a significant improvement over prior-year funding, allowing us to protect such irreplaceable national treasures as the Baca Ranch in New Mexico, the Everglades in Florida, wilderness lands in the California Desert, and Civil War battlefield sites that are threatened by urban sprawl. There is also adequate support given to the Clean Water Action Plan. I am especially pleased with the additional funding for the Forest Service and for abandoned mine lands reclamation, which would make significant progress in addressing acid mine drainage and watershed problems in the Appalachian region. I look forward to working with the Congress next year to provide full and permanent funding for my Lands Legacy proposal, including full Federal and State funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

My Administration has also been able to secure additional funding for energy conservation, the single largest component of my Climate Change Technology Initiative, which will help us to form the partnerships with industry that are vital to the development of a new generation of ultra-efficient cars, more efficient and affordable **housing**, and more efficient, less-polluting industrial processes. This progress will help us to address the threat of global warming economically and practically.

I commend the Congress for the historic $157.2 million increase for Indian health, which is only slightly below the $172 million increase the Administration sought for the Indian Health Service. This funding increase represents a continuing demonstration of the Federal commitment to improve the health status of Native Americans and Alaska natives. I also commend the Congress for the removal of an objectionable rider that would have infringed on tribal sovereignty, and for providing specific funding to accommodate new contracts with tribes.

Although I am disappointed that the Congress has failed to increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts for the eighth straight year, I am pleased with the generally positive debate and the first increase in 4 years in funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The bill also contains language on the American Heritage Rivers initiative. I believe that the congressional language is unnecessary and unfortunate. I will direct the Departments funded by this bill, within existing laws and authorities, to continue to support and undertake community-oriented services or environmental projects on rivers I have recognized as part of the initiative.

By increasing critical funding for land conservation efforts and removing harmful environmental provisions, the legislation represents a step forward in efforts to protect the environment and manage Federal lands and resources responsibly.

Disaster Assistance

I am pleased that the bill includes over $500 million in additional funds for our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities to help them recover from natural disasters, particularly this year's hurricanes. These funds will help farmers clear their streams and fields for next year's crop, just as the $2.5 billion in loans provided in the bill will help them secure the financing they need for planting. Vitally needed funds are included to help low-income rural families and farm laborers repair and replace **housing** damaged by Hurricane Floyd, and low-interest loans will be available to repair and replace farm structures and equipment lost in the storm. In addition, $186 million is included for additional crop loss payments across the country, including areas in the East that suffered through one of the worst droughts in memory. The bill also provides funding to implement the mandatory livestock price reporting authority included in the Agriculture Appropriations Act, which will make the livestock market more transparent and particularly help small producers get a fair price for their livestock in the market.

Authorization Bills/Other Issues

The bill also includes a provision that would delay the Department of Health and Human Services's Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Final Rule for a minimum of 42 days from the bill's effective date. This Final Rule is in response to my Administration's belief that the current organ allocation policies by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network are inequitable because patients with similar severities of illness are treated differently, depending on where they may live or at which transplant center they may be listed.

The Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act -- part of the Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act of 1999 -- will increase the ability of satellite companies to compete against cable companies, and will result in more customer choice, lower prices, and increased access to local news and information. This Act puts the TV remote control back into consumers' hands and competition at their fingertips. In addition, the patent reform legislation that the Administration has fought for will help meet the needs of America's inventors and entrepreneurs. It strengthens protection in a number of ways: it extends the term of a patent when there is an administrative delay in the patent process; it requires the timely domestic publication of patent applications that are also filed abroad; and it reinvents the Patent and Trademark Office as a performance-based organization to better serve America's entrepreneurs and innovators.

Unfortunately, the Congress did not fund my additional request to protect the Nation's critical computer and information based infrastructures from a growing threat of cyber attack from hostile nations, terrorists, or criminals.

In order that $68 million in interest accrued by the Abandoned Mine Land Fund (to be transferred to the United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefits Fund -- designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement) not be scored against the discretionary spending caps, I hereby designate that amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. I will shortly be designating other funds in this legislation as emergency requirements.

Finally, there are several provisions in the bill that purport to require congressional approval before Executive Branch execution of aspects of the bill. I will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in INS vs. Chadha.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
November 29, 1999.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

for Immediate Release November 5, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S NOVEMBER NEW MARKETS TRIP
President Clinton & Speaker Hastert Announce
Bipartisan Agreement To Develop Legislative Initiative
On New Markets And Renewing Impoverished Communities
November 5, 1999

TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL VISIT CHICAGO, IL TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON AMERICA'S NEW MARKETS & ANNOUNCE BIPARTISAN A AGREEMENT WITH SPEAKER HASTERT. Today, President Clinton will visit Chicago, IL, where he will speak at Englewood High School to local community residents and announce an agreement with Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Dennis Hastert to develop a bipartisan legislative initiative on New Markets and revitalizing impoverished communities. President Clinton will also emphasize the importance of community and corporate involvement in creating programs and partnerships that lead to lasting change and make new announcements involving Englewood and Chicago. In addition, the President will recognize Mayor Daley's leadership in helping to forge a $256 million effort to revitalize Englewood; the leadership of Rev. Jackson through his LaSalle Street project; and Congressman Rush's efforts to form a partnership with a variety of businesses to work together to invest in Englewood's potential. Later, the President will visit a small business in Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.'s congressional district. This second New Markets trip comes four months after his first trip, and again highlights the untapped potential in America's underserved markets, and in addition puts a special emphasis on creating long-term partnerships that can lead to lasting change.

PRESIDENT CLINTON & SPEAKER HASTERT WILL ANNOUNCE AN AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP A BIPARTISAN LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE ON NEW MARKETS & RENEWING IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITIES. Today, President Clinton and Speaker Hastert will announce a new agreement to develop a bipartisan legislative initiative on New Markets and renewing impoverished communities. This proposal would seek to bring together the best elements from the President's New Markets Initiative and the American Community Renewal Act supported by Speaker Hastert and sponsored by Reps. Talent and Watts. This legislative initiative would be based on the following 5 principles agreed upon by the President and the Speaker.

1. The Administration and the Congress should work in a spirit of good faith to develop a bipartisan effort to bring capital and new tools to the impoverished urban and rural parts of America so that individuals who live there will be empowered to renew their communities and develop new markets of economic opportunity.
2. Since these solutions need to come from within these distressed communities, both political parties need to put aside politics and ideological constraints, and participate in a process that focuses on solutions that can work in those communities without being subject to waste or abuse.
3. We believe that there are significantly untapped new markets in both rural and inner city community communities, which have unique competitive advantages that, given the tools, can enable individuals in those areas to renew their communities.
4. To accomplish that, our goal is to responsibly and effectively empower impoverished communities with new equity capital, tax incentives, and other tools needed to address these problems within their neighborhoods, nurturing new enterprises while providing private sector and government resources to empower communities to

solve their long-term problems.
5. These economic incentives must be seen as a complement to other efforts to strengthen education, housing, crime, and drug-abuse reduction.

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL ALSO BE JOINED BY NUMEROUS CORPORATE EXECUTIVES AND OTHER LEADERS TO HIGHLIGHT NEW INVESTMENTS IN OUR INNER CITIES. These include: Edward Liddy (CEO, Allstate), David Shryock (President, SB Partners, Jack Greenberg (CEO, McDonalds), Roger Joslin (Chairman, State Farm Auto), Howard Stanback (Chairman, Woods Fund), Norman Bobins (CEO, LaSalle National Bank), William Osborne (CEO, Northern Trust Bank), Paul McCarthy (CEO, Marquette National Bank),), Robert Fergis (President, Allied Van Lines), Herb Stokes (President, Alliance Trucking), John Kinghorn, (Manager, Social Investments, Prudential), Edward Powers (Senior Vice President, Community Development, Bank of America), John Killian (Vice President & Controller, State Farm), Robert Weissbourd (Senior Vice President, Shorebank), Milton Davies (Shorebank), Leslie Davis (SB Partners), Rev. Jesse Jackson, Hugh Price (President, Urban League), Michael Rubinger (President Local Initiatives Support Corporation), and Al From (Executive Director, Democratic Leadership Council).

THEY ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING COMMITMENTS FOR ENGLEWOOD AND OTHER CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS.

SB Partners Announces Formation of $25 Million in Equity Fund for New Markets' Businesses. SB Partners is a newly formed private equity fund, building on Shorebank Corporation's 25-year track record and expertise in inner-city lending and investing, that seeks to genèrate attractive returns by investing primarily in minority-owned companies, located primarily in underserved areas. Investors in the fund include Bank of America ($6 million), Cook County Annuity and Benefit Fund ($5 million), State Farm Insurance ($4 million), Shorebank Corporation ($3.5 million), Prudential Insurance ($2 million), Woods Fund of Chicago ($1.5 million), LaSalle Bank ($1 million), Northern Trust ($1 million), and Marquette Bank ($250,000).

Allstate Insurance Invests $5 Million in the Illinois Facilities Fund. Allstate has approved a 15-year, $5 million, low-interest loan to the Illinois Facilities Fund (IFF) to create the IFF/Allstate Child Care and Education Loan Fund. This fund will enable IFF to provide loans to nonprofit child care providers to build, renovate or expand much needed child care facilities in low-income Chicago communities such as Englewood. The IFF is currently developing a $3.6 million 22,300 sq. ft. Family Resource Center in Englewood that will serve 226 children under 6 years old and will provide training for home care providers and home-based mothers. Englewood's licensed childcare providers now meets only 5 percent of the need for residents of the community.

Community Investment Corporation (CIC) Expands Into Englewood and The Empowerment Zone. The CIC Flex Fund makes innovative loans to fund necessary improvements for apartment buildings when the appraised value of the building may be too low to obtain funding based on conventional standards.

Alliance Relocation Services Announces New Job Training And Partnership Program As Part of the Welfare To Work Partnership. Alliance Relocations Services is announcing the Alliance Training Educational Development Program (ATED) in partnership with Allied and DePaul University for welfare recipients in collaboration with the National Welfare to Work Partnership and the Office of the Mayor of Chi.cago. The program 's goals are to create a career path for welfare recipients and help employer's maintain a qualified, motivated, and trained workforce. Alliance Relocation Services was created with the assistance of Allied Van Lines, which groomed an in-house executive to establish a new company that would serve inner city customers.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Recently, HUD approved an $18 million Section 108 Guaranteed Loan to augment a previously awarded $2.5 million Brownfields Economic Development Grant. The loan will fund development of a number of sites, which will collectively provide approximately 1,000 full-time jobs, primarily for low- and moderate-income residents. Particular projects include acquisition and remediation of several industrial sites; these in turn will be sold to private developers, who will build facilities for new or expanding businesses, which will employ local residents.
- The Hispanic Housing Development Corporation (HHDC), located in Chicago, will receive a $215,272 New Approach Anti-Drug Program Grant. The purpose of the grant is to assist applicants in augmenting security; further the investigating and/or prosecuting of drug-related criminal activity in and around housing developments; and provide for capital improvements to improve security. This grant will be used to assist residents at Vermillion Garden Apartments, located in Danville, Illinois. This grant will be used to partner with local and federal law enforcement agencies to provide a comprehensive coordinated, neighborhood approach to eliminating drugs and other crime activities in the Vermillion Garden Apartments and the surrounding neighborhood. Grant funds will also be used to install security lights, door replacements and an intercom system.
- A $8,443,514 Public and Indian Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP) grant will be awarded to the Chicago Housing Authority to empower public housing residents to turn the tide against drugs and drug-related crime in their communities. The Chicago Housing Authority will utilize its grant to control and prevent drug use, trafficking, and drug-related crime in fourteen housing developments (ABLA, Cabrini-Green, Horner, Rockwell, Lathrop, LeClaire, Hilliard, Ickes, Dearborn, Stateway, Taylor, Wells, Washington Park and Altgeld). The grant will be used to reduce both the demand and supply of drugs, by creating partnerships between police and CADRE (Combating Alcohol and Drugs through Rehabilitation and Education), and by using Tenant Patrol, Resident Organization and Resident Programs to help fight drug activity.

Department of Transportation
The Chicago Youth in Aviation Project, working through the Chicago Workforce Development Office , and Chicago public schools, is announcing a new Memorandum of Understanding to expand this youth mentoring program. The program promotes interest in aviation and aviation careers to underprivileged and economically disadvantaged children in Chicago. Major airlines, including United, American, Southwest, ATA, and Virgin, will announce today that they will be providing support - financial and otherwise - for more children in Chicago to join this program. The City Department of Aviation and the Illinois DOT Division of Aeronautics have also supported this project.

THE PRESIDENT WILL ALSO HIGHLIGHT THESE PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS AND EFFORTS TO BRING LONG TERM IMPROVEMENT TO ENGLEWOOD AND OTHER UNDERSERVED AREAS.

The City of Chicago Plans For Revitalizing Englewood. In early October, Mayor Daley, other elected officials, and private sector and community leaders announced plans for $256 million of public and private projects over the next 4 years to revitalize the Englewood community. Commitments included $5 million in seed money from next year's city budget to kick start revitalization efforts and job training programs; construction of a new $150 million state-of-the-art facility for the Kennedy-King college campus that will anchor the 63rd and Halsted commercial area; the launch of a 21.5 million, 215,000 sq. ft retail development anchored by a new Jewel Food Store; nearly $37 million for

417 units of mixed-income housing (includes single-family homes, rental townhomes, senior citizen housing, and housing for persons with disabilities); $2.7 million for new open space and Chicago Park District projects; and $12.5 million for infrastructure improvements on commercial and residential streets.

BankOne and Fannie Mae and the Illinois Institute of Technology Form Partnership to Spur Investment in Englewood. The Englewood community has suffered through many years of neglect. To rebuild this once robust community of communities, an effort involving long term business and financial partnerships will be required. Recognizing the importance of establishing long-term business relationships to effect lasting community change, Congressman Rush formed a partnership with BankOne Corporation, Fannie Mae, the Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute and the Reverend Jesse Jackson. The five partners have committed to seek out and implement innovative approaches that will result in community rebuilding and investment. The Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute has committed to developing effective job training solutions, while BankOne and Fannie Mae will introduce investment incentives as well as actively seek out other business and financial leaders to join the partnership.

Community Development Financial Institutions Making a Difference in Chicago. Chicago is home to a number of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) that are supported by the CDFI Fund, which is run by the Department of Treasury. These organizations include Community Investment Corporation (CIC), Illinois Facilities Fund (IFF), Shorebank Corporation, and the Women's Self-Employment Project.

- Over the past 15 years, CIC has made 1,092 loans totaling $415 million to rehabilitate 28,000 housing units. Counting low or no-interest second mortgages, CIC-financed developers borrowed more than $500 million to complete projects that costs $700 million. One quarter of CIC's loans have been on vacant buildings.
- Since 1990, the IFF has helped more than 110 non-profit agencies to buy, expand, or renovate child care centers, youth shelters and community health clinics. The IFF has made 156 loans totaling $27 million which have helped non-profit organizations serve more than 250,000 clients, resulting in 1,190 full and part-time positions in the non-profit sector.
- Shorebank Corporation, founded in 1973, is the nation's first and largest community development bank. Shorebank pioneered the idea of approaching development as a business, going into inner city neighborhoods where no loans were being made, and finding untapped markets. It has grown from $40 million in assets to $900 million - making over $100 million in new development investments a year. This business approach brings new investment to neighborhoods, and creates jobs and wealth for residents and communities.
- The Women's Self-Employment Project founded in 1986 is a community development financial institution whose primary strategy is to provide microenterprise credit and business support services to low-and moderate- income women in Chicago. Since its inception, it has started more than 800 new ventures, assisted another 500 businesses to grow and has helped create and retain more than 1,500 jobs, provided 2,500 women with training and technical assistance and underwritten 650 loans totaling $1.9 million to entrepreneurs.

Chicago BusinessLINC Coalition Creates Pilot Program for Inner-City Businesses. The Chicago BusinessLINC Coalition, run by the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago, has created a pilot program to strengthen the competitiveness of Chicago's inner-city businesses and expand employment opportunities through enhanced business relationships with leading corporations and small businesses in the city's distressed areas. The pilot program will target small businesses located in several commercial areas within Chicago's distressed central city. These small businesses will represent a cross-section of industry manufacturers and professional services firms. The program will provide expertise and guidance to build capacity and management expertise, create expansion opportunities and new purchasing/supplier relationships, create new entry-level jobs, and increase hiring, training, and advancement opportunities for low-income residents.

Department of Labor Awards over $125.4 Million in Welfare to Work Grants to Chicago Area Organizations. Since initiating the Department of Labor's competitive Welfare to Work grants in 1998, seven Chicago area organizations have received over $125.4 million for programs that are designed to move the hardest to employ welfare recipients to work. These funds have been used to establish programs that provide clients with child care services, transportation, substance abuse counseling, job training and retention services, career advancement counseling, subsidized work experience, non-custodial parenting services, counseling and assistance for the special needs of victims of domestic violence, and job placement and retention services for non-custodial parents (mainly fathers). In addition to the competitive grant monies, the State of Illinois received over $90 million in welfare to work formula funding from the Department.

Chicago receives $32 million for a New Job Corps Center. In August 1999, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded the City of Chicago $32 million to open a new Job Corps Center. This new center will serve 328 residential and 26 non-residential students each year by providing basic education and vocational training programs. The Job Corps was established in 1964 and has served more than 1.7 million students.

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White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release November 4, 1999

BACKGROUND ON THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION'S
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RECORD

November 4, 1999

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS BUILD ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE'S SIX-YEAR RECORD OF PROMOTING GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES. Since 1993, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have been committed to tapping the potential of America's urban and rural communities. They have a demonstrated record of creating new initiatives and expanding existing initiatives to promote community and economic development. The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked with the private sector, states, and localities to help revitalize America's communities by bringing capital, jobs, and opportunity to distressed areas and cleaning up the urban environment. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have created or expanded the following initiatives over the last six years:

Helping to Bring Private Enterprise and Capital to Distressed Areas. The Clinton-Gore Administration has re-newed the commitment of the Federal government to help bring private enterprise into underserved communities and improve access to capital for low-income households, minorities, and traditionally underserved borrowers.

- Fighting to Preserve the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) under Financial Modernization. President Clinton made clear that he was prepared to veto long overdue legislation to modernize the financial landscape, if it allowed a bank with an unsatisfactory CRA rating to take advantage of the new powers under the bill. As a result, the conferees on the financial modernization bill provided that, for the first time, a bank's CRA rating is relevant to its merger or expansion in non-banking activities. In addition, President Clinton fought to eliminate provisions that would have excluded some banks from CRA coverage and limited the effectiveness of the merger application review process. President Clinton thus assured that CRA remains vital and relevant in the new financial landscape.

- Strengthened and Simplified CRA. In April 1995, the Clinton Administration reformed the CRA regulations to emphasize performance. According to the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), the private sector has pledged more than $1 trillion going forward in loans to distressed communities - and more than 95 percent of these financial commitments have been made since 1992. Banks made $18.6 billion in community development loans in 1997 alone. Lending to minority and low-income borrowers is also on the rise.

- Created the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund. Proposed and signed into law by the President in 1994, the CDFI Fund, through grants, loans, and equity investments, is helping to create a network of com-munity development financial institutions (CDFIs) in distressed areas across the United States. The CDFI Fund's activities leverage private sector investments from banks, foundations, and other funding sources. Since the Fund's creation, it has made more than $190 million in awards to community development institutions and financial institutions. This investment is expected in the next two to three years to leverage three to four times the amount of the investments in total capital raised for CDFI's. There are approximately 270 CDFIs certified by the CDFI Fund throughout the nation. In FY 1999, funding for the CDFI Fund was increased 19 percent to $95 million from $80 million. In FY2000, the CDFI Fund will receive $95 million.

- 135 Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. The Clinton Administration has designated 135 urban and rural Empowerment Zones (EZs) and Enterprise Communities (ECs) across the country. This includes a First Round of EZ and ECs, designated in 1994 and a Second Round, designated in January, 1999. Designated communities were chosen on the basis of their strategic revitalization plans, and receive special incentives and resources to help carry out their plans. The EZ/EC initiative has already leveraged over $10 billion in additional public and private sector investment in community revitalization efforts. The First Round EZ/EC initiative was proposed by President Clinton and passed by Congress in 1993. The Second Round was also proposed by the President, and the President and Congress, in FY 1999, provided first-year funding for the new EZs and ECs. In FY2000, Rural/Urban Empowerment Zones will receive $70 billion.

- The Economic Development Initiative and Section 108 Loan Guarantee. EDI grants are used to infuse capital into community development projects, enhancing the debt financing provided by the Section 108 loan guarantee program. Together, the programs support critical economic development in distressed communities. Estimated jobs supported by EDI and the Section 108 loan guarantee have grown by 300,000 from 1994 to 1998. During this time period EDI and the Section 108 loan guarantee program have funded $3.5 billion for more than 650 separate project commitments. Helping to Bring Jobs and Opportunity to Distressed Areas. A cornerstone of the Administration's community empowerment agenda is helping to bring jobs and opportunity back to distressed areas:

- $3 Billion Welfare-to-Work Jobs Initiative. The Clinton Administration fought for a $3 billion welfare-to-work jobs initiative, as part of the Balanced Budget Agreement. The Administration is implementing these welfare-to-work grants directly to both cities and states for allocating additional resources to help long-term, hard-to-serve welfare recipients find and keep jobs.

- Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit and Work Opportunity Tax Credit. The Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit, enacted in the 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement, provides a credit equal to 35 percent of the first $10,000 in wages in the first year of employment, and 50 percent of the first $10,000 in wages in the second year, to encourage the hiring and retention of long-term welfare recipients. This credit complements the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), which expands eligible businesses to include those who hire young adults living in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. In FY 1999, the President requested and Congress accepted extending the credit through June 30, 1999.

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Expansion. President Clinton's FY 2000 budget included an expansion of CDBG. The final budget increases funding for CDBG from $4.750 billion in FY 1999 to $4.775 billion in FY 2000, a $25 million expansion this year.

- Cleaning Up the Urban Environment through Brownfields Redevelopment. The Clinton-Gore Administration has launched a landmark effort, including the Brownfields Tax Incentive, to clean up and redevelop Brownfields sites. In total, the Brownfields action agenda has marshaled funds to clean up and redevelop up to 5,000 properties, leveraging between $5 billion and $28 billion in private investment and creating and supporting 196,000 jobs.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE ARE BUILDING ON THEIR PAST ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH A NUMBER OF NEW INITIATIVES THIS YEAR. While Americans are enjoying the fruits of our strong economy, we still need to do more to improve conditions in underserved urban and rural communities and connect these communities to the economic mainstream. To address this need, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are working on several fronts:

The New Markets Initiative. President Clinton's FY 2000 balanced budget provides a new initiative designed to create the conditions for economic success by prompting approximately $15 billion in new investment in urban and rural areas through:

- America's Private Investment Companies (APICs). Just as America's support for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation helps promote growth in emerging markets abroad, APICs will encourage private investment in this country's untapped markets, by leveraging up to $1.5 billion in investment in new development projects and larger businesses that are expanding or relocating in inner city and rural areas. In the recently signed, VA/HUD appropriations bill, APICS were provided with $20 million in funding. This amount would leverage up to $800 million of new investment in America's underserved communities.

- The New Markets Tax Credit. To help spur $6 billion in new equity capital, this tax credit is worth up to 25 percent for investments in a wide range of vehicles serving these communities, including community development banks, venture funds, and the new investment company programs created by this initiative (see below). A wide-range of businesses could be financed by these investment funds, including small technology firms, inner-city shopping centers, manufacturers with hundreds of employees, and retail stores.

- SBIC's Targeted to New Markets. For over 40 years, SBA's Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program has provided roughly $20 billion in equity and debt financing to more than 85,000 different companies, helping them to grow from small businesses to household names, like AOL and Staples. However, too little of the capital invested has benefited our cities and rural distressed communities. Through new regulations which were proposed this fall, SBA will now be offering more flexibility and new financing terms for Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs) that invest in underserved areas.

- New Markets Venture Capital (NMVC) Firms. NMVC firms will make both capital and expert guidance available to small business entrepreneurs in inner-city and rural areas. Ten to twenty NMVC firms are planned. SBA will match the equity and technical assistance of private investors.

- Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund. The budget proposes to expand funding for the CDFI Fund to $125 million -- a $30 million increase from 1999. The Fund increases the availability of credit, investment capital, financial services, and other development services in distressed communities. The signed VA/HUD appropriations bill for FY2000 included $95 million for the DCFI Fund that will expand the capacity of the network of community development financial institutions across the country, spurring the flow of capital to distressed neighborhoods and low-income residents.

- BusinessLINC. The President's FY 2000 budget includes seed money to expand Business LINC --- an innovative public-private partnership launched by Vice President Gore --- for new markets in economically distressed communities. BusinessLINC (Learning, Information, Networking and Collaboration) is designed to encourage large businesses to work with small business owners and entrepreneurs. BusinessLINC is being led in the private sector by the BusinessRoundtable, which has dedicated its resources to establish local coalitions throughout the country.

- Microenterprise Lending and Technical Assistance. Microenterprise initiatives in the FY 2000 budget include the PRIME Act, which will provide microenterprise technical assistance through competitive grants to microenterprise development organizations that focus on low-income entrepreneurs. As proposed in the Financial Modernization Act (H.R.) PRIME will be administred by the SBA. President Clinton's and Vice President Gore's proposal also includes a doubling of support for technical assistance in SBA's Microloan Program and a doubling of support for SBA lending to leverage over $75 million in new microlending. The microenterprise strategy will also involve new funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and for SBA's One-Stop Capital Shops. On October, the President vetoed the Commerce-State-Justice Appropriations bill which did not include funding for any of these provisions.

- New Markets Lending Companies (NMLC). For the first time in many years, SBA will approve approximately 10 new non-bank lenders --- firms authorized to originate loans under SBA's largest loan program - the 7(a) General Business Loan Guaranty program. Under the 7(a) program, SBA guarantees up to 80% of a loan made by a lender to a creditworthy small businesses that cannot otherwise secure financing on reasonable terms. Firms must have a strategy to target lending to underserved areas.

Additional Initiatives Designed to Improve Conditions In Underserved Rural & Urban Communities: President Clinton and Vice-President Gore have proposed the expansion or establishment of the following additional initiatives designed to create the conditions for economic success by encouraging new investment in urban and rural areas:

- Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. The FY 2000 budget proposes full funding for ten years for the Second Round of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, which were designated in January, 1999. This includes $100 million over ten years for urban EZs; $40 million over ten years for rural EZs; and $3 million for rural ECs. The FY 2000 budget also includes $50 million to create a new Regional Empowerment Zone Program to assist First and Second-Round urban EZ and ECs in linking their economic development strategies to their broader regional economies. The recently signed VA/HUD appropriations bill provides $70 million in funding for Rural/Urban Empowerment Zones. All of the Urban and Rural EZs (20 zones) and rural Enterprise Communities (20 ECs) that were designated by the Vice President in January 1999 as Round II zones will also receive funding.

- Regional Connections. Regional Connections will provide competitive funding to States and partnerships of local governments to develop and implement new, locally driven "smarter growth" strategies that create more livable communities by addressing economic and community development needs across jurisdictional lines. Regional Connections, as part of the Administrations' Livability Agenda, will complement existing federal programs that respond to growth and investment patterns. The budget proposes funding at $50 million in FY 2000.

- The Economic Development Initiative and Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program. This program supports critical economic development in distressed communities in conjunction with the Section 108 loan guarantee program to help bring economic development to residents. Over the past 5 years, $3.5 billion in EDI loan commitments have been made - these will create an estimated 300,000 jobs in low- and moderate-income communities during the life of the EDI program. In FY 2000 many projects will be eligible to participate in the Community Empowerment Fund Trust, a pilot program, which will enable the pooling of loans and the creation of a private sector secondary market for economic development loans. The CEF specifically targets Welfare-to-Work and City-Suburb Business Connections, building upon the success of HUD's EDI and Section 108 loan guarantee program.

- Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit. Since its creation in 1986, the Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit (LIHTC) has given states tax credits of $1.25 per capita to allocate to developers of affordable **housing**. While building costs have increased 40 percent in the last decade, the amount of the credit has not been adjusted for inflation. Therefore, President Clinton and Vice President Gore propose to increase the cap on the LIHTC from $1.25 per capita to $1.75 per capita -- restoring the value of the credit to its 1986 level and helping to an create additional 150,000-180,000 new low-income rental **housing** units over the next five years.

- Play-by-the-Rules. This program will allow renters with solid payment track records to own a home. The 2000 Budget proposes a second round of $15 million for this initiative.

- Helping America's Communities Redevelop Abandoned Buildings. Redevelopment of Abandoned Buildings, as part of the Administrations' "Livability Agenda," would attack one of the primary causes of blight in urban neighborhoods: abandoned apartment buildings, single-family homes, warehouses, office buildings, and commercial centers. Under the proposal, HUD will provide $50 million in competitive grant funds in FY2000 to local governments to support the demolition or deconstruction of blighted, abandoned buildings.

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release October 28, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT AWARDS CEREMONY FOR BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

10:23 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Good morning. Congratulations. I want to begin by thanking Ruth Summerlin for her introduction and for the power of her example, which includes not only turning her school around, but asking for a little more help. Did you notice the way she slipped that in there? (Laughter.) That was pretty impressive.

I want to thank Secretary Riley for his wonderful leadership. All the things he said about me he might have said about himself. He is clearly not only the longest serving, but the ablest, the most dedicated and most effective Secretary of Education we have ever had. (Applause.) When the new millennium rolls around in January we will have completed 21 years of working together, as friends and colleagues, since we were young governors in the south trying to start our education reform programs, more than two decades ago. And every year has been a joy and I'm very grateful for what he's done in this administration.

I want to acknowledge the presence in the audience of Vincent Ferrandino, the Executive Director of the National Association of Elementary School Principals. And I also want to thank Bill Ivey, as the Secretary did, the Chair of the NEA. And say just a brief word about -- before I get into a couple of other announcements -- about what Ruth said about bringing the arts back into the schools. I would urge all of you to see this new movie that's out, that I had screened at the White House, starring Meryl Streep, called "Music of the Heart," about the East Harlem Violin Program.

But I have been mortified at the collapse of the availability of music and the arts in the schools all over America, because of all kinds of issues that you understand better than I do. But I've been active in

VH-1's effort to get people to donate instruments, and other support for music programs back in the schools. The NEA has worked very hard to support arts programs in the schools.

There is not only concrete evidence that such programs improve student learning in others areas because of the way they make the brain work; there's also a lot of evidence that many people with equal learning capacities learn in different ways, in ways that sometimes are nonlinear. And I think it is a terrible mistake to deprive these children of access to music and the arts if we can avoid it at all. So I urge you to look at the movie. And for those of you who agree, this movie may give you a lot of boost, because I'll be surprised if it's not also a commercial success. It's a terrific film.

Now, I'd also like to say a word about some new economic news before I get into talking about education. When I came here as President, almost seven years ago, our administration -- Vice President Gore and I -- we said we would try to turn America around. And a lot of people have forgotten that there was a lot of economic distress then, an enormous amount of social division -- we'd had that big riot in Los Angeles -- a lot of alienation, and a sense of political drift. And so, we said, give us a chance, and we will have economic policies that promote opportunity for all, social policies that promote responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans. We'll try to pull this country together and move it forward.

A big part of our economic policy was investing in our people, from early childhood up; also, expanding our ability to sell American products; and finally, getting this deficit down and getting rid of it, which was keeping interest rates high and stagnating the economy all over America.

We just got the news today that in the third quarter of this year -- that is the quarter ending on the last day of September -- our economy grew at an amazing rate of 4.8 percent, after growing 4.3 percent last year, 4.1 percent in 1996 -- (applause) -- and all of this with the lowest inflation rate in decades, while we were actually cutting the size of the federal government.

So in the years since I've been President, the economy has grown 3.8 percent. If you take out the shrinking of the federal government and the shrinking of the deficit, it's grown over the last seven years by well over 4 percent, and with no inflation. It's virtually, as far as I know, unprecedented in our time. (Applause.)

It has given us over 19 million new jobs; along with the welfare reform law, it's given us the lowest welfare rolls in 30 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20 years. And, in the new **housing** numbers released today, more Americans now own their own homes -- over two-thirds of us -- for the first time in the history of the United States. (Applause.)

The percentage of Hispanic and African American homeowners has also broken new records, as Hispanic and African American unemployment has dropped to record lows since we've been keeping separate statistics 30 years ago.

This new report shows, once again, that if we have strong fiscal discipline, strong investment and a strong commitment to education and the new economy, we can get an investment boom and maximize the benefits of the information and technology revolutions now going on all over the world.

If we keep this going, in February, without having had a war, we will have the longest economic expansion in history. It's now the longest peacetime expansion in history. Wars guarantee you an economic expansion. In February, it will be the longest economic expansion of any kind in history, without a major conflict. And we can be very grateful for that. It's a tribute to the American people and their innovation. (Applause.)

Yesterday, I pointed out that we had the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years -- 42 years since the government was in the black two years in a row. And that has saved us about $1.7 trillion in debt over what it was projected to be when I took office. And those savings are worth, to the average American family, $2,000 in lower mortgage rates; $200 in lower car payment rates; $200 in lower college loan rates.

This is the good news. But we now have a chance that no generation, at least in my lifetime, has had to shape the future of our dreams for our children in the absence of an overarching threat from without, and in the absence of an overarching crisis within our borders. And I say that because the last time the economy was remotely this good was when I was a young man finishing high school in the early 1960s. But we had to deal with the civil rights challenge. It was an honor and a responsibility, but it had to be done. And then we had to deal with all the controversy about the war in Vietnam, our role in it, the cost of it, and we never got around to finishing our assault on poverty and doing a lot of other things.

But a lot of great things happened then, including Medicare and Medicaid, and the first substantial federal aid to education, because of the potential. But never in my lifetime have we had the chance we now have to shape the future of our dreams for our children.

And since all of you deal with children all of the time, I think you know the wisdom of something a wise, old sage told me 20 years in politics when I got elected governor at 32. I was too young to know what I was doing, I think, at the time. (Laughter.) But he said, let me tell you something, Bill. In this life, you're always most vulnerable when you think you're invulnerable. And if you think about it, what I want you to understand is, countries are no different than businesses or schools or families or individuals. When things are rocking along really good, because we're human, it's easy to get distracted. When there is a threat, it's easy to be focused.

I told somebody the other day -- I got a big laugh -- I said, you know, I get so angry at all these conflicts around the world, and these expressions of hatred here at home based on race or religion or sexual orientation. If we were being attacked by space aliens, like in that movie, "Independence Day," we'd all be looking for a foxhole to get in together and a gun to pick up together. The absence of a threat sometimes causes us to lose our sense of focus, our center, our concentration.

But the truth is that this is the greatest opportunity that we've had in my lifetime. And so we have to look to the great challenges of the future, because we know that they're out there. There's going to be twice as many of us over 65 in 30 years; only two people working for every one person drawing Social Security. So for younger people, it's imperative that we reform Social Security and Medicare, so that the baby boom generation, when we retire, doesn't bankrupt our children and their ability to raise our grandchildren.

We know the recovery of our economy has left a lot of people and places behind, probably in a lot of communities represented here. We now have a chance to embrace those places, and the working poor of our country, in a way we never have. And we better do it now, when the economy's good.

We know that we have a chance to get not only -- now we're paying down the debt. We paid the debt down $140 billion in the last two years. The most we ever did. We can actually get rid of it in 15 years. Can you imagine, in 1992, if I'd run for office and said, folks, we've got this $300 billion deficit. Vote for me; I'll give you back-to-back surpluses,

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release October 22, 1999

TIPPER GORE UNVEILS NEW STEPS ADMINISTRATION IS TAKING TO ELIMINATE LEAD HAZARDS AND MAKE HOMES SAFE FOR CHILDREN NATIONWIDE

Today, Tipper Gore is unveiling important new steps to eliminate lead hazards at an event with Senator Jack Reid to unveil a new community based lead poisoning prevention center in Rhode Island. Tipper Gore will announce that this month, the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development will release $56 million to remove lead hazards in the homes of low income families. These new grants, which will protect almost 30,000 children from dangerous exposure to lead based paint hazards, will be released to over 20 cities and states. Mrs. Gore will also announce that the Department of Health and Human Services is sending important new guidance to every State Medicaid Director notifying them that states are required to provide blood lead tests annually to all children under the age of two enrolled in the Medicaid program and that Medicaid funds are available, under certain circumstances, for non-medical services necessary to effectively treat children with elevated blood levels.

MILLIONS OF YOUNG CHILDREN ARE AT RISK FOR LEAD POISONING. Childhood lead poisoning is the number one environmental health risk facing children in industrialized countries today. In the United States, almost one million children under the age of six - 16 percent of low income children and 21 percent of African American children living in older **housing** - have toxic levels of lead in their bodies. Currently, three-quarters of the nation's **housing** contains lead paint. However, the GAO reports that only 20 percent of Medicaid-eligible children are being screened for lead poisoning and that many states have not adopted the mandatory lead screening policy. In young children, lead slows the development of the central nervous system and brain, causing reduced IQ, reading and learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder and behavioral problems. As a result, childhood lead poisoning is associated with lower educational achievement, higher rates of high school drop-out and increased behavioral problems. It is estimated that lead poisoning has tripled the number of children needing special education.

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION TAKES NEW STEPS TO MAKE HOMES SAFE FOR LOW INCOME CHILDREN. Today, in order to address this public health hazard, Mrs. Gore will:

Announce the release of $56 million to make homes safe from lead hazards. Today, Mrs. Gore will announce that this month, the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development will release $56 million in grants to remove lead hazards in the homes of low income families. These new funds, which would protect almost 30,000 children from dangerous exposure to lead based paint hazards, would be released to over 20 cities and states. These grants will be used to fund initial inspection and risk assessments to identify the presence of lead based paint hazards in homes, such as dust and peeling paint; provide blood testing for children prior to beginning lead hazard control work; removing lead based paint from homes and yards; provide temporary **housing** for families whose homes are being treated; and launch community based education programs on how to protect children from lead hazards and the importance of blood lead screening. Reinforce that states are required to provide blood lead tests annually to all children under the age of two enrolled in the Medicaid program. Today, the Department of Health and Human Services will send a letter to all State Medicaid Directors reinforcing the statutory requirement to screen all children under the ages of one and two enrolled in the Medicaid program for elevated blood lead levels annually and to screen those children between two and three years of age that do not have a record of a previous blood lead screening test. In addition, any medically necessary follow-up services, including diagnostic, treatment, or case management services, must also be provided. Case management services can be used to coordinate access to a broad range of services for children enrolled in the Medicaid program, regardless of whether the Medicaid program is funding the service to which access is gained.

Clarify that Federal Medicaid funds are available in certain circumstances for non-medical services that may be needed to treat lead poisoning. The guidance being released today will announce that Medicaid funds are available for certain non-medical services necessary to effectively treat lead poisoning. Medicaid will cover the initial home assessment necessary to determine the source of lead for children diagnosed with elevated blood levels. In addition, States are encouraged to work with HCFA to design Federal waivers that will allow them to receive funding for individual lead abatement services, such as paint removal, in the homes of children with elevated blood lead levels enrolled in the Medicaid program.

Tipper Gore Has a Longstanding Commitment to Fighting Lead Hazards. Mrs. Gore is honorary chair of the Campaign for a Lead Safe America, the Administration's campaign formed in November 1997 between the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency to protect the nation's children from lead poisoning. The campaign includes a public education campaign using PSAs, videos using children's characters, outreach through major hardware retailers and training information to maintenance workers on how to do their work safely. In addition, HUD and EPA fund a toll-free hotline, 1 800 424 LEAD that gives callers information about lead hazards and disclosure requirements for homes.

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Privacy Statement

White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release October 20, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2684, the "Departments of Veterans Affairs and **Housing** and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000."

This Act will fund vital **housing**, community development, environmental, disaster assistance, veterans, space, and science programs. Specifically, it provides funding for the Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and **Housing** and Urban Development (HUD), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and several other agencies.

The Act funds a number of my Administration's high priorities, including the Corporation for National and Community Service at this year's current funding level. National Service gives young people the opportunity to obtain funding for a college education while serving the country in areas of great need, such as the environment, public safety, and human services. National Service also allows young people to participate in service-learning programs that provide substantial academic and social benefits, including the opportunity to learn responsible citizenship.

I am pleased that the Act also provides full funding of HUD's highest priority: $10.9 billion for the renewal of all Section 8 contracts, assuring continuation of HUD rental subsidies for low-income tenants in privately owned **housing**. I am also pleased that the Act provides 60,000 **housing** vouchers for low-income families. In addition, the Act adequately funds programs to help distressed communities, including my new initiative for America's Private Investment Companies (APIC), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), assistance to the homeless, the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, Brownfields redevelopment, and rural and urban empowerment zones. The CDBG program promotes **housing** and economic activity in low- and moderate-income areas. It provides funding for **housing** rehabilitation, construction, and homebuyer assistance. The CDFI Fund helps to create a network of community development banks across the country, spurring the flow of capital to distressed neighborhoods and their currently underserved low-income residents.

The Act includes funding that could support part of my New Markets proposal, which will help ensure that all Americans share in our economic prosperity. APIC and the rural and urban empowerment zones will help revitalize communities so that they can take advantage of the strength of the economy and help those left behind in our economic boom. Additionally, $1.02 billion is provided for homeless assistance grants, enabling localities to continue to shape and implement comprehensive, flexible, coordinated "continuum of care" approaches to solving homelessness.

I am pleased that the Act adequately funds Fair **Housing** programs, which will enable HUD to expand significantly its activities aimed at reducing the level of **housing** discrimination nationwide.

The Act provides $710 million, a significant increase, for elderly **housing**, recognizing the dramatic rise in our elderly population and the changing **housing** needs that accompany this unprecedented demographic shift. The Act replaces old models, which separated **housing** from services, with new models that bring services to elders where they live -- allowing seniors to remain in their homes and communities longer.

I am also pleased that H.R. 2684 provides $19.8 billion for the medical care of our Nation's veterans. Since January, long waiting times in VA medical centers have disrupted the level and quality of medical care that veterans have received. This level of service is unacceptable, and the funding levels in the Act will allow us to address this issue. The Act will also allow for the provision of a range of home- and community-based care for those high-priority veterans who do not have access to such services, and it provides resources for the aggressive testing and treatment of Hepatitis C.

The Act provides $7.6 billion for the EPA, which will enable the agency to adequately implement our environmental laws. I am pleased that H.R. 2684 adequately funds EPA's portion of the Clean Water Action Plan and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. However, the Act should have provided full funding for the Climate Change Technology Initiative and the new Clean Air Partnership Fund at the requested levels. Furthermore, I continue to believe that the provision pro-hibiting implementation of the Kyoto Protocol is unnecessary, as my Administration has no intent of implementing the Protocol prior to ratification. This year's language is identical to last year's provision. Since this year's House and Senate report language is contradictory, we will implement the Kyoto provision consistent with the language in last year's conference report. I also am disturbed that the conference report includes new language that is aimed at restricting efforts to reduce smog by delaying EPA action on several States' clean air petitions. My Administration has a strong commitment to clean air and will continue to use the full range of authorities under the law to make our Nation's air safe to breathe for all Americans.

The Act also adequately funds the Nation's investment in space and science programs. It provides $13.65 billion for NASA and $3.9 billion for the NSF, including $126 million for my Administration's Information Technology in the 21st Century Initiative. If we want to maintain our current economic prosperity, it is essential that we sustain our investment in long-term research across all the scientific and engineering disciplines. This Act maintains the Nation's investments in science, technology, and learning, which have fueled unprecedented economic growth for the past decade.

Finally, I am pleased that H.R. 2684 adequately funds FEMA to help cope with unforeseen disasters. The $2.5 billion in contingent emergency funds, along with the $821 million appropriated, ensures that the country is well prepared to deal with unforeseen natural disasters and that FEMA has adequate resources to respond to Hurricane Floyd and other disasters.

I am pleased that my Administration and the Congress were able to work together successfully on this bill -- in a spirit of cooperation -- to resolve our respective differences and produce a bill that is fully paid for and effectively addresses critical needs of the American people. I am especially pleased that we were able to achieve acceptable funding levels in a number of areas by providing offsets that were agreed on by both sides. I urge the Congress to work with my Administration in similar fashion in coming to mutually acceptable agreements on the remaining FY 2000 appropriations bills and to do so expeditiously. The American people deserve no less.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
October 20, 1999.

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White House Publications

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release October 20, 1999

PRESS BRIEFING BY
SECRETARY OF HUD ANDREW CUOMO

The Briefing Room

1:20 P.M. EDT

SECRETARY CUOMO: Good afternoon. Let me make a couple of points about a bill signing that the President just did, and then whatever questions you have would be my pleasure to answer.

The President signed the Veterans Administration/HUD bill -- **Housing** and Urban Development appropriations bill. And the President took the opportunity of the bill signing to point out that in many ways this could be a model for how the budget process could go forward.

The HUD/VA bill was not an easy bill to negotiate. But it is a bill that we, obviously ultimately, came to terms and we signed. It is a bill that does a phenomenal amount of good. The values that the President has been speaking about, the values that are important to the President in this budget process are represented in the bill. And it is a bill that, from a budget point of view, met the parameters that the leaders spoke about last night.

This is a bill that does the good things we want to do, but clearly does not tap into the Social Security surplus; that is very much a bill that paid with offsets for all of the initiatives that have been included.

Again, it was not an easy process to complete, but it shows that the process can be completed. So as the President discussed, and the leaders met last night, they're going to go forward on these types of parameters and the HUD/VA bill shows that it can be done.

On the HUD initiatives specifically within the bill, it is clearly, in my opinion, the best HUD budget, the best HUD legislation of this President's administration. We had some very real problems in

housing and urban development in this nation that this bill goes a long way towards addressing. It is the largest number of new, affordable **housing** units of any budget President Clinton has passed -- 60,000 what they call, Section 8 vouchers, new Section 8 voucher -- 60,000 new **housing** opportunities; the largest amount ever for this President in his seven years; more funding for the homeless, more funding for fair **housing** initiatives; funding for the President's New Markets Initiative.

Many of you came with us on the New Markets tour this past year, where the President pointed out that even though this economy is going great, there are many places in this nation that are not sharing in that great economic success. And he put forth his New Markets Initiative. That was contained in this bill. The American Private Investment Companies Act, $20 million -- that was passed. More funding for empowerment zones, which are an economic development tool for places left behind. More funding for brownfields.

We also averted a crisis of affordable **housing**. Many of the affordable **housing** units that we have built over the past 20 or so years are now expiring. And because the economy is so strong and the **housing** market is so strong, many buildings which were subsidized, many developments which were subsidized, want to go private and leave the government subsidy program, because they can get more money in the private market right now. We averted that crisis in this legislation.

And from a long-term point of view, we had the **housing** security plan for older Americans in this bill, which goes a long way towards meeting the **housing** needs of senior Americans. It's one of the issues that the President has focused on, the graying of America -- the so-called graying of America. By 2050 there will be 80 million more senior Americans. Where do they live? This bill totally revamps the senior **housing** in this nation, does more of it and does it better.

So, in sum, this was a great bill for HUD. It was a great precedent that said we can get a budget, we can do it in a bipartisan way, we can keep our values and be financially and fiscally responsible, and we can come to terms. And we hope that this model does not stand in isolation, but, rather as a precedent.

Q Can you give us a scorecard of all of the things that the President asked for in the New Markets Initiative, how much is still left out there? I mean, wasn't there a tax piece that hasn't gone anywhere? Could you just explain -- this $20 million was just one --

SECRETARY CUOMO: The $20 million was what they called the APIC, which to me is the cornerstone of the New Markets Initiative. There is also a New Markets tax credit which is also being negotiated.

Q But they're not going to -- that would be part of what?

SECRETARY CUOMO: That would be part of the extender bill or a piece of legislation that moves later.

Q Are you confident you're going to get that?

SECRETARY CUOMO: That's subject to negotiation. The only piece that we had on the table in this bill was the APIC, and that we got.

Q Who is going to win New York? Hillary or --

SECRETARY CUOMO: Hillary? Was that a question or a statement?

Q I'm just asking you.

SECRETARY CUOMO: Hillary, in my opinion. New York politics can be strange, even for a New Yorker. But I believe, when all is said and done, Hillary is going to win. It's going to be a while between now and then, but when the votes are counted, Hillary will win. She would be a phenomenal senator for the State of New York.

Q What about Guiliani? Isn't he pretty strong there?

SECRETARY CUOMO: He has been a great mayor, there's no doubt about that. And he's very strong in New York City. But this is a different job, it's a different contest. It's for senator of the State of New York. And I think Hillary's talents and abilities, when people focus on this job, this definition -- what does a senator do, what are they looking for in a senator, what skills, what traits -- that's going to be Hillary Clinton.

Q As a lifetime New Yorker and member of New York politics, what do you think of the carpetbagger issue? Couldn't we find anybody in the State of New York to run for senator?

SECRETARY CUOMO: We're all carpetbaggers in New York. New York is -- one if its really strong suits is we accept people from all over the country, all over the globe. Many people want to go to New York. It's the gateway, literally, to the nation for many. So we have seen streams of immigrants come in. Our diversity is one of our strengths.

So when you say "carpetbagger" to a New Yorker, it doesn't really resonate --

Q I don't know about that --

SECRETARY CUOMO: -- because we relish our differences. And the other thing that New Yorkers want is, New Yorkers want the best. They want the best. They believe they deserve the best and they want the best. And I believe Hillary Clinton is the best choice for Senate, and that's how it will come out -- in my opinion.

Q Just to follow up on that, though, most of the immigrants, I think you'll agree, came from east of New York, and not south of New York -- in Arkansas. (Laughter.)

SECRETARY CUOMO: New Yorkers -- also you have many immigrants who come in, which means our culture is one where we are accustomed to people joining our family. But we also have people from all over the country coming to New York. Broadway attracts people, the financial district attracts people. So we are very accustomed to having new people join the family of New York. And we welcome it -- we welcome it.

Q Why is she waiting so long to announce?

SECRETARY CUOMO: I don't know the tactics of the campaign in New York for the First Lady or for Mayor Guiliani. But one point is this conversation, this election cycle has begun very early in New York because of the profile of the First Lady. But I don't think -- the question, why is she waiting so long -- I think many would say, why is this discussion starting so early. We're not even in November yet, a year away and we're having the discussion.

Q While we're on the subject, any World Series predictions, Mr. Secretary? (Laughter.)

SECRETARY CUOMO: No, sir. Yankees. (Laughter.)

Q Do you think Hillary Clinton would make the best President and the first woman President in America?

SECRETARY CUOMO: I think that is a little far. (Laughter.) I think we'll stay with the Senate race and I'm confident of my prediction there.

Q -- her for presidency?

SECRETARY CUOMO: I think the First Lady would say she wants to win the Senate and master that and go from there.

Q Are you sorry you dropped out?

SECRETARY CUOMO: No. No. For me, the HUD Secretary, I couldn't design a better job than this job. These are the issues I care about. We're making a real difference. We've made tremendous progress with HUD. And especially today, that we have gotten this budget, the best budget of the Clinton administration. We're back in the **housing** business. We averted the Section 8 crisis. We have a new plan for senior citizens. The New Markets Initiative is really exciting, to do that type of economic development, to get out to the places that are left behind.

Q Are you for Gore or Bradley?

SECRETARY CUOMO: Gore, as a New Yorker and as an American.

Q How many homeless people are here in America today, without homes?

SECRETARY CUOMO: About 600,000 is the estimate that we use, but that's a rough estimate.

Q Why do you have so many in the richest country in the world?

SECRETARY CUOMO: Well, it's a question I often ask. Many answers. One of them is clearly an answer of **housing** affordability. Believe it or not, we have less affordable **housing** in this country today than at any point in history.

What's happening is the market is so hot, the economy is so hot that it's driving up the rents, and you can't afford the rents. People on fixed income, people on the lower end of the income spectrum literally can't reach the rents. So it's a **housing** affordability crisis, a **housing** supply crisis. And then it's very often many other issues, also -- problems with mental health, problems with domestic violence, problems with substance abuse. So it very often gets more complicated, but it always starts as a **housing** problem.

Q Could you just go through the offsets and the mechanics of negotiating them and how you think that could serve as a model for the other spending bills that are still out there?

SECRETARY CUOMO: Yes. I think there was a certain rhythm to this negotiation. And most negotiations develop their own rhythm. But we started with the substantive issues first: From a policy point of view, what were we trying to accomplish, what did the President believe he had to have in this bill; what did the Congress believe they had to have -- from a policy point of view, a substance point of view.

And then we did the finances second, and the offsets last.

And we agreed that additional items to the bill the respective parties would have to find a way to pay for with offsets that were acceptable to both. And that's what we did.

Q Are there any offsets that you discovered that you can use again on these other bills? I mean, tax increases or --

SECRETARY CUOMO: No, this bill was done as a self-contained negotiation. We didn't go near Social Security. We found funding within the four walls of the bill to satisfy the initiatives we wanted here.

Q Thank you.

Q Thanks for being so candid.

SECRETARY CUOMO: Thank you.

END 1:33 P.M. EDT