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Foreword

On the morning of May 2, 1997, on the banks of the Tidal Basin, I participated in the dedication ceremony for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, honoring this great leader of the "American Century." Later that afternoon, in Baltimore, Maryland, I announced an historic agreement to balance the Federal budget. These two events—one, a reflection on our past, the other, a promise for our future—embodied the new American consensus on the role of Government that I have worked hard to forge since my first days as President.

We have quelled the contentious debate between those who view Government as the problem and those who view it as the solution. It is neither—as I stated in my Second Inaugural Address, which I had the great privilege to deliver. The challenges of a new age require not time-worn slogans but action. They require a limited, flexible Government characterized by fiscal discipline, enlightened innovation, and a commitment to creating opportunity for all Americans. The Government's role—and its responsibility—is to affirm these cherished values in changing times.

Committed to these principles, America entered 1997 peaceful and secure, prosperous and stable, and determined to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. We discarded outdated dogmas and forged new relationships. In our own hemisphere, we celebrated the close friendship between the United States and Mexico, redefining our partnership in the face of new priorities—from combating drugs to preserving the environment. Across the Atlantic, where the barricades of the Cold War once stood, we built new alliances for global security and commerce. We completed new agreements: from the ratification of the landmark Chemical Weapons Convention, to the Founding Act that joins NATO and the Russian Federation in practical cooperation. In Helsinki, President Yeltsin and I agreed to pursue even deeper cuts in our nuclear arsenals. And in Denver, where I hosted the annual summit of the world's industrialized democracies, we worked to combat new security threats, prepared our countries to succeed in the global economy, and opened a new chapter in the history of Europe.

Here at home, too, we set new and higher goals, refusing to grow complacent in our success. America's economy was the strongest in a generation. Inflation remained low while employment surged, defying conventional wisdom, and both crime rates and welfare rolls were down dramatically. And to ensure that all Americans will share in the promise of the new century, I launched a national campaign to lift our standards of education. In my State of the Union Address I called not for a Federal mandate, but for a national commitment to tough, smart standards in education basics.

In June, at the University of California at San Diego, I opened a national dialogue on another challenge: race. When we finally lift the burden of race, it will not be because a law made it happen. It will be because the American people confronted and dispelled the myths that divide us. Americans of all backgrounds have responded to this challenge, leaving me more confident than ever that we will not come apart but come together; that we will enter the 21st Century not as separate, distinct groups, but as one America—at once diverse, and as the Founders declared, indivisible.

William Clinton

FOREWORD
PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENT
JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 1997

Phil — I think
these edits address
your concerns +
maintain the flow —
please let me know
if they're unclear
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yours,
JFJ
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On the morning of May 2, 1997, on the banks of the Tidal Basin, I participated in the dedication ceremony for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, honoring the great leader of this American Century. Later that afternoon, in Baltimore, Maryland, I announced an historic agreement to balance the budget by 2002. Two events: one, a reflection on our past, the other, a promise for our future. Each embodied the new American consensus on the role of Government that I have worked hard to forge since my first days as President.

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[Founding Act that joins NATO and the Russian Federation in practical cooperation]

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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
FOREWORD TO VOLUME NINE OF THE PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC PAPERS
(JANUARY 1, 1997 - JUNE 30, 1997)

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We have ended, after three contentious decades, the debate between those who view government as the problem and those who view it as the solution. It is neither, as I stated in the Second Inaugural Address I had the great privilege to deliver. The challenges of a new age demand not simple slogans but action -- a limited, flexible government that pursues fiscal discipline, enlightened innovation, and a commitment to creating opportunity for all Americans. The government's role -- and its responsibility -- is to affirm these cherished values in changing times. Nothing more, nothing less.

Committed to these principles, America entered the new year 1997 peaceful and secure, prosperous and stable, and determined to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. Outdated dogmas were discarded. New relationships were forged -- between citizens and government, and among nations. In our own hemisphere, we celebrated the ties that bind the United States to Mexico, redefining our partnership in the face of new priorities. And across the Atlantic, where the barricades of the Cold War once stood, we built new alliances for global security and commerce. In May of 1997 I signed a historic Founding Act linking former adversaries -- NATO and Russia -- in a peaceful, democratic alliance. The new NATO works with Russia and not against it. Thus, at long last, we have closed the book on the Cold War and opened a new chapter in the history of Europe.

At home, too, we set new and higher goals, refusing to grow complacent in our success. America's economy was the strongest in a generation. Inflation remained low while employment surged, defying conventional wisdom. Crime rates and welfare rolls were down dramatically. And to ensure that all Americans will share in the promise of the 21st Century, I launched a national campaign to lift our standards of education. In my State of the Union Address I called not for a federal mandate, but for a national commitment to tough, smart standards in the basics.

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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
FOREWORD TO VOLUME NINE OF THE PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC PAPERS
(JANUARY 1, 1997 - JUNE 30, 1997)

On the morning of May 2, 1997, on the banks of the Tidal Basin, I led the dedication ceremony for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. I uttered FDR's immortal words about the evolving role of government in our national life: "New conditions impose new requirements upon government and upon those who conduct government." Later that afternoon, in Baltimore, Maryland, I announced an historic agreement to balance the budget by 2002--proving that it is still possible, after thirty years of burgeoning deficits, to balance our books while honoring our values. Two events, ~~seemingly unconnected~~, the first, a reflection on America's past, the second, a promise for our future.

In fact, they were bound by a common philosophical thread. During the first six months of 1997, as I embarked upon my second term as President, Americans embraced Roosevelt's axiom in full, finally dismissing the false charge that government is the problem. Government, as I stated in my Second Inaugural Address, is not the problem. Neither is it the solution. Simple slogans are not enough; the challenges of a new age demand fiscal discipline, enlightened innovation, and a commitment to creating opportunity for all Americans. The government's role--and its responsibility--is to affirm these cherished values in changing times. Nothing more, nothing less.

Committed to these principles, the United States entered the new year 1997 peaceful and secure, prosperous and stable. Our economy was the strongest--and our crime rates and welfare rolls were the lowest--in a generation. Inflation stayed low while employment surged, defying conventional wisdom. My detailed plan to balance the budget marked a return to fiscal responsibility. In my State of the Union Address, I launched a national campaign to lift our standards of education. Tough, smart national standards--not a federal mandate, but a national commitment--will help America's children to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

At home and abroad, the United States abandoned outdated dogmas and shaped new relationships--between citizens and their government, and among nations. We forged new alliances for global security and commerce where the barricades of the Cold War once stood. In our own hemisphere, we celebrated the ties that bind the United States to Mexico and redefined our partnership in the face of new priorities. Across the Atlantic, I signed a truly historic Founding Act linking former adversaries--NATO and Russia--in an open, peaceful, democratic alliance. This new NATO, working with Russia and not against it, closes the book on the Cold War and opens a new chapter in the history of Europe.

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Draft 04/28/98

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

FOREWORD TO VOLUME NINE OF THE PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC PAPERS

(JANUARY 1, 1997 - JUNE 30, 1997)

stress privilege of Inaug. for 2nd term → turn to 21st c.

The first half of 1997 was a time of peace and strength for our nation and prosperity and stability for the American people. Our economy was the strongest--and our crime rates and welfare rolls were the lowest--in a generation. Inflation stayed low while employment surged, defying conventional wisdom. My detailed plan to balance the budget marked a return to fiscal responsibility, proving that it is possible, despite thirty years of burgeoning deficits, to balance our books while honoring our values. And where the barricades of the Cold War once stood, the United States forged new alliances, new networks for global security and commerce.

Standing firmly on this foundation, Americans turned to face the challenges of the 21st Century. The first of those challenges was to rebut the false charge that government is the problem. Government, as I stated in my Inaugural Address, is not the problem. Neither is it the solution. Rejecting these simple slogans, I recalled instead the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "New conditions impose new requirements upon government and upon those who conduct government." It was fitting that, in May, I dedicated a memorial to FDR, the greatest of this century's presidents. His spirit--his legacy of enlightened innovation--was very much alive in 1997.

The United States remained, as it was during Roosevelt's day, the indispensable nation. The obligations of global leadership have at times required that America act alone; but the first half of 1997 was a time to strengthen old alliances and build new ones. Working with the leaders of many nations, I pledged to end the scourge of chemical warfare; in April, I called upon Congress to ratify a comprehensive chemical weapons treaty. In May, I traveled to Mexico to celebrate the ties that bind our two countries--ties of trade, a common border, and a shared history--and to define our partnership in the face of new challenges. And across the Atlantic, I signed a truly historic Founding Act linking former adversaries--NATO and Russia--in an open, peaceful, democratic partnership. This new NATO, working with Russia and not against it, closes the book on the Cold War and opens a new chapter in the history of Europe.

At home, as well as overseas, I called on Americans to overcome old enmities in the search for common ground. Race has been America's constant curse. By conducting an honest, national dialogue on the issues and myths and misperceptions that divide us, we will, I believe, come together and not apart; we will, I am confident, enter the 21st Century as one nation, not many nations. At the University of California at San Diego, I opened that dialogue. And the American people have responded--determined to lift, at long last, the heavy burdens of our history and leave our children a nation freed of prejudice and strengthened by its diversity.

On _____, I dedicated FDR. [quote]
That afternoon, I announced balanced budget agreement

Reach a little higher--make it about something

Need theme -- ended debate -- new role for govt --
- embodied in nat'l econ. educational stds (govt as catalyst) (SOTU)

OR...

← preparing for 21st c.
- ed
- NATO
- race

OR...

Focus on race
- SOTU
- USSD

implies this was in Inaugural

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 2, 1997

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
ON BUDGET AGREEMENT

Baltimore, Maryland

3:58 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: For more than four years now, I have worked hard to pursue a strategy that would keep our economy growing and creating opportunity for the American people, giving people a chance to be rewarded for their labors, and also imposing upon ourselves the discipline necessary to prepare for the future and to relieve ourselves of a lot of the problems that had been accumulated over the last several years, especially the deficit.

Now, we have reached agreement in broad but fairly specific terms that I am satisfied will do that with the Republican leaders today that would balance the budget by 2002, continue to increase our investments in education, in science and technology and medical research, require us to continue to show great discipline in other areas and to continue to downsize some government operations.

It would invest in doing what I think is important, to be sure that we can move people from welfare to work who are going to be required to go to work. It would expand coverage to millions of children who presently do not have health insurance. It would restore cuts to benefits for legal immigrants who are in this country who have sustained injuries and other problems for which they would otherwise be eligible for benefits. It will extend the life of Medicare and secure the integrity of the Medicaid program between now and 2002.

It will be the first balanced budget in three decades.

It's a good thing that it's coming today, when we learn that our employment rate had dropped to 4.9 percent for the first time in 24 years. We know that we have the biggest decline in inequality in our work force since the 1960s, and we've seen our economy produce the largest number of new jobs since 1993 ever produced in a four-year period. That happened because a lot of the people standing up here with me right now had the courage to vote for a plan to bring the deficit down in 1993 and get interest rates down and investments up.

This agreement will help us to finish the job. I have spoken several times over the last several days with Senator Lott and with Speaker Gingrich. I want to thank them personally for negotiating with me openly, candidly, and, I'm convinced, in complete good faith.

I have also had occasion to speak with the representatives of the Democratic Caucus, obviously, who were in this budget negotiation -- Senator Lautenberg for the Democrats and Congressman John Spratt from South Carolina, and the Republicans who were represented by their Chairs, Senator Domenici and Congressman Kasich. I want to thank all. I want to thank Senator Domenici and Congressman Kasich. They worked very hard and we know there are significant differences between us in how we look at what is the best way to balance the budget and they tried to bridge these gaps. Congressman Spratt and Senator Lautenberg did as well. And I'm very proud of all four of them. They served America well. They put the interests of the country first in trying to work through to get us as close as we are today. And so I appreciate that very much.

Now, let me say again -- let me give you just some of the details very quickly. The plan will protect Medicare, extending the life of the trust fund for a decade; extending new benefits for annual mammograms and diabetes screening. Home health will be shifted from Part A to Part B, and there will be a modest premium for home health services being phased in at \$1 per month, a year.

Second, and perhaps most important, this budget meets my goal of making education America's number one priority on the edge of the 21st century. It will have the largest increase in education funding in 30 years. It will have the largest increase in Pell Grant scholarships in 20 years. It will help us to make sure that every 8-year-old will be able to read, every 12-year-old can log on to the Internet, every 18-year-old can go into college. I am very, very pleased that it will also include in a tax cut per person aid to help people go on to college and to finance college education.

Third, as I said, it will extend health insurance to 5 million uninsured children. This is a major breakthrough in our efforts to move toward coverage for all Americans.

Fourth, it will give businesses incentives and work with mayors to hire people from welfare to work. It will also, as I said, address the concerns I raised in last year's welfare law -- restoring benefits to disabled legal immigrants and moderating excessive cuts in food stamps, along with giving the states a reserve, so that if people would be unjustly cut off food stamps because they simply cannot go to work, the states will be able to avoid malnutrition and real harm to those people in these cases.

Fifth, it will protect the environment, providing funds to clean up 500 of our most dangerous toxic waste sites, cleaning up toxic sites in urban areas and adding resources for environment enforcement.

Six, it includes tax relief for the American people, but, thanks to the rules of the Senate and the agreement of the leaders, the tax relief will be limited and we'll know the dollar amount not only for the first five years, but for the second five years following, so that we will not run the risk of having an explosion in the deficit as a result of unintended leaks in a tax program -- so that when we tell the American people we're going to balance the budget we know we can keep it balanced and we won't get ourselves back into the difficulties we've seen over the last 15 years.

Like Americans of all political views, I have been deeply committed to this, but I wanted a balanced budget with balanced values. I believe we have got it today. There are things in this budget that -- not everyone will find something that he or she disagrees with; everyone could find something that he or she wishes were in the budget. There is no perfect agreement, but as I said, we know America is more prosperous when we have fiscal discipline, when we invest in our future, and when we do it in the right way. We have evidence of that.

It will never get any easier to do this job. Senator Lott made that point to me on the phone the other night -- he said, you know, when you're doing well, it's easier to balance the budget than it is when you're not. This is not going to get any easier, we have to do it now. And I said, I agree with you, and we are going to do it.

So I ask Americans of all political parties and all philosophies to look at this plan, give it your support. Let's balance the budget and get on about the new business of preparing America for a new century.

And I thank you, and I'd like to ask Senator Daschle now and come up and say a word.

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. I just can't help saying there for a moment I thought the Vice President was sad he's not going to get to cast another tie-breaker in this vote. (Laughter.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q Mr. President, during the campaign, you repeatedly expressed concern about cuts -- potential cuts in Medicaid and Medicare. Are you satisfied that no one will be hurt --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q -- in the changes?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I am. This -- let me say, first of all, I think we have improved the Medicaid program in this budget agreement -- and I want to make full disclosure here -- with the full support of the Republican negotiators, over and above what it was in the budget I

presented. Now, that's been made possible partly because we know the economy is getting better -- but we have.

The Medicare program, I'm convinced, first of all, the savings in Medicare which I proposed, meeting the Republicans halfway between our differences last time, are, by and large, rooted in policy, which I believe is good policy, designed not only to save money for five years but to save money over the long run. We need to change some of the policies to show appropriate discipline. They don't hurt people, but they will impose more rigor in the system.

The modest one-dollar-a-month premium for home health services I think is an appropriate contribution, given the fact that people, I believe, at 120 percent of the poverty line and down are exempted. I think it's an appropriate contribution for what is the fastest growing element of the Medicare program and something that -- 50 percent, they just told me, are excluded, and below. The home health part is the fastest growing part of Medicare, and has not been subject to any premium, and I think should. There should be some contribution, just as is associated with other elements of Part B. But it will not be burdensome, and the aggregate premium will still be much lower than would have been the case if we had -- if I hadn't vetoed the budget in '95.

So I think we've reached out to the health care experts in our caucus and in the Republican caucus. We've reached out to interest groups throughout the country that would be affected by this. I believe they will support this. I believe there will be broad support for this, and I think it will be seen for just what it is. It will preserve and strengthen the integrity of the Medicare program for a decade. We can't responsibly let this trust fund get down to a year or two and just kick it down the road for another year or two. We need to keep it a decade or more out all the time.

Q Senator Daschle described this as an agreement that was tentatively reached 24 hours ago. Can you give us an idea of what transpired between that point and now? (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it would be --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Sausage. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: Let me just say, I think what Senator Daschle said is accurate, but let me try to recast it a little bit. We had some broad outlines 24 hours ago. We went back to our folks, they went back to theirs to talk about some details. We came back with some details, they came back with some details. We got some of the details we wanted and some we just had to abandon -- and knowing that there will still be disagreements within various categories as this budget comes up.

Keep in mind, this is an agreement. Then it has to be embodied in law. Then it has to be embodied in specific appropriation bills and tax bills this year and in the years to come. So there is still some room for some debate between the two parties and within the two parties over some issues. But the framework is pretty specific -- guarantees the essential elements that were necessary to get the Democrats and the Republicans to support it, and to get the President to support it.

So we did get some more specifics in and had to leave some more specifics out in the last 24 hours, but I think, in fairness to the Republicans with -- as I said, I am convinced they negotiated with me and with Senator Lautenberg and Mr. Spratt in complete good faith. And in fairness to them, without talking to them about it, I don't think I should characterize exactly what happened in the last 24 hours.

Q Mr. President, how big is the tax cut in the package? Can you give us any indication? Who will get tax relief?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a tax cut of a net of \$85 billion, which is -- over five years -- which is considerably smaller than we were, and they were, discussing. And then in the second five years, it must not exceed about -- what is it? About \$170 billion, \$165 billion, something like that.

And you'll get briefings on that; back at the White House they'll explain it. But also, we have gone as far as we could -- keep in mind, the tax-writing committees were not part of this negotiating process, the budget committees were. So let me finish. We have gone as far as we could also in discussing what the components are. You know the things the Republicans want in it. You know we want an education tax cut as well as some environmental relief for brownfields and some other very specific things, and we want to protect the tax cuts that are progressive in our tax code, particularly the earned income tax credit for low income people, the low income housing credit, and we want to try to protect the pension programs from being raided. And we've gone about as far as we can in doing that in an agreement that does not include the leaders of the tax-writing committee.

And Secretary Rubin, who is our guardian on that, finally signed off and said, well, this is the best we're going to be able to do.

Q Mr. President, the Republicans are happy they got their tax cut, you're happy you got your investments. It can't all be win-win. What did you have to give up? Where will Americans feel a pinch? Where's the sacrifice?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, they're taking a smaller tax cut than they had originally sought. We're providing larger savings in this budget than previously in Medicare and in other areas. But the growth in the economy has made it easier than it otherwise would have been. And we've all acknowledged that. I think we have to acknowledge that.

So, for example, the difficult questions that had been raised around the CPI, the cost of living adjustment for benefits. The sense of both sides is that that should continue to be handled in the ordinary course of business, that there will be an adjustment of some kind coming out of the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the process, that we have a fairly good idea of what it is. But even if it's not sufficient to cover everything -- and they acknowledge they can't analyze all the relevant factors -- that is an issue which now can be handled outside of this budget negotiations. And that is an issue which would have been very difficult here.

Q Mr. President, how big a selling job do you still have?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. We're going to have to see how the Democrats and Republicans react to it. The Democrats will think that the tax cuts are too big and too skewed to people with high incomes. The Republicans will think that we're investing too much in education and other things, I think -- many of them may think that. And I'm sure that there will be some on both sides who won't vote for it. And then some people will be disappointed that, even though we did some good reform in the Medicare program, that without a consumer price adjustment that's larger, some will say we're not doing enough to save Social Security.

My argument is we can look at saving Social Security independent of this; let's balance the budget. We don't have to mix the two and we can take that on its own merits.

But there will be a lot of things in here that -- as I said, no one will look at this budget and say, this is perfect; it has everything in it I want and there's nothing in it I don't like. So everybody will say I wish something was in it -- were in it that isn't; I wish that there were things that are in it that weren't. But I think we've got a good shot at getting the majority of both parties in both Houses, which has been my goal from the day one. And if it happens, America will be much better off.

Keep in mind, the bottom line is, if we show discipline here and keep interest rates down by balancing the budget, the American people in the private sector will grow the economy for us. That solves a lot of problems. If we show discipline in continuing to invest in our future,

then we will grow the economy in a way that will give us high-wage jobs, higher incomes and greater equality, which will solve our problems for us.

And meanwhile, we'll have a little honest -- an honorable compromise; that's part of the way the process works.

Thank you. There will be a briefing on more specifics down at the White House shortly.

END

4:25 P.M. EDT

SEVEN ACTION STEPS IN RESPONSE TO SCHOOL TRAGEDIES

1. Listening to Children

SEC. RILEY

The Attorney General and you will meet directly with children

2. Effective Programs

Safe and Drug Free School Program is "redirected" based on new principles of effectiveness that go into effect on July 1, 1998

3. Shifting Resources to Prevention

You join the Attorney General in calling for the Congress to fund prevention programs particularly in proposed juvenile delinquency legislation.

4. Early Warning Signs

forms [The Dept of Education and the Dept of Justice working with the National Association of School Psychologists will develop a guide for teachers and principals that will be ready in the early fall.]

5. Linking Schools to Other Community Services

Working with the Surgeon General the Secretary will seek to develop greater links between schools and mental health and other community services

6. Developing Model Crisis Management Plans

separate Working with the Dept of Justice the Dept of Education will develop a model crisis management plan

7. A major study of alternative schools

The Dept of Education will develop a major study of alternative schools and other ways to turn around the lives of young people who are expelled from school.

Teen Violence Spawned by Guns and Cultural Rot

There has been a predictable political response after the rash of tragic killings by children at schools from Springfield, Ore., to Jonesboro, Ark.

Liberals cry for tougher gun-control laws: if only these deranged youths didn't have easy access to guns, many of these atrocities wouldn't happen, they say.

Conservatives place much of the blame on popular culture; Hollywood and television are overwhelmingly violence-oriented, the argument goes, and the music industry is a real villain for pandering



Politics & People

By Albert R. Hunt

to the worst instincts of kids by glorifying sexual obscenities and bestial brutality.

Both arguments are exaggerations. Some of these teenage perpetrators don't fit into any stereotypes. Slate, Microsoft's always interesting on-line magazine, noted that Kip Kinkel, the teenager in Springfield who killed his parents and two schoolmates, came from a good family that tried to teach him how to use guns safely and didn't give him easy access. His only known entertainment vices were cartoons. Others are simply mentally unbalanced kids, a type that has always existed: Luke Woodham, the 17-year-old Pearl, Miss., kid who killed his mother and a classmate, testified that demons instructed him to do it.

More importantly, however, both sides also make important points. There is room for common cause, say some diverse but very smart people who worry a lot about violence: politicians like Sen. Joe Lieberman (D., Conn.) and Bill Bennett, a prominent Republican, and scholars like criminologist John DiIulio and psychiatrist Alvin Poussaint.

"The music pounds and pounds with messages of violence and degradation of women; if you talk to people on the streets, they will tell you this is public-enemy number one," says Mr. DiIulio of Princeton University. But he also suggests that for any antiviolenence program to work, "You have to make it impossible for kids to get easy access to guns."

Similarly, Dr. Poussaint, who teaches at Harvard, notes that easy access to guns makes the problems much worse. Gun defenders say you could still murder with a knife but one kid I was interviewing pointed out that you can't have a drive-by shooting with a knife. "But he also believes the culture's romanticization of violence in movies, television and music—certainly contributes to a general disregard for authority—children see or hear this over and over again and they become a little bit more numb to violence."

Messrs. Lieberman and Bennett have teamed up to try to focus public scrutiny on what they term "cultural rot," ranging from gangster-rap music to Jerry Springer's television show. They have embarrassed some major corporations, like Seagram's, by spotlighting how they reap big profits from these obscenities. Mr. Bennett, the conservative icon says, "It's just dumb not to recognize how dangerous it is to so easily put guns in kids' hands."

Of course there are larger societal problems. But while violence in general has declined over the last several years, it is rising among teenagers, and certainly any short-term efforts to address this should focus on both guns and popular culture.

Movie actor Charlton Heston, the new president of the National Rifle Association, insisted this week that the school shootings were "a child issue, not a gun issue." Does Mr. Heston think that the people killed in Jonesboro would have been

just as vulnerable to a bow and arrow? Or does he believe the four-year-old in Greensboro, N.C., who shot and killed his six-year-old neighbor in April is a "child problem"?

Next week the most important antigun legislation of this session will be offered by Democratic Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, a

'We live in a culture which seems dedicated to the corruption of the young, to assuring the loss of their innocence before their time.'

—Bill Bennett

Do you favor or oppose legislation that would hold adults criminally responsible if they allow children access to firearms that are used to injure or kill?

FAVOR ☒ 75%

OPPOSE ☐ 21%

* Poll taken April 18-20, 1998.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL/NBC NEWS POLL

suburban New York nurse and mother who got into politics after her husband was killed by a crazed gunman on a commuter train. The measure would crack down on dealers who sell to kids, require manufacturers to make safer guns and penalize adults who allow children easy access to a firearm that is then used to kill or injure someone.

The gun lobby, with its huge campaign contributions, is convinced Republican congressional leaders will thwart this initiative. They probably are right but some politicians may pay a price, as did Ms. McCarthy's NRA-backing predecessor.

Polls indicate strong support for such measures.

There's also a growing public backlash against the plethora of violent movies, television, video games and music. David Walsh, director of the National Institute on Media and the Family, notes that it's estimated the average American kid has seen 200,000 acts of violence on television by the time he or she graduates from high school. Try to take your kids to a movie that is devoid of violence or sex. Or just look at some of the graphic violence in the best-selling video games.

Nothing is more offensive than some of the music. After Mitchell Johnson, 13, and Drew Golden, 11, killed five people and injured 10 at Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, one of the teachers conducted an exhaustive survey. The results showed that Mitchell Johnson was a fanatical devotee of two gangster-rap artists, the late Tupac Shakur and Bone Thugs & Harmony. Both are full of vulgarity, degrading to women and advocate blasting people with guns. In the three-school survey, a majority of kids listened to these groups and said their parents didn't have a clue as to their lyrics.

Bill Bennett and Joe Lieberman know there are clear First Amendment issues here and wisely don't advocate any bans. But they want to embarrass those who produce this trash. "The weapon of choice for our side is shame," says Mr. Bennett. "We have to be ashamed instead of this anything goes crap."

Defenders of this rot insist there is no reliable data that links violence to culture. That flies in the face of common sense. If Frank Sinatra songs make people feel romantic and John Phillips Sousa makes people feel patriotic, then the obscene violence of shock rocker Marilyn Manson or gangsta-rapper Snoop Doggy Dog might encourage impressionable and troubled teenagers to feel perverted or violent.

School-Voucher Drive Bolstered By Court Action

By JUNE KRONHOLZ

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

In a huge boost to the school-choice movement, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that public money can be used to pay the tuition of low-income Milwaukee youngsters to attend church-affiliated schools.

The decision is likely to invigorate school-voucher legislation that has been shelved in other states, while arguments over whether vouchers violate the constitutional separation of church and state work their way through the courts.

Meanwhile, Congress moved toward giving its own boost to school choice yesterday by agreeing to a tax-free education savings-account plan that parents could use for, among other things, private-school tuition.

Opponents of the Wisconsin court ruling, including the teachers unions, said they expect to appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. That is exactly what voucher promoters want, however, because a favorable ruling would deprive reluctant legislatures and even Congress of their justification for opposing vouchers.

The Wisconsin court upheld a school-voucher plan that allowed as many as 15% of Milwaukee low-income school children, chosen in a lottery, to transfer to private schools of their choice. The state would pay either the actual tuition or as much as it would spend on the child if he or she remained in public school. The amount it paid in tuition would be deducted from the public school's budget.

Supporters Cite Competition

Supporters of the plan, including Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, contend that competition for students will force improvements in the Milwaukee public schools which, like most big-city schools, suffer from low test scores, poor teaching and high drop-out rates. Opponents, in addition to arguing that the voucher plan would use public money to support private schools, argue that it will drain the public schools of resources.

Privately funded voucher plans operate in 56 cities, says the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think tank that tracks the school-choice movement. But because of church-state concerns, the only publicly funded voucher plans are small programs in Cleveland, Milwaukee, Vermont and Maine, and all of those plans are being challenged in court. Congress passed a small voucher plan for Washington, D.C., last month—the first time voucher proponents have won a vote in both the House and Senate—but it was vetoed by President Clinton, who cited church-state separation

as one of his reasons for opposing the idea.

With the few voucher plans tied up in court, school-choice advocates have instead turned their support to tax credits or tax deductions for parents who send their children to private school. A House-Senate conference committee yesterday agreed on legislation that would allow parents to put as much as \$2,000 a year into a tax-free savings account for elementary and high-school expenses, including private-school tuition.

President Clinton has indicated that he would veto the measure, again on grounds that it would deprive public schools of money and some of their best students. The compromise legislation dropped other elements that the President opposed, including a ban on national testing and an amendment that would end most federal education programs by turning the funds into block grants for the states, but the White House said last night that the president still intends to veto it.

With those changes, Senate Republicans said they picked up seven Democratic votes, still not enough to override a veto.

Gov. Thompson predicted the Wisconsin court decision would "add a great deal of impetus nationally" to the voucher movement. The Institute for Justice, a Washington conservative activist group

which is arguing all five state voucher cases, said Texas, Pennsylvania and Colorado were closest to passing their own voucher plans.

Issue of Educational Value

In its 4-2 ruling, the Wisconsin court declined to rule on the educational value of voucher plans. Indeed, neither side in the debate has proven that vouchers either improve learning or don't make any difference.

The court also didn't discuss what will happen to the Milwaukee schools if 15% of low-income students leave and take their state funding with them. As it is, the state pays \$4,900 for every student in the Milwaukee schools, while the average private-school tuition in the city is \$2,800.

The court said the voucher plan didn't broach the church-state separation, because Wisconsin pays the tuition to parents, who turn it over to the schools, and because students could choose not to take religious classes. About 4,000 students take part in the voucher plan now. None attend parochial school, because of restrictions placed on the program while the case was in court. But as many as 15,000 students would be eligible, and Gov. Thompson predicted perhaps 10,000 would enroll this fall.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1998

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Inaugural

Info Age
Indispensable nation

"Govt is not the prob, + govt is not the soln."

- resolved great debate over role of govt
- as times change, govt changes
- ~~not~~ ^{neither} guarantees nor benign neglect, but
create opp. for all Am.
- meeting obligations (IA, p. 4)

Challenge: come together or apart?

One nation, one people, or many?

Face constant curse of race
begin great dialogue

SDTU

econ; ↓ crime + welf. rolls

Call to action: prepare for 21st c. (2)

Plan to balance budget

Chemical weapons treaty

support ratification of Chem weapons conv.

FDR memorial

1st such occasion in 50 yrs.
preserve values in time of change
committed over. irrevocably to Am at home + abroad

Foreword

In 1996, the American people came together in a spirit of new optimism about ourselves, our country, and our future. It was a time of significant legislative achievement. Most notably, I signed into law landmark welfare reform ending a system that had trapped millions in a cycle of dependency. Within days, I also signed into law an increase in the minimum wage, signed legislation making it possible for people to take their health insurance with them as they move from job to job, and announced unprecedented steps by the Food and Drug Administration to protect children from the dangers of tobacco. These and other steps, and the continuing success of the American economy, inspired in our people a renewed sense of hope and confidence that our political system could meet our challenges.

Above all, this was a time when I sought to challenge the American people to turn toward the future. In August, at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, and in talks with voters across the Nation, I declared our mission must be "to build a bridge to the 21st Century." I have used this metaphor for years. But in the hundreds of hand-painted banners at rallies, in the handmade bridges that were sent to my office by the dozens, in the thousands of letters we received, I could see that this time, this image had touched a nerve. Why? I believe "the bridge" evoked both the hope and the challenge of the new century. Our people know that this new era, with its stunning leaps of technology, rapid globalization, and many social changes, offers remarkable opportunities for our people. But they also know they need education, skills, and confidence to reap the rewards of this time. As I told so many audiences, it must be a bridge "wide enough and strong enough for every American to walk across."

Vice President Gore and I were humbled and deeply gratified when the American people chose to ratify our course and return us to office for a second term. The election amounted to a ringing endorsement of the "vital center"—a call to both parties to set aside narrow agendas and work together in the national interest. That is what we pledged to do. And as I told the American people on election night, before the Old State House in Little Rock, Arkansas, "We've got a bridge to build—and I'm ready if you are."

William J. Clinton

Foreword

In 1996, our Nation strived to make the American dream a reality for all who would work for it, to continue as the world's strongest force for peace, freedom, and democracy, and to build a stronger country.

In my State of the Union Address, I discussed the age of possibility in which we live and issued seven challenges to the country: strengthen families, improve education, enhance economic security, preserve our natural environment, fight against crime and drugs, maintain our world leadership, and reinvent Government. I said we would meet these challenges by working in partnership with all of our citizens, through State and local governments, in the workplace, in religious, charitable, and civic associations. The era of big government is over, yet we cannot go back to the time when our citizens were left to fend for themselves. We must give all our people the tools to make the most of their own lives.

During the first half of the year, I worked to enable the American people to meet these challenges—by helping those communities that wanted to instill discipline in young people through community curfews, school uniforms, and truancy enforcement; by handing the television remote control back to parents through the v-chip and a television ratings system; and by calling upon the tobacco industry to stop the massive marketing campaigns that appeal to children. In all the actions I took, my paramount goal was to help families meet their responsibilities, and succeed both at home and at work.

During this period, I also worked beyond our borders to advance our Nation's interests in security and prosperity. At a special summit in Moscow, President Yeltsin and I took important steps to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons. With our partners in Japan and South Korea, we strengthened our military alliances and our common efforts to increase economic growth for the future. In the wake of a series of terrorist attacks in the Middle East, I traveled to Egypt for a landmark "Summit of the Peacemakers" that the United States co-hosted, bringing together an unprecedented number of regional leaders who are committed to building peace with security. We also saw, once again, that our global leadership can impose great sacrifice. Americans felt tremendous sorrow after the tragic death of my friend, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. That loss strengthened our determination to continue his mission so that economic reconstruction goes forward in the Balkans and peace takes hold.

In a series of commencement addresses, I set forth the challenges that I believed our country faced as it approached the new century, culminating in the national goal, announced at Princeton University, of making the 13th and 14th years of education—the first two years of college—as universal as high school is today. To meet that goal, I proposed a Hope Scholarship tax credit to help every American get the education he or she needs.

This was a time when America began to regain its self-confidence, coming together around shared national goals, and realizing that when we work together, we can act—and act effectively—to meet our challenges and protect our values.

William Clinton

Foreword

The period from July through December 1995 was an exceptional time. On fundamental issues—the role of Government, our role in the world, and how we can build a strong American community—our people came together after intense debate to forge new approaches that applied our enduring values to the challenges of new times.

During this period, the American people engaged in a great national debate about how best to balance the budget. I proposed and fought for a plan to balance the budget in a way that reflected our values, by strengthening Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment. The congressional majority put forward a plan that I believed did not honor our fundamental values; I vetoed that plan. By year's end, after the congressional majority twice shut down the Government, it was clear that the American people had rallied to our view. We need a smaller Government, but one strong enough to give people the tools to make the most of their own lives.

America also decisively reasserted its role as the world's indispensable nation. On my remarkable trip to Northern Ireland and Ireland—and to Jerusalem, for the funeral of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin—Americans were once again reminded of our unique obligation to lead and to be a force for peace where possible. And in Bosnia, America led the way to bring to an end the bloodiest conflict in Europe since World War II. By committing our troops to help maintain the peace in Bosnia, we recommitted ourselves to being the world's strongest force for peace, freedom, and prosperity.

Perhaps most important, this was a time when we worked to find common ground and bridge the intense divisions of race, religion, and geography that threaten to pull us apart. In a series of speeches, I called on Americans to find common ground. At Georgetown University, I urged a new tone of civility based on the common values that bind us together. In speeches on affirmative action at the National Archives in Washington and in Austin, Texas, I called on all Americans to clean their house of the racism that is still too real among us. And I spoke about the proper role of religion in our lives and communities, arguing that our schools need not be prayer-free zones.

The closing months of 1995 set the course for how our Nation can move confidently toward the 21st century. By holding true to our values—opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and building a strong American community—our Nation passed through this moment of decision stronger than ever before.

William Clinton

Foreword

On a warm May day in the year 1988, I had an opportunity no other President of the United States has ever had before; I stood in the Lenin Hills at a podium at Moscow State University and spoke to Soviet students about the glory and wonder of human freedom. That moment crystalized the year.

In the Communist world, glasnost—openness—was frequently invoked but those who lived under the yoke of communism would not accept mere sloganeering. In Afghanistan, a people suffering invasion and occupation began to see the light at the end of a ghastly ordeal. In the Persian Gulf, Southern Africa, and Cambodia, as well, there was progress toward negotiated settlements. All in all, the suffering peoples of the world made it clear they would not stand for the status quo, and for once they were heard.

In the United States, the Senate consented to the ratification of the first treaty ever to ban an entire class of U.S. and Soviet nuclear missiles—a significant accomplishment, indeed.

Ronald Reagan

Foreword

In my Inaugural Address, I stated that America stood at a moment rich with promise, with new ground to be broken and new action to be taken. And we have succeeded. The first six months of this Administration was a time of growth and stability. Our economy remained strong; in June 1989 we concluded 78 consecutive months of economic expansion. Real per capita income, output, and business fixed investment were at record levels, and unemployment fell to levels not seen in sixteen years.

We moved to build a better America by emphasizing fundamental values. We worked to reinvigorate our competitiveness, conserve and protect our environment, promote educational excellence, increase ethical standards in government, strengthen law enforcement to fight the scourge of drugs and crime, and restore confidence in our savings and loan industry.

Abroad, we began to witness developments in Eastern Europe and other parts of the world that indicated change in the East-West relationship that has predominated since the end of World War II. In the face of these developments, the United States reaffirmed its leadership role in the pursuit of democratic values, arms control, and a strong Western alliance. We dealt with these challenges in a positive and constructive manner. During this period, I traveled to Canada; to Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea; and to Western Europe for a highly successful NATO Summit.

As we look back on the first six months of this Administration, we see a new breeze blowing. We move forward on this breeze, showing the world that the United States will continue to build a better nation at home and to lead in the articulation and demonstration of democratic principles.

George Bush

Foreword

The first half of 1985 was a time of stability both at home and abroad, a time of confidence and of laying the foundation for future progress. By January our country had entered its 27th month of economic recovery. The gross national product was on the rise, while inflation remained low. Throughout the country, a spirit of enterprise flourished as new businesses were started and older businesses—with, in most cases, a significant contribution from labor—reinvigorated their operations and increased productivity.

The Federal Government, in the meantime, struggled with issues fundamental to the future economic well-being and security of our country. Reducing Federal deficit spending was high on the list of priorities. Meeting this challenge, first and foremost, meant getting control of the growth and size of the Federal budget. Many seemingly mundane skirmishes over spending proposals were, in actuality, part of an historic budget battle.

During this time I campaigned, publicly and privately, to build a bipartisan consensus to overhaul the Federal tax system, make it more fair, and bring down the rates. Progress on Capitol Hill was slow, and pessimists were convinced meaningful reform was impossible.

On the foreign front, the United States, bolstered by its economic success, used its influence and power to further the cause of human freedom, promote international economic growth, and preserve peace between the nations. The vitality and scope of cooperation among the Western democracies were reaffirmed on numerous occasions, especially at a highly successful economic summit that took place in Bonn, the Federal Republic of Germany. Other issues vital to our security, such as support for the freedom fighters battling the Communist regime in Nicaragua and America's Strategic Defense Initiative, continued to be the focus of much of the national debate.

The following pages reflect the workings of our great Republic. It is the unfolding history of a free people, a history in which each and every citizen is free to participate.

Ronald Reagan

Armedy

Forward

A. Into the 21st Century

As I surveyed the crowd gathered for my second inaugural address in January, 1997, I saw an America poised to move forward into a new era of hope and possibility. In the twilight of the Twentieth Century, I envisioned a government to lead us into the new millennium: "We need a government for a new century -- humble enough not to try to solve all our problems for us, but strong enough to give us the tools to solve our problem for ourselves; a government that is smaller, which lives, within its means, and does more with less."

- A new era of hope and possibility

B. Economy, Budget, and a government reformed

In the first 6 months of my second term, I challenged

- government

- "Today we declare government is not the problem, and government is not the solution. We -- the American people -- are the solution."

- Longest period of prosperity since
- Budget under control, heading for balance, but protecting and empowering people.

C. America Abroad

- During the first half of 1997, I signed the NATO-Russia Founding Act, a landmark agreement which allowed us to expand the promise of peace and prosperity eastward across the continent of Europe, without drawing a new line of division.
- Chemical Weapons Convention, underlining the commitment of the United States to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Bosnia
- Global Economy - Mexico Speech

D. Building bridges at home: Race, Education

- But as we pushed forward into the global economy of the information age, we made certain to tackle the problems of inequality and division that still hinder our progress at home. We set out to widen the circle of opportunity to include. . .
- UC commencement on Race
- Giving young people the power to decide their own futures.

E. Conclusion: Pushing Ahead

- faster, farther, but not forgetting where we came from (FDR speech quote)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 16, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON BUDGET AGREEMENT

The Rose Garden

11:25 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Less than two weeks ago, the Vice President and I joined with leaders of Congress in announcing a truly historic agreement, a bipartisan agreement to balance the federal budget for the first time in nearly three decades. We knew that only by finishing the job of putting our fiscal house in order could we keep our economy thriving for all Americans. And I knew that because of all the progress we've made in the last four and a half years, we could balance America's books while protecting America's values and preparing the American people for the 21st century. Last night, we took the next significant step toward writing the spirit and substance of that agreement into the law.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman Domenici, Chairman Kasich, Senator Lautenberg and Congressman Spratt for their hard work and their earnest commitment to sticking with this very difficult process to put our balanced budget agreement in writing. I know from my own negotiating team that we would not be here today without their good faith and good efforts. And I am deeply grateful to them.

I also want to thank the congressional leadership who supported this process. And I'd like to thank the people who are here -- the Vice President; Erskine Bowles, who's still a pretty good negotiator even though he's left his beloved private sector; Secretary Rubin; Deputy Secretary Summers; OMB Director Frank Raines; NEC Director Gene Sperling; our CEA Chair, Janet Yellen; and John Hilly, who handles our congressional relations and had one the most difficult and demanding jobs of his life in the last few weeks; OMB Deputy Director Jack Lew.

I'd like to also thank all the people who are here from OMB, Treasury, and perhaps from other agencies who were the team that put the numbers together that made this agreement possible. Thank you. You ought to give yourselves a hand. You did a great job. Thank you. (Applause.)

We have finalized a detailed description of the agreement reached two weeks ago. The document is already before the relevant congressional committees who are now moving the balanced budget resolution through the legislative process at an expedited pace. This agreement will keep in place the economic strategy that has served our nation so well for the last four and a half years.

When I took office, I was determined to reverse the failed policies of the past. Back then, we faced growing deficits as far as the eye could see. It was a time of economic stagnation and high unemployment. We moved quickly in 1993 to put in place a policy of invest and grow -- cut the deficit, invest in our people, open new markets around the world through tough trade agreements.

We are now in the fourth year of the disciplined, tough, five-year economic strategy we put in place in 1993. The results of the strategy are now clear and no longer subject to reasonable debate: 12 million new jobs, the highest economic growth in a decade, the lowest unemployment in 24 years, the lowest inflation in 30 years, the largest decline in income inequality since the 1960s. And the deficit has been cut already by 77 percent. Our economy is now the envy of the world.

That progress has brought us to this rare moment in history and made it possible for us to balance the budget in a way that balances our values. America needs a balanced budget that is in balance with our values; that protects Medicare and Medicaid, education and the environment; that gives tax relief to working families, and that prepares our people for the 21st century. That is exactly what this budget does.

What is important about the agreement is not only what it does on a spreadsheet, but what it will do for our families and our future. It keeps our fundamental commitments to our parents, preserving and protecting Medicare for at least a decade, without steep premium increases. Because of this agreement, 5 million American children will have health care who do not have it today. The agreement protects our air, our water and our land for future generations.

I'm especially pleased that it includes the funds to clean up 500 of our most dangerous toxic waste sites and to go forward with our commitment to preserve and restore the Florida Everglades. It helps to move people from welfare to work by providing tax incentives to businesses to hire welfare recipients, and support for community service jobs in areas of high unemployment. It restores unwise cuts made last year and restores fair treatment to immigrants who legally come to America for the promise it provides. It gives middle class

families tax relief to help sell a home, raise their children and send those children to college. In each of these ways it honors our values.

At the very heart of this agreement, however, is its historic investment in education. This agreement includes the most significant increase in education funding in 30 years. Even more important, it provides the largest single increase in higher education since the G.I. Bill in 1945, more than 50 years ago.

That landmark legislation gave opportunity to millions of Americans and gave birth to the American middle class. That was my goal for this budget: to dramatically expand opportunity through education and give all our children the tools they need to succeed in a new economy in a new century.

That is why I insisted that this balanced budget also be America's education budget. It not only puts our fiscal house in order, it opens the schoolhouse door wider than ever before -- with \$35 billion in tax relief for higher education, including our HOPE Scholarship tuition tax credit to make two years of education after high school as universal as a high school education is today, and tax deductions for all the costs of tuitions after high school.

It includes the largest increase in Pell Grant scholarships for deserving students in three decades. It helps to raise standards in our schools. It funds our America Reads challenge to make sure every 8-year-old can read independently. It helps to bring the information age to our schools so that we can meet the goal that the Vice President has worked so hard for, to connect all of our schools and libraries to the Internet by the year 2000.

All across America last year, I said I wanted a nation in which every 8-year-old would be able to read, every 12-year-old could log on to the Internet, every 18-year-old could go to college, every adult could keep on learning for a lifetime. This balanced budget takes a major stride toward these goals.

This is not only the first balanced budget in a generation; it is an American balanced budget that protects our values for future generations.

So I say to all members of Congress of both parties, take this balanced budget agreement and write it into law. If we stay true to this historic agreement, if we have the courage to eliminate the deficit while dramatically expanding opportunity through education, we will enter the 21st century stronger and better prepared for the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Q Mr. President, two weeks ago, we were told that there was a deal and there was much hoopla. We came to find out at that point that -- if I may use the egg analogy -- that the

shell was relatively thin. How much thicker is the shell now, and can this egg still crack up, so to speak?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, I think we did have a deal two weeks ago. And I think the fact that we've reached agreement in writing on the details is evidence that there was one.

But when you agree on broad principles and you have long hours of negotiations, there's still some difficulties involved in writing the details of the agreement down, making sure everybody remembers it the same way, that you've got the kind of accord you need. So this is a huge step forward because now we have a much more detailed committed to writing.

Wolf?

Q Mr. President, I wonder now that the Senate has rejected Senate Daschle's compromise proposal on the late-term abortion procedure, I wonder if there is any way that you think language could be crafted that would avoid your having to veto Senator Santorum's legislation once again?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course. I have nothing to add to what I have said on this all along. What I need to do is to be convinced that no woman will be grievously harmed by this legislation, and that no woman will be put in the position, for example, of being so harmed that she will never be able to have further children because of this legislation. You know what my concerns are; I've made them abundantly clear.

I must say, I regret that Senator Daschle's legislation did not pass because it would have reduced the number of abortions by far, far more -- light-years more than the Santorum bill. The Santorum bill may not reduce the number of abortions by one.

So what we don't want to do is to, in effect, not reduce the number of abortions in the third trimester, which the Supreme Court permits us to do, and which I've invited the Congress to do ever since I got here, and at the same time put a lot of women's health at risk in a way that is unwise and unconstitutional.

Q Mr. President, what are your thoughts on Mobutu losing power in Zaire?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I want to make a couple of points on it. It does appear that he has left Kinshasa. The United States position is clear: We want to see a transition to a genuine democracy. The second point I want to make is that President Mandela of South Africa has done a superb job of exercising leadership in this area, and the United States is supporting him and his efforts. And I want the whole world to get behind the leadership that Nelson Mandela is showing there and to do what we can to support Africa in taking one of the largest and most important

nations in Africa and promoting a democratic transition. That is what I think is important.

Thank you very much.

END

11:35 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 29, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON THE BUDGET

The South Lawn

2:50 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. Ladies and gentlemen, we have the pleasure of announcing today an historic agreement that will benefit generations of Americans. Last night we reached agreement with Congress on detailed legislation to balance the budget in a way that honors our values, invests in our people and cuts taxes for middle class families. After decades of deficits, we have put America's fiscal house in order again. (Applause.)

Above all, we are investing in education, America's most important priority. I am particularly pleased that the first balanced budget in a generation is also the best education budget in a generation and the best for future generations. (Applause.)

This agreement meets my goal of balancing the budget in a way that honors our values, invests in our people and prepares America for the 21st century. It is very, very good for our country. It's a victory for every parent who wants a good education for their children, for every child in a poor household who needs health care, for every immigrant struggling to make it here, for every family working to build a secure future. It is the best investment we can make in America's future.

Let me underscore the magnitude of this achievement. Four and a half years ago, when this administration took office, America's budget deficit was \$290 billion and rising. We put in place a comprehensive economic strategy to cut the deficit and invest in our people. The budget plan adopted in 1993 made a large contribution to today's conditions in America -- a strong economy, low inflation, and a deficit that has already shrunk by more than 80 percent.

The budget agreement that we announced today would not be possible had it not been for the tough vote taken in 1993 to set us on the right path. (Applause.) Thank you. Now, this legislation will help to ensure the conditions for continued prosperity, keeping interest rates down and spurring investment. And, just as important, it will give our people the tools to reap the rewards of economic growth. Let me mention just a few of the details of this plan.

First, at the heart of this balanced budget is the historic investment in education -- the

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First, at the heart of this balanced budget is the historic investment in education -- the

most significant increase in education funding in more than 30 years. It includes \$35 billion in tax relief to help families pay for college and training -- the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill 50 years ago. (Applause.) It will give every American who needs it a HOPE Scholarship to pay for the first two years of college. It gives tax relief for all four years of college and for education throughout a lifetime. The overall budget agreement also includes the largest increase in Pell Grant Scholarships for deserving students in three decades, funds our America Reads Challenge, helps to connect all our schools and libraries to the Internet by the year 2000.

As the spending bills move forward in weeks to come, we will work to see that they reflect this agreement. I am pleased that this legislation also will give communities substantial tax cuts to help to build and modernize our schools. (Applause.)

All across America, I have challenged our people to make sure that every 8-year-old can read, every 12-year-old can log onto the Internet, every 18-year-old can go to college, every adult can keep learning for a lifetime. This balanced budget makes unprecedented progress toward those goals.

Second, this is a balanced budget that strengthens our families by extending health insurance coverage to up to 5 million children. (Applause.) By investing fully \$24 billion we will be able to provide quality medical care for these children, everything from regular check-ups to major surgery. I want to thank all of the people in Congress and among my fellow Democrats here who worked so hard on the health care issue, but I especially want to say a thanks to Senator Kennedy, Senator Rockefeller and to the First Lady for what they have done over these years to help us to reach this important day. (Applause.)

We want every child in America to grow up healthy and strong and this investment takes a major step toward that goal. I'm also pleased that Congress agreed to pay for the children's health care in part with a new 15-cents-a-pack tax on cigarettes. Not only will this new revenue help to pay for health care, it will help prevent children from taking up smoking in the first place. (Applause.)

Third, this is a balanced budget that provides modest tax relief to the middle class, helping families to raise their children, buy and sell a home, save for their retirement with expanded IRAs and send their children to college. We fought very hard to make sure this tax cut helped a wide range of middle class parents, all those who are working hard to raise their children, pay their taxes and be good citizens, and the agreement does just that. (Applause.)

Fourth, this is a balanced budget that will help us finish the job of welfare reform, providing \$3 billion to move welfare recipients to private sector jobs, keeping our promise made last year to provide \$12 billion to restore disability and health benefits for 350,000 legal immigrants. And, as the Vice President will describe, it will double the number of empowerment zones to bring the spark of private enterprise to our hardest-pressed neighborhoods. (Applause.)

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Finally, this is a balanced budget that honors our commitment to our parents by extending the Medicare Trust Fund for a decade and to the next generation by continuing our commitment to the environment to protect our air, our land, our water, to clean up the worst toxic waste sites in the nation. And we achieve all these goals while eliminating the budget deficit by 2002. We are determined never again to repeat the mistakes of the past, when we mortgaged our economy to reckless policies. This budget reforms and cuts yesterday's government so that we can help provide our people the means to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Let me thank the negotiators for the administration who did a superb job, all the democratic lawmakers here and, indeed, all of the members of Congress who worked hard on this legislation. I also want to say a special word of appreciation to Senator Lott and Speaker Gingrich, to Senator Domenici and Congressman Kasich and to their committee chairs, who worked with us across the lines of substantial philosophical and practical differences to reach a good faith agreement that is an honorable and principled compromise. And especially let me thank Senators Daschle and Lautenberg, Congressman Spratt and Congressman Rangel for their leadership.

This agreement is a monument to the efforts that people, who good will can make, when they put aside partisan interests to work together for the common good and our common future. It reflects the values and aspirations of all Americans. And I hope and expect it will marshal strong majorities of both parties in both houses.

This summer we had an historic opportunity to strengthen America for the 21st century and we have seized it. Now our nation can move forward stronger, more vibrant, more united than ever. For that, I am profoundly grateful.

Now I'd like to ask the Vice President to come forward and let me thank you all again for this great, great day. (Applause.)

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Wait, wait. We forgot to say one thing. We still have to pass this agreement. (Laughter.) And so, tomorrow, the next day -- and I hope it will be over by then -- all of us who are for it, in both parties, have a solemn obligation to go out there and try to keep moving and keep this spirit alive and actually pass it. We are celebrating an agreement; we still have to celebrate the passage of the bill and then the signing of the bill, and I look forward to being here for that with all of you and others as well.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

3:25 P.M. EDT

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3:25 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 5, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT SIGNING OF
THE BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997
AND THE TAXPAYERS RELIEF ACT OF 1997

The South Lawn

11:33 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Senator Lautenberg, members of Congress, ladies and gentlemen: We come here today, Democrats and Republicans, Congress and President, Americans of goodwill from all points of view and all walks of life, to celebrate a true milestone for our nation. In a few moments I will sign into law the first balanced budget in a generation -- a balanced budget that honors our values, puts our fiscal house in order, expands vistas of opportunity for all our people, and fashions a new government to lead in a new era.

Like every generation of Americans before us, we have been called upon to renew our nation and to restore its promise. For too long, huge, persistent and growing budget deficits threatened to choke the opportunity that should be every American's birthright. For too long it seemed as if America would not be ready for the new century, that we would be too divided, too wedded to old arrangements and ideas. It's hard to believe now, but it wasn't so very long ago that some people looked at our nation and saw a setting sun.

When I became President, I determined that we must believe and make sure that America's best days were still ahead. After years in which the deficit drained our economy and dampened our spirit, in which our ability to lead the world was diminished by our inability to put our own house in order, after years in which too many people doubted whether our nation would ever come together again to address this problem, we set off on a new economic course -- to cut the deficit, to create the conditions in which business could thrive, to open more foreign markets to our goods and services, to invest in our people so that all Americans would have the tools they need to make the most of their own lives.

Today, our budget deficit has been cut by more than 80 percent. It is now among the smallest in the industrialized world as a percentage of our economy. Our businesses once again lead in world markets, now made more open, more free, more fair than ever before through our

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efforts. Our workers are clearly the most competitive on Earth, and we have recast our old government so that a new one can take shape that does give our people the tools to make the most of their God-given abilities.

This year, we -- Democrats and Republicans alike -- were given the opportunity and the responsibility to finish the job of balancing the budget for the first time in almost 30 years, and to do it in a way that prepares Americans to enter the next century, stronger than ever. By large, bipartisan majorities in both Houses, we have risen to that challenge.

The balanced budget I sign into law today will continue our successful economic strategy. It reflects the most fundamental values that brought us together. It will spur growth and spread opportunity. Even after we pay for tax cuts penny by penny, there will still be \$900 billion in savings, including half a trillion dollars in entitlement savings over the next 10 years. It opens the doors of college to a new generation, with the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill 50 years ago. (Applause.)

It makes it possible for the 13th and 14th years of college to become as universal as high school is today. It strengthens our families with the largest expansion in health care for children since the Medicaid program 32 years ago. It modernizes Medicare and extends the life of the trust fund for a decade. It helps our communities to rebuild, to move a million more people from welfare to work, to bring the spark of private enterprise back to our most isolated inner city neighborhoods. It provides the largest tax relief to help families raise their children, save for the children and pass on their home and a dream to the next generation. These tax cuts are the equivalent of a \$1,000 raise in take-home pay for the average family with two children.

For so many Americans, what goes on here in Washington often seems abstract and remote, unrelated to their daily concerns. Well, this balanced budget deals with the big issues of the deficit and long-term economic growth in ways that respond to the practical challenges ordinary American citizens face every single day.

Because we have acted, millions of children all across this country will be able to get medicine, and have their sight and hearing tested, and see dentists and doctors for the first time. Millions of young Americans will be able to go on to college. Millions of Americans not so young will be able to go back to school to get the education and training they need to succeed in life. Millions of families will have more to spend on their own children's needs and upbringing. This budget is an investment in their future and in America's.

Today, it should be clear to all of us, without regard to our party or our differences, that, in common, we were able to transform this era of challenge into an era of unparalleled possibility for the American people. I hope we can tap this spirit of cooperation and use it to meet and master the many challenges that remain before us.

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I want to thank especially Congressman Spratt and Senator Lautenberg, Congressman Rangel and the other members of the House and Senate Democratic minority leaders in the committees for the work they did. I thank all the members of the Congress who are here present and the many whom they represent who are already back home, who could not be. All of them deserve our thanks, and I would like to ask the members of the Congress who are here today to stand and be recognized and appreciated by the crowd. (Applause.)

I'd like to thank the members of our budget team: Erskine Bowles, Secretary Rubin, John Hilley, OMB Director Raines, Gene Sperling, Jane Yellen, Rahm Emanuel, Jack Lew, Larry Summers, Chris Jennings and many others, especially those who work in our legislative shop, too numerous to mention, for the enormous work that they did on this agreement. (Applause.)

I would like to thank the First Lady, Mrs. Gore, the Vice President for their concern for the health of our children, for the mental health of the American people -- and the Vice President, especially, who led the fight to protect our urban initiatives and our environmental program and the interests of legal immigrants in America. We owe to them a great deal. (Applause.)

Again, I say to all, I thank you. I believe that together we have fulfilled the responsibility of our generation to guarantee opportunity to the next generation; the responsibility of our generation to take America into a new century, where there is opportunity for all who are responsible enough to work for it, where we have a chance to come together across all of our differences as a great American community, where we will be able to continue to lead the world toward peace and freedom and prosperity. That is worthy work and you have all contributed doing it.

We can say with pride and certainty that those who saw the sun setting on America were wrong. The sun is rising on America again. And I thank you all. (Applause.)

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