

**EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION**
DRAFT, December 17, 1997 (1:40 pm)

The following data describes specific effects of significant executive orders, memorandums, and actions. Each section briefly describes the relevant Administration program, its goals, and the results it has produced. The information is divided into the following topic areas: education; children and families; crime; welfare reform; environment; farming and the food supply; and aid to small businesses.

I. Education

Charter Schools

- *Advocating and Funding Charter Schools.* When President Clinton took office there was one charter school in existence, as of the 1997-1998 school year, there are more than 800 charter schools.
 - ▶ By the end of the 1997-98 academic year, there will be more than 900 charter schools operating, with the Administration supporting more than 800 of these schools. Source: Department of Education.
 - ▶ The average size of charter schools is 200 students. With over 800 schools currently operating, there are over 160,000 students in charter schools. Source: Department of Education's National Study of Charter Schools.
 - ▶ The Administration has met approximately 70 percent of the estimated need for start-up funding for charter schools. These federal funds represent about 6 percent of the total operating costs for charter schools. Source: Department of Education.

School Uniforms

- *Memorandum on the School Uniforms Manual, Memorandum for the Secretary of the Education* (February 23, 1996). Helped to deter school violence, promote discipline, and foster a better learning environment by promoting school uniforms. Disseminated *Manual on School Uniforms* to nation's 16,000 school districts in 1996. In addition, 9,167 copies of the manual were distributed to persons who requested them.
 - ▶ In Miami, 196 out of 328 public schools now require school uniforms. Source: Department of Education.
 - ▶ In New York City, it is expected that 25 percent of all public schools will require school uniforms by the end of the 1997-98 school year. Source: Department of Education
 - ▶ In Chicago, 4 out of 5 public schools require school uniforms. Source: Department of Education
 - ▶ In Boston, out of 125 schools, 58 have voluntary school uniform policies and 18 have mandatory policies. Source: Department of Education

School to Work

- *School-to-Work Program.* Helped move persons from school to work to provide economic opportunities.
 - ▶ Local Partnerships report that between December 1995 and June 1996 the number of businesses participating in school-to-work partnerships increased by 50 percent from 135,000 to 200,000. The number of work-based learning opportunities offered by businesses increased from 53,000 in December 1995 to 119,000 in June 1996. Source: Department of Labor.
 - ▶ Of the approximately 13 million secondary school students in the country, state data indicate that one million, or 8 percent, participated in one or more school-based school-to-work activity between January and June 1996. Based on the national evaluation study, 250,000 of these students, or 2 percent, could be described as having participated in comprehensive school-to-work activities, i.e., a career major with integrated curricula, and paid or unpaid work experience linked to school. Source: Department of Labor.
 - ▶ Of the 111,500 elementary and secondary schools in the U.S., state data indicate that 23 percent offer at least one component of school-to-work as of June 1996. Source: Department of Labor.

Literacy

- *America Reads.* Recognizing the importance of involving all Americans in the lives of the Nation's children, the President challenged colleges and universities to commit work-study students as reading tutors. Over 800 colleges and universities have already committed to provide tens of thousands of work-study students as reading tutors in the current school year as part of America Reads.
 - ▶ Americorps members are working in 94 programs across the country to tutor and mentor, set up after-school and summer programs, and recruit parents and community volunteers as tutors. In the District of Columbia, over 1,000 college students, volunteers, seniors, and parents will tutor first grade children in 16 of the neediest schools in the city. The Corporation is also launching a new "Seniors in Schools" initiative in nine cities using 700 senior volunteers as literacy tutors in some of the nation's poorest elementary schools.
- *Read*Write*Now! Summer Pilot Program*
 - ▶ The Department of Education distributed 1.5 million basic *Read*Write*Now!* Kits for grades K-6 as part of the program to have children read throughout the summer. In addition, 120,000 Spiderman workbooks, 63,022 Early Childhood Family Kits, and 23,121 Early Childhood Caregiver Kits were distributed. Thousands of black and white versions of the above products were also distributed, and the kits were also

available on the Internet.

- ▶ There were fourteen summer pilot sites throughout the country. These sites served 85,000 children with help from schools, colleges, churches, literacy organizations, and hundreds of other community organizations.

Prayer in School

- *Memorandum on Religious Expression in Public Schools, Memorandum for the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General* (July 12, 1996). Protected the religious expression of students by distributing a statement of principles addressing religious activity and expression in public schools on August 10, 1995. This statement of principles, *Religious Expression in Public Schools*, was sent to every public school superintendent; the leadership of private elementary and secondary schools; national religious and school organization leadership; and all chief state school officers.
 - ▶ Following the development of *Religious Expression in Public Schools*, the National School Boards Association reported that inquiries regarding how Christmas celebrations can be accommodated in public schools decreased dramatically.

Internet-Based Education Resources.

- *Promoting the Wiring of Schools.* Helping to connect every school and classroom in America to the information superhighway. A telecommunication survey in 1994 showed only 9% of schools and 3% of classrooms wired to the Internet.
 - ▶ 65 percent of schools and 14 percent of classrooms are now wired for the Internet. Source: National Center for Education Statistics.
 - ▶ 72 percent of schools and 29 percent of classrooms have access to the Internet. Source: Quality Education Data (QED).
- *Memorandum on Expanding Access to Internet-based Educational Resources for Children, Teachers, and Parents* (April 18, 1997).
 - ▶ The Department of Education is chairing an interagency effort to create a gateway to all federal educational resources will debut in early 1998.
 - ▶ A segment of the Justice Department web page entitled *Hateful Acts Hurt Kids*, which promotes the discussion of prejudice and discrimination among children, parents, and teachers, was unveiled during the White House Conference on Hate Crimes on November 10, 1997. During its first week, the web page received nearly 10,000 hits.
- *Educational Technology: Ensuring Opportunity for all Children in the Next Century, Executive Order 12999* (April 17, 1996). Providing access to modern computers for all teachers and students. Launched the "Computers for Learning" program, which is a unique partnership between federal agencies, schools, and

non-profits across the country to move more than 70,000 computers into the nation's neediest classroom.

- *Directive on Federal Resources OnLine in Education.* More than 30 agencies are participating in the working group and the pilot site will be unveiled in early 1998. The Department of Education's web site receives over 6 million hits a month from over 300,000 computers.
- *Internet Summit.* Assisting parents in learning about the Internet. The *Parents Guide to the Internet* was released at the Internet Summit on December 2, 1997. Approximately 200,000 copies of the guide will be distributed by the Education Department's toll-free number request service, Family Partnership for Learning members, and the Consumer Information Center.

Student Loans

- *Direct Lending.* A total of 2.36 million borrowers have received Direct Loans. 1.86 million of these borrowers were students, 260,000 were parents, and 240,000 were borrowers consolidating their FFEL loans into Direct Consolidation Loans. Source: Department of Education Management Information Reports.
- *Reforming Student Loans.* Through the period fiscal years 1994-97, student borrowers have saved \$1.657 billion from changes in the Student Loan Reform Act. For the period fiscal years 1994 through 2002, the Department estimates total student borrower savings to be approximately \$5 billion. Source: Department of Education.
 - ▶ An estimated 374,000 borrowers have selected the income contingent repayment plan. Of those who consolidated into Direct Loans, more than one-third chose income contingent repayment. About 41 percent of consolidation loans made as of September 30, 1997, were for borrowers that had previously defaulted on a FFEL loan. Source: Department of Education.
 - ▶ During the period fiscal year 1996-98, the Department of Education will spend \$407 million for Direct Loan administration, out of a total post-secondary education management budget of \$1.8 billion. Source: Department of Education. Quality Education
- *Keeping Schools Open Late.* Provided additional safe havens and extended learning opportunities for children and their families at schools around the country. The Department of Education has developed a guidebook of promising practices and ideas on how to start and organize after-school programs entitled *Keeping Schools Open as Community Learning Centers*. In fiscal year 1998, the Administration will be able to fund 300 after-school programs serving a total of 30,000 children.
- *Memorandum on Preparing Students to Meet National Standards of Excellence*

in *Eighth Grade Math and Improving Math and Science Education, Memorandum to the Secretary of Education and the Director of the National Science Foundation* (March 6, 1997). Produced an action strategy for improving mathematics and science education. [The National Science Foundation and the Department of Education plan to formally submit the strategy to the White House in early 1998 and to publicly release it shortly thereafter.] NSF and the Department of Education have each requested an additional \$40 million for fiscal year 1999 to support the initiatives laid out in the action strategy.

- *Directive on Fixing Failing Schools* (October 28, 1997) By the end of January 1998, the Department of Education will make a guide for how to turn around low-performing schools available in print and on the Department's web page.
- *Directive on Improved Teaching.* The Department of Education developed *Excellence and Accountability in Teaching: A Guide to U.S. Department of Education Programs and Resources*. This guide has been widely distributed, including to the Chief State School Officers and to approximately 600 individuals and organizations interested in teacher quality issues; and has been included in the Department of Education's web site. [The Department of Education will soon release a publication that describes the most promising practices in teacher recruitment, preparation, initial licensing, ongoing professional development, teacher recognition, and accountability measures in teaching. In addition, the Department will issue a biennial report on teacher quality beginning next year to report on the Nation's progress.]
 - ▶ *New Resources for Teachers.* Funded two new centers to improve the quality of teaching: a \$7.5 million Center for the Study of Teaching and Policy to serve as a resource to policy makers and a \$23 million Partnership for Excellence and Accountability in Teaching that will launch a comprehensive national effort to support and sustain long-term improvements in teaching and learning.

II. Children and Families

Child Support

- *Tax Offset.* In 1997, over \$2.1 billion has been collected, of which over \$1.2 billion is child support debt and nearly \$950 million is Federal debt. **Note: This number has never been released.** Source: Department of Treasury.
- *Memorandum on the Child Support Initiative, Memorandum for the Secretary of Health and Human Services* (June 18, 1996). Strengthened child support operations by toughening paternity establishment requirements for applicants for welfare and by enabling States to locate, and withhold wages from, obligors who

have taken a job in another State. The Clinton Administration collected a record \$12 billion in child support in 1996 through tougher enforcement, an increase of \$4 billion, or nearly 50 percent, since 1992. In 1996, the number of child support cases with collections also rose to 4 million, an increase of 43 percent, from 2.8 million in 1992. In 1996, the number of paternities established rose to nearly 1 million, almost double, from 516,000 in 1992.

- *Requiring HHS and the U.S. Postal Service to implement a policy of posting "Wanted Lists" in post offices of parents who owe child support (1996).* In 1997, the following 12 states displayed "Wanted Lists" for delinquent child support offenders: California, Connecticut, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, and South Dakota.
- *Child Support Enforcement System Web Site (1996).* Used the Internet to help people access the child support enforcement system more easily and effectively -- and to help find those parents who are not paying the child support they owe. In 1997, the Child Support Enforcement web page received over 238,000 hits.
- *Supporting Families: Collecting Delinquent Child Support Obligations, Executive Order 13019 (September 28, 1996).* Facilitated the collection of delinquent child support obligations from persons who may be entitled or eligible to receive certain Federal payments or assistance. The first administrative offset was taken on June 10, 1997. To date, 843 payments have been offset, and \$186,581 has been collected through the Administrative Offset Program.

Child Care

- Under President Clinton's leadership, federal funding for direct child care subsidies has increased by nearly 70 percent since he took office, providing child care services for over one million children. In 1993, the Federal Government spent approximately \$1.4 billion on the IV-A Child Care and the Child Care and Development Block Grant programs, which together served about 630,000 children. In 1997, approximately \$2.9 billion in the Child Care and Development Fund served almost 1.1 million children.
- *Memorandum on Improving the Quality of Child Care in the United States, Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense (April 17, 1997).* Directed the Department of Defense to share the expertise and lessons learned from the Military Child Development Programs with Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies, as well as with private and nonprofit groups, that are responsible for providing child care. The October 15 Interim Report to the President on this initiative cited a variety of steps taken, including creation of a toll free number

(1-888-CDP-3040) for civilian programs to order DoD training materials and training over 100 personnel to serve as speakers for the DoD Child Development Program Speakers' Bureau.

Protecting Children from Crime

- *Memorandum on Child Safety Lock Devices for Handguns* (March 5, 1997). Required that a child gun safety device to be issued to every Federal employee who carries a firearm on official duty. Approximately 30,000 Justice Department employees, including those at the FBI, DEA, INS, and the Marshals Service, have been issued an appropriate lock. Safety lock devices have also been issued for the approximately 20,000 Treasury personnel who use firearms in the line of duty.
Source: Department of the Treasury; Department of Justice.
 - ▶ Under the President's leadership, 8 major handgun manufacturers who make the vast majority of handguns in the country, have agreed to provide child safety devices with each handgun sold.
- *Memorandum on the Development of a National Sexual Offender Registration System, Memorandum for the Attorney General* (July 25, 1996). Improved the safety and protection of children through creation of a national sex offender registry. As of December 1, 1997, 20 states, representing 44.2 percent of the U.S. population, have contributed to the national registry which now includes information about approximately 27,000 offenders.

Balancing Work and Family

- *Memorandum on Expanded Family and Medical Leave Policies* (April 11, 1997). In April 1997, the President asked Federal agencies to implement his expanded leave policy immediately for Federal workers. Source: Department of Labor.
 - ▶ In leave years 1995 and 1996, a total of 226,554 employees took leave under FMLA at the Department of Defense, of which 134,768 (59.5%) were men and 91,786 (40.5%) were female. Source: Department of Defense.
 - ▶ In 1995, 33,218 Department of Treasury employees used 410,373 hours under FMLA for family care or bereavement purposes. In 1996, the number increased to 44,060 employees and 535,515 hours. Source: Department of Treasury.
- *Memorandum on Implementing Federal Family Friendly Work Arrangements* (June 21, 1996). Supported agencies in promoting family-friendly work arrangements including alternative work schedules, "flexiplace" (telcommuting), job sharing, career part-time employment, child care, leave sharing, transportation subsidies, and employee assistance programs.
 - ▶ Approximately 46 percent of the Department of Commerce workforce are

working under some form of alternative work schedule. Source: Department of Commerce.

- ▶ Over 50 percent of the Department of Defense workforce are working under some form of alternative work schedule. Over 300,000 Department of Defense employees are on flex time, and approximately 3,000 employees telecommute. Source: Department of Defense.
- ▶ Eighty-five percent of the Department of Labor's employees are on some form of alternative work schedule (flexitime or compressed schedule). In addition, 22 percent telecommute. Source: Department of Labor.
- ▶ Approximately 95 percent of the Department of Transportation's employees are eligible for some form of alternative work schedule (flexitime or compressed schedule). In addition, there are currently over 900 employees who telecommute at least once a week. Source: Department of Transportation.
- ▶ Over 70,000 employees at the Department of the Treasury use the various types of flex time. Source: Department of Treasury.

Health Care

- *Immunization.* As a result of the President's 1993 Childhood Immunization Initiative, childhood immunization rates have reached an historic high. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 90% or more of America's toddlers in 1996 received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines -- surpassing the President's 1993 childhood vaccination goal.
 - ▶ *Immunization-Child Care Initiative* (July 23, 1997). Continued to improve child immunization through beginning work on an integrated immunization registry system so that when children change doctors, the new doctor will have access to the child's immunization record. In 1997, the President also announced that all children in federally-subsidized child care centers are required to be immunized.
- *Protecting Mothers and Their Newborns by ending drive-thru deliveries* (1996). Spearheaded legislation requiring insurance companies to cover at least 48 hour hospital stays following most normal deliveries and 96 hours after a Caesarean section. [HHS does not have very good statistics on how many women are helped by this. For the most part, this is being implemented by the states, and HHS will have no direct program data.]
- *Memorandum on Importation of RU-486, Memorandum for the Secretary of Health and Human Services* (January 22, 1993). Directed assessing initiatives by which Department of Health and Human Services can promote the testing, licensing, and manufacturing in the United States of RU-486 or other

antiprogestins. On September 18, 1996, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an approval letter to the Population Council for mifepristone (commonly referred to as RU-486), when used in combination with misoprostol, for the termination of early pregnancy. The Population Council has not yet submitted the manufacturing control or chemistry information identified as required in the approval letter. When the FDA receives all the information identified in the approval letter, it will have up to six months to make a decision on the application.

Housing Opportunity

- *FHA Fees.* The President has cut FHA home mortgage insurance premiums four times. One reduction, applying to all first-time home buyers will save home buyers \$200 in closing costs on the average FHA mortgage of \$85,000. Another will save first-time home buyers in central cities who participate in home ownership counseling an additional \$200. In all, cuts approved by President Clinton have cut average FHA closing costs for first-time home buyers by \$1,200 around the country and will cut closing costs by \$1,400 in central cities. Last year, FHA provided financing for 800,000 homeowners, many of whom were first-time home buyers --and many of these families would not be homeowners if it were not for the actions taken by the Clinton Administration.
 - *Making It Easier to Qualify for Mortgage Loans.* The FHA has eliminated unnecessary and overly strict requirements under its loan program that made it difficult for many families to qualify for mortgage loans.
- *Financing.* Provided financing to help 40,000 rural people buy single-family homes, including the construction of 14,000 homes under the Self-Help Housing program, in which low-income people gain "sweat equity" by participating in the construction of their own homes. USDA also financed the building of 7,900 units of multiple-family housing. In total, USDA's Rural Housing Service invested more than \$2.6 billion either as loans, guaranteed loans, or grants in rural housing last year. More than 58,000 jobs were created as a result of housing construction generated by USDA programs. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- *Rental Assistance.* Provided \$540 million in rental assistance to help nearly 40,000 rural, low-income households obtain well-built, safe housing. Fifty percent of the rental program beneficiaries were elderly, with average annual income of less than \$7,300. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Child Worker Labels

- *Child Worker Labels* (August 1996). Because the child labor labeling programs are relatively recent, and definitive data on costs and benefits as well as consumer

demand are not available, the newest report does not attempt to make quantitative assessments of their effectiveness.

Adoption

- *Special needs.* Signed the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, which provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families adopting children, and \$6,000 tax credit for families adopting children with special needs. Since President Clinton took office, the number of children with special needs who have been adopted with federal adoption assistance has risen by 60 percent.

Teen Pregnancy

- *National Strategy to Reduce Teen Pregnancy.* In 1998, \$50 million was allocated to state abstinence education activities. This follows several years of specific focus on reducing teen pregnancy.
 - ▶ The U.S. birth rate for teenagers in 1996 was 54.7 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years, down 4 percent from 1995 (56.8). The teenage birth rate has declined by 12 percent since 1991 (62.1). Source: National Center for Health Statistics, preliminary 1996 statistics (September 1997).
 - ▶ Birth rates for teenagers 15-19 years declined between 1991 and 1995 in all states and the District of Columbia, echoing the national trends during this time. Rates fell by 12 percent or more in 12 states; declines in 5 states exceeded 16 percent. Source: National Center for Health Statistics, preliminary 1996 statistics (September 1997).

Domestic Violence

- *Violence Against Women.* Legislation provides for hiring more prosecutors and improving domestic violence training among prosecutors, police officers, and health and social services professionals. Established a nationwide 24-hour domestic violence hotline providing immediate crisis intervention and local shelter referral to victims that has received over 140,000 calls since February 1996. The Clinton Administration has granted states, territories, and Native American tribes nearly \$300 million to support the system of 1,400 emergency shelters, safe homes, and related services nationwide.

III. Moving People from Welfare to Work

- *Memorandum on Government Employment for Welfare Recipients* (March 8, 1997). A total of 2229 employees have been hired off of public assistance by the federal government.

Welfare-to-Work

Commitments and Hires through November 22, 1997

as Reported by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management

AGENCY	Total Commitment Thru 2000	1997 Hires Reported Thru 10-22-97	% of Total Year 2000 Commitment Hired Since 3-8-97
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	---	2	---
Department of Agriculture	375	127	34%
Department of Commerce	4180	80	2%
Department of Defense	1600	375	23%
Department of Education	21	7	33%
Department of Energy	55	12	22%
Department of Health & Human Services	300	148	49%
Department of Housing & Urban Development	200	41	21%
Department of the Interior	325	69	21%
Department of Justice	450	68	15%
Department of Labor	120	54	45%
Department of State	220	10	5%
Department of Transportation	400	106	27%
Department of the Treasury	405	57	14%
Department of Veterans Affairs	800	635	79%
Environmental Protection Agency	120	32	27%
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	---	5	---
Executive Office of the President	6	6	100%
Federal Emergency Management Agency	125	27	22%
General Services Administration	121	50	41%
National Aeronautics & Space Administration	40	8	20%
National Credit Union Administration	---	4	---
National Labor Relations Board	---	1	---
Office of Personnel Management	25	31	124%
Railroad Retirement Board	---	1	---

Securities & Exchange Commission	10	6	60%
Small Business Administration	120	33	28%
Social Security Administration	600	218	36%
U.S. Information Agency	20	15	75%
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission	---	1	---
TOTAL	10638	2229	

IV. Crime, Gangs, and Drugs

- Memorandum on Implementation of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative* (July 8, 1996). Traced approximately 93,477 guns from 27 communities (17 original sites and 10 new sites) through the use of an innovative computer software system that examines crime gun trace information and provides law enforcement officers with crucial investigative leads about the sources of these guns. Source: Department of Treasury. **Note: These numbers are updated from the numbers released in July 1997 (and have not been released).**
- Memorandum on Gun Dealer Licensing, Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury* (August 11, 1993) This initiative strengthened the system of licensing gun dealers, and assure their compliance with applicable rules. The initiative was largely superseded by provisions in the Brady law and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. As of December 10, 1997, the total number of federal firearms licensees (FFLs) is 106,997, down from 279,839 in April 1994, and the total number of FFL dealers is 88,590 down from 252,799. Source: Department of the Treasury. **Note: These numbers have never been released.**
- Memorandum on Enforcing the Youth Handgun Safety Act, Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury* (June 11, 1997). A notice of proposed rulemaking concerning warning signs on guns and juveniles to be posted by federally licensed gun dealers was published in the Federal Register on August 27, 1997. Final regulations are being drafted and are expected to be completed in early 1998.
- National Community Policing Number of Non-Emergency Calls (311)* (July 23, 1996). Assisted in more efficient use of police resources by encouraging use of "311" for non-emergency calls. During its first year of operations in Baltimore, 911 calls for police services have declined 24.8 percent and 50,000 hours of police officer time has been saved.
- Memorandum on Federal Arrestee Drug Testing* (December 18, 1995). Increased

drug testing of criminal defendants. In fiscal year 1997, data from 24 districts indicated that 9,308 defendants, or 56 percent of defendants, were tested, which is an 89 percent increase over the 4,929 defendants, or 28 percent of defendants, tested in fiscal year 1996, and that 1,252 defendants received drug treatment, which is an 190 percent increase over the 431 defendants treated in fiscal year 1996. Source: Department of Justice.

- *Promoting Curfews.* Promoted increasing the number of American cities, including disseminating a bulletin entitled *Curfew: An Answer to Juvenile Delinquency and Victimization?* 71 percent of 1,649 respondents to the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's October 1997 survey of recipients of the curfew bulletin reported that they live in a jurisdiction with a curfew. Source: Justice Department Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention survey (October 1997).
 - ▶ In 1997, 276 of 347 cities (80 percent) have a nighttime curfew, and 72 have a daytime curfew as well. In 1995, 272 of 387 cities (70 percent) had a nighttime curfew. Source: U.S. Conference of Mayors Survey (1997).
 - ▶ 88 percent (263) of the cities reported that curfew enforcement helped make streets safer and 83 percent (222) reported that curfews helped curb gang violence. Source: U.S. Conference of Mayors Survey (1997).
- *Cracking down on truancy.* The Administration has provided a *Manual to Combat Truancy* to the 15,000 school districts in the country and to 51,000 other persons who requested copies. A copy of the manual has also been placed on the Safe and Drug Free Schools' web page.
- *Presidential Initiative Requiring Greater Proof of State Residency Before Purchasing a Firearm (March 5, 1997).* Following the February 23 shooting at the Empire State Building, the President asked the Secretary of the Treasury to examine what might be done to prevent unlawful firearms purchases by aliens legally in the United States. ATF responded on April 21, 1997 by amending the firearms purchase form and related regulations to require purchasers to declare their citizenship status, and to require aliens to present photo identification and documentary evidence establishing their 90-day residence in the state of purchase. [Data, however, is not available on this initiative as gun dealers are not required to report information on denial rates.]
- *Memorandum on the "One Strike and You're Out" Guidelines, Memorandum for the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (March 28, 1996).* Denied admission to applicants and evicted tenants in public housing authorities (PHAs) who have engaged in illegal drug use or other criminal activities. The guidance permits PHAs to institute and enforce tough rules to protect the safety of families living in public housing.
 - ▶ Of the 1,859 out of 3,192 (58%) total PHAs responding to the Department

of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Public and Indian Housing March 1997 survey, 1,392 PHAs had implemented "One Strike" programs. These 1,859 PHAs completed 3,847 evictions in the six months after "One Strike" took effect. [It should be noted that these evictions did not necessarily result from PHAs' One Strike practices, and no eviction statistics for prior years are available for comparison purposes. The responding PHAs also reported that 19,589 people were denied admission to public housing for criminal or drug-related activity in the six months following enactment of One Strike. Again, these actions did not necessarily result from One Strike, and no figures for comparison are available.] Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Public and Indian Housing survey (March 1997).

V. Environment

- *Memorandum on Community Right-to-Know Initiatives, Memorandum for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies (August 8, 1995).* On October 8, 1995, President Clinton directed EPA to consider whether to add to the list of industries covered under the Community Right-to-Know Toxic Release Inventory reporting program. EPA published a final rule on May 1, 1997 which added seven industries to the list of industries covered under the reporting program: metal mining, coal mining, electric generating facilities that combust coal and oil, hazardous waste treatment facilities regulated under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Subtitle C, wholesale chemical distributors, wholesale petroleum distributors, and solvent recovery facilities.
- *Saving Yellowstone from mining.*
 - In August 1996, President Clinton announced an agreement to protect Yellowstone National Park from a proposed mine just outside the park which would have endangered the quality and quantity of waters flowing into the park.
- *Memorandum Ordering Planning (with DOI) for Demonstration Transportation Systems in 3 Parks (April 22, 1996)* On Earth Day 1996, President Clinton asked the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Transportation to develop a plan to enhance resource protection and the quality of the visitor experience in national parks through innovative transportation planning. Plans are in place for parks at Zion, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon.
- *Protection of the Old Growth California Redwoods.* The United States and State of California are acquiring the Headwaters Forest--the largest privately held stand of old growth redwood trees. Together with buffer areas, the governments will

preserve 7500 acres of significant habitat for several endangered species, including the marbled murrelet and coho salmon. [Negotiations are continuing on the Habitat Conservation Plan.]

- *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, Executive Order 13045* (April 21, 1997). The executive order directed EPA to ensure that the Agency's regulatory actions address the disproportionate risks to children from environmental threats. In May 1997, Administrator Browner created the Office of Children's Health Protection. In September 1997, EPA hosted the first-ever national conference on "Preventable Causes of Childhood Cancer." In September 1997, EPA and HHS announced \$10 million in joint funding for six research centers to examine children's environmental health issues. EPA has drafted regulatory guidance for the Agency to ensure adequate protection of children from environmental threats.
- *Memorandum on Public-Private Partnerships for Protection of the National Parks* (April 26, 1996). Raised a record amount of donations from park Cooperating Associations (over \$17 million last year).
 - ▶ The National Park Foundation (NPF), a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, has initiated many major programs:
 - ▶ A \$1 million commitment from American Airlines for trail restoration and accessibility projects in national parks.
 - ▶ Target Corporation raised \$5 million for the restoration of the Washington Monument.
 - ▶ A \$1 million donation from the Toyota Foundation to support the Parks as Classrooms educational program.
- *Restrictions on Pesticides*. In 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) which includes a consistent, health-based standard for pesticide residues, use of an additional safety factor to ensure protection of children, and revisions to the pesticide risk assessment process. Since FQPA was passed, EPA has registered 29 new pesticides, 20 of which were safer reduced-risk and biological pesticides. In 1993, the Clinton Administration stated its commitment to safer biological and reduced-risk pesticides.

VI. Promoting Volunteerism and Service to Communities

- *Presidents' Summit for America*. April, 1997 Summit brought together private sector, non-profits, and state and local government in his campaign to promote service. A complete report of results is available. The Summit has led over 150

cities and states to hold mini-summits.

- ▶ 77 organizations answered the President's challenge and are offering to sponsor 10,000 new AmeriCorps members. In June, the Corporation approved 8,900 of these scholarships, ahead of a first-year plan for 5,000 scholarships.
- *National Service Scholarships.* Awarded to over 1,600 high school students with outstanding records of community service. Next year, the Administration hopes that 10,000 high schools in the nation will participate -- almost half of all high schools.
- *Coalition to Sustain Success.* Vice President has led a new partnership of civic organizations that is working with state and local government to mentor families seeking to leave welfare for work.
- *The Welfare to Work Partnership.* Mobilized over 2500 businesses to hire welfare recipients.
- *Small Business and Welfare to Work.* SBA has received 800 pledges from small businesses willing to hire former welfare recipients through the work of our Small Business Development Centers.

VII. Consumers and Taxpayers

Food Safety

- *Comprehensive Food Safety.* The President has implemented a comprehensive initiative to improve the safety of nation's food supply and detailed a \$43 million food safety program, including measures to improve surveillance, outbreak response, education, and research. Other significant actions:
 - ▶ August, 1996 -- Signed Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996. The law requires drinking water systems to protect against dangerous contaminants like cryptosporidium, and gives people the right to know about contaminants in their tap water.
 - ▶ July, 1996 -- Announced new regulations that modernize the nation's meat and poultry inspection system for the first time in 90 years. New standards help prevent E.coli bacteria contamination in meat.
 - ▶ December, 1995 -- Issued new rules to ensure seafood safety. Utilizes HACCP regulatory programs to require food industries to design and implement preventive measures and increase the industries' responsibility for and control of their safety assurance actions.

Consumer Health

- *Amendment to Executive Order 13017, Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry, Executive Order 13040* (March 25, 1997). Established the President's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry which promotes and assures consumer protection and health care quality.
 - ▶ On November 20, 1997, the Commission issued its Interim Report outlining a proposed Consumer Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

Increasing Seatbelt Use

- *Memorandum on Increasing Seatbelt Use, Memorandum for the Secretary of the Transportation* (January 23, 1997). Requires seat belt use by Federal employees on-the-job.
 - ▶ The Department is developing a Report to Congress to reflect the activity to date on the Presidential Initiative for Increasing Seat Belt Usage Nationwide. The Report will include the progress made towards reaching the new national seat belt and child safety seat goals.
 - ▶ In 1997, three primary seatbelt laws went into affect (Maryland, Oklahoma, and the District of Columbia) bringing the total to 13 states and Puerto Rico that allow a driver to be stopped primarily because the seatbelt was not being used. Source: Department of Transportation.
 - ▶ [There are no new data at this time to reflect a change in safety belt usage as a result of the Presidential Initiative for Increasing Seat Belt Usage Nationwide. Safety belt usage data will not be available until early 1998.]

Crackdown on Food Stamp Fraud

- *Anti-Fraud Program.* Issuance error rates for food stamps have declined in each of the past three years, resulting in total savings of \$660 million. In June 1997, the 1996 error rate dropped to 9.22 percent from the previous year's 9.72 percent, resulting in a single-year savings of more than \$85 million for the program.
- *Pre-authorization Screening of Retailers; Tougher Post-Authorization Controls; and Stiffer Penalties for Violators.* During fiscal year 1997, the Food Stamp Program conducted 4,627 investigations of stores, and fired or disqualified 1,584 retailers for program violations. Of those, 712 retailers, with redemptions of \$79.5 million, were identified as having engaged in trafficking, or having exchanged food stamps for cash.
- *Optional State-funded food assistance programs for legal citizens and childless, able-bodied adults who were made ineligible for Federal food stamp benefits under welfare reform.* Currently, eight States have chosen to implement their own

programs, and issued approximately \$13 million in benefits during August and September of 1997 (the initial months of operation) to nearly 122,000 households.

- *Talon.* USDA expects to announce in December 1997 the results of OPERATION TALON, a national law enforcement effort to apprehend dangerous fugitives involved with food stamp fraud.

VIII. Combating Hunger and Promoting Agriculture

Nutrition and Hunger Programs

- *Goal for WIC Program to Reach Full Participation of 7.5 million.* Participation in WIC has expanded nearly 30 percent, from 5.7 million at the start of fiscal year 1993 to almost 7.4 million at the end of fiscal year 1997. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- *Reducing WIC Costs.* WIC State agencies have contracted with infant formula manufacturers to obtain rebates on infant formula. These competitively-bid contracts have reduced food costs; increasing WIC participation with increasing WIC appropriation. In fiscal year 1997, this resulted in \$1.2 billion in savings, permitting service to 1.6 million additional participants. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- *Gleaning.* Helped to feed the hungry through the promotion of food recovery and gleaning.
 - ▶ A joint USDA-Department of Defense initiative, announced in September 1997, has recovered over \$1.4 million worth of food, and channeled it through 29 State agencies. An additional \$10 million of food is anticipated to be recovered over the next 18 months. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.
 - ▶ Over 15,000 pounds of food have been recovered from USDA's farmers' markets for distribution to food banks. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Assisting Agricultural Communities

- *Loan Guarantees.* Provided loans and loan guarantees totaling \$2.3 billion to over 27,000 family-sized farmers. Direct operating loans totaling \$65 million were provided to over 1,900 socially-disadvantaged farmers (SDA), exceeding the initial targeted allocation for SDA farmers by 22%. Direct operating loans made to SDA farmers increased by 11% from fiscal year 1996. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- *Emergency Aid.* Provided \$3.5 million to nearly 4,000 farmers in North and

South Dakota whose livestock were in danger of perishing due to severe winter storms. Provided over \$22 million in cost share assistance for emergency livestock feed to approximately 30,000 farmers in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- *Expanded Crop Insurance and Crop Revenue Coverage.*
 - ▶ Expanded the crops covered under the crop insurance program. For the 1997 (1998 citrus) crop year, 29 different crops with permanent programs established were added to the crop insurance program in 343 counties in 25 states. For the 1998 (1999 citrus) crop year, coverage will be expanded on 25 different crops in 144 additional counties in 16 states. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.
 - ▶ The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors approved the expansion of Crop Revenue Coverage (CRC) for the 1997 and 1998 crop years for corn, cotton, grain sorghum, and wheat. CRC is now available on almost 90 percent of the corn, wheat, cotton, soybeans, and grain sorghum acres in the U.S.

Creating Rural Jobs

- *Rural Business-Cooperative Service.* Financed the start-up or expansion of 1,183 rural businesses or cooperatives, creating or preserving more than 53,000 jobs in the process. About \$936 million was extended by USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service as loans, guaranteed loans, or grants to rural businesses and cooperatives. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- *Rural Empowerment Zones.* Invested more than \$60 million in the nation's three rural Empowerment Zones and 33 rural Enterprise Communities. As a result of these efforts, over 7,000 jobs have been created or saved; 1,100 public service facilities have been built or renovated; and more than 700,000 rural citizens are now receiving additional services. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- *Telecommunications and Rural Americans.* Loaned \$380 million for 79 rural telecommunications projects that provided improved service to more than 211,000 rural households and businesses, including more than 43,000 new customers. These investments created over 8700 new jobs. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farm Worker Safety

- *Agricultural Worker Protection.* In implementing its worker protection standard, 2.5 million agricultural workers have received specialized pesticide training on worker protection during this Administration. In 1993, EPA created the Pesticide Stewardship Program, a voluntary public/private partnership to reduce the use of and risks associated with pesticides. To date, there are 97 organizations, representing 55,000 growers and 17,300 non-agricultural pesticide users,

participating. These groups include the U.S. Department of Defense which has already reduced pesticide use by 40% and expects to reduce its pesticide use by 50% by Earth Day 1998; Gerber Products Company which established a company goal of no detectable pesticide residues in its finished products; and Monroe County Community Schools (IN) which has reduced pesticide applications by 90% and has achieved a 99% reduction in pest management costs.

X. Helping Small Business

- *Increasing Small Business Access to Capital and Credit.* In 1997, SBA achieved the highest program level ever in its 7(a) business loan guarantee program. SBA guaranteed \$9.5 billion in loan guarantees. SBA's combined 7(a) business loan and 504 economic development loan approvals were also the highest ever at \$10.9 billion. 49,419 small businesses received assistance in 1997.
- *Small Business Investment Companies.* SBICs invested a record \$2.4 billion in 1997. SBICs financed 2,733 small business, with more than 90 percent of the investments in the form of equity. Industry analysts estimate that the number of SBA supported investments is 28 percent more than those made by private venture capital firms.
- *SBA's One-Stop Capital Shops.* SBA now administers 15 One-Stop Capital Shops in low-income communities across the country. Small business owners and individuals hoping to start a new business can walk in the door and have access to a range of governmental services, business information, counseling and assistance, and lending services.
- *Microloans.* SBA has provided over 6,300 microloans totaling \$65 million through 103 intermediary lenders and 22 non-lending technical assistance providers.
- *Regulatory Reform.* SBA revised all of its regulations, converting them to plain English and eliminating more than half of the pages. SBA has eliminated more than 2/3rds of the total pages in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), from 25,000 pages to 8,000 pages.
- *Improving Customer Service.* SBA's PRO-Net system – an on-line service to link small businesses with federal procurement opportunities – has gone operational with more than 171,000 small businesses listed on the system. SBA has created ACE-Net – an on-line service that links investors with emerging small businesses seeking equity investments. 8 non-profit operators located throughout the country are now operating the system. The goals are to have an operator in each of the 50 states as issues of consistency with state securities laws are resolved.



White House Press Release

Remarks By The President In State Of The Union Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 4, 1997

Remarks By The President
In **State** Of The **Union** Address

United **States** Capitol

9:15 P.M. Est

The President: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, members of the 105th Congress, distinguished guests, and my fellow Americans:

I think I should start by saying, thanks for inviting me back. (Applause.) I come before you tonight with a challenge as great as any in our peacetime history, and a plan of action to meet that challenge, to prepare our people for the bold new world of the 21st century.

We have much to be thankful for. With four years of growth, we have won back the basic strength of our economy. With crime and welfare rolls declining, we are winning back our optimism, the enduring faith that we can master any difficulty. With the Cold War receding and global commerce at record levels, we are helping to win unrivaled peace and prosperity all across the world.

My fellow Americans, the **state** of our **union** is strong. (Applause.) But now we must rise to the decisive moment, to make a nation and a world better than any we have ever known. The new promise of the global economy, the Information Age, unimagined new work, life-enhancing technology -- all these are ours to seize. That is our honor and our challenge. We must be shapers of events, not observers. For if we do not act, the moment will pass -- and we will lose the best possibilities of our future.

We face no imminent threat, but we do have an enemy -- the enemy of our time is inaction. So, tonight, I issue a call to action -- action by this Congress, action by our **states**, by our people, to prepare America for the 21st century. Action to keep our

economy and our democracy strong and working for all our people; action to strengthen education and harness the forces of technology and science; action to build stronger families and stronger communities and a safer environment; action to keep America the world's strongest force for peace, freedom and prosperity. And above all, action to build a more perfect **union** here at home.

The spirit we bring to our work will make all the difference. We must be committed to the pursuit of opportunity for all Americans, responsibility from all Americans, in a community of all Americans. And we must be committed to a new kind of government -- not to solve all our problems for us, but to give our people -- all our people -- the tools they need to make the most of their own lives.

And we must work together. The people of this nation elected us all. They want us to be partners, not partisans. They put us all right here in the same boat, they gave us all oars, and they told us to row. Now, here is the direction I believe we should take.

First, we must move quickly to complete the unfinished business of our country -- to balance our budget, renew our democracy, and finish the job of welfare reform.

Over the last four years, we have brought new economic growth by investing in our people, expanding our exports, cutting our deficits, creating over 11 million new jobs, a four-year record. (Applause.) Now we must keep our economy the strongest in the world. We here tonight have an historic opportunity. Let this Congress be the Congress that finally balances the budget. (Applause.)

In two days, I will propose a detailed plan to balance the budget by 2002. This plan will balance the budget and invest in our people while protecting Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment. It will balance the budget and build on the Vice President's efforts to make our government work better, even as it costs less. It will balance the budget and provide middle class tax relief to pay for education and health care, to help to raise a child, to buy and sell a home.

Balancing the budget requires only your vote and my signature. It does not require us to rewrite our Constitution. (Applause.) I believe it is both unnecessary and unwise to adopt a balanced budget amendment that could cripple our country in time of crisis, and force unwanted results, such as judges halting Social Security checks or increasing taxes. Let us at least agree, we should not pass any measure -- no measure should be passed that threatens Social Security. (Applause.) Whatever your view on that, we all must concede we don't need a constitutional amendment, we need action. (Applause.)

Whatever our differences, we should balance the budget now. And then, for the long-term health of our society, we must agree to a bipartisan process to preserve Social Security and reform Medicare for the long run, so that these fundamental programs will be as strong for our children as they are for our parents.

And let me say something that's not in my script tonight. I know this is not going to be easy. But I really believe one of the reasons the American people gave me a second term was to take the tough decisions in the next four years that will carry our country through the next 50 years. I know it is easier for me than for you to say or do. But another reason I was elected is to support

all of you, without regard to party, to give you what is necessary to join in these decisions. We owe it to our country and to our future. (Applause.)

Our second piece of unfinished business requires us to commit ourselves tonight, before the eyes of America, to finally enacting bipartisan campaign finance reform. (Applause.)

Now, Senators McCain and Feingold, Representatives Shays and Meehan, have reached across party lines here to craft tough and fair reform. Their proposal would curb spending, reduce the role of special interests, create a level playing field between challengers and incumbents, and ban contributions from noncitizens, all corporate sources, and the other large soft money contributions that both parties receive.

You know and I know that this can be delayed. And you know and I know the delay will mean the death of reform. So let's set our own deadline. Let's work together to write bipartisan campaign finance reform into law and pass McCain-Feingold by the day we celebrate the birth of our democracy -- July the 4th. (Applause.)

There is a third piece of unfinished business. Over the last four years, we moved a record 2.25 million people off the welfare rolls. Then last year, Congress enacted landmark welfare reform legislation, demanding that all able-bodied recipients assume the responsibility of moving from welfare to work.

Now each and every one of us has to fulfill our responsibility -- indeed, our moral obligation -- to make sure that people who now must work, can work. (Applause.) Now we must act to meet a new goal: 2 million more people off the welfare rolls by the year 2000.

Here is my plan: Tax credits and other incentives for businesses that hire people off welfare; incentives for job placement firms and **states** to create more jobs for welfare recipients; training, transportation, and child care to help people go to work.

Now I challenge every **state**: Turn those welfare checks into private sector paychecks. I challenge every religious congregation, every community nonprofit, every business to hire someone off welfare. And I'd like to say especially to every employer in our country who ever criticized the old welfare system, you can't blame that old system anymore, we have torn it down. Now do your part. Give someone on welfare the chance to go to work. (Applause.)

Tonight, I am pleased to announce that five major corporations -- Sprint, Monsanto, Ups, Burger King and United Airlines -- will be the first to join in a new national effort to marshal America's businesses, large and small, to create jobs so that people can move from welfare to work. (Applause.)

We passed welfare reform. All of you know I believe we were right to do it. But no one can walk out of this chamber with a clear conscience unless you are prepared to finish the job. (Applause.)

And we must join together to do something else, too -- something both Republican and Democratic governors have asked us to do -- to restore basic health and disability benefits when misfortune strikes immigrants who came to this country legally, who work hard, pay taxes and obey the law. To do otherwise is simply unworthy of a great nation of immigrants. (Applause.)

Now, looking ahead, the greatest step of all -- the high threshold of the future we now must cross -- and my number one priority for the next four years is to ensure that all Americans have the best education in the world. (Applause.)

Let's work together to meet these three goals: Every 8-year-old must be able to read; every 12-year-old must be able to log on to the Internet; every 18-year-old must be able to go to college; and every adult American must be able to keep on learning for a lifetime. (Applause.)

My balanced budget makes an unprecedented commitment to these goals -- \$51 billion next year. But far more than money is required. I have a plan, a Call to Action for American Education, based on these 10 principles.

First, a national crusade for education standards -- not federal government standards, but national standards, representing what all our students must know to succeed in the knowledge economy of the 21st century. Every **state** and school must shape the curriculum to reflect these standards, and train teachers to lift students up to them. To help schools meet the standards and measure their progress, we will lead an effort over the next two years to develop national tests of student achievement in reading and math.

Tonight, I issue a challenge to the nation: Every **state** should adopt high national standards, and by 1999, every **state** should test every 4th grader in reading and every 8th grader in math to make sure these standards are met. (Applause.)

Raising standards will not be easy, and some of our children will not be able to meet them at first. The point is not to put our children down, but to lift them up. Good tests will show us who needs help, what changes in teaching to make, and which schools need to improve. They can help us to end social promotion. For no child should move from grade school to junior high, or junior high to high school until he or she is ready.

Last month, our Secretary of Education Dick Riley and I visited Northern Illinois, where 8th grade students from 20 school districts, in a project aptly called "First in the World," took the Third International Math and Science Study. That's a test that reflects the world-class standards our children must meet for the new era. And those students in Illinois tied for first in the world in science and came in second in math. Two of them, Kristin Tanner and Chris Getsla, are here tonight, along with their teacher, Sue Winski; they're up there with the First Lady. And they prove that when we aim high and challenge our students, they will be the best in the world. Let's give them a hand. Stand up, please. (Applause.)

Second, to have the best schools, we must have the best teachers. Most of us in this chamber would not be here tonight without the help of those teachers. I know that I wouldn't be here. For years, many of our educators, led by North Carolina's Governor Jim Hunt and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, have worked very hard to establish nationally accepted credentials for excellence in teaching. Just 500 of these teachers have been certified since 1995. My budget will enable 100,000 more to seek national certification as master teachers. We should reward and recognize our best teachers. (Applause.) And as we reward them, we should quickly and fairly remove those few who don't measure up, and we should challenge more of our finest young people to consider teaching as a career.

Third, we must do more to help all our children read. Forty percent -- forty percent -- of our 8-year-olds cannot read on their own. That's why we have just launched the America Reads initiative -- to build a citizen army of one million volunteer tutors to make sure every child can read independently by the end of the 3rd grade. We will use thousands of AmeriCorps volunteers to mobilize this citizen army. We want at least 100,000 college students to help. And tonight I am pleased that 60 college presidents have answered my call, pledging that thousands of their work-study students will serve for one year as reading tutors. (Applause.)

This is also a challenge to every teacher and every principal. You must use these tutors to help students read. And it is especially a challenge to our parents. You must read with your children every night.

This leads to the fourth principle: Learning begins in the first days of life. Scientists are now discovering how young children develop emotionally and intellectually from their very first days, and how important it is for parents to begin immediately talking, singing, even reading to their infants. The First Lady has spent years writing about this issue, studying it. And she and I are going to convene a White House Conference on Early Learning and the Brain this spring, to explore how parents and educators can best use these startling new findings.

We already know we should start teaching children before they start school. That's why this balanced budget expands Head Start to one million children by 2002. (Applause.) And that is why the Vice President and Mrs. Gore will host their annual family conference this June on what we can do to make sure that parents are an active part of their children's learning all the way through school.

They've done a great deal to highlight the importance of family in our life, and now they're turning their attention to getting more parents involved in their children's learning all the way through school. And I thank you, Mr. Vice President, and I thank you especially, Tipper, for what you do. (Applause.)

Fifth, every **state** should give parents the power to choose the right public school for their children. Their right to choose will foster competition and innovation that can make public schools better. We should also make it possible for more parents and teachers to start charter schools, schools that set and meet the highest standards, and exist only as long as they do. Our plan will help America to create 3,000 of these charter schools by the next century -- nearly seven times as there are in the country today -- so that parents will have even more choices in sending their children to the best schools.

Sixth: Character education must be taught in our schools. We must teach our children to be good citizens. (Applause.) And we must continue to promote order and discipline, supporting communities that introduce school uniforms, impose curfews enforce truancy laws, remove disruptive students from the classroom, and have zero tolerance for guns and drugs in school. (Applause.)

Seventh: We cannot expect our children to raise themselves up in schools that are literally falling down. With the student population at an all-time high, and record numbers of school buildings falling into disrepair, this has now become a serious national concern. Therefore, my budget includes a new initiative -- \$5 billion to help communities finance \$20 billion in school construction over the next four years. (Applause.)

Eighth: We must make the 13th and 14th years of education -- at least two years of college -- just as universal in America by the 21st century as a high school education is today, and we must open the doors of college to Americans. (Applause.)

To do that, I propose America's Hope Scholarship, based on Georgia's pioneering program: two years of a \$1,500 tax credit for college tuition, enough to pay for the typical community college. I also propose a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 a year for all tuition after high school; an expanded IRA you can withdraw from tax free for education; and the largest increase in Pell Grant scholarships in 20 years. (Applause.) Now, this plan will give most families the ability to pay no taxes on money they save for college tuition. I ask you to pass it -- and give every American who works hard the chance to go to college.

Ninth: In the 21st century, we must expand the frontiers of learning across a lifetime. All our people, of whatever age, must have a chance to learn new skills. Most Americans live near a community college. The roads that take them there can be paths to a better future. My G.I. Bill for America's Workers will transform the confusing tangle of federal training programs into a simple skill grant to go directly into eligible workers' hands. For too long, this bill has been sitting on that desk there without action -- I ask you to pass it now. Let's give more of our workers the ability to learn and to earn for a lifetime. (Applause.)

Tenth: We must bring the power of the Information Age into all our schools. Last year, I challenged America to connect every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000, so that, for the first time in our history, children in the most isolated rural towns, the most comfortable suburbs, the poorest inner city schools, will have the same access to the same universe of knowledge. (Applause.) That is my plan -- a Call to Action for American Education. Some may say that it is unusual for a President to pay this kind of attention to education. Some may say it is simply because the President and his wonderful wife have been obsessed with this subject for more years than they can recall. That is not what is driving these proposals.

We must understand the significance of this endeavor: One of the greatest sources of our strength throughout the Cold War was a bipartisan foreign policy; because our future was at stake, politics stopped at the water's edge. Now I ask you -- and I ask all our nation's governors; I ask parents, teachers, and citizens all across America -- for a new nonpartisan commitment to education -- because education is a critical national security issue for our future, and politics must stop at the schoolhouse door. (Applause.)

To prepare America for the 21st century we must harness the powerful forces of science and technology to benefit all Americans. This is the first **State of the Union** carried live in video over the Internet. But we've only begun to spread the benefits of a technology revolution that should become the modern birthright of every citizen.

Our effort to connect every classroom is just the beginning. Now, we should connect every hospital to the Internet, so that doctors can instantly share data about their patients with the best specialists in the field. And I challenge the private sector tonight to start by connecting every children's hospital as soon as possible, so that a child in bed can stay in touch with school, family and friends. A sick child need no longer be a child alone. (Applause.)

We must build the second generation of the Internet so that our leading universities and national laboratories can communicate in speeds 1,000 times faster than today, to develop new medical treatments, new sources of energy, new ways of working together.

But we cannot stop there. As the Internet becomes our new town square, a computer in every home -- a teacher of all subjects, a connection to all cultures -- this will no longer be a dream, but a necessity. And over the next decade, that must be our goal. (Applause.)

We must continue to explore the heavens -- pressing on with the Mars probes and the international space station, both of which will have practical applications for our everyday living.

We must speed the remarkable advances in medical science. The human genome project is now decoding the genetic mysteries of life. American scientists have discovered genes linked to breast cancer and ovarian cancer, and medication that stops a stroke in progress and begins to reverse its effect, and treatments that dramatically lengthen the lives of people with Hiv and Aids.

Since I took office, funding for Aids research at the National Institutes of Health has increased dramatically -- to \$1.5 billion. With new resources, Nih will now become the most powerful discovery engine for an Aids vaccine, working with other scientists to finally end the threat of Aids. (Applause.) Remember that every year -- every year we move up the discovery of an Aids vaccine will save millions of lives around the world. We must reinforce our commitment to medical science.

To prepare America for the 21st century, we must build stronger families. Over the past four years, the Family and Medical Leave law has helped millions of Americans to take time off to be with their families. With new pressures on people in the way they work and live, I believe we must expand family leave so that workers can take time off for teacher conferences and a child's medical checkup. We should pass flex-time, so workers can choose to be paid for overtime in income or trade it in for time off to be with their families. (Applause.)

We must continue -- we must continue, step by step, to give more families access to affordable, quality health care. Forty million Americans still lack health insurance. Ten million children still lack health insurance -- 80 percent of them have working parents who pay taxes. That is wrong. (Applause.)

My balanced budget will extend health coverage to up to 5 million of those children. Since nearly half of all children who lose their insurance do so because their parents lose or change a job, my budget will also ensure that people who temporarily lose their jobs can still afford to keep their health insurance. No child should be without a doctor just because a parent is without a job. (Applause.)

My Medicare plan modernizes Medicare, increases the life of the trust fund to 10 years, provides support for respite care for the many families with loved ones afflicted with Alzheimer's. And for the first time, it would fully pay for annual mammograms. (Applause.)

Just as we ended drive-through deliveries of babies last year, we must now end the dangerous and demeaning practice of forcing

women home from the hospital only hours after a mastectomy. (Applause.) I ask your support for bipartisan legislation to guarantee that a woman can stay in the hospital for 48 hours after a mastectomy. With us tonight is Dr. Kristen Zarfes, a Connecticut surgeon whose outrage at this practice spurred a national movement and inspired this legislation. I'd like her to stand so we thank her for her efforts. Dr. Zarfes, thank you. (Applause.)

In the last four years, we have increased child support collections by 50 percent. Now we should go further and do better by making it a felony for any parent to cross a **state** line in an attempt to flee from this, his or her most sacred obligation. (Applause.)

Finally, we must also protect our children by standing firm in our determination to ban the advertising and marketing of cigarettes that endanger their lives. (Applause.)

To prepare America for the 21st century, we must build stronger communities. We should start with safe streets. Serious crime has dropped five years in a row. The key has been community policing. We must finish the job of putting 100,000 community police on the streets of the United **States**. (Applause.) We should pass the Victims Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

And I ask you to mount a full-scale assault on juvenile crime, with legislation that declares war on gangs, with new prosecutors and tougher penalties; extends the Brady Bill so violent teen criminals will not be able to buy handguns; requires child safety locks on handguns to prevent unauthorized use; and helps to keep our schools open after hours, on weekends, and in the summer, so our young people will have someplace to go and something to say yes to. (Applause.)

This balanced budget includes the largest antidrug effort ever: to stop drugs at their source, punish those who push them, and teach our young people that drugs are wrong, drugs are illegal, and drugs will kill them. I hope you will support it. (Applause.)

Our growing economy has helped to revive poor urban and rural neighborhoods. But we must do more to empower them to create the conditions in which all families can flourish and to create jobs through investment by business and loans by banks.

We should double the number of empowerment zones. They've already brought so much hope to communities like Detroit, where the unemployment rate has been cut in half in four years. We should restore contaminated urban land and buildings to productive use. We should expand the network of community development banks. And together we must pledge tonight that we will use this empowerment approach -- including private sector tax incentives -- to renew our Capital City, so that Washington is a great place to work and live, and once again the proud face America shows to world. (Applause.)

We must protect our environment in every community. In the last four years, we cleaned up 250 toxic waste sites, as many as in the previous 12. Now, we should clean up 500 more, so that our children grow up next to parks, not poison. I urge you to pass my proposal to make big polluters live by a simple rule: If you pollute our environment, you should pay to clean it up. (Applause.)

In the last four years, we strengthened our nation's safe food and clean drinking water laws; we protected some of America's rarest, most beautiful land in Utah's Red Rocks region;

CRIME

created three new national parks in the California desert; and began to restore the Florida Everglades. Now we must be as vigilant with our rivers as we are with our lands. Tonight, I announce that this year I will designate 10 American Heritage Rivers, to help communities alongside them revitalize their waterfronts and clean up pollution in the rivers, proving once again that we can grow the economy as we protect the environment. (Applause.)

We must also protect our global environment, working to ban the worst toxic chemicals and to reduce the greenhouse gases that challenge our health even as they change our climate.

Now, we all know that in all of our communities, some of our children simply don't have what they need to grow and learn in their own homes, or schools or neighborhoods. And that means the rest of us must do more, for they are our children, too. That's why President Bush, General Colin Powell, former Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros will join the Vice President and me to lead the President's Summit of Service in Philadelphia in April.

Our national service program, AmeriCorps, has already helped 70,000 young people to work their way through college as they serve America. Now we intend to mobilize millions of Americans to serve in thousands of ways. Citizen service is an American responsibility which all Americans should embrace, and I ask your support for that endeavor. (Applause.)

I'd like to make just one last point about our national community. Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit. So instead of cutting back on our modest efforts to support the arts and humanities, I believe we should stand by them and challenge our artists, musicians, and writers -- (applause) -- challenge our museums, libraries and theaters -- (applause) -- we should -- we should challenge all Americans in the arts and humanities to join with our fellow citizens to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community -- a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in a new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon not only of liberty, but of creativity, long after the fireworks have faded.

To prepare America for the 21st century we must master the forces of change in the world and keep American leadership strong and sure for an uncharted time.

Fifty years ago, a farsighted America led in creating the institutions that secured victory in the Cold War and built a growing world economy. As a result, today more people than ever embrace our ideals and share our interests. Already, we have dismantled many of the blocs and barriers that divided our parents' world. For the first time, more people live under democracy than dictatorship, including every nation in our own hemisphere, but one -- and its day, too, will come. (Applause.)

Now, we stand at another moment of change and choice -- and another time to be farsighted, to bring America 50 more years of security and prosperity. In this endeavor, our first task is to help to build, for the first time, an undivided, democratic Europe. When Europe is stable, prosperous and at peace, America is more secure.

To that end, we must expand Nato by 1999, so that countries that were once our adversaries can become our allies. At the special Nato summit this summer, that is what we will begin to

do. We must strengthen Nato's Partnership for Peace with non-member allies. And we must build a stable partnership between Nato and a democratic Russia. (Applause.) An expanded Nato is good for America. And a Europe in which all democracies define their future not in terms of what they can do to each other, but in terms of what they can do together for the good of all -- that kind of Europe is good for America.

Second, America must look to the East no less than to the West. Our security demands it. Americans fought three wars in Asia in this century. Our prosperity requires it. More than two million American jobs depend upon trade with Asia.

There, too, we are helping to shape an Asian Pacific community of cooperation, not conflict. Let our progress there not mask the peril that remains. Together with South Korea, we must advance peace talks with North Korea and bridge the Cold War's last divide. And I call on Congress to fund our share of the agreement under which North Korea must continue to freeze and then dismantle its nuclear weapons program. (Applause.)

We must pursue a deeper dialogue with China -- for the sake of our interests and our ideals. An isolated China is not good for America. A China playing its proper role in the world is. I will go to China, and I have invited China's President to come here, not because we agree on everything, but because engaging China is the best way to work on our common challenges like ending nuclear testing, and to deal frankly with our fundamental differences like human rights. (Applause.)

The American people must prosper in the global economy. We've worked hard to tear down trade barriers abroad so that we can create good jobs at home. I am proud to say that today, America is once again the most competitive nation and the number one exporter in the world. (Applause.)

Now we must act to expand our exports, especially to Asia and Latin America -- two of the fastest growing regions on Earth -- or be left behind as these emerging economies forge new ties with other nations. That is why we need the authority now to conclude new trade agreements that open markets to our goods and services even as we preserve our values. (Applause.)

We need not shrink from the challenge of the global economy. After all, we have the best workers and the best products. In a truly open market, we can out-compete anyone, anywhere on Earth.

But this is about more than economics. By expanding trade, we can advance the cause of freedom and democracy around the world. There is no better example of this truth than Latin America where democracy and open markets are on the march together. That is why I will visit there in the spring to reinforce our important tie.

We should all be proud that America led the effort to rescue our neighbor, Mexico, from its economic crises. And we should all be proud that last month Mexico repaid the United States -- three full years ahead of schedule -- with half a billion dollar profit to us. (Applause.)

America must continue to be an unrelenting force for peace --- from the Middle East to Haiti, from Northern Ireland to Africa. Taking reasonable risks for peace keeps us from being drawn into far more costly conflicts later.

With American leadership, the killing has stopped in Bosnia. Now the habits of peace must take hold. The new Nato force will allow reconstruction and reconciliation to accelerate. Tonight, I ask Congress to continue its strong support for our troops. They are doing a remarkable job there for America, and America must do right by them. (Applause.)

Fifth, we must move strongly against new threats to our security. In the past four years, we agreed to ban -- we led the way to a worldwide agreement to ban nuclear testing. With Russia, we dramatically cut nuclear arsenals and we stopped targeting each others citizens. We are acting to prevent nuclear materials from falling into the wrong hands and to rid the world of land mines. (Applause.) We are working with other nations with renewed intensity to fight drug traffickers and to stop terrorists before they act, and hold them fully accountable if they do. (Applause.)

Now, we must rise to a new test of leadership: ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention. (Applause.) Make no mistake about it, it will make our troops safer from chemical attack; it will help us to fight terrorism. We have no more important obligations -- especially in the wake of what we now know about the Gulf War. This treaty has been bipartisan from the beginning -- supported by Republican and Democratic administrations and Republican and Democratic members of Congress -- and already approved by 68 nations.

But if we do not act by April the 29th -- when this Convention goes into force, with or without us -- we will lose the chance to have Americans leading and enforcing this effort. Together we must make the Chemical Weapons Convention law, so that at last we can begin to outlaw poison gas from the Earth. (Applause.)

Finally, we must have the tools to meet all these challenges. We must maintain a strong and ready military. We must increase funding for weapons modernization by the year 2000, and we must take good care of our men and women in uniform. They are the world's finest. (Applause.)

We must also renew our commitment to America's diplomacy, and pay our debts and dues to international financial institutions like the World Bank, and to a reforming United Nations. (Applause.) Every dollar we devote to preventing conflicts, to promoting democracy, to stopping the spread of disease and starvation, brings a sure return in security and savings. Yet international affairs spending today is just one percent of the federal budget -- a small fraction of what America invested in diplomacy to choose leadership over escapism at the start of the Cold War. If America is to continue to lead the world, we here who lead America simply must find the will to pay our way.

A farsighted America moved the world to a better place over these last 50 years. And so it can be for another 50 years. But a shortsighted America will soon find its words falling on deaf ears all around the world. (Applause.)

Almost exactly 50 years ago, in the first winter of the Cold War, President Truman stood before a Republican Congress and called upon our country to meet its responsibilities of leadership. This was his warning -- he said, "If we falter, we may endanger the peace of the world, and we shall surely endanger the welfare of this nation." That Congress, led by Republicans like Senator Arthur Vandenberg, answered President Truman's call. Together, they made the commitments that strengthened our country for 50 years.

Now let us do the same. Let us do what it takes to remain the indispensable nation -- to keep America strong, secure and prosperous for another 50 years. (Applause.)

In the end, more than anything else, our world leadership grows out of the power of our example here at home, out of our ability to remain strong as one America.

All over the world, people are being torn asunder by racial, ethnic, and religious conflicts that fuel fanaticism and terror. We are the world's most diverse democracy, and the world looks to us to show that it is possible to live and advance together across those kinds of differences.

America has always been a nation of immigrants. From the start, a steady stream of people, in search of freedom and opportunity, have left their own lands to make this land their home. We started as an experiment in democracy fueled by Europeans. We have grown into an experiment in democratic diversity fueled by openness and promise.

My fellow Americans, we must never, ever believe that our diversity is a weakness -- it is our greatest strength. (Applause.) Americans speak every language, know every county. People on every continent can look to us and see the reflection of their own great potential -- and they always will, as long as we strive to give all of our citizens, whatever their background, an opportunity to achieve their own greatness.

We're not there yet. We still see evidence of abiding bigotry and intolerance, in ugly words and awful violence, in burned churches and bombed buildings. We must fight against this, in our country and in our hearts.

Just a few days before my second Inauguration, one of country's best known pastors, Reverend Robert Schuller, suggested that I read Isaiah 58:12. Here's what it says: "Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations, and thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in." I placed my hand on that verse when I took the oath of office, on behalf of all Americans. For no matter what our differences -- in our faiths, our backgrounds, our politics -- we must all be repairers of the breach.

I want to say a word about two other Americans who show us how. Congressman Frank Tejeda was buried yesterday, a proud American whose family came from Mexico. He was only 51 years old. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, fighting for his country in Vietnam. And he went on to serve Texas and America fighting for our future in this chamber. We are grateful for his service and honored that his mother, Lillie Tejeda, and his sister, Mary Alice, have come from Texas to be with us here tonight. And we welcome you. (Applause.)

Gary Locke, the newly elected Governor of Washington State, is the first Chinese-American governor in the history of our country. He's the proud son of two of the millions of Asian-American immigrants who have strengthened America with their hard work, family values and good citizenship. He represents the future we can all achieve. Thank you, Governor, for being here. Please stand up. (Applause.)

Reverend Schuller, Congressman Tejeda, Governor Locke,

along with Kristin Tanner and Chris Getsla, Sue Winski and Dr. Kristen Zarfes -- they're all Americans from different roots, whose lives reflect the best of what we can become when we are one America. We may not share a common past, but we surely do share a common future.

Building one America is our most important mission -- "the foundation for many generations," of every other strength we must build for this new century. Money cannot buy it. Power cannot compel it. Technology cannot create it. It can only come from the human spirit.

America is far more than a place. It is an idea, the most powerful idea in the history of nations. And all of us in this chamber, we are now the bearers of that idea, leading a great people into a new world. A child born tonight will have almost no memory of the 20th century. Everything that child will know about America will be because of what we do now to build a new century.

We don't have a moment to waste. Tomorrow there will be just over 1,000 days until the year 2000. One thousand days to prepare our people. One thousand days to work together. One thousand days to build a bridge to a land of new promise. My fellow Americans, we have work to do. Let us seize those days and the century.

Thank you, God bless you and God bless America.

(Applause.)

End.

10:15 P.M. Est



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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 4, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT IN STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

United States Capitol

9:15 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, members of the 105th Congress, distinguished guests, and my fellow Americans:

I think I should start by saying, thanks for inviting me back. (Applause.) I come before you tonight with a challenge as great as any in our peacetime history, and a plan of action to meet that challenge, to prepare our people for the bold new world of the 21st century.

We have much to be thankful for. With four years of growth, we have won back the basic strength of our economy. With crime and welfare rolls declining, we are winning back our optimism, the enduring faith that we can master any difficulty. With the Cold War receding and global commerce at record levels, we are helping to win unrivaled peace and prosperity all across the world.

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is strong. (Applause.) But now we must rise to the decisive moment, to make a nation and a world better than any we have ever known. The new promise of the global economy, the Information Age, unimagined new work, life-enhancing technology -- all these are ours to seize. That is our honor and our challenge. We must be shapers of events, not

observers. For if we do not act, the moment will pass -- and we will lose the best possibilities of our future.

We face no imminent threat, but we do have an enemy -- the enemy of our time is inaction. So, tonight, I issue a call to action -- action by this Congress, action by our states, by our people, to prepare America for the 21st century. Action to keep our economy and our democracy strong and working for all our people; action to strengthen education and harness the forces of technology and science; action to build stronger families and stronger communities and a safer environment; action to keep America the world's strongest force for peace, freedom and prosperity. And above all, action to build a more perfect union here at home.

The spirit we bring to our work will make all the difference. We must be committed to the pursuit of opportunity for all Americans, responsibility from all Americans, in a community of all Americans. And we must be committed to a new kind of government -- not to solve all our problems for us, but to give our people -- all our people -- the tools they need to make the most of their own lives.

And we must work together. The people of this nation elected us all. They want us to be partners, not partisans. They put us all right here in the same boat, they gave us all oars, and they told us to row. Now, here is the direction I believe we should take.

First, we must move quickly to complete the unfinished business of our country -- to balance our budget, renew our democracy, and finish the job of welfare reform.

Over the last four years, we have brought new economic growth by investing in our people, expanding our exports, cutting our deficits, creating over 11 million new jobs, a four-year record. (Applause.) Now we must keep our economy the strongest in the world. We here tonight have an historic opportunity. Let this Congress be the Congress that finally balances the budget. (Applause.)

In two days, I will propose a detailed plan to balance the budget by 2002. This plan will balance the budget and invest in our people while protecting Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment. It will balance the budget and build on the Vice President's efforts to make our government work better, even as it costs less. It will balance the budget and provide middle class tax relief to pay for education and health care, to help to raise a child, to buy and sell a home.

Balancing the budget requires only your vote and my signature. It does not require us to rewrite our Constitution. (Applause.) I believe it is both unnecessary and unwise to adopt a balanced budget amendment that could cripple our country in time of

crisis, and force unwanted results, such as judges halting Social Security checks or increasing taxes. Let us at least agree, we should not pass any measure -- no measure should be passed that threatens Social Security. (Applause.) Whatever your view on that, we all must concede we don't need a constitutional amendment, we need action. (Applause.)

Whatever our differences, we should balance the budget now. And then, for the long-term health of our society, we must agree to a bipartisan process to preserve Social Security and reform Medicare for the long run, so that these fundamental programs will be as strong for our children as they are for our parents.

And let me say something that's not in my script tonight. I know this is not going to be easy. But I really believe one of the reasons the American people gave me a second term was to take the tough decisions in the next four years that will carry our country through the next 50 years. I know it is easier for me than for you to say or do. But another reason I was elected is to support all of you, without regard to party, to give you what is necessary to join in these decisions. We owe it to our country and to our future. (Applause.)

Our second piece of unfinished business requires us to commit ourselves tonight, before the eyes of America, to finally enacting bipartisan campaign finance reform. (Applause.)

Now, Senators McCain and Feingold, Representatives Shays and Meehan, have reached across party lines here to craft tough and fair reform. Their proposal would curb spending, reduce the role of special interests, create a level playing field between challengers and incumbents, and ban contributions from noncitizens, all corporate sources, and the other large soft money contributions that both parties receive.

You know and I know that this can be delayed. And you know and I know the delay will mean the death of reform. So let's set our own deadline. Let's work together to write bipartisan campaign finance reform into law and pass McCain-Feingold by the day we celebrate the birth of our democracy -- July the 4th. (Applause.)

There is a third piece of unfinished business. Over the last four years, we moved a record 2.25 million people off the welfare rolls. Then last year, Congress enacted landmark welfare reform legislation, demanding that all able-bodied recipients assume the responsibility of moving from welfare to work.

Now each and every one of us has to fulfill our responsibility -- indeed, our moral obligation -- to make sure that people who now must work, can work. (Applause.) Now we must act to meet a new goal: 2 million more people off the welfare rolls by the year 2000.

Here is my plan: Tax credits and other incentives for

businesses that hire people off welfare; incentives for job placement firms and states to create more jobs for welfare recipients; training, transportation, and child care to help people go to work.

Now I challenge every state: Turn those welfare checks into private sector paychecks. I challenge every religious congregation, every community nonprofit, every business to hire someone off welfare. And I'd like to say especially to every employer in our country who ever criticized the old welfare system, you can't blame that old system anymore, we have torn it down. Now do your part. Give someone on welfare the chance to go to work. (Applause.)

Tonight, I am pleased to announce that five major corporations -- Sprint, Monsanto, UPS, Burger King and United Airlines -- will be the first to join in a new national effort to marshal America's businesses, large and small, to create jobs so that people can move from welfare to work. (Applause.)

We passed welfare reform. All of you know I believe we were right to do it. But no one can walk out of this chamber with a clear conscience unless you are prepared to finish the job. (Applause.)

And we must join together to do something else, too -- something both Republican and Democratic governors have asked us to do -- to restore basic health and disability benefits when misfortune strikes immigrants who came to this country legally, who work hard, pay taxes and obey the law. To do otherwise is simply unworthy of a great nation of immigrants. (Applause.)

Now, looking ahead, the greatest step of all -- the high threshold of the future we now must cross -- and my number one priority for the next four years is to ensure that all Americans have the best education in the world. (Applause.)

Let's work together to meet these three goals: Every 8-year-old must be able to read; every 12-year-old must be able to log on to the Internet; every 18-year-old must be able to go to college; and every adult American must be able to keep on learning for a lifetime. (Applause.)

My balanced budget makes an unprecedented commitment to these goals -- \$51 billion next year. But far more than money is required. I have a plan, a Call to Action for American Education, based on these 10 principles.

First, a national crusade for education standards -- not federal government standards, but national standards, representing what all our students must know to succeed in the knowledge economy of the 21st century. Every state and school must shape the curriculum to reflect these standards, and train teachers to lift students up to them. To help schools meet the standards and measure their progress, we will lead an effort over the next two years to

develop national tests of student achievement in reading and math.

Tonight, I issue a challenge to the nation: Every state should adopt high national standards, and by 1999, every state should test every 4th grader in reading and every 8th grader in math to make sure these standards are met. (Applause.)

Raising standards will not be easy, and some of our children will not be able to meet them at first. The point is not to put our children down, but to lift them up. Good tests will show us who needs help, what changes in teaching to make, and which schools need to improve. They can help us to end social promotion. For no child should move from grade school to junior high, or junior high to high school until he or she is ready.

Last month, our Secretary of Education Dick Riley and I visited Northern Illinois, where 8th grade students from 20 school districts, in a project aptly called "First in the World," took the Third International Math and Science Study. That's a test that reflects the world-class standards our children must meet for the new era. And those students in Illinois tied for first in the world in science and came in second in math. Two of them, Kristin Tanner and Chris Getsla, are here tonight, along with their teacher, Sue Winski; they're up there with the First Lady. And they prove that when we aim high and challenge our students, they will be the best in the world. Let's give them a hand. Stand up, please. (Applause.)

Second, to have the best schools, we must have the best teachers. Most of us in this chamber would not be here tonight without the help of those teachers. I know that I wouldn't be here. For years, many of our educators, led by North Carolina's Governor Jim Hunt and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, have worked very hard to establish nationally accepted credentials for excellence in teaching. Just 500 of these teachers have been certified since 1995. My budget will enable 100,000 more to seek national certification as master teachers. We should reward and recognize our best teachers. (Applause.) And as we reward them, we should quickly and fairly remove those few who don't measure up, and we should challenge more of our finest young people to consider teaching as a career.

Third, we must do more to help all our children read. Forty percent -- forty percent -- of our 8-year-olds cannot read on their own. That's why we have just launched the America Reads initiative -- to build a citizen army of one million volunteer tutors to make sure every child can read independently by the end of the 3rd grade. We will use thousands of AmeriCorps volunteers to mobilize this citizen army. We want at least 100,000 college students to help. And tonight I am pleased that 60 college presidents have answered my call, pledging that thousands of their work-study students will serve for one year as reading tutors. (Applause.)

This is also a challenge to every teacher and every principal. You must use these tutors to help students read. And it

is especially a challenge to our parents. You must read with your children every night.

This leads to the fourth principle: Learning begins in the first days of life. Scientists are now discovering how young children develop emotionally and intellectually from their very first days, and how important it is for parents to begin immediately talking, singing, even reading to their infants. The First Lady has spent years writing about this issue, studying it. And she and I are going to convene a White House Conference on Early Learning and the Brain this spring, to explore how parents and educators can best use these startling new findings.

We already know we should start teaching children before they start school. That's why this balanced budget expands Head Start to one million children by 2002. (Applause.) And that is why the Vice President and Mrs. Gore will host their annual family conference this June on what we can do to make sure that parents are an active part of their children's learning all the way through school.

They've done a great deal to highlight the importance of family in our life, and now they're turning their attention to getting more parents involved in their children's learning all the way through school. And I thank you, Mr. Vice President, and I thank you especially, Tipper, for what you do. (Applause.)

Fifth, every state should give parents the power to choose the right public school for their children. Their right to choose will foster competition and innovation that can make public schools better. We should also make it possible for more parents and teachers to start charter schools, schools that set and meet the highest standards, and exist only as long as they do. Our plan will help America to create 3,000 of these charter schools by the next century -- nearly seven times as there are in the country today -- so that parents will have even more choices in sending their children to the best schools.

Sixth: Character education must be taught in our schools. We must teach our children to be good citizens. (Applause.) And we must continue to promote order and discipline, supporting communities that introduce school uniforms, impose curfews, enforce truancy laws, remove disruptive students from the classroom, and have zero tolerance for guns and drugs in school. (Applause.)

Seventh: We cannot expect our children to raise themselves up in schools that are literally falling down. With the student population at an all-time high, and record numbers of school buildings falling into disrepair, this has now become a serious national concern. Therefore, my budget includes a new initiative -- \$5 billion to help communities finance \$20 billion in school construction over the next four years. (Applause.)

Eighth: We must make the 13th and 14th years of

education -- at least two years of college -- just as universal in America by the 21st century as a high school education is today, and we must open the doors of college to Americans. (Applause.)

To do that, I propose America's HOPE Scholarship, based on Georgia's pioneering program: two years of a \$1,500 tax credit for college tuition, enough to pay for the typical community college. I also propose a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 a year for all tuition after high school; an expanded IRA you can withdraw from tax free for education; and the largest increase in Pell Grant scholarships in 20 years. (Applause.) Now, this plan will give most families the ability to pay no taxes on money they save for college tuition. I ask you to pass it -- and give every American who works hard the chance to go to college.

Ninth: In the 21st century, we must expand the frontiers of learning across a lifetime. All our people, of whatever age, must have a chance to learn new skills. Most Americans live near a community college. The roads that take them there can be paths to a better future. My G.I. Bill for America's Workers will transform the confusing tangle of federal training programs into a simple skill grant to go directly into eligible workers' hands. For too long, this bill has been sitting on that desk there without action -- I ask you to pass it now. Let's give more of our workers the ability to learn and to earn for a lifetime. (Applause.)

Tenth: We must bring the power of the Information Age into all our schools. Last year, I challenged America to connect every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000, so that, for the first time in our history, children in the most isolated rural towns, the most comfortable suburbs, the poorest inner city schools, will have the same access to the same universe of knowledge. (Applause.) That is my plan -- a Call to Action for American Education. Some may say that it is unusual for a President to pay this kind of attention to education. Some may say it is simply because the President and his wonderful wife have been obsessed with this subject for more years than they can recall. That is not what is driving these proposals.

We must understand the significance of this endeavor: One of the greatest sources of our strength throughout the Cold War was a bipartisan foreign policy; because our future was at stake, politics stopped at the water's edge. Now I ask you -- and I ask all our nation's governors; I ask parents, teachers, and citizens all across America -- for a new nonpartisan commitment to education -- because education is a critical national security issue for our future, and politics must stop at the schoolhouse door. (Applause.)

To prepare America for the 21st century we must harness the powerful forces of science and technology to benefit all Americans. This is the first State of the Union carried live in video over the Internet. But we've only begun to spread the benefits of a technology revolution that should become the modern birthright of every citizen.

Our effort to connect every classroom is just the beginning. Now, we should connect every hospital to the Internet, so that doctors can instantly share data about their patients with the best specialists in the field. And I challenge the private sector tonight to start by connecting every children's hospital as soon as possible, so that a child in bed can stay in touch with school, family and friends. A sick child need no longer be a child alone. (Applause.)

We must build the second generation of the Internet so that our leading universities and national laboratories can communicate in speeds 1,000 times faster than today, to develop new medical treatments, new sources of energy, new ways of working together.

But we cannot stop there. As the Internet becomes our new town square, a computer in every home -- a teacher of all subjects, a connection to all cultures -- this will no longer be a dream, but a necessity. And over the next decade, that must be our goal. (Applause.)

We must continue to explore the heavens -- pressing on with the Mars probes and the international space station, both of which will have practical applications for our everyday living.

We must speed the remarkable advances in medical science. The human genome project is now decoding the genetic mysteries of life. American scientists have discovered genes linked to breast cancer and ovarian cancer, and medication that stops a stroke in progress and begins to reverse its effect, and treatments that dramatically lengthen the lives of people with HIV and AIDS.

Since I took office, funding for AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health has increased dramatically -- to \$1.5 billion. With new resources, NIH will now become the most powerful discovery engine for an AIDS vaccine, working with other scientists to finally end the threat of AIDS. (Applause.) Remember that every year -- every year we move up the discovery of an AIDS vaccine will save millions of lives around the world. We must reinforce our commitment to medical science.

To prepare America for the 21st century, we must build stronger families. Over the past four years, the Family and Medical Leave law has helped millions of Americans to take time off to be with their families. With new pressures on people in the way they work and live, I believe we must expand family leave so that workers can take time off for teacher conferences and a child's medical checkup. We should pass flex-time, so workers can choose to be paid for overtime in income or trade it in for time off to be with their families. (Applause.)

We must continue -- we must continue, step by step, to give more families access to affordable, quality health care. Forty

million Americans still lack health insurance. Ten million children still lack health insurance -- 80 percent of them have working parents who pay taxes. That is wrong. (Applause.)

My balanced budget will extend health coverage to up to 5 million of those children. Since nearly half of all children who lose their insurance do so because their parents lose or change a job, my budget will also ensure that people who temporarily lose their jobs can still afford to keep their health insurance. No child should be without a doctor just because a parent is without a job. (Applause.)

My Medicare plan modernizes Medicare, increases the life of the trust fund to 10 years, provides support for respite care for the many families with loved ones afflicted with Alzheimer's. And for the first time, it would fully pay for annual mammograms. (Applause.)

Just as we ended drive-through deliveries of babies last year, we must now end the dangerous and demeaning practice of forcing women home from the hospital only hours after a mastectomy. (Applause.) I ask your support for bipartisan legislation to guarantee that a woman can stay in the hospital for 48 hours after a mastectomy. With us tonight is Dr. Kristen Zarfes, a Connecticut surgeon whose outrage at this practice spurred a national movement and inspired this legislation. I'd like her to stand so we thank her for her efforts. Dr. Zarfes, thank you. (Applause.)

In the last four years, we have increased child support collections by 50 percent. Now we should go further and do better by making it a felony for any parent to cross a state line in an attempt to flee from this, his or her most sacred obligation. (Applause.)

Finally, we must also protect our children by standing firm in our determination to ban the advertising and marketing of cigarettes that endanger their lives. (Applause.)

To prepare America for the 21st century, we must build stronger communities. We should start with safe streets. Serious crime has dropped five years in a row. The key has been community policing. We must finish the job of putting 100,000 community police on the streets of the United States. (Applause.) We should pass the Victims Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

And I ask you to mount a full-scale assault on juvenile crime, with legislation that declares war on gangs, with new prosecutors and tougher penalties; extends the Brady Bill so violent teen criminals will not be able to buy handguns; requires child safety locks on handguns to prevent unauthorized use; and helps to keep our schools open after hours, on weekends, and in the summer, so our young people will have someplace to go and something to say yes to. (Applause.)

This balanced budget includes the largest antidrug

effort ever: to stop drugs at their source, punish those who push them, and teach our young people that drugs are wrong, drugs are illegal, and drugs will kill them. I hope you will support it. (Applause.)

Our growing economy has helped to revive poor urban and rural neighborhoods. But we must do more to empower them to create the conditions in which all families can flourish and to create jobs through investment by business and loans by banks.

We should double the number of empowerment zones. They've already brought so much hope to communities like Detroit, where the unemployment rate has been cut in half in four years. We should restore contaminated urban land and buildings to productive use. We should expand the network of community development banks. And together we must pledge tonight that we will use this empowerment approach -- including private sector tax incentives -- to renew our Capital City, so that Washington is a great place to work and live, and once again the proud face America shows to world. (Applause.)

We must protect our environment in every community. In the last four years, we cleaned up 250 toxic waste sites, as many as in the previous 12. Now, we should clean up 500 more, so that our children grow up next to parks, not poison. I urge you to pass my proposal to make big polluters live by a simple rule: If you pollute our environment, you should pay to clean it up. (Applause.)

In the last four years, we strengthened our nation's safe food and clean drinking water laws; we protected some of America's rarest, most beautiful land in Utah's Red Rocks region; created three new national parks in the California desert; and began to restore the Florida Everglades. Now we must be as vigilant with our rivers as we are with our lands. Tonight, I announce that this year I will designate 10 American Heritage Rivers, to help communities alongside them revitalize their waterfronts and clean up pollution in the rivers, proving once again that we can grow the economy as we protect the environment. (Applause.)

We must also protect our global environment, working to ban the worst toxic chemicals and to reduce the greenhouse gases that challenge our health even as they change our climate.

Now, we all know that in all of our communities, some of our children simply don't have what they need to grow and learn in their own homes, or schools or neighborhoods. And that means the rest of us must do more, for they are our children, too. That's why President Bush, General Colin Powell, former Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros will join the Vice President and me to lead the President's Summit of Service in Philadelphia in April.

Our national service program, AmeriCorps, has already helped 70,000 young people to work their way through college as they serve America. Now we intend to mobilize millions of Americans to

serve in thousands of ways. Citizen service is an American responsibility which all Americans should embrace, and I ask your support for that endeavor. (Applause.)

I'd like to make just one last point about our national community. Our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and it's very important. But the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit. So instead of cutting back on our modest efforts to support the arts and humanities, I believe we should stand by them and challenge our artists, musicians, and writers -- (applause) -- challenge our museums, libraries and theaters -- (applause) -- we should -- we should challenge all Americans in the arts and humanities to join with our fellow citizens to make the year 2000 a national celebration of the American spirit in every community -- a celebration of our common culture in the century that has passed, and in the new one to come in a new millennium, so that we can remain the world's beacon not only of liberty, but of creativity, long after the fireworks have faded.

To prepare America for the 21st century we must master the forces of change in the world and keep American leadership strong and sure for an uncharted time.

Fifty years ago, a farsighted America led in creating the institutions that secured victory in the Cold War and built a growing world economy. As a result, today more people than ever embrace our ideals and share our interests. Already, we have dismantled many of the blocs and barriers that divided our parents' world. For the first time, more people live under democracy than dictatorship, including every nation in our own hemisphere, but one -- and its day, too, will come. (Applause.)

Now, we stand at another moment of change and choice --and another time to be farsighted, to bring America 50 more years of security and prosperity. In this endeavor, our first task is to help to build, for the first time, an undivided, democratic Europe. When Europe is stable, prosperous and at peace, America is more secure.

To that end, we must expand NATO by 1999, so that countries that were once our adversaries can become our allies. At the special NATO summit this summer, that is what we will begin to do. We must strengthen NATO's Partnership for Peace with non-member allies. And we must build a stable partnership between NATO and a democratic Russia. (Applause.) An expanded NATO is good for America. And a Europe in which all democracies define their future not in terms of what they can do to each other, but in terms of what they can do together for the good of all -- that kind of Europe is good for America.

Second, America must look to the East no less than to the West. Our security demands it. Americans fought three wars in Asia in this century. Our prosperity requires it. More than two million American jobs depend upon trade with Asia.

There, too, we are helping to shape an Asian Pacific community of cooperation, not conflict. Let our progress there not mask the peril that remains. Together with South Korea, we must advance peace talks with North Korea and bridge the Cold War's last divide. And I call on Congress to fund our share of the agreement under which North Korea must continue to freeze and then dismantle its nuclear weapons program. (Applause.)

We must pursue a deeper dialogue with China -- for the sake of our interests and our ideals. An isolated China is not good for America. A China playing its proper role in the world is. I will go to China, and I have invited China's President to come here, not because we agree on everything, but because engaging China is the best way to work on our common challenges like ending nuclear testing, and to deal frankly with our fundamental differences like human rights. (Applause.)

The American people must prosper in the global economy. We've worked hard to tear down trade barriers abroad so that we can create good jobs at home. I am proud to say that today, America is once again the most competitive nation and the number one exporter in the world. (Applause.)

Now we must act to expand our exports, especially to Asia and Latin America -- two of the fastest growing regions on Earth -- or be left behind as these emerging economies forge new ties with other nations. That is why we need the authority now to conclude new trade agreements that open markets to our goods and services even as we preserve our values. (Applause.)

We need not shrink from the challenge of the global economy. After all, we have the best workers and the best products. In a truly open market, we can out-compete anyone, anywhere on Earth.

But this is about more than economics. By expanding trade, we can advance the cause of freedom and democracy around the world. There is no better example of this truth than Latin America where democracy and open markets are on the march together. That is why I will visit there in the spring to reinforce our important tie.

We should all be proud that America led the effort to rescue our neighbor, Mexico, from its economic crises. And we should all be proud that last month Mexico repaid the United States -- three full years ahead of schedule -- with half a billion dollar profit to us. (Applause.)

America must continue to be an unrelenting force for peace --- from the Middle East to Haiti, from Northern Ireland to Africa. Taking reasonable risks for peace keeps us from being drawn into far more costly conflicts later.

With American leadership, the killing has stopped in Bosnia. Now the habits of peace must take hold. The new NATO force will allow reconstruction and reconciliation to accelerate. Tonight, I ask Congress to continue its strong support for our troops. They are doing a remarkable job there for America, and America must do right by them. (Applause.)

Fifth, we must move strongly against new threats to our security. In the past four years, we agreed to ban -- we led the way to a worldwide agreement to ban nuclear testing. With Russia, we dramatically cut nuclear arsenals and we stopped targeting each others citizens. We are acting to prevent nuclear materials from falling into the wrong hands and to rid the world of land mines. (Applause.) We are working with other nations with renewed intensity to fight drug traffickers and to stop terrorists before they act, and hold them fully accountable if they do. (Applause.)

Now, we must rise to a new test of leadership: ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention. (Applause.) Make no mistake about it, it will make our troops safer from chemical attack; it will help us to fight terrorism. We have no more important obligations -- especially in the wake of what we now know about the Gulf War. This treaty has been bipartisan from the beginning -- supported by Republican and Democratic administrations and Republican and Democratic members of Congress -- and already approved by 68 nations.

But if we do not act by April the 29th -- when this Convention goes into force, with or without us -- we will lose the chance to have Americans leading and enforcing this effort. Together we must make the Chemical Weapons Convention law, so that at last we can begin to outlaw poison gas from the Earth. (Applause.)

Finally, we must have the tools to meet all these challenges. We must maintain a strong and ready military. We must increase funding for weapons modernization by the year 2000, and we must take good care of our men and women in uniform. They are the world's finest. (Applause.)

We must also renew our commitment to America's diplomacy, and pay our debts and dues to international financial institutions like the World Bank, and to a reforming United Nations. (Applause.) Every dollar we devote to preventing conflicts, to promoting democracy, to stopping the spread of disease and starvation, brings a sure return in security and savings. Yet international affairs spending today is just one percent of the federal budget -- a small fraction of what America invested in diplomacy to choose leadership over escapism at the start of the Cold War. If America is to continue to lead the world, we here who lead America simply must find the will to pay our way.

A farsighted America moved the world to a better place

over these last 50 years. And so it can be for another 50 years. But a shortsighted America will soon find its words falling on deaf ears all around the world. (Applause.)

Almost exactly 50 years ago, in the first winter of the Cold War, President Truman stood before a Republican Congress and called upon our country to meet its responsibilities of leadership. This was his warning -- he said, "If we falter, we may endanger the peace of the world, and we shall surely endanger the welfare of this nation." That Congress, led by Republicans like Senator Arthur Vandenberg, answered President Truman's call. Together, they made the commitments that strengthened our country for 50 years.

Now let us do the same. Let us do what it takes to remain the indispensable nation -- to keep America strong, secure and prosperous for another 50 years. (Applause.)

In the end, more than anything else, our world leadership grows out of the power of our example here at home, out of our ability to remain strong as one America.

All over the world, people are being torn asunder by racial, ethnic, and religious conflicts that fuel fanaticism and terror. We are the world's most diverse democracy, and the world looks to us to show that it is possible to live and advance together across those kinds of differences.

America has always been a nation of immigrants. From the start, a steady stream of people, in search of freedom and opportunity, have left their own lands to make this land their home. We started as an experiment in democracy fueled by Europeans. We have grown into an experiment in democratic diversity fueled by openness and promise.

My fellow Americans, we must never, ever believe that our diversity is a weakness -- it is our greatest strength. (Applause.) Americans speak every language, know every country. People on every continent can look to us and see the reflection of their own great potential -- and they always will, as long as we strive to give all of our citizens, whatever their background, an opportunity to achieve their own greatness.

We're not there yet. We still see evidence of abiding bigotry and intolerance, in ugly words and awful violence, in burned churches and bombed buildings. We must fight against this, in our country and in our hearts.

Just a few days before my second Inauguration, one of country's best known pastors, Reverend Robert Schuller, suggested that I read Isaiah 58:12. Here's what it says: "Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations, and thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in." I placed my hand on that verse when I took the oath of office, on behalf of all Americans. For no matter what our differences -- in our faiths,

our backgrounds, our politics -- we must all be repairers of the breach.

I want to say a word about two other Americans who show us how. Congressman Frank Tejeda was buried yesterday, a proud American whose family came from Mexico. He was only 51 years old. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, fighting for his country in Vietnam. And he went on to serve Texas and America fighting for our future in this chamber. We are grateful for his service and honored that his mother, Lillie Tejeda, and his

sister, Mary Alice, have come from Texas to be with us here tonight. And we welcome you. (Applause.)

Gary Locke, the newly elected Governor of Washington State, is the first Chinese-American governor in the history of our country. He's the proud son of two of the millions of Asian-American immigrants who have strengthened America with their hard work, family values and good citizenship. He represents the future we can all achieve. Thank you, Governor, for being here. Please stand up. (Applause.)

Reverend Schuller, Congressman Tejeda, Governor Locke, along with Kristin Tanner and Chris Getsla, Sue Winski and Dr. Kristen Zarfos -- they're all Americans from different roots, whose lives reflect the best of what we can become when we are one America. We may not share a common past, but we surely do share a common future.

Building one America is our most important mission -- "the foundation for many generations," of every other strength we must build for this new century. Money cannot buy it. Power cannot compel it. Technology cannot create it. It can only come from the human spirit.

America is far more than a place. It is an idea, the most powerful idea in the history of nations. And all of us in this chamber, we are now the bearers of that idea, leading a great people into a new world. A child born tonight will have almost no memory of the 20th century. Everything that child will know about America will be because of what we do now to build a new century.

We don't have a moment to waste. Tomorrow there will be just over 1,000 days until the year 2000. One thousand days to prepare our people. One thousand days to work together. One thousand days to build a bridge to a land of new promise. My fellow Americans, we have work to do. Let us seize those days and the century.

Thank you, God bless you and God bless America. (Applause.)

END

10:15 P.M. EST