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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 19, 1998 ✓

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

Washington Convention Center
Washington, D.C.

9/28/98

1.

9/29/98

10:17 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. You know, Maxine Waters would be so much more effective as the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus if she weren't so shy and retiring -- (laughter) -- so reluctant to express her opinion. (Laughter.)

Thank you, my friends, for years of friendship. Thank you for the work we began back in 1991. To the chair of the dinner, Congressman Clyburn, and the chair of the foundation, Congresswoman Clayton -- and congratulations on your recent outstanding primary victory -- (applause) -- to the dean of this caucus and a great fighter for the American way, John Conyers, thank you. (Applause.)

To two great lions of the century we are about to end, Rosa Parks and Dr. Dorothy Height. (Applause.) To three great friends of mine who have left or are now leaving the Congress, Ron Dellums, Floyd Flake, and Louis Stokes, I echo everything the Vice President said about you. (Applause.)

And to the family of Congressman Charles Diggs Jr., I thank you for giving the awards to Secretary Herman and Secretary Slater, to Frank Raines and Congressman Rush and the other winners who have given so much to our country.

I thank the members of our administration who are here tonight: Attorney General Reno, Secretary Cuomo, SBA Administrator Alvarez. To the marvelous White House staff members who are here: Minyon Moore, Goody Marshall, Maria Echaveste, Bob Nash, Janice Kearney, Ben Johnson, Al Maldon, Tracey Thornton, Cheryl Mills, Judith Winston, Betty Currie, Janet Murguia, and goodness knows who else is here -- they hate to miss

this dinner. To all the members of the administration who are here, along with all the members of the caucus, I thank you.

After the speeches which have been given, the outstanding remarks of the Vice President -- and let me say one thing about him. I sometimes regret that one of the burdens of being Vice President is having to brag on the President and never getting to brag on himself. Many things will be said -- good and perhaps some not so good -- about this administration. One thing that will never be in question is that in the history of our republic no person has ever held the office of Vice President who had more influence on more decisions and did more good in more areas for more people in this country than Vice President Al Gore. (Applause.)

I have a speech I want to give, but first I'd like to say something from the heart. I want to thank you for standing up for America with me. (Applause.) I want to thank you for standing up for me and understanding the true meaning of repentance and atonement. (Applause.) I want to thank you for standing up consistently for people over politics, for progress over partisanship, for principle over power, for unity over division. I want to thank you for standing up, beyond race, for the very best in America. I am very, very grateful. (Applause.)

I am grateful for what the Congressional Black Caucus has done for the past 28 years to expand and enhance the promise of America and to lead our country toward a single shining ideal, perhaps captured best in that wonderful phrase from John Lewis' autobiography, "the beloved community" -- one that dwells not on difference but instead gains strength from expanding diversity; one rooted in humane laws and generous spirits in which all children's talents are matched by their opportunities; in which all Americans join hands and, in John's words, courageously walk with the wind.

God knows your journey has not been easy. The winds have often blown bitter and cold. But always this caucus has walked with the wind. (Applause.)

Today, because of the long road you have walked, the house we call America is safer and stronger than ever. As I think back on what we have done together in the last five and a half years, I think of these things. We cut taxes for 15 million hard-working families through the earned income tax credit, and when the Republicans tried to slash it we said no. We increased the minimum wage to give 10 million Americans a well-deserved raise. And now we're trying to increase it again in a way that would affect 12 million of our fellow citizens, to ensure that people who work full time can raise their children out of poverty and that all people share in the bounty of our present prosperity.

Together we fought for and won the biggest increase in children's health care in more than three decades. It can add insurance, health insurance to 5 million children in working families across this country. (Applause.) We expanded the Head Start program to help our children get off on the right foot and we're going to expand it some more. We made it possible for nearly 2 million more women and infants to get the nutritional care they need. With the Family and Medical Leave Act, we gave millions of people the chance to take time off from work to care for an ailing parent or bond with a newborn child.

We have opened the doors of higher education with the HOPE Scholarship, with more Pell Grants, with tax credits for all higher education, with the deductibility of student loans. We have done that for every single qualified American who's willing to work for it. Money can no longer be considered an insurmountable obstacle. And you did that. You should be very, very proud. (Applause.)

Together with the Vice President's leadership, we created more than 100 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, established community development banks, doubled small business loans to minorities and tripled them to women. When people wanted to scrap affirmative action we said: mend it, don't end it. (Applause.) Because we believe the best investment in America makes us all stronger.

Together we shaped and passed the historic crime bill, overcoming immense pressure with the Brady Bill, the assault weapons ban, more police on our streets and, yes, more prevention for our children to keep them out of trouble in the first place.

Now, look what you have done: nearly 17 million jobs, the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, the lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment rates in a generation, the lowest African American poverty rate since statistics have been kept, the fastest real wage growth in 20 years, a record number of new small businesses every year, violent crime down six years in a row, and the lowest crime rate in 25 years. None of this could have happened without the leadership, the friendship, the ideas of the Congressional Black Caucus. (Applause.)

And I thank the Vice President for his litany of our African American appointments and for pointing out -- in a phrase I will steal the first chance I get -- that we are not successful in spite of our diversity; we are successful because of it. We can never say that enough. That is the truth and America is better because all Americans can feel a part of this administration. (Applause.)

Now, here's the real question: what are we to do with this treasured moment of prosperity and progress? What are we to do with our resources? What are we to do with the self-confidence it has generated in America? Some people think that now is the time to kick back and relax. Others seem to think they can play games with our future with some of the proposals now before the Congress. I say we can look back a long way to the book of Genesis to see what we should do.

Remember Joseph? What did he do in a time of plenty? He did not rest. When people thought he was too farsighted and too burdensome, he instructed them to stockpile rich bounties of grain like sand to the sea. He knew the times of plenty had to be the busiest, the most productive, the most determined times of all. Wisdom and history teach us that in times of prosperity we need to be more visionary, more vigorous, more determined to deal with the long-term challenges before us, and that we will only pay a price if we indulge ourselves in idleness or distractions.

I say we cannot rest until we save Social Security for the 21st century. (Applause.) Remember what we are facing today. In 1993, it was projected that the deficit would be about \$300 billion and rising. In just a few days, a little more than a week, we'll have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years. (Applause.) Ninety-two percent -- ninety-two percent of the gap was closed by the votes of members of this caucus and our party without any help. Then we did have a bipartisan balanced budget bill that had, thanks to your efforts, the health care and education initiatives I mentioned.

So now we are going to have a surplus because of the hard work and productivity of the American people. Some say it's just a few weeks before the election, we ought to have a tax cut. I'm not against tax cuts. This year, in the balanced budget bill, the American people will get, most of them, a \$500 tax credit for every child at home; the HOPE Scholarship and other credits for college education; the right to withdraw from an IRA without penalty for education, for health care, for buying a first-time home. That's a good thing. But they're paid for in the balanced budget.

And in my budget there are more tax cuts. There are tax cuts for education, to build and repair old schools; tax cuts to help families with the cost of child care; tax cuts to help small businesses take out pensions for their employees who don't have them today. But every one of them is paid for in the balanced budget. By the time the baby boomers like me -- and I'm the oldest of them -- that's hard to say. (Laughter.) By the time we retire, all of us in the baby boom generation, 18 years of us, there will only be about two people working for every one person drawing Social Security if the predictions are right.

Now, we have three choices. Number one, we can do nothing and wait until the crash comes, because the present system is not sustainable, and then we can simply cut the living standards of our seniors. For people like me it will be fine; I'll have a good pension. But don't forget, half the people in this country over 65 today are out of poverty because of Social Security. Or we can wait until that day comes and we can say, we can't do that to our parents and grandparents, so we can just simply raise the taxes a lot on the working families of this country to maintain the system just exactly as it is. And in so doing, people like me will have to face the prospect that we've lowered the standard of living of our children and our children's ability to raise our grandchildren. Or we can say if we start now with a sensible, modest proposal, we can save Social Security and save the future for our children and grandchildren. I don't think it's even close and I don't think you do either. (Applause.)

But that means we can't rest; we have to work. We can't rest until all the children in all the communities have a world-class education. We have a budget before the Congress to hire 100,000 more teachers; to take those class sizes in the early grades down to 18; to rebuild or modernize 5,000 schools; to hook all the classrooms in the poorest schools, too, up to the Internet by the year 2000; to reward the school districts that are trying to reform and help kids -- like Chicago, where there are so many kids in summer school it's the sixth biggest school district in America and over 40,000 kids get three square meals a day there; to hire 35,000 more teachers by paying their way through college and saying you can pay your student loan off if you'll go into the inner-city or into another underserved area and teach our kids who need it -- (applause) -- by passing Congressman Fattah's High Hopes proposal so that we can have the ability to mentor kids in junior high school and tell them, if you'll stay out of trouble, stay in school, learn your lessons, we will tell you right now you will be able to go on to college and here's how much money you will get to make sure it gets done. That's what we have to do. We cannot rest; we have work to do. (Applause.)

We can't rest until we pass that patients' bill of rights. Now, that sounds like a high-flown term. Here's what it means. It means that with 160 million Americans in managed care systems, we still don't think an accountant ought to be making a decision a doctor should make. (Applause.) We believe if somebody walks out of this dinner tonight and, God forbid, is in a car accident, they ought to be able to go to the nearest emergency room, not one five or six miles away because it happens to be covered by the plan. We believe if somebody needs a specialist and their doctor says they need a specialist, they ought to be able to get a specialist and not be told no. (Applause.)

We believe if a woman is six months pregnant and her insurance plan changes carriers, her employer, they ought not to be able to tell her to get a different obstetrician until after the baby is born. That's what we believe. (Applause.)

And we believe the other party's bill is wrong for America,

because it doesn't guarantee any of these rights. It enables people to invade the privacy of your records even more, and it leaves 100 million Americans out. We cannot rest; we have work to do. (Applause.)

We cannot rest while HIV and AIDS is escalating in the African American community. Secretary Shalala just announced the first installment of a comprehensive prevention, education, and care plan in the African American community. Working with Maxine Waters, Lou Stokes, and others in the CBC, we can and we must do more. But we're only two weeks away from this budget year, and Congress has still not passed the health budget. We cannot rest; we have work to do.

We cannot rest until we eliminate the unacceptable disparities in health that racial and ethnic minorities experience in America today. (Applause.) We are not one nation when it comes to infant mortality, heart disease, and prostate cancer for African Americans. It is nearly double the rate for white Americans.

There are other problems that Hispanics and Asians and other minorities have. That is why I challenged the nation to eliminate these disparities by 2010, and asked Congress to pass \$400 million to achieve this goal. Almost time for the new budget year, it still hasn't passed yet. We cannot rest; we have work to do. (Applause.)

Let me say this. The unemployment rate, the poverty rates, all those rates you hear about the African American population, they're true. But they disguise a fact that is unacceptable -- there are still disparities. We cannot rest until every community, every neighborhood, every block, every family has the chance to reap the benefits of our economic growth. That is why we have to fund the empowerment initiatives that the Vice President and Secretary Cuomo have worked so hard for, to provide **housing** assistance for those leaving welfare and entering work, to expand funding for the community development banks, to step up enforcement of fair **housing** laws, to revitalize more urban brownfield areas, and to restore summer jobs for our young people. (Applause.) We're less than two weeks away from a new budget year and that has not been passed yet. We cannot rest; we have work to do.

We cannot rest while any communities are thoroughly segregated by income or by race. The federal government should lead the way in word and deed. I have directed Secretary Cuomo to seek a major legislative overhaul in the admission policy for public **housing**, to deconcentrate poverty, mix incomes, and thereby mix racial balances for Americans.

Tonight I ask all of you to send a clear message to Congress with me: don't send me a public **housing** bill that doesn't include our admission reforms -- reforms that will make public **housing** a model of one America in the 21st century. (Applause.) And I might add, we're less than two weeks away from a new budget year and I still don't have the increase I asked for in the budget of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. We cannot rest; we have work to do. (Applause.)

And let me say one or two more words about this census. We can't rest until we have a fair one. Listen to this. In 1990, about 4.5 percent of African Americans were not counted. In Los Angeles County alone, nearly 40,000 African American children were left out. This has enormous consequences for how we distribute the bounty of America, for how we draw our political distinctions, for the policies that we follow. This is a fundamental issue. This is a civil rights issue. Why? Why would the Republican leadership in Congress refuse methods of counting that even -- listen to this -- that even Republican experts say is the best way to count all Americans. We must count every American for one simple reason: every American counts. We cannot rest; we have work to

do on this census issue. (Applause.)

We cannot rest until we act as leaders to contain the global financial and economic crisis that grips Russia and Asia. Why? Because a third of our own economic growth in these last years has come from our trade with other nations. We have to try to build an adequate trade and financial system for a new century that takes into legitimate account the interests of working people, the interest of the environment, the interest all countries have in avoiding depressions and unusual boom and bust cycle. Why? Because it is in our interests in a world growing ever smaller to keep people free and give them a chance to work their way to prosperity, and because we can't be an island of prosperity in a sea of failure, as Alan Greenspan said so eloquently the other day.

That means we've got to help the International Monetary Fund put out these economic fires across the world by paying our fair dues. It's in our interest to help emerging countries -- in Africa, in Latin America, in Asia. Hillary and I saw the African renaissance with many of you this past spring -- a trip that changed me forever. Across the continent I saw hope rising, business growing, democracy gaining strength. Yes, I saw profound, continuing problems and enormous challenges, but I saw in the bright eyes of children and the stern resolve of their parents the potential of a wonderful future.

We have to work together to see that Africa's children, like America's, have a democratic, peaceful, prosperous future; to expand trade and partnership by passing our Africa trade bill; to deal effectively with the violent conflicts that continue to plague Africa today and threaten its future. To ensure that Africa's hospitality is not used to perpetuate acts of terrorism, as it was so terribly in the bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. I have asked Dr. David Satcher, our Surgeon General, to go to East Africa this month with a team of medical experts to do what they can to help people who are still ailing there.

There is still no action in Congress, after all these months, on the Africa trade bill or on the International Monetary Fund. But world events are not waiting for Congress. My friends, if you believe we have responsibilities in the world, and you believe ultimately those responsibilities affect the welfare of your families, your children, and the future of this country, I say we cannot rest. We have work to do. (Applause.)

We cannot rest until we solve the oldest, most stubborn, most painful challenge of our nation -- the continuing challenge of race. Yesterday, for the final time, I met with my Advisory Board on Race and received their report. I am proud of their work, the guidance they have given us for policy, for dialogue, for specific practices in every community in this country. But we know we've only just begun a work that will take a lifetime; only just begun to find ways finally to lift the burden of race and redeem the full promise of America.

You know, our founders knew we weren't perfect, but they always strived for perfect ideals. They built us a country based on a Constitution that was literally made for reconciliation, for the honorable and principled resolution of differences, rooted in the simple proposition that God created us all equal. Therefore, the implicit mandate of the Constitution is that each of us should respect and treat our neighbors as we, ourselves, would like to be treated. It is still our most sure guidepost today. We can build an America where discrimination is something you have to look in the history books to find. But we've still got work to do.

If it takes until my last day on this Earth, I owe it to you, to the American people who have been so good to me for so long, to keep working on guiding our people across all the great divides into that one

beloved community. My friends, this is not a time to rest. It's a time to work. Just as God is not finished with any of us yet, we must not be finished with God's work. (Applause.) We must not be finished with seeking peace or justice or freedom, equality, human dignity, and reconciliation.

Foxes have holes, birds of the air have nests; but the son of Man has no place to rest his head. There is never going to be an end to this work. (Applause.) And the present moment of promise imposes upon all of us a special responsibility. So let there be no end to your faith, your energy, your courage and your commitment.

And let me say one other thing. You and I need some help. And this November we'll be given a chance to get it. (Applause.) We have worked hard to make America a better place; and it is. We have worked hard to empower our people; and we have. But now they must use that power to be heard, to say what we shall do and where we shall go. This is a moment of decision for us. Will it be progress or partisanship, people or politics, principle or power?

The scripture says that we should mount up with wings as eagles, we should run and not grow tired, we should walk and not faint. We should not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. For all the many things I am grateful to the Black Caucus for, the most important thing is that I know you have never lost heart and that in your heart there is a longing for the best, not just for African Americans, but for all Americans. We can help them get there and they can lead us home.

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

END

10:42 P.M. EDT

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 20, 1998

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ✓

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4059, the "Military Construction Appropriations Act, FY 1999," which provides funding for military construction and family **housing** programs of the Department of Defense (DOD). ✓

The Act funds the vast majority of my request for military construction projects, including the military family **housing** program, other quality-of-life projects for our military personnel and their families, and the DOD base closure and realignment program.

I do have several concerns with the bill. The Congress has chosen to add funds for projects that the DOD has not identified as priorities. In particular, \$243 million is provided for 38 projects that are not in the DOD's Future Years Defense Program. The bill also includes a prohibition on the use of any funds appropriated in the Act for Partnership for Peace Programs or to provide support for non-NATO countries. This restriction could impede NATO activities and could adversely affect future NATO-led military operations.

In addition, the Congress has again included a provision that requires the Secretary of Defense to give 30 days advance notice to certain congressional committees of any proposed military exercise involving construction costs anticipated to exceed \$100,000. In approving H.R. 4059, I wish to reiterate an understanding, expressed by Presidents Reagan and Bush when they signed Military Construction Appropriations Acts containing a similar provision, that this section encompasses only exercises for which providing 30 days advance notice is feasible and consistent with my constitutional authority and duty to protect the national security.

I urge the Congress to complete action on the remaining FY 1999 appropriations bills as quickly as possible, and to send them to me in an acceptable form.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
September 19, 1998.
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Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

September 4, 1998

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES
EXPANDED "OFFICER NEXT DOOR" PROGRAM, ✓
WITH MORE INCENTIVES FOR MORE OFFICERS

Also Announces Support for Program
from the Mortgage Bankers Association of America

Washington DC -- Vice President Gore announced today that the "Officer Next Door" program, now enabling 2,000 law enforcement officers to buy homes at half-price in distressed neighborhoods, will expand to serve ✓
1,000 more officers and cut mortgage costs by up to several thousand dollars per officer.

He also announced that the program -- designed to revitalize neighborhoods by encouraging police officers to live in them -- has won support from 10 law enforcement groups with a total membership of over 500,000 officers.

"Good neighbors help create good neighborhoods," the Vice President said at a White House ceremony marking the 2,000th officer's participation in the year-old initiative, where he was joined by **Housing** and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Andrew Cuomo. "When police officers move into an area, criminals want to move out and families want to move in. The presence of officers can plant the seeds of revitalization to transform struggling communities into thriving neighborhoods, attracting new businesses and jobs."

Cuomo added, "Police officers, who put their lives on the line every day safeguarding the American Dream, should have the ability to live it themselves. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have led the way in working with law enforcement officers across this nation to dramatically reduce crime. Now we are working with them to bring new opportunity, growth, and prosperity to communities through the Officer Next Door program."

Under the program, HUD sells homes it has acquired through foreclosure on defaulted mortgages insured by the Federal **Housing** Administration

(FHA) at half off the FHA-listed price. Each participating officer signs a contract agreeing to live in the home at least three years. Those who receive an FHA-insured mortgage can buy homes with a down payment of as little as \$100.

Working with local elected officials, HUD designates neighborhoods as revitalization areas -- of which there are now over 500 -- for participation. The neighborhoods are typically in low- and moderate-income areas, have many vacant properties, and often have high crime rates, but are considered good candidates for economic development and improvement.

The Vice President also announced that the Mortgage Bankers Association of America (MBA) will urge its nearly 3,000 member lenders to give law enforcement officers moving into eligible neighborhoods a choice of mortgage discounts: either a half-point cut in closing costs (an immediate \$500 savings on a typical \$100,000 mortgage), or a one-eighth-point cut in interest rates over the life of the mortgage (a \$3,000 savings over 30 years on a \$100,000 mortgage). MBA President Marc Smith said that 50 lenders have already agreed to provide the mortgage savings to officers, and several hundred are expected to offer the incentive starting in October.

The following law enforcement groups announced their support of the Officer Next Door program today: National Fraternal Order of Police, International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Union of Police Associations, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Major Cities Chiefs Association, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Police Executive Research Forum, National Sheriff's Association, National Troopers Coalition, and the Police Foundation.

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Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

September 1, 1998

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES NEW EFFORTS
TO TARGET, ENROLL UNINSURED CHILDREN
IN HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

not included

Announces Approvals of Iowa, Delaware, and Kansas
State Children's Health Insurance Programs

Washington, DC -- Vice President Gore announced new federal and private efforts today to target and provide health care coverage for uninsured children.

While hosting the National Child Health Caravan multi-state journey to reach out and enroll uninsured children, the Vice President unveiled new efforts by federal agencies to sign up uninsured children who are eligible but not enrolled in federal-state health insurance programs; announced federal approval of Delaware, Iowa, and Kansas' state children's health insurance programs (CHIP); and highlighted the special challenges that rural states face in targeting and covering uninsured children.

"We are using every tool at our disposal to find uninsured children, to enroll them in quality health care, and to make sure they have access to the care and treatment they need," the Vice President Gore said in a speech in which he praised the Children's Health Fund "National Child Health Caravan," which will deliver new mobile units that provide a range of health services for children in medically underserved areas.

The Vice President also announced:

New Federal Initiatives to Identify and Enroll Uninsured Children: The Vice President announced new steps that agencies are taking in response to an Executive Memorandum that directed eight federal agencies to help sign up millions of uninsured children eligible for coverage. They will:

-- Launch a new campaign to encourage states to partner with

school lunch programs that serve 15 million children. Today, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman is launching a campaign to encourage states to use the 94,000 school lunch programs to sign up uninsured children. They will distribute several model free and reduced price lunch application forms that states and schools may use to link families to state health insurance programs.

- Kick off efforts to educate the six million families in low-income **housing** programs about health insurance. This week, **Housing** and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo will send information about the new CHIP program and how to identify and enroll families eligible for CHIP or Medicaid to: 3,400 public **housing** authorities; 25,000 owners and managers of multi-family properties; 72 directors of Urban Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities; grantees providing assistance to homeless families; beneficiaries of the Native American Mortgage Loan Program; and parents and community groups working on lead hazards.
- Utilize over 150,000 Treasury employees who work with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other low-income programs to educate families about CHIP and Medicaid. Later this week, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin will send 158,000 employees a memorandum encouraging their participation in efforts to target and enroll children in CHIP and Medicaid. These employees encounter low-income families, many of whom have uninsured children, in a number of ways. About 15 million families receive EITC.

Approval of Delaware, Iowa and Kansas' Children's Health Insurance Programs, Meaning That Nearly Two-Thirds of States Have Been Approved. The Vice President announced that, today, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala approved three new states for CHIP: Delaware, Iowa and Kansas -- all with disproportionate numbers of uninsured children in rural areas.

- Delaware: The Delaware Healthy Children program expects to cover over 10,000 children with family income up to 200 percent of the poverty level.
- Iowa: The "Healthy And Well Kids in Iowa" program (HAWK-I) expects to cover 15,500, expanding Medicaid to all children with family income belows 133 percent of the poverty level.
- Kansas: The HealthWave program expects to cover 40,000 children, ensuring that all children with family incomes below 200 percent of the poverty level are eligible for coverage.

In addition, the Vice President announced efforts to meet the challenges of covering the 2.5 million uninsured children in rural communities. He:

Announced Over \$1.6 million in Funds to Renew Successful Rural Health Projects in Underserved Communities. The Vice President announced that, this month, the Health and Human Services Department will renew projects that reach out to children in underserved rural areas.

Urged Congress to Pass the Rural Outreach Initiative in the President's 1999 Budget. This initiative would provide a total of \$2 million to up to 10 rural communities. These communities will use the money to train citizens to provide outreach services to residents in hard-to-reach populations, bringing them into the health care system for primary care, preventive services, and

acute care.

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 6, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES FOR NATIVE AMERICANS
RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH CARE, AND EDUCATION ✓
August 6, 1998

Today, President Clinton will attend a conference sponsored by the White House and fifteen federal agencies, "Building Economic Self-Determination in Indian Communities." He will announce several initiatives aimed at improving economic self-sufficiency, increasing educational opportunities, and providing health care to Native Americans. The initiatives focus on: improving student achievement in reading and math for grades K-12; assessing the technology infrastructure needs of Indian country; coordinating existing federal economic development programs for Native Americans; creating a one-stop mortgage center in Indian country to streamline the mortgage process; creating technology-based jobs in Indian country; and adjusting the state funding from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to reflect accurately states' populations of Native American children. In addition, the President will call on Congress to pass legislation to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary.

Creating Educational Opportunities for Native American Students

Native American Education Executive Order. Today, President Clinton will sign an executive order designed to improve the academic performance of American Indian and Alaska Native students in grades K-12. The order focuses special attention on the following five goals: (1) improving student achievement in reading and mathematics; (2) increasing high school completion and post-secondary attendance rates; (3) reducing the influence of long-standing factors that impede educational performance, such as poverty and substance abuse; (4) creating strong, safe, and drug-free school environments conducive to learning; and (5) expanding the use of science and educational technology. This order is structured to address Indian educational needs through participation at the federal, regional, and local levels. At the federal level, the order establishes an Interagency Task Force to plan initiatives, develop an education resource guide, and assist in

implementing a comprehensive research agenda on Indian education. At the regional level, the order mandates a series of regional forums to identify promising practices. Finally, at the local level, the order establishes pilot sites that will receive comprehensive technical assistance in support of the goals of the order.

Expanding Economic Development in Indian Country

Executive Directive for Economic Development in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities. The President will announce a directive with three components:

Technology Infrastructure Study. The President will direct the Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and tribal governments, to issue a report within nine months on the technology infrastructure needs within Indian country, including distance learning facilities, telecommunications capabilities, and manufacturing facilities.

Strategic Plan to Coordinate Economic Development. The President also will direct the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, and the Small Business Administration to develop, within 90 days, a strategic plan for coordinating economic development initiatives for Native American and Alaska Native communities. The plan will build upon current efforts in the agencies and detail future efforts on matters such as providing technical assistance, enhancing infrastructure, and developing software.

One-Stop Mortgage Center. The President also will direct the Departments of Treasury and **Housing** and Urban Development, in partnership with local tribal governments and in cooperation with other federal agencies, to initiate a project to help streamline the mortgage lending process in Indian country in order to improve access to mortgage loans on Indian reservations. The agencies will initiate this effort through a year-long pilot program on the Navajo Nation and in at least one other location.

Providing \$70 Million to Create Technology-Based Jobs in Indian Country. The President will announce that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through its Bringing Rural America Venture Opportunities (BRAVO) initiative, will direct \$70 million to assist seven American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in establishing small start-up technology companies to obtain government contracts.

Improving Health Care for Native Americans

Legislation to Elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary. The President will call on Congress to pass legislation to elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to an Assistant Secretary. This change will strengthen government-to-government relationships; facilitate communication and consultation with the Tribes on matters of Indian health; and raise awareness of Indian health concerns throughout the Department of Health and Human Services and the entire federal government.

Increase Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding in states with large numbers of Native American children by about \$20 million. The President will announce a change in the state-by-state allocation of the \$24 billion in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to count Native American children appropriately. Under this program, states receive a share of funds based on their proportion of uninsured children below 200 percent of poverty. When the Census Bureau produced these counts last September, it did not count vulnerable Native American children as "uninsured." Thus, even though such children are eligible

for CHIP coverage, states with a large number of Native American children did not receive the appropriate share of funds. The President will announce that the Administration will revise these allotments. These revised allotments will be published in October. This effort will build upon the Administration's commitment to improve health care coverage for Native American children. Both the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs and HHS's Indian Health Service are committed to increase enrollment of uninsured Native American and Alaska Native children, including through the development and distribution of culturally relevant referral information to schools and social services.

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 4, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON WELFARE REFORM ✓

The East Room

3:15 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much, Vesta Kimble, for that fine statement and for the good work you do. And I welcome your colleagues and co-workers from Maryland here. I thank Congressman Levin and Congressman Roemer for coming. There was a vote in the House of Representatives which was concluded literally two minutes before we started this ceremony and they got here as quick as they could. We welcome you and thank you for your role in welfare reform.

I'd like to thank Secretary Herman and Secretary Shalala for the terrific job they have done, and welcome all of you in the audience, including my good friend, Eli Segal, who founded our partnership with the business community, about which I'll say more later. The First Lady was just a few moments ago meeting with members and I think maybe some former members of the D.C. Control Board. I know that some of them are here and I welcome them as well.

Two years ago I stood with many of you in the Rose Garden and made the following statement: "From now on our nation's answer to the problems of poverty will no longer be a never ending cycle of welfare; it will be the dignity, the power, and the ethic of work. . . . We are taking an historic chance to make welfare what it was meant to be: a second chance, not a way of life."

As those of us who have been working for years and years to change the system knew all too well, welfare had in too many ways failed our society, and more important, failed the millions of families it was designed to help. So in the Rose Garden we came together two years ago to restore our basic bargain of providing opportunity to all those

willing to exercise responsibility in turn. We ended welfare as we knew it and made way for a system based on the dignity of independence and the value of work.

But I would also like to reiterate something Secretary Shalala said. We did not want to put poor people moving from welfare to work in the exact same position too many people who've always been in the work force find themselves, of having to choose between being a good worker and a good parent. So we said, okay, we will require people who have to move from welfare to work, if they're able-bodied, to go to work. But we will leave their children with food assistance and guaranteed medical coverage, and we will invest more in child care and other family supports.

Today we come here not only to observe this anniversary but to lay to rest the last vestige of the old system -- an anti-work, anti-family provision that has deprived some two-parent families of their Medicaid coverage when a parent secures a full-time job.

But first, on this important anniversary, I think it's important to recognize that this new strategy -- this great new experiment that we launched two years ago -- has already shown remarkable signs of success. Two years ago, we said welfare reform would spark a race to independence, not a race to the bottom, and this prediction is coming true.

According to the National Governors Association, state investments in helping former welfare parents succeed at work have gone up by one-third, and spending on child care has increased by one-half. And let me remind you, I believe this has happened partly because the Congress in the Balanced Budget Amendment appropriated \$3 billion for child care, but partly because there was a little-noticed provision in the welfare reform law which lets states keep the amount of money they were receiving for the welfare case load in February of '94, when it had reached an all-time high.

So as the case loads go down, they can keep the money as long as they reinvest it in the potential of the families involved. And I think that was a very good thing to do.

We also said back then that work should pay more than welfare. Last week the Urban Institute reported that family income goes up more than 50 percent, on average, when parents move from welfare to part-time entry-level jobs, and significantly more when they move up to full-time work. And I must say, I was especially pleased to note how helpful the Earned Income Tax Credit is for families making this transition. In several states it accounts for almost half the income gains.

For those of you who may not know it, the Earned Income Tax Credit is a tax cut to lower-income working people that is especially generous to working families with children. We doubled it in 1993, and because of that provision, today it's worth a tax cut of approximately a thousand dollars a year to a family of four with an income of under \$30,000 a year. Obviously, for people working for more modest wages than that, it means a very great deal.

Today we have more good news. In a few moments I will release our first annual report to Congress on welfare reform -- precisely the kind of report we had hoped for two years ago. It shows that the number of welfare recipients entering the work force rose by nearly 30 percent in a single year. It reports that states are spending more per person on welfare-to-work efforts than they did two years ago, including health care, job training, job placement, child care, and job retention.

Come in, Congressman Shaw, you're welcome. (Laughter.) Thank you

for the role you've played in welfare reform legislation. We're glad to see you.

It shows that more single parents are moving into the work force, a very significant statistic. And it confirms that the percentage of Americans now on welfare is at its lowest level since 1969 -- 29 years. There are other, more powerful signs of success that of course a report can't show. Too often we take for granted what it really means for a family to reconnect to the world of work. Work is more than a punch card, more than a paycheck. It provides structure to a day, link to a society, dignity for a family. It can build self-confidence and self-esteem. There is nothing like the pride in a child's eyes when he or she goes to school and can answer, often for the first time, what their parents do for a living.

One of the most important ways we can now build on these everyday triumphs is to make absolutely sure that parents who do enter the work force can go to bed at night without worrying that they will lose health coverage for their families. That is why I'm proud to announce that the Department of Health and Human Services will revise its regulations to allow all states to continue to provide Medicaid coverage to two-parent families after a parent takes a full-time job. Believe it or not, under the old rules adults in two-parent families who worked more than 100 hours per month could actually be cut off Medicaid in many states.

Perhaps no aspect of the old welfare system did more to defy common sense and insult our common values than this so-called 100-hour rule. Just think of the message it sent. It took away health care from people who secured a full-time job just as we were imploring everybody to move from welfare to work. Instead of rewarding stable families, it actually punished couples that work and work hard to stay together. Instead of demanding responsibility, it basically said a father could do more for his children's health by sitting at home or walking away than earning a living.

The 100-hour rule was wrong. Now, it and every other strand of the old welfare system are history. The remaining challenges are ones we all have to accept. All of us -- the public, private, religious, nonprofit sectors -- have an obligation to continue helping all former welfare recipients not only find, but stay in those jobs.

First, we must continue to offer states and communities the tools they need to promote work. Today, we will release \$60 million more in Welfare-to-Work grants to states to help mothers and fathers facing the most significant employment hurdles. And I also want to call on Congress to fully fund my plan to provide **housing** vouchers for welfare recipients who need to move closer to their place of work. ✓

Some recent studies, including some coming out of New York, show that the effects of welfare reform in terms of people being able to move into the workplace have been quite uneven, depending upon the level of preparation of the people on welfare for the work force and their level of isolation from available jobs. So these are important next steps.

Second, the private sector -- the true engine of job creation in our country -- must continue to do its part. Listen to this: last year our Welfare-to-Work partners, who were mobilized by Eli Segal, as I said earlier, hired more than 135,000 former welfare recipients. I have asked them to hire another 270,000 by the end of this year. Thank you, Eli, but you have to do more. (Laughter.)

Third, we must continue to welcome former welfare recipients into the federal family workforce. Today we released new data showing that the federal government has hired more than 5,700 former welfare recipients in just the past year. That means we're well over half the

way toward our goal of hiring 10,000 by the year 2000.

Fourth, let me say again, I think it's important that we do more to bring the benefits of this economic revival our country is enjoying into isolated urban and rural areas where free enterprise has not yet reached. A lot of the people who are still stuck on welfare are physically separate from the job availability. And I have asked the Congress to approve a second round of empowerment zones, to approve a whole range of initiatives, and Secretary Herman and Secretary Cuomo's budget designed to create jobs principally in the private sector in isolated inner-city and rural neighborhoods. So I hope that will be a part of the work we conclude in the days remaining in this congressional session.

Welfare reform itself was a bipartisan effort. It became an American issue. Now, providing jobs and opportunity and new businesses and new free enterprise in these neighborhoods that still have not felt the economy should also be an American issue.

We have now the lowest unemployment in 28 years, the lowest inflation in 32 years, the highest homeownership in history, wages are on the rise for our families after 20 years of stagnation. This is our window of maximum opportunity to make sure every poor person in America stuck on welfare has a chance to be a part of America's future and to share in the American Dream. If we can't do it now, when our economy and our prospects and our confidence are so strong, then when?

Now we have jobs waiting to be filled in almost every community. I've been working with people here in Washington, D.C. -- there are hundreds of thousands of jobs in information technology-related fields open today, everywhere from Silicon Valley to the suburban areas of the nation's capital. If we make the best use of this time, we can change the whole culture of poverty and long neglected neighborhoods. We can help millions more people ensure that their children will be raised in homes full of hope and pride based on dignity and work.

To all of you who have made this day come to pass, who have played a role in the progress of the last two years, and to all of you who are committed to keeping on until the job is done, I extend the thanks of our nation. Great job. Let's do better.

Thank you very much and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

3:28 P.M. EDT

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 4, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL ANNOUNCE WELFARE TO WORK SUCCESSES
AND NEW STEPS TO PROVIDE HEALTH COVERAGE
FOR MORE WORKING FAMILIES ✓

August 4, 1998

Today, President Clinton will take new action to promote work and responsibility as he sends to Congress a report showing that the welfare reform bill he signed into law nearly two years ago has helped millions of families make the successful transition from welfare to work. Today the President will: 1) announce that he is eliminating an old vestige of the welfare system so that all states can provide Medicaid health coverage to working, two parent families; 2) announce \$60 million in new Welfare-to-Work grants for six states and Guam to help the most disadvantaged welfare recipients get and keep jobs; 3) announce the latest numbers showing that the federal government is doing its fair share in the welfare to work effort, hiring 5,714 former welfare recipients since April 1997; and 4) send to Congress the first annual report on welfare reform showing that 1.7 million adults who were on welfare in 1996 were working in 1997. The President will also urge Congress to fully fund his Welfare-to-Work **housing** vouchers proposal so that welfare recipients who need to move in order to work can do so.

Eliminating Anti-Work and Anti-Family Rules
that Denied Families Health Coverage

Today, the President will eliminate a vestige of the old welfare system by announcing that the Department of Health and Human Services will revise its regulations to allow all states to provide Medicaid coverage to working, two-parent families who meet State income eligibility. Under the old welfare regulations, adults in two-parent families who worked more than 100 hours per month could not receive Medicaid regardless of income level, while there were no such restrictions on single-parent families. Because these regulations provided disincentives to marriage and full-time work, the Administration allowed a number of states to waive this rule. The new

regulation eliminates this rule for all States, providing health coverage for more than 130,000 working families to help them stay employed and off welfare. (See attached sheet for more details)

\$60 Million More in Welfare-to-Work Grants

Today, nearly one year after obtaining \$3 billion in new Welfare-to-Work funds in the Balanced Budget Act, the President will release funds for Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Virginia, West Virginia, and Guam. These funds help long-term recipients who have significant barriers to employment obtain and retain jobs and can be used to help fathers as well as mothers go to work. With the \$60 million released today, the Department of Labor has now approved \$759 million for 38 states and Guam under the Welfare-to-Work program. (See attached sheet for more details)

The Federal Government is Doing Its Share

The President will announce that the federal government has now hired 5,714 new workers off the welfare rolls, which is over half-way to its goal of 10,000 by 2000. Nearly 80 percent of these new workers live and work outside the Washington Metropolitan area. The Vice President is leading this effort to ensure that the federal government does its fair share to employ welfare recipients. The White House pledged to hire six welfare recipients and has already exceeded this goal. (See attached sheet for more details)

Two Years Later, Millions of Welfare Recipients are Working

The President will release the First Annual Report to Congress on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program showing a dramatic increase in the number of welfare recipients who have gone to work since he signed the welfare law in August 1996. Data from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey show that the rate of employment of individuals on welfare in one year who were working in the following year increased by nearly 30 percent between 1996 and 1997. As a result, 1.7 million adults on welfare in 1996, were working in March 1997. The report also finds that families moving from welfare to work enjoy increases in income.

The report highlights the dramatic decline in welfare caseloads, showing that welfare rolls have declined 27 percent since the welfare reform law was signed and that the percentage of the population on welfare is at its lowest point since 1969. The report also finds that, on average, states are spending more per person on welfare-to-work efforts than they did before the passage of the 1996 law.

Several other reports also confirm that welfare reform is on the right track. The Urban Institute recently found that, on average, a family's income goes up 51 percent when they move from welfare to a part-time entry level job, and increases even more as they move to full-time work. The Earned Income Tax Credit, which this Administration fought hard to expand in the 1993 budget, is a major factor in making work pay, especially if families take the option to get part of this tax credit in their regular paycheck. And the National Governors' Association recently reported that state spending on child care has increased by more than half, while spending on helping welfare recipients succeed at work has increased by one-third. (Copies of report available in lower press)

The President Will Call for Full Funding for

Welfare-to-Work **Housing** Vouchers

The President will call on Congress to fully fund his proposal for 50,000 Welfare-to-Work **housing** vouchers to help welfare recipients get or keep jobs by moving closer to job opportunities, reducing long commutes, or securing more stable **housing**. Although both the House and the Senate have appropriated some funds for this purpose, they have funded less than half of the President's request. (See attached sheet for more details) ✓

BACKGROUND ON THE MEDICAID "100-HOUR RULE"

OVERVIEW. The new "100-hour rule" regulation gives states increased flexibility to offer Medicaid to low-income, working parents. Under previous welfare and Medicaid rules, a two-parent family could only be eligible for assistance if the primary wage earner was unemployed, defined in regulation as working less than 100 hours per month. Because this tended to discourage parents from working and was not applied to single-parent families, a number of states received a waiver of this "100-hour rule" prior to welfare reform. However, states that did not receive such a waiver cannot do so now because welfare reform locked in place the states' eligibility rules as of 1996.

The revision of the regulation allows all states, including those without waivers, to change the 100-hour rule, thus allowing them to cover two-parent, working families. As such, it eliminates a vestige of the old welfare system that provided disincentives against marriage and full time work. Combined with flexibility in setting income eligibility, this provision also enables all states to cover many low-income, two-parent families under Medicaid.

PROBLEM. Historically, Medicaid was an add-on to welfare, so that, in general, only people receiving welfare were eligible for Medicaid. Welfare (prior to reform in 1996) was limited to certain types of families -- in particular, single-parent families or two-parent families where the primary wage earner is unemployed. These "deprivation rules" date back to the creation of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, which was targeted toward "broken" rather than poor families.

Since President Clinton took office, the inequities of limiting cash assistance and Medicaid to only a narrow group of two-parent families led to changes designed to encourage work and marriage. Rather than using the regulatory definition of "unemployed" under the old welfare law -- working less than 100 hours per month -- many states received waivers to encourage work by considering parents working more than 100 hours a week as "unemployed." As of 1996, 32 states had received such waivers.

Welfare reform in 1996 limited other states from changing the 100-hour rule to allow them to cover two-parent, working families under Medicaid. It replaced it with a rule that states must, at a minimum, offer Medicaid to people who would have been eligible for welfare prior to the law. States could cover additional groups of people, but only if their income or resources were higher -- not if they worked more hours. While states that received waivers of the 100-hour rule prior to 1996 could continue those waivers, the remaining 18 states plus the District of Columbia were locked into their pre-1996 rules.

REVISED REGULATION. To allow all states the flexibility previously offered under welfare waivers, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is revising the regulations at 45 CFR 233.101(a)(1) to permit

states to extend Medicaid eligibility to families whose parents would not have met the 100-hour rule contained in the existing definition. This is a final regulation with a 60-day comment period.

EFFECTS OF THE CHANGE

The following 18 states (plus District of Columbia) did not, at the time of welfare reform, have statewide waivers of the 100-hour rule:

Alabama
Alaska
Arkansas
Colorado
Florida
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Dakota
Virginia
Wyoming

States with waivers for only subsets of families (e.g., certain counties; only parents under the age of 21) also can broaden eligibility through this revised regulation.

There are two main benefits of this change. First, it eliminates an anti-work and anti-family vestige of the old welfare system. Instead of rewarding work, the 100-hour rule took away health care from two-parent families who increased their hours at work. And instead of rewarding marriage, it punished single mothers who married and gave preference to single over two-parent families.

Second, the revision allows all states the important option of covering low-income parents. While Medicaid coverage of children has expanded, most states have not been able to extend coverage to their parents because of this rule. This change gives all states the flexibility to give the whole family, and not a fraction of it, health coverage. With this flexibility, approximately 135,000 people could gain Medicaid coverage.

WELFARE TO WORK **HOUSING** VOUCHERS

The President's FY99 budget takes further steps to promote work and welfare reform through a plan to provide 50,000 new **housing** vouchers to welfare recipients who need **housing** assistance in order to get or keep a job. Families could use these **housing** vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable **housing** to eliminate emergencies that keep them from getting to work every day on time. These targeted vouchers will give people on welfare a new tool to make the transition to a job and succeed in the work place.

The \$283 million proposal will help address the problem, in many regions, that jobs are being created far from where many welfare recipients live. Currently, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs, but three of four welfare recipients live in rural areas or central cities. The funding for the Administration's Access to Jobs initiative in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) will assist states and localities to develop flexible transportation alternatives for welfare recipients and other low income workers. But in some cases it makes more sense for someone to move closer to work -- and this new proposal will make that move from welfare to work possible.

How It Will Work

These vouchers will provide States and communities with a new flexible tool to help families who need **housing** assistance in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

The additional vouchers will be available on a competitive basis to local **housing** agencies, including Indian **housing** authorities. Applications must be developed in consultation with the state, local, or tribal welfare agency and the local Welfare-to-Work formula funds grantee (typically the Private Industry Council), to ensure that services are coordinated.

The vouchers will be used where they are essential to a successful transition from welfare to work -- that is, where **housing** assistance is critical for a family to get or keep a job.

Families who receive the vouchers must be eligible for or currently receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or have received TANF within the past year.

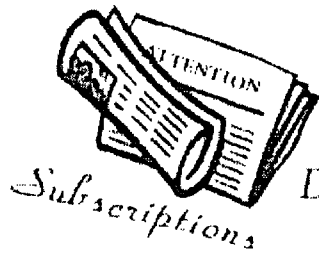
The initiative recognizes the direct link between affordable **housing** and self-sufficiency. Along with the Administration's proposal to increase the Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit, this initiative will make decent, affordable **housing** available to more Americans.

Current Status

Congress has recognized the need for **housing** vouchers to promote welfare reform, but so far has provided insufficient funding for them. The HUD/VA Appropriations bill passed by the House provides \$100 million for 17,700 Welfare to Work **Housing** Vouchers. The bill passed by the Senate provides only \$40 million for 7,000 **housing** vouchers. The HUD/VA Appropriations conference committee is expected to occur after the August recess.

08/04/98

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 15, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ✓
AT EMPOWERMENT ZONE RECEPTION

The South Lawn

7:27 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. Welcome to the White House. Thank you for the good work you've been doing. I want to thank all the people who are responsible for this reception. I thank my Cabinet members and the members of Congress for coming. I welcome all of you here, including the many, many elected officials, and especially Mayor Corradini -- we wish her well as she assumes the helm of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

I'd like to thank the Marine Band for playing for you. They just celebrated their 200th birthday last weekend. (Applause.) As far as I know, there are no members of the original band still playing -- (laughter) -- but they have a magnificent sense of tradition.

I am so happy to have you here, to look out and see all of you, because you are the living embodiment of the political philosophy I have sought to bring alive in this country. You are the living embodiment of how I believe Washington, D.C. should work -- putting progress and people over partisanship, community over division, tomorrow's hopes over yesterday's fears.

I cannot thank the Vice President enough for shepherding this community empowerment process these last several years from what was just a gleam in our eyes over one of our weekly lunches to this vast array of Americans. And if you look around this crowd, if this isn't one America for the 21st century I don't know what is. I thank you. (Applause.)

I want you to take away from here, in addition to all the practical things you've learned and the sense of enthusiasm and positive

outlook you have, a couple of very brief points. So I want to repeat briefly some of the things the Vice President said, because we still need your help.

You know, when we came here we had a philosophy of government that we thought was appropriate to the 1990s and beyond. We wanted to get beyond what I thought was a completely sterile debate in Washington about whether government could solve all the problems or government was the source of all the problems. We thought our job was to empower people, to be a catalyst, to be a partner, to give people the tools to solve their own problems and make the most of their own lives and build strong personal lives, strong families, strong neighborhoods, strong communities. You have been the instrument of that, and many of you were just doing that anyway. We have tried to be good partners to you and you have certainly been all we could ever have asked for.

If anybody had told me in 1993 when I took the oath of office as President and began to implement the ideas that we ran on, that in less than six years we'd have over 16 million jobs, the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, the lowest crime rate in 25 years, the lowest percentage of our people on welfare in 29 years, the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years, the lowest inflation rate in 32 years, the highest homeownership in history, millions of people taking advantage of the Family Leave Law, getting pensions they couldn't get before, 5 million more kids getting health insurance, the highest immunization rates of children in our history, opening the doors of college to all Americans through the Hope Scholarship -- and we do all that with the smallest federal government in 35 years -- I would say, I'll take that, and be grateful for America. (Applause.)

I have been urging the American people and urging this Congress to use these good times, not simply to enjoy them but to see them as the solemn responsibility to our children and grandchildren; to take on the larger challenges that we face moving into the 21st century. And you know what they are as well as I do. You know we still have a lot of work to do to make the world a place of peace and freedom and prosperity. That's why I went to China to do my best to make a constructive partnership with the people of the world's most populous nation.

You know we still have work to do to give this country the world's best system of elementary and secondary education. We've got the best college system in the world, but everybody knows we can't stop until our children, from the first day of school, know that their schools are the best in the world. (Applause.)

You know we've still got work to do to prove that we can deal with these enormous environmental challenges we have -- from brownfields in the cities to still work we need to do with clean water to saving our oceans to dealing with the challenge of climate change. And I take it, after having the five hottest years in the last 600 years in the 1990s, no one seriously quarrels with the idea that the Vice President was right years ago when he told us that global warming was real and we have to find a way to grow the economy and preserve our environment. (Applause.)

And in spite of this great, wonderful crowd, we still have work to do to prove that we can all live together across the lines of race and religion and other differences that divide us because what we share in common is more important. That's what you live. You live that philosophy every day in your communities and we need our political leaders to be as good as you are. And if America is going to lead the world to a better place, America has to always be striving to be better, to really, truly be one America where everybody has a chance and everybody has a role to play. (Applause.)

We have to save Social Security and Medicare for the 21st century so that when the baby boomers like me retire we've got a decent retirement, but we don't bankrupt our children and our grandchildren. No person in the baby boom generation I have ever talked to -- without regard to their income, their race or what they did for a living -- did not want desperately to make the changes now that have to be made so that when we retire we do not impose an unconscionable burden on the future generations. We have to work on that. And we can do it if we do it together in a fair and decent and honorable way. (Applause.)

And I would say the last big challenge we face is the one that you're here working on. Yes, we have the best economy in a generation, maybe the best economy we have ever had. But there's still a lot of farming communities that don't know it. I got a letter from a farmer in North Dakota today who said that Arkansas is not the only town with a place called Hope -- but there's not much of it left in Hope, North Dakota because of the problems they face. And I saw the pictures of his little town and it looked like so many towns in my home state back in the '80s.

There are a lot of Native American tribes represented here -- (applause) -- and a lot of them still don't have the jobs they need, the education they need, the support they need. There are a lot of urban neighborhoods represented here, where the unemployment rate is still too high, the crime rate is still too high and the children still don't have enough hope for the future.

And so I say to you, we want to be good partners. But to do it you have to help us convince the Congress to put progress and people over partisanship. We need another round of empowerment zones in this 1999 budget. (Applause.)

Secretary Cuomo has got a budget that would provide for another 180,000 units of affordable **housing**, 50,000 **housing** vouchers for people moving from welfare to work, hundreds of millions of dollars for economic development in our most distressed communities. We have an education empowerment zones initiative that deserves to pass so that we'll have more places like Chicago, which now has the sixth biggest school district in the country in summer school, which now is feeding tens of thousands of kids three square meals a day. We need to pass our initiative to help more communities provide after-school programs for kids to keep them out of trouble and to keep them learning. We have a lot to do. (Applause.)

We still have brownfields to clean up. We still have toxic waste dumps to clean up. We still have work to do. We want to expand the Community Development Financial Institution so we can make more of those microcredit loans. We made 2 million of those microcredit loans with American tax dollars in Africa and Latin America and Asia last year. If they work there, 2 million loans like that could revolutionize inner-city America, it could revolutionize the Native American communities, it could revolutionize a lot of small, rural communities in this country. (Applause.) We can do it and we need your help to do it.

So I say to you we need these things. And, finally, all of you deserve a full and fair count of the American people in the 2000 Census so you're not shortchanged just because you don't have the political power that money brings. (Applause.) You represent people in this country and you're entitled to your fair share of our future. When you think about how far we've come and you know how far you could take your communities, when you think about how desperately America needs every child, every mind, every able-bodied adult at work, every person with a new idea with a chance to start a business -- if you really believe in the American community it must mean that every American should be part

of a strong and growing and thriving and united community.

So I say to you, I'm happy you're here. I'm proud of your success. I am so grateful that I had a chance to be President during these last six years. But we need to bear down and do more so that when we are all done we can look back and say, we built our bridge, we prepared our country, we went into the 21st century with everybody making the trip.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

7:40 P.M. EDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Shanghai, People's Republic of China)

For Immediate Release

July 1, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO NEW HOME OWNERS, BUILDERS, AND BANKING OFFICIALS

Jin Hui Gardens
Shanghai, People's Republic of China

not included

3:47 P.M. (L)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much. Vice Mayor Zhou, Deputy Magistrate Wang, to developer Gu Cai Xin, to the Tang family, whose home the members of Congress visited, and to Ms. Yu and her family, who were very kind to take me into their home, and to all of you. It's a pleasure to be here today.

I would like to begin by thanking the Folk Music Band for the wonderful music. Thank you very much. (Applause.) And I would like to say to all of you who are moving into new homes, Gong xi, Gong xi -- congratulations. (Applause.)

More than 20 years ago, I bought my first home. I actually bought it because my girlfriend liked the house. We were driving by the house one day -- it was a very small house -- and she said, I like that house very much. So I found out the house did not cost too much money and I bought it. And then I said to my girlfriend, I bought that house you like, now you'll have to marry me. (Laughter.) And she did. So I hope that your homes bring you as much joy as mine did 23 years ago. (Applause.)

I came here with your local officials and Ambassador Sasser and Ambassador Lee and the members of Congress to emphasize the importance of home ownership to the future of the people of China and to the prosperity of your country. As you could see from what Ms. Yu said, owning a home is a source of pride to a family and a tribute to its industry and hard work. But all China benefits from more home owners because that means more jobs, a stronger economy, stronger families.

And, of course, when people own their own homes, they are free to take new jobs without worrying about losing **housing** benefits. We also see around the world that home owners take more responsibility for the communities in which they live.

In America, we have worked hard to expand the dream of home ownership and today, 65 percent of all Americans -- an all-time record -- live in homes that they own. This has made our country stronger, and I know greater home ownership will also strengthen China. Because we want to support greater home ownership, I am proud to announce today that we are creating a U.S.-China residential building council to promote new technologies and energy-efficient materials to build sturdy homes that are affordable to live in. (Applause.)

Our Department of Commerce will also bring Americans to China to discuss how to build a stronger system of financing homes -- from strengthening property rights to developing stronger mortgage markets. This will help to make more homes available to more Chinese families.

I am determined to build a strong partnership and a good friendship between the United States and China that will actually make a positive difference in people's lives. (Applause.)

Congratulations to all of you on your new home and on the bright futures you are building for your families. Thank you very much. (Applause.) And we thank the weather for holding off until after the event is over. (Applause.)

END

3:57 P.M. (L)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

June 26, 1998

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES \$76 MILLION FOR TEXAS IN WELFARE TO WORK GRANTS

Washington, DC -- Vice President Gore announced today that Texas will receive \$76 million in federal Welfare-to-Work grants to help the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients get the skills, work experience, and resources they need to find and keep good jobs. ✓

"Across Texas, and across the nation, welfare recipients are moving into the workforce and rebuilding their lives," Vice President Gore said. "For America to continue to prosper, as many Americans as possible must contribute in a productive way and learn the profound responsibilities of work and independence."

At a town hall discussion on the role of service and faith-based organizations in providing support for people moving from welfare to work, the Vice President announced that Texas will get the largest state formula grant to be approved so far this year. The grant is part of a total \$2.2 billion for the 50 states over two years that will fund local programs to help long-term welfare recipients enter the world of work.

"The goal is not just to get a job, but to keep a job," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, who participated in the town hall discussion, along with Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, San Antonio Mayor Howard Peak, and community leaders. "This grant will help long-term welfare recipients become the Lone Star State's newest workers by coordinating all available services, such as transportation, housing, child care, and other support activities so that they can turn these jobs into careers and become self-sufficient." ✓

The Texas Workforce Commission will direct 85 percent of the state grant directly to local programs that will determine the mix of basic services, employment activities, and support efforts to meet the needs of both the welfare recipients and the local labor market. The funds will make possible such services as:

skills training, job placement help, and on-the-job training;

community service jobs and other work experience opportunities;

help for absentee fathers to get jobs so they can contribute child support; and

help for job-seekers, such as child care, transportation, substance abuse and mental health care, and clothing allowances.

The Governor's Office and the Workforce Commission will divide the remaining 15 percent between various programs to help long-term recipients become self-sufficient, such as: temporary transportation help, the identification and location of non-custodial parents, and help for refugees.

The Vice President has led federal efforts to help former welfare recipients who are moving to work to succeed in those jobs. The Welfare-to-Work Coalition to Sustain Success -- which includes private companies, community groups, and government partners, and which the Vice President heads up -- provides the support services that new workers need most to retain their jobs, such as mentoring, advice, and support.

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Office of the Press Secretary
(Nashville, Tennessee)

For Immediate Release

June 22, 1998

June 22, 1998

not included

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
THE SECRETARY OF LABOR
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE SECRETARY OF **HOUSING** AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT
THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY

SUBJECT: Federal Actions to Improve Children's Health
Insurance Outreach

Last year, with bipartisan support from the Congress, I was pleased to sign into law the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This new program will help millions of children of working families obtain affordable and much-needed health insurance. As of today, 20 States have had their CHIP plans approved and most States have applied for approval.

Yet, as recent studies show, rapidly implementing CHIP and ensuring that all eligible children are enrolled in this new program or Medicaid has never been more important. This month, a major report from the Institute of Medicine confirmed that children without health insurance are more likely to be sick, less likely to be immunized, and less likely to receive medical treatment for illnesses, such as recurrent ear infections and asthma. Without treatment, these diseases can have lifelong consequences. Another study by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research concluded that there are 4.7 million uninsured children who are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid. Several million more will become eligible for CHIP as States implement their programs.

Only an intense, sustained campaign in both the public and private

sectors can address the significant challenge of uninsured children. On February 18, 1998, I requested children's health outreach proposals from eight Federal agencies on how the executive branch of the United States Government can assist in children's health insurance outreach.

In response, I received the Report to the President: The Interagency Task Force on Children's Health Insurance Outreach, which contains proposals on how to engage the executive branch in children's health outreach. I have reviewed this report and found these proposals sound, innovative, and worth undertaking.

Therefore, I hereby direct you to take the following actions to promote children's health insurance outreach, consistent with the missions of your agencies and the content and timelines of each potential initiative described in the Report.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that the:

Health Care Financing Administration, among other proposed actions, creates an on-line clearing house for outreach information and facilitates relationships between State Medicaid and CHIP agencies and community-based and private organizations to identify, educate, and enroll uninsured children in State health insurance programs;

Health Resources and Services Administration, among other proposed actions, trains health care providers to help identify and enroll children in health insurance through its National Health Service Corps and Area Health Education Centers, which trains students and health providers and distributes information to families that use the community clinics that it funds;

Administration for Children and Families, among other proposed actions, distributes promotional material and applications for Medicaid and CHIP to the families they serve through Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Head Start sites, and subsidized child care sites;

Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, among other proposed actions, supports investigator-initiated evaluations of outreach activities to better understand which outreach and enrollment strategies work best and to disseminate results to improve outreach performance;

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among other proposed actions, puts outreach referral information in its public health publications and pamphlets;

Indian Health Service, among other proposed actions, integrates "train the trainer" techniques to educate select community members who can then provide information on health insurance to the rest of the community;

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, among other proposed actions, develops and implements an educational campaign for uninsured children with special needs.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall, among other proposed actions:

Educate Regional and State directors of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and other Food and Nutrition Service programs on health care programs that are available to families with uninsured children and determine what information to give to these families; how to coordinate the application process to facilitate enrollment in CHIP and Medicaid; and how families applying for school lunch programs can receive information on health insurance;

Provide information to the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service regional and State program staff and grantees and encourage dissemination of information to families regarding the CHIP and Medicaid programs.

The Secretary of Education shall, among other proposed actions:

Educate and assist families through its Partnership for Family Involvement program, which promotes family involvement in education, and includes employers, schools, education organizations, and community and religious groups.

The Secretary of **Housing** and Urban Development shall, among other proposed actions:

Provide information on children's health outreach to applicants for competitive grants, and ask its directors of Public **Housing** Authorities and Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities to post or distribute this information.

The Secretary of Interior shall, among other proposed actions:

Develop and distribute culturally relevant referral information to Native American families through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, especially focusing on tribal schools, colleges, and social services agencies.

The Secretary of Labor shall, among other proposed actions:

Distribute Medicaid and CHIP outreach information through its Job Corps Centers, One-Stop Career Centers, welfare-to-work grant programs, and small businesses contacts.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall, among other proposed actions:

Post children's health outreach information for families at IRS walk-in centers and provide this information to Voluntary Income Tax Assistance sites.

The Commissioner of Social Security shall, among other proposed actions:

Distribute information and/or applications for children's health insurance in its SSA field office reception areas and provide to States names of families of children denied SSI so that States can send these families educational information and applications for children's health insurance programs.

I also direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue to work with the above mentioned agencies to assist them in fulfilling these commitments, to engage new agencies and develop other commitments, and report back to me in 1 year on agency accomplishments.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 19, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT VIA SATELLITE
TO U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ✓

5:20 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mayor Helmke, for all your wonderful introductions. I hope they didn't hurt you too much. This one won't cause you as much trouble as the last one did.

Seriously, I want to thank you for your fine leadership of the mayors this year. And, Mayor Corradini, I look forward to working with you over the next year. I also want to say to your Advisory Board Chair, Mayor Webb, who joined me at the White House this week when we honored the Broncos together for winning the Super Bowl. And hello to your Executive Director Tom Cochran, who does a great job for you day in and day out here with us.

Let me also congratulate my good friend Jerry Abramson on his award for distinguished public service. Jerry, I'll always be grateful to you for a lot of things -- for your friendship, your support, and especially for your leadership for the 1994 Crime Bill. All across America, neighborhoods are now safer because of the community police officers you helped to put on the street. You have really made a difference. I congratulate you and thank you again.

And I have some good news about one of your alumni, the former mayor of Laredo, Saul Ramirez. Last year at this meeting I announced his nomination for Assistant Secretary at HUD. Well, I'm giving him a promotion, and nominating him now to be the agency's new Deputy Secretary. Congratulations to him and to you. (Applause.)

This is the third time we've been able to get together just this year, and I'm only sorry that I can't join you in person. I know that I'll be well represented by members of my Cabinet, including our great HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo. I send greetings also to you from Micky

Ibarra who's with me here and who runs the Office of Inter-governmental Affairs and works hard for you.

His Deputy Lynn Cutler is stranded in an airport, but she'll soon be in Reno to represent the White House. And I'm proud that senior representatives from a total of 22 federal agencies who are attending your conference. You can tell from the breadth and depth from the team I've sent that my administration is more committed than ever to working with you to help our great cities thrive and reach their fullest potential.

Last week, a number of you were able to join me here at the White House as I signed a transportation bill that will help cities to build and modernize roads, bridges, and transit systems for the 21st century. It encourages mass transit, protects the environment, expands opportunities to disadvantaged businesses, and moves more people from welfare to work with transportation assistance.

Thank you for helping me pass this law. In no small part because of the innovation, commitment, and hard work of America's mayors, our cities are revitalized, reenergized, and back in business. The Second Annual State of the City's Report, which Secretary Cuomo will share with you in much greater detail later, shows that unemployment, crime, poverty rates, all are down and falling in our central cities. New job growth and home ownership rates are up and climbing. Our down towns are coming back as centers of tourism and entertainment.

The state of our cities is strong, and I thank you for leading this renaissance. America is enjoying the strongest economy in a generation, an era of sunlit prosperity and abundant opportunity, but we cannot afford to sit back and bask in the glow. Instead we must make the most of this rare moment in our history and ensure that our economic renaissance touches every corner of every community.

As the State of the Cities Report shows, cities still face critical opportunity gaps when it comes to jobs, to education, and to **housing**. If we're going to lift even more people out of poverty and bring more middle class families back to our cities, we must do everything we can to close these opportunity gaps. The way we will close our opportunity gaps is with the new vision of government.

Over the past five and a half years, we've moved beyond the false debate between those who said government could solve all our problems and those who said government was the problem. Our new vision has been of government as partner with business, community groups, and individual citizens. It's been a vision of government as catalyst to bring the spark of private enterprise to our hardest-pressed neighborhoods. Whether it's putting more police officers on the streets to fight crime or offering tax incentives to lure businesses back to abandoned downtowns or providing small business loans to inner-city residents, our goal has been to empower people with the tools to make the most of their own lives.

Secretary Cuomo's new streamlined HUD, which David Osborne has called the most exciting reinvention in a decade, epitomizes this vision. Along with the Vice President, who chairs my Community Empowerment Board, I am committed to helping HUD and other federal agencies work even better for you. And I ask you to support our expanded community empowerment agenda, that reflects our new approach to filling the opportunity gaps in for our cities.

First, we can fill in the jobs gap and bring more businesses and credit to our central cities by launching a second round of empowerment zones, renewing community development financial institutions, and supporting HUD's Community Empowerment Fund. I ask you to tell Congress

that America needs 50,000 new welfare-to-work **housing** vouchers to help hard-working people successfully move off welfare by moving closer to their jobs. And I hope you'll work with me to ensure all Americans get the child care assistance they need to be good parents and good workers.

Second, we can begin closing the education gap by helping school districts modernize and build 5,000 schools, hiring more teachers, reducing class sizes in the earliest grades, and creating education opportunity zones to help poorer school districts make the tough reforms they need to improve.

Third, we will bridge the **housing** gap by strengthening our efforts to fight **housing** discrimination, raising FHA loan limits, creating more section 8 **housing** vouchers, helping families with good rental histories turn rent checks into mortgage payments, and expanding the low income **housing** tax credit. This tax credit now has the support of a majority of members in the House and the Senate. Let's call on Congress to pass the bill right away.

Finally, I ask for your help on another critical issue for cities -- making sure that the 2000 census is as accurate as possible. As you know, census statistics help to determine how much federal aid your community's receive for roads, WIC, Head Start, job training, and other services. Because of an undercount of inner-city residents in the last census, many of you were short-changed when it came to federal funds. We must make sure it doesn't happen again.

The scientists agree. Statistical sampling is the most accurate and most cost-effective way to get a full and fair count of our people in the year 2000. Let's work together to ensure that we use this method in the next census. All of these are tough challenges, but I know that if we work together, we can meet them.

Last year in San Francisco, we set ourselves a challenge of helping 1,000 police officers buy and move into homes in the communities they serve. Well, I'm proud to announce that the Officer Next Door program has met the challenge. Later today, Secretary Cuomo will present the program's 1,000th key to Deputy Mark Burgess, a key that will unlock the door to his new home in Salt Lake City. With citizens like Deputy Burgess who are taking active stakes in our community, and with your continued leadership, I know the best is yet to come for America's cities.

Throughout our history, our cities have always been the face America shows the world. Visitors have gotten their first taste of America -- our energy, ingenuity, and promise -- through our great cities. They've always been the gateway to opportunity for millions of Americans; places where new immigrants have worked hard, built thriving communities, and achieved the American Dream. We can, and we will, make sure that dream thrives in our cities well into the 21st century.

Thank you for all you do, and thank you for working with me.
(Applause.)

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I understand that you have time for a few questions from some of the mayors. I had a few folks I know that wanted to ask you questions.

Q Mr. President, the millennium is up in two years. A lot of cities are preparing for the millennium as we go forward. What is your vision? What do you think that this country should be doing with the new millennium when it comes in the year 2000?

THE PRESIDENT: Tom, first let me say that I'm very sorry about

the floods in Boston. I know our FEMA people are there, and I hope they will all work out of it and dry out of it together.

Let me say to all of you, I think every mayor in America should be heavily involved in celebrating the millennium. And I hope that as a group you will be in close touch with Ellen Lovell, who is running this project for the First Lady and for me, so that we can coordinate what we're doing. I think our vision should be the one that Hillary has articulated: we should honor the past and imagine the future. That means that, at a minimum, every city should find some place in the city important to your city's history and heritage and make sure that you have restored it or protected or enhanced it for all future generations.

Second, I think every city should identify some great opportunity that you believe is there for your people in the new century, and elevate that opportunity, highlight it, literally enshrine it as a mission of your city for the future.

And thirdly, of course, I think there should be a great celebration on New Year's Eve 1999, 2000, that all the cities in the country participate in, that is tied in with a national celebration and that involves as many Americans has humanely possible.

Q Mr. President, where are we on achieving your education goals, whether it's smaller classrooms or school construction or after-school programs? How can we as an organization be more helpful to you?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you can do a lot. Let me deal with each of them in turn.

The only part of the education program that is imperiled by the present setback to the tobacco bill is the funds that we wanted to give the states which would enable them to distribute them to communities to hire the teachers necessary to reduce class size to an average of 18 in the first three grades.

The school construction initiative, which would allow us to build or repair 5,000 schools, is still very much alive; it's in my budget, the Congress can approve it. There is some bipartisan support for it. And so I think if the mayors, particularly the Republicans and the Democrats together, could really press this, then when we get down to the appropriations in the month of July and in the month of September, we've got a good chance to get the construction money out. And that would make a huge difference, not only in repairing a lot of older schools that need to be repaired, but in providing the needed classroom space, without which we can't have the smaller class sizes.

On the after-school funds, we have funds in both the Justice Department budget and in the Education Department budget; it's just going to be a question of fighting for those things and making sure that they're priorities initiative Congress, just as they are priorities for you and for me.

And, again, there shouldn't be any politics in this. The evidence is so overwhelming -- as you know in Chicago where you have tens of thousands of kids eating three meals a day in the schools, that this increase is learning and lowers juvenile crime; that I would think that the cities that have had good experiences with these programs could take the lead.

But again I say that if the Republican and Democratic mayors could do this together and say, this is a grass-roots American issue, this has nothing to do with partisan politics, that this part of the President's budget should prevail, then I think we have a good chance to win.

So I'd say on two out of three were in good shape. Whether the states get some more money that then can be used for aid to education to hire those extra teachers depends on whether we can get the tobacco legislation back on track. I'm still hopeful that we can. Anything you can do to encourage Congress not on this point, but on the larger point, to pass legislation to protect our children from the dangers of tobacco and pass something comprehensive that will have credibility in the public health community, that we know will work, will make us closer to that goal as well.

Q Mr. President, I have a question that's a side issue related to education concerns. In the next couple of weeks I'm going to be hosting a meeting with city and school officials on the issue of school violence and how we can prevent it, how we can cope with it, what we can do to address it. And I know it's an issue that concerns many of us in our cities. What is being done at the federal level and do you have any suggestions for us to take back to our community?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me first of all, say that I applaud you for doing this, all of you -- and I applaud your leadership in doing it. I think the first thing I would say that in the last couple of years when we've had all these horrible instances of school violence and killing in our schools. We should not lose sight of the fact that, ironically, that has occurred when we've finally seen the first drop in juvenile crime in many, many years.

So I think it's important to keep pushing the large issue of the after-school funds and the other kinds of programs that we've seen work so well in Boston and elsewhere to drive juvenile crime down.

Then I think we have to say, no matter how low we get juvenile crime, we're going to be at risk of these violent instances in schools because there will always be a small number of children who will be profoundly disturbed where some incident at home or at school can set them off, and they live in a culture where the access to guns is too easy and where they're too exposed from their earliest years to repeated barrages of almost casual violence in the media that they see.

So too many children become numb to violence, and I think take guns in their hands and pull the triggers, often without really feeling and knowing the consequences.

Now, there are I believe two things that we can do at the federal level that we're working on. First, as I said when I was in Springfield, Oregon, I've asked the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education to prepare a manual to train teachers, parents, and hopefully other students as well on early warning signs of children in trouble, so that we'll be better at picking this up.

In every case where we've had a killing over the last year, there has been some indication that there was something wrong with the young person involved, that something has happened or the young person said something or friends knew something, that did not lead to preemptive action. So I think we need to really focus on this prevention.

Secondly, we're going to be working on what can be done to get some more police officers out there in and around the schools, just as we have on the streets.

Thirdly, there is a big debate going on in Springfield, Oregon, and in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and I'm sure in all the other communities about what can be done if children are found in trouble to try to do something before they go over the edge.

The two senators from Oregon have introduced legislation which

would require of any child who was sent home from school because he or she had a gun in school -- and there were 6,100 children who had guns in schools and had the guns taken away and were sent home because of our zero tolerance for guns in schools just last year. The senators think that -- their legislation, I think, calls for some sort of mandatory 72-hour examination period, including a psychiatric exam.

Whether this is everything that should be done, exactly what should be done or not, is something we're going to debate up here. But it's not too soon for every mayor and every school leader in the country to determine what should be done if a case occurs like the case in Springfield, Oregon, where the young man who is now charged with all these killings was sent home the day before with a gun in the school.

Now, presently that's about all that happens, because most cities and most school districts don't have a system for dealing with that. I think you should make sure that your schools do have a system. And maybe not just when a person is found with a gun and sent home, but when threats are made or when people say they're going to do something -- maybe unspecific threats but give evidence of that. We need some sort of intervention that can get these kids analyzed and then get them quickly to some sort of comprehensive program if necessary, to try to give them the help they need and to take them out of the pressure cooker situation for a couple of days in the hope that this can be avoided.

I believe that we can do a lot more on the prevention front. And we now know just looking at the facts of all these cases that there were significant early warnings in at least several of them that might have permitted, with the right kind of intervention, circumstances to develop that would have avoided the tragedies.

So that's what I would ask you to look at. Everybody should know: what does your school district do with a child that makes a threat? What does your school district do with a child that has a gun? Does the school have a system where they encourage other kids to talk to responsible adults if they hear some child making a threat? Most of these children, if they could just get four or five or six years down the road would look back in horror that they ever entertained such a thought -- if we can avoid it happening in the first place.

So I think we can do better. We're determined to do our part. And after you have your meeting, if the mayors and the others from whom you hear have any other ideas, for goodness sakes, give them to us. This is something we've got to do more on.

Q I want to thank you, Mr. President. I know your time is short, but we appreciate you taking the time this afternoon to talk to us and taking the time again this past year. You've worked collaboratively with us, consistently with us. We know you're concerned about the city issues and you're always willing to listen to us and we thank you for that.

In particular, I wanted to thank you for working closely with us this last year while I've been President of the mayor's group. It's been an experience and we appreciate all of your efforts this past year. And you've outlined a number of things that we need to continue to work with in the future and we plan to do that with you, too.

So, again, thank you very much. We thank you for all of your efforts and for your staff members and Cabinet officers that are here, too. Thank you, Mr. President. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you all, and I'll turn it over to Secretary Cuomo and the rest of our crowd. Have a great meeting.

END

6:15 P.M. EDT

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Office of the Press Secretary
(Lincoln, Massachusetts)

For Immediate Release

June 5, 1998

NATIONAL HOME OWNERSHIP WEEK, 1998

- - - - -

not included

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

HOME OWNERSHIP has always been the foundation of the American Dream. Generations of Americans have worked hard and set aside their savings so that they might enjoy the security and stability of owning their own home. The partnership forged between the Federal Government and the private sector during this century has succeeded in bringing that dream closer to reality for all our citizens.

The National **Housing** Act, which President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law more than 60 years ago, made HOME OWNERSHIP available to millions of families who previously could not have afforded to buy their own homes. The G.I. Bill of Rights extended the opportunity of HOME OWNERSHIP to a whole new generation of Americans, enabling millions of our service men and women to start a new life in their own homes.

Building on this legacy, in 1995 I convened the National Partners in HOME OWNERSHIP -- a coalition of 139 community-based local partnerships and 65 national groups representing the **housing** industry, lenders, nonprofit organizations, and all sectors of government -- to dramatically increase HOME OWNERSHIP opportunity in America. And my Administration's economic strategy to reduce the deficit, invest in our people, and open foreign markets has led to lower mortgage rates, more jobs, and higher family incomes. Thanks to the success of our strategy and the efforts of the National Partners in HOME OWNERSHIP, we now have the highest HOME OWNERSHIP rate in America's history.

Our Nation's commitment to HOME OWNERSHIP has brought us extraordinary rewards, invigorating the construction and related industries, creating new jobs, and enhancing our prosperity. The next

generation of American homes will also improve our environment. The new partnership I recently launched with America's building industry -- the Partnership for Advancing Technology in **Housing** -- will dramatically improve the energy efficiency of new homes, reducing the greenhouse gases that cause global warming and cutting homeowners' energy bills. Most important, HOME OWNERSHIP has encouraged millions of Americans to save and invest, to take pride in their neighborhoods, and to take an active, responsible role in the life of their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 7 through June 13, 1998, as National HOME OWNERSHIP Week. I urge all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that celebrate the rewards of HOME OWNERSHIP.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 3, 1998 ✓

PRESIDENT CLINTON SPEAKS AT CITY YEAR CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND

June 3, 1998

Seven years after visiting City Year members in Boston, President Clinton today travels to Cleveland to speak to 1,000 young City Year AmeriCorps members from nine cities gathered for their end of year celebration. City Year was an inspiration for AmeriCorps. Since the President created AmeriCorps, City Year has grown in size and effectiveness, a direct result of President Clinton's leadership and support.

In his speech, the President will reflect on the Administration's accomplishments on national service since 1992, including the creation of AmeriCorps. When the President first visited the City Year program in December 1991, it was a fledgling program with 100 members funded through private donations. Today, with support from AmeriCorps, City Year has over 1,000 young people ages 17 to 24, in full-time service in nine cities -- Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Columbia, SC, Philadelphia, Providence, San Antonio, and San Jose -- with Seattle to be added as a tenth city in the fall. All members of City Year are also members of AmeriCorps. Program co-founders Alan Khazei and Michael Brown emphasize that members make a commitment to a lifetime of citizen service. Service with a diverse group of young people is integral to the City Year experience.

City Year's annual "Convention of Idealism" brings together 1,000 City Year members from across the country as they complete their year of service. Activities include a day of service as well as workshops, a parade, and a rally. The Convention is called CYZYG (pronounced "SiZiGee," meaning "to align together"). Last year First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was the keynote speaker at the convention, held in Providence, RI. Today's audience will include 100 other AmeriCorps members from local Cleveland programs, including Habitat for Humanity, West Side Ecumenical Ministries (a local faith-based program), and others. The convention is being held at John Carroll University in

University Heights, Ohio -- a Jesuit university with a strong community service tradition.

Increasing Student Service for America Reads

Today, the President announced that a total of 1,000 colleges have agreed to take the America Reads Challenge. These colleges have agreed to use Federal work-study funds to support college students who serve as reading tutors for preschool and elementary school children.

Furthering the Goals of the Presidents' Summit

The President also announced today that the Corporation for National Service will create 500-1,000 new AmeriCorps positions specifically to pursue the goals of last year's Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia. The Administration has worked closely with America's Promise, the organization founded by General Colin Powell to build alliances that help at-risk young people reach their full potential. These new AmeriCorps members, to be selected by states and local communities pursuing the goals of the Summit, will add new firepower to the effort to ensure that all young people have the five resources they need to succeed: a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, an effective education, and a chance to give back to their communities through service. The Corporation will fund the new AmeriCorps positions with \$5 million in demonstration and innovation funds.

AMERICORPS AND NATIONAL SERVICE: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, IMPROVING LIVES

President Clinton came into office with a vision of a national service program that would offer young people the chance to serve our nation in exchange for increased access to higher education. Today, AmeriCorps involves over 40,000 people in intensive, results-driven service, working through a grassroots network of over 1,000 local and national nonprofits. Now in its fourth year, more than 88,000 Americans of all ages and backgrounds have enrolled in AmeriCorps.

Getting Things Done to Solve Community Problems

Improving the lives of children and youth. AmeriCorps helps children succeed by tutoring, mentoring, leading after-school programs, and getting children to school safely. Last year, AmeriCorps members taught or tutored more than 500,000 youth, mentored 95,000 more, recruited 39,000 volunteer tutors, and immunized over 64,000 children.

Responding to disasters. In tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, and floods, AmeriCorps members trained in disaster relief have responded to disasters in more than 30 states.

Making neighborhoods safer. Working with local police and neighborhood groups, AmeriCorps members created or expanded more than 3,100 public safety patrols and trained 109,000 people in violence prevention.

Building **housing**. Serving with Habitat for Humanity and other partners, AmeriCorps members built or rehabbed 5,600 homes and placed more than 32,000 homeless people and families in permanent **housing**. ✓

Strengthening Community-based, Volunteer, and Faith-based

Organizations Providing "people power." National service invests in successful organizations like Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America, the American Red Cross, City Year, and hundreds of local groups, providing trained, dedicated people who commit to sustained service.

Generating new volunteers. Last year, national service members recruited, trained, and supervised over 300,000 volunteers -- making the organizations they serve more efficient.

Supporting faith-based organizations. More than 6,000 AmeriCorps members serve through faith-based organizations like the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the National Council of Churches.

Cutting costs and expanding opportunities to serve. In the Education Awards Program, more than 100 non-profits and faith-based groups pay members' living allowances, with the education award provided by the Corporation for National Service. At last year's Presidents' Summit for America's Future, the President challenged these groups to provide 50,000 places over five years. The Corporation is ahead of schedule in meeting that goal.

Expanding Educational Opportunity

National service uses the GI Bill model: in exchange for a year of full-time service, AmeriCorps members earn educational opportunity -- a \$4,725 scholarship that helps pay for college, or pay back student loans. To date, 48,000 Americans have qualified for education awards.

A cost-effective, non-bureaucratic way to engage citizens in meeting our challenges

Nonprofits must compete every year for AmeriCorps members, and they must set and meet tough goals at the local level. Most sponsors are chosen by bipartisan state commissions appointed by governors. Community groups that sponsor AmeriCorps members must raise at least 33% of the program costs.

An independent study done by three noted conservative economists shows that every federal dollar invested in AmeriCorps returns \$2.60 in direct, measurable benefits.

The President's proposal to extend national service into the 21st century

On March 19, President Clinton submitted legislation to reauthorize the Corporation for National Service and its three initiatives -- AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps -- for five years.

The President's proposal would extend and strengthen national service programs, provide opportunities for millions more Americans to serve, give states and communities more flexibility to administer service programs, strengthen partnerships with traditional volunteer groups, and increase the efficiency of national service programs.

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May 4, 1998

The President's New Partnership for **Housing**:
Helping Homeowners Cut Energy Costs and Fight Global Warming

May 4, 1998

not included

Today, President Clinton launches a new partnership with America's building industry to dramatically improve the energy efficiency of our homes -- cutting consumers' energy bills by 30-50 percent, while reducing the greenhouse gases that cause global warming. At a Los Angeles construction site, where building will soon commence on 186 energy-efficient homes, the President will tour a model home with advanced energy-saving features that will cut homeowners' utility bills by \$230 a year. By promoting the use of these and other advances in new and existing homes, the new Partnership for Advancing Technology in **Housing** (PATH) could save consumers \$11 billion a year in energy costs by 2010 and reduce annual carbon emissions in 2010 by nearly 24 million tons -- the amount produced by some 20 million cars.

Advanced **Housing** for the 21st Century. PATH brings together federal agencies, state and local governments, and the building, finance and insurance industries to spur design and construction innovations for the next generation of American **housing**. The goal is homes that are stronger, more affordable, more comfortable and far more energy-efficient.

Over the next decade, PATH aims to cut energy use by 50 percent in new homes, and by 30 percent in 15 million existing homes, while reducing the monthly cost of new **housing** by 20%.

Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change. Rising emissions of greenhouse gases, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels, threaten to warm the planet 2-6 degrees over the next century. Likely results include rising sea levels, the spread of infectious disease, increased flooding and drought, and extreme weather like that caused by this winter's El Nino. Energy use at home accounts for about 20 percent of U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases. PATH is part of a comprehensive

Administration strategy to fight climate change through cost-effective steps that cut emissions while creating opportunities for economic growth.

A Commitment to Work Together. PATH joins government and industry in a coordinated strategy to identify promising **housing** technologies and swiftly move them to market.

Federal partners, led by the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development and the Department of Energy, commit to support research, facilitate removal of barriers to new technology, and provide technical assistance. Industry partners commit to fund research, bring advanced products to market, share information and work with government to demonstrate new technologies.

State and Local Government partners commit to streamline approval processes so new technologies are rapidly deployed and devote resources to local pilot projects.

PATH Projects Around the Country. The 186-home Village Green development in Los Angeles is one of several PATH pilot projects under way. Others include a Tucson project that is the largest "sustainable" master-planned development in the United States and a "new traditional" neighborhood being built on a decontaminated "brownfields" site in Pittsburgh.

Tax Incentives for Energy Efficiency. To further promote energy efficiency and clean energy technologies, the President's Fiscal Year 1999 budget proposes a five-year \$6.3 billion package of tax incentives and research investments. Included are \$200 million in tax credits for the purchase of ultra-energy-efficient homes and \$1.4 billion in tax credits for the purchase of energy-saving systems and appliances for buildings and homes. The budget also proposes \$200 million next year to accelerate R&D for appliances and construction. The President calls on Congress to approve this common-sense package of tax and research incentives to build a stronger economy and a stronger environment.

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Office of the Press Secretary
(Palo Alto, California)

For Immediate Release

May 1, 1998

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3579, the FY "1998 Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Act." This emergency supplemental legislation makes urgently needed funds available for victims of natural disasters and for our troops in Bosnia and the Persian Gulf. While it is disappointing that the Congress has failed to meet the Nation's financial responsibilities by not approving funds for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations (U.N.), the Congress has provided funds that I requested for victims of natural disasters at home and for our military troops overseas. ✓

I am pleased that this legislation will enable us to meet our commitment to our troops in Bosnia and the Gulf, to support readiness worldwide, and to aid victims of natural disasters at home. This Act provides more than \$2 billion for these purposes.

The Act also includes \$2.4 billion for disaster relief programs for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for emergency highway repair, for repairing levees and other flood control systems, for repairing national wildlife refuges and national park property, and for State and private forestry, farm loans, dairy, and other agricultural assistance.

I am also pleased that the Congress has decided to omit a number of extraneous and objectionable items in this legislation, such as provisions to increase the number of assault weapons on the street, to subsidize banks excessively for making student loans without fully offsetting the costs, and to undermine our ability to provide food stamps to certain legal immigrants.

It is very troubling, however, that the Congress placed politics above sound science by insisting on two measures that would diminish our public lands. One of these provisions permits the building of a six-lane commuter highway near Albuquerque, New Mexico, through the Petroglyph National Monument. This is a dangerous departure from the practice of managing National Parks based on sound science and resource

protection. Another objectionable section is intended to interfere with the Forest Service's ability to manage the National Forests. This rider is directed at a proposed regulation that would temporarily suspend road construction in roadless areas of our National Forests. It imposes difficult and burdensome paperwork and potentially costly compensation requirements on the Forest Service. In addition, I am very concerned about the limitations placed on the Government's ability to ensure a fair return for oil and gas resources extracted from Federal lands. My Administration will oppose any efforts to make these limitations permanent.

I am deeply disappointed that this Act extends the comment period and delays the effective date of the "Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network" final rule, allowing an unfair organ allocation system to continue. This inequitable system violates the intent of the National Organ Transplant Act, which requires a national, equitable system, free of geographic bias, as well as the American Medical Association's Code of Medical Ethics, which prohibits the distribution of organs on the basis of geographic conditions. The final rule would ensure that organs are allocated to the sickest candidates first.

It is also regrettable that in order to pay for the emergency funding for victims of natural disasters, this legislation demands unnecessary and unwarranted cuts in existing **housing** programs for low-income Americans. In response to my Administration's strong objections, the Congress pledged to restore this funding fully in the next fiscal year. I call upon the Congress to honor that promise, and to do so without draining resources from any of the **housing** programs contained in my budget for FY 1999. Instead of cutting **housing** assistance to low-income Americans, the Congress should provide funding for the 100,000 new **housing** vouchers proposed in my FY 1999 Budget.

It is imperative that the Congress act quickly so that we may meet our commitment to the IMF and the U.N. Delay or failure to meet the full IMF requests could undermine our capacity to deal with threats to world economic stability and could leave us unable to protect American workers, farmers, and businesses in the event of an escalation or spread of the Asian financial crisis or a new crisis. In addition, failure to provide the full request for U.N. arrears could jeopardize our chance to affect negotiations on lowering U.S. dues and would undermine U.S. leadership in the international community. I call on the Congress to pass new legislation quickly, with workable terms, so that the United States is able to maintain its position as a world leader and to meet its obligations to the IMF and the U.N.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
May 1, 1998.

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Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

April 17, 1998

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES \$12 MILLION IN HUD ASSISTANCE FOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN MEMPHIS ✓

Memphis, TN -- Vice President Gore today announced \$12 million in Department of **Housing** and Urban Development loan guarantees to Memphis. The funds will help create jobs and finance an important redevelopment effort in downtown Memphis.

I am pleased to announce this new commitment which will keep downtown Memphis a strong, vibrant part of the community -- drawing more visitors and creating more jobs, Vice President Gore said. And that is why President Clinton and I will keep working to find new ways to help local governments achieve their economic development goals.

The Vice President made the announcement while participating in a groundbreaking ceremony for a runway extension project at the Memphis International Airport.

Memphis will receive a \$12 million loan guarantee to aid in the financing of the \$100 million Peabody Place development just south of the newly-renovated Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis. Peabody Place will be an entertainment center including a 23-screen movie complex and 175,000 square-feet of space for other specialty retail establishments. It is expected that the development will create or retain 726 jobs, many of which will be for low-and moderate-income people. The city also expects the development to generate approximately \$2 million of net new tax revenues in the first year of operation.

Today's announcement is evidence of the strong commitment by President Clinton and Vice President Gore to help revitalize America's cities and help businesses prosper and create good jobs for American workers, HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo said. We are strengthening our partnership with Memphis to help the city and its people.

The Clinton Administration has proposed a new \$400 million Community Empowerment Fund to assist communities like Memphis with their job creation and economic development efforts. The Vice

President said the Administration expects this proposal to leverage an estimated \$2 billion in private sector loans to businesses and to create and retain an estimated 280,000 jobs for economically distressed communities around the nation.

HUD's Economic Development Loan Guarantee Fund provides communities with a source of financing for job creation, **housing** rehabilitation, and construction of public facilities and large-scale development projects. The majority of jobs created by each project are available to people with low and moderate incomes. ✓

The Economic Development Loan Guarantees, also known as the Section 108 program, save communities money by reducing the interest rate they are charged on loans from commercial lenders. The guarantees also make loans more readily available and often attract other sources of funding from local and state governments, non-profits and the private sector to complete financing for major creation activities.

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Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

April 16, 1998

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES COMPETITION FOR 20 NEW URBAN AND RURAL EMPOWERMENT ZONES ✓

Touts Success of Administration's Empowerment Approach

New Orleans, LA -- Vice President Gore announced today a competition for 20 new Empowerment Zones to create jobs and business opportunities for economically distressed parts of urban and rural America.

Gore, who chairs President Clinton's Community Empowerment Board, announced Round II of the Empowerment Zone initiative today in an address to the National Conference of Black Mayors meeting in New Orleans.

The Vice President noted a recent Standard & Poor's report concluding that the creation of empowerment zones, along with other economic development tools, can help cities move toward their economic goals.

The 15 new urban and 5 new rural zones will join the 72 urban areas and 33 rural communities that President Clinton and Vice President Gore designated as Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities in December, 1994.

"The Empowerment Zone initiative is helping reverse the years of decline in many of our cities and rural communities," the Vice President said.

"Through our empowerment agenda, we have turned Washington's traditional approach upside down -- working hand-in-hand with mayors, listening to communities, supporting bottom-up innovation and encouraging flexibility. Today, our cities are stronger and our neighborhoods are healthier as the result of our efforts to work with and empower America's communities."

Along with more private investment, the initiative has helped create thousands of jobs that are now filled by people who have

traditionally lacked access to economic opportunity, and helped provide job training and educational opportunities for nearly 45,000 residents of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

In addition, the program has helped create more affordable **housing** opportunities; allowed communities to address important public safety, infrastructure and environmental concerns; and provided social services including affordable health care, child care and youth development programs. ✓

"Empowerment Zones are powerful engines for job creation and economic growth that can transform some of our poorest neighborhoods and the lives of people living there," **Housing** Secretary Andrew Cuomo said. "These zones create a partnership for success between the federal government, local government, the businesses community and neighborhood residents."

The new Empowerment Zones designated following this competition will be eligible to receive a variety of new federal tax incentives to stimulate job creation and economic development in economically distressed areas of cities and rural communities. In addition to the tax incentives, the President's 1999 budget proposes \$1.5 billion in funding over 10 years for social services in the 15 new Empowerment Zones and \$200 million for the 5 rural Zones.

Round II Empowerment Zones will benefit from two new tax incentives -- tax-exempt bond financing and immediate tax-deductibility of the costs of new machinery and equipment. Empowerment Zones with populations of 100,000 or more will be eligible to issue up to \$230 million in bonds, while smaller Zones will be able to issue up to \$130 million in bonds. This lower-interest funding, which will not be subject to state caps or limits on the size of bond issues, should give communities a significant resource for stimulating economic activity within the Empowerment Zones.

Secondly, through an increase Section 179 deduction, businesses in the Empowerment Zones can deduct up to \$37,500 of all or part of the cost of qualifying property -- such as machinery and equipment -- in the year it is placed in service instead of recovering the cost over a period of years through depreciation.

In 1994, the Clinton Administration selected nine Empowerment Zones -- six urban and three rural -- which entitled them to receive federal tax incentives and direct funding for physical improvements and social services.

These communities fashioned comprehensive revitalization strategies, with all local stakeholders - residents, non-profits, business and government -- at the table. In addition, Los Angeles and Cleveland were designated full empowerment zones by the Administration in January of 1998.

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Office of the Press Secretary

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April 10, 1998

TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FEDERAL FAIR **HOUSING** ACT ✓

April 10, 1998

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating the 30th anniversary of the enactment of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 -- the Federal Fair **Housing** Act.

Within a week of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Congress passed and President Johnson signed into law this landmark legislation, which has helped countless Americans achieve the American Dream. The theme of this anniversary celebration, "Many Neighborhoods -- One America," reflects the reality that people of diverse cultures and backgrounds can live together in harmony and reaffirm the American ideals of equality, opportunity, and freedom.

By limiting **housing** choice, discrimination reduces the quality of life for many Americans. During the past three decades, we have made great strides in opening **housing** markets. But **housing** discrimination, although less apparent than in years past, still exists, and the need to enforce fair **housing** laws vigorously remains as urgent today as ever.

My Administration is committed to building strong partnerships between the Department of **Housing** and Urban Development and local communities. I have proposed the largest single increase in HUD's civil rights enforcement programs in two decades. My proposal includes a significant increase in funding for HUD's Fair **Housing** Initiatives and Fair **Housing** Assistance Programs that, among other things, will combat racially motivated hate crimes related to **housing**. We are also seeking congressional approval to raise the Federal **Housing** Administration loan limit so that more Americans, including minorities and women, can become homeowners. ✓

Working together, we can create a more just society that underscores our shared strengths instead of focusing on our differences. The Fair **Housing** Act continues to be an indispensable tool in these efforts, and as we celebrate its 30th anniversary, I call on all Americans to join me in making division and discrimination issues of the past, and to make America a stronger, better place to live for all of our people.

Best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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Office of Communications

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September 29, 1998

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE
Working on Behalf of African Americans ✓

September 1998

Economy

Balanced the Federal Budget. In 1992, the budget deficit was \$290 billion, a record dollar high. This year, the budget will be in surplus for the first time in 30 years.

Saving Social Security First. President Clinton is committed to saving Social Security for the 21st Century. The President will fight any attempt to break the budget rules and drain the surplus. His commitment is unwavering: every penny of any future surplus must be reserved until a bipartisan plan to save Social Security is enacted.

Nearly 17 Million New Jobs. Under President Clinton, more new jobs have been created in 5 1/2 years than were created during the entire 8 years of the Reagan Administration (16.7 million under Pres. Clinton vs. 16.0 million under Pres. Reagan).

Declining Unemployment. The unemployment rate for African Americans has dropped from 14.1 percent in January 1993 to 9.0 percent today -- one of the lowest African American unemployment rates on record.

The Lowest Inflation in More than 30 Years. Since 1993, the inflation rate has averaged just 2.5 percent -- the lowest average inflation rate since the Kennedy Administration. Over the past year, the Consumer Price Index has increased only 1.6 percent.

Strong Private Sector Growth. The private sector of the economy has grown 3.9 percent annually -- the fastest rate of private-sector growth since the Johnson Administration.

Median Income of African American Households Is Up \$3,354. The median income of African American households rose 4.3 percent (or \$1,029) last

year. And since 1993, the median income of African American households has increased from \$21,696 to \$25,050 -- \$3,354 or a 15-percent increase, adjusted for inflation, between 1993 and 1997.

Tax Cuts For Low-Income Working Families. President Clinton's 1993 Economic Plan provided tax cuts to 15 million hard-pressed working families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average family with two kids who received the EITC received a tax cut of \$1,026. In 1997, the EITC lifted 1.1 million African Americans out of poverty.

Largest Four-Year Drop in African American Poverty in More than Twenty-Five Years. Since 1993, the African American poverty rate has dropped from 33.1 percent to 26.5 percent -- the largest four-year drop in African American poverty in more than a quarter century (1967-1971) and 26.5 percent is the lowest level on record (data collected since 1959). While this decrease marks significant progress, President Clinton will continue to fight for policies that help to raise incomes and reduce poverty.

Child Poverty Among African Americans Down To Lowest Level on Record. In 1997, the African American child poverty rate fell from 39.9 percent to 37.2 percent -- its lowest level on record (data collected since 1959). Since 1993, the child poverty rate among African-Americans has dropped from 46.1 percent to 37.2 percent -- the biggest four-year drop on record.

Minimum Wage Increased. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefitting 1.3 million African American workers.

Fighting for Paycheck Equity. The President has called on Congress to pass legislation to strengthen laws prohibiting wage discrimination. In 1996, the median earnings of African American women represented 65 percent of the median earnings for men.

Two and a Half Times More Small Business Loans to African American Entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the Small Business Administration (SBA) approved more than 9,000 loans to African American entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. Last year alone, the Small Business Administration granted 1,900 loans, worth \$286 million, to African American small business owners, two and a half times the number of loans granted in 1992.

Supporting Minority Business Communities and Increasing Access to Capital. Building on the efforts of the SBA, Vice President Gore unveiled aggressive plans to increase lending and business services to the African American and Hispanic business communities nationwide. The SBA has set a goal of providing an estimated total of \$1.86 billion in loans to African American small businesses over a three-year period. In addition, the Vice President announced an unprecedented agreement between SBA and the "Big Three" U.S. automakers to increase subcontracting awards to minority businesses by nearly \$3 billion over the next three years -- a 50 percent increase over current levels.

Ensuring Minority Business Owners Have a Fair Opportunity to Compete. The President signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century into law on June 9, 1998. The Act protects the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, a program that ensures that minority and women owned businesses have an opportunity to compete for transportation projects. The Administration helped defeat an amendment to the House version of this bill that would have eliminated the DBE Program. In a different measure, the President also approved the creation of a new program to target assistance to minority-owned businesses in industries that continue to reflect the effects of discrimination. As a result, thousands of minority-owned businesses will be able to compete more effectively for government contracts.

Working on Behalf of Minority Farmers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working to strengthen programs and increase outreach targeted to underserved communities, including increasing its lending to minority and women producers. In the past five years there has been a 74 percent increase in direct lending to these groups -- from \$46.5 million in FY93 to \$81 million in FY97. Additionally, the Administration is committed to righting any past wrongs by federal employees and has worked with the Congress in crafting language contained in the Agriculture Appropriations bill that would waive the two-year statute of limitations on discrimination complaints against USDA's farm and **housing** loan programs. This waiver would allow compensation to be provided to many minority farmers who were victims of discrimination by USDA from the early 1980's through the 1990's.

Expanding Access to Capital with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). The President has expanded access to capital through the creation of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which supports banks and other entities that specialize in lending and investing in under-served communities. The President's FY99 Budget includes a \$45 million increase in CDFI funding (from \$80 million to \$125 million) to allow the Fund to provide additional support for these institutions, including through an expanded training and technical assistance initiative.

Expanding Investment in Urban and Rural Areas. Thanks to President Clinton and the 1993 Economic Plan, 125 Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities have been created, programs that are spurring economic development in distressed communities. And the President's FY99 budget provides \$150 million a year for 10 years to fund 15 new urban Empowerment Zones (EZs) and \$20 million a year for 10 years to fund five new rural EZs. Additionally, the President's FY99 budget includes \$400 million -- nearly triple the FY98 appropriation -- for a new Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) that is expected to leverage an estimated \$2 billion in private-sector loans to help communities invest in businesses and create jobs.

Homeownership Is Up. In the last four years, 628,000 African Americans have become new homeowners.

Expanding Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit by 40 Percent. In 1993, President Clinton fulfilled his promise to permanently extend the Low-Income **Housing** Tax Credit, spurring the private development of low-income **housing** and helping to build 75,000-90,000 **housing** units each year. President Clinton now proposes to expand the credit by 40 percent. Over the next five years, this expansion will mean an additional 150,000 to 180,000 quality affordable rental units.

Put Forth a "Play-by-the-Rules" Homeownership Initiative and a Homeownership Zones Initiative. The FY99 budget proposal for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation includes \$25 million for a new initiative that would make homeownership more accessible to families who have a good rental history but have difficulty purchasing a home, 10,000 lower-income and minority families who are currently renting would benefit from this initiative. In addition, the President's FY99 budget includes \$25 million for Homeownership Zones, abandoned **housing** and distressed neighborhoods that communities could reclaim with this funding. Funds could be used for property acquisition, demolition, site preparation, **housing** construction or rehabilitation, homeownership counseling, relocation, and activities to further fair **housing** and homeownership.

Fighting for Equal Opportunity

Building One America. The President has led the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the common values that unite us. Dr. John Hope Franklin, Advisory Board Chair, and Rev. Suzan Johnson Cook served on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort. The President, the Administration and the Advisory Board were actively involved in public outreach efforts -- including holding numerous public meetings and town halls -- to engage Americans across the nation in this historic effort. One of the critical elements of the President's Initiative on Race was identifying, highlighting and sharing with the nation promising practices -- local and national efforts to promote racial reconciliation. The Advisory Board presented their final report to the President on September 18, 1998, and recommended that conversations on race continue.

Creating an Administration that Looks Like One America. The President appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. The Clinton Cabinet includes three African Americans: Rodney Slater, Secretary of the Department of Transportation; Togo West, Jr., Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor. Additionally, African Americans serve in the Administration as Surgeon General, Deputy Attorney General for the Department of Justice, Director of the National Park Service, Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Department of Education General Counsel and as the Department of Education's Chief of Staff. Thirteen percent of Clinton Administration appointees are African American, which is twice as many African Americans as any previous administration. White House appointees include: Bob Nash, Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel; Thurgood Marshall, Jr., Assistant to the President and Director of Cabinet Affairs; Minyon Moore, Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison; Cheryl Mills, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Counsel and Robert (Ben) Johnson, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison.

Increasing the Number of Judicial Appointments. President Clinton has named 12 African Americans as U.S. Attorneys and 12 African Americans as U.S. Marshals. The President has nominated over 54 African Americans to the Federal bench, 17 percent of his total Federal bench nominations.

Ordered an Assessment of Affirmative Action Programs. The President ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans. This review of federal affirmative action programs has helped to ensure that these programs are fair and effective and that they can survive legal challenges. As a result, programs that benefit African Americans, including students, working men and women, and business owners, remain in effect and are more likely to be upheld by the courts.

Increasing Civil Rights Enforcement. On Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, January 19, 1998, Vice President Gore announced the Administration's proposal for the largest single increase in funding to enforce existing civil rights laws in nearly two decades. Through new reforms and heightened commitment to enforcement, the Administration will seek to prevent discrimination before it occurs and to punish those who do discriminate in employment, education, **housing** and health care, and against those with disabilities. The Clinton Administration's FY99 budget contains \$602 million for civil rights enforcement agencies and offices -- an increase of \$86 million over last year's funding. And an additional \$1 million will allow the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division to enhance coordination of federal civil rights enforcement policy among agencies. Improved coordination will lead to

more consistent enforcement of civil rights laws, broader dissemination of best practices and improved data collection.

Increasing Funding for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The cornerstone of the improved civil rights enforcement effort is a \$37 million increase (15 percent) for the EEOC. Through increased use of mediation, improved information technology and an expanded investigative staff, the EEOC will reduce the average time for resolving private-sector complaints from over 9.4 months to 6 months and cut the backlog of cases from 64,000 to 28,000, by the year 2000.

Creating a National Memorial to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King. In July of 1998, President Clinton signed a new measure authorizing the creation of a national monument to Dr. King on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Opposed California Prop. 209 and Similar Measures. The Clinton Administration strongly opposes state and local initiatives to eliminate affirmative action programs that expand opportunities for African Americans and others. The Administration opposed Proposition 209 in California and filed amicus briefs opposing Prop. 209, which currently prohibits state affirmative action programs. The Clinton Administration opposed a similar initiative in Houston, which was defeated and is currently opposing an initiative in Washington that is similar to Prop. 209. In all these cases, representatives of the administration have spoken out strongly against these initiatives as unfair and a barrier to equality.

Ensuring Election Fairness. The Clinton Administration defended racially fair redistricting plans against claims that they were unconstitutional and prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties.

Increasing Voter Registration. During 1995 and 1996, the National Voter Registration Act or "Motor Voter" law registered nearly 14 million new voters and made voting easier for millions more. Notably, 1996 saw the highest percentage of voter registration since 1960. [FEC, 6/97]

Working for Fair **Housing**. To respond to the increase in reported cases of serious fair **housing** violations, HUD will double the number of its civil rights enforcement actions by the year 2000. HUD has also committed \$15 million to 67 fair **housing** centers around the country to assist in fighting **housing** discrimination this year. In addition, the President's budget proposes \$10 million for a targeted enforcement initiative that will use paired testing -- identical applicants of different races or genders approaching Realtors or landlords -- to detect and eliminate **housing** discrimination.

Defended Fairness. The Clinton Administration has filed more cases between 1993 and 1997 to enforce fair **housing** laws than any other Administration (more than 500 cases). For instance, this Administration desegregated a Vidor, Texas, public **housing** complex and ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers who were unfairly denied loans by the bank.

Eliminated Discriminatory "Redlining" Practices. The Clinton Administration negotiated agreements with health care agencies to eliminate discriminatory "redlining" practices denying home health care services based on residential location.

Apologized to the Victims of Tuskegee. President Clinton apologized to the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment and their families, and

directed Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to issue a report about how best to involve communities, especially minority communities, in research and health care. HHS awarded a planning grant to Tuskegee University to help it establish a center for bioethics in research and health care.

Working to Ensure a Fair and Accurate Census. The Clinton Administration is working to ensure that Census 2000 is the most accurate census possible using the best, most up-to-date scientific methods as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. According to the Census Bureau, the 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people and double-counted 4.4 million others. Nationally, 4.4 percent of African Americans were not counted in the 1990 census. While missing or miscounting so many people is a problem, the fact that certain groups -- such as children, the poor, people of color, city dwellers and people who live in rural rental homes -- were missed more often than others made the undercount even more inaccurate. A fair and accurate Census is a fundamental part of a representative democracy and is the basis for providing equality under the law. The President is determined to have a fair and full count in 2000.

Children and Families

Protecting Families. The Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. Millions of workers have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment. The President also proposed expanding the Family & Medical Leave Act to allow workers up to 24 hours per year of unpaid leave for parent-teacher conferences or routine medical care for a child.

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. President Clinton has announced a \$400 million initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities. The effort sets a national goal of eliminating the longstanding disparities by the year 2010 in six key health areas: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations. For example, African Americans suffer from diabetes at 70 percent higher rates than white Americans. The President announced a five-step plan -- led by Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. David Satcher -- to mobilize the resources and expertise of the Federal government, the private sector, and local communities.

Focused Health Efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems for the care of children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program.

Fighting to Pass a Strong, Enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. President Clinton has called on the Congress to pass a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights that assures Americans the quality health care they need. The bill should include important patient protections such as: assuring direct access to specialists; real emergency room protections; continuity of care provisions that protect patients from abrupt changes in treatment; a fair, timely, and independent appeals process for patient grievances; and enforcement provisions to make these rights real.

Protected and Strengthened Medicare, Benefiting the 3.4 Million African Americans Enrolled in Medicare. The Balanced Budget Act extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for at least a decade; expanded choices in health plans; and provided beneficiaries new preventive benefits.

The President has also put forth a new proposal that will provide greater access to health insurance for Americans ages 55 to 65, including an option to buy into Medicare.

Extended Health Care to Millions of Children with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Because of the President's leadership, the Balanced Budget included \$24 billion to provide real health care coverage to up to five million more children, the largest children's health care budget increase since Medicaid was created in 1965. Minority children make up a disproportionate number of the over 10 million uninsured children. African American children make up 25 percent and Hispanic children make up 30 percent of all uninsured children -- more than twice their percentage of the overall population. The Administration is actively reaching out to communities to target and enroll eligible, uninsured children in CHIP.

Increased WIC -- \$1 Billion Higher. Under President Clinton, participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has expanded by 1.7 million -- from 5.7 million in 1993 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children in 1998, with funding rising from \$2.9 billion to \$3.9 billion. The President's budget proposes \$4.1 billion in WIC funding to serve 7.5 million women, infants, and children in 1999, fulfilling his goal of full participation in WIC. Research shows that every \$1 increase in the prenatal care portion of the WIC program cuts between \$1.77 and \$3.90 in medical expenses in the first 60 days following childbirth. In 1996, 25 percent of the infants who benefited from WIC were African American.

Expanded Head Start By Nearly 60 Percent -- Over \$1.5 Billion Higher Per Year. Since 1993, President Clinton has expanded Head Start by 57 percent, from \$2.8 billion in FY93 to \$4.4 billion in FY98. Of the estimated 830,000 children now enrolled in Head Start, 36 percent of the children are African American. The President's FY99 Budget increases Head Start funding by \$313 million, which would mean Head Start funding would be 68-percent higher in 1999 than in 1993. The President is on track to meet his goal of enrolling one million children in Head Start.

Proposed the Largest Single Investment in Child Care in the Nation's History. The President's \$21 billion child care proposal will give child care subsidies to millions of children and increase tax credits for three million working families to help them pay for child care.

Providing After-School Opportunities for Up to Half a Million Children a Year. Last year, the President fought for, and won, a \$40 million expansion of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. Building on the success of this program, the President's FY99 budget includes a \$200 million major expansion, which will provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 500,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities across the country.

Education

Made the Largest Investment in Education in 30 Years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Established the First African American Advisory Board. Established the President's Board of Advisors for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to strengthen the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to provide quality education and advised on

ways to increase the private sector's role in these institutions.

Increased Funding and Grants for HBCUs. Increased funding for Historically Black Colleges by over \$250 million between FY92 and FY98 -- an increase of nearly 25 percent. Today, America's 105 HBCUs are educating almost 300,000 African Americans.

AmeriCorps College Support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with African Americans comprising 20 percent of all participants (1996 data). This year alone, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve and earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

Expanding Investments In Youth Education And Training. One of the President's top priorities is fighting efforts by Congress to eliminate both the Summer Jobs Program, which provides jobs to roughly 530,000 disadvantaged young people, and the new Youth Opportunity Area Initiative, which would help provide job training and help finding jobs for up to 50,000 youth in the poorest communities nationwide. The Summer Jobs programs provides an estimated 25 percent of the summer jobs held by African American 14-15 years olds and at least 16 percent held by Hispanic 14-15 year olds. The Youth Opportunity Area Initiative program provides high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 with academic and job-skills training, as well as apprenticeships building and rehabilitating affordable **housing**.

Record Enrollment. A record percentage of African Americans were enrolled in post-secondary education in 1996 -- 35.7 percent of African American high school graduates.

Expanding College Opportunity with Tuition Tax Credits, Education IRAs, and Largest Increase in Pell Grants in 20 Years. The President is making the first two years of college universally available with \$1500 HOPE Scholarship credits and a 20 percent tax credit helps offset tuition costs for college or lifetime learning. The expanded IRA allows penalty- and tax-free withdrawals for education. And, in the coming school year, nearly 4 million students will receive a Pell Grant of up to \$3,000, 30 percent larger than when the President took office. In the 1995-96 school year, 57 percent of all African American students enrolled full-time in college received a Pell Grant. In addition, the FY99 budget proposes \$249 million more for Pell Grants, which would help increase the maximum by another \$100 to \$3,100 -- the highest ever. This would reach 3.9 million low- and middle-income undergraduates. If the President's budget were enacted, the maximum grant would be 25-percent higher than in 1996.

Fostering Diversity. The White House recently awarded Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring Grants to both individual mentors and institutions that foster mentoring, helping to ensure that America's future scientists and engineers come from all of the nation's racial and cultural segments of the population.

Modernizing Our Schools. The President, with the help of Senator Carol Moseley-Braun (D IL), is working to pass federal tax credits to help rebuild, modernize, and build over 5,000 public schools nationwide.

Reducing Class Size. The President is pressing Congress to enact his proposal to reduce class size to a national average of 18 students in grades 1-3, by helping local schools hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. Research shows that minorities, and low-income students in particular, benefit academically from smaller classes.

Teaching Every Child to Read by the 3rd Grade. More than 1000 colleges

have committed work-study students to tutor children in reading, and thousands of AmeriCorps members and senior volunteers are organizing volunteer reading campaigns. In addition, the President is working to enact an early literacy bill such as the America Reads Initiative that will provide more tutors after school, improve the teaching of reading in our schools, and help parents help their children learn to read.

Greater Access to Education Technology. The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology into the classroom and has called for technology training for teachers and expanded access for teachers and students to computers in the classroom. As a part of this effort, the Clinton Administration has secured the E-Rate, provided for in the Telecommunications Act, a discounted education rate for telecommunications services so schools and libraries will be able to bring technology into the classroom, set up phone lines and access the Internet at a fraction of the cost. Schools and libraries are eligible for up to 90 percent (depending on poverty level) of discounts on telecommunications and information services.

Striving for Excellence. Thanks to President Clinton's leadership, the Title I program is helping more than 10 million disadvantaged students reach high academic standards by giving them extra help with basic and advanced skills. In the 1994-95 school year, 26 percent of the children benefiting from the Title I program were African American.

Working to Pass the High Hopes for College Initiative. The High Hopes for College Initiative will inspire more young people to have high expectations, to stay in school and study hard, and to go to college. The Clinton Administration is working with Congressman Chaka Fattah (D PA) and other Members to pass this initiative which makes a long-term investment -- starting with \$140 million in FY99 -- to promote partnerships between colleges and middle or junior high schools in low-income communities. The President's High Hopes program will provide one million at-risk middle school students (over five years) the mentoring and tutoring needed to raise education expectations and eliminate barriers to college.

Proposing Education Opportunity Zones. The President proposed \$1.5 billion, over five years, to bolster reform efforts by high-poverty urban and rural school districts that demonstrate both a commitment to and a track record in improving educational achievement. Funds will be used to improve accountability, turn around failing schools, recognize outstanding teachers, deal with ineffective ones and expand public school choice. Added investments in these communities will accelerate progress and provide successful models of system-wide, standards-based reform.

Getting Good Teachers to Underserved Areas. Responding to the need for a diverse and excellent teaching force, President Clinton proposed a \$350 million program to attract talented people of all backgrounds to teach at low-income schools across the nation. The funding also will be used to dramatically improve the quality of training given to future teachers. This new program will help bring nearly 35,000 new teachers into high-poverty schools in urban and rural areas over the next five years.

Fighting Crime

Enhanced Penalties for Hate Crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime.

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton hosted the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America. The President announced significant law enforcement and prevention initiatives to get tough on hate crimes, including: support for legislation to expand the federal hate crimes law to cover crimes based on sexual orientation, gender, or disability; the creation of a network of local hate crime working groups; the addition of approximately 50 FBI agents and federal prosecutors to enforce hate crimes laws; improved collection of data on hate crimes; and the production of materials to educate the public -- especially youth -- about hate crimes.

Took Action Against Church Burnings. Focused the nation's attention and resources to help stop the rash of church burnings across the country, prosecuted those responsible, and sped the rebuilding process.

Falling Crime Rates. Violent crime is down six years in a row, the longest period of decline since 1960. Juvenile crime, which had been exploding, has declined 2 years in a row. Property and violent crime victimization rates are at their lowest levels in nearly 25 years.

Putting 100,000 New Police on the Streets and Providing COPS Grants to Underserved Areas. The President's Crime Bill, through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, has already funded nearly 80,000 new officers. As a part of the COPS Program, the President announced new grants to increase police presence and community policing in underserved neighborhoods. Under this initiative, 18 cities will share \$106 million to hire 620 new community policing officers. The pilot cities were selected following an analysis of crime, demographic and economic data.

Promoting Community Prosecutions. The President's FY99 budget includes \$50 million for grants to promote community prosecution, which builds on effective community policing strategies. The funds will enable local prosecutors across the country to play a more active role in crime fighting by spending more time in their neighborhoods, both helping to solve crimes and preventing them before they happen.

Safe and Clean Environment

Environmental Justice and Redevelopment. The Clinton Administration issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low-income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. The Administration identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

Issued Toughest New Air Quality Standards in a Generation. The Clinton Administration issued new air quality standards for smog and soot that will prevent 15,000 premature deaths a year and improve the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from respiratory illnesses.

Cleaning Up Toxic Waste Sites and Redeveloping Brownfields. This Administration has cleaned up twice as many Superfund sites in less than six years as previous administrations did in twelve. To date, the Administration has awarded 228 Brownfields grants, for over \$42 million, to states, cities, towns, counties and tribes. These grants have leveraged nearly \$1 billion for redevelopment of industrial sites and created over 2,000 jobs.

Providing Safe Drinking Water. The President proposed and signed legislation to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our families have healthy, clean tap water. The Administration required America's 55,000 water utilities companies to provide regular reports to their customers on the quality of their drinking water.

Reducing the Threat of Global Warming. The Administration negotiated an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an environmentally strong and economically sound way. The President's has proposed a five-year \$6.3 billion package of tax incentives and research investment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

Protecting Our Natural Treasures. The Clinton Administration has protected or enhanced nearly 150 million acres of public and private lands, from the red rock canyons of Utah to the Florida Everglades. And the Administration has recently reached agreements to protect Yellowstone from mining and save the ancient redwoods of California's Headwaters Forest.

American Leadership

Made an Historic Presidential Trip to Africa. In 1998, President Clinton made the first trip by a sitting U.S. President to Ghana, Uganda, Botswana and Senegal. While in Africa, President Clinton focused on key issues of development, trade, investment, empowerment of women and the environment. The trip increased and enhanced ties with Africa and built upon the work and achievements of late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, Transportation Secretary Slater and Presidential Special Envoy Jesse Jackson.

Assisted South Africa's Transition to Democracy. Provided over \$600 million in the first three years to the newly-elected democratic government of South Africa to support democracy and development. Established the Gore-Mbeki Bi-National Commission to promote cooperation in trade, development, the environment and security.

Hosted the First-Ever White House Conference on Africa in July 1994. This Conference brought together key American policy-makers and leaders to discuss the future of US-Africa relations.

Restored Democracy for Haiti. Restored democracy to Haiti and ended the military dictatorship.

Launched the President's Partnership for Economic Opportunity in Africa Initiative. This initiative deepens trade and investment between Africa and the United States and is the cornerstone of the Administration's Africa policy. The President supports passage of the bipartisan African Growth and Opportunity Act which complements his "Partnership Initiative" by further strengthening U.S.-Africa trade relations.

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