

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Speechwriting

Series/Staff Member: Jeff Shesol

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19943

FolderID:

Folder Title:
Appropriations Bills Statement 10/5/98

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	91	6	9	3

EF

28350455
F1004

Draft 10/05/98 2:00pm

Jeff Shesol

'98 OCT 5 PM 2:26

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON APPROPRIATIONS BILLS
THE WHITE HOUSE
October 5, 1998

From the very beginning of our efforts to create this American economic renaissance, Congressman Gephardt and Senator Daschle have been tireless in their efforts to bring about that change. Especially in these last few weeks, as the Congressional session has entered its crucial, final weeks and the political season has intensified, these two leaders have stood above the crowd in their constant efforts to elevate progress above partisanship.

I realize that the calendar says the election is one month away. The calendar also says that it is now eight months since I sent Congress a budget, and five months since the legal deadline for Congress to pass a budget.

Now Congress has sent me only two of thirteen appropriations bills necessary to keep the government running. On Friday, the temporary spending measure I signed will run out.

I want to work with Congress to get this important work done. There is still time for real achievement -- still time to put progress ahead of partisanship. That is why, today, I stand with Representative Gephardt and Senator Daschle to call on the congressional majority. Time in this session is drawing short, and Congress has important work left to do: Pass the necessary spending bills to keep the government running. Save Social Security for future generations.

Ensure a quality education for all our children. Protect America from global economic turmoil. These are the priorities of the American people, and they must be the priorities of the Congress in the last days of this legislative session.

First, we must save Social Security first. Last week, I was privileged to announce an historic achievement: for the first time in a generation, America has a budget surplus. Congress must not lose this spirit of fiscal discipline in a rush to spend the surplus. I have proposed tax cuts that are fully paid for. But if the Congress sends me a tax plan that drains billions from the surplus before saving Social Security first, I will veto it.

We have worked too hard for too long to abandon fiscal discipline and weaken Social Security in the weeks before an election.

Second, we must act to protect our prosperity in the turbulent international economy by meeting our obligations to the International Monetary Fund. The world is waiting for the Congress to step up to its responsibility, provide funds to the IMF, and help pull teetering economies away from the brink.

Third, we must continue to invest in education. In just one day, Congress can -- and must -- pass a plan to provide America's public schools with the tools they need: 100,000 well-qualified new teachers to reduce class size, after-school and summer school programs to help students rise to higher academic standards, and modernized schools for the 21st century.

Fourth, Congress must act to protect -- not to gut -- environmental protections. Yet Republicans in Congress have sought to slip unacceptable provisions into unrelated bills that would cripple wildlife protection, build a road through an Alaskan wildlife refuge, force overcutting of our national forest, deny taxpayers a fair return on oil leasing, and thwart common-sense efforts to address global warming. If they insist on sending these anti-environment riders to my desk, I will veto them.

These are the tasks before the Congress -- tasks that demand attention, and demand action. As Congress completes its work, I will continue to do everything in my power to elevate progress over partisanship, and to demand that the priorities of the American people become the priorities of the United States Congress. I ask the Republicans in Congress to join us.

As Spending Bills Lag, Democrats Attack

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 — With just five days until money for Federal operations runs out, President Clinton and Congressional Democrats escalated their criticism of Republican leaders today for not moving faster on the 13 spending bills needed to keep the Government running.

So far, Congress has completed work on only four of those bills. Congress and the President have adopted a temporary spending measure that expires Friday night at midnight. Republicans in both houses said today that they expected to complete action on three or four other bills but would probably have to roll the remaining legislation into one big catchall package to meet the Friday deadline.

If they do not meet that deadline, they could extend it, although they would probably do so for only a day or two at a time. If they neither met the deadline nor extended it, parts of the Government would shut down.

Representative Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, the House Democratic leader, was particularly harsh in his criticism of the majority Republicans today, five days into the 1999 fiscal year.

"In my view, this is the worst Congress that has ever sat in the United States Capitol, that has achieved less than any Congress that we've ever had," Mr. Gephardt said at the White House after meeting with the President. "Republicans have wasted the entire year and have left the heavy lifting until the last week."

Republicans, whom much of the public held responsible for partial Government shutdowns in 1995-96, said today that comments like Mr. Gephardt's were proof that Congressional Democrats and the Administration were itching for a fight over the spending bills. In fact, they said, they suspect that the Democrats would even welcome a shutdown as a distraction from the drive on Capitol Hill to impeach the President.

The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott of Mississippi, said on Sunday that he was suspicious of the Administration.

"I am very disturbed by the ability to work with this White House," Senator Lott said. "It's a matter of trust, and I'm not sure that as majority leader now I can trust their actions."

Even when the same party controls the White House and Congress, the lawmakers usually leave the difficult negotiations over the spending bills until the end of each session. But the atmosphere this year is especially charged, with the impeachment process under way just as Congress

is trying to wrap up its must-do business.

Further complicating matters is that this is an election year, and members are eager not only to leave Washington to campaign but also to insert their pet projects into the spending bills, although they know that the leaders will decide among themselves what the final package contains.

The President has indicated that he could veto at least five of the remaining bills. Today, in one of his most direct and comprehensive for-

To Gephardt, 'the worst Congress that has ever sat in the Capitol.'

mulations on the appropriations process, he stepped up pressure on the Republicans to drop their notion of a tax cut and to enact his proposals on education, the environment and disaster relief — the broad legislative themes that could give him some political footing in a showdown with Republicans.

Mr. Clinton addressed several issues that Congress will be haggling over in the next few days as House and Senate Republicans try to resolve their own differences. He asked Congress to approve full financing for the International Monetary Fund, sought money for 100,000 teachers and after-school programs, and said he was alert to what he called "unacceptable" anti-environment provisions.

"These are the priorities of the American people," the President said of his proposals, "and they must be the priorities of Congress in these last days before the election."

Some of the spending bills are being held up because of disputes among Republicans themselves. For example, conservative House Republicans object to Mr. Clinton's request for \$14 billion to shore up the reserves of the International Monetary Fund, but many other Republicans, in both houses, want to approve it.

Mr. Gephardt framed the impasse this way: "Can the Republican leadership reign in the right wing, the far right wing of the Republican Party, so we can avoid a shutdown?"

Republicans attribute the snags to the President's request for more than \$13 billion in emergency spending that they say would break last

year's budget agreement.

The four bills that Congress has finished would finance energy and water projects, military construction, defense and the operations of Congress. In the next couple of days, both houses are expected to complete action on the agriculture bill, the transportation bill, the bill financing the veterans and housing departments and, possibly, the Treasury and Postal Service bill.

Each house will then roll into one big package, or omnibus bill, at least five spending measures that include elements the President has said he will or may veto. He has threatened a veto on the Commerce bill because of a dispute over how the census would be conducted; the Labor bill over Republican resistance to his proposals for education programs and fuel assistance for low-income people; the Interior bill over several environmental provisions; the District of Columbia bill over school vouchers and a prohibition on homosexual couples' adopting children, and the foreign operations bill over the International Monetary Fund and overseas family planning.

Republican aides said the real negotiations, between the House and the Senate and then with the White House, would not start until Wednesday or Thursday, or possibly even Friday.

"It will be a massive, days-long conference in a tiny room with no air," one top Republican aide said.

But this aide, and others, predicted that Congress would try to adjourn in time for members to get home by Monday to campaign in local Columbus Day parades.

The New York Times

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1998

Let the Process Go Forward

By Lowell Weicker

THE HOUSE JUDICIARY Committee did the right thing yesterday in voting for an investigation of President Clinton that could lead to impeachment hearings.

Saying this does not mean I'm a partisan — far from it. I often parted company with my Republican col-

leagues when I was in the Senate. In 1990, I left the party. I voted for, and publicly endorsed, Mr. Clinton twice.

Still, I believe the committee is acting properly. It is too early to say whether the President should be impeached. It is not too early to say that the alternative — censure — would be a grave mistake.

Having sat on the Senate Select Committee that investigated Richard Nixon 25 years ago, I fully appreciate the difficult decisions ahead. But censure is not an answer. It belongs to the autocratic nature of parliamentary government. In our democracy, issues — including the fitness of candidates to serve — are decided at election

time. Overturning this electoral verdict should require the most extraordinary of precautions. That is precisely what the impeachment process in the Constitution demands.

The Founding Fathers purposely set forth a complex procedure to determine the fitness of a President to continue in office. The Constitution requires decisions to be made first in

the House and then in the Senate, with any Senate vote to impeach requiring a two-thirds majority.

The Founders wanted to filter emotional or irrational considerations out of deliberations of a President's fitness to remain in office. That is why reason prevailed on the only two occasions when Presidents seriously faced removal by impeachment. In 1868, the House voted articles of impeachment against Andrew Johnson, but the Senate failed to convict him — by one vote. In our own time, the threat of impeachment forced the resignation of Richard Nixon, who realized that the legislative and constitutional processes had established that he had violated the laws of the land.

Censure, on the other hand, has no constitutional basis. The threshold for passing a censure resolution is far lower than that required for impeachment. Legally it resembles any other nonbinding Congressional resolution and therefore requires only a simple majority in one or both houses. The one time a President was censured — Andrew Jackson in 1834 — the resolution was passed by a vote of only 28 to 18. The vote had none of the authority of an impeachment vote.

Censure also carries no enforceable sanction. On 1837, after Jackson's Democrats had won the Senate, they ordered black lines drawn around the resolution in the official record, with "Expunged by order of the Senate" superimposed. Thus did censure prove to be an empty, meaningless gesture.

At the same time, in a highly charged political climate, censure could become a volatile new political instrument. Since it requires only a bare majority of votes, it could amount to an open invitation for political mischief to be visited on future Presidents whenever Congress disagrees with their policies.

It could also backfire. What if Nixon's supporters in Congress had proposed letting him plea bargain for a censure? The imperial Presidency would have been here to stay. What if a President retaliated by issuing an executive order censuring a member of the House or Senate?

For too long, Americans and their elected representatives have opted for soft landings on the toughest problems. And whenever a tough call has been required, it has been supplanted by a symbolic gesture.

Censuring Mr. Clinton would be a gesture of this kind. What exactly would it mean? What sanctions would follow? What message would be sent?

There is no choice now but to push ahead with impeachment hearings. Anything less will result in government by free-for-all. □

The New York Times

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1998



SUNTUM_M @ A1
10/05/98 04:25:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject: 1998-10-05 Remarks by POTUS, Daschle, and Gephardt

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 5, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT,
SENATOR TOM DASCHLE, AND REPRESENTATIVE DICK GEPHARDT
ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The South Lawn

3:17 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. From the beginning of our efforts to create the economic renaissance America now enjoys, Congressman Gephardt and Senator Daschle have been tireless in working for that change. Especially in these last few weeks as the congressional session has entered its crucial final stage and the political season has intensified, these two leaders have stood above the crowd in their constant efforts to elevate progress over partisanship.

I realize that the calendar says the election is just a month away. The calendar also says it is now eight months since I sent the Congress a budget, five months since the legal deadline for Congress to pass a budget resolution. And, as all of you know, the fiscal year ended last week. Yet, so far, Congress has sent me only two of 13 appropriations bills necessary to keep our government running. On Friday the temporary spending measure I signed will run out. I want to work with Congress to get this important work done. There is still time for real achievement, still time for progress over partisanship.

That is why today I stand with Representative Gephardt and Senator Daschle to call on the congressional majority. Time is running short. Congress has important work left to do. Pass the necessary spending bills to keep the government running. Save Social Security for future generations. Insure a quality education for all our children. Protect America from the global economic turmoil.

These are the priorities of the American people, and they must be the priorities of Congress in these last days before the election. First, we must save Social Security first. Last week I was privileged to announce the first budget surplus in a generation. Congress must not lose this spirit of fiscal discipline. I have proposed tax cuts, but they're fully paid for. If the Congress sends me a tax plan that drains billions from the surplus before saving Social Security, I will veto it. We've worked too hard for too long to abandon fiscal discipline and our economic strength and to weaken our commitment to Social Security just because it's election time.

Second, we must act to protect our prosperity in this turbulent international economy by meeting our obligations to the International Monetary Fund. The world is waiting -- literally, the world is waiting -- for Congress to step up to America's responsibility, provide funds to the IMF, and give us the tools we need to pull teetering economies back from the brink; and to keep America's economic prosperity going. It would be unacceptable for Congress to leave Washington before acting.

Third, we must continue to invest in education. As the leaders here with me and about 50 other members of Congress asked last week, we seek just one day for Congress to consider the education measures I have proposed, to pass a plan to provide our schools with the tools they need -- with 100,000 teachers so we can have smaller classes in the early grades; with after-school and summer school programs to help students achieve higher academic standards; for thousands of modernized schools for the 21st century.

And, fourth, in these last few days, Congress must act to protect, not gut, the environment. Republicans in Congress have sought to slip unacceptable provisions into unrelated bills that would cripple wildlife protection, force over-cutting of our national forests, deny taxpayers a fair return on oil leasing, thwart commonsense efforts to address global warming. If they insist on sending these anti-environmental riders to my desk, again I will veto them.

Fifth, Congress must act to address a range of pressing emergencies that simply cannot wait for a new congressional session -- emergencies including supporting our troops in Bosnia, maintaining our military readiness worldwide, providing assistance to our farmers who are in real crisis out there, protecting American citizens from terrorism, and providing resources to address the year 2000 computer problem.

For two administrations the budget rules under which both parties have operated have accommodated such emergencies. Troops in the field and citizens in crisis should never be subject to partisan wrangling. This is what we ought to do. We ought to save Social Security first, pass the education program, protect our own

economy, and do what we should do to lead the world away from world financial crisis, pass the patients' bill of rights, avoid these environmentally destructive riders. There is still time for us to put the people of our country ahead of politics, and I hope we'll do it.

Now I'd like to ask Senator Daschle and Congressman Gephardt to say a word.

SENATOR DASCHLE: Mr. President and Congressman Gephardt and I have had the opportunity in the last couple of hours now to talk again about the critical nature of this remaining week of our session. Everyone understands that adjournment is scheduled at week's end. Our Republican leaders have failed to meet their responsibilities on an array of issues that the President has just outlined, but there is still time.

Republicans have not produced a budget for the first time in 24 years, but there is still time. The Republicans have no coherent appropriations strategy. As the President noted, only two of the 13 appropriations bills have passed. Republicans have failed in that responsibility, but there is still time.

There is no domestic agenda. The President noted that they blocked HMO reform. They blocked the opportunity to provide smaller classrooms and school modernization. They blocked teen smoking prohibitions. They blocked minimum wage. They blocked campaign finance reform. But on some of these issues, perhaps not all, there is still time.

There is no vision for the future among Republican leaders. They intend to raid Social Security to finance election-year tax cuts, but we believe on that score time has run out. Democrats will stand united in our determination not to allow Social Security to be raided for tax cuts. So Republicans need to get to work in the seven days that remain, stop playing politics, pass legislation, and let's make some progress.

It was wrong to shut the Senate down to avoid a patients' bill of rights debate. It was wrong to shut down our agenda for public schools. It was wrong to kill teen smoking and campaign finance reform. And it would also be wrong to shut the government down now. No one will be to blame but the Republican leadership if that were to happen.

What we're announcing again this afternoon is our sincere desire to work with Republican leaders to ensure that that doesn't happen. We're prepared to work overtime. We're prepared to work a second shift if necessary. Republicans need to throw out the partisan playbook and put people's needs ahead of political gain. It's time for them to meet their responsibilities. There is still time for that.

REPRESENTATIVE GEPHARDT: Mr. President and Senator Daschle, we are working our way toward our target for adjournment. And as we do that, I think it's very unfortunate that the Senate Republican Leader has decided to play show-down politics over a government shut-down. The President and congressional Democrats have time and time again asked the Republicans in Congress to complete their work by passing a responsible budget to fund the government, but Republicans have wasted the entire year and have left the heavy lifting until the last week. There are six days left.

In my view this is the worst Congress that has ever sat in the United States Capitol, that has achieved less than any Congress that we've ever had. This Congress, for the first time in 24 years, has not passed a budget since the Budget Act was passed in 1974. This Congress would have made the Congress that Harry Truman called the "do-nothing Congress" look energetic and good.

We began this session with great promise and high hopes, reforming our health care system with a patients' bill of rights, improving our public schools with 100,000 new teachers, repairing school buildings, after-school programs, pre-school programs, computers in schools, saving Social Security first, keeping our kids from smoking, reforming our campaign system. Sadly, we have accomplished very little for the American people beyond naming airports.

The beginning of the fiscal year was last Thursday. The Republicans passed the stay of execution shutting down the government to keep it running through this Friday, and there are still nine appropriation bills to be completed in the next five days.

Can the Republican leadership rein in the right wing, the far right wing of the Republican Party so we can avoid a shut-down? The test of the GOP leadership is this: Can they set aside their partisan political agenda in order to advance the real interests of the nation? If this Congress is unsuccessful in enacting all 13 appropriation bills to keep the government running through next October, it will be a failure of one group in one part of our government and one part only, and that is the Republican leadership of the Congress.

Democrats are committed, as Tom said, to meet day and night to do whatever is necessary, to do everything we can to keep the government open and to finally begin to address some of these urgent priorities that we feel we should have been talking about and working on over the last year or year and a half.

Thank you very much.

Q Will there be a government shut-down? And how will it affect the November elections?

REPRESENTATIVE GEPHARDT: As I just said, I really believe if we have a shut-down, just like the last shut-down, it will

be the responsibility of the Republican leadership in the Congress.
Thank you very much.

END

3:29 P.M. EDT

Message Sent To:

Final 10/05/98 3:00pm

Jeff Shesol

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON APPROPRIATIONS BILLS
THE WHITE HOUSE
October 5, 1998

From the very beginning of our efforts to create this American economic renaissance, Congressman Gephardt and Senator Daschle have been tireless in bringing about that change. Especially in these last few weeks, as the Congressional session has entered its crucial, final weeks and the political season has intensified, these two leaders have stood above the crowd in their constant efforts to elevate progress above partisanship.

I realize that the calendar says the election is one month away. The calendar also says that it is now eight months since I sent Congress a budget, and five months since the legal deadline for Congress to pass a budget resolution.

So far, Congress has sent me only two of thirteen appropriations bills necessary to keep the government running. On Friday, the temporary spending measure I signed will run out.

I want to work with Congress to get this important work done. There is still time for real achievement -- still time to put progress ahead of partisanship. That is why, today, I stand with Representative Gephardt and Senator Daschle to call on the congressional majority. Time in this session is drawing short, and Congress has important work left to do: Pass the necessary spending bills to keep the government running. Save Social Security for future generations.

Ensure a quality education for all our children. Protect America from global economic turmoil. These are the priorities of the American people, and they must be the priorities of the Congress in the last days of this legislative session.

First, we must save Social Security first. Last week, I was privileged to announce an historic achievement: for the first time in a generation, America has a budget surplus. Congress must not lose this spirit of fiscal discipline in a rush to spend the surplus. I have proposed tax cuts that are fully paid for. But if the Congress sends me a tax plan that drains billions from the surplus before saving Social Security first, I will veto it.

We have worked too hard for too long to abandon fiscal discipline and weaken our commitment to Social Security in the weeks before an election.

Second, we must act to protect our prosperity in the turbulent international economy by meeting our obligations to the International Monetary Fund. The world is waiting for the Congress to step up to its responsibility, provide funds to the IMF, and help pull teetering economies away from the brink. It would be unacceptable for Congress to leave Washington before acting.

Third, we must continue to invest in education. In just one day, Congress can -- and must -- pass a plan to provide America's public schools with the tools they need: 100,000 well-qualified new teachers to reduce class size, after-school and summer school programs to help students rise to higher academic standards, and modernized schools for the 21st century.

Fourth, Congress must act to protect -- not to gut -- environmental protections. Yet Republicans in Congress have sought to slip unacceptable provisions into unrelated bills that would cripple wildlife protection, force overcutting of our national forest, deny taxpayers a fair return on oil leasing, and thwart common-sense efforts to address global warming. If they insist on sending these anti-environment riders to my desk, I will veto them.

Fifth, Congress must act to address a range of pressing emergencies that cannot wait for a new Congressional session. Those emergencies include supporting our troops in Bosnia and maintaining readiness worldwide, providing assistance to farmers in crisis, protecting American citizens from terrorism, and providing resources to address the Year-2000 computer problem.

For two Administrations, the budget rules under which both parties have operated have accommodated such emergencies. Troops in the field and citizens in crisis should never be subject to partisan wrangling.

These are the tasks before the Congress -- tasks that demand attention, and demand action. As Congress completes its work, I will continue to do everything in my power to elevate progress over partisanship, and to demand that the priorities of the American people become the priorities of the United States Congress. I ask the Republicans in Congress to join us.

Roadrunner

Draft 10/05/98 1:00pm
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON PENDING LEGISLATION
THE WHITE HOUSE**

October 5, 1998

growing This is a moment of great promise for America. Our hard work is bearing remarkable results, from the health of our economy to the strength and safety of our communities. At the same time, we can see important challenges ahead; and we know that our nation will not be everything it can be unless we rise to meet those challenges. Today, I stand with Congressman Gephardt and Senator Daschle to call on the congressional majority. Time in this session is growing short, and Congress has important work left to do. Saving Social Security for future generations. Ensuring a quality education for all our children. Strengthening the financial backbone of the global economy. These are the priorities of the American people, and they must be the priorities of the Congress in the last days of this legislative session.

First, Congress must act to save Social Security. Last week, I was privileged to announce an historic achievement: for the first time in a generation, America has a budget surplus. We have restored order and discipline to our fiscal house. Just as important we have shown what Americans can do when we place progress above partisanship, and common sense above conflict. Congress must not lose that spirit in a rush to spend the surplus. I support tax cuts that are paid for. But if the Congress sends me a tax plan that drains billions from the surplus before saving Social Security first, I will veto it. We have worked too hard for too long to abandon our priorities in the weeks before an election.

Second, we must continue to invest in education. Just as we have brought order to our fiscal house, we must bring order and learning to the schoolhouse. For the sake of our children, Congress must once again put partisanship aside, if only for one day. In one day of deliberation, Congress can transform higher education. In one day, Congress can -- and must -- pass a plan to provide America's public schools with the tools they need: 100,000 well-qualified new teachers to reduce class size, after-school and summer school programs to help students rise to higher academic standards, and modernized schools for the 21st century. Our children deserve -- at the very least -- one full day of concentrated congressional action, not another week or month of delay.

Finally, we must act to strengthen America's leadership in the global economy. Recent events remind us that America cannot remain an island of prosperity in a sea of distress. Quite simply: America must lead. But if we are to do so, if we are to contain the contagion that spreads so quickly from one country to another, America must support the International Monetary Fund - - and that begins with paying our fair share. My meeting with global finance leaders last weekend made clear there is support for strong action to manage the growing crisis. The world is waiting for the Congress to step up to its responsibility, provide funds to the IMF, and help pull teetering economies away from the brink.

These are the tasks before the Congress. They demand attention, and they demand

action. As Congress completes its work, I will continue to do everything in my power to elevate progress over partisanship, and to demand that the priorities of the American people become the priorities of the United States Congress. Thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

For Immediate Release

October 2, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT DNC RECEPTION
Philadelphia City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

7:25 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, thank you very much for the warm welcome. I've had a wonderful time in Philadelphia today, and I am deeply indebted to you for being here tonight, for supporting our party, our candidates and what we stand for.

I, too, want to thank Congressman Chaka Fattah for the High Hopes program. He and the Mayor met me today at the airport with a number of young children from Philadelphia who are in your school system, in your middle school system. And then later we sat down and drank a soft drink together and I visited with them. And Chaka asked how many of them wanted to go to college, and they all wanted to go. And now they and literally tens of thousands of children like them all across our country are going to be able to go because of the initiative that he brought to me, that I embraced, and that we have worked so hard to pass -- the High Hopes Scholarship Program. And we thank him. America is in your debt, Congressman. Thank you.

And I believe we have one of our candidates for Congress here, too, tonight -- Roy Afflerbach. Let's give him a hand. He's somewhere. Where are you, Roy? There you go. Thank you. Thank you for running.

I want to thank Steve Grossman for doing a superb job as the Chairman of the Democratic Party. And we will not tell his mayor that bragged on Rendell shamelessly tonight. I also want to thank Len Barrack of Philadelphia for being our Finance Chair. He's done a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful job.

And finally, let me say that the Mayor was uncommonly generous tonight, but his administration is basically the embodiment of my philosophy of government. When we came before the American people, Al Gore and I, in 1992, we said we had a different idea, that we wanted everyone in America who was a responsible citizen to have opportunity; we wanted to come together as one community across all of our differences of race, religion, politics, income. We wanted to prove that you could be pro-business and pro-labor. We wanted to prove that you could be in favor of economic growth and still improve the environment. We wanted to end all these sort of false choices that had been imposed on us by the hot rhetoric of Washington for too many years. And we had a different theory of government, that we thought that the main role of government was to create the conditions and to give people the tools to make the most of their own lives.

And all the initiatives that the Mayor mentioned, that he so generously gave me credit for, most all of them were available to a lot of other places, too. But Philadelphia made the most of its opportunities because in no small measure of the gifts, the dedication and the downright aggression of its Mayor. And I cannot tell you how much I admire him for that.

You know, I'm sure all of you have had an experience like this in your life in some context or another -- by the time somebody calls you 15 times and asks you for something, you say, yes, just to stop them, you know? When Education Rendell gets all over you like a wet blanket about something you know you might as well just cry "uncle" and go on to something else. I say that because the achievements of this city have been truly phenomenal.

And I have always loved coming here. You know, the people of Philadelphia have been quite wonderful to me and Hillary and to Al and Tipper, voting for us in record numbers and by record margins in both elections and I'm very, very grateful.

Let me just take a few minutes to be a little serious with you tonight. I was so moved today by all the things that were said to me on the streets -- didn't even mind the protestors. That's the American way. But you like it even more when they're not in the majority and that seemed to be the case today. But I want you to know that, on behalf of the First Lady and on my part, I'm very grateful for those personal expressions.

But I do not believe that adversity is the enemy of the Democratic Party in this election. Indeed, adversity can be our friend, because it's not only good for personal reformation; it's good for people to sort of dig down deep inside and ask yourself what's really important and what's fair. What do you really care about? What will you act for? What will you move for?

The real enemy the Democrats have in this election is complacency -- because we are doing pretty well as a country. We've got the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years and the lowest percentage of people on welfare in 29 years and the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years, and it's the biggest in history.

We've got the best wage growth in way over 20 years. We've got, as Steve Grossman said, the biggest drop in Hispanic poverty in 30 years and the lowest unemployment rates and poverty rates among African Americans since statistics have been kept, the highest home ownership in history. All that is very good. I'm grateful for that.

But the real question is, what will we do with this moment? Our friends in the other party know that in spite of your presence and generosity here tonight, they always have tons more money than we do. I'll tell you a little more about that in a minute. But they also know that oftentimes at these midterm elections, the people who always vote in presidential elections, a lot of them don't vote in midterm elections -- and they tend to be our voters. Why? Well, they're young parents on modest incomes, they have to worry about how to juggle child care and work, and voting on a work day is another hassle. A lot of them live in cities and don't own cars and have transportation problems, and how are they going to get to work and to the polling place. And that extra effort is hard to make.

I tell you, my friends, our enemy is complacency. It is not adversity. Adversity is forcing us to focus on what is important and what we believe in and what we're prepared to fight for. And while I think it's a wonderful thing that all these good things are happening in our country, you know there are still some people in Philadelphia who have not felt the benefits of the things that have been done, and you know there's more to do.

I want you to know that a long way away from here, in the high plains of America, people that work hard to feed you on the farm don't know there's been a recovery because they have to export a lot of their products and they've been flooded out or burned out or had diseases. They've had all kinds of problems. And now the Asian markets, where they sell their food, are closed to them because the folks don't have any money over there. We could lose 10,000 family farmers in America this year, at a time of greatest prosperity for the country as a whole in a generation.

So we have challenges at home. And I've always believed that when times are good the worst thing you can do is kick back and relax. You have to see that as an obligation to look at the real challenges facing the country and take them on. That's what we've tried to do.

So we, the Democrats, have gone before the American people and we said, look, we have a program for this election and we think it's worth your voting for. We know that the other side has tried to offer you -- for most of you -- a modest tax cut. Right here before the election, they want to spend the surplus. And we've given you a harder message. We've said, look, we've waited for this for 29 years. We worked for it for six years. Shouldn't we let the red ink turn to black and let's let it dry for a day or two before we squander it.

At a time when there's so much financial turmoil throughout the world, shouldn't we set a good example to stabilize the global economy? And, even more important, knowing as we all do -- every person in this room knows that while Social Security is absolutely stable for the people who are now on it and the people who are about to go on it, when all the baby boomers get in it is not sustainable under the present circumstances, because there will only be two people working for every one person drawing Social Security.

Everybody in this room between the ages of 52 and 34 is a baby boomer. And everybody I know at least my age -- and I'm the oldest of the baby boomers -- we're all profoundly worried that if we don't do something about this now, when with modest changes now we can have huge impacts down the road, that the time will come when we'll retire and our country will be confronted with two terrible choices. Either we'll have to put a whopping tax increase on our kids to maintain the system as it is, undermining their ability to raise our grandchildren, which none of us want to do; or we'll have to take a whopping cut in Social Security benefits, which today keeps one-half of the senior citizens in America out of poverty.

So I say, tempting though it is before an election to shovel up a little tax cut, let's show a little restraint and a little knowledge of the last 29 years and say, no, no, we're going to save Social Security first before we spend it. I believe that's an issue worth voting on. And, believe me, the elections will send a message to the Congress about which path you wish to take. There is a second I think is important. I talked about it all day today, and I never thought I'd

come to Philadelphia or go anyplace in America in a political election and say, the big issue is are we going to fund the IMF. Most Americans don't know what the IMF is. Sounds like those people that make bowling equipment. The International Monetary Fund is a fund to which we and others contribute that helps countries that are poorer and developing who have good policies to try to grow their economy. Or when they get in trouble, it tries to help them work out of trouble without just being absolutely destroyed.

For eight months I've trying to get America to make its fair share of contribution. Why? Because we can't lead the world -- and you know the troubles that Asia has, you know the troubles in Russia, you see the impact, how it echoes in Latin America, our fastest growing market for American products. You see people say when the stock market changes here that that has something to do with this financial trouble overseas.

We have an obligation not only to others throughout the world, but to our own economy. Thirty percent of this growth we've enjoyed has come from selling things to people overseas who had enough money to buy them. And when they get in trouble, eventually we will suffer from that. And already, I've told you, our farmers are.

And so I say to you, if you want to keep the American economic recovery going, if you like the way it's gone the last six years and you'd like to have a few more years of it, then America has to lead the world away from the brink of the worst financial crisis in decades. And that means we have to pay our fair share to the fund that will do it. And I think that's something worth voting for.

The third issue worth voting for is education. For eight months I have had before the Congress an education program. We have succeeded in getting bipartisan agreement in the balanced budget for tax credits for all students to go to college, for the deductibility of interest on student loans, for more Pell Grants. Our Democrats put that before the Republicans and we were able to get bipartisan agreement -- and now for Congressman Fattah's High Hopes program. That's great.

But you all know that we don't yet have a world-class elementary and secondary education system that will guarantee to every child, without regard to race or neighborhood or income, a chance to be able to take advantage of those college opportunities. And until we do, America will never be everything it ought to be.

And so I came before the Congress and I said, okay, we've listened to the educators. I, personally, and Hillary and I have been going into the schools for 20 years now listening and watching and learning, and here's our program -- it's pretty straightforward. Number one, in the balanced budget, paid for, put up enough money for school districts across America to hire 100,000 teachers to take average class size down to 18 in the early grades. It will make a difference.

Number two, provide -- provide a tax incentive that will help to build or repair 5,000 school buildings. I went to Jupiter, Florida, and saw a dozen house trailers outside a school

because the population is growing so fast. The Mayor took me to a school building in Philadelphia that was over 65 years old. It was one of the most beautiful buildings I've ever seen, but it wasn't in good shape because there is not enough money to repair all those buildings.

And all over America in the cities, I see people say, oh, our children are the most important things in the world to us. What does it say to them if they walk up the steps every day ~~to a school where the windows are broken or a whole floor is closed down. Very often, people~~ can't even look out the window in some of these places, because they can't afford to heat and cool them, so they just board them up. Five thousand school buildings -- that's the second thing it does.

The third thing it does is to give funds to cities for after-school and summer school programs to help kids who are in trouble. I don't believe kids should be promoted endlessly if they don't learn what they're supposed to learn. But I don't think the children should be branded failures because the system fails them. So give them those after-school programs and the summer school programs and the mentors they need to learn what they need to learn. That's a part of our program as well.

The fourth thing it does is provide funds to hook every classroom in the country up to the Internet by the year 2000. Now, I think those are things are worth voting for. I think they're worth voting for.

And, finally, there's the patients' bill of rights, the health care HMO bill of rights. Here's what it says. If you walk out of this room tonight and, God forbid, you get hit by a car, and you're covered by an HMO plan, a managed care plan, you ought to be able to go to the nearest emergency room, not one clear across town because that's the one that happens to be covered by your plan. It says if your doctor tells you that he or she can't help you and you need to see a specialist, you ought to be able to see one. It says if your employer changes HMO providers while you're going through a certain medical treatment, you ought to be able to finish with it.

Now, let me just tell you what that means. How would you feel if you were seven months pregnant and somebody came to you and said, I'm sorry, your employer changed providers, you've got to give up your obstetrician and here's Dr. Jones. How would you feel if someone in your family was undergoing chemotherapy -- I've been through this, a lot of you have, and you know it's a pretty traumatic things for families. I remember when my mother went through it -- we sat around and tried to make jokes about whether she'd lose her hair and what kind of wig she'd buy. You get real nervous about whether your loved one is going to get so sick they can't eat. Now, this is serious, this happens. How would you feel if you were two-thirds of the way through a chemotherapy protocol and somebody said, I'm sorry, you've got to change your doctor. This is big stuff. And I think it's worth voting for. I think it's worth voting for.

The Congress -- the House passed a bill that didn't guarantee any of those things and what little it did guarantee left out 100 million Americans. Then it went to the Senate, and our crowd had a right to bring our bill up in the Senate and they couldn't keep it away. So you know what the leader of the Senate did? He shut the Senate down for four hours. I mean, turned out the

Senate

lights. Everybody got under the desks. Why? Because they didn't want to be recorded as voting against this, but they didn't want to make angry the insurance companies who oppose it. This is the symbol of the difference between the two parties today, make no mistake about it. And I think it's a big deal.

Now, what have they done with their year in the majority? Except for this higher education bill, I can't think of much. They killed the minimum wage. They killed campaign finance reform. They killed tobacco legislation reform that would have protected our children from the dangers of tobacco. They killed the patients' bill of rights. They have continued their assault on the environment. They have gone backwards on paying for the International Monetary Fund. They have taken no action. And they've taken no action on the education bill, and they went backwards on saving Social Security first when the House passed their tax plan. It's over in the Senate now. There is this huge difference.

And what I want you to do -- I thank you for coming here tonight. I thank you for these contributions. We need the money and we'll spend it well. But you have to go out and tell people, there is this cynical idea that you won't vote and that good times makes you less likely to vote. And I know it's more trouble for a lot of people you know to vote. But if you believe that America ought to be about not what goes on in Washington, D.C., but what goes on in the neighborhoods of Philadelphia, in Boston, and in rural North Dakota and in rural Alaska if that's what you believe -- if you believe in saving Social Security first, if you believe in the patients' bill of rights, if you believe in education as our top investment priority, if you believe in keeping our economic recovery going then you should support our party -- not just tonight, but on Election Day.

And I want every one of you to go out every day between now and then and stir it up among your friends, and make sure that we surprise the cynics on Election Day.

Thank you and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 5, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT, SENATOR TOM DASCHLE, AND REPRESENTATIVE
DICK GEPHARDT ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The South Lawn

3:17 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. From the beginning of our efforts to create the economic renaissance America now enjoys, Congressman Gephardt and Senator Daschle have been tireless in working for that change. Especially in these last few weeks as the congressional session has entered its crucial final stage and the political season has intensified, these two leaders have stood above the crowd in their constant efforts to elevate progress over partisanship.

I realize that the calendar says the election is just a month away. The calendar also says it is now eight months since I sent the Congress a budget, five months since the legal deadline for Congress to pass a budget resolution. And, as all of you know, the fiscal year ended last week. Yet, so far, Congress has sent me only two of 13 appropriations bills necessary to keep our government running. On Friday the temporary spending measure I signed will run out. I want to work with Congress to get this important work done. There is still time for real achievement. still time for progress over partisanship.

That is why today I stand with Representative Gephardt and Senator Daschle to call on the congressional majority. Time is running short. Congress has important work left to do. Pass the necessary spending bills to keep the government running. Save Social Security for future generations. Insure a quality education for all our children. Protect America from the global economic turmoil.

These are the priorities of the American people, and they must be the priorities of Congress in these last days before the election. First, we must save Social Security first. Last week I was privileged to announce the first budget surplus in a generation. Congress must not lose this spirit of fiscal discipline. I have proposed tax cuts, but they're fully paid for. If the Congress sends me a tax plan that drains billions from the surplus before saving Social Security, I will veto it. We've worked too hard for too long to abandon fiscal discipline and our economic strength and to weaken our commitment to Social Security just because it's election time.

Second, we must act to protect our prosperity in this turbulent international economy by meeting our obligations to the International Monetary Fund. The world is waiting -- literally, the world is waiting -- for Congress to step up to America's responsibility, provide funds to the IMF,

and give us the tools we need to pull teetering economies back from the brink, and to keep America's economic prosperity going. It would be unacceptable for Congress to leave Washington before acting.

Third, we must continue to invest in education. As the leaders here with me and about 50 other members of Congress asked last week, we seek just one day for Congress to consider the education measures I have proposed, to pass a plan to provide our schools with the tools they need -- with 100,000 teachers so we can have smaller classes in the early grades; with after-school and summer school programs to help students achieve higher academic standards; for thousands of modernized schools for the 21st century.

And, fourth, in these last few days, Congress must act to protect, not gut, the environment. Republicans in Congress have sought to slip unacceptable provisions into unrelated bills that would cripple wildlife protection, force over-cutting of our national forests, deny taxpayers a fair return on oil leasing, thwart commonsense efforts to address global warming. If they insist on sending these anti-environmental riders to my desk, again I will veto them.

Fifth, Congress must act to address a range of pressing emergencies that simply cannot wait for a new congressional session -- emergencies including supporting our troops in Bosnia, maintaining our military readiness worldwide, providing assistance to our farmers who are in real crisis out there, protecting American citizens from terrorism, and providing resources to address the year 2000 computer problem.

For two administrations the budget rules under which both parties have operated have accommodated such emergencies. Troops in the field and citizens in crisis should never be subject to partisan wrangling. This is what we ought to do. We ought to save Social Security first, pass the education program, protect our own economy, and do what we should do to lead the world away from world financial crisis, pass the patients' bill of rights, avoid these environmentally destructive riders. There is still time for us to put the people of our country ahead of politics, and I hope we'll do it.

Now I'd like to ask Senator Daschle and Congressman Gephardt to say a word.

SENATOR DASCHLE: Mr. President and Congressman Gephardt and I have had the opportunity in the last couple of hours now to talk again about the critical nature of this remaining week of our session. Everyone understands that adjournment is scheduled at week's end. Our Republican leaders have failed to meet their responsibilities on an array of issues that the President has just outlined, but there is still time.

Republicans have not produced a budget for the first time in 24 years, but there is still time. The Republicans have no coherent appropriations strategy. As the President noted, only two of the 13 appropriations bills have passed. Republicans have failed in that responsibility, but there is still time.

There is no domestic agenda. The President noted that they blocked HMO reform. They blocked the opportunity to provide smaller classrooms and school modernization. They blocked teen smoking prohibitions. They blocked minimum wage. They blocked campaign finance reform. But on some of these issues, perhaps not all, there is still time.

There is no vision for the future among Republican leaders. They intend to raid Social Security to finance election-year tax cuts, but we believe on that score time has run out. Democrats will stand united in our determination not to allow Social Security to be raided for tax cuts. So Republicans need to get to work in the seven days that remain, stop playing politics, pass legislation, and let's make some progress.

It was wrong to shut the Senate down to avoid a patients' bill of rights debate. It was wrong to shut down our agenda for public schools. It was wrong to kill teen smoking and campaign finance reform. And it would also be wrong to shut the government down now. No one will be to blame but the Republican leadership if that were to happen.

What we're announcing again this afternoon is our sincere desire to work with Republican leaders to ensure that that doesn't happen. We're prepared to work overtime. We're prepared to work a second shift if necessary. Republicans need to throw out the partisan playbook and put people's needs ahead of political gain. It's time for them to meet their responsibilities. There is still time for that.

REPRESENTATIVE GEPHARDT: Mr. President and Senator Daschle, we are working our way toward our target for adjournment. And as we do that, I think it's very unfortunate that the Senate Republican Leader has decided to play show-down politics over a government shut-down. The President and congressional Democrats have time and time again asked the Republicans in Congress to complete their work by passing a responsible budget to fund the government, but Republicans have wasted the entire year and have left the heavy lifting until the last week. There are six days left.

In my view this is the worst Congress that has ever sat in the United States Capitol, that has achieved less than any Congress that we've ever had. This Congress, for the first time in 24 years, has not passed a budget since the Budget Act was passed in 1974. This Congress would have made the Congress that Harry Truman called the "do-nothing Congress" look energetic and good.

We began this session with great promise and high hopes, reforming our health care system with a patients' bill of rights, improving our public schools with 100,000 new teachers, repairing school buildings, after-school programs, pre-school programs, computers in schools, saving Social Security first, keeping our kids from smoking, reforming our campaign system. Sadly, we have accomplished very little for the American people beyond naming airports.

The beginning of the fiscal year was last Thursday. The Republicans passed the stay of execution shutting down the government to keep it running through this Friday, and there are still nine appropriation bills to be completed in the next five days.

Can the Republican leadership rein in the right wing, the far right wing of the Republican Party so we can avoid a shut-down? The test of the GOP leadership is this: Can they set aside their partisan political agenda in order to advance the real interests of the nation? If this Congress is unsuccessful in enacting all 13 appropriation bills to keep the government running through next October, it will be a failure of one group in one part of our government and one part only, and that is the Republican leadership of the Congress.

Democrats are committed, as Tom said, to meet day and night to do whatever is necessary, to do everything we can to keep the government open and to finally begin to address some of these urgent priorities that we feel we should have been talking about and working on over the last year or year and a half.

Thank you very much.

Q Will there be a government shut-down? And how will it affect the November elections?

REPRESENTATIVE GEPHARDT: As I just said, I really believe if we have a shut-down, just like the last shut-down, it will be the responsibility of the Republican leadership in the Congress. Thank you very much.

END 3:29 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 5, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO UNITY GALA

National Building Museum
Washington, D.C.

8:54 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, we have all been sitting up here on this stage listening to each other with a lot of echoes, wondering if you could hear us out here. Can you hear us all speaking? We decided either you could hear us better than we could each other, or you were the most polite audience in human history.

Let me begin by thanking you personally for being here tonight, for your support for our party and our campaign in the Congress this year. I want to thank Steve Grossman for a magnificent job as head of our party and for the work he has done with Senator Torricelli and Representative Pelosi, who have been wonderful working together in unity to try to pool our resources and maximize our impact.

I want to thank Dick Gephardt and Tom Daschle for truly extraordinary leadership. You know, since the Republicans won the House of Representatives and the Senate in 1994, we have defeated their Contract on America, we passed a balanced budget that had the biggest increase in health care for children and the biggest increase in college access since the GI Bill.

And every other progressive thing that has been done since I've been President, none of it would have been possible without the Democrats in Congress, and I am very grateful to them -- but especially these last four long years when time after time after time, if they hadn't been with me there would have been no one to say no to moving this country into an extreme position, no to moving this country away from the progressive path on which we put it, and yes to the initiatives we've taken. So we owe them a great debt of gratitude and for that I am very grateful.

Let's talk about why you're here tonight -- besides to hear Brian, who was fabulous. Was he great, or what?

In a month we're going to have an election, a midterm election, an election in which our opponents believe they will do quite well because they're going to outspend us phenomenally, an election in which they believe they have an enormous advantage because a lot of Democratic voters normally don't vote when there's no presidential election. They say, oh, well, our voters have to worry about child care and jobs and voting on the same day, that's a lot of trouble. Or

our voters are young, they just don't get into it in midterm election. And all the things you've heard.

I want to tell you why you're here tonight. You're here to reverse 100 years of history, and you're here to make the next 100 years of America's history. You're here to make a decision -- most of you in this audience tonight are young, and I am not. So I can tell you one thing: it doesn't take long to live a life. It doesn't take long to move from your age tonight until you're the age of those of us on this platform. And the decisions you make in one point of your life for your country can shape everything that happens when you have your children and you raise them to be the age that you are now.

We have fought and fought and fought for six years to change the direction of America, to give you an economy that works for all the people not just a few, to bring the crime rate down and to help more kids stay out of trouble in the first place, to move people from welfare to work in a way that was humane so they could still succeed in their most important jobs -- raising children; to grow the economy and still preserve the environment, to be a force for world peace and humanity, and to be a force for bringing us together here at home across all the lines that divide us. Those are the issues at stake in this election.

If you look at the differences between the two parties, one that will affect you more than me is whether we are going to save this surplus until we save Social Security for the 21st century instead of putting a big tax increase on you to take care of your parents. You know where they stand. They voted for a popular election-year tax cut to give people a modest cut to say here's your little gift before the election.

And we stood up and said that may be appealing. Look at our tax cuts for child care, for education, for the environment. They're paid for in our balanced budget bill, and we're not going beyond them until we save Social Security because we don't want to burden our children and our grandchildren. It is the right thing to do.

We have asked for eight long months -- the other day the people here on this platform and I asked just for one day -- just one day -- to vote on matters that are critical to the education of our children. We are for 100,000 more teachers and smaller classes and 5,000 new or repaired schools and hooking up every classroom to the Internet, and after-school and summer school programs for our kids. And they won't give us a vote on it. It's a clear choice, but it will affect the America you live in.

We have pleaded for eight months for a vote on the patients' bill of rights because almost all of you are going to be in managed care plans, and so are your parents and your children. And I think they can do a lot of good to hold down costs. But I think if, God forbid, you get hit by a car going out of this party tonight, you ought to go to the nearest emergency room, not one clear across town because it happens to be covered by your managed care plan.

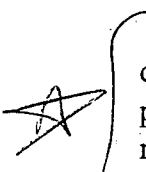
And if you have a serious medical condition and your doctor says you need to see a specialist, I think you ought to be able to see one. And if your employer changes health care

providers while you're pregnant or getting chemotherapy or getting other serious treatment, I think you ought to be able to finish your treatment and not be told to get another doctor. That's a big issue.

But you won't get that patients' bill of rights unless we get the Congress, and you have it within your power to give the American people that gift for the 21st century. I just left, before I came to be with you tonight, a meeting of 25 nations, finance ministers, and central bankers -- the counterparts of Chairman Greenspan and Secretary Rubin -- sitting around a big room with the heads of all the international financial institutions, talking about what we can do to stem this global financial crisis, because it's morally the right thing to do for people around the world who are struggling to lift themselves and their children up, and because it is practically essential if we want to keep America's economic prosperity going.

And over and over and over again people said, we appreciate the lead you're taking, Mr. President, but the Congress of the United States won't even fund America's participation in the International Monetary Fund. If you want to send a message, if you want America's economy to keep growing, you liked the last six years, you know then that we have to help the world to avoid this Congress and do our part. It's a big issue. It's a huge issue.

The young people in this audience should care about the environment -- more than their parents and grandparents. You should care whether you're going to be able to raise your children with clean air, clean water, safe food, no toxic waste, and no global warming problem. You should care about that. And you should have an opinion about whether it is possible to grow the economy and improve the environment. With all my heart, I believe it is.



In this budget, it is littered up like a Christmas tree with what the Washington language dubs "riders, riders, riders." What they're doing is riding the environment down, and they try to put them all over all these bills in the hope that the President won't be able to even find them, much less veto some of the bills.

You're going to be given a chance to say, our generation believes in protecting the environment and growing the economy, and we do not approve of the majority's approach to chipping away at our protections one by one. If you care about the environment and the economy, you have to vote for the Democrats in this race for Congress.

So I say to you, we have to prove to the people of the Washington establishment here, who say that mid-term elections are always low-vote elections, that people like you know it's a big deal. You know your future is riding on it. You believe in what we've done in the last six years. You want everybody to have a chance to participate in our prosperity. You want this education program. You want us to lead in the global economy. You want the environment protected. You want the patients' bill of rights. And you want to save Social Security before we squander a surplus that we worked six long years for. That's what you want.

And you understand what the choice is on the other side. And you want this election to be about you and your future. And you don't believe -- contrary to all the conventional wisdom -

- that all the minorities are going to stay home, all the young women are going to stay home, all the young people are going to stay home, all the people that have the hassle of child care and work and still finding a way to go vote are going to stay home, because you're going to tell them what the stakes are. That's what we're going to use your money to do. I want you to leave here committed to using your voice to do the same thing and you will give America and your children a gift for the new millennium on Election Day.

Thank you and God bless you. Thank you.

END 9:05 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 2, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE

The South Portico

10:00 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Today I would like to talk to you about the steps we are taking to keep our economy growing by keeping the world's economy growing. Less than 36 hours ago, America closed the books on an era of exploding deficits and diminished expectations by recording a budget surplus of \$70 billion, the largest on record and the largest as a percentage of our economy since the 1950s. Every American should be proud of this.

Today, we received more evidence that the economy remains solid. For fifteen months in a row now, unemployment has stayed below five percent for the first time in 28 years. Over the last year, wages have risen at more than twice the rate of inflation, and now the economy has added more than 16.7 million new jobs since 1993.

Today, America enjoys a great moment of prosperity. But we cannot remain an oasis of prosperity in a world in which so much of our growth depends upon trade and in which so many of our trading partners are experiencing economic turmoil. We must hold to the economic strategy that has brought us to where we are today and move aggressively to deal with the challenges around the world. We must maintain our fiscal discipline. When I supported targeted tax cuts that we paid for in this budget, I made it clear and I want to make it clear again: I will veto any tax plan that drains the new surplus. We simply have to set aside every penny of it, not only to set a good financial example around the world, but to save Social Security first.

Second, we must continue to invest in education. The fiscal year has just ended; yet, Congress still has not found time to send me an appropriations bill on education. Congress must put progress ahead of partisanship and send me an education bill that funds our investments in smaller classes, 100,000 new teachers, better trained, and safe, more modern schools, with every class able to be hooked to the Internet by the year 2000.

To ensure prosperity for the American economy, I say again, however, we must continue to lead and we must move more aggressively to lead in the global economy. Today, the world faces the most serious financial challenge in 50 years. Our future prosperity depends upon whether we can work with others to restore confidence, to manage change and to stabilize the financial system. Our chief priority is and must be economic growth -- here and around the world.

Last month in New York, I outlined several steps we can take immediately to address the crisis. I asked Secretary Rubin and Federal Reserve Chairman Greenspan to convene a major meeting of their counterparts to recommend ways to adapt international financial

institutions to the 21st Century. Yesterday, Secretary Rubin spoke about that, and I am pleased that, on short notice, Secretary Rubin and Chairman Greenspan have arranged a meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the major industrialized nations and the key emerging markets for next Monday here in Washington. I will personally participate in their deliberations. The following day, I will address the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to underscore the urgency of quick action and the need for long-term reform of the international financial system.

But we must do more to help the international community respond to the challenges posed by the current crisis. And today we are taking the following steps -- steps that build on the approach I outlined a few weeks ago at the Council on Foreign Relations.

First, we must act to strengthen the international financial community's capacity to limit the contagion. This week, Secretary Rubin and Chairman Greenspan will explore with the International Monetary Fund and their G-7 colleagues whether best to design a new mechanism, anchored in the IMF, to provide contingent finance to help countries to ward off global financial contagion. This step, combined with full funding for the IMF, would give the international community a powerful new tool to help reduce the risk posed by the current financial crisis.

Second, we must help the people who have been hurt by this crisis. As I said in New York, multilateral development banks like World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank have played a critical and positive role. Today, I ask them to explore the following steps to develop a new emergency capacity to lend quickly so as to help other countries reform their financial sectors while also helping the most vulnerable citizens, to use loan guarantees and other innovative means to leverage private sector lending to emerging markets and to expand their own lending as much as possible within their guidelines to countries now affected by the crisis who desperately need an infusion of new cash.

Finally, the United States will take new steps to encourage American businesses to continue exporting to and investing in emerging markets hurt by the crisis. Jim Harmon, the head of our Export-Import Bank, will travel to Brazil, Argentina and Mexico over this month. I have asked him to establish new short-term credit facilities to make it easier for American businesses to continue exporting to critical Latin American markets. He will coordinate these efforts with his counterparts in other leading industrial nations to ensure that trade credit continues to flow during this period of financial stress. That is very, very important to our economy.

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation, OPIC, has developed a new instrument to help emerging economies raise money from international capital markets. That also is very important. Now, with these steps, we are acting to protect our own prosperity and to exercise responsible economic stewardship in the world. But we cannot act alone. Congress must take some responsibility as well. In the few working days it has left this year, the most important thing Congress can do to protect our farmers, our ranchers, our businesses and our workers is to secure full funding for the International Monetary Fund. Congress cannot afford to delay approving IMF funding another day. Every day Congress delays, increases our vulnerability to crisis, decreases confidence in global markets and undermines our prospects.

Without giving the IMF the resources it needs, many vital efforts to strengthen the international financial institutions

simply will fall short. We can have an honest debate about the best ways to put out the economic fires abroad, but there should be no doubt about whether we give the fire department the resources to do the job. If America is to continue to grow, we must support the IMF. If America is to continue to grow, we must lead. We cannot lead if we won't even pay our fair share to the International Monetary Fund. I have been asking for this for nearly a year now. The crisis overseas has continued to intensify. This is inexcusable and we need the money now; for Americans and their interests and for the long-term stability of the world, this is terribly, terribly important.

We have done our best to manage this crisis, to mobilize other countries. We want other countries to do more. We are not going to be able to get them to do more if we won't even do what is plainly our responsibility. No other country in the world has benefited as much as we have in the last six years from the global economy. We can lead back away from this financial precipice, but we need the resources to do it.

Now, let me say to all of you: Remember where we were six years ago. There were some people who were saying America was in decline. Today, we have a new surplus. We have wages rising to highest levels in over 20 years. We have the confidence in the country soaring. We have an unprecedented opportunity to build for the future. But with all this turmoil in the rest of the world, we also have a heavy responsibility to the future. We know that a lot of our growth has come because others were growing in the rest of the world and could buy American products and American services. We know we are going into an unprecedented time. This country has got to lead. We've got to be aggressive. We have got to stay on the balls of our feet. We've got to be aware that this thing is changing every day.

We can help a great deal to modify the difficulties, to move the world back toward growth, and to keep our own prosperity going. But if we're going to do that, we've got to lead, we've got to do our part. We can't talk about these things and not put up our share of the investment. So, again, I say we're going to do what we can. I'm looking very much forward to the IMF and the World Bank meeting. I'm looking forward to meeting with finance leaders and the central bankers of these 22 countries. We're going to come up with some good ideas, but ideas have to be followed by action. And for us to take the action we need to take, the Congress has got to provide funds for the IMF. Thank you very much.

Q How close are we to a recession? Is there a danger of recession in this world?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the proper answer to that, Sam, is that about a quarter of the world is and has been in recession. About a quarter of the world is in a period of very low growth. The rest of us are growing. But in the nature of things, if you want growth to continue, you have to restore growth in that part of the world that's suffering now; and it cannot be done without aggressive action -- as I said in New York a couple of weeks ago -- aggressive action to restore the stability of the world financial system, to restore the confidence of investors, and to deal with the legitimate problems within each country that many of those countries have to deal with that we can't do anything about.

But there are three things we've got to do. We've got to do what we can to restore stability of the world financial system, we've got to restore the confidence of investors so they'll put their money back in to markets everywhere, and we've got to work with these

countries to solve the problems within the countries that only they can solve. But the answer to your question is, we don't have to have a worldwide recession if those of us that enjoy growth will take the initiative and move now.

But we cannot afford to dally around here. If we'd had this six months ago, we could have done more than we have. So I think it's important that everybody recognize that we don't know -- nobody can predict the future with great certainty, but I have a lot of confidence in the strength of the American economy and our ability to keep doing well, but it rests in large measure on our ability to do the right thing around the world.

But keep in mind, 30 percent of our growth in the last six years has come from our ability to sell our goods and services around the world. We have a personal, vested interest quite apart from our larger ethical responsibilities to lead the world that we've profited so much from; we've got a vested interest in averting a global financial slowdown by taking initiatives and doing it now. We've got to do it now.

Kosovo?

Q On Kosovo, should the world be surprised that the Serbs believed that they could possibly get away with massive bloodletting once again in the region without fearing action from the United States and in particular its European allies?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's the argument I've been making for months, that we have seen, we saw in Bosnia what works in dealing with Mr. Milosevic. And the Kosovo situation is somewhat situation in that Kosovo is actually a part of Serbia, although by law, it's supposed to be autonomous. But let me tell you what we're doing. Let's focus on what we're doing. We have been working for months and months -- I have personally been working for months, first of all, to get NATO and then to get the U.N. to send a message to Mr. Milosevic to stop the violence.

We have NATO working, we have the U.N. resolution. I believe that our allies in Europe are with us, and I think that we all understand and we hope he got the message. I think it is very important. We have to be very, very strong here. We need to stop the violence, get a negotiated settlement and work our way through this. We don't want thousands upon thousands of people to be caught up in a war or to starve or freeze this winter because they have been displaced, and we are working very, very hard on it and we're briefing on the Hill as well.

I want to say a special word of appreciation to Senator Dole, who has been very outspoken about this, very supportive about an aggressive role for the United States, very understanding that we cannot allow this conflict to spread again and risk what we stopped in Bosnia, starting again in Kosovo. So we're working on it very hard and I'm quite hopeful that we'll have a positive resolution of it. Thank you.

END

10:15 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 25, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE

The South Grounds

9:06 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. For the past several days Hurricane George has torn through the Caribbean costing many lives. Now, as we speak, the hurricane is bearing down on South Florida. I have spoken several times with FEMA director, James Lee Witt. For the past day an emergency response team has been on the ground working with the government and the people of Florida to prepare for the storm. We are as ready as we can be, and we pray that the human and material costs will be limited.

In the coming days we will work as closely as possible with the State of Florida to provide whatever assistance will do the most good.

A few moments ago I signed stop-gap legislation to keep the government open and running at the start of the new fiscal year. The legislation is a regrettable sign that the Republican majority in Congress has failed to address the urgent priorities of the American people. There is only one week left in this fiscal year, yet the Congress has passed and sent me only one of the thirteen appropriations bills to fund the operation of the United States Government. And the Congress is five months past the legal deadline for passing a budget resolution.

By failing to meet its most basic governing responsibility the Republican majority in Congress has its priorities wrong; partisanship over progress, politics over people. Moreover, on key national goals: improving education, providing affordable child care, expanding health coverage, protecting our environment, stabilizing the international economy, the House of Representatives in fact, is moving in the wrong direction. For example, at a time when opportunity depends on education more than ever before, neither chamber has even brought the Education Funding Bill to a vote. And the House is preparing to deny funding for smaller classes, to cut after school programs, to cut technology in the classroom, to eliminate summer jobs. At the same time some law makers have attached controversial and unrelated provisions guaranteed to mire these bills in unnecessary delay.

For six years our economic strategy of fiscal responsibility, investing in people, expanding America's exports has spurred lower interest rates and created conditions for the strongest economy in a generation. If we hold fast to fiscal discipline we will enter a new and promising era of budget surpluses. We must keep our economy growing and use this time to meet the challenges facing our people.

I have laid out a concrete plan of how we can continue on that course to make smart investments, to maintain fiscal discipline and to set aside the surplus until we have saved social security first.

I have reached out to members of Congress in both parties to work toward these ends. It isn't too late. But Congress cannot simply keep passing patchwork spending plans, putting off choices about national priorities until next year, or at least until after the election.

It is time now for Congress to buckle down, to send me the measures to keep the government open and to invest in education, in health care, in other needs of the American people. It is time to put progress over partisanship. We should do the job the people sent us here to do and strengthen America for the new century.

Thank you very much.

Q How do you think the Democrats are going to do in the election?

THE PRESIDENT: I have nothing to add to what I said.

END

9:10 E.D.T

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Miramar, California)

For Immediate Release

September 26, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT DNC LUNCHEON

Private Residence
Miramar, California

3:35 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Well, if I had any sense I wouldn't say anything. Thank you, Bill. Thank you, Starr. Thank you, Len. And all of you, I can't tell you how much I appreciate you being here. I'm delighted to see Lynn Schenk and I'm delighted to see Christine Kehoe. And we are determined to see her prevail. If you want to do something for what you just stood up for, send her to Congress. Send her to Congress.

I'd also like to thank all of you who have been my friends over the years, and some of you who I have just met today, I am very grateful to see you here. I'd like to thank all the people who are responsible for our wonderful meal and the terrific musicians. Let's give them a hand. Didn't they do a great job? The Wayne Foster Group, thank you so much.

It's nice to be here in this humble little house. This is the first place I've ever been where the fish are worth more than I make in a year. Listen, this is really a magnificent home. It's a real tribute to the work that Bill has done over the years and to the -- for the feeling that they have for all of us that they open their home to us. And I'm very grateful to be here.

I will be brief. I've had a remarkable couple of days. I was in Chicago yesterday, which most of you is my wife's hometown. And I got my Sammy Sosa Chicago Cubs baseball shirt, which was promptly taken away from me last night when I met up with Hillary and Chelsea in Northern California.

Hillary has been up in Washington and Oregon and San Francisco campaigning, made an appearance last night for Barbara Boxer up there. And I'm here and I'll be in Los Angeles tonight and tomorrow. I'm going on to El Paso and San Antonio, Texas, and then I'm going back to Washington on Sunday night to try to bring to a closure this session of Congress with some productive action. But I cannot tell you how much it means to me, not only as your President, but as a person, what you have said here and what I have seen all across this country. And I'm grateful and my family is grateful, and I thank you.

But there is something far bigger than all of us at stake here, and that is our country, our system, and where we're going. And I tell everybody who comes up to me worrying about this, that the real enemy of our party and our principles and our programs and the direction of the country is not adversity. Adversity is our friend. It inspires us to action. It gives energy. It gives us steel and determination. Our real enemy is complacency or cynicism.

You know, things are going pretty well for our country now, and I'm very grateful that I had a chance to be President, to implement the policies that I ran on that I talked about six years ago, I think, this month, when I was here with Bill and Starr at their previous home. I'm grateful that we've got the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, and the lowest crime rate in 25 years, and the smallest percentage of people on welfare in 29 years. And in just a few days, less than a week now, we'll have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years. I'm grateful for that.

But the question is, what are we going to do with it? I'm grateful that we've opened the doors of college to virtually anybody now who will work for it with tax credits, and the deductibility of student loans, and more scholarships, and work-study positions, and that we added 5 million kids to the ranks of those with health insurance, passed the Brady Bill and the Family Medical Leave Act. I'm grateful for all that.

But what are we going to do with it? What are we going to do with it? That's really what's at issue here. Our friends in the Republican Party believe they're going to win in the mid-terms, first of all, because they wanted me -- I don't mind the birds, it's just background music. Believe me, I've had worse background music lately.

The Republicans believe they're going to do well in these elections, first of all, because in every single election since the Civil War, with the President in his second term, the President's party has always lost seats at mid-term. The second thing they're banking on is money. Even though you've been very generous and you've come here, they always have more money than we do, especially now that they're in the majority. But we have something that money can't buy and that history can't overcome -- we are on the right side of the issues for America's future.

The history we want to make tomorrow and the next day and the next 10 or 20 years is the right history for America. And all we have to do is to get enough of our people to understand that, to get enough energy out there, to get enough people to show up on Election Day, and all the history in the world won't make a difference, and all the money in the world they have won't turn the tide. Because people now know that when it came to the budget vote in 1993, which reduced the deficit by 93 percent before we had the bipartisan Balanced Budget Act, we didn't have a single Republican vote. They know we barely had any votes for the crime bill when we banned assault weapons and put 100,000 police on the street, or for the Brady Bill. They know that we had almost all -- and Democratic votes, barely any Republican votes, for the Family and Medical Leave law.



And if you look at the last year, when this country has had lots of challenges, and we had the resources to meet them, what has happened in this Congress in the last year? They've killed the tobacco legislation, to which Bill alluded. They've killed campaign finance reform.

They have taken no action on my education program.

Senate close
The other night, in a breathtaking move, the Republican leader of the United States Senate actually had to shut the Senate down and make people go away for four hours because it was the only way to keep them from voting on the patients' bill of rights. And he knew if we ever got a vote, one of two things was going to happen. It was either going to pass or they were going to be punished for killing it for the insurance companies that wanted to kill it. So what did they do? They shut the place down. Unprecedented.

Now, what this is really about, this election, is not what's going on in Washington, D.C.; it's what's going to go on in the lives of the people in San Diego and El Paso and Racine, Wisconsin, and the Northeast Kingdom in Vermont and all the places in the country where the people live who send people to Washington, D.C. That's what really matters.

And there is a very clear choice about what to do with this moment, and I think -- if you just think about the things we need to do right now to prepare for America's future -- I'll just mention five very quickly. Number one, we're going to have a balanced budget and a surplus on October 1st for the first time in 29 years. They voted in the House and may vote in the Senate for a tax cut to start spending the surplus right away.

Now, I remind you, we quadrupled the debt of the country between 1981 and 1993 when I took office. These surpluses in the years ahead -- they say, oh, well, we know we're going to have them, so we can spend some now, and it's four or five weeks before the election, and won't that be popular to just dish out a tax cut right here before the election. And it's the Democratic Party that's standing up for fiscal responsibility and saying, no, and I'm saying no. And I'll tell you why.

First of all, we have waited for 29 years. We have worked for six years to get out of this terrible hole. I would just like to see the red ink turn to black and watch the ink dry for a minute or two before we run another deficit. Wouldn't you like to see that? Wouldn't you just like to see the ink dry? You know, they didn't want to wait a day just to enjoy this incredible achievement. Now, why is that important. Because we've got a lot of trouble in the world today in the world economy. I was up in Silicon Valley last night where they understand how dynamic how things are -- they live in a perpetual state of change there. But so do we all, and we dare not forget it. We forget it at our peril.

We have to set a standard if we want to keep growing this economy that America, of all the countries in the world, is the most solid, the most sensible, the strongest country in the world.

The second reason we shouldn't spend that surplus right now is that, before you know it, the baby boomers will begin to retire, starting in about 10 years. I'm the oldest of the baby boomers. People between the ages of 34 and 52, when we all retire there will only be about two Americans working for every American drawing Social Security. Unless something totally unforeseen happens to the birth rate or the immigration rate, it will be about two to one.

The Social Security system today alone keeps half of the seniors in this country out of poverty; that is, without it 50 percent of the seniors in this country would be in poverty, even with their other sources of income. Now, if we begin today and make modest changes, we can preserve the universal character of Social Security in the sense that it's a bottom line safety net for people that don't fall into poverty. But we can increase the returns, make some other changes, and avoid putting an unconscionable burden on our children and grandchildren.

I'm telling you, everybody I know my age is worried about this. I was home a few months ago and I had a barbecue about 6:00 p.m. in the evening with about 20 people I grew up - most of them are just middle class Americans, don't make much money. Every one of them said they were plagued with the thought that their retirement would be a burden to their children and their grandchildren. They're not wealthy people. They know they're not going to have enough. But they are plagued with the thought that they will have to take money away from their children and grandchildren.

Now, we have worked for 29 years for this. It's the right thing to do anyway right now because of all the instability in the world, for us to stay strong and have this strong economy and have this little surplus. But secondly, it's the right thing to do before we -- I'm not against tax cuts. We have some tax cuts in our budget, but they're all paid for. But before we get into that surplus for tax cuts, before we spend a penny of it for new programs, we ought to save the Social Security system for the 21st century, so that we do not either run a lot of seniors into poverty, or undermine the welfare of their children and grandchildren. It is terribly important.

That's a big issue that affects people who live outside Washington, D.C. The second big issue -- it's very important -- again related to the economy, is I'm doing everything I can to limit the financial turmoil in Asia now, to begin to reverse it, and to keep it from spreading to Latin America which are our biggest markets, our fastest growing markets for American goods and services.

Everything I possibly can to sort of right this instability in the international financial system that you see most pronounced in Asia and Russia now could affect our welfare. Alan Greenspan said the other day, more eloquently than I could, America could not forever be an island of prosperity. For us to grow over the long run, our friends and neighbors all across the world, on every continent, who are doing the right thing and working hard need to be doing better as well. That's what this International Monetary Fund issue is all about.

For eight months I have been pleading with Congress just to pay our fair share of the International Monetary Fund so we'll have the money to stop the financial virus before it spreads across the globe and begins to bite us. That's a big issue, and it hasn't been done yet.

The third thing I want to say is we will never be permanently secure in this kind of economy until we can say not only that we have the best system of higher education in the world, but that every one of our children, without regard to race or income or neighborhood, has access to a world-class elementary and secondary education.

And for eight months I have had before the Congress, fully paid for in the balanced budget, a bill that would lower class sizes to an average of 18 in the early grades and put another 100,000 teachers out there to teach them; that would build or repair another 5,000 schools because the schools are overcrowded; that would hook all the classrooms in the country up to the Internet by the year 2000; that would build 3,000 more charter schools -- an issue that California has been on the forefront of -- that would, in short, keep us on the forefront of education. It would also reward school districts that have poor performance and a lot of kids in trouble if they adopted high standards, accountability, no social promotion, but actually helped the kids, and didn't denominate them as failures when they are young and they are no such thing.

I was in Chicago the other day. Chicago used to be the poster child of a bad, failing, urban school district. I went to the Jenner Elementary School, where every single child lives in Cabrini Green, one of the toughest public housing projects in all of America. In the last three years, their reading scores have doubled and their math scores have tripled. Chicago has a "no social promotion" policy, but if you fail they don't just say you're a failure. They say you didn't pass the test and you have to go to summer school. The Chicago summer school now is the sixth biggest school district in America. Guess what's happened to juvenile crime in Chicago. There are now 40,000 kids in that city that get three square meals a day in the school. So that's also in our plan, funds for other troubled districts to follow that model.

We also have funds for 35,000 young people to pay for their college education, and then they can go out and work it off by teaching in under-served areas. This is a good program. That's an issue in this election. It matters to you and to your future and to your children's future and to your grandchildren's future whether we can rescue, revive, and make excellent the public educational opportunities of every child in this country.

So those are three things: saving Social Security, stabilizing the global economy, putting education first.

I'll just mention two others. Number one, one of the biggest fights I have all the time convincing people on both sides is that America has to find a way to protect the environment and grow the economy, and that if we have to choose one or the other, we're in deep trouble. We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars complying with subpoenas from a congressional committee that doesn't want me to give tax incentives and spend research and development dollars to figure out how to grow the economy and reduce CO2 emissions. And that's out of step with the rest of the world.

I was in San Bernardino County not very long ago with the head of the National Association of Home Builders at a low-income housing project, where they had solar reflectors on the roof that are so thin now they look like ordinary shingles, and glass that keeps out 40 percent of the heat and cold and dramatically reduces the power cost. And it improves economic growth. It creates jobs and improves the environment -- big issue.

But believe me, the budget I'm about to get, unless they change their tune, is going to be riddled with things designed to deny that and to weaken our environment.

And finally, to me the thing that embodies as much as anything else the great philosophical difference that's at stake now in Washington is the debate over the patients' bill of rights. Now, let me set the stage. There are 160 million Americans in managed care plans. I have been a supporter of managed care. Why? Because when I became President health care costs were going up at three times the rate of inflation. It was unsustainable. We were going to bankrupt the country. There wouldn't be enough money left to spend on anything else.

But it's like anything else -- if the bottom line is just whether you save money rather than the bottom line of saving as much money as you can consistent with the health of the people that are being treated, you get in trouble.

And now many, many managed care plans have health care decisions made by insurance company accountants, and you have to appeal to two levels up or more until you finally get to a doctor. Our bill, which has the support of 43 managed care companies who are doing this anyway and are being punished for it, says this -- it says simply, if you get in an accident, you ought to be able to go to the nearest emergency room, not one that's five or 10 miles because ~~that's the only one that happens to be covered by your plan. Number two, if your doctor says that~~ he or she can no longer treat your condition and you need to see a specialist, you ought to be able to see one. Number three, if you work for a small business who changes providers, health care providers, at a given time during the year, you still shouldn't have to change your doctor if you're in the middle of a critical treatment.

Now, let me just graphically demonstrate what that means. This happens. These things happen. You remember when you had your first child. How would you feel if you were seven months pregnant and your employer says, I'm sorry, go get another obstetrician? If anybody in your family has ever had chemotherapy -- I've been through that -- if your family member needs chemotherapy, you sit around -- you try to figure out ways to make jokes about it. My mother stood there thinking, well, maybe I won't lose my hair, or when I do, maybe I will finally get a wig. I never had to -- you think -- you try to be funny about it. And then you wonder whether you're going to be too sick to eat, right? In the middle of a chemotherapy treatment, do you think somebody would say, I'm sorry, go get another doctor? That's what this is about -- basic things.

Our bill also protects the privacy of your medical records, which I think is very, very important and will become more important in the years ahead.

the Patients Bill
★ Now, the House of Representatives, the Republican majority passed a bill that guarantees none of these rights and leaves 100 million Americans out of what little it does cover. The Senate wouldn't even vote on the bill because they didn't want to be recorded, so they shut down business.

That's what this election is about. Don't be fooled about a smokescreen. This election is: Are we going to have a patients' bill of rights? Is our policy going to be to grow the economy and preserve the environment? Are we going to put education first? Are we going to stabilize the global economy, so we can continue to grow? Are we going to save Social Security first? That's what it's about.

And if we go out and say we are Democrats, this is what we're running for; we believe elections should be about the people that live outside Washington, not about who's crawling on whom in Washington D.C. -- everything is going to be fine. So I ask you, go out there and make sure that's what it's about.

Thank you very much.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 1, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON EDUCATION LEGISLATION

The South Lawn

3:40 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, there really is nothing for me to say. I want to thank the previous speakers, each in their own way, for what they have given and what they will give to the children of our country. I believe that Secretary Riley is not only the longest serving, but the most intensely committed and effective Secretary of Education this country has ever had. (Applause.)

I thank the Vice President for the vivid picture he painted for us of what is going on in these school buildings. We have been out there. We have been in these buildings. We have seen them. I believe the largest number of trailers or temporary classrooms, or whatever the politically correct term is, that I have seen at one school is a dozen -- in Florida. But they're everywhere. And there are a lot of magnificent old buildings in our cities that any person would be proud to go to school in if only they were fixed.

I'd like to thank Senator Daschle and Congressman Bonior and all the members of Congress who are here whom they have represented today, for a genuine, consistent, passionate commitment to education that I have seen over my six years as President. It has never failed. (Applause.)

Thank you, Kathryn Scruggs, for giving your life to the education of our children, and from the look in your face and the lilt in your voice, I'd say it's been a good gift both ways. Thank you so much. Thank you. (Applause.)

I want to thank all the educators who are here, Arlene Ackerman, our friends from the AFT and the NEA and the other education associations. And I thank the young children for coming today for reminding us what this all about, welcome. (Applause.) We're glad you're all here from Stevens Elementary.

Let me begin where I meant to end: we can do this. We can do this. This is not an insurmountable problem. We have the resources; what we need is the will and the consensus. We need open minds and open hearts.

Yesterday I was privileged to announce to the American people that our nation has triumphed over an enormous challenge. The red ink of the federal budget deficit has been replaced by a surplus. We have brought order to our fiscal house; now it is time to bring more learning to the schoolhouse. (Applause.)

In the end we needed a bipartisan consensus to pass a Balanced Budget Act that also had the biggest investment in the health care of our children in a generation and opened the doors of college wider than any act since the passage of the G.I. Bill. That's what we need now.

MORE

Think of the challenges we have overcome as a people in the last six years. The crime rate has gone down to a 25-year low. The welfare rolls are at a 29-year low. It's the first time in 29 years we've had a balanced budget. The unemployment rate is at a 28-year low. The home ownership rate in this country is at an all-time high.

We are capable of overcoming challenges that people used to wring their hands about just a few years ago. But we have to put the progress of our people over partisanship and politics. So we all came here -- let me join the chorus and say we came here not to ask for much from the majority in Congress, just one day -- one day for our children and their future; one day between now and the end of this congressional session to strengthen our public schools, to provide those 100,000 teachers for the smaller classes, to build or repair those 5,000 schools, to provide those after-school and summer school programs to help our students meet higher academic standards.

In recent days Congress has given us a glimmer of hope by passing a higher education bill that includes our initiatives on higher education, that will help millions of Americans receive the college education they need to compete in the global economy the Vice President so vividly described. It reduces the cost of student loans and provides for mentors for middle school students who can get a guarantee that they will be able to finance their college education if they stay out of trouble, stay in school, and keep learning.

I applaud the Congress, members of both parties who did this, including many who are here today. Congressmen Goodling and Kildee and Clay; Senator Kennedy and his Republican colleague, Senator Jeffords.

But though we have the finest system of higher education in the world and this is a good bill because it opened the doors to it even wider, we all know we have to have the finest K through 12 system of education in the world and it has to be there for all of our kids as we grow increasingly more diverse. We know that nothing else we can do will more profoundly expand the circle of opportunity, more directly enhance our economic competitiveness, more clearly bridge the divisions of our society and bind us together as one nation.

And yet no issue has suffered more from misplaced priorities and partisan pursuits than America's public schools. Eight months ago I sent Congress the education agenda that has been described today. It demands accountability from everyone. It says to students: we expect you to meet high standards of learning and discipline, but we want to give you the help you need to meet those standards. It should be bipartisan in its appeal.

There was a time when education was completely bipartisan because no one asked you to register by party when you sign up for school, because every American, even Americans that have no children in our schools, have a direct, immediate, and profound interest in the success of our children's education.

Now, it is not too late. There is still time before the end of this session of Congress to spend that one day so we can cast that one vote to transform public education, to reduce the class sizes by adding 100,000 teachers -- goals Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Bill Clay have been fighting for; to build or modernize those 5,000 schools across those countries -- goals Congressman Charlie Rangel and Senator Carol Moseley-Braun have worked for hard for, for a long time now.

The plan also would connect all of our classrooms in these new or renovated buildings to the Internet by the year 2000 and train teachers to use the Internet properly and to train our children

to do the same. Every school in this country should be as modern as the world our children will live in. One day, one vote, could make it happen.

The third thing we want to do on that one day is to help our students meet higher standards; and if they're in troubled neighborhoods or come from difficult families or have school systems that haven't been performing well, we know they could be helped immensely with summer school and after-school programs -- programs that Senator Barbara Boxer and Congresswoman Nita Lowey have been spearheading our fight for.

I have seen the benefits of these programs all across America. Last week I visited a school in Chicago where all the students came from the, I think now famous, housing project of Cabrini Green. Students in Chicago no longer advance to the next grade unless they can pass tests to demonstrate that they know what they were supposed to learn. But if they have trouble passing the tests, they are not branded failures, because the system has failed them. Instead, they are offered academically enriched summer school and after-school programs. Over 40,000 children now get three hot meals a day there. The summer school is now the sixth biggest school district in the United States. And guess what? In that school I visited in Cabrini Green, the reading scores have doubled and the math scores have tripled in three years. (Applause.)

We only ask for one day for these initiatives -- and, oh, by the way, one day for a decent appropriations bill. That's the job that Congress is supposed to do every year. (Applause.) And we are depending upon the leadership of Senator Tom Harkin and Congressman David Obey to see that we get that kind of appropriations bill. The one the House has passed does not meet that test.

Let me tell you a little about it. It shortchanges our youngest children in Head Start, our new initiatives in higher education for mentoring children, and preparing quality teachers. It shortchanges these after-school care programs. It shortchanges our major education program to help children learn the basics. It shortchanges my Hispanic education action plan. It shortchanges our efforts for school reform and high standards and our commitment to hook all those classrooms up to the Internet by 2000. It even shortchanges our efforts for safe, disciplined, drug-free schools. It shortchanges our young people in school-to-work efforts. It shortchanges workers who need retraining between jobs. It shortchanges our efforts to help disadvantaged youth get jobs. And in the House, unbelievably, it completely eliminates the summer job program for half a million young people.

That is wrong. As your President, I will not stand for it. (Applause.)

The men and women who are up here with me stand ready to work with people in the other party and they only ask them to do it for just one day -- to strengthen our public schools for an entire new century; to affirm the bedrock American value that every child, regardless of race or neighborhood or income, deserves the chance to live up to his or her God-given abilities. Just one day to put in place a plan that will not only help those children, but in so doing will make sure that America's greatest days lie ahead. I think it's worth one day, don't you?

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

END

3:54 P.M. EDT

6

Time great promise but
Big tone — not too finger ^{import} challenges
the ball must do its job
on cona
these and be priorities of Congress
priorities of the people

311

Cong. must work
to do.

have ^{list} surplus now (sp) (per. Fri)

1) Don't send tx bill — veto — dips into Soc Sec
but instead, Cong.

2) Ed funding — (South Levee) — ^{wed.} send funding

support tx cuts that
paid for; but
they send
to plan

3) IMF (Friday)

mtg. of min.

made clear: support for

strong action

depends on US mtg response.

And we must act now to restart the engine of growth in Asia, where crushing debt has brought many private firms to a halt, by helping to restructure firms and replace debt with equity