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HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S URBAN RECORD

September 1996

President's Economic Strategy Is Working for Urban America

Unemployment in the nation is down to 5.1%, from 7.5% four years ago. In the 50 largest cities, the unemployment rate has dropped 2.5 percentage points

10.5 million new jobs have been created since January 1993. In America's 76 cities with populations over 200,000, 1.67 million more city residents are now working than in January 1993.

Violent crime is down, the first three-year decline for the entire nation since 1960. In the nation's 50 largest cities, violent crime fell over 13% from 1992 to 1995.

Homeownership is up to 65.4% of all households in the second quarter of 1996, the highest rate in 15 years. In a survey of just 40 of America's 50 largest metropolitan areas, there are now 2,828,000 more homeowners than in the end of 1992. Since 1993, home mortgage lending in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods increased by over 25%.

The Federal deficit is down by 60%, the lowest level as a share of the economy since 1974. In cities, local school districts and states nationwide, this federal fiscal responsibility has helped to save over \$3 billion and helped to repair local and state fiscal capacity.

Competitiveness is up to first in the world for three straight years, after falling to fifth in 1992. Urban America's exporters generated \$447.5 billion in export sales in 1994 alone, as much as the entire country generated in 1992.

President Clinton Is Making Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities Work for America's Distressed Communities

- Created 105 urban and rural empowerment zones and enterprise communities.
- The Zones and Communities are already improving America's cities. Every \$1 in obligated EZ funds leverages \$18 in private sector investment. In Detroit, thousands of new jobs have been created and \$2 billion in private sector commitments have been made.

President Clinton Is Working to Provide Private Capital to Expand Businesses and Buy Homes Urban America

President Clinton helped spur private investment in urban areas by:

- enacting legislation for Federal co-investment in Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs);
- reforming the regulations under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) to encourage banks and thrifts to make more investment capital available in distressed communities
- making the low-income housing tax credit permanent, preserving the incentive for the private sector to invest in the construction and renovation of affordable, private housing;
- implementing a homeownership strategy with 58 major housing and finance industry groups to expand affordable mortgage lending to low- and moderate-income neighborhoods; and
- implemented the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) to attract private investment and stimulate job creation in distressed communities.

Today, there is more capital available in distressed areas.

- 31 CDFIs will receive a capital infusion of \$175 million.

- During the last three years alone, banks and thrifts under CRA pledged over \$96 billion to community development lending and investment.
- Since 1993, home mortgage lending in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods increased by over 25%.
- \$370 million in EDI has leveraged \$2 billion in private investment, creating 70,000 jobs in 112 cities.

President Clinton Is Committed to Cleaning Up and Redeveloping America's Urban Waste Sites

- Streamlined Superfund. In three years, more toxic waste dumps were cleaned up than in the previous twelve years, and 27,000 sites were removed from the Superfund list.
- Launched the Brownfields Pilot Project, enabling 60 selected cities to clean up brownfields and convert them to job-generating sites.

President Clinton Has Launched a Bold Transformation of Public Housing

The President is implementing the most far-reaching changes in public housing in decades.

- Demolishing the nation's worst public housing projects -- like Chicago's Henry Horner Homes and Cabrini Green -- and replacing them with lower-density, townhouse-style apartments
- Cracking down on bad management, changing rules and incentives to reward residents who work, and cracking down on crime

The President's transformation of public housing is already turning around distressed neighborhoods.

- The Administration will tear down an unprecedented 30,000 dilapidated units in four years; far surpassing the 22,000 units demolished in the previous 12 years. Over 21,000 units have been demolished to date.
- Initiated Campus of Learners program to convert public housing communities into learning centers that will link residents to job training, educational opportunities, and the Information Superhighway
- Implemented tougher screening and eviction procedures, community policing and tougher law enforcement to crack down on gangs, drugs and violent crime in public housing

President Clinton's Welfare Reforms Are Providing Opportunities for Urban America.

- Helped 43 states end welfare as they knew it, enabling them to move forward with 78 of their own experiments to help move more people from welfare to work
- Expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit for 15 million working families
- Signed into law an increase in the minimum wage
- As a result, 15 million low- and moderate-income working families already earn more after taxes; welfare roles have declined by 1.8 million persons; and child support collections are up 40% to \$11 billion
- Signed the welfare reform bill

President Clinton Is Committed to Reducing the Number of Homeless People on the Streets

- Increased funding from \$571 million in FY 1993 to \$1.1 billion in FY 1995; as a result, assisted 823 housing providers in 345 communities, up from 215 providers in 129 cities in the previous four years
- Implemented a "continuum of care" strategy which moves beyond providing emergency shelters to helping homeless persons move out of the streets and into transitional and permanent housing and self-sufficiency
- Are serving 14 times the number of homeless individuals than in 1993

President Clinton Is Committed to Keeping America's Streets Safe

In 1994, the President fought for and won passage of a tough, smart crime bill that includes:

- funding to put 100,000 community police officers on the streets
- a Three Strikes and You're Out provision to put career violent criminals behind bars for life
- an expanded death penalty
- funding for 100,000 more prison cells
- increased penalties for sex offenders

President Clinton stood up to the gun lobby.

- Passed the Brady Bill which provides for a 5-day waiting period and background check for gun purchases
- Passed the Assault Weapons ban, barring the manufacture and importation of 19 of the deadliest assault weapons

President Clinton is ending the scourge of domestic violence and the violence in our schools and communities.

- Tripled funding for battered women's shelters
- Bolstered local law enforcement, prosecution, and victims services to better address violence against women
- Enforcing a zero-tolerance gun policy in schools
- Protected funding for Safe and Drug-Free Schools
- Instituted a One Strike and You're Out policy to screen out and evict gang members, drug dealers and violent criminals from public housing

The President's fight against crime is paying off.

- Brady Law has stopped more than 60,000 felons, fugitives and others from buying guns.
- Violent crime has gone down in each and every year of the Clinton Administration.
- The epidemic of cocaine use is finally abating, with cocaine use dropping by 30% since 1992.
- Juvenile crime is finally beginning to come down. Since 1993, the juvenile murder rate has dropped by nearly 23%.

President Clinton Is Working to Enable All Americans to Learn the Skills They Need to Thrive in the New Economy

President Clinton has expanded educational opportunity for all Americans.

- Increased funding for Head Start
- Signed the Goals 2000 Act and the Improving America's Schools Act to strengthen academic standards
- Launched initiative to link every child in every classroom to the Information Superhighway
- Signed the School-to-Work legislation to expand work-based learning opportunities for high school students
- Increased Pell Grants to help low- and moderate-income families pay for college
- Transformed the student loan program
- Signed into law the AmeriCorps program to enable young people to earn money for school while serving their communities

American Education Is Beginning to Answer the Challenge under President Clinton.

- The proportion of high school students taking the tough core of academic subjects has increased to 52% in 1994, up from 40% in 1990.
- A higher proportion of students are graduating from high school; achievement on college entrance exams is rising with drop out rates for African-Americans and Whites dropping.
- More high school graduates are going to college, reaching an all-time high in 1994.

REBUILDING AMERICA'S DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES IN THE NEW ECONOMY

President Clinton's New Proposals for Strengthening Urban America

September 1996

Under President Clinton, urban America is leading the economic recovery and cities are coming back. All across America, city after city is returning as an engine of growth for their local regions and for the country. President Clinton is committed to building on this success to empower distressed inner-city neighborhoods and their families to seize the new sources of prosperity and opportunity in the new economy. President Clinton is pursuing the following proposals to help America and its families move forward into the 21st century.

President Clinton Is Committed to Building on the Successes of the Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities

- A second round of empowerment zones and enterprise communities with \$2 billion for tax incentives and \$1 billion for direct grants and loans
- Targeted welfare to work credit for businesses who hire EZ residents who are on welfare
- EZ tax benefits to employers outside of the Empowerment Zone who hire Zone residents

President Clinton Is Committed to Ensuring that Private Capital Is Available for Businesses and Homeownership

- A total of \$1.7 billion in Federal co-investment in Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) over the next six years
- A 25% tax credit for investments in for-profit CDFIs to spur private sector investment in community development banks and venture capital funds
- Elimination of capital gains taxation for virtually all primary residences

President Clinton Is Committed to Cleaning Up and Redeveloping America's Urban Waste Sites

- Doubling of the pace of Superfund clean-ups over the next four years -- to 500 sites.
- Challenge to clean-up and redevelop 5,000 brownfields sites by 2000, producing thousands of new jobs and generating substantial new sources of sustainable growth
- \$2 billion tax incentive -- immediate expensing -- to all firms that clean up brownfields located in distressed communities
- \$250 million in EPA grants and loans for remediation
- \$100 million in Economic Development Initiative to link cleanup with redevelopment and re-use

President Clinton Is Committed to Transforming Public Housing

- Challenge to demolish 100,000 dilapidated public housing units by the year 2000
- Enactment of comprehensive reform of public housing laws to accelerate demolition and replacement of deteriorated public housing, reduce crime and reward working families
- \$340 million for anti-crime grants in public housing
- Crack down on mismanagement in troubled public housing agencies

President Clinton Is Committed to Making Welfare Reform Work

- Welfare-to-Work Jobs Challenge to create job opportunities for the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients. This challenge includes a targeted \$10,000 Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit for employers and a \$3 billion Welfare-to-Work Jobs Initiative to encourage states and localities to work in cooperation with the private sector and other employers

- Partnership with states to ensure that absent parents meet their responsibilities to support their children

President Clinton Is Committed to Helping Homeless Families and Individuals Move Off the Streets and Into Transitional Housing and Greater Self-Sufficiency

- \$1.1 billion in homeless funding, a \$300 million increase
- Consolidation and simplification of all homeless programs into one Homeless Assistance Fund
- Greater emphasis on addressing the unique needs of homeless persons with mental illness

President Clinton Is Committed to Keeping America's Streets Safe

- Protection of funds that put 100,000 cops on the street
- Extension of Brady Bill to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers
- Broader and tougher implementation of "One Strike and You're Out" policies to keep gang members, drug dealers, and violent criminals out of public housing
- Ban on the manufacture of "cop-killer" bullets
- Keeping drugs off our streets

President Clinton Is Committed to Enabling All Americans to Learn the Skills They Need to Thrive in the New Economy

- \$2.75 billion "America Reads" Challenge to ensure that every child can read a book by age 8
- \$2 billion Technology Literacy Challenge to leverage state, local and private sector support to connect every classroom and library to the Information Superhighway by the year 2000
- \$5 billion School Construction Initiative
- Hope Scholarship Tax Cut to make two years of college as universal as four years of high school is today
- After-School Challenge to call on localities to keep schools, community centers, and churches open late and in the summer for young people
- Challenge to states and schools, businesses and colleges, principals and teachers, and students and parents to accept greater responsibility for achieving higher standards
- Lifelong learning available to every single American who wants to invest their time in learning new skills for a more rewarding future

**THE AMERICAN ECONOMY
IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK FOR THE 21st CENTURY;
AND PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY
IS WORKING FOR URBAN AMERICA**

Unemployment Is Down -- to 5.1% , from 7.5% four years ago.

- In urban America, down to % , from % four years
- In the 50 largest cities, the unemployment rate has dropped 2.46 percentage points -- from 9.11% in June 1992 to 6.65% in June 1996.

New Jobs are Up -- a total of 10.5 million since January 1993. That's a faster annual rate of job growth than *any* Republican Administration since the Roaring 1920s. Over 90% of these new jobs are in the private sector, and more than half are in high wage jobs -- a higher proportion than at any time since John Kennedy was President.

- In America's 76 cities with populations over 200,000, 1.67 million more city residents are now working than in January 1993.

Violent Crime is Down -- the first three-year decline for the entire nation since 1960.

- In the nation's 50 largest cities, violent crime fell over 13% from 1992 to 1995. The overall crime rate fell 6% in these 50 cities in 1995 alone.

Homeownership is up -- to 65.4% of all households in the second quarter of 1996, the highest rate in 15 years, with a total of 4.4 million new homeowners since January 1993.

- In a survey of just 40 of America's 50 largest metropolitan areas, there are now 2,828,000 more homeowners than in the fourth quarter of 1992.
- In low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, home mortgage lending has increased 25% since January 1993.

The Federal Deficit is Down -- to \$116 billion this year, cut way more than half from \$290 billion four years ago, to the lowest level as a share of the economy since 1974, with \$1 trillion in total deficit reduction over 7 years.

- In cities, local school districts and states across the country, this federal fiscal responsibility has helped to save over \$3 billion -- just in lower interest costs on \$100 billion in additional refinancings in 1993 alone -- and helped to repair local and state fiscal capacity.

Competitiveness is Up -- to first in the world for three straight years under President Clinton, after falling to fifth in 1992; with the U.S. creating almost all of the net new jobs of the world's seven major economies since 1993, after our six competitors produced 2.5 times more jobs than the U.S in the prior four years.

- In urban areas and central cities, the innovation of firms, universities and research centers, and entrepreneurs is helping America lead the world in essential industries in the new economy -- e.g., computers and telecommunications, autos and aerospace, customized manufacturing and services, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, design and environmental protection, finance and entertainment.
- Urban America produced 91% -- and the 50 largest counties 36.6% -- of the 55,853 U.S. patents granted to U.S. residents in 1995.
- Urban America's exporters generated \$447.5 billion in export sales in 1994 alone, as much as the entire country in 1992.

"What's the greatest opportunity for American business today? The distressed neighborhoods in our urban and rural areas. Where do the largest number of people live in America that we could use to expand the work force in a hurry, or to expand the number of consumers in a hurry? In the distressed neighborhoods of urban and rural areas..."

President Bill Clinton

The Reason for Action. Under President Clinton, urban America is leading the economic recovery and cities are coming back. All across America, city after city is returning as an engine of growth for their local regions and for the country. A key element of the President's economic plan is building on this success to connect distressed inner-city neighborhoods to these new sources of prosperity in the new economy. Largely abandoned by the old economy years ago, these distressed neighborhoods now offer: (1) an untapped supply of human talent to fill the rising demands of firms for more workers as more new jobs are generated and unemployment drops to historic lows and (2) an untapped source of demand and entrepreneurial spirit for new business. President Clinton's strategy: to empower these communities and their families to connect to the new well-springs of growth and opportunity -- so they can work their way out of a cycle of poverty, realize their full potential, and contribute to a brighter future for themselves, their children and neighbors, and the country. This new approach is on the right track. Rather than look back to the old economy and point fingers, it's time to move forward together into the 21st century.

The Economic Strategy. The President's economic strategy for empowering distressed communities to seize the opportunities of the new economy is built on four fundamental principles:

- **The private sector must re-engage as the rightful driver of economic growth** to provide jobs and opportunity for people and places abandoned or polluted by the old economy.
- **The solutions to the challenges we face must be driven by the local communities and families** that have the greatest stake in the outcome and the most insight into how to build a brighter future for themselves, their children and neighbors;
- **Securing basic public safety and expanding education opportunity for all** are essential preconditions for communities, business, individuals and families to thrive;
- **All levels of government must do their part to become better, more responsive partners** for communities, for families and for business.

That's why the President has fought so hard to increase federal support to:

- **Create Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities** (See Attachment 1)
- **Assure that private capital is available for businesses and home-ownership** (2)
- **Spur the cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned industrial waste sites** (3)
- **Challenge the private sector to join in making welfare reform a success** (4)
- **Fight crime** (5)
- **Enable all Americans to learn the skills they need to thrive** (6).

Balancing the Budget the Right Way. All of these increased investments to expand opportunity are fully paid for in the President's balanced budget. He is committed to making the tough choices to balance the budget the right way -- because it is the surest way to sustain economic growth, to keep inflation and interest rates low, and to invest more in a more rewarding, safer, and cleaner future for all of our children. Over the past four years the President has fought hard to achieve this federal fiscal responsibility, to expand opportunity for all, and to demand responsibility from all. It's the right way to build a firm foundation for the bridge that will carry all Americans across to the 21st century.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON IS MAKING EMPOWERMENT ZONES AND ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES WORK FOR AMERICA'S DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES

"People want their own chance to do better. We have an obligation to make this opportunity available, and that's what this whole community empowerment endeavor is all about."

President Bill Clinton

PRESIDENT CLINTON CREATED EMPOWERMENT ZONES AND ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES. After twelve years of failed Republican promises, President Clinton fought for and signed into law the first federal Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities legislation.

- **The President Has Already Created 105 Urban And Rural Zones And Communities.** Each one has received a flexible block grant (\$100 million for zones, and approximately \$3 million for communities); targeted tax breaks (tax-exempt bonds for EZs and ECs; increased Section 179 expensing and wage credits for qualified EZ businesses to reduce the cost of doing business). And the process for applying enabled distressed neighborhoods all across the country to engage the private sector in their local region, the city and the state to join in designing and investing in their own innovative plans for community revitalization.
- **The Community Empowerment Board is Supporting Local Initiative and Enterprise.** Led by the Vice-President, all of the federal agencies that make up the Community Empowerment Board ("CEB") are helping support local communities implement their own plans for economic growth and neighborhood revitalization. SBA, for example, has established convenient "One-Stop Capital Shops," where entrepreneurs and small businesses can access a wide array of investment sources and technical assistance. Pursuant to the President's Executive Order on Community Empowerment Contracting, the CEB is also helping federal agencies to be responsive in their procurement and location decisions to competitive bids coming from distressed neighborhoods.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S EMPOWERMENT ZONES AND ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES ARE ALREADY IMPROVING AMERICA'S CITIES:

- **In Detroit, Thousands of New Jobs Have Been Created And \$2 Billion In Private Sector Commitments Have Been Made.** In 1995 alone, \$286 million in private investment helped 24 businesses grow -- ranging from a new Chrysler engine plant and expansion of parts suppliers to packaging, distribution, service and food firms. Another \$200 million in construction activity has already been underwritten to build or rehabilitate over 1,000 homes.
- **In Los Angeles, major banks and financial institutions have joined with the**

federal government to co-invest in the creation of a community development bank with a capitalization of more than \$740 million. The new LA Community Development Bank will join with a range of financial institutions to make new commercial loans and loan guarantees, commercial real estate loans, micro-enterprise loans, and venture capital investments in new and expanding businesses in the inner city.

- **In New York, "a Harlem Renaissance, " N.Y. Daily News, August 27, 1996, is underway, with 125th street re-emerging on the local map as an "economic engine...Thanks to city development efforts and federal Empowerment Zone tax breaks, more than \$1 billion will be invested in Harlem over the next ten years."** New department stores, supermarkets, restaurants, major video outlets, a Disney store and world-class entertainment complex, and major national retailers have all announced plans to open in Harlem.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE-PRESIDENT GORE ARE CALLING FOR A SECOND ROUND OF EMPOWERMENT ZONES AND ENTERPRISE

COMMUNITIES. The President and Vice-President are building on what works. They are calling for a second round of empowerment zones and enterprise communities with over \$1 billion in powerful new tax incentives. This will put private enterprise and community innovation back to work making major investments in new jobs and growth in communities given up for lost just a few short years ago. These tax incentives include:

- **immediate write-off to firms of all costs for cleaning up brownfields within the entire EZ or EC, including 2000 "additional acres" in EZs and 1000 "additional acres" in ECs.** The expensing for this additional acreage will encourage clean-up and major economic development of large tracts polluted by the old economy but strategically located near ports, other distribution and supply centers, medical and university research facilities, and other clusters of potential engines of growth in the new economy.
- **a total of \$3 billion in flexible, private activity bonds above the state bond cap.** This will enable localities to spur major private sector economic redevelopment within the EZs and ECs.
- **increase expensing by \$20,000 per year for firms that invest in new plant and equipment in the EZs.** This will encourage new investment to start and to expand business.

As in the first round, the new round will challenge the private sector to co-invest with the states and the cities in innovative local plans for community revitalization.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON IS WORKING TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF PRIVATE CAPITAL TO EXPAND BUSINESSES AND HOME-OWNERSHIP IN LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS

"If we really believe free enterprise and not government spending is the answer to problems of the inner city, we're going to have to offer them some free enterprise. And free enterprise begins with capital."

President Bill Clinton

PRESIDENT CLINTON HELPED SPUR MORE PRIVATE INVESTMENT:

- **Enacting Legislation for Federal Co-Investment In Community Development Financial Institutions ("CDFIs")** -- banks, credit unions, development corporations, micro-enterprise lenders and venture capital funds. These CDFIs serve as expert intermediaries to connect promising businesses and credit-worthy borrowers in distressed communities to new investments and loans.
- **Reforming The Regulations Under The Community Reinvestment Act** -- to focus banks and thrifts on making more investment capital available in distressed communities rather than on burdensome paperwork and unproductive talk
- **Making The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Permanent** -- to preserve the means to enable the private sector to co-invest to construct or renovate affordable, private housing
- **Implementing a Home-Ownership Strategy with the Housing and Finance Industries** -- to make more affordable mortgage loans available for the purchase and renovation of homes, including in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

TODAY, THERE IS MORE CAPITAL AVAILABLE IN DISTRESSED AREAS:

- **31 CDFIs will receive a capital infusion of \$175 million**, thanks to \$140 million in private sector matching investments over the next few years and \$35 million in immediate federal co-investments. These new and expanded CDFIs will proceed to **make over \$1.75 billion in new loans and venture capital investments in local communities in 46 states and the District of Columbia**. Another 268 applicants and their co-investors requested another \$300 million in federal co-investment.
- **During the last three years alone, banks and thrifts under CRA pledged over \$96 billion to community development lending and investment**. This total of new pledges is almost as much as the total of all of the previous pledges under CRA for the prior fifteen years since its enactment in 1977.
- The private sector is co-investing to construct or renovate **60,000 more affordable units of private housing each and every year**.
- **Since 1993 home-mortgage lending in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods**

increased over 25%. The home-ownership rate has increased nation-wide and in central cities each year since President Clinton took office, after declining over the previous four years. With Fed Chairman Greenspan noting that "the average American is in a far better position to buy a home than his counterpart was, say, a generation ago," the prospects for more families buying their own home have never been brighter -- including in inner-city neighborhoods that will benefit the most from the pride, commitment, renovation and investment that accompanies home-ownership.

WE MUST BUILD ON OUR PROGRESS. THAT'S WHY THE PRESIDENT IS PROPOSING:

- **A total of \$1.7 billion in federal co-investment in CDFIs over the next six years** --to spur private investors to build a nation-wide network of expert financial intermediaries to connect good credit risks and promising business opportunities and entrepreneurs to loans and venture capital. These CDFIs will then connect growing businesses to the financial resources of their major financial partners -- banks, thrifts, credit companies, investment bankers and Wall Street.
- **A 25% tax credit for investments in for-profit CDFIs** -- to spur additional private sector investment in community development banks and venture capital funds. This will enable the venture capital industry to offer private investors an up-front, 25% tax credit for investments in, for example, (1) business spin-offs from major central city universities, research, and financial centers that locate in distressed neighborhoods nearby, (2) service industries (day-care, food, cleaning and maintenance, supplies, and distribution) that locate in distressed neighborhoods to serve nearby business, commercial, office, research, university and industrial centers, and (3) supermarkets, other retail stores and entertainment centers that serve the unmet demands of persons who live in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.
- **Elimination of capital gains taxation for virtually all primary residences** -- to enable millions of working families now trapped in more expensive homes to sell their current house and to buy and fix-up a less expensive home. For example, many families want to sell larger and more expensive homes as their children grow up; the elimination of capital gains taxation on the sale of their current residence will enable these families to purchase and to renovate less expensive housing that already exists in close-in neighborhoods.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON IS COMMITTED TO CLEANING UP AND REDEVELOPING AMERICA'S URBAN WASTE SITES

"Protecting our environment can go hand-in-hand with redevelopment. It can create jobs and at the same time encourage more people to live and work in the cities again."

President Clinton

PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS WORKED HARD TO CLEAN UP AND REDEVELOP URBAN WASTE SITES:

- **Making Superfund More Efficient.** Over the first three years, the Clinton-Gore Administration stream-lined the operation of Superfund through common sense regulatory reform and encouraged the use of new environmental technologies so that clean-ups could be completed faster, better and at less cost.
- **Redeveloping Urban America's Abandoned Waste Sites.** During the first three years the Clinton-Gore Administration introduced a Brownfields Pilot Project to enable selected cities to assess the costs of cleaning up and putting back into productive use "brownfields" -- polluted sites that have been abandoned but do not pose the imminent health risks of Superfund sites.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S EFFORTS ARE ENABLING AMERICA'S CITIES TO GO TO WORK WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR CLEANING UP ABANDONED WASTE SITES AND PUTTING THEM BACK INTO PRODUCTIVE USE:

- **In Three Years More Toxic Waste Dumps Were Cleaned Up Than In The Previous Twelve.** In the first three years of the Clinton-Gore Administration, 197 Superfund toxic waste dumps were cleaned up nationwide, compared to only 147 in the previous twelve years combined. And, after investigation of the real health hazards, another 27,000 sites were removed from the Superfund list.
- **The Brownfields Pilot Project Establishes A Model For Success.** The initial EPA awards to 60 local communities demonstrated that assessing the costs of cleaning up brownfields could identify abandoned sites with major economic potential. For example, Cleveland, Ohio, leveraged \$4.2 million in private investment, created 200 jobs and generated more than \$1 million in new payroll taxes for the city in cleaning up and redeveloping a single brownfield.

PRESIDENT CLINTON WANTS TO BUILD ON SUCCESS. That is why the President is proposing to expand what works:

- **Double the pace of Superfund clean-ups** over the next four years -- to 500 sites -- so that no community that is ready has to wait to clean-up any site. Two thirds of all remaining Superfund sites will be cleaned up. Thirty million Americans who live

within four miles of such toxic waste dumps will live safer and more secure lives.

- **Bring the Brownfield Pilot Project to Scale** -- expand EPA grants to communities for assessment and redevelopment planning six-fold and provide support through HUD for nearly \$1/2 billion dollars in economic redevelopment loans to clean-up and redevelop 5000 sites by the year 2000.
- Provide additional support for **state voluntary clean-up programs; and clarify liability rules** so that prospective lenders and investors are not scared off from making loans and investments to innocent owners who will clean-up and redevelop Brownfields, but polluters remain fully liable.
- **Offer a new tax incentive -- immediate expensing -- to firms for all of the costs of cleaning-up brownfields located in distressed communities.** Since the private sector will be making an economic judgment about the value of the land, sites that are cleaned-up will then be put back promptly into productive use. This \$2 billion tax incentive will generate \$10 billion in private investment to clean-up an additional 30,000 sites by 2002, 17,000 by the year 2000.

Together, the new brownfields clean-up initiatives will directly benefit more than 15 million American families who live close to these abandoned sites, produce thousands of new jobs, and generate substantial new sources of sustainable growth in older suburbs and central cities that will enhance the economic potential of the entire local region. In addition, EPA estimates that clean-up and redevelopment of brownfields will result in a 25 percent reduction in development of "greenfields" -- i.e., undeveloped land -- elsewhere throughout the local region. As a result, brownfields clean-up will also preserve open space nearby and save communities the cost of creating new infrastructure for these greenfields.

Together, these new incentives and investments, and this new cooperation between all levels of government, will enable the private sector to go back to work cleaning up lands abandoned and polluted by the old economy and putting them back into economically productive use in the new economy.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON'S WELFARE REFORMS ARE PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY AND DEMANDING RESPONSIBILITY

"This is not the end of welfare reform, this is the beginning. And we all have to assume responsibility. Now that we are saying with this bill we expect work, we have to make sure the people have a chance to work....

"[W]e have a responsibility, a moral obligation to make sure the people who are being required to work have the opportunity to work. We must make sure the jobs are there...

"The private sector has to provide most of these jobs....I challenge every business person in America who has ever complained about the failure of the welfare system to...hire somebody off of welfare....[W]e all have a responsibility...to give poor people a chance to grow and support their families. I want to build a bridge to the 21st century that ends the permanent underclass, that lifts up the poor and ends their isolation, their exile..."

President Bill Clinton

THE PRESIDENT HAS TRANSFORMED THE BASIC SOCIAL BARGAIN: we now expect both parents to accept primary responsibility to support their own children through work; and we have expanded opportunity by making all work pay a living wage sufficient to support a family:

- In 1993, the President expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to give 15 million working families who need it most a tax cut. He stood firm against the Republican Congress' attempt to throw these families back into poverty by raising their taxes.
- In 1996, The President fought for and won 21.6% increase in the minimum wage over the next two years that will give 10 million working families a pay raise. Together, with the expanded EITC, this will assure that every parent who works can support a family of four above the poverty line.
- Over the past four years, the President enabled 43 states to move forward to end welfare as they knew it by providing waivers for 78 of their own experiments to make welfare a second chance rather than a way of life.
- Since January 1993, the President's economic plan has worked to enable American workers and firms to create 10.5 million net new jobs.
- The President has worked cooperatively with the States to crack down on absent parents who owe child support and to require teen mothers to stay in school and live in their parents' home. The President has sent a message to every prospective parent: every father must accept personal responsibility for paying support for every one of their children; no teen mother can use getting pregnant as an excuse to leave her family or her school; and all young people should defer child-bearing until they graduate from school, get married and get a job so that they are able to take primary responsibility as a family for the support and nurture their children.

THE PRESIDENT'S WELFARE REFORMS ARE PAYING DIVIDENDS:

- 14.6 million working families already earn on average \$1765 more per year after taxes.

- Welfare rolls have already declined by 1.8 million persons since January 1993.
- Child support collections are already up 40%, to \$11 billion.

NOW, PRESIDENT HAS CLINTON SIGNED THE WELFARE BILL TO END WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT. THIS NEW ACT GIVES US ALL A CHANCE -- BUT NOT A GUARANTEE -- FOR FULLY IMPLEMENTING A NEW SOCIAL BARGAIN: assuring health care, child care and nutrition for the children of poor families, but requiring able-bodied parents to work for their income. A paycheck earned by parents from work -- rather than a welfare check from government -- will pay for the support of their children.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S NEW CHALLENGE BEGINS THE PROCESS OF SEIZING THIS HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE WELFARE REFORM WORK:

- Under the new welfare law, **child support from absent parents can become the rule.** Effective enforcement of current support orders alone can remove 600,000 households from the welfare rolls. The President cooperate fully with the states and coordinate the work of courts and laws enforcement to make sure that absent parents meet their responsibilities to support their children, even when they try to hid across state lines.
- Under the new welfare law, **states can now take the money that was spent on a welfare check and use it to help business provide a paycheck for work.** The President is challenging "every state to do it soon."
- Under the new welfare law, **funding for child care and health care** are assured so that parents can go to work knowing that their children are safe and will get medical care if they need it.
- The President has signed into law the **\$2100, 1-year Work-Opportunity-Tax-Credit to encourage employers to hire welfare recipients so that they can earn a paycheck for work.** The President is challenging every business person to respond to the new challenge of making sure that there are jobs available for every parent of whom the new welfare law now demands work.

Together, these four reforms can help most able-bodied recipients substitute the wages of work for the welfare check over the next four years.

But there are a million, longer-term welfare recipients who may be harder to employ over the next four years. **That's why the President is proposing a Welfare-to-Work Challenge to move 1 million longer-term recipients from welfare to work by the year 2000.** This challenge includes:

- **A Targeted \$10,000 Welfare-To-Work Tax Credit.** This tax credit would enable employers to claim a 50% credit on the first \$10,000 in wages for longer term welfare recipients, to claim this credit for up to two years, and to treat employer-provided education and training assistance, health care, and dependant care spending as wages.
- **A \$3 Billion Welfare-To-Work Jobs Initiative.** This initiative will offer \$3,000 for every longer term welfare recipient that is moved from welfare to a job (or jobs) that last at least nine months. States and localities will be encouraged to work in cooperation with the private sector -- business, labor, churches and non-profits -- to develop their

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own plans and job pledges for moving longer-term recipients from welfare to work. Every state, and each of the 100 to 150 communities with the most long-term welfare recipients, is eligible to receive each year for three years its pro rata share of \$1 billion based on its share of the longer term recipients in the country. 25% of the funding each year will be withheld and paid only upon a showing that the new jobs promised are actually being delivered. Building on what works, this initiative encourages states, localities and the private sector to exploit proven job placement strategies, with such work training and follow-up after initial employment as may be necessary to assure successful job placements. The \$3,000 per job assures that this initiative will not be a public jobs program that either threatens to displace public employees or to subsidize make-work jobs.

This is an Historic Opportunity. Unemployment is reaching new lows throughout most of the country and in most local labor markets. The prospects for continued strong job growth for the next for years are very good. The minimum rewards from work have been transformed: all work will provide at least sufficient income after taxes to support a family above the poverty line; and there is increasing opportunity in the new economy to increase earning power through applying new skills learned on the job, in school, or at home on the Information Superhighway to more rewarding jobs. And a new message is spreading in communities all across America: both parents -- and every person who is considering becoming a parent -- now know that they bear primary responsibility for supporting their own children, and that welfare will provide only a short, time limited second chance not a lifetime of support.

As a result, America has an historic opportunity over the next four years to make welfare reform a road out of poverty and into a rewarding life of earning, work and continuous learning for all families who are willing to work. But we will all seize this opportunity to reform welfare by ending the cycle of poverty through the dignity and increasing rewards of work only if the private sector -- the source of over 93% of the new jobs in the new economy -- joins in answering the President's Welfare-to-Work challenge all across the country.

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5

Divider Title: _____

PRESIDENT CLINTON IS COMMITTED TO KEEPING AMERICA'S STREETS SAFE

"At last we have begun to find a way to reduce crime, forming community partnerships with local police forces to catch criminals and prevent crime. This strategy, called community policing, is clearly working. Violent crime is coming down all across America. In New York City, murders are down 25 percent; in St. Louis, 18 percent; in Seattle, 32 percent. But we still have a long way to go before our streets are safe and our people are free from fear."

President Bill Clinton

PRESIDENT CLINTON IS LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME:

In 1994, after more than six years of gridlock and talk, the President fought for and won passage of the toughest, smartest crime bill in the nation's history. It passed with the strong support of every major law enforcement organization in the country, as well as prosecutors, mayors, and state and local officials. The new law provides:

- A targeted **"Three-Strikes-and-You're-Out"** provision to put career violent offenders behind bars for life.
- An expanded **death penalty** for drug kingpins and murderers of federal law enforcement officers, and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
- Funding for **100,000 more prison cells** to help states make sure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
- Increased penalties for **sex offenders** and a registration requirement for violent sexual offenders.
- **\$8.8 billion** in funding to add **100,000 community police officers**, a 20% increase in local police.

The President also stood up to the gun lobby and won passage of the **Brady Bill** and the **Assault Weapons Ban**:

- The Brady law provides for a **5-day waiting period** and background check of prospective handgun buyers to keep guns out of the hands of felons, fugitives and other criminals so they won't threaten to shoot law-abiding citizens.
- The assault weapons provision bans the manufacture and importation of **19 of the deadliest assault weapons**, while specifically protecting more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs -- not hunters and sportsmen.

The President is leading the **fight to end the scourge of domestic violence**:

- Tripled funding for **battered women's shelters**.
- Bolstered local **law enforcement, prosecution and victims services** to better address violence against women through \$26 million in state grants last year and \$130 million more this year. (Violence Against Women Act).

- Improved the responses of police, prosecutors and judges to **domestic violence** and other violence against women; forced sex offenders to pay restitution to their victims.
- Established nationwide a 24-hour **domestic violence hotline** to provide immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals for those in need.

The President is leading the **fight to make schools and communities safer**:

- **enforcing a "Zero Tolerance" gun policy** in schools to keep dangerous weapons out of our children's classrooms
- standing firm against Republican proposals to cut funding for **Safe and Drug-Free Schools** in half. This funding supports local initiatives that improve school security and provide effective drug prevention programs.
- encouraging schools to adopt **school uniforms policies** to help reduce violence, while promoting discipline and respect for learning
- helping to protect families and children who live in **public housing** from gangs, drugs and violent crime by instituting a **"One-Strike and You're Out"** policy for residents who engage in criminal activity
- **fighting gangs** by providing grants to the Youth Gang Initiative Program and COPS/Gangs grants, and establishing a National Gang Tracking Network
- challenging **schools, community centers and churches to stay open late** so that youth can say "No" to the streets, gangs, violence, smoking and drugs and say "Yes" to homework, sports, service, after-school clubs and recreation

THE PRESIDENT'S FIGHT AGAINST CRIME IS BEGINNING TO PAY OFF:

- The Brady Law has stopped more than **60,000 fugitives, felons** and other criminals from purchasing handguns.
- The President's plan to put **100,000 more police officers** on the street through community policing is **ahead of schedule**. In less than two years, **44,000 more officers** have been funded.
- **In each and every year of the Clinton Administration violent crime has gone down** -- the first four-year decline since 1960. The violent crime rate in the 50 largest cities fell 13.4% since 1992, down 6% in 1995 alone. New York's overall crime rate dropped 15% in 1995, San Francisco's 16%, Pittsburgh's 17%.
- **The epidemic of cocaine use is finally abating**. The number of Americans who use cocaine has declined 30% since 1992, but the rate of juvenile use of cigarettes and marijuana continues the rise begun in 1991.
- **Juvenile crime is finally beginning to come down**. The juvenile crime arrest rate decreased 2.9% in 1995 -- the **first decline in seven years**. The juvenile murder arrest rate declined 15.2% last year -- the **largest one year decrease** in more than 10 years. Since 1993, the juvenile murder rate has dropped 22.8%.

These are, in the main, positive signs -- but the President believes that we must do much more to assure the basic right of every law-abiding community and citizen to freedom from crime, violence, and drugs.

President Clinton will extend the fight against crime until all of our streets, neighborhoods, homes, businesses, schools and playgrounds are safe and secure, freed from violence, drugs and crimes:

- **Finish the Job of Putting 100,000 cops on the street.** Continue to fully fund community policing under the Crime Bill so that we can put the next 56,000 additional cops on the beat -- to join those who are already on the streets working every day with communities to prevent crime and to remove violent criminals and to break-up violent gangs.
- **Disarm Domestic Violence Offenders.** Build on the successful Brady Law, with legislation to prohibit those convicted of any offense involving domestic violence -- misdemeanor or felony -- from owning or possessing a firearm.
- **Ban Cop-Killer Bullets.** Current law bans some cop-killer bullets but manufacturers can easily get around the current standard. President Clinton's legislation will save police officers' lives by directing the Secretary of Treasury to promulgate regulations that will prohibit the manufacture, importation, and distribution of handgun ammunition that can pierce standard bullet proof vests.
- **Take Drugs Off Our Streets.** Under the coordination of four-star General Barry McCaffrey, implement and fund a five-part drug prevention strategy:
 - * Motivate America's youth to reject illegal drugs and substance abuse -- redouble and renew the effective communication to youth of the harm of drugs so they will say "No," and continue to challenge schools, churches and community centers to stay open late so that youth can say "Yes" to homework, service, sports, and after-school clubs. Take on the cigarette lobby to prevent them from addicting youth to cigarettes or leading them into using harmful drugs.
 - * Enhance the safety of all Americans by substantially reducing drug-related crime and violence -- by putting the rest of the 100,000 additional cops on the beat to work with communities to prevent crime and remove dope-peddlers from the streets.
 - * Reduce health, welfare and crime costs resulting from illegal drug use by expanding drug treatment and drug testing -- for school athletes to set an example for all students and for all prisons to break the cycle of returning drug-users to the streets to commit more crime and to peddle more drugs.
 - * Shield America's air, land and sea frontiers from the drug threat -- increase support for initiatives such as U.S. Customs' "Operation Hard Line" and increasing the number of border patrols to close down the border to drug traffickers.
 - * Break foreign and domestic sources of supply -- by interdicting drug manufacture and distribution at the source and engaging law enforcement in local communities at home and in every nation abroad in the war against drugs. Such cooperation and tough enforcement works, even to break up the Cali Cartel.

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- **Victims' Rights Constitutional Amendment.** President Clinton calls for a Constitutional Amendment that will provide rights for the victims of crime -- to have notice of, and not to be excluded from, public court proceedings; to be heard by the trial court on release of the accused, the sentence, and acceptance of any plea, if present at the proceedings; to have notice and to attend and be heard in parole hearings; to be given notice of any release or escape from custody of the defendant; to restitution from the defendant; to reasonable measures to protect the victim from violence and intimidation by the defendant; and to notice of these rights.
- **Gun-Free School Zones.** President Clinton's legislation would return a badly needed 1000-foot gun-free safety zone around schools throughout the country.

The nation's first civil rights law, the 1866 Civil Rights Act, sought to guarantee the basic civil right of safety and security of person and property enjoyed by whites to the newly emancipated slaves. This basic civil right is just as fundamental to all Americans today as it was 133 years ago. Safety and security of person and property is essential for any community, family, business or school to thrive in the new economy. Freedom from crime, violence and drugs is at least as vital to every distressed inner-city neighborhood as to any gated community on the outer edges of metropolitan American.

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6

Divider Title: _____

PRESIDENT CLINTON IS WORKING TO ENABLE ALL AMERICANS TO LEARN THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO THRIVE IN THE NEW ECONOMY

"I want to build a bridge to the 21st century in which we expand opportunity through education, where....every 8-year-old will be able to read; every 12-year old will be able to log in on the Internet; every 18-year old will be able to go to college. And all Americans will have the knowledge they need to cross that bridge to the 21st century."

President Clinton

PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS EXPANDED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS:

- **Increasing Federal Investment.** Within his balanced budget, \$1 trillion deficit reduction package over seven years, the President made the tough choices to increase federal investment in education and training by a total of \$[x] billion from 1993 through 2002 and to stand firm against misguided Republican attempts to slash \$[x] billion from federal investment in education and training in 1996 alone.
- **Fighting for Reforms that will help Prepare Every Child to Learn and Equip Them with Skills for the 21st Century,** including
 - Head Start:** increased funding and improved quality for early education provided to pre-school children in need, with additional funding to assure that a total of 1 million children get a real Head Start in essential language development and reading by the year 2002.
 - High Academic Standards:** signed the Goals 2000 Act and the Improving America's Schools Act and increased federal support to enable states and local communities to develop their own strategies for improving achievement by all students, based on challenging academic standards, improving teaching, increasing parental involvement and expanding the use of technology in the classroom.
 - Safe, Drug-Free, Gun-Free Schools:** increased funding to help schools provide safety, security and discipline for students to learn -- with zero tolerance for any guns or drugs in school. President Clinton has also supported schools that use school uniforms to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect for student learning.
 - Connecting to the Information Superhighway:** signed the landmark Telecommunications Act of 1996 and launched a Local Innovation Challenge to spur business, educators and communities to connect each child in every classroom throughout America to the Information Superhighway, to open up the world's storehouse of knowledge to every student, and to develop new interactive learning opportunities for all students.
 - School-to-Work Opportunities:** signed this landmark legislation to provide seed capital to states and local communities to join schools with business partners to expand work-based learning opportunities for high school students. Already 27 states are working to assure that their students can meet high

academic standards and choose among clearer pathways from school to internships, apprenticeships, higher education, good jobs and lifelong learning rather than being tracked into watered down curriculum, dropping out or dead-end jobs. For FY97 the President proposes to increase funding to enable the rest of states to create their own local partnerships to expand School-to-Work opportunities for all interested students by the year 2000.

- **Opening wider the doors of lifelong learning, including**
 - Increasing Pell Grants:** increased the size of Pell Grant from \$2300 to \$2470 per year to help low- and moderate- income families pay for college for themselves and for their children. For FY 97 the President has proposed a further increase to \$2,700 for 3.8 million students.
 - National Service:** signed into law the AmeriCorps program to enable young people to earn money for college by serving their communities and their country. In the past two years alone, 45,000 Americorps participants have worked in schools, hospitals, neighborhoods and parks, a larger number per year than in any year of the Peace Corps. For FY 97 the President has proposed increased funding to enable 50% more participants to join Americorps each year and earn their way to college by serving America's communities.
 - More Affordable College Loans:** transformed the student loan program -- to make college more affordable for students, to enable schools to make loans directly to students, and to provide borrowers with flexible repayment options, including a pay-as-you earn plan. This enables every person at any time in their life to invest in learning the skills they choose to get ahead and then to repay the loan at a rate based on their future earnings.
 - One Stop Career Centers and America's Job Bank:** transformed job search centers to become convenient, customer-responsive sources of good information on jobs, requisite skills, and the performance of education and training providers for workers seeking new and better jobs. Created an electronic "job bank" on which growing numbers of employers are listing their hiring opportunities, which hundreds of thousands of workers are already conveniently accessing to make their own choices in considering new and better jobs.

AMERICAN EDUCATION IS BEGINNING TO ANSWER THE CHALLENGE UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON:

- **The proportion of high school students taking the tough core of academic subjects has increased --** to 52% in 1994, up from 40% in 1990.
- **Student achievement is generally up --** a higher proportion of students are graduating from high school; achievement on college entrance exams is rising with a higher proportion of students taking the tests; and the gap between whites and blacks has narrowed substantially, with the drop-out rates for blacks falling from 18.2% in 1982 to 12.1% in 1995 and for whites from 11.4% to 8.6%.
- **The proportion of high school graduates going to college is up --** to an all-time high for 18-24 year olds in 1994. Post-secondary enrollment for persons under 35

years old increased from 11.6 million in 1992 to 12.4 million in 1995. In the 1995-96 academic year, reform of the student loan program reduced fees for 4.5 million borrowers, with each student saving on average \$115 and their parents another \$140. All borrowers benefitted from the competition provided by direct lending, as guaranteed lenders reduced their costs and fees and made their loan services more conveniently available.

But this is only a beginning, and much more needs to be done. Skills matter more than ever before. Each year of education or job training after high school -- whenever it occurs in a person's life -- already increases average earnings power by 6 to 12%; and workers who use computers in their work earn on average 15% more than similar workers who don't. In the new economy, every American deserves the opportunity to learn new skills for higher-paying work; and enabling America's students and workers to use new information technologies will put the opportunity of an even more rewarding future at the fingertips of working families throughout the country.

That's why the President is proposing that we all do much more -- to enable every child, student, parent and worker to get the education and skills they need to thrive in the new economy:

- **\$2.75 Billion "America Reads" Challenge** -- so that every child by age 8 can point to a book and say, "I read it all by myself." This initiative will encourage all parents as first teachers to turn off the TV and read for thirty minutes a night with their young children; provide 1 million, needy three- and four-year olds with a good Head Start; create a reading corps of 30,000 well-trained specialists and National Service participants to mobilize 1 million tutors to provide extra reading help before and after school and during the summers for the 20,000 schools and 3 million children with the greatest need.
- **\$2 Billion Technology Literacy Challenge** -- to leverage state, local, and private sector support to connect every classroom and library to the Information Superhighway by the year 2000, with computers and well-trained teachers, and learning on-line with the world's storehouse of knowledge, fellow students, expert tutors, and engaging new education software. It's time to turn off Mortal Kombat and to turn on interactive learning for the 21st century.
- **\$5 Billion School Construction Initiative** -- to spur an additional \$20 billion investment in new school construction and renovation by the year 2000 to rebuild schools for the increasing student enrollment who deserve safe schools equipped for students to learn with 21st century technology.
- **After-School Challenge** -- to call on localities to keep schools, community centers, and churches open late and in the summer so that young people can say "No" to the streets, violence and drugs and say "Yes" in safe havens to home-work, service activities, sports and recreation, and drama, debate, school paper, business enterprise and a variety of other clubs and rewarding extra-curricular activities.

- **Challenge States and Schools, Business and Colleges, Principals and Teachers, and Students and Parents to Accept Greater Responsibility for Achieving High Standards** -- to insist that students pass tough tests to move from one school level to the next and to graduate from high school with a diploma that means something to employers and colleges; reward good teachers and remove those who don't measure up; empower teachers to form new schools with a charter they can keep only if they do a good job by their students; provide all parents with the right to choose the public school their children will attend; and provide each parent and student with good information on their child's progress and each school's performance, so that each family can choose the public school that will do best by their child.
- **Make at least Two Years of College as Universal as High School Education is today** -- with a \$1500 Hope Scholarship tax cut for the first year with another \$1500 tax credit for the second year if the student earns a "b" average or better; increasing the size of Pell Grants by a full one-third to help needy students afford college; provide \$1,000 Honors Scholarships for the top 5% of graduating students from every high school; expand College Work-Study so that 1 million students can work their way through college; and expand National Service so more youth can serve their communities while earning money for college.
- **Make the opportunity of lifelong learning available to every single American who wants to invest their time in learning new skills for a more rewarding future** -- supplement the Hope Scholarships and increased Pell Grants with a \$10,000 tax deduction for the costs of education and training; penalty-free withdrawals from IRA's for education expenses; a tax deduction to all firms for paying tuition costs for their workers, with an additional 10% credit for tuition payments by small businesses for their workers; and a G.I. Bill for America's Workers that offers a \$2600 Skill Grant and good information on skills, jobs, and education and training opportunities to unemployed and underemployed workers so they can choose for themselves what skills to learn to find new and better jobs.

President Clinton is committed to insuring that every American who is willing to work at it has the opportunity to learn the skills they choose to thrive in the 21st century.

Now, that is a bridge to the future that's worth building for all Americans. Especially for persons trapped in a cycle of poverty in a distressed inner-city neighborhood, education and skills offer a bridge to the rewards and dignity of work and to realizing the prospect of building an even more rewarding future in new and better jobs.