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DETROIT

CREATING OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

[There] needs to be a new partnership between Washington and the communities and the individuals of this country, and there needs to be a way of doing business in which we try to create the conditions in which people can seize opportunities for themselves."

President Clinton
January 17, 1994

America's cities and rural communities continue to be a vital component of the American way of life. President Clinton is committed to investing in our communities and our people to provide opportunity and hope to all Americans. The President has launched initiatives that promote economic opportunity and job growth in America's communities by focusing on helping people help themselves.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Empowerment Zones (EZ) and Enterprise Communities (EC)

- Thirteen years after the first federal enterprise zone legislation was introduced, President Clinton's Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Community initiative became law.
- The President's initiative includes **\$2.5 billion in tax incentives** and **\$1.3 billion in flexible grants** to spur local communities to address barriers to economic growth.
- Over **500 communities** across America took up the "EZ" challenge, submitting strategic plans for revitalizing their communities. Last December, President Clinton and Vice President Gore announced 105 winners -- nine urban and rural EZs, two supplemental zones, and 95 ECs, four of which received enhanced awards.
- The private/public partnerships that have developed as a result of the EZ/EC application process will be a force for change far into the future. In Detroit, for example, more than **\$2 billion in private-sector commitments** have been pledged. And Baltimore's plan leverages **\$8 in outside resources** for every **\$1 of federal funds**.

Community Development Banks and Financial Institutions

- The CDBFI Act fulfills the President's campaign promise to create a network of community development banks and financial institutions. Their primary mission is to lend, invest, and provide **basic banking services in low- and moderate-income communities**. This initiative will encourage the private sector to work in places it has not gone before. The CDBFI program leverages **\$10 of private investment for every \$1 of federal investment**.
- With \$50 million already appropriated for 1995, and \$1.625 billion requested in the President's Budget over seven years, the CDBFI Act will provide matching capital and other assistance to create and expand new and existing Community Development Banks and Financial Institutions (CDBFI).

Community and Reinvestment Act

- On April 19th, 1995, the banking regulators met the President's directive to reform CRA, the 1977 law to prevent bank redlining. Under the new regulations, banks will be **judged on performance** -- actual lending, investments, and basic banking services -- rather than paperwork. Reform will unleash billions in new credit to low- and moderate income communities. Already, the Community Reinvestment Act has helped increase the number of **mortgage loans** to African Americans and Hispanic Americans by **55% and 42%**, respectively, from 1993 to 1994.
- To reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, a **streamlined examination process** applies to about 80% of all banks and S&Ls.

Other Empowerment Initiatives

- Clinton Administration initiatives are moving millions in new private capital into underserved communities. The Administration permanently extended the **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit** and the **Mortgage Revenue Bond program** to encourage private investors to build affordable housing and to help first-time homebuyers.
- Up to 15 new **SBA One-Stop Capital Shops** will distribute \$3 billion in loans and investment for small and minority business over the next five years.
- **Capital Gains Rollover and Exclusion** -- To encourage capital investment in small and minority-owned business, the-President signed legislation to provide capital gains tax relief for investments in certain venture capital companies.
- The Administration launched the **National Homeownership Strategy**, an innovative partnership between the private sector and government, designed to boost America's national homeownership rate to an all-time high of 67.5 percent, adding 8 million new homeowners by the year 2000. **Homeownership** is already at its **highest level** in 15 years.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

By continuing to help people help themselves, President Clinton is giving people the tools to rebuild our distressed communities, which in the end, will provide economic opportunity to all Americans.

- On March 11, 1996 the President proposed a new tax incentive to spur the private sector to clean up **brownfield sites** -- abandoned, contaminated industrial or commercial properties. This new \$2 billion tax incentive is expected to leverage some \$10 billion in private cleanups nationwide, and return to productive use as many as 30,000 brownfields properties in the U.S., improving environmental and public health protection, and spurring economic development.
- The Administration is proposing a second round of EZ/EC designations to continue to stimulate private-sector investment and economic opportunity in America's urban and rural communities and to connect residents to jobs available throughout the local labor market.

- As in the first round, the President and the Vice President will challenge communities to develop their own comprehensive strategic plans for revitalization, with the input of residents and a wide array of community partners. The Administration will provide tax incentives and grants to those communities that developed the most innovative plans and garnered significant local and private-sector commitments.

Contact: Paul Weinstein
Latest Update: March 13, 1996

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS SAFER

"At last we have begun to find a way to reduce crime, forming community partnerships with local police forces to catch criminals and prevent crime. This strategy, called community policing, is clearly working. Violent crime is coming down all across America... Let's stick with a strategy that is working, and keep the crime rate coming down."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

Over the past three years, the Clinton Administration has made tremendous progress in bringing crime and drug abuse under control. The violent crime and murder rates across the country are falling, thousands of criminals have been prevented from buying guns, and more police are on the street. We must continue to move forward. For while overall crime rates are decreasing, we are witnessing more crime committed by juveniles. President Clinton is committed to stopping any attempts to roll back the progress we have made in reducing crime and will continue in his efforts to put more cops on the street and take guns, drugs, and gangs off the streets.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Broke six years of Congressional gridlock by signing the **toughest and smartest Crime Bill** ever with bipartisan support and endorsements from every major law enforcement organization. This historic legislation:
 - Created the **COPS** program, which is putting **100,000 new community police officers** in cities, towns, and rural areas.
 - Banned **19 of the deadliest assault weapons** and their copies, but specifically protected more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons.
 - Provided the **death penalty for drug kingpins, murderers of law enforcement officers** and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
 - Increased penalties for **sex offenders** and imposed a registration requirement for violent sexual offenders.
 - Included the **Violence Against Women Act**; the first national effort to reduce violence against women ever. The Act tripled funding for **battered women's shelters**, and has already provided **\$26 million in state grants** to bolster law enforcement, prosecution and victims services.
 - Created a nationwide **24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline** that provides immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals.
 - Targeted career violent offenders with a **"Three Strikes and You're Out"** policy that keeps them behind bars for life.
 - Provided **\$7.9 billion in funding for more prison cells** to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
 - Created the **Community Schools Program**, which promotes constructive alternatives for young people after school, in the evening, on weekends and during the summer to prevent involvement in and the victimization by crime.

- Fought for and signed the **Brady Bill**, which has prevented over 60,000 convicted felons, fugitives, stalkers and other criminals from buying handguns.
- Granted awards totalling **\$88 million to assist states in automating and updating their criminal history record systems** to prevent the sale of firearms to prohibited purchasers.
- Launched the **Anti-Violent Crime Initiative** that has led to the arrest and conviction of many of our most violent criminals.
- Provided grants to fight gang activity and youth violence through the **HHS Youth Gang Initiative Program**.
- Provided up to \$1 million to each of 10 urban police departments, through the **COPS Youth Handgun Initiative**, to expand or enhance community policing and enforcement efforts to comprehensively address the rise of youth firearms violence.
- Initiated **Operation Safe Home** in which federal law enforcement agencies are working with public housing residents and managers to increase the arrest and conviction of violent and drug-related suspects so that public housing can be a safer place to live.
- Issued a Presidential Directive to enforce the "**zero tolerance**" measures outlined in the Gun-Free Schools Act.
- Supported **School Athlete Drug Testing** before the Supreme Court, sending the message to parents and students that drug use will not be tolerated in our schools.
- Encouraged schools to adopt **School Uniform Policies**, which promote discipline and respect, and developed a manual for schools to assist them in establishing these policies. The manual will be distributed to 16,000 school districts.

Statistical Backup

- In just over one year, provided funding to hire 33,000 new community policing officers throughout the country.
- The number of **murders** fell **12%** in the first half of 1995 -- the lowest level in more than three decades. The nation's largest **cities** saw their overall **crime** fall **6%** during the same period.
- In two years, the Brady Law has stopped more than **60,000 felons, fugitives, and others** from purchasing handguns.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

While overall crime rates have been dropping, young people today are increasingly the perpetrators -- and the victims -- of some of society's most violent crimes. That is why reducing juvenile crime and violence are key components of President Clinton's continuing crime-fighting agenda: The President is challenging Congress and our communities to get tough with **juvenile criminals** by:

- Directing the **FBI** to wage a coordinated war on **gangs**;
- Submitting to Congress legislation that gives prosecutors the discretion to prosecute **juvenile offenders as adults**.

In addition, the President is challenging:

- Congress to pass his comprehensive **Anti-Terrorism legislation**;
- States to ensure that prisoners serve at least **85%** of their sentences; and
- Local housing authorities to implement a **One-Strike-And-You're-Out** program for public housing for those who commit crime and sell drugs.

While President Clinton is moving forward with additional initiatives to rid our streets and neighborhoods of crime and drugs, he will fight any misguided attempts by Congress to erode our progress -- such as any effort to repeal the **Assault Weapons Ban** or reduce the number of **police** in our communities.

Contact: Dennis Burke DPC 218B 456-5568
Last Update: March 11, 1996

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM DRUGS

"To reduce crime and violence we have to reduce the drug problem. The challenge begins in our homes, with parents talking to their children openly and firmly. It embraces our churches and synagogues, our youth groups and our schools."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

Over the last three years, tremendous progress has been made in reducing overall drug use and related crime in our country. We have dealt serious blows to international criminal networks -- such as the notorious Cali Cartel of Colombia -- that import drugs into our country. We have targeted hardcore users who consume the majority of drugs in this country, expanded drug treatment, and provided prevention programs that work. Despite the significant headway in many areas of drug control, national attention must now focus on the alarming trend of increased adolescent drug use. President Clinton is committed to continuing our progress in reducing drug use and to reversing the trend among youth through a national effort to target youth gangs that deal in illicit drugs, expanded drug treatment, and prevention programs that work.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Made the **National Drug Policy Director** a full Cabinet level position and appointed General Barry McCaffrey (Ret.) as Director.
- Proposed the largest budget ever to combat drugs in FY 1996.
- Dismantled the Cali Drug Cartel with the arrest of 6 of its top leaders.
- Strengthened and expanded the **Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act** which enables schools and school districts to develop and implement violence and drug programs; over 97 percent of the school districts in the country utilize these funds to keep violence and drugs and alcohol away from students and out of schools.
- Issued a Presidential Directive to enforce the "**zero tolerance**" measures outlined in the Gun-Free Schools Act.
- Supported **school athlete drug testing** before the Supreme Court, sending the message to parents and students that drug use will not be tolerated in our schools.
- Convened **first White House Conference ever** that exclusively addressed the issues of adolescent drug use and violence.
- Expanded **drug treatment** for hard-core users to help end the cycle of violence and drug abuse.

- Initiated a **National Drug Media Literacy Campaign** for parents, youth and communities.
- Proposed **restricting youth access to tobacco products** and reducing the advertising and promotional activities that make these products appealing to young persons.
- Provided states and localities resources to make treatment and prevention available with expanded **drug courts, boot camps**, and treatment in our criminal justice system.
- Issued a Presidential Directive to develop a **comprehensive drug testing** program for the Federal criminal justice system and urged states and localities to adopt a similar program.
- First President to decertify Colombia for failure to make progress in halting drug production
- Refused full certification to Andean source countries, which resulted in the arrest of six of the Cali Cartel's top leaders.
- Issued first **Heroin Strategy** to develop international cooperation against heroin.
- Strengthened U.S. Borders by increasing the number of **Border Patrol Agents** and initiating **Operation Hard Line** through the Customs Service.
- Announced a freeze on assets of companies cooperating with the Cali drug cartel, and called for worldwide cooperation in stopping money laundering and narcotics flow.

Statistical Backup

- Overall number of drug users in the United States has decreased dramatically. In 1979 there were 24 million users of illicit drugs and 5 million cocaine users. By 1994, there were only 11 million -- a decrease of more than 50 percent -- and the number of cocaine users has dropped 30 percent in the past 3 years.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

Under the leadership of General Barry McCaffrey (Ret.), the Clinton Administration will continue to implement its concise and action-oriented approach to the drug problem -- (1) reducing the demand for illicit drugs; (2) reducing crime, violence, gangs, and drug availability; (3) enhancing domestic drug program flexibility and efficiency at the community level; and (4) strengthening interdiction and international efforts.

Contact: Dennis Burke DPC 218B 456-5568
Last Update: March 11, 1996

PROMOTING A FUTURE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

" America has to be serious about education. We have to be serious about education if we want to have a strong economy, if we want these young people to live up to fullest of their God-given abilities. If we really believe that our obligation to our children is to give them the ability to make the most of their own lives in this world we are living in, that means education, education, education. We must face it, embrace it, and be glad about it."

President Clinton
September 22, 1995

The Clinton Administration has made an unprecedented commitment to providing Americans with the educational opportunities children and adults will need to improve their skills and maximize their potential. President Clinton has fought hard to help equip students with the training and know-how necessary to keep America competitive and its families strong.

The President has compiled an impressive record of achievement in education and has a series of new reform proposals as well. While bringing the deficit down by historic amounts and proposing a balanced budget within seven years, President Clinton has still made investing in education a top priority.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Head Start:** President Clinton has made expanding and improving **pre-schooling** the starting point for **helping families** give their children a good start on the right course. Based on recommendations made by the Head Start Advisory Commission, Head Start was reauthorized in 1994 with major quality improvements. In his first two budgets, the President increased Head Start spending by almost \$760 million, assisting an additional 37,000 children.
- **Direct lending:** President Clinton's Direct Lending program eliminates billions of dollars in unnecessary payments to lenders and third parties and makes student loans cheaper and more efficient for students, schools and taxpayers. Over 1,300 schools, representing 40% of the total number of loans, are participating in this program, which cuts red tape and saves taxpayers and students billions of dollars, while allowing more borrowers flexible repayment arrangements -- including pay-as-you-earn plans through Individual Education Accounts.
- **GOALS 2000: Educate America Act:** President Clinton helped to create Goals 2000 -- signed into law in 1994 -- which supports state, community and school efforts to raise standards of achievement and discipline and encourage students to work hard to meet them. Goals 2000 affirms the President's belief in the critical role of education in building America's future and the federal government's central role as a partner in that effort. More than 40 states participate in Goals 2000 and have developed their own strategic plans -- based on raising academic and occupational standards, improving teaching, increasing parental involvement and expanding the use of technology -- for educational reform.

- **Improving America's Schools Act:** Signed by President Clinton in October of 1994, this law focuses on improvements in teaching in more than 50,000 schools and has a direct impact on five million children in high poverty areas. By increasing school flexibility to use federal aid and supporting effective innovations, this law is a significant step in helping all students meet high academic standards.
- **School to Work:** Signed by President Clinton in May of 1994, this act broadens educational, career and economic opportunities for students not immediately bound for four-year colleges through local partnerships among businesses, schools, community organizations and state and local governments. By equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue work or post-secondary training, this law helps ensure that America will be capable of performing and prospering in a competitive global economy.
- **National Service:** President Clinton created the AmeriCorps program -- signed into law in September of 1993 -- to enable young people to earn money for education by serving their communities. In the past two years, 45,000 volunteers have worked in schools, hospitals, neighborhoods and parks.
- **Access to Advanced Telecommunications:** President Clinton signed into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which ensures that schools, libraries, hospitals, and clinics will have affordable access to advanced telecommunications services. The law can help connect every child in every classroom in America to the information superhighway -- opening up worlds of knowledge and opportunities to all students.
- **Technology Learning Challenge:** The Clinton Administration initiated the Technology Learning Challenge grant program to challenge communities to form local partnerships of school systems, colleges, universities, and private businesses to develop creative new ways to use technology for learning. Grants focus on integrating innovative learning technologies into school curricula. Federal funds leverage local resources -- each federal dollar is matched by more than 3 to 1 by local and private funds. The Administration awarded 19 grants for fiscal year 1995. The President's proposed Technology Literacy Challenge would expand this program from less than \$10 million to \$75 million per year to assure that local innovation keeps U.S. schools on the leading edge of learning technologies.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton remains committed to education reform and has vowed to continue helping Americans invest in their children's and their nation's future. In his State of the Union Address, the President made the following proposals:

- **Technological Literacy For The 21st Century:** President Clinton has proposed the creation of a \$2 billion, five-year Technology Literacy Challenge. The Challenge will catalyze state, local, and private sector efforts to provide all our children with greater opportunity to learn the skills they need to thrive in the next century. Modern technology is key to preparing our public schools for the 21st century.
- **School Uniforms:** Schools should be able to require students to wear school uniforms if it means that violence will decrease and learning will increase.

- **Higher Education Standards For Students And Teachers:** In order to ensure America's competitive strength, President Clinton wants to see public schools driven by demanding high standards for students and teachers.
- **Public School Choice:** President Clinton believes that information, competition, and choice among public schools should be the rule, not the exception. Any parent who is dissatisfied with either their own child's or the school's performance should have the opportunity to choose a public school that will do better.
- **Charter Schools:** To ensure that every parent has the opportunity to choose a school for their child, the President called on all 50 states to enact charter school laws within 12 months. Twenty states currently have laws providing for the creation of charter schools -- public schools, created and managed by parents, teachers and administrators. Charter schools have greater flexibility but they are held accountable for their results through a performance-based contract with a local school board, state, or other public institution.
- **Parent Involvement:** President Clinton believes strongly that parents are and should continue to be their children's first and most important teacher. The President asked parents to read with their children, see that their homework is done, see that they take the tough courses, know their children's teachers, talk to their children directly about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, and talk to them about the values they want them to have. The President has also challenged businesses, schools, and religious organizations to help parents find the time for all of this by being family-friendly for learning.

Between 1992 and 1995, the dollar amount of aid to students -- including loans, grants and work-study -- increased from \$22.5 billion to \$34.4 billion. In his State of the Union Address, President Clinton vowed to continue the trend of increasing college enrollments by calling for the enactment of three key initiatives to increase access and the affordability of a college education.

- **Merit Scholarships:** The President called for the creation of the largest-ever merit-based scholarship program, rewarding the top 5% of high school graduates in every school with \$1,000 grants toward the cost of college. If this proposal is enacted, this year, 128,000 graduating high school seniors will receive a scholarship to help finance their college education.
- **Expansion Of Work Study:** The President proposed a dramatic expansion of the College Work Study program, from 700,000 students to over one million over the next five years. This increase will significantly expand a program that reaffirms the American ethic, rewarding hard work and helping ensure that all who want a higher education are able to afford it.
- **Tuition Tax Deduction:** The President has called for a deduction of up to \$10,000 for the cost of tuition and training. Families could deduct up to \$10,000 in expenditures for postsecondary education. 17.1 million students and 14.3 million families stand to benefit from this proposal for tax relief to working families.

Contact: Gayor McCown, DPC
Last Updated: March 10, 1996

PROMOTING AND INCREASING HOMEOWNERSHIP

"Over the past few years, I have emphasized three basic ideas - - community, opportunity and responsibility - - that I believe are at the heart of a more dynamic and prosperous America. The priorities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, from making sure that hardworking Americans realize the dream of homeownership, to addressing the tragedy of homelessness, are outstanding examples of how our government can empower people and institutions."

President Clinton, October 1993

Recognizing that our homes are central to our well-being, President Clinton has worked to increase housing opportunity for all Americans, make homes and communities safer and drug-free, and to reinvent HUD to meet America's housing and community development needs.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Making the Dream of Homeownership a Reality for More Working and Middle Class Families. The Clinton Administration has helped increase the nation's homeownership rate to its highest level in 15 years. Last year's increase in homeownership was the fastest annual increase in 30 years.

- **National Homeownership Strategy.** Entered into an unprecedented partnership with more than 50 key public and private sector organizations to form a National Homeownership strategy. Coupled with a stable economy and low interest rates, this initiative is aimed at increasing homeownership levels in America by 8 million households by the year 2000.
- **FHA Working for Homebuyers Better than Ever.** Revamping Federal Housing Authority to better meet the needs of today's consumers -- through streamlining and consolidating, automating functions using the latest technologies, new innovative products, and strategic alliances with private and public partners. FHA service to low-income and minority home buyers is also stronger than ever. FHA insures home purchase loans for African-American and Hispanic home buyers at more than twice the rate of conventional home purchase loan insurers, and the rate is increasing.
- **Fair Housing.** Working to reduce barriers to homeownership caused by unlawful discrimination. To date, HUD has signed 70 "Best Practices" agreements with key lenders that are resulting in more fair lending practices and expanded opportunities for fair housing.

Producing More Affordable Housing for All Americans. This Administration has provided the necessary flexibility and incentives to communities and business to encourage the development of more affordable housing, and has improved assistance for those with acute housing needs.

- **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.** Fulfilled campaign pledge to permanently extend the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), spurring the private development of low-income housing and helping to produce more than 120,000 homes per year.
- **Innovative Public-Private Pension Fund Initiative** Launched an innovative public-private partnership initiative to encourage pension funds to invest in the production and rehabilitation of affordable multifamily housing. These partnerships will create 2,000 units of affordable housing for working families and the elderly.
- **Improved HOME program.** Through a streamlined and more effective HOME program, the Administration, working with states and units of local government, has significantly increased housing and rental assistance to families. In FY 1994 and 1995, the Administration provided approximately 127,000 families with housing assistance through the HOME program and over 19,000 families with HOME tenant-based rental assistance.
- **Assisting more poor households with acute housing needs.** Continued to expand rental assistance for the record--and growing--number of renter households who struggle to pay over 50 percent of very-low-incomes toward rent and utilities. This assistance can be a critical tool for states and localities to use in helping families transition from welfare to work.
- **Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM)** Strengthened and extended the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage, which allows seniors to use the equity in their homes to meet financial needs, without having to sell their homes or move. The program has helped over 15,000 seniors -- a majority of whom are women living alone, and the numbers are increasing.
- **FHA Multifamily Portfolio Reengineering.** Launched effort to address long-standing problems in the FHA-insured subsidized multifamily portfolio that provides housing to nearly 800,000 low-income households. HUD proposes a comprehensive strategy to restructure debt, give tenants more housing choices, and adjust rents to market, thereby reducing future subsidy costs and producing long-term savings.
- **Comprehensive and Coordinated Approach to Homeless Assistance.** The Clinton Administration and Secretary Cisneros have made homeless assistance a top priority, doubling funding since FY 1993 and requesting \$1.12 billion for FY 1997. In 1995, HUD awarded \$900 million in federal homeless assistance funds to 818 projects in 228 communities throughout the United States. These grants support comprehensive local and state initiatives that move homeless people off the streets to self-sufficient lives in permanent housing through a coordinated strategy -- called a continuum of care -- involving local and state governments, non-profit organizations, homeless persons, the business community and others.

Transforming Public Housing. The Clinton Administration is implementing the most far-reaching changes in public housing in decades -- from demolishing the worst developments to rewarding residents who work to cracking down on crime.

- **Replacing Worst Developments.** Will tear down an unprecedented 30,000 units of the worst public housing and rebuild them with lower-density townhome-style developments which can serve as an anchor for neighborhood renewal. HUD has awarded \$1.44 billion in grants to spur economic development and change the shape of 85 public housing developments nationwide.
- **Improving Management.** Cracking down on bad management in public housing through takeovers of the most troubled public housing authorities in innovative partnerships with local and state officials.
- **Building Positive Incentives and Tougher Expectations in Public Housing.** Changing admission rules and rent calculations to reward working families. Making public housing a springboard to further opportunities and a safe place to live through:
 - **Campus For Learners** initiative to transform public housing developments into living and learning centers through linkages with education, technology, and job training;
 - Aggressive implementation of "One Strike and You're Out" policy that helps cities prevent drug dealers and violent offenders from terrorizing public housing residents in their homes by ensuring that people who engage in drugs and other criminal activity will face certain and swift eviction; and
 - **Operation Safe Home** under which Federal law enforcement agencies are working with local police departments and public housing residents and managers to increase the arrest and conviction of violent and drug-related suspects so public housing developments can be safer places to live. This initiative has resulted in the arrest of thousands of criminals, and confiscation of hundreds of assault weapons and \$3 million worth of drugs.

Reinventing HUD. The Clinton Administration and Secretary Cisneros have proposed a dramatic restructuring of HUD to respond more fully to local needs and local efforts to help people improve their own lives. The Administration's proposals would: consolidate HUD's 60 programs into 3 flexible performance-based funds, giving mayors and governors the flexibility to develop local demand and supply-side housing and community investment strategies; continue the transformation of public housing and provide portable vouchers to residents of the worst developments; and turn HUD into a "right-side-up, community-first" agency by relocating and empowering local personnel.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Continue efforts to expand homeownership for all Americans.
- Continue working to build affordable homes and revitalize neighborhoods.
- Continue aggressive efforts to transform public housing.
- Expand Campus of Learners initiative to build education and technology linkages in public housing.
- Continue to expand opportunities for choice through tenant-based assistance for residents of public and assisted housing.
- Continue reinvention of HUD and efforts to turn agency community side up.

Contact: Molly Brostrom, Room 207 EOB, X65561
Last Update: April 8, 1996

FOSTERING LEGAL IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

"So I have tried to keep America open as an immigration-friendly society. . . And we need to try to get as many of our immigrants who want to do so to become citizens as quickly as possible so that the American people will all see that this is a part of the process of American history which is a good one for our country."

President Clinton

July 19, 1995

The Administration wants to reform and improve the legal immigration system. We support legal immigration policy that is **pro-family, pro-work, and pro-naturalization**. These core values must be protected as legal immigration reform is considered by Congress. In addition, the Administration will continue to protect those who fear persecution in their homeland. The President has indicated his support for a moderate reduction in the overall level of legal immigration consistent with these principles.

For those eligible for citizenship, the Administration is implementing an unprecedented naturalization initiative. The President believes that rewarding those who have "played by the rules" with United States citizenship strengthens our communities and our nation.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- The Administration has presented to Congress a plan that would lower the overall number of legal immigrants while preserving family reunification and strengthening protections for U.S. workers.
- The Administration's plan would reduce family reunification waiting lists in an equitable manner.
- More than 500,000 new citizens were sworn-in during FY 1995, an increase of 12 percent over 1994.
- The INS' naturalization initiative -- "**Citizenship USA**" responds to a surge this past year in citizenship applications. Over a million new applications were received in FY 1995, a 73 percent increase over 1994. FY1996 applications are expected to be even higher. This year, INS is:
 - hiring more than 850 additional staff to process applications, **tripling its naturalization workforce**. INS also is hiring more than 500 temporary staff and contract workers;
 - using **new technology** (e.g. testing the use of electronic filing of citizenship applications);
 - **streamlining** procedures, including accepting mail applications at Service Centers for applicants in Los Angeles, Miami, New York and Chicago; and

- forging new and better partnerships with **community organizations** and other levels of government to provide better information to applicants, host interviews in community settings, and to assist with naturalization ceremonies.

- Los Angeles was the first site for this nationwide initiative. Other cities include: San Francisco, New York, Chicago, and Miami. These five cities account for more than 70% of the new citizenship applications.
- The INS obtained Congressional approval for \$52 million in additional funding in January to support citizenship efforts.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- The Administration will continue to seek responsible legislation providing needed legal immigration reform.
- The Administration is expanding efforts to help legal immigrants become citizens, achieve and maintain self-sufficiency and to participate and contribute fully as members of our national community. The Administration's naturalization goals this year are to swear-in over one million new citizens and to clear the entire backlog of applications. We will increase public education about applying for citizenship, improve customer service to ease the application process and reform procedures to reduce backlogs.
- The Administration will continue to oppose welfare reform proposals that are unfair to legal immigrants and legislative efforts to nationalize California's Proposition 187.
- Discrimination can deny legal immigrants the opportunity to fully participate and contribute in our communities. This Administration is serious about strengthening our fight against discrimination that denies these opportunities to legal immigrants.
- The President will continue to fight against "immigrant-bashing" and to prevent immigration from being used as a wedge to divide the country.

Contact: Stephen Warnath -- Domestic Policy Council
Last Updated: March 20, 1996

SECURING OUR NATION'S BORDERS

"We are a nation of immigrants. But we are also a nation of laws. It is wrong and ultimately self-defeating for a nation of immigrants to permit the kind of abuse of our immigration laws we have seen in recent years, and we must do more to stop it."

**President Clinton
1995 State of the Union**

President Clinton has made controlling illegal immigration a top priority of his Administration. The President's comprehensive and effective strategy to combat illegal immigration includes: strengthened border control, safeguarding the interests of legal workers through increased enforcement of employer sanctions and worksite standards, and removal of criminal and other illegal aliens. This strategy is backed with a record \$2.6 billion in funding for the Immigration and Naturalization Service in FY 1996 and increased outreach to obtain broad community support.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Strengthening Border Control:** The Clinton Administration is deploying more Border Patrol agents than any previous Administration. In FY 1996, the Clinton Administration will deploy an additional 1,000 new and reassigned agents and over 550 new inspectors at the Southwest border. Overall, the Administration has increased the number of Border Patrol agents at the Southwest border by 40% since 1993. For the first time, Border Patrol agents are being equipped with the high technology resources needed to do the job, including: sensors, night scopes, computers, and encrypted radios. Strengthened anti-smuggling efforts have reduced the criminal transport and exploitation of smuggled aliens. In addition, the Clinton Administration's asylum reform is excluding fraudulent asylum applicants from entering the country, and as a result, asylum claims have dropped 57%.
- **Protecting American Jobs:** Employment is the number one incentive for illegal immigration. The Clinton Administration is the first Administration to initiate effective enforcement of employer sanctions and worksite standards to reduce this magnet. In addition, President Clinton issued an Executive Order to keep Federal contracts from going to businesses that knowingly hire illegal workers. The Administration is also piloting a computer work authorization verification system in Southern California and is creating more fraud-resistant immigration documents.
- **Removing Criminal and Deportable Aliens:** In 1995, the Clinton Administration removed a record number of criminal and other illegal aliens from this country -- 74% more removals than in FY 1990. Deportations will increase this year as we further streamline deportation procedures, expand the Institutional Hearing Program which deports criminal aliens immediately upon completion of their sentence, implement our national detention and transportation network to maximize the efficiency of deportable alien removals, and enhance the international prisoner transfer treaty program.

- **Assistance to the States:** The Clinton Administration is also the first Administration to: 1) implement a comprehensive strategy from the border to the workplace to control illegal immigration and curtail States' illegal immigration costs; and 2) obtain funding from Congress to reimburse States for a share of the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens, in addition to assisting with education and medical care costs.

Statistical Backup

- **Border Control:** Through Operations Gatekeeper (California), Hold-the-Line (Texas), and Safeguard (Arizona), we have increased the number of Border Patrol agents at the Southwest border by 40% since 1993. Operation Disruption resulted in a 150% increase in smuggling cases. The Clinton Administration is dedicating \$206 million this year for increased border activities.
- **Protecting American Jobs:** Stronger worksite enforcement has resulted in replacing illegal workers with legal workers. For example, Operation Jobs, a project implemented in 18 states, resulted in the removal of nearly 5,000 illegal workers, and opened up nearly 4,000 jobs for legal workers.
 - Operation SouthPAW (PAW - Protecting American Workers) was the largest worksite enforcement effort in more than a decade in the South (Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida). It resulted in the removal of more than 4,000 illegal workers at over 300 worksites to their country of origin and the restoration of \$55 million in annual salary opportunities for legal workers. Surveyed employers reported filling more than 2,400 of those jobs with legal workers.
 - More than 1,500 fines were issued in FY 1995 to employers who knowingly hired illegal aliens or violated employer sanction law.
- **Deporting Criminal And Other Deportable Aliens:** The Administration removed a record number of 51,300 criminal and other deportable aliens from the U.S. last year. In addition, more than 1,100 criminal aliens were prosecuted in 1995 in California for reentering the country after having been deported, a 240% increase over 1992. President Clinton's FY 1996 budget provides for \$140 million for detention and removal of deportable aliens.
- **Providing The Resources To Do The Job.** The Clinton Administration has increased the INS budget by 72% since FY 1993. The Administration's total INS budget for FY 1996 is \$2.6 billion.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to implement his comprehensive strategy to reduce illegal immigration, including:

- Continuing to build-up of border personnel and technology to curtail illegal crossings and smuggling.
- Vigorously enforcing the worksite and employer sanctions laws against employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens for business advantage.
- Deporting illegal immigrants who take jobs away from American workers.
- Testing effective, nondiscriminatory means of verifying the employment authorization of all new employees.
- Reforming and streamlining deportation procedures and seeking enhanced exclusion authority.
- Tripling deportation levels over 1992 levels.
- Seeking legislation to strengthen illegal immigration enforcement and reform legal immigration.

Contact: Stephen Warnath, Domestic Policy Council
Last Update: March 27, 1996

LINE-ITEM VETO

"This law give the President tools to cut wasteful spending, and , even more important, it empowers our citizens, for the exercise of this veto, or even the possibility of its exercise will throw a spotlight of public scrutiny onto the darkest corners of the federal budget."

President Clinton
Line-Item Veto Signing Ceremony
April 9, 1996

President Clinton has long-championed the line-item veto. The President consistently called on Congress to pass the line-item veto so that he could begin cutting wasteful government spending. In his book, Putting People First, the President promised to ask Congress to give him the line-item veto in order to "eliminate pork-barrel projects and cut government waste". As Governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton used the line-item veto to help balance twelve budgets in a row.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- On April 9, 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Line-Item Veto Act. This historic legislation significantly enhances the President's authority to eliminate wasteful spending by allowing the President to cancel wasteful special-interest projects and targeted tax breaks that benefit special interests. The line-item veto will allow the President to:
 - **End Business as Usual.** The line-item veto can help the President close the door on business as usual in Washington by ending breaks for special interests and cutting pet spending projects that sneak into the budget year after year.
 - **Protecting Public Resources.** With this line-item veto, the President will have a valuable new tool to ensure that our public resources are being put to the best possible uses.
- Even without the line-item veto, President Clinton already has a strong record of deficit reduction. Since entering office, the President has:
 - **Cut the Deficit in Half.** In 1992, the budget deficit was \$290 billion. According to the most recent Congressional Budget Office analysis, the budget deficit will be approximately \$140 billion in 1996. President Clinton has thus fulfilled his commitment in Putting People First to cut the budget deficit in half.

- **Reduced the Size of Government.** The Clinton Administration has reduced the federal civilian workforce by more than 200,000 employees in less than three years, and will continue to reduce the workforce in the years ahead. Already we have the smallest federal workforce in thirty years; as a share of the nation's civilian workforce, it is the smallest since 1933.
- **Streamlining The Bureaucracy.** With the help of the Vice President's Reinventing Government efforts, the Clinton Administration is streamlining the bureaucracy, overhauling the procurement system, and delivering better service -- that is creating a government that works better and costs less.

Contact: Paul Weinstein, DPC
Last Update: April 12, 1996

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER AND COST LESS

"Our country needs a government that is smaller and more responsive--that has lower cost but a higher quality of service--that moves more authority away from the federal government to states and localities, and to entrepreneurs in the private sector--that produces fewer regulations and more incentives--that has more common sense and seeks more common ground."

President Bill Clinton

Foreword, COMMON SENSE GOVERNMENT
October, 1995

Americans expect and deserve common sense government--a government that performs well, uses their tax dollars wisely, views them as valued customers, does not impose excessive burdens and makes a positive impact on their lives when it addresses such problems as crime and poverty and the challenges of employment and education. To answer the call, President Clinton and Vice President Gore are making government smaller, better managed and more efficient. They are, in fact, creating a government that works better and costs less.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Smaller Government.** Already cut the federal workforce by over 200,000 positions -- the civilian workforce is now at its lowest level in 30 years.
- **Government Costs Less.** \$58 billion in savings proposed in 1993 are already locked in.
- **Less Intrusive Government.** Agencies are sending 16,000 pages of obsolete regulations to the scrap heap and reworking another 31,000 pages.
 - Reducing regulatory and administrative burdens on the public by **\$28 billion**
 - Cut EPA paperwork requirements by **25%**, saving industry some **20 million** hours of labor per year.
 - The Department of Education eliminated **30 percent** of its regulations.
 - The Department of Housing and Urban Development is **cutting 65 percent** of its regulations.
 - The Department of Agriculture **dropped 3 million pages** of government forms that America's farmers filled out each year.
 - The Small Business Administration will have **eliminated 50 percent** of its regulations by the end of the year and will have revised the rest.
- **Putting Customers First.** For the first time ever, over 200 government agencies have published customer service standards for serving the American people better.
- **Results Oriented: Eliminating, Consolidating, Privatizing Government.**
Transforming agencies into flexible organizations that emphasize performance: measuring the results of programs, not just the amount of money spent on them.
 - Department of Energy -- **\$23.5 billion** in savings.
 - Department of Transportation -- **\$17.9 billion** in savings
 - NASA -- **\$8.7 billion** in savings.
 - Department of the Interior -- **\$4 billion** in savings.
 - Department of Agriculture -- **\$2.9 billion** in savings.
 - National Science Foundation -- **\$1.6 billion** in savings.
 - Department of the Treasury -- **\$1.4 billion** in savings.

- General Services Administration -- \$1.4 billion in savings.
 - Small Business Administration -- \$1.2 billion in savings.
 - Department of Commerce -- \$1 billion in savings.
 - Social Security Administration -- \$787 million.
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development -- \$825 million in savings.
 - Department of Health and Human Services -- \$671 million in savings
 - Department of Veteran's Affairs -- \$209 million in savings.
- **Changing the Way Government Works.** Forming partnerships with America's businesses and with states and local governments, making them accountable for results and not telling them how to operate their programs or run their businesses.
 - Cut the Small Business Administration loan form from **1 inch thick to 1 page thick**.
 - Enacted interstate banking **deregulation** and intrastate trucking deregulation.
 - Expanding the use of **cost-benefit analysis and risk analysis** in the development of regulations.
 - Dramatically **simplifying bank regulations** issued by the Comptroller of the Currency, and radically reducing the regulatory burden placed on exporters.
 - **Unfunded Mandates.** The President signed legislation restricting Congress from passing on new mandates to state and local governments without paying for them.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton and Vice President Gore came into office committed to reinventing the federal government. Over the last three years, President Clinton has taken significant steps toward the creation of a government that not only is smaller, but is more effective in meeting the needs of the American people. His commitment to balance the budget requires that further changes take place, building on the reinvention successes of the last three years. These initiatives will provide significant benefits to Americans in either improved service or reduced costs:

- Create performance-based organizations with executives hired to get results; toss out restrictive government rules and make the executives personally accountable for delivering results.
- Dramatically improve customer service to give Americans the best service they've ever experienced with the government.
- Increase the use of regulatory partnerships with the private sector and abandon the old way of doing business; form alliances with management and labor that focus on results.
- Forge new relationships with communities by creating performance partnerships in which together we set goals, but the communities decide how best to meet them.
- Establish single points of contact for large communities so that their problems with the federal government can be solved more quickly.

Contact: Phyllis Anderson, 632-0150
Last Updated: March 25, 1996

PROTECTING A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

"Unfortunately, in Washington today, pure political correctness and raw political power count a whole lot more than actually doing something to reduce the tragedies of teen pregnancy and the high number of abortions...I believe it is clear what the law of the land is. And I believe that abortion should be rare, but it should be legal and safe."

President Clinton
Saturday Radio Address
June 24, 1995

The President believes that decisions about abortion should be between a woman, her doctor and her faith, and that abortions should be safe, legal and rare. That's why he has consistently protected women's health and safety, and the right of American women to make their own reproductive choices, while he has worked to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Ended the Gag Rule:** The Bush Administration instituted a "Gag Rule" that prevented women--primarily poor women--using federally funded clinics from getting the information they needed to make informed choices about unwanted or health-threatening pregnancies. President Clinton reversed the "Gag Rule" in his first week in office.
- **Ensuring Clinic Safety:** Since 1992, five people have been murdered and seven others have been shot and wounded at family planning clinics where abortions are performed. President Clinton signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act to fight violence and intimidation by anti-choice extremists against women and their doctors, which is now being implemented by the Department of Justice.
- **Assured Access for Military Families Overseas:** President Clinton reversed the Bush Administration ban on privately funded abortions at military medical facilities overseas for women in the military and in military families. *The ban has since been reinstated by the Republican Congress in the Fiscal Year 1996 Department of Defense Appropriations and Authorizations Bills despite strong opposition from the President.*
- **Repealed the "Mexico City Policy":** President Clinton reversed 12 years of attacks on reproductive choice for women around the world when he repealed the "Mexico City" policy that banned distribution of family planning funding for overseas organizations if they perform abortions or speak out about reproductive choice, even with private money.

- **Established Services for Victims of Rape or Incest:** President Clinton supported permitting Medicaid coverage for abortion services for poor women who are the victims of rape or incest, in addition to those whose life is endangered. These services had been banned during the Reagan and Bush Administrations by the "Hyde Amendment" to the appropriations bill that funds Medicaid. *Proposed 1996 Republican House Appropriations Bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, states would be allowed to deny Medicaid funding for victims of rape and incest.*
- **Ended the Ban on Fetal Tissue Research:** The Bush Administration banned federal funding of fetal tissue transplantation research. President Clinton reversed the ban on this research, which could lead to advances in women's health and in treatment of diseases like leukemia and Parkinson's.
- **Appointed Two Supreme Court Justices who support the constitutional right to privacy**
- **Funding Family Planning:** To help prevent unwanted pregnancies, the President has requested budget increases for the federal Family Planning Program for each year he has been in office. Among other reproductive health and education services, this program makes family planning information and contraception available to millions of women who might not otherwise get reproductive health care.
- **Preventing Teenage Pregnancy:** President Clinton has made teen pregnancy prevention a priority for this Administration. In order to continue to bring rates down, the Administration has pursued two fundamental goals: instilling a greater sense of personal responsibility in young people for the consequences of their behavior, while providing increased opportunities for education, jobs and their future so that they are more likely to make the right choices.

Furthermore, President Clinton's challenge to the private sector to address the high rates of teen pregnancy has also prompted formation of a National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy. This effort aims to marshal private resources across the country to effectively reduce teen pregnancy rates by one third in ten years.

- **Facilitating Adoption:** The Administration is working to encourage adoption and reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care. In October 1994, President Clinton signed the Multiethnic Placement Act, which removes barriers to adoption based on race or ethnic origin. The President has also stood firm throughout the budget debate to protect funds for adoption, foster care, child abuse and neglect, Medicaid, and SSI -- programs that are critical for many adoptive families and children. During this Administration, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with Federal adoption assistance has increased by about 30%.

- **Welfare Reform:** President Clinton has fought hard for welfare reform that promotes work and responsible parenting, but that does not force states to cut people off welfare just because they're poor, young, and unmarried. Instead of punishing young mothers by simply cutting them off welfare -- a policy that the Catholic Church and others believe might lead to more abortions -- we should require minor mothers to live at home, stay at school, and turn their lives around.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to protect women's health and the constitutional guarantee of a woman's right to choose. The Republican Congress has consistently proposed legislation that violates this guarantee, endangering women's health and safety, and the Administration will continue to oppose these efforts.

This includes the President's opposition to current legislation, H.R. 1833, which would prohibit doctors from performing a certain type of abortion. Although the President does not support use of this procedure on an elective basis, he is committed to protecting the Constitutional requirement that it be available for women when it is necessary in the attending physician's medical judgment in order to save the woman's life or to preserve her health.

The Administration will further continue to work to reduce the numbers of unwanted pregnancies, to support domestic and international family planning, and to champion programs that breakdown barriers to adoption.

Contact: Debbie Fine, 220 OEOB, 456-5572
Last Update: March 15, 1996

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO REDUCE TEEN PREGNANCY

"Ultimately, what is needed to stop teen pregnancy is a revolution of the heart. We must all work to instill in every young man and woman a sense of personal responsibility. Having a child is the greatest responsibility any person can assume. It is not the right choice for a teen to make."

President Clinton
January 29, 1996

Each year, about 1 million American teenagers become pregnant -- approximately 11% of all women ages 15-19. To address this serious problem, the Clinton Administration has pursued policies which recognize the fundamental obligation of all Americans to exercise personal responsibility, while expanding opportunities for at-risk young people to make positive life choices. In addition, the President has stated clearly that government alone cannot solve the complex problem of teen pregnancy. He has called upon leaders in the private sector to join together to take action in their own communities.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Research and Evaluation.** The Administration has supported extensive research into the influences which contribute to the incidence of teen pregnancy, as well as evaluation of prevention programs across the country to learn what works best.
 - In 1995, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a comprehensive review of recent research literature on teenage sexual behavior, pregnancy, and parenthood and on effectiveness of teenage pregnancy prevention programs. The report is entitled, "Beginning Too Soon: Adolescent Sexual Behavior, Pregnancy, and Parenthood."
- **Community Demonstrations.** The Administration has built partnerships with local governments and nonprofit organizations to promote the development of community-based interventions that are innovative, comprehensive, and sustainable.
 - In 1995, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention launched the new Community Coalition Partnership Programs for Prevention of Teen Pregnancy. 13 grants totalling \$6.5 million were awarded to communities to develop plans for implementing and evaluating community-wide interventions.
 - In 1994, the Administration started the Healthy Schools / Healthy Communities Program, funding 27 new school-based health centers in 20 states and the District of Columbia. These centers provide for the health services and education needs of children and teens at high risk for poor health, teenage pregnancy, and other problems.

- **Promoting Personal Responsibility.** President Clinton has advocated welfare reform proposals that promote work, demand parental responsibility, and toughen child support activities.
 - The Administration has approved state welfare reform demonstrations to a record 37 states that include various provisions affecting minor parents. Nine of the states now have authority to link AFDC benefits to the school attendance of minor parents. Seven states have the authority to require minor parents to live with their parents or guardians or in another adult-supervised setting.
 - The Administration has pursued aggressive enforcement of child support laws. In 1995, a record \$11 billion was collected in child support from non-custodial parents, an increase of 40% since 1992. Over that same period, paternity establishments rose by over 40%.
- **Comprehensive Approach to Youth.** The Administration has worked to address the complex economic and social factors which often underlie high rates of teen pregnancy and to support communities in offering young people positive alternatives to early sexual behavior and parenting.
 - Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Education has launched a number of initiatives that address teen pregnancy prevention through improved schooling for disadvantaged students, coordination of health and social services, and school-to-work opportunities to increase economic self-sufficiency. Specific initiatives started or expanded include: Goals 2000; 1994 School -To-Work Opportunities Act; Head Start.
 - In 1995, the Department of Justice created the SafeFutures Program, a 5-year initiative which will provide approximately \$8 million per year to 6 jurisdictions for a comprehensive and coordinated delinquency prevention and intervention program for at-risk and delinquent youth.
 - The Administration is implementing the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, passed in 1994, by supporting local school districts in high-need areas in their efforts to coordinate violence and drug prevention programs with comprehensive school health education programs.
- **Private-Sector Initiative.** In his 1995 State of the Union Address, President Clinton challenged leaders across the US to come together to address the serious problem of teen pregnancy. In response to this call for action, an independent, bipartisan organization has been formed. The new National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has been established as a private, not-for-profit entity under the direction of Thomas Kean, former Governor of New Jersey and now President of Drew University, and Dr. Isabel Sawhill of the Urban Institute. The Campaign's board of directors includes prominent individuals from business, the media, entertainment, medicine and the philanthropic community.

- **Appointed Senior Advisor on Teen Pregnancy Prevention** In January of this year, President Clinton appointed Dr. Henry Foster, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry Medical College and founder of the "I Have A Future" teen pregnancy prevention program in Nashville, TN, to serve as Senior Advisor to the Administration on teen pregnancy and related youth issues. Dr. Foster will work in partnership with community-based organizations across the US to give young people the tools they need to build responsible and productive lives.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to support government policies which promote responsible behavior on the part of America's teens and increase opportunities for young people to develop themselves in positive directions. In his FY97 budget request, the President has proposed a \$30-million teen pregnancy prevention initiative. These funds will be used to implement and evaluate promising prevention strategies in communities which have demonstrated a commitment to community problem solving.

The President will also continue to urge leaders from all sectors of society to marshal their resources on behalf of America's youth. The Administration will work in partnership with the newly formed National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, which has set the goal of reducing teen pregnancy in the United States by one-third by the year 2005.

Contact: Debbie Fine, 220 OEOP, 456-5572
Janet Abrams, 224, OEOP, 456-2857

Last Update: March 25, 1996

UNFUNDED MANDATES

"This bill (The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act) is another acknowledgement that Washington doesn't necessarily have all the answers, that we have to continue to push decision-making down to the local level, and we shouldn't make the work of governing at the local level any harder than the circumstances of the time already ensure that it will be."

President Bill Clinton

March 22, 1995

Before 1964, the number of explicit mandates from Congress placed on state, local governments was zero. On the day President Clinton took office, 172 pieces of legislation imposed requirements on State and local governments. According to the Congressional Budget Office, between 1983 and 1990, the cost to states and localities of all the regulations imposed from the Federal government reached \$8.9 billion.

Since his days as Governor of Arkansas, President Clinton has spoken out on the need to address the burgeoning growth of federal unfunded mandates. Too often in the past, the Federal government placed unfunded requirements on state, local, and tribal governments, taking important decision-making responsibilities out of the hands of local elected officials and their communities and giving it to bureaucrats in Washington. Since the beginning of his Administration, the President has worked hard to restore balance to the intergovernmental partnership between the Federal government and state, local and tribal governments, to empower communities and promote bottom-up solutions to our nation's problems, and to curtail the imposition of unfunded mandates.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **The Unfunded Mandate Reform Act** -- On March 22, 1995, the President signed legislation restricting Congress from passing on new mandates to state and local governments without paying for them. This law honors the President's commitment to reinvent government, to create a government that works better and costs less. The bill requires Congress to show how much mandates over \$50 million per will cost state and local governments, to require Congress to identify a specific funding source for these mandates, and if it does not meet these criteria, Congress must explicitly waive the requirement that there be no unfunded mandate.
- **Executive Order 12875** -- President Clinton took action to control the growth of unfunded mandates within the Executive Branch by issuing Executive Order 12875, "Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership." This Executive Order prevents the issuing of any new, non-statutory unfunded regulations except in cases where the agency submits to the Office of Management and Budget, prior to promulgation, a justification supporting the need for the regulation and includes a description of the extent of the agency's prior consultation with state, local, and tribal governments. The Executive Order also sets a deadline of 120 days for the approval or notification of waiver requests. State and local governments praised the signing of this Executive Order.

Contact: Paul Weinstein, DPC

Last Updated: April 10, 1996

HONORING AND PROTECTING AMERICA'S VETERANS

"To honor our veterans...gratitude and ceremonies are not enough. We must protect the benefits you have earned, address fully the dangers imposed by modern warfare, and preserve what you fought for: the American Dream at home and our leadership around the world."

President Clinton

VFW Conference, March 6, 1995

President Clinton has fought to protect the benefits that veterans have earned in service to this nation and to address the new needs and challenges created by a changing world. The Administration has aggressively responded to veterans of the Persian Gulf War suffering from unexplained illnesses, to the challenges created as the military downsized after the Cold War, and to the needs of homeless veterans. This Administration has also worked hard to make the Department of Veterans Affairs more efficient and responsive, proposing and implementing changes at VA that will improve services and save money, many of which have long been advocated by veterans.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Protecting Veterans Benefits.** Ensured full cost of living adjustment on benefits going to disabled veterans and military retirees; fought to fully fund benefit programs; expanded eligibility for disability compensation for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange; opposed Congressional proposals to eliminate compensation for certain mentally incompetent veterans; and proposed increased funding for national cemetery system to ensure that veterans and their families are buried with dignity.
- **Improved and Restructured VA Health Care System.** Implemented significant management restructuring of VA medical system, creating integrated service networks and consolidating duplicative medical and administrative services, to ensure that scarce resources are focused on patient care. To further expand resources, proposed "gainsharing" to allow VA medical facilities to retain a portion of the money VA collects from third parties. These changes will allow VA to provide 1.6 million more patient visits in 1996 with fewer resources.
- **Persian Gulf War Veterans' Illness.** Established Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illness aimed at finding the causes of these illnesses and improving the care available to Persian Gulf veterans. As part of Gulf War illness' effort, expanded funding for research, medical care and communication at DoD, VA, and HHS.
- **Firm commitment to veterans in federal hiring.** Despite overall hiring declines across the federal government in the last three years, the percentage of jobs going to veterans has increased. The federal government continues to lead the nation in the percentage of veterans and disabled veterans in its workforce.

- **Training and Assistance.** Helped over one and a half million veterans into jobs through the Department of Labor's veterans employment service. Nearly half a million separating service members and their spouses received job search training under DOL's Transition Assistance Program.
- **Faster Benefits Delivery.** Improved processing time and reduced pending caseload for compensation and pension claims at the Veterans Benefits Administration. Included funding in FY 97 budget for 50 positions for the Board of Veterans' Appeals to improve timeliness in processing appeals.
- **Targeted, Supportive Assistance to Homeless Veterans.** Fought for increased funding to assist communities in developing local, coordinated solutions to break the cycle of homelessness. More than doubled VA funding of homeless programs in three years, to the current level of \$76 million. As part of a new Homeless Providers Grant Program, VA awarded more than \$11.8 million to 59 public and private nonprofit groups to develop new programs to assist homeless veterans. The Administration's Interagency Council on the Homeless established a Homeless Veterans Task Force to improve services and programs for homeless veterans across agencies.

Statistical Backup

- *In FY 97, the Veterans Benefits Administration will process original compensation claims 33 days faster than in FY 96, and the pending caseload will be reduced from 378,600 at the end of FY 95 to 277,000 cases at the end of FY 97 -- a 27% reduction.*
- *The proportion of veterans in the federal workforce increased from 23.6% in 1992 to 33.3% in 1994.*
- *The veterans' unemployment rate has been cut by almost a third during the first three years of the Clinton Administration (7.2% in January 1993 to 4.9% in January 1996).*

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to fight to protect the benefits veterans have earned and to help veterans respond to new needs and challenges.

- Work for passage of reinventing government initiatives that will improve services to veterans, simplify complex eligibility rules, and save money through streamlining
- Continue implementation of restructuring of VA's health care system
- Continue to improve veterans benefits delivery system to give veterans increased access and more efficient service
- Continue work with Presidential Advisory Committee to find causes and care for Persian Gulf Veterans with undiagnosed illnesses
- Continue unprecedented outreach to veterans and veterans service organizations

Contact: Molly Brostrom, 207 EOB, X65561
Last Update: 03/21/96

WELFARE REFORM

"For too long our welfare system has undermined the values of family and work, instead of supporting them....I challenge this Congress to send me a bipartisan welfare reform bill that will really move people from welfare to work and do the right thing by our children. I will sign it immediately."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

President Clinton is committed to welfare reform that reinforces the basic American values of work, responsibility, and family. We must reward work over welfare; require people to take responsibility for supporting themselves and their families; and ensure that children are protected. There is bipartisan consensus around the country on the fundamental elements of real welfare reform. Congress should not waste this opportunity to enact national legislation. In the meantime, the Clinton Administration is changing the welfare system profoundly while we wait for Congress to act.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Reforming Welfare through Waivers:** By granting 58 waivers to 37 states, the Administration is giving states the flexibility they need to fix the welfare system at the local level. These waivers are making work and responsibility a way of life for more than 10 million people -- about 75 percent of all welfare recipients. Welfare caseloads have declined by 1.4 million since March of 1994 -- a decrease of 10 percent.
- **Requiring Parents to Take Responsibility for their Children:** Through partnerships with states, tougher enforcement, waivers, and executive order, this Administration has achieved unprecedented financial support for children. Child support collections have grown nearly 40 percent since 1992, to a record \$11 billion, while paternity establishments have risen by more than 40 percent. We have proposed the toughest child support enforcement measures ever, including suspending drivers' licenses and tracking delinquent parents across state lines.
- **Tough New Sanctions for Refusing to Work:** President Clinton is changing Federal regulations so states can impose tougher sanctions on welfare recipients who refuse to work.
- **Rewarding Work Over Welfare:** The President provided tax relief for 15 million working families by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit to allow more families to qualify for tax rebates.
- **Preventing Teen Pregnancy:** President Clinton worked with community, business and religious leaders to form the National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy which will marshal private resources across the country to reduce teen pregnancy rates.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

The President will continue to work with Congress and the nation's governors to craft a bipartisan bill that is tough on work and fair to children. Until then, the Administration will continue to work to reform welfare.

- The President has proposed a sweeping welfare reform plan that would impose time limits and require work; provide adequate funding for child care to move people from welfare to work; strengthen child support enforcement; protect children; and save taxpayers \$40 billion.
- The National Governors' Association's welfare proposal this winter represents an important bipartisan step forward. The NGA's statement confirmed that the President was right to veto the flawed legislation passed by Congress -- legislation that did very little to encourage work, and too much that could harm children. The Administration is working with governors and members of Congress to pass a bipartisan welfare reform bill that will move people from welfare to work, protect children, and make responsibility a way of life.

Contact: Diana Fortuna, 224 OEOP, 456-5570
Last Update: March 29, 1996

OPENING NEW MARKETS TO CREATE JOBS FOR U.S. WORKERS

"When we have the opportunity to sell American products and services around the world, we know we can compete -- and that means new jobs and a rising standard of living, the core of the American Dream."

President Bill Clinton
Miami, Florida
December 9, 1994

President Clinton has sought to grow our economy by opening up more opportunities to sell Americans goods and services in foreign markets and create jobs for American workers. As a result, our nation has the highest growth of any major economy in the world over the last three years. The economy has created 8.5 million jobs -- 93% of which have been in the private sector. Approximately 62% of the 3.3 million new jobs created in 1994 alone were created by small companies. Unemployment is averaging 5.6%. The combination of unemployment plus inflation is the lowest in 27 years.

The President has stood up for American interests by implementing a new trade policy. He has sought to open new markets to U.S. exports; to create high-wage jobs in the United States; to monitor our trade agreements to ensure our trading partners are living up to their obligations; and to enforce our trade laws.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Stood Up for American Workers Against Unfair Competition:** Stood up to the Japanese and opened markets for U.S. goods and services in the market of our second largest trading partner. Opened the markets of our first and third largest trading partners -- Canada and Mexico -- by leading a bipartisan coalition in support of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Leveled the playing field for U.S. products around the world by concluding the Uruguay Round of the GATT, which puts in place tough new international rules of trade. Ensured that all our trading partners are living up to their obligations by establishing a permanent enforcement unit to monitor and enforce trade agreements.
- **Created Over 1 Million High-Wage American Jobs through an Unprecedented Export Boom:** Implemented a National Export Strategy that has helped create American jobs by promoting U.S. goods and services abroad, including providing high-level government advocacy, financing and risk insurance for our American companies. Reduced tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in the markets of our largest and fastest growing trading partners.
- **Put America First by Restoring U.S. Competitiveness:** Put the United States' financial house in order through sound macroeconomic policies such as a smart and tough deficit reduction plan and reduced government. Promoted education and training programs to give the American people the tools they need to prosper in the new global economy. Strengthened our economy by opening up opportunities to sell American goods and services in foreign markets.

Statistical Backup

Stood Up for American Workers Against Unfair Competition

- The Clinton Administration stood up to the Japanese and opened markets for U.S. goods and services -- accomplishing what American presidents have been trying to do for decades. And the results are impressive. Total U.S. exports to Japan are up 35% since 1993, reaching a record \$64 billion in 1995 and supporting over 800,000 American jobs. This represents a 20% increase in 1995 alone.
- Merchandise exports to Japan grew five times faster than our imports from Japan in 1995. As a result, the merchandise trade deficit with Japan declined for the first time in five years and to its lowest level since 1992. Half of the improvement in the trade deficit with Japan was a result of autos: for the first time in a decade, U.S. auto exports to Japan increased significantly while imports fell.
- The Clinton Administration has reached 21 agreements with Japan since 1993, covering a range of market sectors: autos and auto parts, medical technology, flat glass, insurance, financial services, telecommunications, supercomputers, construction, cellular phones, chemicals, rice, paper, apples, wood, and intellectual property rights.
- According to the Council of Economic Advisers, U.S. exports in sectors covered by these market-opening agreements, have grown over 85% since 1993. That's three times as fast as other U.S. exports to Japan over the past three years. For example:
 - U.S. auto and auto parts exports to Japan increased over 35% since the agreement went into effect in August 1995, totaling \$3.8 billion in 1995. The Big Three auto manufacturers and Japanese transplant producers sold over 140,000 U.S.-made vehicles in Japan in 1995, up 40% since 1994.
 - U.S. exports of telecommunications equipment to Japan have grown nearly 50% since November 1994 -- almost two times as fast as telecom equipment exports to the EU. U.S. telecom exports to Japan reached \$1.7 billion in 1995.
 - U.S. exports of medical technology to Japan have grown over 35% since November 1994, reaching nearly \$2 billion.
 - U.S. exports of chemicals to Japan have grown nearly 25% since the Uruguay Round was concluded, reaching \$2.8 billion in 1995.
 - U.S. copper exports to Japan are up over 80% since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, reaching \$350 million in 1995.
 - Just a few years ago, rice exports to Japan were virtually banned. Since a crop failure in Japan, however, U.S. rice producers have sold \$287 million of rice to Japan -- more than the previous 25 years combined. In 1995, U.S. exports of rice to Japan reached \$31 million.

- U.S. manufacturing firms increased their share of the Japanese market over the past three years -- up 20% in 1995 over 1992.
- Overall agricultural exports surged to \$56 billion in 1995, up almost 22% over 1994, with highs in poultry, pork, wheat, and cotton.
- Even with the difficult economic situation in Mexico, U.S. exports to Mexico in 1995 were \$46 billion. That's 11% higher than 1993 -- the year before NAFTA was implemented. And 74 cents of every dollar that Mexicans spend on imported goods go to buy U.S. goods.

Created Over 1 Million High-Wage Jobs through an Unprecedented Export Boom

- The United States is the world's largest exporter. Exports have grown 31% since President Clinton took office. In 1995 alone, exports were up more than 14%.
- Exports accounted for one-third of overall U.S. economic growth since the beginning of the Clinton Administration.
- Over one million high-quality, high-wage jobs have been created as a direct result of increased exports. 11 million American jobs are supported by exports and since 1993, roughly one out of every ten American workers depends on exports for their jobs. Export-related jobs pay on average of 13-16% better than other jobs.
- One in five manufacturing jobs is supported by U.S. exports. Almost 300,000 manufacturing jobs have been created just in the past three years. Auto jobs have increased by 89,000 during the Clinton Administration, after declining during the previous four years.

Put America First by Restoring U.S. Competitiveness

- The United States has been ranked Number One on competitiveness for two years in a row -- up from Number Five in 1992.
- The United States is the world's Number One producer of automobiles for the first time since the 1970's -- overtaking Japan.
- U.S. aircraft industry dominates the world market -- supplying 65% Asia's imports.
- The United States is once again the world's Number One producer of semiconductors, surpassing Japan.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to open markets around the world and will continue to promote American exports by:

- Aggressively pushing foreign trading partners to further open their markets to U.S. goods and services;
- Ensuring that our trading partners live up to their obligations by strictly enforcing our trade agreements, using sanctions and other punitive measures when necessary;
- Continuing to place special emphasis on the fast-growing emerging markets around the world;
- Continuing to help small and medium sized enterprises export;
- Continuing to give American workers and businesses the tools they need to compete and win in the new global economy.

Contact: Chris Dorval, 234 1/2 OEOB, 456-2800 or
Carola McGiffert, 115 Winder, 395-9650

Last Update: April 17, 1996

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PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

"We must ask more of ourselves, we must expect more of each other, and we must face our challenges together. . . . Our fifth challenge: to leave our environment safe and clean for the next generation. . . . People do have a right to know that their air and their water are safe."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

During the last generation, we have made great progress in protecting the environment. We now have cleaner, safer air and water. Lead levels in children's blood have been cut 70 percent, and toxic emissions from factories have been cut in half. We must continue to move forward. A third of us still breathe air that endangers our health, and in too many communities, the water is not safe to drink. President Clinton is committed to making common-sense reforms to environmental programs and is determined to block attempts to roll back safeguards for our families' food, water and air.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Community Right to Know:** Issued a "Pollution Disclosure" Executive Order to require industry to disclose information about toxic releases to their neighbors.
- **Safe Drinking Water:** Required drinking water systems to test for and eliminate dangerous contaminants.
- **Reinventing Environmental Regulation:** Cutting paperwork requirements and allowing businesses to throw out the EPA rulebook and write their own if they can do it cleaner and cheaper. Issued an executive order to make health, safety and environmental programs more fair, efficient and effective.
- **Clean Air:** Issued new rule to reduce by 90% the toxic air pollutants released from chemical plants by 1997.
- **Clean Water:** Vowed to veto the lobbyist-written bill to roll back the Clean Water Act that keeps billions of pounds of toxic pollutants and sewage out of our rivers, lakes and streams. Stopped the bill dead in its tracks.
- **Meat Safety:** Issued new standard to prevent *E. coli* contamination in meat.
- **Everglades Restoration:** Bold new program to double federal commitment to the Everglades.
- **Incineration:** Issued new requirement for municipal incinerators to reduce dioxin emissions by 99 percent.

- **National Parks:** Withdrew land from new mining claims to protect Yellowstone, while fighting attempts to close national parks.
- **California Water:** Ended decades of conflict over allocation of California Bay-Delta water, a critical link in the system that supplies drinking water to two-thirds of the state's citizens.
- **Superfund Cleanups:** Fought GOP attempts to repeal the law that makes polluters -- rather than taxpayers -- pay to clean up toxic dumps.
- **Recycling:** Issued executive order to jump start the market for recycled goods, which are now more valuable than ever.
- **Global Phaseout of Persistent Pollutants like DDT:** Led the way to an agreement to phase out the use of 12 dangerous, persistent organic pollutants worldwide, such as PCBs and DDT.
- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:** Expanded funding for energy efficiency and renewables.
- **Pesticides and Food Safety:** Canceling some of the most dangerous pesticides while moving safer substitutes into the market more quickly.
- **Homeowner Protection:** Reformed Endangered Species and Wetlands programs to focus on sensitive ecological areas and exempt the vast majority of American homeowners.
- **Environmental Technology:** Implementing technology programs to help American business compete more effectively in the fast growing global market while creating jobs for American workers.
- **Eliminating Unnecessary Regulation:** Eliminating 16,000 pages of unnecessary regulations.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to support policies that protect our health and natural resources while continuing to make common sense reforms to environmental programs by:

- Expanding community right-to-know laws and challenging communities to use the information to work with business to cut pollution;
- Challenging Congress to drop proposals to force taxpayers to pickup the tab for environmental cleanup. The President strongly believes the polluters must pay;
- Replacing one-size-fits-all regulations with result focused programs;

- Challenging American businesses to take more initiative in protecting the environment;
- Challenging Congress to re-examine and reverse those policies that would endanger our health and safety by weakening health and safety programs such as safe drinking water and clean air;
- Continuing to work with state and community leaders and businesses to find better ways to protect our natural resources and provide economic opportunities.

Contact: Brian Johnson, CEQ

Last Update: February 21, 1996

IMPROVING THE AIR WE BREATHE

"I cannot and I will not compromise any clean water, any clean air, any protection against toxic waste. The environment cannot protect itself."

President Clinton
April 7, 1995

President Clinton supports a strong Clean Air Act, one of the nation's most successful laws. The Clean Air Act has dramatically reduced air pollution. This has reduced respiratory and heart problems, dramatically reduced cancer and mortality rates, cut crop and forest damage and improved visibility. But there is a lot that still needs to be done. One in three Americans still breathes air that fails to meet the health standards of the Clean Air Act.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Right-to-Know:** President Clinton signed a "Pollution Disclosure" Executive Order to require industry to disclose information about toxic releases to their neighbors.
- **Incinerators:** President Clinton issued a new safeguard so municipal incinerators reduce dioxin emissions by 99%.
- **Chemical Plants:** President Clinton issued a new rule to reduce by 90% the toxic air pollutants released from chemical plants by 1997.
- **Regulatory Reform:** President Clinton is cutting paperwork by 25% and allowing businesses to put aside the EPA rulebook and write their own if they can find a cleaner and cheaper way to meet environmental standards. He also issued an executive order to make health, safety and environmental programs more fair, efficient and effective.
- **Budget:** President Clinton's balanced budget protects public health and the environment; he does not believe that Americans should have to sacrifice basic values like clean air.

Statistical Backup

- Since President Clinton took office, 50 million people are now breathing cleaner air.
- Since 1970:
 - Lead emissions have dropped 98 percent;
 - particulate matter 78 percent;
 - sulfur oxides 30 percent;
 - carbon monoxide 24 percent; and
 - smog-forming volatile organic compounds 24 percent.
- Meanwhile, the economy grew by 71 percent and the U.S. population by 25 percent.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

In the State of the Union Address, President Clinton declared that protecting public health and the environment for future generations is one of America's great challenges. He believes we should expand community right-to-know programs, challenge communities to work with business to cut pollution, and allow businesses who can find a cleaner and cheaper way than the old rulebook to cut pollution to do it. President Clinton will also continue to defend the Clean Air Act against GOP Congressional attempts to repeal or weaken it.

The President will continue to fight for adequate Clean Air funding in the budget. His 1997 budget calls for an increase in the EPA operating budget (which funds standard setting and enforcement and other programs) by 9 percent over 1996, a 23 percent increase over 1993.

Staff Contact: Brian Johnson, CEQ
Last Update: March 19, 1996

PRESERVING THE CLEAN WATER ACT

"Some members of the new Congress, operating with major industry lobbyists, have come up with a bill that would roll back a quarter-century of bipartisan progress in public health and environmental protection. The bill would let polluted water back into our lives. ... newspapers all over America are calling it the 'Dirty Water Act.' And it won't get past my desk."

President Clinton
Rock Creek Park, May 30, 1995

President Clinton recognizes that the Clean Water Act is a great American success story. Before the Clean Water Act, rivers caught on fire, Lake Erie died, and garbage floated in the Chesapeake Bay. Today, cleaned up rivers, lakes and beaches are the heart of revitalized communities from Cleveland to Baltimore. But now, the House of Representatives have passed a Clean Water rollback that President Clinton has vowed to veto should it ever reach his desk.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Stopping Attempts to Rollback the Clean Water Act:** In 1995, the House passed a new clean water bill (H.R. 961) that would roll back the Clean Water Act. It would undermine our achievements and stop or significantly delay further action. President Clinton said he would veto the bill if it came to his desk, and stopped it dead in its tracks.
- **Written by Lobbyists:** The House bill was written with the help of lobbyists, while citizens, the Administration and public interest groups were excluded. As the New York Times said, "In brief, the subcommittee bill will make it much easier for polluters to pollute. But that is no surprise. Polluters wrote the bill." (4/2/95)
- **Reduce Water Quality Protection:** This bill would undermine the standards that have improved water quality. It would allow polluters to circumvent national industrial performance standards and undercut the current commitment to healthy waters. Finally, lower standards in upstream states would mean higher costs for downstream states.
- **Eliminate Fundamental Wetlands Protection:** Wetlands function as natural filters to improve water quality and mitigate against flooding. This bill would redefine wetlands in a way that would remove important wetlands -- including much of the Everglades -- from existing protection.
- **"Takings" Measure Would Create Enormous New Costs:** The bill includes a "takings" provision that would dramatically increase the cost of clean water to the taxpayers. The bill would increase the deficit by several billion dollars. (See also the takings issue brief.)

- **Budget:** President Clinton's balanced budget protects public health and the environment; he does not believe that Americans should have to sacrifice basic values like clean water.
- **Regulatory Reform:** President Clinton is cutting paperwork requirements and allowing businesses to put aside the EPA rulebook and write their own if they can do it cleaner and cheaper. He issued an executive order to make health, safety and environmental programs more fair, efficient and effective. But he could not accept a "regulatory reform" bill that would roll back safeguards for clean water.

Statistical Backup

- The Clean Water Act removes more than one billion pounds per year of toxic pollutants from our nation's waters.
- 900 million tons of sewage are no longer discharged.
- The Republican Clean Water rollback would redefine wetlands in a way that could remove existing protections from as much as 75 percent of the nation's waters (including much of the Everglades).

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

In the State of the Union Address, President Clinton declared that protecting public health and the environment for future generations is one of America's great challenges. He believes we should expand community right-to-know programs, challenge communities to work with business to cut pollution, and allow businesses who can find a cleaner and cheaper way than the old rulebook to cut pollution to do it. President Clinton will continue to defend the Clean Water Act against GOP Congressional attempts to repeal or weaken it.

President Clinton will continue to fight for adequate Clean Water funding in the budget. His 1997 budget calls for an increase of \$50 million for clean and safe water infrastructure beyond the \$465 million he proposed the Congress add back to their inadequate level for 1996.

Staff Contact: Brian Johnson, CEQ

Last Update: March 19, 1996

ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER

"People do have a right to know that their air and their water are safe."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

President Clinton believes that all Americans have a right to safe drinking water. Although the United States has some of the safest drinking water in the world, our water is not free from contamination. In the last few years, millions of residents of major U.S. cities -- such as Milwaukee, New York and Washington, DC -- have been ordered to boil their water. In 1993, 400,000 people became sick and more than 100 died from drinking contaminated drinking water in Milwaukee.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Better Standards:** EPA is in the midst of a three step process that will better protect public health and help prevent another incident like Milwaukee. The standards are the result of a negotiated process between industry, state and local governments, and citizen representatives.
- **Eliminating Contaminants:** The Administration has required drinking water systems to test for and eliminate dangerous contaminants.
- **Budget:** President Clinton's balanced budget protects public health and the environment; he does not believe that Americans should have to sacrifice basic values like safe water. The President vetoed a GOP budget that would have cut safe drinking water funding by 45 percent from his request.
- **Regulatory Reform:** The President is cutting paperwork requirements and allowing businesses to put aside the EPA rulebook and write their own if they can do it cleaner and cheaper. He issued an executive order to make health, safety and environmental programs more fair, efficient and effective. But he could not accept a "regulatory reform" bill that would roll back safeguards for safe food and water.
- **Fighting to Reform the Safe Drinking Water Act:** President Clinton has proposed to reform the safe drinking water law to help local water systems protect their citizens' health and give people tap water they can trust. The President's proposal was supported by industry and environmentalists alike.

Statistical Backup

- 30 million people are served by drinking water systems that violated one or more public health standards last year.

- 13 million people are served by the more than 1,000 drinking water systems that have not yet installed filters to prevent waterborne disease.
- Under current law, EPA must regulate 25 new contaminants every three years -- whether or not they are needed. This -- and the need to better protect public health -- illustrates the need for reform.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

In his 1996 State of the Union Address, President Clinton declared that protecting public health and the environment for future generations is one of America's great challenges. He believes we should expand community right-to-know programs, challenge communities to work with business to cut pollution, and allow businesses who can find a cleaner and cheaper way than the old rulebook to cut pollution to do it. President Clinton will continue to fight to ensure that the law that governs our drinking water supply is as affordable as it is effective for our communities.

President Clinton's 1997 budget calls for an increase of \$50 million for clean and safe water infrastructure beyond the \$465 million he proposed that Congress add back to their inadequate level for 1996.

Staff Contact: Brian Johnson, CEQ
Last Update: March 19, 1996

CLEANING UP TOXIC WASTE/SUPERFUND REFORM

"Some say that the taxpayer should pick up the tab for toxic waste and let polluters who can afford to fix it off the hook. I challenge Congress to reexamine those policies and to reverse them."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

President Clinton believes that more effort should go to cleaning up toxic dumps and less should go to lawyers who are simply cleaning up. Contaminated, neglected land costs communities jobs, development and their tax base. President Clinton rejects efforts to reform the Superfund law in a way that leaves public health at risk from neglected toxic dumps or leaves taxpayers -- rather than polluters -- paying for the cleanup.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Superfund Reform Bill:** Early in his Administration, President Clinton proposed a major reform of Superfund, the bill that cleans up toxic dumps. President Clinton put together a historic coalition, gaining support from everyone from the Chemical Manufacturers to the Environmental Defense Fund, small businesses and private citizens.
- **Fighting Misguided Reform Efforts:** Now, many in Congress would discard these reforms to pursue more extreme measures that could reduce cleanups and make taxpayers -- rather than polluters -- picking up the tab. President Clinton rejects those measures, but remains eager to work with Congress to pursue common-sense Superfund reform.
- **Not Waiting for Congressional Action:** In the meantime, President Clinton is reforming the Superfund program administratively, to make it work better and cost less.
 - Actions include the **"Brownfields" Economic Redevelopment Initiative** to make it easier to develop contaminated sites in inner city industrial areas. When contaminated land sits neglected, communities lose business development, they lose jobs, they lose their tax base and they lose hope. These abandoned contaminated areas can be cleaned up and put to productive community use. As part of the initiative, President Clinton has proposed to offer new purchasers and other businesses that will redevelop brownfields a new targeted tax incentive.
 - The EPA removed 25,000 low priority sites from the Superfund site data base, a move that helps cleanup and redevelopment move forward quickly.

- **Budget:** President Clinton's balanced budget protects public health and the environment; he does not believe that Americans should have to sacrifice basic values like health protection from toxic waste.

Statistical Backup

- Fifteen years after Love Canal, one in four Americans still lives within four miles of a toxic dump site.
- Five million children under the age of four still live within four miles of a Superfund toxic dump site.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

In the State of the Union, President Clinton declared that protecting public health and the environment for future generations is one of America's great challenges. He believes we should expand community right-to-know programs, challenge communities to work with business to cut pollution, and allow businesses who can find a cleaner and cheaper way than the old rulebook to cut pollution to do it. The President challenged the GOP Congress to drop misguided attempts to make taxpayers, rather than polluters, pay to clean up toxic dumps.

President Clinton will continue to fight for common-sense reform of the Superfund law. His principles for reform include:

- Cleanups must be faster, fairer and more efficient.
- The polluter must pay.
- Less money should go to lawyers and more money should go to cleanups.
- We must promote economic redevelopment in our communities.

The President's 1997 budget includes an increase of \$85 million for Superfund on top of the \$150 million he proposed that the GOP Congress add back to its inadequate level for 1996.

Staff Contact: Brian Johnson, CEQ
Last Update: March 19, 1996

WETLANDS REFORM

"There's no reason on Earth why Americans should have to settle for anything less than the best when it comes to keeping our water safe and pure."

President Clinton
Rock Creek Park
May 30, 1995

Wetlands filter and cleanse our water and buffer against flooding. They are among the most prolific ecosystems in the world, essential to maintaining healthy fisheries and fishing communities. Protecting wetlands is therefore one of the central components of one of America's most successful laws, the Clean Water Act. Before the Clean Water Act, rivers caught on fire and Lake Erie died. Today, cleaned up rivers, lakes and beaches are the heart of revitalized communities from Cleveland to Baltimore. Unfortunately, Republicans in Congress have passed a bill to roll back the Clean Water Act and decimate wetlands protection. The President has vowed to veto that bill should it ever reach his desk.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Making it Easier for Landowners: On July 12, 1995, President Clinton announced that the vast majority of homeowners will never have to worry about wetlands or endangered species laws on their property. This reform includes a "nationwide general permit" that will, for example, allow homeowners to build or expand their home on non-tidal wetlands property without applying for an individual wetlands permit under the Clean Water Act.

Fair, Flexible and Effective Wetlands Programs: In response to the needs of and recommendations from states, developers, farmers, homeowners, environmental groups, Congress and scientists, the Clinton Administration issued a 40-point wetlands reform package in August 1993, based on the following principles:

- No net loss of wetlands
- Streamlining wetlands permitting programs
- Better cooperation with private landowners
- Sound science
- Increasing participation by states, tribes, local governments and the public
- Greater use of non-regulatory approaches to wetlands protection

Cutting Litigation and Resolving Disputes: The Corps of Engineers, the main wetlands agency, is designing a process by which landowners can challenge a wetlands permit denial without going to court.

Mitigation Banking: The Clinton Administration issued guidance on wetlands mitigation banking that gives landowners more flexibility and improves protection.

Statistical Backup

- More than 99% of all wetlands permits are granted. However, the Clinton Administration believes that we can do better because the wetlands programs have been a source of justifiable frustration for many.
- The Republican Clean Water rollback would redefine wetlands in a way that could remove existing protections from as much as 75% of the nation's wetlands (even including much of the Everglades).

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

In the State of the Union Address, President Clinton declared that protecting public health and the environment for future generations is one of America's great challenges. The President believes we should expand community right-to-know programs, challenge communities to work with business to cut pollution, and allow businesses the flexibility to find cleaner and cheaper ways to cut pollution.

President Clinton will continue to fight against attempts to enact unscientific wetlands laws. The President's budget specifically includes a \$111 million increase in the wetlands reserve program and a doubling of the federal commitment to the Everglades to \$1.5 billion over 7 years.

Staff Contact: Brian Johnson, CEQ
Last Update: March 25, 1996

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON
MEETING AMERICA'S CHALLENGE TO PROTECT AND HONOR
OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

"I think we're obligated to balance this budget to take the debt off our children and our grandchildren, but we're obligated to do it in a way that represents -- that reflects our responsibility to our parents and our grandparents.. " -- President Clinton

FIGHTING TO PROTECT MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

- **Fighting Drastic Republican Cuts** in Medicare and Medicaid that will shift a staggering financial burden to elderly and disabled Medicare beneficiaries; and reduce Medicaid nursing home coverage for hundreds of thousands of the elderly and disabled.
- **Long-Term Care** -- Opposing Republican proposals to reduce Medicaid long-term care coverage and to repeal enforcement of quality standards for nursing homes. Consistently supported expanding state administered home and community-based care services, tax clarifications and consumer standards for private long-term care insurance, and penalty-free withdrawals from IRAs to pay for long-term care.
- **Making Medicare and Medicaid Responsive to Beneficiary Needs** -- Worked to strengthen and improve Medicare and Medicaid by combating fraud and abuse, enhancing quality, and supporting an expansion of managed-care options to increase choices for beneficiaries -- not as a smokescreen for deep and arbitrary cuts. Proposed providing more preventive services and a respite care benefit for families of victims of Alzheimer's disease under Medicare.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC SECURITY

- **A Stable Social Security System** -- Committed to preserving Social Security benefits and ensuring the long-term integrity of the Trust Fund. The President stated benefits should not be used to balance the budget or pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.
- **A Reliable Pension System** -- Signed the Retirement Protection Act in December 1994. Now workers and retirees will be able to count on receiving the pension they have earned.

STRENGTHENING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Older Americans Act** -- Proposed reauthorization of Older Americans Act to renew and strengthen critical Meals on Wheels, transportation, senior community employment, and ombudsman services. Fighting to keep the program intact.
- **Senior Service Corps** -- Fighting to support and protect the Corporation for National Service's Senior Service Programs -- Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

BRINGING SENIORS TO THE TABLE

- **Elevation of Commissioner of Aging** to Assistant Secretary status.
- **1995 White House Conference on Aging** -- Called for the fourth White House Conference on Aging, after the 1991 Conference failed to take place.

April/1996

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN AMERICANS

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND SECURITY

- The economy created **8.5 million new jobs** in just over the three years of Administration.
- For adult African Americans, the **unemployment rate dipped to 9.6%** in March -- one of the **lowest rates in twenty years**. This is the **22nd consecutive month** that the unemployment rate for adult African Americans has been in the **single digits**. (When President Clinton took office in January 1993, the unemployment rate for African American adults was **12.6%**.)
- In the year after the President's Economic Plan, the **incomes of African American households increased 5 percent** -- the first real increase since 1988.
- **Lowest combined rate of unemployment, inflation and mortgage rates in 27 years.**
- **Highest level of homeownership in 15 years.**
- **Made new tax cuts available to 90% of small businesses.**
- Since 1992, over **100,000 new African American businesses** have been created.

PROMOTING A FUTURE OF OPPORTUNITY

- Increased **Head Start** funding by \$760 million.
- Signed into law the **Student Loan Reform Act**, August 10, 1993.
- Signed into law the **National Service Act**, with African Americans comprising **one-third** of all participants, September 21, 1993.
- Enacted the **Goals 2000: Educate America Act**, March 31, 1994.
- Implemented the **School-to-Work Act** on May 4, 1994.
- Signed into law the **Improving America's School Act**, September 28, 1994.
- Signed **Telecommunications Bill** into law -- helping connect **every child** in America's classrooms to the **information superhighway** by the year 2000, February 8, 1996.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

- Ordered a review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an **effective and important tool** to expand **educational and economic opportunity**.
- The Administration argued in federal court to expand interpretation of the **Voting Rights Act**.
- The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division filed more cases in the last two years to **enforce fair housing laws** than ever before -- a **record 321 cases**.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development actively intervened and **desegregated a Vidor, Texas public housing complex**.
- The Treasury Department, working with the Justice Department, **ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans** for minority customers once denied loans by the bank.
- The Justice Department **settled the Denny's Restaurant racial discrimination lawsuit** brought by six U.S. Secret Service agents. The suit against Denny's was decided in favor of the plaintiffs.

MAKING COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS SAFE FOR OUR FAMILIES

- Signed into law the toughest most comprehensive **Crime Bill** ever, Sept. 13, 1994
- Signed into law the **Brady Bill** -- blocking more than **60,000 criminals** from purchasing guns, November 30, 1993.
- Signed into law the **Assault Weapons Ban**, as part of the Crime Bill.
- Put **100,000 new police** on the street -- over 33,000 more officers have been funded.
- Signed **Police Hiring Supplement** -- awards \$200 million for **community policing**.
- Signed Presidential Directive enforcing a **"Zero Tolerance" gun policy** in schools.
- Introduced **Operation Safe Home** to fight crime in public housing.

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER AND COST LESS

- Appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history.
- Members of the Clinton cabinet include **3 African Americans**, two Hispanics and six women.
- **14%** of total Administration appointees are **African American**.
- President Clinton has to date **nominated 36 African Americans** to the Federal bench -- **19.5%** of his total Federal bench nominations.
- **More African Americans (45)** serving in the **White House** than at any time in history.
- Already cut the **Federal Workforce** by over **200,000** positions -- its lowest level in 30 years.
- **\$58 billion** in savings are already in the bank. **\$116 billion** in savings still to come.

PROMOTING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

- Signed into law the **Family and Medical Leave Act**, February 5, 1993.
- Introduced the **Health Care Security Act**, November 20, 1993.
- Signed into law a comprehensive **Child Immunization Plan**.
- Put the **Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)** on a full-funding path.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

- Created nine **Economic Empowerment Zones** and **95 Enterprise Communities**.
- Signed into law the **Community Development Banking Bill**, September 23, 1994.
- Made **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit** and **Mortgage Revenue Bond Program** permanent.
- Reformed the **Community Reinvestment Act**, helping increase the number of **mortgage loans** to **African Americans** by **55%** from 1993 to 1994.

PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING OUR FAMILIES

- Expanded the **Earned Income Tax Credit** providing tax relief for **15 million** working families. In 1994, the EITC lifted over **350,000** African Americans out of poverty.
- Passed the **Family Support and Preservation Program**.
- Passed major funding increases for **homeless programs** in both Houses.
- Increased **adoption and foster care funds** by almost **\$600 million** from 1994-1995.
- Approved **37 waivers** to states permitting comprehensive **welfare reform** demonstrations.
- Helped reduce **welfare rolls 5%** since taking office -- **700,000 fewer recipients**.
- Working to reduce the number of recipients in the **Food Stamp Program** -- today nearly **one million fewer people** need food stamps than in Oct. 1994, saving taxpayers over **\$800 million**.
- Collected a record **\$11 billion** in child support through enforcement in 1995 -- a nearly **40% increase** since 1992.

RESTORING TRUST IN OUR GOVERNMENT

- Signed into law the **National Voter Registration Act (Motor-Voter)**, May 20, 1993. This expands voting rights for all, including the poor and the young, by creating new, more accessible voter registration locations.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR PUBLIC HEALTH

- The EPA identified **20 environmental justice pilot projects** to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities and turn them into useable space, creating jobs and enhancing community development.
- Issued an **Executive Order on Environmental Justice**, ensuring that low income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

- Brought **democracy** to **Haiti** for first time in its history & did it without losing American lives.
- Hosted first ever **White House Conference on Africa**.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Family and Medical Leave Act, February 5, 1993**
This is an historic effort that allows working Americans to take leave up to **12 weeks** to care for a sick relative or a new child without the fear of losing their jobs. Over **42 million workers** are covered by the new law and it is estimated that as many as 2.5 million workers will take advantage of it annually.
- **Student Loan Reform Act, August 10, 1993**
The new direct student loan program will enable **more than 5 million borrowers** this year alone to consolidate their guaranteed loans into direct loans. Borrowers will benefit from lower fees and the option of income contingent repayment -- taxpayers will save as much as **\$4.3 billion** by cutting red tape and providing loans with flexible repayment options.
- **President Clinton increased funding for Historically Black Colleges by \$100 million since FY1992, a nine percent increase.** Each year, the Administration provides **\$1.1 billion** in support for scholarships, research grants, fellowships, construction, and equipment for the nation's black colleges.
- **Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, August 10, 1993**
After a decade of failed attempts, President Clinton championed the passage of this legislation, which uses tax incentives and flexible grants to promote economic empowerment and private-sector job creation in **104 distressed communities** across America. Over **500 communities** took up the "EZ" challenge, developing comprehensive strategies and forging unprecedented partnerships for community renewal that made all applicants winners.
- **President Clinton is committed to increasing the minimum wage.** Over **1.3 million hourly-paid African Americans** would directly benefit from the President's proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour.
- **National Service Act, September 21, 1993**
In 1995, **25,000 AmeriCorps members** (more than served during the largest year of the Peace Corps) tutored students, immunized children, reclaimed parks and patrolled streets -- and in return received education awards that make college or job training more affordable. AmeriCorps is scheduled to increase to 50,000 members in FY1996, with a total of almost 100,000 Americans serving our country in the first three years.
- **The Brady Act, November 30, 1993**
After stalling for several years in Congress, the Brady Bill became law under the leadership of President Clinton. The Act requires a five-day waiting period during which all potential handgun purchasers are required to submit to a background check. **\$100 million** was appropriated for implementation in FY1995 and another **\$50 million** is authorized for this year. So far, the Brady Law has stopped more than **60,000 fugitives and felons** from purchasing handguns.

- **Goals 2000: Educate America Act, March 31, 1994**

The Goals 2000 bill assists communities and states with funds to develop and implement their own school improvements based on local, "bottom-up" initiatives.

Improvements will include ways to strengthen **academic achievement**, improve discipline, increase **parent involvement**, better utilize technology, and improve teaching. Over 47 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and 7 territories have received federal grants.

- **School-to-Work Act, May 4, 1994**

This landmark legislation provides venture capital to spark a nationwide system for moving America's young people smoothly from the **classroom to a job with a future**. Since 1994, all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have received funds for planning their school-to-work programs, 27 states now have school-to-work state implementation grants, and 15 localities and 21 urban-rural-high poverty areas have received grants. In May 1995, over 116,000 students, 2,730 schools, and over 41,000 employers were involved in school-to-work after just one year.

- **The Crime Bill, September 13, 1994**

The \$30 billion Crime Bill attacks crime by adding **100,000 police officers**, funding comprehensive prevention programs and building more prisons. The legislation also includes strong punishment for criminals by implementing "three-strikes-and-you're-out" for repeat violent offenders. Half the nation's law enforcement agencies -- jurisdictions of all sizes -- have received grants to hire more than 31,000 new police officers.

-- Homicides fell 12% in the first half of 1995, the **largest drop in 35 years**. [FBI, December 17, 1995]

-- The nation's largest cities saw their **serious crime rate fall 6%** in the first six months of 1995. [FBI, December 17, 1995]

-- In 1995, New York saw its murder rate **drop 31%** in the first six months and is at the lowest level since 1970. [Department of Justice, September 13, 1995]

-- During the first half of 1995, the overall crime rate was down by more than **16%** in San Francisco, **10%** in San Antonio, and **9%** in Los Angeles County. [Washington Post, August 16, 1995]

- **Assault Weapons Ban, September 13, 1994**

President Clinton successfully challenged gun interests to ban **19 specific types of deadly assault weapons** while simultaneously protecting hunters rights by exempting over 650 hunting rifles.

- **Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act, September 23, 1994**

This legislation creates a national network of non-traditional grassroots community lending institutions and injects \$4.8 billion of **capital** into economically distressed urban and rural areas.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BEHALF OF HISPANIC AMERICANS

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND SECURITY

- The economy created **8.5 million new jobs** in just over first three years of Administration.
- The **unemployment rate** for Hispanic Americans in March was **10.0%** down from **11.3%** when President Clinton first took office.
- After more than a decade of decline, over **1 million new manufacturing and construction jobs** have been created since President Clinton took office.
- By the end of 1995, over **220,000 new Hispanic-American-owned businesses** have been created since the President took office.
- Passed the largest **deficit-cutting** plan in history -- saving more than **\$1 trillion** over 7 yrs.
- Lowest **combined rate of unemployment, inflation, mortgage rates** in 27 years.
- Made **new tax cuts** available to over 90% of small businesses.

PROMOTING A FUTURE OF OPPORTUNITY

- Signed the **Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans**, February 22, 1994.
- Increased **Head Start** funding by \$760 million.
- Enacted the **Goals 2000: Educate America Act**, March 31, 1994.
- Implemented the **School-to-Work Opportunities Act**, May 4, 1994.
- Signed into law the **Student Loan Reform Act**, August 10, 1993.
- Signed into law the **National Service Act**, with Hispanics comprising 14% of all participants. September 21, 1993
- Signed into law the **Improving America's Schools Act**, September 28, 1994.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

- Ordered a **comprehensive review** of the government's **affirmative action** programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an **effective and important tool** to expand education and economic **opportunity** to all Americans.
- Authorized a nationwide investigation of discrimination by financial institutions to help end **discrimination** in the provision of **home mortgages**.
- Made "**naturalization**" a top priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration
- Elevated the **Department of Justice Civil Rights Division**, the Office of Special Counsel for Discriminatory Immigration Employment Practices to protect against discriminatory aspects of employer sanctions.

MAKING COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS SAFE FOR OUR FAMILIES

- Signed into law the toughest most comprehensive **Crime Bill** ever, September 7, 1994.
- Signed into law the **Brady Bill** -- blocking over **60,000 criminals** from buying guns, Nov. 30, 1993.
- Introduced **Operation Safe Home** to fight crime in public housing.
- Signed into law the **Assault Weapons Ban**.
- Put **100,000 new police** on the street -- over 33,000 new officers have been funded.
- Signed the **Police Hiring Supplement**, awarding \$200 million for **community policing**.
- Signed the **Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act** to expand security and violence prevention.
- Signed Presidential Directive enforcing a "**Zero Tolerance**" **gun policy** in schools, October 22, 1994

RESTORING TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

- Signed into law the **National Voter Registration Act (Motor-Voter)**, May 20, 1993. This expands voting rights for all, including the poor and the young, by creating new, more accessible voter registration locations

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER AND COST LESS

- Appointed the most **diverse** Cabinet and Administration in history. Members of the Clinton cabinet include **2 Hispanics**. With the choice of **Federico Pena** and **Henry Cisneros**, this Administration has attained **13% Hispanic representation in the Cabinet**.
- Set a record (**11%**) on Hispanics appointed to the Fed. District and circuit courts, including **first Mexican American judge** in Los Angeles and the **first Hispanic judge** in Chicago.
- Appointed more Hispanic Americans to senior level positions than any President in American history. Significantly, these appointments are outside what has been considered the "traditional" Hispanic areas of interest.
- Already cut **Federal Workforce by over 200,000** -- its lowest level in 30 years.
- **\$58 billion** in savings are already in the bank. **\$116 billion** in savings are still to come
- Signed the **Unfunded Mandates Reform Act** into law, March 22, 1995.

OPENING FOREIGN MARKETS TO AMERICAN GOODS

- Signed **NAFTA** into law in 1993, creating a free trade zone between Mexico, the United States and Canada, and establishing the largest and richest market in the world - 360 million consumers and more than \$6 trillion in annual output.
- Hosted **Summit of the Americas** and agreed to negotiate a Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005

PROMOTING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

- Introduced the **Health Care Security Act**, November 20, 1993.
- Signed into law the **Family and Medical Leave Act**, February 5, 1993
- Signed a comprehensive **Child Immunization Plan** into law.
- Established the **Office of Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine** at the National Institute of Health.
- Funded **supplemental unemployment and food assistance programs** to help some 1.9 million unemployed American workers, their families and poor children.
- Increased **Ryan White CARE Act** funding for outpatient AIDS care **over 100%** in first three budgets.

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

- Created **nine Economic Empowerment Zones** and **95 Enterprise Communities**.
- Signed into law the **Community Development Banking Bill**, September 23, 1994.
- Signed the **Executive Order on Environmental Justice** to protect Americans -- particularly those who can least afford it -- from pollution and to help provide safe, clean communities
- Made the **low-income housing credit** and **Mortgage Revenue Bond Program** permanent, increasing opportunities for affordable housing development by the private sector.
- Reformed **Community Reinvestment Act**, helping increase the number of **mortgage loans** to **Hispanic Americans by 42%** from 1993 to 1994.

PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING OUR FAMILIES

- Expanded **Earned Income Tax Credit** providing tax relief to **15 million** working families.
- Passed the **Family Support and Preservation Program**.
- Approved **37 waivers** to states permitting comprehensive **welfare reform** demonstrations.
- Helped reduce **welfare rolls 5%** since taking office -- **700,000 fewer recipients each month**.
- Reducing the number of recipients in the **Food Stamp Program** -- nearly **one million fewer people** who needed food stamps before October 1994, saving taxpayers over **\$800 million**.
- Passed **major funding increases for homeless programs** in both houses.
- Increased **adoption and foster care funds** by almost \$600 million from 1994-1995
- Collected a record **\$11 billion** in child support through enforcement in 1995 -- a nearly **40% increase** since 1992.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Family and Medical Leave Act, February 5, 1993**
This is an historic effort that allows working Americans to take leave up to **12 weeks** to care for a sick relative or a new child without the fear of losing their jobs. Over **42 million workers** are covered by the new law and it is estimated that as many as 2.5 million workers will take advantage of it annually.
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The new direct student loan program will enable **more than 5 million borrowers** this year alone to consolidate their guaranteed loans into direct loans. Borrowers will benefit from lower fees and the option of income contingent repayment -- taxpayers will save as much as **\$4.3 billion** by cutting red tape and providing loans with flexible repayment options.
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After a decade of failed attempts, President Clinton championed the passage of his legislation, which uses tax incentives and flexible grants to promote economic empowerment and private-sector job creation in **104 distressed communities** across America. Over **500 communities** took up the "EZ" challenge, developing comprehensive strategies and forging unprecedented partnerships for community renewal that made all applicants winners.
- **National Service Act, September 21, 1993**
In 1995, **25,000 AmeriCorps members** (more than served during the largest year of the Peace Corps) tutored students, immunized children, reclaimed parks and patrolled streets -- and in return received education awards that make college or job training more affordable. AmeriCorps is scheduled to increase to 50,000 members in FY1996, with a total of almost 100,000 Americans serving our country in the first three years.
- **Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, February 22, 1994**
This Order establishes an advisory commission to oversee the **improvement in education for Hispanic Americans**, but also ensures that Hispanic-serving institutions will have more input regarding educational goals and issues of concern to Hispanic Americans. Also created by the order is a White House Initiative Office operating out of the Department of Education and an interagency working group in which a senior level official from each government agency will have oversight for implementation of the Order.
- **Goals 2000: Educate America Act, March 31, 1994**
The Goals 2000 bill assists communities and states with funds to develop and implement their own **school improvements** based on **local, "bottom-up"** initiatives. Improvements will include ways to strengthen **academic achievement**, improve discipline, increase **parent involvement**, better utilize technology, and improve teaching. Over **47 states**, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and 7 territories have received federal grants.

- **School-to-Work Act, May 4, 1994**

This landmark legislation provides venture capital to spark a nationwide system for moving America's young people smoothly from the **classroom** to a **job** with a future. Since 1994, **all 50 states**, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have received funds for planning their school-to-work programs, 27 states now have school-to-work state implementation grants, and 15 localities and 21 urban-rural-high poverty areas have received grants. In May 1995, over **116,000 students**, 2,730 schools, and over 41,000 employers were involved in school-to-work after just one year.

- **The Brady Act, November 30, 1993**

After stalling for several years in Congress, the Brady Bill became law under the leadership of President Clinton. The Act requires a five-day waiting period during which all potential handgun purchasers are required to submit to a background check. \$100 million was appropriated for implementation in FY1995 and another \$50 million is authorized for this year. **More than 60,000 fugitives and felons have been prevented from buying guns.**

- **The Crime Bill, September 13, 1994**

The \$30 billion Crime Bill attacks crime by adding **100,000 police officers**, funding comprehensive prevention programs and building more prisons. The legislation also includes strong punishment for criminals by expanding the number of offenses eligible for the death penalty and implementing "three-strikes-and-you're-out" for repeat violent offenders.

-- Homicides across the country **fell 12%** in the first half of 1995, the **largest drop in 35 years**. [*FBI*, December 17, 1995]

-- The nation's largest cities saw their **serious crime rate fall 6%** in the first six months of 1995. [*FBI*, December 17, 1995]

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- **Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act, September 23, 1994**

This legislation creates a national network of non-traditional grassroots community lending institutions and will inject **\$4.8 billion of capital** into economically distressed urban and rural areas.

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BEHALF OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

"As we face the challenges of the global economy in the information age, we turn to you for hope and inspiration. You know well about overcoming barriers and embracing change. You know well about the importance of preserving the traditional values of family and hard work, and sacrifice today for a better future tomorrow. And, yet you have shown the most remarkable ability to adapt to changing circumstances of perhaps any group of your fellow Americans."

-- President Clinton, Cong. Asian American and Pacific American Institute Dinner, May 18, 1995

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND SECURITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

- The economy created **8.5 million new jobs** in just over 3 years.
- **Unemployment** has fallen to **5.6%** from 7% when President Clinton first took office.
- After more than a decade of decline, **over 1 million new manufacturing and construction jobs** have been created since the President Clinton took office.
- Passed the largest **deficit-cutting** plan in history -- saving more than **\$1 trillion** over 7 yrs.
- Lowest combined rate of **unemployment, inflation and mortgage rates** in 27 years.
- **Highest level of homeownership** in 15 years.
- Made **new tax cuts** available to 90% of small businesses.

EXPANDING BUSINESS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT

- Approved nearly **8,500 Small Business Administration loans** totalling nearly **\$2 billion** to **Asian American businesses**.
- Funded an SBA program targeted to **Asian American women** that provides **training and counseling** to thousands in the Chinatown section of New York City.
- Secured commitments from **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation** leaders to **eliminate barriers** to open trade in the Asia Pacific region in 2020.
- Helped increase **exports to Asia** by more than **44%** since taking office; our exports to Asia account for over **2 million jobs** in the United States.

PROMOTING A FUTURE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

- Increased **Head Start** Funding by \$760 million.
- Enacted the **Student Loan Reform Act**, August 10, 1993.
- Signed into law the **National Service Act**, September 21, 1993.
- Implemented **Goals 2000** -- Setting world-class educational standards, March 31, 1994.
- Signed into law the **Improving America's School Act**, September 28, 1994.
- Signed into law the **School-to-Work Act**, May 4, 1994.
- Signed **Telecommunications Bill**, helping connect **every child** in America to **internet** by 2000.
- Increased funding for Office of **Bilingual Education & Minority Languages Affairs**.
- Restructured **Foreign Language Assistance Program** to assist **local schools** in establishing programs in **Chinese, Japanese, and Korean**.
- Hosted two **Asian Pacific American Education Forums** to address the needs of Asian American students and their teachers.

MAKING COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS SAFE FOR OUR FAMILIES

- Signed into law the toughest most comprehensive **Crime Bill** ever, Sept. 13, 1994.
- Signed into law the **Brady Bill**, blocking over **60,000** criminals from buying guns, Nov. 30, 1993.
- Signed into law the **Assault Weapons Ban**, as part of the Crime Bill.
- Puts **100,000 new police** on the street -- over 33,000 more officers have been funded.
- Signed Presidential Directive enforcing a **"Zero Tolerance" gun policy** in schools.
- Signed **Police Hiring Supplement** -- awards \$200 million for **community policing**.

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER AND COST LESS

- Appointed the most **diverse** Cabinet and Administration in history.
- There are currently **155 Asian Pacific Americans** serving in the Clinton Admin. -- **three times as many** Asian American appointees as the previous Administration.
- Nominated **more Asian-Americans** to the **federal bench** than any other Administration; President Clinton's first Asian-American nomination to a federal court was the first in almost **15 years**.
- Already cut the **federal workforce** by over **200,000** positions -- its lowest level in 30 years.
- **\$58 billion** in savings are already in the bank. **\$116 billion** in savings still to come.
- Cut the Small Business Administration loan form from **1 inch thick** to **1 page**.

PROMOTING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

- Signed into law the **Family and Medical Leave Act**, February 5, 1993.
- Introduced the **Health Care Security Act**, November 20, 1993.
- Signed into law a comprehensive **Child Immunization Plan**.
- Put the **Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)** on a full-funding path.
- Established the **Office of Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine** at the National Institute of Health.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

- Created nine **Economic Empowerment Zones** and **95 Enterprise Communities**.
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RESTORING TRUST IN OUR GOVERNMENT

- Signed into law the National Voter Registration Act (**Motor-Voter**), May 20, 1993 -- expands voting rights for all, including the poor and the young, by creating new, more accessible voter registration locations.

PROMOTING LEGAL IMMIGRATION

- Launched **Citizenship USA** whose goal is to ensure that by summer 1996, eligible persons who apply for citizenship will become **new citizens within six months**.
- Already implemented in **Los Angeles**, Citizenship USA will begin in **San Francisco, New York, Miami, Chicago** -- cities that represent more than **75%** of all pending citizenship applications.

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AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

"Affirmative action has been good for America. But that does not mean it has always been perfect. That does not mean that it should go on forever. Affirmative action should be retired when its job is done -- and I am resolved that that day will come. But the job is not done."

President Clinton, July 19, 1995
July 19, 1995

President Clinton believes there is still a need for affirmative action that is done right -- we need to mend it, not end it. As we approach the 21st century, President Clinton believes we must restore the American Dream to all Americans; find common ground amid our great diversity; and strengthen the American commitment to equal opportunity for all, special treatment for none.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- **Done Right, Affirmative Action Works.** In 1995, President Clinton ordered a review of the federal government's affirmative action programs. That review concluded that affirmative action is still an effective tool to expand economic and educational opportunity:
 - The military's approach, ensuring it has a wide pool of qualified candidates for every promotion, has given us the world's most diverse and best qualified military leadership.
 - Education Department programs targeted at minorities do a lot of good with a small investment -- about 40 cents of every \$1,000 in student aid.
 - The goals and timetables first instituted by President Nixon for large federal contractors have prevented discrimination and fostered fairness-- without quotas or mandated outcomes.
 - "Set-asides" have helped build up firms owned by minorities and women who were historically excluded from the "old boy" network. They have helped a new generation of entrepreneurs to flourish, fostering self-reliance and economic growth.
- **Presidential Directive to Ensure Affirmative Action:** On July 19, 1995, President Clinton directed all federal agencies to comply with the Supreme Court's decision in Adarand and to apply four standards to make sure that all affirmative action programs are fair:
 - No quotas.
 - No reverse discrimination.
 - No preferences for unqualified individuals.
 - No continuation of programs that have met their goals.
 - Any program that does not meet any of these four principles must be eliminated or changed.

- **Reform "Set-Asides":** To address cases where "set-asides" have been misapplied, misused or even intentionally abused, President Clinton ordered his Administration to:
 - Crack Down on "Set-Aside" Fraud and Abuse. Make sure "set-asides" go to businesses that need them most. No permanent "set-asides" for any company.
 - Comply with the Supreme Court's Adarand decision. Limit set-asides to areas where serious discrimination remains.
- **Helping Distressed Communities:** President Clinton has directed the Vice President Gore to develop new ways to use government contracting to help businesses locate in distressed areas and hire workers from those areas.

Background

We must not become the first generation of Americans since the end of Reconstruction to narrow the reach of equal opportunity. We must continue the struggle toward equal opportunity for all and special treatment for none. America cannot afford to waste a single person as we confront new challenges. Affirmative action has closed many gaps in economic opportunity, but we still have a long way to go:

- Unemployment rate for African-Americans remains about twice that of whites.
- Women still make only 72 percent as much as men.
- Average income for a Hispanic woman with a college degree is less than that of a white man with a high school degree.
- The recent Glass Ceiling Report found that women in the nation's largest companies hold less than 5 percent of senior management posts. The number is lower for African-Americans, Hispanic and Asians, who hold less than 1 percent each of those positions.
- In 1994, federal government received more than 90,000 complaints of employment discrimination based on race, ethnicity and gender.
- Hate crimes and violence are still ugly realities in the lives of many Americans.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

- Complete agency compliance with President's directive to ensure that Administration's programs conform to Adarand.
- Prevent this issue from dividing us. There are those who would use this issue to divide us. They must not succeed. America will survive and prosper as a society if we are confident and united. Today in America, 150 racial and ethnic groups co-exist in harmony -- an achievement unmatched in human history. President Clinton believes we have a responsibility to renew and strengthen the ideals that fostered that unity.

Contact: Stephen Warnath, Domestic Policy Council
Last Update: March 12, 1996

THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON

"Our common goal must ultimately be a cure, a cure for all those who are living with HIV, and a vaccine to protect all the rest of us from the virus. A cure and a vaccine, that must be our first and top priority."

President Clinton
White House Conference on HIV and AIDS
December 6, 1996

In the 15 years since the discovery of HIV/AIDS in the U.S., more than 500,000 Americans have been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 300,000 men, women and children have died from this disease. AIDS is the leading cause of death among Americans 25-44. Today, as many as one million Americans are living with HIV and at least 100 Americans are becoming infected every day. Early governmental response to this epidemic was sharply criticized as insufficient. But President Clinton has committed the nation to a "loud, clear, and consistent war on AIDS."

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Increased funding for AIDS research, prevention, and care by 30 percent in two years and sought increases in FY 1996 that would raise funding by 40 percent over three years.
- Increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides services to people living with AIDS, by 108 percent.
- Revised eligibility rules for Social Security disability benefits to make it easier for people with HIV/AIDS to qualify for support.
- Signed legislation strengthening the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, providing a stronger focus for research planning and coordination.
- Accelerated AIDS drug approval. Approval of two new protease inhibitor drugs was accomplished in 72 and 41 days, respectively.
- Called the first-ever White House Conference on HIV and AIDS, inviting more than 300 experts, activists, and caregivers to a full-day of top-level discussions with Administration officials.

- Established the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS to advise the government on issues related to the national response to the epidemic.
- Increased funding for direct housing assistance to people with AIDS by 46 percent.
- Created the Office of National AIDS Policy at the White House to coordinate and direct Federal AIDS policy.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton continues to seek additional resources to increase the national response to HIV and AIDS. His Administration is working closely with business leaders, religious leaders, community organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, and members of the affected community to increase such efforts throughout the U.S. by:

- Eliminating barriers to AIDS research and AIDS drug approval. Vice President Gore is leading an effort to increase cooperation between government and the pharmaceutical industry on AIDS research and drug development.
- Challenging Congress to retain the federal guarantee of Medicaid coverage for people living with HIV and AIDS.
- Seeking additional funding for AIDS research, prevention, and care.
- Strongly supporting the Office of AIDS Research at NIH to provide greater focus and direction for our national AIDS research effort.
- Establishing a national goal to reduce the number of new HIV infections each year "until there are none."
- Working to eliminate AIDS-related discrimination in the workplace, health care institutions, employment, and housing.
- Collaborating with business leaders to increase workplace AIDS education to help reduce the stigma attached to HIV disease.
- Empowering community-based organizations to develop culturally sensitive AIDS prevention efforts.
- Working with parents, schools, clergy, and youth advocates to reduce the number of adolescents and young adults becoming infected with HIV.

Contact: Richard Sorian, 750 17th St., NW, Suite 600, 632-1090
Last Update: March 11, 1996

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

"The fact is, organized interests have too much power in the halls of government. These influence groups too often promote their own interest at the expense of the public interest. Too often they operate in secret. Too often they have special privileges ordinary Americans don't even know exist....We have an historic opportunity to renew our democracy and strengthen our country. If we truly believe in a government that puts ordinary Americans ahead of the powerful and privileged, then we must act and act now."

President Bill Clinton
Radio Address to the Nation
February 17, 1996

On February 17, 1996, President Clinton announced his support for the first real bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation in a generation, the McCain-Feingold Senate Campaign Finance Reform Act. The McCain-Feingold bill would help fight the cynicism that is gripping the American people, help restore faith in the U.S government, reaffirm that elections are won and lost in a competition of ideas, and reduce the cost of campaigning. The bill includes many of the campaign finance reform ideas that President Clinton championed in 1992, including:

- Campaign spending limits
- Banning Political Action Committee (PAC) contributions to candidates
- Limiting the use of personal funds
- Ending the current soft money system by requiring disclosure of all soft money contributions
- Requiring broadcasters to provide free broadcast time and discounts to candidates
- Prohibiting Congressional franked mailings in the year of a campaign

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Made voting easier for more than 11 million Americans by creating more accessible voter registration locations by enacting the National Voter Registration Act ("Motor-Voter"). The Motor-Voter law has already created the greatest expansion in the voter registration rolls since the 19th century.
- Fought for and signed into law the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995. The Act is the first overhaul of lobbying rules in 50 years and requires lobbyists to disclose who they work for and eliminated loopholes that allowed lobbying organizations to avoid disclosure.
- Enacted the Congressional Accountability Act to ensure that the same laws apply to Congress as to the rest of America.

- Fought for and signed into law the Line-Item Veto changing the way Washington works by cutting spending on wasteful special-interest programs.
- Eliminated the tax deductions corporate lobbying expenses.
- Imposed the strictest Administration ethics guidelines in history, including barring top officials from lobbying their former agencies for five years and a lifetime ban against lobbying for foreign governments.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton believes we have an historic opportunity to renew our democracy and help restore trust in our government. That is why the President will continue to call on Congress to pass bipartisan campaign finance reform and curb the influence of money in our country's political system.

Contact: Paul Weinstein, Domestic Policy Council
Last Update: March 8, 1996

CHERISHING AND PROTECTING AMERICA'S CHILDREN

"Our first challenge is to cherish our children and to strengthen America's families. Family is the foundation of American life. If we have stronger families, we will have a stronger America."

President Clinton
January 23, 1996

Quality child care is critical to the millions of working families struggling to make ends meet. The Clinton Administration, which has increased funding for child care in every budget proposal, has been committed to expanding child care assistance through Head Start and other successful child care programs - and to improving the quality of child care. President Clinton is also committed to ensuring the safety of children in foster care, reuniting families where it is possible and encouraging adoption where it is not, reducing the unnecessary amount of time children spend in foster care, and strengthening the capacity of parents to nurture healthy children.

Although often hidden, hunger exists in America. Adequate nutrition for low income families and individuals is still a problem and contributes to low birthweight babies, impaired physical and cognitive development, lack of preparedness to learn, and alarming rates of infant mortality. The Clinton Administration is committed to protecting these children and improving the nutritional quality of school meals, reaching full participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and opposing block grants for child nutrition programs.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD CARE:

- **Increased Funding for Child Care.** Every budget submitted by President Clinton has included increases in child care.
- **Improving Coordination.** The Clinton Administration has worked to make programs more consistent and coordinated, proposing new regulations to reduce red tape, improve quality, give states more flexibility, and streamline child care operations into a single Child Care Bureau.
- **Technical Assistance.** The Clinton Administration has revamped and strengthened technical assistance to the states, territories and tribes to ensure they have access to the best available information on quality issues, particularly health and safety. In addition, the Administration has launched a National Child Care Information Center for policymakers and the general public.

- **Head Start.** President Clinton has made expanding and improving pre-schooling the starting point for helping families give their children a good start on the right course. With bipartisan support, the President appointed the Head Start Advisory Commission to examine and recommend improvements to the program. These recommendations formed the basis of the reauthorization of Head Start with major quality improvements in 1994. In his first two budgets, the President increased Head Start spending by \$760 million helping an additional 50,000 children.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD WELFARE:

- **Removing Barriers to Adoption.** In October 1994, President Clinton signed the Multi-ethnic Placement Act, which will help increase the number of adoptions by prohibiting discrimination based on race or ethnicity, while allowing a narrow consideration for certain factors such as race.
- **Increasing Special Needs Adoptions.** During this Administration, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with Federal adoption assistance has increased by about 30 percent.
- **Improving Court Operations.** The Administration is working with state court systems in 49 states to improve operations so that children spend less time in foster care unnecessarily.
- **Focusing on outcomes and accountability.** The Administration is shifting the Federal government's role from a focus on how well forms are filled out to a focus on how well children are doing. We are providing states with flexibility and technical assistance so that they can reform their child welfare systems. We are working with 48 states to automate their child welfare systems and reduce the paperwork burden on caseworkers.
- **Strengthening Families.** The Family Preservation and Support Act, passed in 1993, provided almost \$1 billion over five years for the development of preventive and supportive services.
- **Preserving Critical Programs.** The President has also stood firm throughout the budget debate to protect funds for adoption, foster care, child abuse and neglect, Medicaid, and SSI -- programs that are critical for many adoptive families and children.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN CHILD NUTRITION:

This Administration is standing up for America's children by supporting and improving child nutrition programs and protecting the national nutrition safety net.

- **Increased Funding for Nutrition.** The President's FY97 Budget requests about \$41 billion for nutrition assistance, up from \$39 billion allotted in FY96. In FY96, the President increased funding for nutrition to \$39 billion, up from \$38 billion in FY95.

- **Reaching Full Participation in WIC.** The Clinton Administration will achieve its commitment to reaching full participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) by reaching 7.5 million participants by the end of FY97. This program works: Every \$1 invested in WIC has proven to save up to \$4.25 in preventive health-care costs.
- **Reforming the School Lunch Program.** This Administration's School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children is a comprehensive plan to ensure healthy school meals. USDA's Team Nutrition -- a network of public-private partnerships -- improves the health of children by promoting food choices for a healthy diet through schools, families, communities, and the media. There are now more than 6,000 Team Nutrition Schools across the nation, building local coalitions to improve meals and provide nutrition information to children and their families.
- **Protecting the National Nutrition Safety Net in Welfare Reform.** The President believes it is possible to enact real welfare reform that is tough on work and responsibility -- not tough on children, while protecting the national nutrition safety net. On January 9, the President rejected the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1995 (H.R. 4) because the bill threatened to undermine the national nutrition safety net that has successfully promoted the nutrition and health of children and families. This welfare reform bill reduced nutrition benefits to the children and families participating in the Food Stamp Program and Child Nutrition Programs by \$29 billion over seven years.

Statistical Backup

Child Care

The quality of child care is far from adequate and the need for assistance with child care is large and growing. Poor quality care threatens children's development. A recent study conducted by economists and child development experts confirms that quality care is related to child outcomes. The vast majority of care in the country was found to be mediocre, with 40% of infant care considered poor.

- Almost one million children of working poor families receive assistance through the At-Risk and Child Care and Development Block Grant Programs.
- Low-income families who pay for child care spend more than a quarter of their income on these expenses, and millions more are in need of child care assistance. In California, 225,000 children are on a waiting list for subsidized child care.
- More than 400,000 children each month receive child care assistance through AFDC and Transitional Child Care programs. Studies indicate that when child care arrangements break down, parents are more likely to drop out of school or leave work and go back on welfare.

Child Welfare

Children become part of the child welfare system because they have been abused or neglected or because they are in danger of being abused or neglected. Nearly 3 million children -- 4 percent of America's children -- were the subjects of reports alleging abuse or neglect in 1993. Nearly half a million children are in foster care, an almost 50 percent increase since 1988. 20,000 children, many of them with special needs, are legally free for and awaiting adoption at this moment. Children wait on average 1.8 years to be adopted.

Child Nutrition

Every day federal nutrition programs make a real difference in the health and well-being of children across the nation by getting them the nutrition they need.

- An average of 1.8 million infants -- 45 percent of all infants born in the United States -- participate in the WIC program each month.
- Almost 13 million children receive food stamps each month -- families with children receive more than 80 percent of all benefits.
- School meals programs in 94,000 schools nationwide give 50 million schoolchildren access to nutritious meals -- nearly 26 million children participate in the programs each school day.
- More than 2 million children participate daily in the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP) -- a program that helps feed children in child care programs.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

President Clinton will continue to champion programs that break down barriers to adoption through recruitment of adoptive and foster care parents; support the placement of special needs children and reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care; and shift the federal focus from paperwork to a focus on outcomes for children by increasing flexibility for states and communities.

The President will also work to ensure that children are protected in any legislative changes to the program. The welfare reform conference report that the President vetoed would have undermined the ability of states to protect children's safety, prevent child abuse and neglect, and recruit safe and loving foster and adoptive homes. Child welfare programs would have been capped and block granted -- cutting funds for child protection programs by \$4.6 billion over 7 years, or 21 percent.

- **A Central Element of Welfare Reform.** The Work and Responsibility Act introduced by the President in 1994 continued the guarantee for families moving toward self sufficiency and expanded child care assistance for working families - part of the effort to "make work pay." The President has made increasing funding for child care one of his bottom lines in the present welfare reform debate. He has consistently said that true welfare reform must help parents go to work and expanding child care assistance is critical to that goal. The President's plan included a \$1.5 billion increase