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Revised Final 12/08/99 11:45am
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**
**REMARKS ON THE ECONOMY**
**THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE**
**WASHINGTON, DC**
**December 8, 1999**

Good afternoon. Now, Joe tells me it isn't official, but since we're heading into the busy holiday season, this may well be my last press conference of the millennium. I think it's a good opportunity to consider, for a moment, just where we stand as the milestone of the 21st Century approaches. So before I take your questions, I want to talk for a moment about how we got here, and how we're going to move our country forward.

America is ending this year – indeed this century – on a high note. Just last week, we crossed a truly remarkable threshold: 20 million new jobs. Perhaps the best news is that these are good, well-paying jobs: jobs on which you can support a family, buy a home or car, or save for college or retirement. Most of these 20 million new jobs are high-wage and full-time. And our latest economic report shows they have benefited not just one group of Americans, but all Americans. We not only have the lowest unemployment in a generation – we have seen the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment ever recorded.

We are living in an American renaissance. Opportunity is abundant. Wages are high; inflation and interest rates are low; and homeownership is at an all-time peak. Technology is transforming our economy, and the way we work, live, and learn. In 1994, only 4% of classrooms were wired to the Internet. In 1998, that number was more than 50%, and we are well on our way to connecting every classroom by this time next year. We are also transforming the way we relate to one another. Our social problems – from violent crime to teen pregnancy – are on the mend.

It is the hard work of the American people that earned these achievements. Of course, that hard work is nothing new. But for the first time in a long time, hard work in the heartland is being matched by tough choices right here. When Al Gore and I took office in 1993, we charted a new course for a new economy. We put forth a three-part plan – of fiscal discipline, expanded trade, and investing in our people. That's the plan that turned America around; and that's the plan that will move America ahead. If we stick to it, then by the end of February we will have the longest economic expansion in American history.

This moment of progress and prosperity gives us an important opportunity – and a responsibility – to complete the unfinished business of this century, while meeting the challenges of the next. I just signed the first budget of the 21st Century. It's a budget that moves us forward on many fronts, putting America on course to pay off the debt by 2015, making us debt-free for the first time since 1835.

In the months ahead, I am confident we can make further progress – from common-sense gun-safety legislation to meaningful hate-crimes legislation; from a real raise in the minimum wage to a real patients' bill of rights; from strengthening Social Security and Medicare, to modernizing Medicare with a prescription-drug benefit. We must continue to open new markets at home, in the places our prosperity has yet to reach. And we must continue to expand trade abroad – from China to Africa to the Caribbean Basin. And of course, America's progress in the long term depends most of all on a quality education for our children. That means highly trained teachers, accountability at all levels, and safe and modern schools in which to learn.

This is a great moment for America. And it is our responsibility to make the most of it for the future. I will continue to work with members of both parties to achieve just that. Thank you.

Final 12/08/99 11:15am
Jeff Shesol

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# A NATION TRANSFORMED: SOCIAL CHANGE 1992-99

*In many ways the world is a profoundly different place than it was when President Clinton and Vice President Gore were elected in 1992. Our national economy is booming, we are beginning to heal social problems by reducing poverty and inequality and drawing on the power of communities. Unparalleled technological advances have provided a strong engine for our economy, and yielded amazing scientific discoveries. Respect for the role of women has grown and we have proved that economic health and environmental protection go hand-in-hand.*

## *FROM ECONOMIC DISTRESS TO ECONOMIC HEALTH*

- **Strongest Economy in Decades**
  By virtually any measure, the American economy has been transformed we are now enjoying the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years, also the lowest welfare rolls in 30 years, the lowest poverty rates in 20 years and the highest homeownership ever recorded.

- **Rolling Back The National Debt:**
  In the four years prior to 1992, the national debt increased by $1.5 trillion. In 1992 the deficit was $290 billion, debt was increasing at a rate of $13,000 per second. The projected deficit for 1999 was $400 billion by 1999. In FY 1999, The country instead ran a $123 billion surplus and over the last two years, we have paid down the debt by $140 billion. [NEC]

- **The End of Economic Anxiety:**
  Today 67% of Americans say that the economy is "excellent" or "good." In October of 1992, 11% rated the economy good, less than 1% said that it was excellent and 88% said that the economy was "fair" or "poor." In early 1992, the Conference Board reported that nearly half (47 percent) of Americans believed jobs were "hard to get," now only 14 percent think so.

- **The Stock Market Soared And More Americans Are Investing:**
  In 1992, just 26% said that they thought that it would be a good idea to invest in the stock market, if they had the money. Today, 60% of Americans have money invested directly or indirectly in the stock market. On Election Day 1992, the Dow Industrial Average stood at 3,262 and the Nasdaq composite index stood at 616. By November 1999, the Dow was over 10,500 and the Nasdaq composite index was near 3,000.

- **Explosion Of American Creativity And Invention:**
  Patent applications have increased from 186,000 in 1992 to 261,000 in 1998 – an increase of almost 40%.

## *SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

- **Winning The Fight Against Poverty:**
  In 1998, the poverty rate dropped to 12.7 percent from 13.3 percent the year before -- that's the lowest poverty rate in two decades. Since President Clinton signed his Economic Plan into law, the poverty rate has declined from 15.1 percent in 1993 to 12.7 percent last year -- that's the largest five-year drop in poverty in nearly 30 years (1965-1970).

- **Reversing Trends In Wage Inequality:**
  In the 1990s, all parts of the income scale are benefiting from a growing economy. America now enjoys the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rates ever recorded, the lowest African-American poverty rate ever recorded, the lowest Hispanic poverty rate recorded in a generation, and the lowest unemployment rate among women in 40 years. Median income of African-American households is up 15.1 percent (or $3,317) since 1993, from $22,034 in 1993 to $25,351 in 1998, adjusted for inflation. In the 1970s and 1980s, income inequality increased, while the economy expanded.

- **Closing Education Gaps:**
  More women, Latinos and African-Americans are earning doctoral degrees than in 1990. 55% more African Americans received doctoral degrees in 1997 than in 1990; 35% more Latinos received doctoral degrees in 1997 and 25% more women received doctoral degrees in 1997.

- **Reducing Gun Deaths:**
  Deaths caused by firearms have dropped from 37,776 in 1992 to 32,436 in 1998, the lowest number since 1985. The gun death rate was lower in 1998 than any year since 1979.

- **Unleashing America's Community Spirit:**
  Today, 56% of Americans say that they volunteer, up from 48% in 1992. This amounts to over 20 million more volunteers today. Philanthropic giving has risen sharply in recent years to just over two percent of GDP. In 1998, Americans gave $174 billion to non-profit organizations, compared to $124 billion in 1992.

## *TECHNOLOGICAL EXPLOSION*

- **The Internet Revolution:**
  There were practically no web pages in 1992. Today there are over 50 million web pages. By the end of 1992, 10 million people were connected to the Internet worldwide. Today there are 201 million people connected.

- **New Education Technology:**
  Thanks to the leadership of Vice President Gore, there are nine times as many classrooms connected to the Internet as there were six years ago. In the fall of 1998, 89 percent of public schools were connected to the Internet.
  - In 1992, there were 11 kids to every school computer, by 1998, the number had dropped to six students per computer. By January, more than 95% of schools will have Internet access. In 1992, just 16% had modems.
  - In 1992, eighth grade students were more likely to use computers to play games than to write papers or learn things. Today, eighth graders are more likely to use a computer to write stories or papers than to play games.

- **Technology-Driven Trade and Business Expansion:**
  In 1992, the U.S. exported $24.9 billion in computer equipment. By 1997, exports of computer equipment almost doubled to $41.4 billion in computer equipment.

- **Turning The Corner On AIDS Deaths:**
  The number of AIDS cases reported in the United States has dropped from 102,186 in 1993 to 58,493 in 1997.

- **Remarkable Advances in Scientific Research:**
  In the last several years Americans have developed pathbreaking drugs to cure disease, produced a rough draft of a map of the human genome, and explored genetic tools to fight diseases like cancer and multiple sclerosis.

## *PROMOTING EQUALITY FOR WOMEN*

- **Moving Women into Positions of Political Power:**
  More women serve in Congress than ever before (58 in House, 9 in Senate). President Clinton has also appointed more women to top Administration positions than any other President, including the country's first female Attorney General and Secretary of State. Today, 28% of statewide elective offices are held by women, compared to 18% in 1991-92.

- **Changing Face Of Television News:**
  Women and minority corespondents are getting more air time than ever before on the Big Three evening newscasts. Women covered 28% of the evening news stories in 1998, up from just 16% in 1991. Minority reporters covered 15% of the stories last year, up form 7% eight years ago. Last year, there were 53 women in the 163-member network news corespondent corps 33% of the total. That share is up from 17% in 1991.

- **Cracking the Glass Ceiling:**
  Today, 11.1% of Fortune 500 business executives are women. In 1992, less than 3% were women. Women are starting new firms at twice the rate of all other business and own nearly 40 percent of all firms in the U.S. These 8 million firms employ 18.5 million—one in every five U.S. workers—and contribute $2.3 trillion to the economy. Women CEOs are also finally gaining a toehold in large corporations. In 1992, there were no women as CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, today there are three.

- **Growth of Women's Sports:**
  In 1992, 99,859 women participated in intercollegiate athletics. In 1997, 129,285 women participated on 7,684 teams – an increase of nearly 30%. There is now a professional women's basketball league and, in 1999, 40 million Americans watched the United States win its third women's world cup soccer championship – more people than watched the final game of the 1999 World Series.

## *BUILDING A SAFER WORLD*

- **Increasing International Trade And Travel:**
  Global tourism increased from $268.3 billion in 1990 to $443.8 billion in 1997. The American share of world tourism has increased from 16 to 17%. Overall American exports have increased from $616 billion in 1992 to $934 billion in 1998.

- **Birth of New Democracies:**
  Twenty eight new nations have been born since 1992. According to the Freedom House, an international human rights group, there are 117 electoral democracies. As recently as 1989, there were only 69. Roughly 55% of the world's population lives in democracies today.

## *PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT*

- **More Americans Benefiting from Clean Air and Water:**
  Since 1993, the number of Americans whose communities meet federal air quality standards has grown by 43 million.

- **Cleaning the Environment Has Become Good Business:**
  Environmental industries created 174,000 jobs between 1990 and 1997. Revenues in these industries increased 24% over this period. American environmental technology firms export $16 billion in goods annually and support 170,000 jobs.

- **Making Recycling Common:**
  We recycle 17 million tons more material than we did in 1992 and generate less net waste per person. Because of this effort, the United States will actually generate <u>less</u> net waste in 2000 than it did in 1992, and about the same as we did in 1980 when there were almost 50 million fewer people in our country. Waste generation increased by 27% in the previous seven years. (1985-92). Today, our recycling rate is the highest in the world.

- **International Environmental Awakening:**
  Since the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit of 1992, governments have built a foundation of international environmental cooperation including: The Law of the Sea, effective in 1994, regulates economic activity in the oceans, ending a free-for-all of global exploitation of coastal fisheries. A 1996 global treaty ended U.S. and European production of chemicals that destroy the Earth's ozone layer. A 1996 treaty agreed to international cooperation in stopping the spread of deserts. And the 1997 conference in Kyoto, Japan where the world's nations came together to agree on mandatory cutbacks in the emissions of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gases" blamed for global warming.

- **Bald Eagle Recovery:**
  In 1999, the Bald Eagle is no longer an endangered species. There are now nearly 6,000 pairs of Bald Eagles in the U.S. In 1992, the Bald Eagle listed as endangered, with just 3,300 pairs left.

- 1999 began as a year when controversy and partisanship threatened to impede the progress that has resulted in the longest peacetime economic expansion in history. The Republican Congress was in obvious disarray; many pundits said the Presidency was weakened. Uncertainty was high; expectations were low.

- Instead, 1999 ended as the seventh straight year of President Clinton's successful economic strategy – **1) fiscal discipline/debt reduction; 2) investing in people; 3) opening markets abroad.**

- On all three fronts, the President's plan continued to make progress, create jobs, and improve lives.

***Fiscal discipline/debt reduction***

The President vetoed the centerpiece of the Republican agenda – an $800 billion package of bloated, risky tax breaks that imperiled America's prosperity. As a result, inflation is low, interest rates are stable, wages are up, poverty is down, and we have retired more than $140 billion of our national debt.

***Investing in people***

The President pledged to produce a budget that made good on his promise of safer neighborhoods, strengthened education, a healthy environment, and new economic markets. On education in particular, the President was unwavering in his insistence to enact his breakthrough programs to reduce class size, enhance access to technology, confront the crisis of failing schools, provide after school opportunities for learning, and prepare disadvantaged students for college.

***Opening markets abroad***

After 13 years of negotiation, the Clinton Administration reached an historic trade agreement that will open Chinese markets to American goods and hold the Chinese government to international trade rules. Moreover, the President secured resources from Congress to leverage over $90 billion of debt relief to developing nations. The President's relief plan will break the cycle of unsustainable debt that halts progress, drags down growth, and drains resources away from meeting basic human needs in poor countries.

- 1999 demonstrated that President Clinton maintained momentum for his agenda, and made serious progress in the face of partisan obstacles. The President's ability to achieve these goals in the seventh year of his term is impressive by any historical comparison, and bodes well for his agenda in the final year of his Presidency.

- Perhaps more remarkable than the record of achievement in 1999, is the fundamental shift in the national debate since the so-called "Gingrich revolution" of 1995. Proposals for massive tax breaks, elimination of the Department of Education, and draconian cuts in child nutrition and Medicare have been rejected by the President and the American people. The debate of priorities has now moved securely to the President's turf: fiscal responsibility, saving Social Security and Medicare, support for education and the environment, progress on health care and the uninsured.

- The President will bring this same sense of purpose and urgency to the unfinished business that awaits in 2000 – Social Security solvency, Medicare and prescription drugs, Patient's Bill of Rights, Minimum Wage, and common-sense gun legislation.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 3, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

Presidential Hall
Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building

1:25 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Secretary Herman and Council of Economic Advisors Chairman Martin Baily and especially, thank you, Marvin Dawkins, for your remarks and for the power of your example.

This is a very different time than we were experiencing seven years ago this month. When I ran for President in 1992, it was a time of economic distress and uncertainty for our country. While some people were moving from the industrial to the information economy with optimism and purpose, many others felt fear and uncertainty because of the problems in our economy -- high unemployment, big deficits, high interest rates, low productivity gains, falling real wages for average Americans.

Too many Americans couldn't tell the story that Marvin just told. They lacked the skills they needed to succeed in the new economy, they felt threatened by the changes, and they had no access to the tools that would lift them up.

But when I traveled around the country in 1992 with the Vice President, we saw a lot of signs of hope. We saw a lot of people who were winning. And we became even more convinced that our country, as a whole, could do very well in this new global information economy, if we could create the conditions and provide all Americans the tools necessary to succeed.

It seemed to me that there were three absolutely pivotal elements. First, fiscal discipline. We had to get rid of the deficit and get interest rates back down and get investment back up. Second, expanded trade. We had 4 percent of the world's people and 22 percent of the world's income -- even someone technologically challenged like me could figure out we had to sell something to the other 96 percent of the people on the globe. And, third, greater investments in new technologies and in our people in their capacity not only to know what they needed to know, but to learn for a lifetime. And people like Marvin Dawkins are Exhibit A of the pivotal importance of that.

Now, in 1993, we put in place a new economic strategy. It cut the deficit and increased investment by eliminating hundreds of inessential programs and putting us on a path that now has given us the smallest federal government in 37 years. In 1997, with the Balanced Budget Act, we continued the strategy, again increasing investment, cutting inessential programs, first balancing the budget and then providing the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years. (Applause.) Thank you.

Now, that led to lower interest rates, which helped ordinary Americans in all kinds of ways. It cut the price of the average home mortgage by $2,000, the price of the average car payments by $200 a year, the average college loan payment by $200 a year. But, critically, it also cut the borrowing costs and the investment costs, therefore, for new businesses, especially for investment in new productivity-enhancing technologies.

At the same time, we negotiated over 270 trade agreements, including dozens of them involving high technology issues, all of which helped Americans to increase exports of high technology products -- services. We promoted more competition in telecommunications, providing American consumers with the lowest Internet access rates in the world and fueling the growth of e-commerce. And we've taken actions that have led to the creation of a whole new generation of digital wireless phones -- you know, the kind you hear go off in restaurants, movie theaters and presidential press conferences. (Laughter.)

While eliminating hundreds of programs, we have almost doubled our investment in education and training. Everything from preschool, to dramatically increasing college access, to establishing lifetime access to training and retraining programs for people like Marvin.

Now, as a result of these actions -- and, most importantly, the innovation and the hard work of the American people -- we are now experiencing an amazing virtuous cycle of progress and prosperity that few could have imagined. We are in the midst of the longest peacetime economic expansion in American history. If, as seems highly likely, it goes on through February, it will become the longest economic expansion in our history. (Applause.)

It has given us low inflation, the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years -- also the lowest welfare rolls in 30 years -- the lowest poverty rates in 20 years, the highest homeownership ever recorded, the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rates ever recorded, the lowest African-American poverty rate ever recorded, the lowest Hispanic poverty rate recorded in a generation -- (applause) -- the lowest poverty rate among households headed by single adults in over 40 years, and the lowest unemployment rate among women in 40 years. (Applause.)

In other words, a good economy has also turned out to be very good social policy. More and more Americans are mastering the skills and reaping the benefits of this new economy, and America itself continues to lead in new technologies, from e-commerce to biotech, that are shaping the future of the entire world.

Now, today, I want to talk about one more piece of stunningly good economic news that is the direct result of the actions that have been taken and the work that has been done by our people to propel our economy into the new century. Now, we have a high-tech animation behind me -- (laughter) -- to illustrate this good economic news. I hate to compete with the movies, and I'll probably lose -- (laughter) -- but the idea is that I'm supposed to be the narrator of this show. (Laughter.)

What you see behind me is a graphic representation of the growth of new jobs in America, beginning in 1993, as well as the geographic location of these jobs. You can see they have been spread across the country, wherever people live. Virtually no area of our nation has been left out. At the bottom, you can also see a running tally of how many new jobs have been created. (Laughter.) And I'm ahead of the running tally. (Laughter.)

But the latest figures are being released today. Come along. (Laughter.) What did you say? Filler, filler. (Laughter.) I've never been at a loss for words. (Laughter and applause.)

With today's new numbers, we have truly crossed a remarkable threshold -- 20 million jobs. In fact, the specific number behind me is 20,043,000 jobs -- thanks to the hard work of the American people, the economic policies we have pursued.

To give you some idea of what this means, 20 million jobs is a number greater than the population of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Denver, Washington, San Francisco, Dallas, Miami, Buffalo, Cleveland and Little Rock combined. (Laughter.) Twenty million people would fill the Rose Bowl to capacity 200 times over. Twenty million jobs are a lot of jobs.

And by and large, those jobs are good, well-paying jobs, jobs on which you can support a family, buy a home, afford a vacation, save for college, put away a nest egg for retirement. This was made clear in a new report being released today by my Council of Economic Advisors and the Department of Labor.

The report finally should put to rest the old myths about the new economy. The 20 million new jobs we have created mostly are high-wage, not low-wage jobs. (Applause.) Over 80 percent of them are in job categories that pay above the median wage. They are mostly full-time, not part-time. In fact, the proportion of Americans in part-time work has actually fallen a bit in the last few years.

Finally, those 20 million new jobs have benefitted not just one race or class of Americans, but all Americans. Unlike the end of the last economic expansion in the 1980s, when averages wages went down, wages during the last four years of this expansion have gone up across the board in all income categories, with some of the biggest gains coming to some of our hardest-pressed working families. As I said -- I want to say this again, because I think it is worth reiterating -- this economy is not just 20 million new jobs and a stock market that went above 11,000 again today -- I never talk about it because it goes down as well as up, but it's done pretty well.

But let me say again, the lowest African-American unemployment and poverty rates ever recorded, and we've been separating the figures for nearly 30 years now. The lowest Hispanic unemployment rate on record and the lowest Hispanic poverty rate in over 25 years. The highest minority homeownership on record, the lowest female unemployment rate since 1953. (Applause.) And I don't need to remind the large group of women in this audience that in 1953, there were a lot smaller percentage of women in the work force, so this is actually a much more important figure than even that number indicates.

Now, technology has been a very important part of this economic performance. It has given us big productivity gains. The information technology sector alone has been responsible for about a third of our economic growth. And jobs in that sector pay nearly 80 percent more than the private sector average. If we want our current prosperity to continue into the 21st century, we must therefore clearly continue to encourage the creation and the spread of new technologies in our own economy.

Therefore, I would like to highlight a couple of things that I think are of real importance in the budget agreement achieved with Congress, that I signed just a few days ago. First, the budget I signed contains substantial increases in direct federal investment and long-term research and development. This is still very important, as all the private sector experts tell us. It is the kind of investment that allowed the Defense Department to create the predecessor of today's Internet 30 years ago; that led Marc Andreessen, working at a federally funded supercomputer center, to develop the first graphical web browser.

We worked hard to get increases not only for biomedical research that had strong support in our Congress, but for other science and engineering disciplines, as well. And I would like to make this point very strongly, because it's one that I hope to make more progress on next year and hope to see our country embrace as a policy across the board, without regard to party: it is very important that we have a balanced research portfolio. And I don't believe that the National Institutes of Health has had a stronger supporter than me. I believe that. (Applause.)

But we have to have a balanced research portfolio, because the research enterprise is increasingly interdependent. Advances in health care, for example, are often dependent on breakthroughs in other disciplines -- such as the physics needed for medical imaging technology, or the computer science needed to develop more drugs more rapidly, or to continue the mapping of the human genome.

Just think what these investments could mean. Today, scientists and engineers all over the country have ideas for new technologies they need federal help to explore, technologies that could transform our economy and our lives in the future, just as dramatically as the Internet is doing today. And there is really a continuing revolution, as we all know, in all kinds of computer technology, in biomedical research and also in materials development, which I'll say a little more about.

We'll have new materials as strong as steel, but 10 times lighter. At the Detroit Auto Show this year, they were already showing cars 500 to 1,000 pounds lighter that have exactly the same safety tests as the old cars with steel. Obviously, that dramatically increases mileage, that reduces greenhouse gas emissions. We could have new drugs that might cure spinal cord injuries or new computer chips that might simulate nerve movements that allow people to function without the nerves actually being reconnected.

Just before I walked out here -- this is ironic -- just before we walked out here, we had CNN on in the little ante room, and they pointed out that Stevie Wonder was about to have experimental surgery to have a computer chip inserted in his retina to see if it can simulate and recreate the functioning that was lost when he was an infant. And we obviously all hope it will work. But I can tell you this, someday, such things will work, and it won't be very long in the future. (Applause.)

We already have fuel cells and blended fuel engines for automobiles which will take mileage up to 70 and 80 miles a gallon. We will soon have, I believe, ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct will be water clean enough to drink; computers that can translate English into foreign languages and vice-versa as fast as people can speak. All these thing are right around the corner, but we have to continue our commitment to research.

Second, later this month, I will sign a tax measure that extends for five years the life of the vitally important research and experimentation tax credit. (Applause.) Thank you. This is important because this tax credit gives private firms the incentives they need to invest in innovative technologies that often don't show up quickly on the bottom line, but that over the long run, will be highly profitable, and that immediately provide tremendous benefits to society as a whole.

Third, last week I signed legislation to help accelerate competition in the telecommunication industry, to give consumers more choices and lower prices. I also signed a bill to strengthen and streamline our patent and intellectual property system, to strengthen the incentives for the next Alexander Graham Bell or Steve Jobs, to create the inventions and innovations that will drive the 21st century economy.

No one today can say for sure what our economy will look like in 25 or 50 years, or what as yet unimagined technologies will transform our lives. But we do know that it will be truly amazing and it will happen with breathtaking speed and scope. And we know that our nation has always prospered when government has invested in giving people the opportunity to make the most of their vision and their dreams, from financing the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition to the interstate highway system and the space program.

The American people have always been a bold and innovative bunch. We are always drawn to uncharted lands over the next horizon. Who will pack our bags and head out to the latest gold rush or tinker in our basements for years to invent a product no one else has ever imagined? That's what we do.

Today, thanks to wise investments made by government and the private sector over many years, the American people have before them the unexplored continent of cyberspace and the prospect of discovering what is in the black holes in outer space. By continuing these commitments, we can celebrate more days like today.

Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END 1:45 P.M. EST

Ellen re: 2000
order books?
~~Book~~ for FL
Flor. for Maria

fiscally
message
pretty good

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

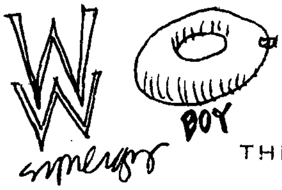
Invite Congress here to get back to work
unfinished business (3-5 issues)
last yr., we did yr.'s worth of work
in 2 weeks...

66553

Econ
plan that got us here
20 m jobs...

But we got there b/c of our plan
(incl. expanded trd)
That's how we'll move fwd. (unfinished business)
patients
min wage
opening mkts abroad...

Optimistic + keep moving




~~veal~~
Tapper
GOP hassle
big divide

THE WHITE HOUSE

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start taking ownership course

new mantra

* [ if we continue on ~~plan~~, then by March 1 we will have longest ~~econ.~~ ~~peacetime~~ expansion in history

— new part of mantra

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unfinished business

✓ 1) allmed / soc sec lockbox
1) prescription drug

✓ 2) patients

✓ 3) min wage

✓ 4) hate crimes

✓ 5) guns

✓ 6) trade — CBI, Africa, China

7) schl construction

✓ 8) new markets

9) privacy
- med + fin.

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Alternatives

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- call Jesse
- Book to Evan
- Books on Amazon

China

? Going fwd
pledge an all-out campaign
China to WTO

Digital divide

- tomorrow morning Im going to meet w/ CEOs
- will speak SOTU; will have new whts tour
- Council of Black Churches — civil rts issue of 21st C.

- Im going to make this a maj issue
  - a real prob
  - initiatives in my SOTU
- today, EO...
  challenging...

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fiscal discipline

some people want to turn back,

but...

expanded trade

Seattle, will have to incl. stuff

but let's be clear: only one path: more mkts.

go back, fight,

China/WTO

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Trade in context of agenda

we want to get NTR for China

+ a new round of trd talks