



SUNTUM_M @ A1
01/27/98 10:53:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: 1998-1-27 State of the Union speech

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 27, 1998

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
BY THE PRESIDENT

Hall of the House
United States Capitol

9:12 P.M. EST

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

Since the last time we met in this chamber, America has lost two patriots and fine public servants. Though they sat on opposite sides of the aisle, Representatives Walter Capps and Sonny Bono shared a deep love for this House and an unshakable commitment to improving the lives of all our people. In the past few weeks they've both been eulogized. Tonight, I think we should begin by sending a message to their families and their friends that we celebrate their lives and give thanks for their service to our nation. (Applause.)

For 209 years it has been the President's duty to report to you on the state of the Union. Because of the hard work and high purpose of the American people, these are good times for America. We have more than 14 million new jobs; the lowest unemployment in 24

years; the lowest core inflation in 30 years; incomes are rising; and we have the highest homeownership in history. Crime has dropped for a record five years in a row. And the welfare rolls are at their lowest levels in 27 years. Our leadership in the world is unrivaled. Ladies and gentlemen, the state of our Union is strong. (Applause.)

With barely 700 days left in the 20th century, this is not a time to rest. It is a time to build, to build the America within reach: an America where everybody has a chance to get ahead with hard work; where every citizen can live in a safe community; where families are strong, schools are good and all young people can go to college; an America where scientists find cures for diseases from diabetes to Alzheimer's to AIDS; an America where every child can stretch a hand across a keyboard and reach every book ever written, every painting ever painted, every symphony ever composed; where government provides opportunity and citizens honor the responsibility to give something back to their communities; an America which leads the world to new heights of peace and prosperity.

This is the America we have begun to build; this is the America we can leave to our children -- if we join together to finish the work at hand. Let us strengthen our nation for the 21st century. (Applause.)

Rarely have Americans lived through so much change, in so many ways, in so short a time. Quietly, but with gathering force, the ground has shifted beneath our feet as we have moved into an Information Age, a global economy, a truly new world.

For five years now we have met the challenge of these changes as Americans have at every turning point -- by renewing the

very idea of America: widening the circle of opportunity, deepening the meaning of our freedom, forging a more perfect union.

We shaped a new kind of government for the Information Age. I thank the Vice President for his leadership and the Congress for its support in building a government that is leaner, more flexible, a catalyst for new ideas -- and most of all, a government that gives the American people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives. (Applause.)

We have moved past the sterile debate between those who say government is the enemy and those who say government is the answer. My fellow Americans, we have found a third way. We have the smallest government in 35 years, but a more progressive one. We have a smaller government, but a stronger nation. (Applause.) We are moving steadily toward an even stronger America in the 21st century: an economy that offers opportunity, a society rooted in responsibility and a nation that lives as a community.

First, Americans in this chamber and across our nation have pursued a new strategy for prosperity: fiscal discipline to cut

interest rates and spur growth; investments in education and skills, in science and technology and transportation, to prepare our people for the new economy; new markets for American products and American workers.

When I took office, the deficit for 1998 was projected to be \$357 billion, and heading higher. This year, our deficit is projected to be \$10 billion, and heading lower. (Applause.) For three decades, six Presidents have come before you to warn of the damage deficits pose to our nation. Tonight, I come before you to announce that the federal deficit -- once so incomprehensibly large that it had 11 zeroes -- will be, simply, zero. (Applause.) I will submit to Congress for 1999 the first balanced budget in 30 years. (Applause.) And if we hold fast to fiscal discipline, we may balance the budget this year -- four years ahead of schedule. (Applause.)

You can all be proud of that, because turning a sea of red ink into black is no miracle. It is the product of hard work by the American people, and of two visionary actions in Congress -- the courageous vote in 1993 that led to a cut in the deficit of 90 percent -- (applause) -- and the truly historic bipartisan balanced budget agreement passed by this Congress. (Applause.) Here's the really good news: If we maintain our resolve, we will produce balanced budgets as far as the eye can see.

We must not go back to unwise spending or untargeted tax cuts that risk reopening the deficit. (Applause.) Last year, together we enacted targeted tax cuts so that the typical middle class family will now have the lowest tax rates in 20 years. (Applause.) My plan to balance the budget next year includes both new investments and new tax cuts targeted to the needs of working families: for education, for child care, for the environment.

But whether the issue is tax cuts or spending, I ask all of you to meet this test: Approve only those priorities that can actually be accomplished without adding a dime to the deficit. (Applause.)

Now, if we balance the budget for next year, it is projected that we'll then have a sizeable surplus in the years that immediately follow. What should we do with this projected surplus? I have a simple four-word answer: Save Social Security first. (Applause.) Thank you.

Tonight, I propose that we reserve 100 percent of the surplus -- that's every penny of any surplus -- until we have taken all the necessary measures to strengthen the Social Security system for the 21st century. (Applause.) Let us say to all Americans watching tonight -- whether you're 70 or 50, or whether you just started paying into the system -- Social Security will be there when you need it. (Applause.) Let us make this commitment: Social Security first. Let's do that together. (Applause.)

I also want to say that all the American people who are

watching us tonight should be invited to join in this discussion, in facing these issues squarely, and forming a true consensus on how we should proceed. We'll start by conducting nonpartisan forums in every region of the country -- and I hope that lawmakers of both parties will participate. We'll hold a White House Conference on Social Security in December. And one year from now I will convene the leaders of Congress to craft historic, bipartisan legislation to achieve a landmark for our generation -- a Social Security system that is strong in the 21st century. (Applause.) Thank you.

In an economy that honors opportunity, all Americans must be able to reap the rewards of prosperity. Because these times are good, we can afford to take one simple, sensible step to help millions of workers struggling to provide for their families: We should raise the minimum wage. (Applause.)

The Information Age is, first and foremost, an education age, in which education must start at birth and continue throughout a lifetime. Last year, from this podium, I said that education has to be our highest priority. I laid out a 10-point plan to move us forward and urged all of us to let politics stop at the schoolhouse door. Since then, this Congress, across party lines, and the American people have responded, in the most important year for education in a generation -- expanding public school choice, opening the way to 3,000 new charter schools, working to connect every classroom in the country to the Information Superhighway, committing to expand Head Start to a million children, launching America Reads, sending literally thousands of college students into our elementary schools to make sure all our 8-year-olds can read.

Last year I proposed, and you passed, 220,000 new Pell Grant scholarships for deserving students. (Applause.) Student loans, already less expensive and easier to repay, now you get to deduct the interest. (Applause.) Families all over America now can put their savings into new tax-free education IRAs. And this year, for the first two years of college, families will get a \$1,500 tax credit -- a HOPE Scholarship that will cover the cost of most community college tuition. And for junior and senior year, graduate school, and job training, there is a lifetime learning credit. You did that and you should be very proud of it. (Applause.)

And because of these actions, I have something to say to every family listening to us tonight: Your children can go on to college. If you know a child from a poor family, tell her not to give up -- she can go on to college. If you know a young couple struggling with bills, worried they won't be able to send their children to college, tell them not to give up -- their children can go on to college. If you know somebody who's caught in a dead-end job and afraid he can't afford the classes necessary to get better jobs for the rest of his life, tell him not to give up -- he can go on to college. Because of the things that have been done, we can make college as universal in the 21st century as high school is today. And, my friends, that will change the face and future of America. (Applause.)

We have opened wide the doors of the world's best system of higher education. Now we must make our public elementary and secondary schools the world's best as well -- (applause) -- by raising standards, raising expectations, and raising accountability.

Thanks to the actions of this Congress last year, we will soon have, for the very first time, a voluntary national test based on national standards in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math. Parents have a right to know whether their children are mastering the basics. And every parent already knows the key: good teachers and small classes.

Tonight, I propose the first ever national effort to reduce class size in the early grades. (Applause.) Thank you.

My balanced budget will help to hire 100,000 new teachers who have passed a state competency test. Now, with these teachers -- listen -- with these teachers, we will actually be able to reduce class size in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades to an average of 18 students a class, all across America. (Applause.)

If I've got the math right, more teachers teaching smaller classes requires more classrooms. So I also propose a school construction tax cut to help communities modernize or build 5,000 schools. (Applause.)

We must also demand greater accountability. (Applause.) When we promote a child from grade to grade who hasn't mastered the work, we don't do that child any favors. It is time to end social promotion in America's schools. (Applause.)

Last year, in Chicago, they made that decision -- not to hold our children back, but to lift them up. Chicago stopped social promotion, and started mandatory summer school, to help students who are behind to catch up. I propose -- (applause) -- I propose to help other communities follow Chicago's lead. Let's say to them: Stop promoting children who don't learn, and we will give you the tools to make sure they do. (Applause.)

I also ask this Congress to support our efforts to enlist colleges and universities to reach out to disadvantaged children, starting in the 6th grade, so that they can get the guidance and hope they need so they can know that they, too, will be able to go on to college. (Applause.)

As we enter the 21st century, the global economy requires us to seek opportunity not just at home, but in all the markets of the world. We must shape this global economy, not shrink from it. In the last five years, we have led the way in opening new markets, with 240 trade agreements that remove foreign barriers to products bearing the proud stamp "Made in the USA." Today, record high exports account for fully one-third of our economic growth. I want to keep them going, because that's the way to keep America

growing and to advance a safer, more stable world. (Applause.)

All of you know whatever your views are that I think this a great opportunity for America. I know there is opposition to more comprehensive trade agreements. I have listened carefully and I believe that the opposition is rooted in two fears: first, that our trading partners will have lower environmental and labor standards which will give them an unfair advantage in our market and do their own people no favors, even if there's more business; and, second, that if we have more trade, more of our workers will lose their jobs and have to start over. I think we should seek to advance worker and environmental standards around the world. (Applause.) I have made it abundantly clear that it should be a part of our trade agenda. But we cannot influence other countries' decisions if we send them a message that we're backing away from trade with them.

This year, I will send legislation to Congress, and ask other nations to join us, to fight the most intolerable labor practice of all -- abusive child labor. (Applause.) We should also offer help and hope to those Americans temporarily left behind by the global marketplace or by the march of technology, which may have nothing to do with trade. That's why we have more than doubled funding for training dislocated workers since 1993 -- and if my new budget is adopted, we will triple funding. That's why we must do more, and more quickly, to help workers who lose their jobs for whatever reason.

You know, we help communities in a special way when their military base closes. We ought to help them in the same way if their factory closes. (Applause.) Again, I ask the Congress to continue its bipartisan work to consolidate the tangle of training programs we have today into one single G.I. Bill for Workers, a simple skills grant so people can, on their own, move quickly to new jobs, to higher incomes and brighter futures. (Applause.)

We all know in every way in life change is not always easy, but we have to decide whether we're going to try to hold it back and hide from it or reap its benefits. And remember the big picture here: While we've been entering into hundreds of new trade agreements, we've been creating millions of new jobs.

So this year we will forge new partnerships with Latin America, Asia, and Europe. And we should pass the new African Trade Act -- it has bipartisan support. (Applause.) I will also renew my request for the fast track negotiating authority necessary to open more new markets, create more new jobs, which every President has had for two decades. (Applause.)

You know, whether we like it or not, in ways that are mostly positive, the world's economies are more and more interconnected and interdependent. Today, an economic crisis anywhere can affect economies everywhere. Recent months have brought serious financial problems to Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, and beyond.

Now, why should Americans be concerned about this? First, these countries are our customers. If they sink into recession, they won't be able to buy the goods we'd like to sell them. Second, they're also our competitors. So if their currencies lose their value and go down, then the price of their goods will drop, flooding our market and others with much cheaper goods, which makes it a lot tougher for our people to compete. And, finally, they are our strategic partners. Their stability bolsters our security. (Applause.)

The American economy remains sound and strong, and I want to keep it that way. But because the turmoil in Asia will have an impact on all the world's economies, including ours, making that negative impact as small as possible is the right thing to do for America -- and the right thing to do for a safer world. (Applause.)

Our policy is clear: No nation can recover if it does not reform itself. But when nations are willing to undertake serious economic reform, we should help them do it. So I call on Congress to renew America's commitment to the International Monetary Fund. (Applause.) And I think we should say to all the people we're trying to represent here that preparing for a far-off storm that may reach our shores is far wiser than ignoring the thunder until the clouds are just overhead. (Applause.)

A strong nation rests on the rock of responsibility. (Applause.) A society rooted in responsibility must first promote the value of work, not welfare. We can be proud that after decades of finger-pointing and failure, together we ended the old welfare system. And we're now replacing welfare checks with paychecks. (Applause.)

Last year, after a record four-year decline in welfare rolls, I challenged our nation to move 2 million more Americans off welfare by the year 2000. I'm pleased to report we have also met that goal, two full years ahead of schedule. (Applause.)

This is a grand achievement, the sum of many acts of individual courage, persistence and hope. For 13 years, Elaine Kinslow of Indianapolis, Indiana, was on and off welfare. Today, she's a dispatcher with the a van company. She's saved enough money to move her family into a good neighborhood, and she's helping other welfare recipients go to work. Elaine Kinslow and all those like her are the real heroes of the welfare revolution. There are millions like her all across America. And I'm happy she could join the First Lady tonight. Elaine, we're very proud of you. Please stand up. (Applause.)

We still have a lot more to do, all of us, to make welfare reform a success -- providing child care, helping families move closer to available jobs, challenging more companies to join our welfare-to-work partnership, increasing child support collections from deadbeat parents who have a duty to support their own children.

I also want to thank Congress for restoring some of the benefits to immigrants who are here legally and working hard -- and I hope you will finish that job this year. (Applause.)

We have to make it possible for all hard-working families to meet their most important responsibilities. Two years ago, we helped guarantee that Americans can keep their health insurance when they change jobs. Last year, we extended health care to up to 5 million children. This year, I challenge Congress to take the next historic steps.

One hundred sixty million of our fellow citizens are in managed care plans. These plans save money and they can improve care. But medical decisions ought to be made by medical doctors, not insurance company accountants. (Applause.) I urge this Congress to reach across the aisle and write into law a Consumer Bill of Rights that says this: You have the right to know all your medical options, not just the cheapest. You have the right to choose the doctor you want for the care you need. (Applause.) You have the right to emergency room care, wherever and whenever you need it. (Applause.) You have the right to keep your medical records confidential. (Applause.) Traditional care or managed care, every American deserves quality care. (Applause.)

Millions of Americans between the ages of 55 and 65 have lost their health insurance. Some are retired; some are laid off; some lose their coverage when their spouses retire. After a lifetime of work, they are left with nowhere to turn. So I ask the Congress: Let these hard-working Americans buy into the Medicare system. It won't add a dime to the deficit -- but the peace of mind it will provide will be priceless. (Applause.)

Next, we must help parents protect their children from the gravest health threat that they face: an epidemic of teen smoking, spread by multimillion-dollar marketing campaigns. I challenge Congress: Let's pass bipartisan, comprehensive legislation that improve public health, protect our tobacco farmers, and change the way tobacco companies do business forever. Let's do what it takes to bring teen smoking down. Let's raise the price of cigarettes by up to \$1.50 a pack over the next 10 years, with penalties on the tobacco industry if it keeps marketing to our children. (Applause.)

Tomorrow, like every day, 3,000 children will start smoking, and 1,000 will die early as a result. Let this Congress be remembered as the Congress that saved their lives. (Applause.)

In the new economy, most parents work harder than ever. They face a constant struggle to balance their obligations to be good workers -- and their even more important obligations to be good parents. The Family and Medical Leave Act was the very first bill I was privileged to sign into law as President in 1993. (Applause.) Since then, about 15 million people have taken advantage of it, and I've met a lot of them all across this country. I ask you to extend

that law to cover 10 million more workers, and to give parents time off when they have to go see their children's teachers or take them to the doctor. (Applause.)

Child care is the next frontier we must face to enable people to succeed at home and at work. Last year, I co-hosted the very first White House Conference on Child Care with one of our foremost experts, America's First Lady. (Applause.) From all corners of America, we heard the same message, without regard to region or income or political affiliation: We've got to raise the quality of child care. We've got to make it safer. We've got to make it more affordable.

So here's my plan: Help families to pay for child care for a million more children. Scholarships and background checks for child care workers, and a new emphasis on early learning. Tax credits for businesses that provide child care for their employees. And a larger child care tax credit for working families. Now, if you pass my plan, what this means is that a family of four with an income of \$35,000 and high child care costs will no longer pay a single penny of federal income tax. (Applause.)

I think this is such a big issue with me because of my own personal experience. I have often wondered how my mother, when she was a young widow, would have been able to go away to school and get an education and come back and support me if my grandparents hadn't been able to take care of me. She and I were really very lucky. How many other families have never had that same opportunity? The truth is, we don't know the answer to that question. But we do know what the answer should be: Not a single American family should ever have to choose between the job they need and the child they love. (Applause.)

A society rooted in responsibility must provide safe streets, safe schools, and safe neighborhoods. We pursued a strategy of more police, tougher punishment, smarter prevention, with crime-fighting partnerships with local law enforcement and citizen groups, where the rubber hits the road. I can report to you tonight that it's working. Violent crime is down, robbery is down, assault is down, burglary is down -- for five years in a row, all across America. (Applause.) We need to finish the job of putting 100,000 more police on our streets. (Applause.)

Again, I ask Congress to pass a juvenile crime bill that provides more prosecutors and probation officers, to crack down on gangs and guns and drugs, and bar violent juveniles from buying guns for life. (Applause.) And I ask you to dramatically expand our support for after-school programs. (Applause.) I think every American should know that most juvenile crime is committed between the hours of 3:00 in the afternoon and 8:00 at night. We can keep so many of our children out of trouble in the first place if we give them someplace to go other than the streets, and we ought to do it. (Applause.)

Drug use is on the decline. I thank General McCaffrey for his leadership. And I thank this Congress for passing the largest antidrug budget in history. (Applause.) I ask you to join me in a ground-breaking effort to hire 1,000 new border patrol agents and to deploy the most sophisticated available new technologies to help close the door on drugs at our borders. (Applause.)

Police, prosecutors, and prevention programs, as good as they are, they can't work if our court system doesn't work. Today there are large number of vacancies in the federal courts. Here is what the Chief Justice of the United States wrote: Judicial vacancies cannot remain at such high levels indefinitely without eroding the quality of justice. I simply ask the United States Senate to heed this plea, and vote on the highly qualified judicial nominees before you, up or down. (Applause.)

We must exercise responsibility not just at home, but around the world. On the eve of a new century, we have the power and the duty to build a new era of peace and security. But, make no mistake about it, today's possibilities are not tomorrow's guarantees. America must stand against the poisoned appeals of extreme nationalism. We must combat an unholy axis of new threats from terrorists, international criminals and drug traffickers. These 21st century predators feed on technology and the free flow of information and ideas and people. And they will be all the more lethal if weapons of mass destruction fall into their hands.

To meet these challenges, we are helping to write international rules of the road for the 21st century, protecting those who join the family of nations and isolating those who do not. Within days, I will ask the Senate for its advice and consent to make Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic the newest members of NATO. (Applause.) For 50 years, NATO contained communism and kept America and Europe secure. Now these three formerly communist countries have said yes to democracy. I ask the Senate to say yes to them -- our new allies. (Applause.)

By taking in new members and working closely with new partners, including Russia and Ukraine, NATO can help to assure that Europe is a stronghold for peace in the 21st century.

Next, I will ask Congress to continue its support for our troops and their mission in Bosnia. (Applause.) This Christmas, Hillary and I traveled to Sarajevo with Senator and Mrs. Dole and a bipartisan congressional delegation. We saw children playing in the streets, where two years ago they were hiding from snipers and shells. The shops are filled with food; the cafes were alive with conversation. The progress there is unmistakable -- but it is not yet irreversible.

To take firm root, Bosnia's fragile peace still needs the support of American and allied troops when the current NATO mission ends in June. I think Senator Dole actually said it best. He said, "This is like being ahead in the 4th quarter of a football

game. Now is not the time to walk off the field and forfeit the victory." (Applause.)

I wish all of you could have seen our troops in Tuzla. They're very proud of what they're doing in Bosnia. And we're all very proud of them. (Applause.) One of those brave soldiers is sitting with the First Lady tonight -- Army Sergeant Michael Tolbert. His father was a decorated Vietnam vet. After college in Colorado, he joined the Army. Last year, he led an infantry unit that stopped mob of extremists from taking over a radio station that is a voice of democracy and tolerance in Bosnia. Thank you very much, Sergeant, for what you represent. (Applause.)

In Bosnia and around the world, our men and women in uniform always do their mission well. Our mission must be to keep them well-trained and ready, to improve their quality of life, and to provide the 21st century weapons they need to defeat any enemy. (Applause.)

I ask Congress to join me in pursuing an ambitious agenda to reduce the serious threat of weapons of mass destruction. This year, four decades after it was first proposed by President Eisenhower, a comprehensive nuclear test ban is within reach. By ending nuclear testing we can help to prevent the development of new and more dangerous weapons and make it more difficult for non-nuclear states to build them.

I'm pleased to announce four former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- Generals John Shalikashvili, Colin Powell, and David Jones, and Admiral William Crowe -- have endorsed this treaty. And I ask the Senate to approve it this year. (Applause.)

Together, we also must also confront the new hazards of chemical and biological weapons, and the outlaw states, terrorists and organized criminals seeking to acquire them. Saddam Hussein has spent the better part of this decade, and much of his nation's wealth, not on providing for the Iraqi people, but on developing nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons -- and the missiles to deliver them. The United Nations weapons inspectors have done a truly remarkable job, finding and destroying more of Iraq's arsenal than was destroyed during the entire Gulf War. Now Saddam Hussein wants to stop them from completing their mission.

I know I speak for everyone in this chamber, Republicans and Democrats, when I say to Saddam Hussein: You cannot defy the will of the world. (Applause.) And when I say to him: You have used weapons of mass destruction before; we are determined to deny you the capacity to use them again. (Applause.)

Last year, the Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention to protect our soldiers and citizens from poison gas. Now we must act to prevent the use of disease as a weapon of war and terror. The Biological Weapons Convention has been in effect for 23 years now. The rules are good, but the enforcement is weak. We must

strengthen it with a new international inspection system to detect and deter cheating.

In the months ahead, I will pursue our security strategy with old allies in Asia and Europe, and new partners from Africa to India and Pakistan, from South America to China. And from Belfast, to Korea to the Middle East, America will continue to stand with those who stand for peace.

Finally, it's long past time to make good on our debt to the United Nations. (Applause.) More and more, we are working with other nations to achieve common goals. If we want America to lead, we've got to set a good example. (Applause.) As we see so clearly in Bosnia, allies who share our goals can also share our burdens. In this new era, our freedom and independence are actually enriched, not weakened, by our increasing interdependence with other nations. But we have to do our part.

Our founders set America on a permanent course toward "a more perfect union." To all of you I say it is a journey we can only make together -- living as one community. First, we have to continue to reform our government -- the instrument of our national community. Everyone knows elections have become too expensive, fueling a fundraising arms race. This year, by March 6th, at long last the Senate will actually vote on bipartisan campaign finance reform proposed by Senators McCain and Feingold. Let's be clear: A vote against McCain and Feingold is a vote for soft money and for the status quo. I ask you to strengthen our democracy and pass campaign finance reform this year. (Applause.)

At least equally important, we have to address the real reason for the explosion in campaign costs -- the high cost of media advertising. (Applause.) To the folks watching at home, those were the groans of pain in the audience. (Laughter.) I will formally request that the Federal Communications Commission act to provide free or reduced-cost television time for candidates who observe spending limits voluntarily. (Applause.) The airwaves are a public trust, and broadcasters also have to help us in this effort to strengthen our democracy.

Under the leadership of Vice President Gore, we've reduced the federal payroll by 300,000 workers, cut 16,000 pages of regulation, eliminated hundreds of programs and improved the operations of virtually every government agency. But we can do more. Like every taxpayer, I'm outraged by the reports of abuses by the IRS. We need some changes there -- new citizen advocacy panels, a stronger taxpayer advocate, phone lines open 24 hours a day, relief for innocent taxpayers. Last year, by an overwhelming bipartisan margin, the House of Representatives passed sweeping IRS reforms. (Applause.) This bill must not now languish in the Senate. Tonight I ask the Senate: follow the House, pass the bipartisan package as your first order of business. (Applause.)

I hope to goodness before I finish I can think of

something to say, "follow the Senate" on, so I'll be out of trouble.
(Laughter.)

A nation that lives as a community must value all its communities. For the past five years, we have worked to bring the spark of private enterprise to inner city and poor rural areas --with community development banks, more commercial loans in the poor neighborhoods, cleanup of polluted sites for development. Under the continued leadership of the Vice President, we propose to triple the number of empowerment zones, to give business incentives to invest in those areas. (Applause.)

We should also should give poor families more help to move into homes of their own, and we should use tax cuts to spur the construction of more low-income housing. (Applause.)

Last year, this Congress took strong action to help the District of Columbia. Let us renew our resolve to make our capital city a great city for all who live and visit here. (Applause.) Our cities are the vibrant hubs of great metropolitan areas. They are still the gateways for new immigrants, from every continent, who come here to work for their own American Dreams. Let's keep our cities going strong into the 21st century. They're a very important part of our future. (Applause.)

Our communities are only as healthy as the air our children breathe, the water they drink, the Earth they will inherit. Last year, we put in place the toughest-ever controls on smog and soot. We moved to protect Yellowstone, the Everglades, Lake Tahoe. We expanded every community's right to know about the toxins that threaten their children. Just yesterday, our food safety plan took effect, using new science to protect consumers from dangers like E. coli and salmonella. (Applause.)

Tonight, I ask you to join me in launching a new Clean Water Initiative, a far-reaching effort to clean our rivers, our lakes, our coastal waters for our children. (Applause.)

Our overriding environmental challenge tonight is the worldwide problem of climate change, global warming, the gathering crisis that requires worldwide action. The vast majority of scientists have concluded unequivocally that if we don't reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, at some point in the next century we'll disrupt our climate and put our children and grandchildren at risk. This past December, America led the world to reach a historic agreement committing our nation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through market forces, new technologies, energy efficiency. We have it in our power to act right here, right now. I propose \$6 billion in tax cuts and research and development to encourage innovation, renewable energy, fuel-efficient cars, energy-efficient homes.

Every time we have acted to heal our environment,

pessimists have told us it would hurt the economy. Well, today our economy is the strongest in a generation, and our environment is the cleanest in a generation. We have always found a way to clean the environment and grow the economy at the same time. And when it comes to global warming, we'll do it again. (Applause.)

Finally, community means living by the defining American value -- the ideal heard round the world that we are all created equal. Throughout our history, we haven't always honored that ideal and we've never fully lived up to it. Often it's easier to believe that our differences matter more than what we have in common. It may be easier, but it's wrong.

What we have to do in our day and generation to make sure that America becomes truly one nation -- what do we have to do? We're becoming more and more and more diverse. Do you believe we can become one nation? The answer cannot be to dwell on our differences, but to build on our shared values. We all cherish family and faith, freedom and responsibility. We all want our children to grow up in a world where their talents are matched by their opportunities.

I've launched this national initiative on race to help us recognize our common interests and to bridge the opportunity gaps that are keeping us from becoming one America. Let us begin by recognizing what we still must overcome. Discrimination against any American is un-American. (Applause.) We must vigorously enforce the laws that make it illegal. I ask your help to end the backlog at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Sixty thousand of our fellow citizens are waiting in line for justice, and we should act now to end their wait. (Applause.)

We also should recognize that the greatest progress we can make toward building one America lies in the progress we make for all Americans, without regard to race. When we open the doors of college to all Americans, when we rid all our streets of crime, when there are jobs available to people from all our neighborhoods, when we make sure all parents have the child care they need, we're helping to build one nation.

We, in this chamber and in this government, must do all we can to address the continuing American challenge to build one America. But we'll only move forward if all our fellow citizens -- including every one of you at home watching tonight -- is also committed to this cause.

We must work together, learn together, live together, serve together. On the forge of common enterprise Americans of all backgrounds can hammer out a common identity. We see it today in the United States military, in the Peace Corps, in AmeriCorps. Wherever people of all races and backgrounds come together in a shared endeavor and get a fair chance, we do just fine. With shared values and meaningful opportunities and honest communication and citizen service, we can unite a diverse people in freedom and mutual respect. We are many; we must be one. (Applause.)

In that spirit, let us lift our eyes to the new millennium. How will we mark that passage? It just happens once every thousand years. This year, Hillary and I launched the White House Millennium Program to promote America's creativity and innovation, and to preserve our heritage and culture into the 21st century. Our culture lives in every community, and every community has places of historic value that tell our stories as Americans. We should protect them. I am proposing a public-private partnership to advance our arts and humanities, and to celebrate the millennium by saving American's treasures, great and small.

And while we honor the past, let us imagine the future. Think about this -- the entire store of human knowledge now doubles every five years. In the 1980s, scientists identified the gene causing cystic fibrosis -- it took nine years. Last year, scientists located the gene that causes Parkinson's Disease -- in only nine days. Within a decade, "gene chips" will offer a road map for prevention of illnesses throughout a lifetime. Soon we'll be able to carry all the phone calls on Mother's Day on a single strand of fiber the width of a human hair. A child born in 1998 may well live to see the 22nd century.

Tonight, as part of our gift to the millennium, I propose a 21st Century Research Fund for path-breaking scientific inquiry -- the largest funding increase in history for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the National Cancer Institute. (Applause.)

We have already discovered genes for breast cancer and diabetes. I ask you to support this initiative so ours will be the generation that finally wins the war against cancer, and begins a revolution in our fight against all deadly diseases. (Applause.)

As important as all this scientific progress is, we must continue to see that science serves humanity, not the other way around. We must prevent the misuse of genetic tests to discriminate against any American. (Applause.) And we must ratify the ethical consensus of the scientific and religious communities, and ban the cloning of human beings. (Applause.)

We should enable all the world's people to explore the far reaches of cyberspace. Think of this -- the first time I made a State of the Union speech to you, only a handful of physicists used the World Wide Web. Literally, just a handful of people. Now, in schools, in libraries, homes and businesses, millions and millions of Americans surf the Net every day. We must give parents the tools they need to help protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. But we also must make sure that we protect the exploding global commercial potential of the Internet. We can do the kinds of things that we need to do and still protect our kids.

For one thing, I ask Congress to step up support for building the next generation Internet. It's getting kind of clogged,

you know. And the next generation Internet will operate at speeds up to a thousand times faster than today.

Even as we explore this inner space in a new millennium we're going to open new frontiers in outer space. Throughout all history, humankind has had only one place to call home -- our planet Earth. Beginning this year, 1998, men and women from 16 countries will build a foothold in the heavens -- the international space station. With its vast expanses, scientists and engineers will actually set sail on an uncharted sea of limitless mystery and unlimited potential. (Applause.)

And this October, a true American hero, a veteran pilot of 149 combat missions and one, five-hour space flight that changed the world, will return to the heavens. Godspeed, John Glenn. (Applause.) John, you will carry with you America's hopes. And on your uniform, once again, you will carry America's flag, marking the unbroken connection between the deeds of America's past and the daring of America's future.

Nearly 200 years ago, a tattered flag, its broad stripes and bright stars still gleaming through the smoke of a fierce battle, moved Francis Scott Key to scribble a few words on the back of an envelope -- the words that became our national anthem. Today, that Star Spangled Banner, along with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, are on display just a short walk from here. They are America's treasures and we must also save them for the ages.

I ask all Americans to support our project to restore all our treasures so that the generations of the 21st century can see for themselves the images and the words that are the old and continuing glory of America; an America that has continued to rise through every age, against every challenge, of people of great works and greater possibilities, who have always, always found the wisdom and strength to come together as one nation -- to widen the circle of opportunity, to deepen the meaning of our freedom, to form that "more perfect union." Let that be our gift to the 21st century.

God bless you, and God bless the United States.
(Applause.)

END

10:26 P.M. EST

Message Sent To:

Sharolyn A. Rosier
Lori E. Abrams
Jeannetta P. Allen
Lori Anderson
Brenda M. Anders
Eli G. Attie @ OVP@EOP
Patrick Aylward
Robin J. Bachman
Kyle M. Baker
Kris M Balderston
Beverly J. Barnes
Brian A. Barreto
David S. Beaubaire
Mark J. Bernstein
Marsha E. Berry
antony j. blinken
Alexander L. Boyle
Lanny A. Breuer
Patrick E. Briggs
Katharine Button
Robin J. Bachman
Allison Balderston
Barbara D. Woolley
Bradley M. Campbell
Phillip Caplan
Joseph W. Cerrell @ OVP@EOP
David K. Chai
Andrei H. Cherny @ ovp@eop
Nanda Chitre
Steven A. Cohen
Julianne B. Corbett
Michelle Crisci
Anna E. Cushing
Suzanne Dale
Lanny J. Davis
Elliot J. Diringier
Daniel W. Burkhardt
Diane Ikemiyashiro
Dorian V. Weaver
Dorinda A. Salcido
Douglas Matties
Anne M. Edwards
Rahm Emanuel
Karen C. Fahle
Julie A. Fernandes
Karen E. Finney
Carmen B. Fowler
Ben A. Freeland
Jeremy M. Gaines
Grace A. Garcia
Jessica L. Gibson
Adam W. Goldberg
Jason S. Goldberg
Dario J. Gomez
Peter D. Greenberger
Donald Goldberg
Richard Hayes
Russell W. Horwitz

Maureen A. Hudson
Thomas D. Janenda
david t. johnson
Leanne I. Johnson
Michele Jolin
James M. Teague
Jon P. Jennings
Julie E. Mason
David E. Kalbaugh
Jonathan A. Kaplan
William R. Kincaid
Allison J. King
Catherine T. Kitchen
Sarah S. Freeman
Jim Kohlenberger @ OVP@EOP
Heidi Kukis @ OVP@EOP
Sara M. Latham
Christopher J. Lavery
Anne H. Lewis
Joseph P. Lockhart
Laura D. Schwartz
Lisa J. Levin
Christine N. Macy
Michael D. Malone
Laura S. Marcus
Tanya E. Martin
Doris O. Matsui
Andrew J. Mayock
Anne E. McGuire
Estela Mendoza
R. Scott Michaud
Elisa Millsap
Cheryl D. Mills
Megan C. Moloney
Tamara Monosoff
Kevin Moran
Jonathan Murchinson
Melissa M. Murray
Reuben L. Musgrave Jr.
Sean P. Maloney
Michael V. Terrell
Steven J. Naplan
Mark D. Neschis
Elizabeth R. Newman
Neera Tanden
Michael A. O'Mary
Jonathan Orszag
Peter R. Orszag
Kristen E. Panerali
Carole A. Parmelee
Sally P. Paxton
Julia M. Payne
Peter O'Keefe
Nicole R. Rabner
Victoria Radd
Nelson Reyneri
Charles F. Ruff
Peter Rundlet

Virginia N. Rustique
Evan Ryan
Roger V. Salazar
G. Timothy Saunders
Judithanne V. Scourfield
Brooks Scoville
Ruby Shamir
Douglas S. Sheorn
June Shih
Robert M. Shireman
Jake Siewert
Joshua Silverman
Brian D. Smith
Craig T. Smith
Richard Socarides
Douglas B. Sosnik
Maria E. Soto
Elisabeth Steele
Aviva Steinberg
Todd Stern
Darby E. Stott
Diane A. Stumpf
Michael J. Sullivan
Jonathan H. Schnur @ OVP@EOP
Tracy F. Sisser
Sylvia M. Mathews
Jordan Tamagni
Virginia M. Terzano @ ovp@eop
terri tingen
Amy W. Tobe
Barry J. Toiv
Serena C. Torrey
Paul A. Tuchmann
June G. Turner
Thurgood Marshall Jr
Dag Vega
Michael Waldman
Angelina Walker @ ovp@eop
Glen M. Weiner
Peter A. Weissman
Lowell A. Weiss
Woyneab M. Wondwossen
Debra S. Wood
William H. White Jr.
meglynn @ usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY
SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SUNTUM_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
princej @ panet.us-state.gov@INET@LNGTWY
COGDELL_C @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
backup @ wilson.ai.mit.edu@INET@LNGTWY
wh-outbox-distr @ clinton.ai.mit.edu@INET@LNGTWY
BARBUSCHAK_K @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
BARTHOLOME_M @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
BARTHOLOW_T @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CROWLEY_P @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
CUTLER_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
DICKEY_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
GERHARDT_K @ A1@CD@LNGTWY

GERHARDT_K @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
GRAY_W @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
GRIBBEN_J @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
HAAS_L @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
JOHNSON_WC @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
MOFFETT_J @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
PR_U=TDIXON@PR_L=AVUOE0B@MRP@LNGTWY
RILEY_R @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
NAPLAN_S @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
SMITH_BD @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
TCSmith @ dol.gov@INET@LNGTWY
WEINER_R @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
WOZNIAK_N @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
julie_green @ ed.gov@INET@LNGTWY
usia01 @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY
1 = US@2 = WESTERN UNION@3 = @5 = ATT.COM@*ELN\62955104@MRX@LNGTWY
62955104 @ eln.attmail.com@INET@LNGTWY
INFOMGT @ A1@CD@LNGTWY
newsdesk @ usnewswire.com@INET@LNGTWY
usnwire @ access.digex.com@INET@LNGTWY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 26, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: STACIE SPECTOR
SUBJECT: STATE OF THE UNION AMPLIFICATION MATERIALS

Attached are amplification support materials. These materials are being distributed this evening for internal senior staff use only, and to help outreach offices prepare for tomorrow's distribution efforts. Please do not distribute these materials outside the building until tomorrow (1/27).

To help your distribution efforts, Kevin Moran will provide these materials to your office electronically in the morning. Additionally, most of these materials will be available on-line tomorrow evening on the White House home page (www.whitehouse.gov/WH/SOTU98).

Thank you for your patience, and more importantly to the policy offices for their hard work in producing these materials in record time.

Questions or comments should be directed to Stacie Spector or Kevin Moran at ext. 6-2640.

Attachments

SOTU Overview Talking Points

SOTU Issue Area One Pagers:

- Education
- Health Care
- Child Care
- Crime and Drugs
- Environmental
- One America
- Foreign Policy (available tomorrow)

Five-Year Accomplishments

State-by-State Accomplishments (available upon request)

Constituency Focused Accomplishments

- African American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Women

TALKING POINTS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

January 26, 1998

**THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS IS A CONCRETE PLAN OF ACTION
THAT IDENTIFIES OUR PRIORITIES AND APPROACHES TO KEY ISSUES**

- **We have a unique moment in time to prepare America for the 21st Century.** Under President Clinton's leadership, America has achieved an unprecedented period of peace and prosperity:
 - the strongest economy in a generation;
 - the first balanced budget in a generation;
 - crime rates at their lowest levels in 24 years;
 - welfare rolls down by 3.8 million people;
 - unemployment at its lowest level in more than two decades;
 - deficit cut by more than 90 percent;
 - unrivaled world leadership.
- **This is an opportunity for action.** The President's State of the Union address will challenge us to use this unique moment in time as an opportunity to prepare for the next century. It builds on the new kind of government President Clinton is creating -- a leaner, more flexible government. One that does not try to do everything. One that gives Americans the tools and conditions needed to make the most of their own lives.
- **At the center of President Clinton's vision for a stronger America are three goals:**
 - an economy that honors opportunity;
 - a society rooted in responsibility;
 - and, a nation that lives as a community.

HERE IS HOW THESE GOALS FIT INTO PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISION OF A STRONGER AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY:

- **An Economy that offers more opportunity.** The President will outline a plan for building a stronger, more prosperous America. Central to his strategy is:
 - Driving the budget deficit down to 0. During the first 5 years -- by making tough choices and fiscally responsible policies -- President Clinton took the nation's budget deficit down from \$290 billion to \$23 billion. This year, President Clinton will make history and give the American people their first balanced budget in 30 years.
 - Committing any budget surplus first to Social Security. President Clinton is deeply committed to ensuring that Social Security remain a viable, effective program,

providing retirement security for all Americans in the 21st century. That is why he is calling on Congress to secure Social Security for future generations as a first priority.

- Investing in the American people through education and training. Education is the key to opportunity. Tomorrow, President Clinton will ask us to make our public elementary and secondary schools the best in the world -- by raising standards, raising expectations and raising accountability. He will call for:
 - voluntary national testing;
 - 100,000 new teachers in grades 1-3;
 - a School Construction Tax Cut to help rebuild, modernize, and build new schools;
 - a mentoring program;
 - continued college access expansion, so that every American who wants to can go to college.
- Tearing down trade barriers to open new markets for American products and workers. The President's plan seeks to renew his negotiating authority to open even more foreign markets to American goods and services. It calls for responsible action, working with the international community, to help those countries hurt by economic instability that are willing to undertake serious efforts to put their own economic houses in order. It also includes initiatives to enable all Americans to share in the prosperity of the global marketplace. Building on the funding for training we have provided to dislocated workers, the President will challenge Congress to pass the GI Bill for Workers to give workers a simple grant so they can move more quickly to newer, better jobs.
- **A Society that Acts Responsibly.** The President is intent on helping create a society that acts responsibly. To enforce this commitment, the President's plan will:
 - Continue moving people from welfare to work. Challenge thousands more businesses to join the 3000 companies already in our welfare-to-work partnership.
 - Health Care Consumer Bill of Rights. The President called on Congress to pass federally enforceable consumer health care protections before it adjourns this year. This Health Care Bill of Rights should contain a range of protections, including guaranteed access to needed health care specialists to ensure that patients are provided appropriate high quality care and access to emergency room services when and where they need it.
 - Access to affordable, quality health care. Providing new options for Americans ages 55 to 65 to obtain Health Insurance, including opportunities to buy into Medicare.
 - An historic child care initiative. To improve child care for America's working families the President is proposing approximately \$20 billion over five years for child care, including elements to help working families pay for child care, build a good supply of after-school programs, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning.

- Fighting juvenile crime and drugs. With murder, robbery, assault and burglary down all across the nation, President Clinton is calling for a special focus on addressing juvenile crime -- providing more resources to crack down on gangs, guns, and drugs. When coordinated with the support provided by the largest anti-drug budget in history and with the outstanding leadership General McCaffery brings to our national drug policy, these new efforts are sure to keep drug use on decline.
- Ensure our commitment to world leadership. The President is committed to keeping America strong by maintaining our role as the world's indispensable nation. This includes:
 - building an undivided, democratic Europe by expanding NATO;
 - remaining a force for peace throughout the world;
 - moving strongly against new threats to our security;
 - reducing the threat of weapons of mass destruction.
- **Strengthening Our Communities.** The President's plan helps strengthen America's communities by:
 - Investing in our cities, giving them the tools and opportunities they need to create an urban renaissance. President Clinton firmly believes that the best community development program, the best anti-poverty program, and the best jobs program is a growing economy. The President's plan helps our inner cities by:
 - helping bring private enterprise into the inner city;
 - increasing funding for empowerment zones;
 - increasing funding for community development banks, to spur more investment and loans.
 - Protecting the environment, ensuring a cleaner, healthier planet for our children. The President's plan invests:
 - through \$6.3 billion in tax cuts to businesses and individuals, the President's Climate Change Plan finds a way to grow the economy and reduce greenhouse emissions at the same time;
 - large increases in research and development so we can find more and more innovative ways to continue cleaning the environment while keeping the economy strong.
 - Helping the country become One America for the 21st Century. The goal of the President's Initiative on Race is to create a more just and fair society that underscores our shared strengths, instead of focusing on our differences. President Clinton is determined to continue his commitment with the Race Initiative in 1998 -- emphasizing that our national diversity is our greatest strength.
- **Preparing for the Millennium.** In conclusion, the President will talk of the importance of the Millennium and the opportunity it presents us to honor the past, and imagine the future.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PROPOSALS:
STRONGER MORE ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION FOR ALL**

President Clinton is proposing new initiatives that will dramatically strengthen elementary and secondary education. These proposals will help ensure that all students start out in a small class with a good teacher, in a safe, modern school. They will also help ensure that students, especially in high poverty urban and rural areas, attend schools where high standards are taken seriously and kids are given the help they need to succeed. The President's proposals will dramatically expand access to safe havens for after-school learning, and ensure that low-income students receive the support and encouragement to finish school and continue on to college.

Small Classes with Qualified Teachers to Improve Reading in Grades 1-3. President Clinton is proposing a \$12.4 billion initiative over 7 years (\$7.3 billion over 5 years) to help local schools provide small classes with qualified teachers in the early grades. This initiative will help ensure that every child receives personal attention, learns to read independently, and gets a solid foundation for further learning. The new initiative will reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a nationwide average of 18, providing funds to help local school districts hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. The initiative will also provide funds to states and local school districts to test new teachers, develop more rigorous teacher testing and certification requirements, and train teachers in effective reading instruction practices. School districts will be accountable for demonstrating gains in reading achievement. These steps will help ensure that first through third grade students are receiving high-quality reading instruction in smaller classes from competent teachers.

Modern School Buildings to Improve Student Learning. For students to learn, schools must be well-equipped and able to accommodate smaller class sizes. To address these and other critical needs, President Clinton is proposing federal tax credits to pay interest on nearly \$22 billion in bonds to build and renovate public schools. This initiative provides more than double the assistance proposed last year --half the interest on an estimated \$20 billion in bonds. The tax credits will cost the Treasury \$5 billion over 5 years and more than \$10 billion over ten years. Of the \$22 billion in bond authority, nearly \$20 billion is for new School Modernization Bonds. Half of this bond authority will be allocated to the 100 school districts with the largest number of low-income children, and the other half will be allocated to the States. In addition, the President is proposing a more than \$2.4 billion expansion of Qualified Zone Academy Bonds, school-business partnerships that will include funding for school construction and renovation.

Education Opportunity Zones: Helping Students in Poor Communities Reach High Standards. This initiative will strengthen public schools and help students master the basic and advanced skills where the need is the greatest: in high poverty urban and rural communities where low expectations, too many poorly prepared teachers, and overwhelmed school systems create significant barriers to high achievement. The Education Department will select approximately fifty high poverty urban and rural school districts with: (1) a demonstrated commitment to use high standards and tests of student achievement as tools to identify and provide help to students, teachers, and schools who need it; (2) a strategy to prevent students from falling behind by ensuring quality teaching, challenging curricula, and extended learning time; (3) programs to end social promotion and turn around failing schools; and (4) evidence of improved student achievement. Added investments in these communities will accelerate their progress and provide models of successful, standards-based reform for the nation. The President's initiative will invest \$200 million in FY99, and \$1.5 billion over 5 years, in raising achievement and sharing lessons learned with school districts around the country.

Expanding Access to Safe After-School Care. To help create safe, positive learning environments for American school-age children who lack adult supervision during a typical week, the President has proposed to expand the 21st Century Learning Center Program to reach half a million children annually by investing \$1 million over five years. The program will support school-community partnerships that expand or establish programs providing after-school care.

Early Intervention to Promote College Attendance. President Clinton will soon announce a long-term effort to make college opportunity real for children in high-poverty areas by giving their families early information about financial aid and academic preparation, and using mentors and other support services to help the children stay on track through high school graduation and into college.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PROPOSALS:
HEALTH CARE THAT STRENGTHENS AMERICA'S FAMILIES**

Passing Comprehensive Bipartisan Tobacco Legislation That Reduces Teen Smoking and Changes the Way Tobacco Companies Do Business. Every day 3,000 young people start smoking and 1,000 of them will die prematurely from a tobacco-related disease. The President called on Congress to pass comprehensive national bipartisan legislation that includes five key principles: (1) it must mandate the development of a comprehensive plan to reduce teen smoking, including raising the cost of cigarettes by \$1.50 per pack if that is what it takes to stop children from smoking; (2) it must affirm the FDA's full authority to regulate tobacco products; (3) it must include measures to hold tobacco companies accountable, especially for marketing products to children; (4) it must include concrete measures to improve public health, from investing in research to reducing second hand smoke to expanding smoking cessation; and (5) it must protect the financial well-being of tobacco farmers and their communities from the loss of income caused by our efforts to reduce smoking.

Protecting Patients Through a Consumer Bill of Rights and Genetic Screening Protections. The President called on Congress to pass Federally enforceable consumer health care protections before it adjourns this fall. This Health Care Bill of Rights should contain a range of protections, including guaranteed access to needed health care specialists to ensure that patients are provided appropriate high quality care -- a particularly important protection for people with disabilities, access to emergency room services when and where the need arises, an assurance that medical records are confidential, and access to a meaningful internal and external appeals process for consumers to resolve their differences with their health plans and health care providers. The nation's health care system has changed dramatically, with more than 100 million Americans are now in managed care plans. This legislation will ensure that whether Americans have traditional health insurance or managed care, they are assured quality care. And to ensure that new advances in genetics are used to improve health rather than to discriminate, the President has called for legislation prohibiting the use of genetic screening to discriminate in health insurance and employment.

Providing New Options for Americans Ages 55 to 65 too Obtain Health Insurance, Including Buying Into Medicare. Americans ages 55 to 65, particularly those with disabilities or preexisting conditions, are one of the most difficult-to-insure populations: they have less access to and a greater risk of losing employer-based health insurance; and they are twice as likely to have health problems as the population generally. The President's proposal gives this vulnerable population three new ways to gain access to health insurance by: (1) allowing Americans ages 62 to 65 to buy into Medicare, through a premium that ensures that this policy is self-financed; (2) assisting vulnerable displaced workers 55 and over by offering those who have involuntarily lost their jobs and health care coverage a similar Medicare buy-in option; and (3) giving Americans 55 and over who have lost their retiree benefits access to their former employers' health insurance.

Creating a Historic "21st Century Research Fund" With Unprecedented Increases in Biomedical Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Scientists are on the cusp of important new breakthroughs in biomedical research, which could revolutionize the way medical experts understand, treat, and prevent some of our most devastating diseases. To promote this progress, the President's budget contains a historic upfront investment in biomedical research -- a 1.15 billion increase in FY 1999 -- and proposes an increase in NIH funding of more than 50 percent over the next five years. Under the President's proposal, over \$20 billion would be dedicated to biomedical research the NIH through 2003.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PROPOSAL:
CHILD CARE THAT STRENGTHENS AMERICAN FAMILIES**

"I am proud to propose the single largest child care investment in the history of our nation. It is a comprehensive and fiscally-responsible plan to make child care more affordable and accessible, to raise the quality and assure the safety of care for millions of American families. This is an issue that touches nearly every family, one that should rise above politics and partisan interests."

President Bill Clinton

January 7, 1998

President Clinton announced an historic initiative to improve child care for America's working families. The initiative proposes \$21.7 billion over five years for child care, **to help working families pay for child care, build a good supply of after-school programs, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning.**

ENSURING AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, SAFE CHILD CARE. The President's child care initiative responds to the struggles our nation's working parents face in finding child care they can afford, trust and rely on. The new initiative:

- **Makes child care more affordable for working families.** To help working families struggling to meet the costs of child care, the initiative invests \$7.5 billion over five years to double the number of children receiving child care subsidies to more than two million by the year 2003. The initiative also invests \$5.2 billion over five years to increase tax credits for child care for three million families and provides a new tax credit for businesses that offer child care services to their employees.
- **Increases access to and promotes early learning and healthy child development.** To improve early learning, the initiative includes \$3 billion over five years to establish an Early Learning Fund that helps local communities improve the quality and safety of child care for children ages zero to five. The initiative also increases investment in Head Start and doubles the number of children served by Early Head Start to 80,000.
- **Improves the safety and quality of child care.** To help ensure safe, quality child care, the initiative: steps up enforcement of state health and safety standards in child care settings, facilitates background checks on child care providers, increases scholarships and training for child care providers, and invests in child care research and evaluation.
- **Expands access to safe after-school care.** To help create safe, positive learning environments for American school-age children who lack adult supervision during a typical week, the initiative increases the 21st Century Learning Center Program by \$800 million over five years to provide after-school care for up to half a million children a year. The initiative will also improve coordination of federal after-school initiatives to help communities.

Child Care Block Grant Increase	
Child and Dependent Tax Credit Reform	
Tax Credit for Businesses	
After-School Program	
Early Learning Fund	
Head Start Increase	
Standards Enforcement Fund	
Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund	
Research and Evaluation Fund	
TOTAL:	\$21.7 billion over five years

\$7.5 billion over five years
\$5.2 billion over five years
\$500 million over five years
\$800 million over five years
\$3.0 billion over five years
\$3.8 billion over five years
\$500 million over five years
\$250 million over five years
\$150 million over five years

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PROPOSALS:
FIGHTING JUVENILE CRIME AND DRUG USE**

"Now, we must work together to do more, to protect our children from the scourge of violent crime and especially from crimes committed by other young people. This is now my highest law enforcement priority. We must provide for more prosecutors and probation officers, tougher penalties, and also better gang prevention efforts, including after school programs, so that young people have something to say yes to and some way of staying out of trouble."

--President Clinton, October 9, 1997

While overall crime rates have been declining, juvenile crime and drug use remain serious problems. Juvenile gun murders have quadrupled, teenage drug use has risen, and youth gangs have spread to large cities and rural towns throughout America. In the State of the Union, the President again challenged Congress to confront this issue and pass his Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy. Specifically, his strategy and budget call for:

- **Targeting Gangs and Violent Juveniles.** To help state and local prosecutors crackdown on gang members and violent juveniles, the President has proposed \$150 million to hire new prosecutors and expand anti-gang task forces; \$60 million to establish juvenile gun and drug courts that ensure swift and certain punishment for youthful offenders; and tough new penalties and prosecutorial tools.
- **Cracking Down on Guns and Gun Traffickers.** To keep violent juveniles from buying guns as adults, the President's strategy also proposes to ban violent juveniles from buying guns on their 21st birthdays. His strategy also increases penalties for selling handguns to juveniles and other offenses, and includes \$28 million to expand the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII), which helps local law enforcement trace illegal firearms to their source.
- **Keeping Kids In School, Off Drugs and Out of Trouble.** To ensure that kids are supervised from 3 to 8 p.m. --the time when most violent juvenile crimes are committed --the President's strategy proposes \$95 million for the Justice Department to help keep schools open later and to promote anti-truancy initiatives and curfews. The President's Child Care Initiative also quadruples funding for Department of Education-sponsored after school programs, and his Drug Strategy includes new funds for Safe and Drug-Free schools.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PROPOSALS:

A SAFE, CLEAN AND HEALTHY FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Climate Change Technology Initiative

To mobilize action against global warming, the President is proposing more than \$6 billion in tax incentives and R&D spending to spur the development and use of clean energy technologies. The five-year package, part of the comprehensive Climate Change Plan announced by the President in October, aims to reduce greenhouse gas pollution by promoting energy efficiency and broader use of renewable energy sources. It includes tax credits to businesses and consumers for the adoption of advanced energy technologies, and supports clean energy research in the building, transportation, electricity and manufacturing sectors. The package follows the historic international agreement reached in Kyoto in December and complements other key elements of the President's Climate Change Plan: working with industry on sector-by-sector initiatives to reduce emissions; making energy efficiency a priority in Federal procurement; and restructuring electricity to unleash competition and cut greenhouse emissions.

Clean Water Initiative

Twenty-five years after passage of the Clean Water Act, the President is launching a major new initiative to fulfill its promise --clean, safe water for every American. Despite tremendous strides in cleaning up lakes, rivers and coastal waters, 40 percent of America's waterways are still polluted for fishing and swimming. In October, the Vice President directed agencies to prepare an aggressive Action Plan to: curb polluted runoff from farms and city streets; reduce toxic contaminants and harmful organisms in drinking water and fish; and promote community-based watershed management. The FY99 budget will include substantial new resources for this initiative, and the agencies' Action Plan will be released in February. Further, the President is renewing his challenge to Congress to join him in strengthening the Clean Water Act.

**ONE AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY:
THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON RACE**

"I ask the American people to join me in a great national effort to perfect the promise of America for this new time as we seek to build our more perfect union...That is the unfinished work of our time, to lift the burden of race and redeem the promise of America."

President Bill Clinton

June 14, 1997

The President is leading the nation in an historic effort to build a stronger, more just and unified America -- a place where we respect one another's differences and, at the same time, embrace the values that unite us. Drawing on our diversity as a source of strength, this One America will offer opportunity and fairness to all Americans.

A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION. The President's Initiative on Race is America's initiative on race. President Clinton is asking all Americans to take part in this important opportunity by participating in efforts that foster constructive dialogue and positive action. At the same time, the President's plan is:

- **Continuing to develop policies that ensure opportunity and fairness for all Americans.** At the recommendation of his Race Advisory Board, the President is focusing on developing policy actions that will enhance educational and economic opportunity for all. Already, a number of policy actions have been announced, including the creation of: education empowerment zones, programs to increase quality teaching in underserved areas, and tougher enforcement policies to stop discrimination in housing.
- **Engaging Americans in a broad and constructive dialogue on race.** The President is encouraging communities across the country to talk openly and constructively about race. He is asking them to use the opportunity not only to stand against discrimination, but also to build greater understanding across racial lines, to find resolutions to honest differences, and to enact solutions to identified problems.
- **Highlighting Promising Practices that are working.** In communities across the country, people are working to bridge racial divides and to create equal opportunity for all. The Race Initiative staff is identifying and creating a compilation of these efforts, named "promising practices," so that others may participate in them or replicate them in their own communities, schools, businesses and religious organizations.
- **Recruiting Leaders.** The President is reaching out to leaders in several areas of American life with a special emphasis on recruiting youth, education, religious and business leaders. "One America" leaders are those people who take up the President's call by organizing efforts in their communities or professions. Through their leadership, the President's Initiative on Race will reach communities throughout the nation.
- **Focusing on the youth of America.** The Initiative has a special focus on youth. Recognizing that young Americans are the future leaders of our country and that they possess a unique creativity and energy, the President is working to actively engage youth in all aspects of the Initiative.
- **Working with the Race Advisory Board.** The President appointed a small, diverse group of individuals who advise and assist him in outreach efforts and consultations with experts. They were chosen based on their outstanding leadership on this issue and their contributions to America's ongoing dialogue about race and reconciliation.
- **Preparing a report from the President.** The President will issue a report in which he will: 1) present his vision of One America, including an assessment of the growing diversity of our nation; 2) reflect the work that has occurred during the Initiative; and 3) provide recommendations and solutions that enable individuals, communities, businesses, public and private organizations and government at all levels to address difficult issues and build on our best possibilities.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:
A Vision for the 21st Century**

During the last five years, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have led America in preparing for the 21st century with a new vision of government -- a government that does not attempt to do everything, nor a government that withdraws to the sidelines. The accomplishments of the Clinton-Gore Administration are giving Americans the tools to realize our potential -- providing opportunity while demanding responsibility, and building One America in which all are challenged to serve.

ECONOMY: THE STRONGEST ECONOMY IN A GENERATION

Balanced the Federal Budget -- The President's FY99 budget will be *the first balanced budget in a generation*, after inheriting a record \$290 billion deficit in 1992.

Over 14 Million New Jobs Created -- in last two years, over two-thirds in high-paying job categories.

Lowest Unemployment in a Quarter Century -- down from 7.5% in 1992 to 4.7% today.

Typical Family Income Up \$2,169 -- as adjusted for inflation, median family income has increased three years in a row since 1993.

Highest Home Ownership Rate in History -- there are nearly 6 million new homeowners since the President took office.

FAMILIES: STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES

\$500 Per-Child Tax Credit -- 27 million families with 45 million children will receive the \$500 per-child tax credit.

Tax Cuts for Working Families -- 15 million working families receive tax relief through the President's expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Increased the Minimum Wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour -- increasing wages for 10 million.

Protecting Families -- Family Medical Leave allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for family members without fear of losing their jobs. More than 12 million families have taken leave since its enactment.

Signed Landmark Adoption and Safe Families Act -- this law will help thousands of children waiting in foster care move more quickly into safe and permanent homes.

Promoting Family Values -- put in place first-ever plan to protect our children from tobacco. Required the installation of V-chips in all new TVs. Encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies to deter school violence and promote discipline. Produced guidelines on religious expression in public schools.

CRIME AND DRUGS: LONGEST PERIOD OF DECLINE IN VIOLENT CRIME IN 25 YEARS

100,000 New Police on the Street -- already more than 70,000 new officers have been funded.

300,000 Felons, Fugitives and Stalkers Denied Guns -- since the President signed the Brady Bill into law.

Banned 19 of the Deadliest Assault Weapons and Their Copies -- keeping assault weapons off our streets.

Developed Comprehensive Anti-Drug Strategy Including \$195 Million Anti-Drug Youth Media Campaign -- appointed four-star General Barry McCaffrey Drug Czar. Overall drug use is trending down.

HEALTH CARE: INCREASING ACCESS FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS

Protected Medicare -- protected, modernized and extended the Medicare trust fund for at least a decade while offering new options for patient choice and preventive care.

Enacted Single Largest Investment in Health Care for Children since 1965 -- the \$24 billion Children's Health Care Initiative will provide health care coverage for five million children.

Passed Meaningful Health Insurance Reform -- signed the Kassebaum/Kennedy Health Care Bill which limits exclusions for pre-existing conditions, makes coverage portable and helps individuals who lose jobs maintain coverage.

Raised Immunization Rates to All Time High -- 90% of toddlers in 1996 received the most critical doses of each of the routinely recommended vaccines -- surpassing the President's 1993 goal.

Ensuring Safe Food for Our Families -- issued new standards to prevent *E. coli* bacteria contamination in meat and signed the Food Quality Protection Act with special safeguards for kids.

WELFARE REFORM AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT: LARGEST DROP IN THE WELFARE ROLLS IN HISTORY

More than 3.8 Million Fewer People Are on Welfare Today than 1992 -- a 26% decrease and the largest decline in the welfare rolls in history. The President signed the landmark welfare reform law to require work, impose time limits, and dramatically expand child care spending.

More than 50% Increase in Child Support Collections -- signed into law the toughest child support crackdown in history.

New Incentives to Move People from Welfare to Work -- the Balanced Budget includes a tax credit for employers and \$3 billion to move long-term welfare recipients into jobs.

Expanded Investment in Urban and Rural Areas -- by creating over 120 Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities and expanding access to capital.

ENVIRONMENT: NEW STANDARDS TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FUTURE

Toughest New Air Quality Standards in a Generation -- new air quality standards for smog and soot will provide new health protections for 125 million Americans including children and the elderly.

Cleaning Up Toxic Waste Sites and Redeveloping Brownfields -- cleaned up more toxic waste dumps in President Clinton's first four years than were completed in the previous twelve. The Brownfields tax incentive will help redevelop more than 10,000 industrial sites.

Signed the Safe Drinking Water Act -- ensuring clean drinking water for our families by protecting against contaminants.

Negotiated an International Treaty to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions -- the historic agreement establishes a realistic framework to reduce the threat of global warming in an environmentally strong and economically sound way.

Protecting Our Natural Treasures -- preserving millions of acres of scenic park land and defending precious natural areas such as Yellowstone and the Everglades.

FOREIGN POLICY: WORLD'S STRONGEST FORCE FOR PEACE, FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY

Brokered Dayton Peace Accords -- ending four years of bloodshed in Bosnia.

Leading the Way on NATO Expansion and Russian Integration -- helping to ensure a more stable, democratic Europe.

Ended Military Dictatorship in Haiti -- stopped the flow of refugees to the U.S. and restored democracy.

Persuaded North Korea To Freeze its Dangerous Nuclear Program.

Leading Force for Peace -- including continued efforts in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, and on the Korean Peninsula.

Renewed Bipartisan Consensus for Engagement with China -- to advance U.S. interests and draw the world's most populous nation more fully into the international community.

Led International Efforts Against Terrorism -- including signing anti-terrorism legislation that ensures strong penalties for convicted terrorists.

Secured Bipartisan Senate Ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Start II Treaty -- the convention bans the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. Start II, together with Start I, will reduce U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals two-thirds from their Cold War heights.

Meeting Emerging Threat of Biological Weapons -- by strengthening our ability to respond to an attack, vaccinating our troops and seeking tough inspection to enforce international treaty.

Led Efforts to Rid the World of Land Mines -- eliminating non self-destructing mines from our arsenals, seeking alternatives to self-destructing mines by 2006, and devoting more resources to removing existing mines than the rest of the world combined.

Negotiated Over 220 Separate Trade Agreements -- tearing down trade barriers to U.S. goods, helping to increase exports by nearly 50% over the past five years and creating 1.7 million export-related jobs.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: LEADING AMERICA INTO THE NEXT MILLENNIUM

Historic Investments in Biomedical Research -- increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in critical research areas, such as cancer, the Human Genome Project, HIV/AIDS and heart disease.

Building the Next Generation Internet -- now connecting more than 100 universities at speeds that are 100 to 1,000 times faster than today's Internet and developing the next generation of applications, such as telemedicine.

Ensuring U.S. Leadership in Space, Science and Technology -- increasing investments in science and technology for five years in a row, while bringing down the deficit. Continuing to support exploration of space including the Mars Pathfinder mission.

Ensuring the Nation's Security -- Instituted a science-based program to maintain the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent without the need for nuclear testing, enabling the President to be the first world leader to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

1/98

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Working on Behalf of African Americans

ECONOMY

Balanced the Federal budget -- The President's FY99 budget will be *the first balanced budget in a generation*, after inheriting a record \$290 billion deficit in 1992.

Over 14 million new jobs created. The economy has created more than 14 million new jobs during the Clinton Administration -- a faster annual rate of job growth (2.5 percent per year) than *any* Republican Administration since the Roaring 1920s.

Declining Unemployment. The unemployment rate for African Americans has dropped from 14.1% in January 1993 to 9.9% today -- that's the lowest the African American unemployment rate has been in 24 years.

Keeping inflation in check. Inflation has averaged 2.6 percent since President Clinton took office -- compared to 4.2 percent in the twelve years before the President took office.

Strong private sector growth. Over the past year, the private sector grew an impressive 4.6 percent. Since taking office, private sector has grown 3.6 percent per year under President Clinton.

Family income up. After falling by almost \$2,000 between 1988 and 1992, African American median family income rose by nearly \$3,000 between 1992 and 1996.

Poverty down. The poverty rate for African Americans fell from 33.4 percent in 1992 to 28.4 percent in 1996 -- the lowest level since the published data begin in 1959.

Minimum-Wage increase. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefitting 1.3 million African American workers.

Two and a half times more small business loans to African American entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved more than 9,000 loans to African American entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. Last year alone, the Small Business Administration granted 1,900 loans, worth \$286 million, to African American small business owners, two and a half times the number of loans granted in 1992.

Increasing home ownership. There are 67.1 million American families, including 5.5 million African Americans, who own homes, nearly 6 million new homeowners since the President took office.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Building One America. The President is leading the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the values that unite us. Dr. John Hope Franklin, Advisory Board Chair, and Rev. Suzan Johnson Cook serve on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort.

An Administration that looks like One America. Appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. Members of the Clinton Cabinet include four African Americans: Rodney Slater, Secretary of Department of Transportation; Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor; and Franklin Raines, Director of Office of Management and Budget. Thirteen percent of Clinton Administration appointees are African American, which is twice as many African Americans as any previous administration. These appointees include: Bob Nash, Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel at the White House; Thurgood Marshall, Assistant to the President and Director of Cabinet Affairs at the White House; and Cheryl Mills, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Counsel at the White House.

Judicial Appointments. Clinton has named 11 African Americans as U.S. Attorneys and 12 African Americans as U.S. Marshals. Over 54 African Americans have been nominated by Clinton to the Federal bench, which is 17 percent of his total Federal bench nominations. These appointees and nominees include: Eric Holder, Deputy Attorney General Department of Justice and Eric Clay, Judge, Sixth Circuit at the U.S. Circuit Court.

Tuskegee Apology. President Clinton apologized to the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment and their families, and directed Health and Human Services Secretary, Donna Shalala, to issue a report about how best to involve communities, especially minority communities, in research and health care. HHS will award a planning grant to Tuskegee University to help it establish a center for bioethics in research and health care.

Assessment of Affirmative Action programs. Ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action is still an effective and important tool to expand educational and economic opportunity to all Americans.

Opposed California Prop 209. Filed *amicus* briefs opposing California Proposition 209, which would prohibit state affirmative action programs.

Election fairness. Defended racially fair redistricting plans against claims that they were unconstitutional; prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties.

Defended fairness. Filed more cases between 1993 and 1997 to enforce fair housing laws than any other Administration (more than 500 cases). Desegregated a Vidor, Texas public housing complex; ordered a Mississippi bank to implement remedial lending plans for minority customers once denied loans by the bank.

Eliminated discriminatory "redlining" practices. Negotiated agreements with health care agencies to eliminate discriminatory "redlining" practices denying home health care services based on residential location.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Focused Health Efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems for care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program.

EDUCATION

Largest investment in education in 30 years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

African American advisory board. Established the President's Board of Advisors for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to strengthen the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to provide quality education. Advised on ways to increase the private sector's role in these institutions.

Increased funding and grants for HBCUs. Increased funding for Historically Black Colleges by nearly \$250 million between FY92 and FY97, an almost 25% increase. Increased Fulbright grant awards to HBCUs in FY96 by almost 50% over the amount reported in FY95.

Enrollment. A record percentage of African Americans were enrolled in post-secondary education in 1994 -- 35.6% of African American graduates.

AmeriCorps college support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with African Americans comprising 20 percent of all participants (1996 data). This year alone, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve and earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

FIGHTING CRIME

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton announced the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America.

Enhanced penalties for hate crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime. In 1996 alone, 27 cases received enhanced sentences.

Action Against Church Burnings. Focused the nation's attention and resources to help stop the rash of church burnings across the country, prosecuted those responsible, and sped the rebuilding process.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Environmental justice and redevelopment. Issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice to ensure that low income citizens and minorities do not suffer a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution. Identified pilot projects to be undertaken across the country to redevelop contaminated sites in low-income communities, turn them into useable space, create jobs and enhance community development.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Democracy for Haiti. Restored democracy to Haiti and enabled the first transfer of power from one democratically elected president to another in Haitian history.

Democracy for South Africa. Assisted South Africa's transition to democracy by providing support for elections and development.

Promoting democracy in Africa. Hosted the first White House Conference on Africa in July 1994. Recognizing the valuable role that Africa plays in global affairs, President Clinton created the position of Special Envoy for the President and the Secretary of State for the promotion of democracy in Africa and appointed Reverend Jesse Jackson to serve in this role.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Working on Behalf of the Hispanic Community

ECONOMY

Balanced the Federal budget -- The President's FY99 budget will be *the first balanced budget in a generation*, after inheriting a record \$290 billion deficit in 1992.

Over 14 million new jobs created. The economy has created more than 14 million new jobs during the Clinton Administration -- a faster annual rate of job growth (2.5 percent per year) than any Republican Administration since the Roaring 1920s.

Declining unemployment. The unemployment rate for Hispanics in December 1997 was 7.1 percent, down from 11.3 percent when President Clinton first took office.

Keeping inflation in check. Inflation has averaged 2.6 percent since President Clinton took office -- compared to 4.2 percent in the twelve years before the President took office.

Strong private sector growth. Over the past year, the private sector grew an impressive 4.6 percent. Since taking office, private sector has grown 3.6 percent per year under President Clinton.

Minimum wage increase. The President raised the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour -- directly benefitting more than 1.6 million Hispanic workers.

Two and a half times more small business loans to Hispanic entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved nearly 15,000 loans to Hispanic entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. Last year alone, the Small Business Administration granted more than 3,300 loans, worth \$615 million, to Hispanic small business owners, two and a half times the number of loans granted in 1992.

Expanded investment in urban and rural areas. Created over 120 Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities and expanded access to capital through Community Development Banks and Financial Institutions.

FIGHTING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Building One America. The President is leading the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the values that unite us. AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson serves on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort.

An Administration that looks like One America. Appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. 12 percent of the Clinton Cabinet are Hispanics, including: Secretary of Energy Federico Peña; Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson; and Small Business Administrator Aida Alvarez.

Judicial appointments. Seven percent of all judicial appointments are Hispanics including Jose Cabranes, Judge, Second Circuit U.S. Circuit Court; David Briones, Judge Western Texas U.S. District Court; and Jorge Rangel, Judge-designee Fifth Circuit U.S. Circuit Court.

Senior level Administration appointments. Appointed more Hispanics to senior level positions than any President in American history, including U.S. Ambassador to Belize Carolyn Curiel, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) President George Muñoz; Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison at the White House Maria Echaveste; Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House Mickey Ibarra; Director of the United States Marshals Service Eduardo Gonzalez; and Commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation Department of Interior Eluid Levi Martinez. Significantly, many of these appointments are outside what had been considered the "traditional" Hispanic areas of interest.

Assessment of affirmative action programs. Ordered a comprehensive review of the government's affirmative action programs which concluded that affirmative action remains an effective and important tool to expand education and economic opportunity to all Americans.

Opposed California Prop 209. Filed *amicus* briefs opposing California Proposition 209, which would prohibit state affirmative action programs.

Election fairness. Prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties. Continued enforcement efforts to ensure that citizens who rely on Spanish have the same opportunities to participate in voting-related activities as English-speaking voters.

Expanded voting rights. The Administration argued in federal court to expand the Voting Rights Act and defended racially fair redistricting plans. The National Voter Registration Act or "Motor Voter" law has registered at least nine million new voters and made voting easier for more than 20 million Americans.

Opposed California Prop 187. Opposed California's Proposition 187, which would have made illegal immigrants ineligible for public school education at all levels and ineligible for public health care services, because of its detrimental impact on children and its threat to public health.

Investigated discrimination. Authorized investigations into discrimination practices by lenders and property insurers to help end discrimination in the provision of home mortgages.

EDUCATION

Largest investment in education in 30 years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Increased funding for Hispanic-serving colleges. Last year, enacted an 11% increase for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), colleges with at least 25% Hispanic enrollments.

Hispanic advisory commission. Established an advisory commission to oversee the improvement in education for Hispanics and to ensure that Hispanic-serving institutions will have more input regarding educational goals and issues of concern to Hispanics. The Commission's report identified contributing factors impacting attainment of educational excellence, corrective policy actions, and plans for program development and funding. (Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanics)

Student Diversity Partnership Program. Partnered with Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, an Indian Science and Engineering Society and the Center for the Advancement of Hispanics in Science and Engineering Education to implement the Student Diversity Partnership Program. This program will ensure an adequate supply of diverse and qualified scientists and engineers for the 21st century.

AmeriCorps college support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with Hispanics comprising 13 percent of all participants (1996 data). This year alone, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve and will earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

Increased bilingual education by 35%. Last year, enacted a 35% *increase* in bilingual and immigrant education secured by the President in the Balanced Budget Agreement. The bilingual education funding will help school districts teach English to more than a million limited English proficient children, as well as provide some 4,000 teachers with the training they need to do their jobs better. The Immigrant Education program will help more than a thousand school districts provide supplemental instructional services to 875,000 recent immigrant students.

Helping more children in elementary and secondary schools. In 1994, President Clinton reformed Title I -- the major elementary and secondary program for disadvantaged children -- clearing away barriers that had prevented limited-English proficient children from getting help. Now Hispanics are 32% of the children served in Title I, the largest share of all communities.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Focused health efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program. Negotiated agreements with hospitals and nursing homes to eliminate barriers to equal access for minorities based on language.

Increasing home ownership. Launched a program to increase the home ownership rate of Hispanics in the U.S. through advertising, education and counseling programs and working with lending institutions to better serve the Hispanic community. Progress has been made, 3.7 million Hispanics, or 43.3 percent, now own their homes.

FIGHTING CRIME

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton announced the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America.

Enhanced penalties for hate crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime. In 1996 alone, 27 cases received enhanced sentences.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

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

IMMIGRATION

Fairness for immigrants. The President worked with Congress to correct the most egregious impacts of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. As a result, almost a million people will be able to proceed with legalizing their immigration status under the former standards of immigration law and not the new, stricter and more burdensome standards enacted last year.

Restored benefits to legal immigrants. When the President signed the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, he pledged to go back and change provisions he opposed regarding the cutting off of benefits to legal immigrants. Critics said the changes would never be made. However, in 1997, the President followed through on his pledge -- and won most of the changes he sought in the 1996 law. The President fought for and won \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants. He won changes that protect those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And immigrants in this country as of August 22, 1996, but not receiving benefits who subsequently become disabled will be eligible for SSI and Medicaid.

Naturalization. Made naturalization a top priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration. Naturalized over one million individuals in 1996. The Administration continues to work to streamline and improve the naturalization process so that eligible individuals who have played by the rules can become full partners in America.

Defended immigrant rights. The Administration defeated legislative efforts which would have significantly eroded health care for immigrants. The bipartisan agreement strengthened the sponsorship requirement while preserving the basic ability of families to reunify.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Democracy for Cuba. Increased efforts to promote a peaceful, democratic transition in Cuba by toughening sanctions after the brutal shoot down of U.S. civilian aircraft over international waters and signing the Helms-Burton Act to penalize those who traffic in confiscated properties in Cuba. Awarded a landmark \$500,000 grant to Freedom House to assist human rights activists in Cuba.

Support our closest neighbors. Took decisive action in assembling a financial support package for Mexico. The President's leadership prevented a prolonged financial crisis in Mexico and its spread to other Latin American countries.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE

Working on Behalf of Asian And Pacific Americans

ECONOMY

Balanced the federal budget -- The President's FY99 budget will be *the first balanced budget in a generation*, after inheriting a record \$290 billion deficit in 1992.

Over 14 million new jobs created. The economy has created more than 14 million new jobs during the Clinton Administration -- a faster annual rate of job growth (2.5 percent per year) than *any* Republican Administration since the Roaring 1920s.

Keeping inflation in check. Inflation has averaged 2.6 percent since President Clinton took office -- compared to 4.2 percent in the twelve years before the President took office.

Strong private sector growth. Over the past year, the private sector grew an impressive 4.6%. Since taking office, private sector has grown 3.6% per year under President Clinton.

Tripled the number of small business loans to Asian and Pacific American entrepreneurs. Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved nearly 17,000 loans to Asian and Pacific American entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. Last year alone, the Small Business Administration granted more than 4,500 loans to Asian and Pacific American small business owners, nearly triple the number of loans granted in 1992.

Opening doors to trade. Secured commitments from Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders to eliminate barriers to open trade in the Asian Pacific region in 2020. Negotiated 240 separate trade agreements, tearing down trade barriers to U.S. goods, helping to increase exports by nearly 50% over the past five years and creating 1.7 million export-related jobs. Notably, thirty percent of U.S. exports go to Asia and this country exports more goods to Asia than Europe.

High Tech exports soar. Under President Clinton: exports of semi conductors have grown 139 percent; telecommunications exports have grown 113 percent; and exports of computers and computer-related goods have grown 54 percent.

EDUCATION

Largest investment in education in 30 years. Maintaining his longtime commitment to education, the President enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill -- by signing the 1997 Balanced Budget Act.

Foreign language. Restructured Foreign Language Assistance Programs to assist local schools in establishing programs in Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Strongly opposed legislation to make English the official language of the United States which would have jeopardized services and programs for non-English speakers and jeopardized assistance to the tens of thousands of new immigrants and others seeking to learn adult English.

Addressing minority needs. Hosted Asian Pacific American Education Forums to address the needs of Asian Pacific American students and their teachers.

AmeriCorps college support. Since 1993, more than 100,000 people have had the opportunity to serve through AmeriCorps, with Asian and Pacific American comprising 3% of all participants (1996 data). This year alone, nearly 50,000 young people will take advantage of the opportunity to serve and earn an award of up to \$4,725 to pay for college or repay student loans.

Increased bilingual education by 35%. Last year, enacted a 35% *increase* in bilingual and immigrant education secured by the President in the Balanced Budget Agreement. The bilingual education funding will help school districts teach English to more than a million limited English proficient children, as well as provide some 4,000 teachers with the training they need to do their jobs better. The Immigrant Education program will help more than a thousand school districts provide supplemental instructional services to 875,000 recent immigrant students.

Helping more children in elementary and secondary schools. In 1994, President Clinton reformed Title I -- the major elementary and secondary program for disadvantaged children -- clearing away barriers that had prevented limited-English proficient children from getting help.

Opposed Gallegly Amendment. The Administration opposed the Gallegly Amendment which would have ended the guarantee of public education for all children. It would have shifted immigration enforcement from the borders and work sites to classrooms and made children susceptible to gangs and violence.

PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Building One America. The President is leading the nation in an effort to become One America in the 21st Century: a place where we respect others' differences and, at the same time, embrace the values that unite us. Angela Oh serves on the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, which the President charged with overseeing this effort.

An Administration that looks like One America. Appointed the most diverse Cabinet and Administration in history. The Clinton Administration has more than twice as many Asian and Pacific American appointees as the previous Administration including Bill Lann Lee, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Department of Justice; Nancy Ann-Min Deparle, Administrator of the Health Care Finance Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; and Robert Gee, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Program Evaluation, Department of Energy.

Judicial appointments. Nominated more Asian and Pacific Americans to the federal bench than any other Administration, including A. Wallace Tashima, Judge U.S. Ninth Circuit Court.

Opposed California Prop 209. Filed *amicus* briefs opposing California Proposition 209 which would prohibit state affirmative action programs.

Election fairness. Prevented election day discrimination against minority voters and voter intimidation and harassment by monitoring polling place activities in a record number of states and counties. Continued enforcement efforts to ensure that citizens who rely on Asian languages have the same opportunities to participate in voting-related activities as English-speaking voters.

Focused health efforts. Established the Office of the Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. Helped communities develop culturally-competent systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances through the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Families program. Negotiated agreements with hospitals and nursing homes to eliminate barriers to equal access for minorities based on language.

FIGHTING CRIME

White House Conference on Hate Crimes. President Clinton announced the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes, which examined laws and remedies that can make a difference in preventing hate crimes, highlighted solutions that are working in communities across the country, and continued the frank and open dialogue needed to build One America.

Enhanced penalties for hate crimes. As part of the historic 1994 Crime Act, the President signed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act which provides for longer sentences where the offense is determined to be a hate crime. In 1996 alone, 27 cases received enhanced sentences.

SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

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

IMMIGRATION

Naturalization. Made naturalization a top priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to continue fostering legal immigration while combating illegal immigration. Naturalized over one million individuals in 1996. The Administration continues to work to

streamline and improve the naturalization process so that eligible individuals who have played by the rules can become full partners in America.

Responsible immigration reform. Worked to enact responsible immigration reform legislation by properly focusing on immigration enforcement and opposing severe reductions in legal immigration which were not consistent with pro-family, pro-worker and pro-naturalization principles.

Defended immigrant rights. The Administration defeated legislative efforts which would have significantly eroded health care for immigrants. The bipartisan agreement strengthened the sponsorship requirement while preserving the basic ability of families to reunify.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:

Supporting Women and Families

EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Passed the Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA).** Family and Medical Leave enables workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a new baby or ailing family member without jeopardizing their job. Twelve million families have already benefited from FMLA since its enactment. And the President proposed expanding the Family & Medical Leave Act to allow workers up to 24 hours per year of unpaid leave for parent-teacher conferences or routine medical care for a child.
- **Cut taxes for 15 million working families** by extending the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- **Increased the Minimum Wage from \$4.25 to \$5.15**, giving 6 million women a raise.
- **Narrowed the wage gap.** Last year, the median earnings of women working full-time increased 2.4%. In 1996, the median earnings of women represented 74% of the median earnings for men, the narrowest gap ever.
- **Highest home ownership rate in history.** There are 67.1 million American families, including 15.2 million households headed by women, who own homes, nearly 6 million new homeowners since the President took office.

MAKING OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES SAFER:

- **Putting 100,000 more police on the streets.** Because of President Clinton's Crime Bill, over 70,000 officers are already keeping our neighborhoods and communities safe, on the way to 100,000. And violent crime has dropped five years in a row - the longest period of decline in 25 years.
- **Signed the Assault Weapons Ban** into law as well as **the Brady Bill**, which has already kept guns out of the hands of 300,000 felons, fugitives and individuals under restraining orders related to domestic harassment. The President also signed into law an extension of the Brady Law, which prohibits anyone convicted of a domestic violence offense -- misdemeanor or felony -- from owning or possessing a firearm.
- **Signed Megan's Law** allowing community-notification of sex offenders.
- **Championed the Violence Against Women Act**, the cornerstone of the President's efforts to fight domestic violence, and created an office at the Department of Justice dedicated to combating violence against women.
- **More than tripled funding to domestic violence shelters** and instituted new penalties against men who stalk, threaten or abuse women across state lines.
- **Established nationwide 24-hour domestic violence hotline.** The hotline (1-800-797-SAFE) provides immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need. Since the hotline opened, there have been over 140,000 calls from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

- **Providing early education to more than 830,000 children with Head Start.** 200,000 more children are enrolled in Head Start today than in 1992.
- **Promoted national service and educational opportunities** through AmeriCorps.

- **Striving for excellence with national education standards** and signed **Goals 2000** establishing world-class educational standards.
- **Fought for passage of education tax breaks to promote lifelong learning.** Representing the largest single increase in higher education since the G.I. Bill, the Balanced Budget includes a \$1,500 Hope Scholarship to make the first two years of college universally available, and a 20-percent tuition tax credit for college juniors, seniors, graduate students, and working Americans pursuing lifelong learning.

CARING FOR OUR CHILDREN:

- **Held First-Ever White House Conference on Child Care and White House Conference on Early Child Development and Learning.** In April 1997, the President and First Lady held the White House Conference on Early Child Development and Learning to highlight the benefits of early nurturing by parents. And in October 1997, the White House Conference on Child Care began a dialogue on the child care challenges facing parents today -- availability, affordability, and assuring safety and quality.
- **Proposed the largest single investment in child care in the nation's history.** Between FY93 and FY97, federal funding for child care has increased by nearly 79%, providing child care services for over one million children. The President's new \$20 billion child care proposal will double the number of children receiving child care subsidies to more than two million and increases tax credits for three million working families to help them pay for child care.
- **Extended health care to millions of children with the Children's Health Initiative,** the single largest investment in Health Care for children since 1965. The President fought to ensure that the Balanced Budget included \$24 billion to provide meaningful health care coverage to millions of uninsured children.
- **Fought for and won \$500 child tax credit for 27 million families with 45 million children under age 17.** Thirteen million children from families with income below \$30,000 will receive the child tax credit as a result of the President's efforts.
- **Signed Landmark Adoption and Safe Families Act.** This law will help thousands of children waiting in foster care move more quickly into safe and permanent homes.
- **Signed the Comprehensive Childhood Immunization Initiative.** Thanks to President Clinton, immunization rates among two-year-olds have reached historic highs.
- **Launched new strategies to reduce the high rate of teen pregnancies.** Teen births have fallen six years in a row, by 7.4 percent from 1991 to 1996.
- **Imposed strict measures to keep cigarettes out of the hands of our children** by restricting youth-targeted advertising; and the FDA made 18 the minimum age to purchase tobacco products nationwide, requiring photo I.D.s for anyone under the age of 27.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE:

- **Protected Medicare.** Protected, modernized and extended the Medicare trust fund for at least a decade while offering new options for patient choice and preventive care.
- **Increased funding for breast cancer research** by 86% -- from \$276 million in FY93 to \$513 million in FY97 -- and implemented the Mammography Quality Standards Act to ensure the quality of mammograms.
- **Ended drive-thru deliveries.** Proposed and signed into law legislation requiring insurers to cover at least 48 hours of a post-natal hospital stay (72 hours for a Cesarean).

- **Fought for greater health security for America's families.** The President signed into law the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act which includes important new protections for an estimated 25 million Americans who move from one job to another, who are self-employed, or who have pre-existing medical conditions.
- **Endorsed legislation that would ban drive-thru mastectomies**, allowing women to stay in the hospital at least 48 hours following a mastectomy. And the President has also endorsed legislation that will **prevent health plans from discriminating on the basis of genetic information.**

PROMOTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR WOMEN:

- **Reversed the "Gag Rule"** limiting the information federally funded family planning clinics could give to women.
- **Increased Funding for Title X.** The President's FY99 proposal will increase Title X Family Planning grants by \$15 million -- a 46% increase since FY92.
- **Signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act**, establishing a safety-zone around women's health clinics.

GENERATING MORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN:

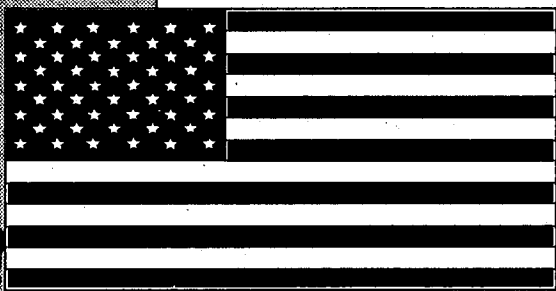
- **Women are starting businesses at twice the rate of all businesses.** There are nearly 8 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., generating nearly \$2.3 trillion in sales. The Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership is working to foster this growth.
- **Tripled the Number of Small Business Loans to Women Entrepreneurs.** Between 1993 and 1997 the SBA approved nearly 50,000 loans to women entrepreneurs under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. Last year alone, the Small Business Administration granted more than 10,000 loans, worth \$1.67 billion, to women small business owners, triple the number of loans granted in 1992.
- **Conducted a survey over 250,000 working women** to learn more about their workplace experiences.

WOMEN AS PARTNERS IN DECISION MAKING:

- **41 percent of Administration appointees are women**, by far the highest percentage appointed by any previous President. And women hold 29 percent of the top positions requiring Senate confirmation (PAS).
- **Appointed the first women ever** to serve as Attorney General, Janet Reno, and Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. Including the Attorney General and Secretary of State, women make up 27 percent of the Clinton Cabinet: Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor; Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Carol Browner, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Janet Yellen, Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors; and Charlene Barchevsky, United States Trade Representative.
- **A third of all judicial nominees are women**, the highest proportion ever.
- **Nominate the second woman to serve on the Supreme Court.** During his first year in office, President Clinton nominated Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the United States Supreme Court. Justice Ginsburg is only the second woman to serve on the nation's highest court.

Preparing America For The 21st Century

*Background on President
Clinton's Agenda for the Nation
State of the Union Address
January 27, 1998*



PREPARING AMERICA FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Background on President Clinton's Agenda for the Nation

State of the Union Address

January 27, 1998

ECONOMY THAT OFFERS OPPORTUNITY

Entitlement Reform

- Social Security

Education

- Smaller Classes with Qualified Teachers to Improve Reading in Grades 1-3
- Modern School Buildings to Improve Student Learning
- Education Opportunity Zones: Helping Students in Poor Communities Reach High Standards
- Expanding Access to Safe After-School Care
- Mentoring: Early Intervention to Promote College Attendance

Leading the Global Economy

- Community Economic Adjustment Initiative
- Fast Track Trading Authority
- Africa Trade Initiative
- Child Labor

Training

- GI Bill for Workers

A SOCIETY ROOTED IN RESPONSIBILITY

Moving People from Welfare to Work

- Welfare-to-Work Housing Vouchers
- Increasing Child Support Collections
- Falling Welfare Caseloads
- Business Welfare-to-Work Commitments

Health Care

- Consumer Bill of Rights & Genetic Screening Protections
- Providing New Options for Americans Ages 55 to 65 to Access Health Insurance
- 21st Century Research Fund

Tobacco

- Passing Bipartisan Tobacco Legislation

Child Care

- Double the Number of Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies to More than Two Million
- Increase Tax Credits for 3 Million Families
- Provide New Business Tax Credits
- Promote Early Learning
- Provide After-School Care for up to Half a Million Children
- Step Up Enforcement of State Health and Safety Standards

- Facilitate Background Checks on Child Care Providers
- Increase Scholarships for Training for Child Care Providers
- Invest in Research
- Increase Head Start and Double the Number of Children Served by Early Head Start

Crime

- Juvenile Justice Crime Bill
 - Preventing Under 21s from buying guns
 - New Prosecutors and Probation Officers
 - Tough, New Sentences on Drug Dealers
 - Funding to Keep Schools Open Later and Promote Anti-Truancy Initiatives and Curfews

Foreign Policy

- NATO Enlargement
- Securing the Peace in Bosnia
- Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
- Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention
- U.S. Arrears to the United Nations

A NATION THAT LIVES BY COMMUNITY

Political Reform/Reinventing Government

- Free Television Time
- Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform
- IRS Reform

Community Empowerment

- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
- Second Round of Empowerment Zones
- "Play-By-the-Rules" Homeownership Proposal
- Homeownership Zones

Environmental Protection

- Climate Change initiative
- Clean Water Initiative
- Food Safety

Civil Rights

- Reforming and Strengthening the EEOC

THE MILLENNIUM PROJECT

Technology

- A Family-Friendly Internet
- Making the Internet a Global Free-Trade Zone
- Cloning

Culture

- Save America's Cultural and Historical Treasures

AN ECONOMY THAT OFFERS OPPORTUNITY

ENTITLEMENT REFORM

Reserve Surplus until Social Security is Reformed

Over the next two years, President Clinton is firmly committed to strengthening Social Security for the 21st century. He therefore proposes that we should not spend any of the projected budget surpluses on anything else until we have reformed Social Security. This proposal, which continues the fiscally responsible policies that have been the hallmark of this Administration, is intended to reserve the surpluses in case they are needed for Social Security reform.

EDUCATION

Small Classes with Qualified Teachers to Improve Reading in Grades 1-3

President Clinton is proposing a \$12.4 billion initiative over 7 years (\$7.3 billion over 5 years) to help local schools provide small classes with qualified teachers in the early grades. This initiative will help ensure that every child receives personal attention, learns to read independently, and gets a solid foundation for further learning. The new initiative will reduce class size from a nationwide average of 22 in grades 1-3 to an average of 18, providing funds to help local school districts hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. The initiative will also provide funds to states and local school districts to test new teachers, develop more rigorous teacher testing and certification requirements, and train teachers in effective reading instruction practices. School districts will be accountable for demonstrating gains in reading achievement. These steps will help ensure that first through third grade students are receiving high-quality reading instruction in smaller classes from competent teachers.

Modern School Buildings to Improve Student Learning

For students to learn, schools must be well-equipped and be able to accommodate smaller class sizes. To address these and other critical needs, President Clinton is proposing federal tax credits to pay interest on nearly \$22 billion in bonds to build and renovate public schools. This initiative provides more than double the assistance of the Administration's earlier school construction proposal, which covered half the interest on an estimated \$20 billion in bonds. The tax credits will cost the Treasury \$5 billion over 5 years, and more than \$10 billion over ten years. Of the \$22 billion in bond authority, nearly \$20 billion for a new School Modernization Bonds. Half of this bond authority will be allocated to the 100 school districts with the largest number of low-income children, and the other half will be allocated to the states.

Education Opportunity Zones: Helping Students in Poor Communities Reach High Standards

This initiative will strengthen public schools and help students master the basic and advanced skills where the need is greatest: in high-poverty urban and rural communities where low expectations, too many poorly prepared teachers, and overwhelmed school systems create significant barriers to high achievement. The Education Department will select approximately fifty high-poverty urban and rural school districts with: (1) a demonstrated commitment to use high standards and tests as tools to identify and provide help to students, teachers and schools who need it; (2) a strategy to prevent students from falling behind by ensuring quality teaching, challenging curricula, and extended learning time; (3) programs to end social promotion and turn around failing schools; and (4) evidence of improved student achievement. Added investments in these communities will accelerate their progress and provide models of successful, standards-based reform for the nation. The President's initiative will invest \$200 million in FY99, and \$1.5 billion over 5 years, in raising achievement and sharing lessons learned with school districts around the country.

Early Intervention to Promote College Attendance

President Clinton will soon announce a long-term effort to bring college opportunity to children in high-poverty areas by providing their families with early information about financial aid and appropriate academic preparation, as well as mentoring and other support services to help the children stay on track through high school graduation and into college.

LEADING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Fast Track

America needs fast track to continue to create higher-paying jobs for more Americans. Without it, America's role as the largest exporter in the world will be put in jeopardy. And with new markets opening around the world, it is more important than ever to give the President traditional trade authority to break down trade barriers that put American products made by American workers at a disadvantage. Fast track legislation is essentially an agreement between Congress and the president on how Congress will consider United States trade agreements negotiated by the President. As part of that deal, the President agrees to extensively consult and coordinate with Congress throughout trade negotiations. In return, Congress votes on legislation implementing trade deals within a fixed period of time, on a up or down basis, and with no amendments. Every president since 1974 has enjoyed fast track authority.

Africa Trade Initiative

We are working with members from both parties to secure swift passage of legislation that will bring the promise of 21st century prosperity to African nations that are prepared to undertake the hard work of reform. This legislation will introduce a new era of prosperity and partnership between African reformers and the United States, expanding trade opportunities for African and American workers, farmers and companies, and hope and opportunity for our children. This legislation will encourage African nations to undertake sound growth policies by expanding trade and encouraging investment.

Child Labor

This initiative will make the U.S. a world leader in the fight to reduce child labor. The initiative focuses on reducing the most intolerable forms on child labor -- "slavery" through forced or indentured labor, work by very young children, and work in dangerous conditions -- by increasing the nation's contribution to the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) from \$3 million to \$30 million. The proposal also calls for additional agents for the U.S. Customs Service to enforce the ban on the importation of goods made with forced or indentured child labor, with a particular focus on rugs from South Asia. On the domestic front, the proposal includes a \$50 million increase in migrant education to serve 100,000 more children of migrant farm workers and a \$9 million increase in the Department of Labor budget to enforce U.S. child labor laws -- especially in the agricultural sector.

Community and Economic Adjustment Initiative

To help communities compete in a global economy, the Community and Economic Adjustment Initiative will borrow a page from the Administration's successful adjustment effort for base closure communities. Modeled after the Defense Department's highly respected Office of Economic Adjustment, the Office of Community and Economic Adjustment (OCEA) will provide grants and other assistance to communities to develop an economic adjustment strategy. The President will propose \$50 million in additional community adjustment assistance as part of the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration's (EDA) budget. This will allow us to do more for communities that have suffered through sudden and severe economic dislocation, such as plant closings. As OEA has done for base closure communities, OCEA will closely work with the Departments of Labor, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and other federal agencies to make communities aware of all available federal resources and to provide a coordinated Administration response.

TRAINING

Reform of the Federal Job Training System

The President renewed his call for Congressional action to reform the job training system. In his 1995 G.I. Bill for America's Workers, he called for individual empowerment through skills grants, streamlining through One Stop Career Centers, and better results through tough performance standards. The House has passed legislation based on his vision. The Workforce Investment Partnership Act has bipartisan support and is under consideration in the Senate.

A SOCIETY ROOTED IN RESPONSIBILITY

MOVING PEOPLE FROM WELFARE TO WORK

Welfare to Work Housing Vouchers

The President's budget will provide \$283 million in FY99 for 50,000 new housing vouchers for welfare recipients who need housing assistance to get or keep a job. Families could use these housing vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable housing to eliminate emergencies that keep them from getting to work every day on time. These vouchers, awarded to communities on a competitive basis, will give people on welfare a new tool to make the transition to a job and succeed in the work place. The proposal will complement the President's \$100 million a year welfare to work transportation plan, part of his NEXTEA bill, which will help welfare recipients make their daily commutes.

Increasing Child Support Collections

President Clinton's crackdown on deadbeat parents is paying off: child support collections rose to a record \$13 billion in 1997, an increase of 63 percent since 1992. In the State of the Union, the President set a goal of increasing collections to \$20 billion by the year 2000.

Falling Welfare Caseloads

The President announced that we have met -- two years ahead of schedule -- the challenge he made in last year's State of the Union to move two million more Americans off of welfare by the year 2000. New caseload numbers show that welfare caseloads fell by 4.3 million since President Clinton took office, two million more than the 2.25 million decline he announced last year. The new figures, from September 1997, show 9.8 million Americans on welfare, down from 14.1 million in January 1993 -- a drop of 30 percent.

Business Welfare to Work Commitments

In his State of the Union address last year, the President challenged the business community to create jobs so that people can move from welfare to work. Today, nearly 3,000 companies have accepted the President's challenge and joined a new national effort, called the Welfare to Work Partnership, which was launched at the White House in May. Now, the President has challenged thousands more companies to join the Partnership to give even more people a chance to work their way off welfare.

HEALTH CARE

Protecting Patients Through a Consumer Bill of Rights and Genetic Screening Protections

The President called on Congress to pass federally enforceable consumer health care protections before it adjourns this fall. This Health Care Bill of Rights should contain a range of protections, including guaranteed access to needed health care specialists to ensure that patients are provided appropriate high quality care, access to emergency room services when and where the need arises, an assurance that medical records are confidential, and access to a meaningful internal and external appeals process for consumers to resolve their differences with their health plans and health care providers. The nation's health care system has changed dramatically, with more than 100 million Americans now in managed care plans. This legislation will ensure that whether Americans have traditional health insurance or managed care, they are assured quality care. And to ensure that new advances in genetics are used to improve health rather than to discriminate, the President has called for legislation prohibiting the use of genetic screening to discriminate in health insurance and employment.

Creating a Historic "21st Century Research Fund"

With Unprecedented Increases in Biomedical Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Scientists are on the cusp of important new breakthroughs in biomedical research, which could revolutionize the way medical experts understand, treat, and prevent some of our most devastating diseases. To promote this progress, the President's budget contains a historic upfront investment in biomedical research -- a 1.15 billion increase in FY 1999 -- and proposes an increase in NIH funding of more than 50 percent over the next five years. Under the President's proposal, the NIH will devote over \$20 billion to biomedical research in 2003.

Providing New Options for Americans Ages 55 to 65 to Obtain Health Insurance, Including Buying Into Medicare

Americans ages 55 to 65 are one of the most difficult-to-insure populations: they have less access to and a greater risk of losing employer-based health insurance; and they are twice as likely to have health problems as the population generally. The President's proposal gives this vulnerable population three new ways to gain access to health insurance by: (1) allowing Americans ages 62 to 65 to buy into Medicare, through a premium that ensures that this policy is self-financed; (2) assisting vulnerable displaced workers 55 and over by offering those who have involuntarily lost their jobs and health care coverage a similar Medicare buy-in option; and (3) giving Americans 55 and over who have lost their retiree benefits access to their former employers' health insurance.

TOBACCO

Passing Comprehensive Bipartisan Tobacco Legislation That Reduces Teen Smoking and Changes the Way Tobacco Companies Do Business

Every day 3,000 young people start smoking and 1,000 of them will die prematurely from a tobacco-related disease. The President called on Congress to pass comprehensive national bipartisan legislation that includes five key principles: (1) it must mandate the development of a comprehensive plan to reduce teen smoking, including raising the cost of cigarettes by \$1.50 per pack over the next 10 years as necessary to meet youth smoking targets; (2) it must affirm the FDA's full authority to regulate tobacco products; (3) it must include measures to hold tobacco companies accountable, especially for marketing products to children; (4) it must include concrete measures to improve public health, from investing in research to reducing second-hand smoke to expanding smoking cessation; and (5) it must protect the financial well-being of tobacco farmers and their communities from the loss of income caused by our efforts to reduce smoking.

CHILD CARE INITIATIVE

Double the Number of Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies to More than Two Million

The President proposed to expand the Child Care and Development Block Grant to help working families struggling to meet the costs of child care. This block grant is the primary federal subsidy program to pay for child care, enabling low-income parents to work. Funds are distributed by formula to the states to operate direct child care subsidy programs, as well as to improve the quality and availability of care. The President's initiative will more than double the number of children served from the one million served in FY 95 (the latest year for which data are available). The President's budget will increase funding for the block grant by \$7.5 billion (plus a state match) over five years, which will enable states to provide subsidies for more than two million children by 2003.

Increase Tax Credits for Child Care for Three Million Working Families

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit provides tax relief to taxpayers who pay for the care of a child under 13 or a disabled dependent or spouse in order to work. The credit is equal to a percentage of the taxpayer's employment-related expenditures for child or dependent care, with the amount of the credit depending on the taxpayer's income. The President's proposal increases the credit for families earning under \$60,000, providing an additional average tax cut of \$358 for these families and eliminating income tax liability for almost all families with incomes below 200% of poverty (\$35,000 for a family of four) that claim the maximum allowable child care expenses. The President's budget will include \$5.2 billion over five years to expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit for three million working families.

Provide New Business Tax Credits

The child care initiative includes a tax credit to businesses that provide child care services for their employees, by building or expanding child care facilities, operating existing facilities, training child care workers, or providing child care resources and referral services. The credit covers 25% of qualified costs, but may not exceed \$150,000 per year. The President's budget will include approximately \$500 million over five years for these tax credits.

Promote Early Learning

Research shows that children's experiences in the earliest years are critical to their development and future success. The President's proposed Early Learning Fund provides challenge grants to communities (distributed by states) to improve early learning and the quality and safety of child care for children ages zero to five. Funds may be used for the following activities: providing basic training to child care providers (including first aid and CPR); connecting individual child care providers to centers for education and support; assisting child care providers to meet accreditation and licensing requirements; linking child care providers with health professionals, and supporting the inclusion of young children with special needs in quality child care settings; reducing group sizes and child-to-staff ratios; and providing home visits, parent education, and consumer education about child care. The President's Early Learning Fund builds on state initiatives such as North Carolina's Smart Start, which helps North Carolina's children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. The President's budget will include \$3 billion over five years for this fund.

Increase Head Start and Double the Number of Children Served by Early Head Start

Head Start provides early, continuous and comprehensive child development and family support services, preparing children for a lifetime of learning and development. The President's budget will invest an additional \$3.8 billion over five years to reach his goal of serving one million children by 2002, and doubling the number of infants and toddlers in Early Head Start to 80,000.

Step Up Enforcement of State Health and Safety Standards

Building on the military's model child care program, this proposed initiative will fund state efforts to improve licensing systems and enforce child care health and safety standards, including by increasing unannounced inspections of child care settings. The President's budget will include \$500 million over five years for this program.

Facilitate Background Checks on Child Care Providers

On the day of the White House Conference on Child Care, the President transmitted to Congress the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact, which will facilitate effective background checks on child care providers by eliminating state law barriers to sharing criminal history information for non-criminal purposes. Although the vast majority of child care providers are dedicated to the teaching and nurturing of children, one tragedy in child care is too many. Background checks are an important way to ensure that the people watching our children are fit for this responsibility.

Increase Scholarships and Training for Child Care Providers

At the White House Conference on Child Care, the President proposed establishing a Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund to enable states to provide scholarship funds to students working toward a child care credential. Eligible child care workers must commit to remaining in the field for at least one year for each year of assistance received and will earn increased compensation or bonuses when they complete their course work. The President proposed a federal investment of \$250 million over five years, which will support 50,000 scholarships per year. The President is also proposing to expand the Department of Labor's Child Care Apprenticeship Program to fund the training of child care providers.

Invest in Research

Because too little is known about our child care system, the President's budget will increase support for data, research, and evaluation. This research fund will also support a National Center on Child Care Statistics and a child care hotline that parents can call to get information about how to find child care in their communities and how to identify appropriate, quality care for their children. In addition, the research fund will support demonstration projects to test approaches to help new parents who choose to stay home to care for their newborns or newly adopted children. The President's budget will include \$150 million over five years for this fund.

Provides After-School Care for up to Half a Million Children a Year

The President proposes a dramatic expansion of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program to provide start-up funds (with a local match) to school-community partnerships to establish or expand before- and after-school programs for school-age children. The program increases the supply of after-school care in a cost-effective manner by directing most funds to programs that use public schools and their existing resources, such as computers, gymnasiums, and sports equipment. The program also includes a set-aside to fund programs run by community organizations. The President's budget will request \$800 million of new money for this program, for a total of \$1 billion over five years.

CRIME

Juvenile Crime Strategy

This initiative recognizes the threat juvenile crime poses to our communities and calls on Congress to pass a comprehensive anti-gang and youth violence strategy. The President's proposed legislation targets gangs and violent juveniles by (1) funding for new prosecutors (\$100 million) and probation officers (\$60 million); (2) helping our kids to stay gun- and drug-free by preventing violent juveniles from buying guns when they turn 21; (3) enacting tough new sentences to punish adults who sell drugs to kids and use kids to sell drugs; (4) helping kids to stay in school, off drugs, and out of trouble with new funding to keep schools open later and to promote anti-truancy initiatives and curfews (\$95 million). In addition, the President's Child Care Initiative increases five-fold current funding for Department of Education-sponsored after school programs.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN THE WORLD

NATO Enlargement

Europe's stability and America's security are closely linked. The President's call for enlarging the NATO alliance strengthens the alliance's core mission of collective defense and helps meet new threats such as regional instability. Enlargement furthers other US objectives including: Encouraging states in the region to settle border and ethnic disputes with neighbors; strengthen civilian control of their militaries; and increase tolerance for ethnic and religious minorities. NATO's enlargement, combined with the Partnership for Peace program, the NATO-Russia Founding Act and the NATO-Ukraine partnership will help erase the outdated Cold War divisions and build, for the first time, an undivided, democratic, and peaceful Europe.

Securing the Peace in Bosnia

The United States has an abiding interest in peace and stability in Bosnia and a compelling interest in the implementation of the Dayton peace accords. After 46 months of the worst war in Europe since WWII, 24 months of implementing peace have helped put Bosnia on the path to lasting peace and stability. Progress on implementation was made possible because of prudent military support. We can now see the point where civil implementation and peace can be self-sustaining -- but Bosnia's fragile peace still needs the support of American and allied troops when the current NATO mission ends in June. The President still must approve a detailed action plan being prepared by NATO military authorities after a full review of all options. The President will insist that this action plan have the following elements: an achievable mission tied to clear benchmarks, not a deadline; force must be able to protect itself; the U.S. must retain command; European allies must shoulder their full share of responsibility; costs must be manageable; and the plan must have substantial support of the Congress and the American people.

Iraq Weapons of Mass Destruction Program (WMD)

President Clinton made clear that Iraq's efforts to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons are unacceptable. U.N. inspectors have done a remarkable job -- destroying more of Iraq's WMD potential than was destroyed during the Gulf War itself. But Saddam is now refusing to allow inspectors to complete their mission. All options are on the table to make sure Iraq does not pursue their WMD program with impunity and threaten the international community.

Biological Weapons

President Clinton announced tonight that the United States would lead the effort to erect stronger international barriers against the proliferation and use of biological weapons. Under this new initiative, the United States will seek to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) by requiring nations that have joined the BWC to submit annual declarations about facilities and activities that could be used for Biological weapon purposes and agree to a tough international inspection system including both voluntary and mandatory inspections.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

The President's call for Senate ratification of the CTBT will allow America to maintain a safe and reliable nuclear deterrent while constraining the proliferation of nuclear material and technology to rogue states' weapons programs. CTBT will improve America's ability to detect and deter nuclear explosive testing. CTBT's global network of sensors will strengthen America's ability to monitor nuclear explosive testing across the globe, as well as deter any nation from believing it can conduct a nuclear explosive test undetected by the international community.

U.S. Arrears to the United Nations

The President also highlighted the need for prompt action on the payment of U.S. arrears to the United Nations. The failure to pay undermines our ability to reform the U.N. and hinders our leadership of that organization at very time, the U.N. is working to prevent Iraq from threatening neighbors and the world with weapons of mass destruction. We also need to give the International Monetary Fund the capacity to help prevent global financial crises. Now, more than ever, our security at home and our interests abroad demand that America meet our international obligations, sharpen the tools to improve the stability of the world economy, and increase our leverage in international organizations.

A NATION THAT LIVES BY COMMUNITY

POLITICAL REFORM/REINVENTING GOVERNMENT

Free Television Time

Spending on congressional campaigns has increased more than three times the rate of inflation in the last decades and spending on television is the primary reason. In 1972, candidates spent \$25 million for political ads; in 1996, they spent \$400 million. In his State of the Union, President Clinton announced that will request that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) require broadcasters to give candidates for Federal office free time as a condition of receiving a new, lucrative license for digital television. It is time to update broadcasters' public interest obligations to meet new political and technological realities.

Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform

The President remains committed to the enactment of bipartisan campaign finance reform. He is pleased that the leadership in Congress has agreed to schedule a vote this Spring on the McCain-Feingold and Shays-Meehan reform bills. But a vote on these bills is not enough. In his State of the Union the President challenged Congress to enact real reform this year. Acceptable campaign finance reform legislation must meet five criteria: 1) it must be bipartisan; 2) it must be comprehensive; 3) it must reduce the amount of money that is raised and spent on federal elections; 4) it must help level the playing field between challengers and incumbents; and 5) it cannot favor one party over the other.

IRS Reform

President Clinton is strongly committed to reforming the IRS. This spring the Administration will launch the first of 33 Citizen Advocacy Panels. These new panels will be locally-based, independent boards of citizens established to monitor how local IRS offices treat taxpayers and help taxpayers get their problems solved. These new panels are part of the new era of customer service underway at the IRS. The successful new IRS problem solving days, which have helped thousands of taxpayers get relief, will continue around the country on a monthly basis. Additionally, as of the first of the year, IRS phones are now operating 16 hours a day, six days a week. For the first time, IRS offices will be open Saturday mornings during the tax filing season -- March through mid-April -- to provide taxpayers a convenient opportunity to walk-in and get any questions answered. Also, the IRS expects this year to expand its award-winning Telefile program. This innovative program allowed 4.7 million taxpayers to file their returns with a quick average 10 minute phone call last year.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit

Since its creation in 1986, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) has given states tax credits of \$1.25 per capita to allocate to developers of affordable housing. Even though building costs have increased 40 percent in the last decade, the amount of the credit has not been adjusted for inflation. Therefore, President Clinton and Vice-President Gore propose to increase the cap on the LIHTC from \$1.25 per capita to \$1.75 per capita — restoring the value of the credit to its 1986 level. Estimates suggest that the LIHTC currently helps build 80,000-90,000 affordable housing units each year. The President and Vice President's proposal to increase the cap by 40 percent will create an additional 160,000-180,000 new rental housing units for low-income American families over the next five years. This proposal will cost \$1.6 billion over five years.

Empowerment Zones

Building on the Administration's successful first round of Empowerment Zones which has helped spur the creation of jobs and private investment in America's distressed communities, the President's budget includes a request for \$1.7 billion to support flexible grants to 20 new Empowerment Zone designations. The funding will be made available to the designated communities over a 10 year period. The 15 urban designations will be funded at \$100 million each; and the five rural designations will be funded at \$40 million each. The Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Agriculture will announce a competition this Spring that will lead to the designation of the 20 new Empowerment Zones by December 1998.

"Play-by-the-Rules" Homeownership Proposal

The President's FY99 budget provides funds for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to start a new initiative to help provide the opportunity of homeownership to responsible families with a perfect rental history. Under this initiative, we will help 10,000 lower-income -- and often minority -- families become homeowners. While the method of helping each family buy their own home will differ, responsible families we will be provided homeownership counseling, flexible assistance for downpayment or closing costs, second mortgage loans for debt reduction, or rehabilitation loans.

Homeownership Zones

The FY99 budget includes funds for Homeownership Zones to be used by communities to reclaim abandoned and distressed neighborhoods through the creation of large-scale developments of owner-occupied single-family homes. Funds could be used for property acquisition, housing construction, housing rehabilitation, demolition, site preparation, homeownership counseling, relocation, housing marketing, activities to ensure fair housing, and other activities essential to homeownership.

ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change Initiative

Following the historic agreement reached in Kyoto in December 1997, and as part of the President's and Vice President's ongoing efforts to address climate change, the President is proposing a dramatic new program of tax cuts and R&D aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed package contains tax cuts to promote energy efficiency and additional research and development spending covering the four major carbon-emitting sectors of the economy (buildings, industry, transportation, and electricity), plus carbon removal and sequestration, Federal facilities, and cross-cutting analyses and research. This package complements the other elements of the Administration's climate change plan, which include working with industry to develop sector-by-sector initiatives to cut emissions, incorporating energy efficiency goals into Federal procurement and energy use, and restructuring the electricity industry. These efforts strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving efficiency and reducing costs to the consumer. They provide a solid step on the way to meeting the goals of the Kyoto Agreement.

Clean Water Initiative

This initiative will ease threats to the environment and public health by helping states and communities curb polluted runoff from farms and city streets, reducing exposure to harmful organisms and toxic contaminants in drinking water and fish, and promoting community-based watershed management in partnership with landowners and affected industries. The initiative targets the 40 percent of the nation's waterways still unsafe for fishing and swimming. It provides substantial new resources to assist states in implementing these programs and to create incentives for farmers to adopt practices that protect water quality.

Food Safety Initiative

The Clinton Administration launched a new food safety initiative last year to put in place new science-based preventive systems to improve the safety of seafood, meat, and poultry and begin work on a new early warning system to help detect and respond to outbreaks of food borne illness. Our budget will seek an even more substantial increase in funding to further enhance food safety. The resources will go to a variety of initiatives, including: giving FDA authority to prevent the importation of produce from countries without safety precautions equivalent to our own; hiring FDA inspectors to improve the safety of fruits and vegetables, both domestic and imported; developing new ways for federal inspectors to detect foodborne illnesses in meat and poultry and determine the source of contamination; improving educational outreach on proper food handling; and further expanding our early warning system and strengthening state surveillance activities for foodborne illnesses.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Reforming and Strengthening the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

This initiative expands the EEOC's ADR program over three years to allow as many as 70 percent of all complainants to choose mediation, rather than the lengthy process of investigation and litigation. In the first year, the EEOC will provide ADR in a projected 16,000 cases -- 20 percent of all incoming cases and double the number currently sent to mediation. In addition, through a combination of increased use of mediation, improved information technology, and an expanded investigative staff, the EEOC will reduce the average time it takes to resolve a private sector complaint from over 9 months to 6 months, and reduce the backlog of cases from 64,000 to 28,000 by the year 2000. The proposal provides \$279 million for the EEOC for FY99 -- \$37 million or 15 percent more than the enacted 1998 budget.

THE MILLENNIUM PROJECT

TECHNOLOGY

A Family-Friendly Internet

President Clinton and Vice President Gore support a strategy to protect children and create a safe, educational environment on the Internet that is consistent with our First Amendment values. This strategy includes cracking down on obscenity, child pornography, and online stalking, and encouraging the private sector to develop filtering and blocking technology for parents and teachers that is widely available and effective. This fall, the Administration will join the private sector and non-profit groups to support "Internet Teach-Ins" at schools and libraries, which are designed to increase awareness of safe on-line behavior for children and access to good content.

Making the Internet a Global Free-Trade Zone

The Administration is committed to creating an environment in which global electronic commerce can flourish, so that every computer will be a window open to every business, large and small. Over the next several years, Internet commerce could increase to hundreds of billions of dollars per year, boosting U.S. exports and creating new opportunities for small start-up companies. President Clinton has directed the U.S. Trade Representative to work with foreign governments to secure agreement that all products and services delivered across the Internet and all equipment from which the Internet is built -- be free from tariffs.

Cloning

President Clinton has proposed legislation banning the cloning of human beings. The President's legislative proposal prohibits for five years the use of somatic cell nuclear technology to create a human being. The legislation directs the National Bioethics Advisory Commission to report to the President in four and half years on whether to continue the ban. The proposal is carefully worded to ensure that it will not interfere with beneficial biomedical and agricultural activities. In March 1997, the President imposed a ban on the use of federal money for cloning human beings.

Save America's Treasures

Many of our most important cultural treasures -- such as the Star Spangled Banner, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights -- are seriously at risk. "Save America's Treasures" is a three year, \$150 million initiative that will help stimulate support for the Nation's most important preservation priorities. The funds will be administered by the Department of Interior under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act. Half of the money will support preservation projects identified at the national level -- the other half will go to support state and local priorities.

THE FIRST YEAR OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S 2ND TERM: A Strong Record Of Accomplishment

"Tonight I issue a call to action--action by this Congress, by our states, by all our people, to prepare America for the 21st century."

-- President Clinton, State Of The Union Address, 2/4/97

On February 4, 1997, President Clinton laid out an ambitious "call to action" in the first State of The Union of his second term. As Congress adjourns this November, the record is clear. President Clinton drove the Congressional agenda this year and accomplished almost everything he set out to do ten months ago.

CONTENTS

SUBJECT	PAGE
Budget and Tax Relief	1
Education and Training	2
Health Care	6
Welfare	7
Urban Agenda	8
Foreign Policy	10
Science and Technology	12
Crime and Drugs	14
Environment	15
Government Reform	16
Tobacco	16
National Service	17
One America	17
Culture (Millennium Program)	18

BALANCED BUDGET & TAX RELIEF

ACTION: **Balance the Budget**

"I will propose a detailed plan to balance the budget by 2002."



ACCOMPLISHED: **Signed the First Balanced Budget in a Generation**

On August 5, 1997, President Clinton signed H.R. 2015, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and H.R. 2014, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, implementing the first balanced budget since 1969.

ACTION: Provide Tax Relief For Working Families

"In two days I will propose a detailed plan to balance the budget by 2002....It will balance the budget and provide middle-class tax relief...to help to raise a child..."

✓

ACCOMPLISHED: 27 Million Families Get \$500 Per Child Tax Credit

The Balanced Budget Act includes a \$500 per-child tax credit for 27 million families with 45 million children under age 17. For the typical American family with two kids, this child tax credit will mean \$1,000 more per year in take-home pay. The new Child Tax Credit is in addition to the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ACTION: #1 Priority -- Ensure That All Americans Have the Best Education in the World

"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... My balanced budget makes an unprecedented commitment to these goals -- \$51 billion next year."

✓

ACCOMPLISHED: President Clinton's commitment to education is now the law. With the signing of Balanced Budget Act, President Clinton secured the largest investment in education in 30 years and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill. The Balanced Budget along with the appropriations bills commits at least \$51 billion to education spending for FY 98.

ACTION: Make the First Two Years of College Universal with the Hope Scholarship

"...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 all 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."

✓

ACCOMPLISHED: The President's America's HOPE Scholarship is now law. The balanced budget includes a scholarship of 100% on the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees and 50% on the second \$1,000 -- which will make the 13th and 14th grades as universal as a high school diploma is today.

Action: Help Every American Who Works Hard Have the Chance to Go to College with Tuition Tax Deductions, an Expanded IRA and Increased Pell Grants

"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 scholarship in 20 years."

✓ **ACCOMPLISHED:** Thanks to President Clinton, the Balanced Budget included a 20% tuition tax credit for college juniors, seniors, graduate students and working Americans pursuing lifelong learning to upgrade their skills; savings incentives that allow taxpayers to contribute \$500 each year to an education Individual Retirement Account (IRA), earnings would accumulate tax-free in the account, and no taxes will be due upon withdrawal for an approved purpose; and the largest Pell Grant increase in two decades - boosting the maximum 1998 Pell grant from \$2,700 to \$3,000. Approximately 3.7 million students will receive \$300 increase, and an additional 220,000 low- and moderate-income families that were not previously eligible will receive Pell Grants.

ACTION: **Launch the America Reads Initiative**

"[W]e must do more to help all our children read.... 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 third grade."

✓ **ACCOMPLISHED:** The Department of Education America Reads program received nearly \$300 million in new funding. The education funding bill also provides a total of \$46 million for teacher and tutor training in reading and family literacy as well as an advance appropriation of \$210 million for the child literacy legislation that the President insisted on as part of the Bipartisan Balanced Budget Agreement.

ACTION: **Involve AmeriCorps Volunteers in the America Reads Initiative**

"We will use thousands of Americorps volunteers to mobilize this citizen army."

✓ **ACCOMPLISHED:** AmeriCorps received \$64 million in increases of funding for America Reads. The Corporation for National and Community Service won more than a 10 percent increase in its budget to fund AmeriCorps members who will recruit and coordinate tutoring efforts, to provide children with the extra practice they need to read well and independently by the end of third grade. (This increase is in stark contrast to the 31 percent cut in the earlier House versions of the bills that fund National Service.)

ACTION: **Involve College Students in the America Reads Initiative**

"We want at least 100,000 college students to help. And tonight I'm 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."

✓ **ACCOMPLISHED:** Over 800 colleges and universities have joined President Clinton's America Reads Initiative, mobilizing tens of thousands of college students as reading tutors through their college work-study programs. [CITE]

ACTION: Challenge the Nation to Adopt High Education Standards and Embrace Voluntary National Testing of 4th Graders in Reading and 8th Graders in Math

"...Tonight I issue a challenge to the nation. Every state should adopt high national standards, and by 1999, every state should test every fourth grader in reading and every eighth grader in math to make sure these standards are met."

- **ON TRACK:** The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997 fully funds (\$16 million) the Administration's voluntary national testing program and allows for development and pilot testing of the first-ever national 4th grade reading and 8th grade math tests. Thus far, fifteen of the nation's largest urban school districts, as well as six states and the Department of Defense Schools have joined the President's effort.

ACTION: Expand School Choice

"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."

ON TRACK: The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997 increases funding for charter schools by 57 percent, from \$51 million to \$80 million. And while there was only one charter school in the nation when President Clinton took office, there will be nearly 1,000 locally-designed charter schools supported by the Department of Education by the end of 1998 -- accelerating progress towards the President's goal of 3,000 by early next century.

ACTION: Expand Head Start to One Million Children by 2002

"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"

- **ON TRACK:** Under the Clinton Administration, funding for Head Start has increased \$374 million, or 57%, to nearly \$4.4 billion in 1997. As a result, Head Start now serves 180,000 more children and their families -- 836,000 children overall. **The balanced budget continues the expansion of Head Start toward the President's goal of serving one million children in 2002.**

ACTION: Recognize 100,000 More Master Teachers

"My budget will enable 100,000 more to seek national certification as master teachers. We should reward and recognize our best teachers. 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."

- **ON TRACK:** The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997, provides \$18.5 million in support of the President's plan to help 100,000 teachers nationwide seek certification as Master Teachers by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. President Clinton has also proposed a 5-year initiative to attract nearly 35,000 talented people of all backgrounds into teaching at low-income urban and rural schools across the nation, and to dramatically improve the quality of training and preparation given to our future teachers. The President's initiative will help recruit and prepare teachers nationwide to help our neediest students succeed in the 21st century.

ACTION: Pass the G.I. Bill for America's Workers

"My GI 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."

- **PROGRESS MADE:** The Balanced Budget Act fully funds the President's training budget -- including the Job Corps and a 20 percent Tuition Tax Credit. The credit is available for college juniors, seniors and graduate students -- and for working Americans pursuing lifelong learning to upgrade their skills. The 20 percent credit will be applied to the first \$5,000 of qualified education expenses through 2002 and to the first \$10,000 thereafter.

ACTION: Help Communities Finance School Construction

"...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."

- **PROGRESS MADE:** The Balanced Budget included two provisions which address school construction. The first, Public School-Business Partnerships, provides \$800 million through 1999 and allows states to use Federal tax credits as payments in lieu of interest on bonds for certain expenses -- including school construction and renovation. The second, allows School districts to invest the proceeds from school construction bonds until the funds are needed to pay construction and renovation expenses -- allowing them to keep more of the interest income and reducing the cost of borrowing.

HEALTH CARE

ACTION: Extend Health Care to Five Million Children

"[M]y balanced budget will extend health coverage to up to 5 million of those children."



ACCOMPLISHED: In August 1997, President Clinton signed the Balanced Budget Act which included \$24 billion for the Children's Health Initiative -- the single largest investment in health care for children since 1965 -- to provide meaningful health care coverage to up to five million uninsured children. [H.R. 2015, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and H.R. 2014, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, 8/5/97]

ACTION: Reform Medicare

"My Medicare plan modernizes Medicare, increases the life of the trust fund to 10 years...."



ACCOMPLISHED: The bipartisan balanced budget the President signed on August 5, 1997 extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund to ten years -- saving \$115 billion over five years and \$400-\$450 billion over ten years. The President worked hard to ensure that any Medicare savings came from thoughtful, long-term structural changes -- not from arbitrary cuts. Among the changes the President fought for: \$4 billion over five years for new preventive benefits -- expanded coverage for mammograms; colorectal screening; influenza shots; and improved self-management of diseases like diabetes.

ACTION: Expand Family and Medical Leave

"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."



PROPOSED: In June 1996, President Clinton proposed to expand FMLA to allow workers to take up to 24 unpaid hours off each year for school and early childhood education activities, routine family medical care, and additional activities related to caring for an elderly relative. In April 1997, the President asked Federal agencies to implement his expanded leave policy immediately for Federal workers.

ACTION: Establish a Bipartisan Process to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

"[W]e should balance the budget now. And then.... [W]e must agree to a bipartisan process to preserve Social Security and reform Medicare..."



ACCOMPLISHED: The Balanced Budget created a 17-member Medicare Commission to examine the long-term needs of the program so that Medicare will be prepared for the retirement of the baby boomers. The Commission will contain eight Democrats and eight

Republicans and a Chair who will be selected jointly by the President and the Congressional leadership. The President will announce his four appointments for the Medicare Commission on December 1, 1997. The Commission will release a report in 1999 and require an 11 of 17 majority to ensure that its recommendations are bipartisan. In addition, the President has asked his economic team to create a strategy for moving forward in a bipartisan way to address Social Security. How the process is structured is an important element of the success of the effort -- so the President's economic advisors are working hard to make sure that there is a sensible, bipartisan approach to the process.

ACTION: **Commitment to Developing an AIDS Vaccine**

"Remember that every year, every year we move up the discovery of an AIDS vaccine we'll save millions of lives around the world. We must reinforce our commitment to medical science."

□

PROGRESS MADE: On May 18, 1997, President Clinton challenged the nation to commit itself to the goal of developing an AIDS vaccine within the next ten years. The President also announced a number of important initiatives to help fulfill this commitment, including high-level international collaboration, a dedicated research center for AIDS vaccine research at NIH, and outreach to scientists, pharmaceutical companies, and patient advocates to maximize the involvement of both private and public sectors in the development of an AIDS vaccine. [HHS, 9/29/97]

WELFARE

Action: **Restore Fairness in the Welfare Law**

"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."

✓

ACCOMPLISHED: The President won nearly every change he sought in the 1996 welfare law. The balanced budget restores \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants. And the law now protects those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. Immigrants in the country as of August 22, 1996 but not receiving benefits at that time who subsequently become disabled will also be fully eligible for SSI and Medicaid benefits. [H.R. 2015, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and H.R. 2014, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, 8/5/97]

ACTION: Moving More People 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. And now we must act to meet a new goal: two 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 in states to create more jobs for welfare recipients; training, transportation and child care to help people go to work... I challenge every religious congregation, every community nonprofit, every business to hire someone off welfare."

✓

ACCOMPLISHED: Since February 1997, welfare caseload numbers have decreased by 770,000 recipients -- well on track to meeting the President's goal of 2 million additional people off the welfare rolls by the year 2000.

Providing Welfare to Work Tax Incentives... In addition, thanks to President Clinton, the Balanced Budget includes tax incentives to help cities, states and employers move people from welfare to work. It includes the \$3 billion Welfare-to-Work Job Challenge Fund for cities and states and a welfare-to-work tax credit that gives employers an addition incentive to hire and keep long-term welfare recipients. [HHS, Administration for Children and Families, 9/97]

Fighting for Transportation Assistance... President is fighting to pass proposed transportation legislation that includes welfare-to-work transportation grants to assist states and local communities in moving individuals from welfare-to-work -- including helping parents with small children obtain transportation to their jobs *and* to child care. [H.R. 2015, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and H.R. 2014, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, 8/5/97]

Challenging the Business and Non-profit Communities... At the President's urging, the Welfare to Work Partnership was launched in May 1997 to lead the national business effort to hire people from the welfare rolls. Founded with 100 participating businesses, the Partnership pledged to reach 1,000 business within six months. Vice President Gore created the Welfare to Work Coalition to Sustain Success -- a coalition of civic groups committed to helping former welfare recipients stay in the workforce and succeed. [Welfare to Work Partnership Fact Sheet, 7/97; Remarks from the Welfare to Work Partnership Announcement; 5/20/97; Welfare to Work Coalition to Sustain Success Fact Sheet, 5/29/97]

URBAN AGENDA

ACTION: Double the Number of Empowerment Zones

"We should double the number of empowerment zones. They've already brought so much hope to communities..."

✓ **ACCOMPLISHED:** The balanced budget triples the number of Empowerment Zones (EZs). The President won inclusion of twenty new Empowerment Zones into the balanced budget -- 15 urban and 5 rural EZs. The 20 new EZs will benefit from a different blend of tax credits from the first-round EZs. They will be eligible for the Brownfields tax incentive, special expensing of business assets, and qualification for private-activity bonds. The budget also includes an additional two EZs that have the same tax credits as the 1994 EZs. With the 22 new EZs, the total number of Empowerment Zones created by President Clinton climbs to 31. [National Economic Council; H.R. 2015, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and H.R. 2014, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, 8/5/97]

ACTION: **Expand Community Development Banks**

"We should expand the network of community development banks."

✓ **ACCOMPLISHED:** This Administration is creating a network of community development banks and financial institutions in low- and moderate-income communities. The Community Development Banks and Financial Institutions Fund has awarded a total of \$75 million in investments to 78 CDFIs, including community development banks, loan funds, credit unions, venture capital funds, and microenterprise loan funds. And in FY98, the Administration secured \$80 million for community development banks, a 63% increase over FY97. [National Economic Council; H.R. 2015, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and H.R. 2014, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, 8/5/97]

ACTION: **Restore Contaminated Urban Sites**

"We should restore contaminated urban land and buildings to constructive use."

✓ **ACCOMPLISHED:** The President fought for and won the inclusion of the Brownfields tax incentive in the balanced budget, the Brownfields tax incentive will clean up 14,000 contaminated, abandoned Sites in economically distressed areas. This initiative reduces costs by permitting clean-up costs to be deducted immediately for tax purposes, thereby encouraging redevelopment of these areas. The Treasury Department estimates that this tax incentive will leverage more than \$6 billion for private sector cleanups nationwide, allowing redevelopment of 14,000 Brownfields.

ACTION: **Renew Washington, D.C.**

"[T]ogether, 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 the world!"

□ **PROGRESS MADE:** As the President said in his statement on H.R. 2014, the Balanced Budget, "It has been an important goal of my Administration to encourage employment of disadvantaged residents of the District of Columbia and to revitalize those areas of the District where development has lagged. I am pleased that H.R. 2014 includes tax

incentives for the District of Columbia." The Balanced Budget: creates an enterprise zone that includes most of the nation's capital; includes a zero-percent capital gains rate on sales of business property (in most areas) if the property is held for at least five years; and includes a \$5,000 credit for first-time home buyers with incomes under \$70,000 for single filers. [Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, 8/5/97; CQ Weekly, 9/27/97]

FOREIGN POLICY

ACTION: **Ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention**

"Now we must rise to a new test of leadership -- ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention."



ACCOMPLISHED: After an intense lobbying effort by President Clinton, on April 24, 1997, the Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention. [New York Times, 4/25/97]

ACTION: **Pursue Deeper Dialogue with China**

"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."



PROGRESS MADE: Kicking off the first U.S. - Sino Summit in eight years, on October 28, 1997, President Clinton formerly welcomed Chinese President Jiang Zemin to the White House. The summit concluded with agreements on a broad range of security, economic, environmental and law-enforcement issues. [Washington Post, 10/30/97]

President Clinton also successfully lobbied Congress to extend normal trading relations with China. Following the House vote extending MFN to China, Clinton said, "Today's vote was a vote for America's interests. It makes clear that the right way to encourage further progress in China is not to cut China off but to draw China in."

ACTION: **Expand NATO by 1999**

"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."



PROGRESS MADE: On July 8, 1997, at the Madrid NATO Summit, three nations -- Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary -- were offered membership in NATO. President Clinton has pledged to "ask the United States Senate to ratify changes to the treaty

governing NATO so that we can bring in the new members by the 50th anniversary of NATO in 1999."

ACTION: Strengthen NATO's Partnership for Peace

"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."

□

PROGRESS MADE: During it's Madrid Summit, NATO took important steps to strengthen the successful Partnership for Peace. On May 27, 1997, President Clinton, the leaders of the 16 other NATO nations, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the NATO-Russia Founding Act in Paris. Through the Act, NATO and Russia will work together to strengthen stability in all of Europe -- consulting regularly and, where appropriate, acting jointly, as in Bosnia.

ACTION: Take Care of U.S. Military Personnel

"And we must take good care of our men and women in uniform."

□

PROGRESS MADE: The President's Fiscal Year 1998 budget contains a number of provisions to support the quality of life of America's men and women in uniform. Topping the list is the request for a 2.8% pay raise. The budget also includes increased funding for such quality of life programs as child care facilities, barracks for single members, tuition assistance for off-duty education, the Defense Health Program, housing and cost of living allowances, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

ACTION: Increase Weapons Modernization

"We must increase funding for weapons modernization by the year 2000."

□

PROGRESS MADE: President Clinton's FY98 budget reflects a commitment to modernizing U.S. military hardware. The budget proposes that procurement funding grow, in real terms, by more than 40% from 1998 to 2002. The Report of the Quadrennial Defense Review (5/97) concurs saying, "To modernize the force, the Department established a goal of increasing procurement funding to roughly \$60 billion by FY2001." [OMB]

ACTION: Advance Peace with North Korea

"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."

- **PROGRESS MADE:** In August 1997, President Clinton and South Korea President Kim Young Sam started four-party preparatory talks (among the United States, North and South Korea, and China) to set-up peace negotiations for formally ending the Korean War. President Clinton renewed his commitment to peace between North and South Korea during Chinese President Jiang Zemin's official state visit in October 1997.

The United States is funding its share of KEDO, the international organization overseeing the arrangement in which North Korea agreed to freeze its covert nuclear weapons program in exchange for receiving two light-water nuclear reactors. Because of the President's leadership, a ground breaking ceremony occurred in August 1997 on the reactor project in North Korea.

ACTION: **Pay Our Debts to World Bank and U.N.**

"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."

- **PROGRESS MADE:** Addressing the United Nations on September 22, 1997, President Clinton announced he had made it a priority to pass an agreement he reached with Congress (including Senator Jess Helms) on a package to pay off U.S. arrears to the UN and other international organizations. The President also called on the UN to pass a reform plan designed to streamline and strengthen the organization.

ACTION: **Pass Fast Track Trade Authority**

"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."

- **PROGRESS MADE:** President Clinton's lobbying efforts on behalf of Fast Track legislation resulted in a clear majority of support from the Democratic mayors and governors and a majority in the Senate. However, a vote on Fast Track has been postponed in the House so the President can continue to build a majority of support there.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ACTION: **Connect Every Children's Hospital to the Internet**

"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. 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."

- **PROGRESS MADE:** In October 1997, President Clinton and Vice President Gore joined Steven Spielberg and Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf in launching Starbright World -- an on-line computer network that enables seriously ill children to meet, play and communicate with one another. Thanks to the Starbright Foundation, 100 children's hospitals will be connected to the Internet in 1998, giving thousands of children the tools they need to keep their spirits up and better cope with the often painful realities of hospital stays.

In addition, the President's 1996 "e-rate" plan, part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, was approved by the FCC in May 1997. The President's plan will make discounts worth \$2.25 billion available every year for schools, libraries, and rural health clinics and hospitals to connect to the Internet.

ACTION: **Build the Second Generation of the Internet**

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

- **ON TRACK:** President Clinton has launched an initiative to connect more than 100 universities at speeds that are 100 to 1,000 times faster than today's Internet, and to develop the next generation of applications, such as telemedicine. This will ensure that the United States remains at the cutting-edge of Internet technology.

ACTION: **Press on with the Mars Probes and the International Space Station**

"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."

- ✓ **ACCOMPLISHED:** On July 4, 1997, the Mars Pathfinder Mission successfully landed a probe on the surface of Mars -- the first landing on the surface of Mars in over 20 years. In addition, the Mars Global Surveyor, our third mission to Mars entered the red planet's orbit this November and is preparing to map the red planet's surface in preparation for more detailed reconnaissance in 1998, 2001 and 2003, and finally a 2005 mission to return a sample from the surface to Earth.

The U.S. goal of putting a permanent presence in space is on track. The first station element, the U.S.-funded, Russian-built Functional Cargo Block and the U.S. Node 1 are on track for a launch in June 1998. Modifications to the module began earlier this year have been completed. In addition, all of the partners reported they were on schedule with their contributions to the station.

CRIME AND DRUGS

ACTION: **Include the Largest Anti-drug Effort Ever in the Budget**

"This balanced budget includes the largest anti-drug 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."



ACCOMPLISHED: President Clinton has proposed the largest anti-drug budgets ever. Between 1996 and 1998, resources for drug control increased by 19%, from \$13.5 billion in FY 1996 to the President's proposed budget of \$16 billion in FY 1998. For example, resources increased for domestic law enforcement by 14% and interdiction by 22%.

ACTION: **Finish Hiring 100,000 Police**

"We must finish the job of putting 100,000 community police on the streets of the United States."



ON TRACK: The Clinton Administration has funded over 64,000 police officers to date -- officers who are now, or will soon be, helping keep our neighborhoods and communities safe. And the balanced budget protects the funding (and the 100,000 police officers goal) for the COPS Initiative.

ACTION: **Pass the Victim Rights Amendment**

"We should pass the Victims' Rights Amendment..."



ON TRACK: The Victims' Rights Amendment has been introduced as S.J. Res. 6 and H.J. Res. 71. Hearings have been held in both the Senate and the House on these resolutions. The Attorney General has testified on behalf of the Amendment.

ACTION: **Make it a Felony to Cross State Lines Fleeing from Child Support**

"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."



PROGRESS MADE: Billions of dollars more in support is owed to children whose parents have crossed state lines and failed to pay. The Justice Department is investigating and prosecuting cases where parents cross state lines to avoid payment under the Child Support Recovery Act. At President Clinton's direction, the Attorney General submitted legislation that strengthens the Child Support Recovery Act by prosecuting more parents who take egregious actions to avoid paying child support. Currently, a bill sponsored by Sen. Kohl and another bill sponsored by Rep. Hoyer meet the President's challenge.[HHS Fact Sheet on Child Support Enforcement, 11/14/96]

ACTION: Pass the Juvenile Justice Bill

"...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."

□

PROGRESS MADE: The Juvenile Justice bill is working its way through Congress and will be voted on early next Spring. In addition, the President has already signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locks in every handgun issued. [Memorandum on Child Safety Lock Devices for Handguns, 3/5/97]

ENVIRONMENT

ACTION: Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Ban the Worst Toxic Chemicals

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

□

PROGRESS MADE: The President has adopted binding targets to reach 1990 emissions levels by 2008-2012 and reductions below 1990 levels in the 5-year period that follows. A critical component of the President's comprehensive framework to reduce greenhouse gases is a realistic, achievable, and binding target of reducing greenhouse emissions to 1990 levels by 2008-2012 and reductions below 1990 levels in the 5-year period that follows. The United States is currently negotiating with the other nations of the world over a comprehensive, world-wide effort to reduce greenhouse gases.

ACTION: Clean up 500 More Toxic Waste Sites

"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 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."

□

PROGRESS MADE: The Clinton Administration has cleaned up more sites in four years than Presidents Reagan and Bush combined. The Clinton Administration has cleaned up more toxic waste dumps (290) in its first-four years than were done in the previous twelve (155). Last year, the President called for an additional 500 sites to be cleaned up by the year 2000. This would bring the total number of toxic waste dumps cleaned up to 900 sites -- more than two-thirds of the sites on EPA's national priority list of the worst toxic waste sites. [DOUBLE CHECK RE: APPROPS]

ACTION: Designate 10 American Heritage Rivers this Year

"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."

- **PROGRESS MADE:** The President signed an Executive Order establishing the creation of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, which will help restore and revitalize America's rivers and river communities. The American Heritage Rivers Initiative will integrate the economic, environmental and historic preservation programs and services of federal agencies to benefit communities engaged in efforts to protect their rivers. In the initiative's first year, ten rivers will be designated as American Heritage Rivers. Cities and communities working to restore and develop their rivers can apply for American Heritage River designation. This initiative will also provide technical assistance to local communities who have received such designation and will streamline existing programs offered by various agencies to restore the nation's rivers.

GOVERNMENT REFORM

ACTION: Enact Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform

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

- **PROGRESS MADE:** In the fall of 1997, President Clinton's lobbying efforts on behalf of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform legislation resulted in three unsuccessful Senate votes to block a GOP-led filibuster of the bill. Both House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader have agreed to consider the legislation in the Spring of 1998. [Washington Post, 11/3/97]

TOBACCO

ACTION: Ban Advertising and Marketing of Cigarettes

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

- **PROGRESS MADE:** The President has cracked down on youth access to tobacco. As a part of the President's comprehensive strategy, on February 28, 1997, the FDA made 18 the minimum age to purchase tobacco products nationwide and required photo I.D.s for anyone under the age of 27. The strategy was launched on August 10, 1995 when the President Clinton announced broad executive action to protect our nation's young people from the dangers of tobacco by sharply restricting the advertising, promotion, distribution, and marketing of cigarettes to teenagers. The President authorized the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to initiate these steps. One year later, on August 23, 1996, the

President's program was launched with the unveiling of the FDA final rule on tobacco and children. The FDA's actions are aimed at reducing the appeal of tobacco products to teenagers. In the next congressional session, the President will fight to pass comprehensive tobacco legislation that will build on his efforts and the efforts of the nation's attorneys general, who helped create an historic opportunity for progress in reducing smoking, especially by youth.

NATIONAL SERVICE

ACTION: Mobilize Millions to National Service

"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."

✓

ACCOMPLISHED: As co-chair of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, President Clinton helped bring businesses, nonprofits, states and communities, and volunteer groups to Philadelphia in April 1997 to focus on service and to ensure that every child in America has five key resources -- a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, a marketable skill, and a chance to serve. President Clinton announced the National Service Scholars program this summer as an opportunity for schools and communities to recognize young people for outstanding volunteer service while helping them continue their education. This initiative offers a matching \$500 scholarship for one high school junior or senior selected by each principal. Scholars receive \$1000 or more which is intended for college tuition. For next year, the Clinton Administration has secured funding that will allow the program to expand to 10,000 high schools -- close to half of all high schools in the nation. In addition, the President has started the AmeriCorps Scholarship initiative give scholarships to a nonprofit charity or religious organization, but expects that organization to pick up the living expenses of the volunteer. At the Service Summit, the President announced that the Administration would provide 50,000 of these new AmeriCorps scholarships over the next 5 years to organizations that offer young people the chance to serve. In June, 8,900 scholarships were approved, well ahead of the Administration's first-year plan for 5,000 scholarships. [Corporation for National Service, 10/97]

ONE AMERICA

ACTION: Building 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."

□

PROGRESS MADE: President's Initiative on Race. [TOM'S THOUGHTS] Over the past year, President Clinton has worked to articulate his vision of a just, unified America. Two meetings of the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race have been held.

He attended the ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the integration of Little Rock Central High School. A December 2, 1997, town hall meeting has been announced.

CULTURE

ACTION: Prepare for the America 2000 Celebration

"We should challenge all Americans in the arts and humanities to join with their 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 is past 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."

- **PROGRESS MADE:** On August 15, 1997, the President announced the creation of the White House Millennium Program. As he said, it "will guide and direct America's celebration of the millennium by showcasing the achievements that define us as a nation -- our culture, our scholarship, our scientific exploration." [President's Remarks, 8/15/97]