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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We ended the 20th Century, and now begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to act on our hopes for our children. No better moment to dream new dreams for our nation.

We are achieving an economic revolution. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years – and the largest budget surplus in history.

Next month, as we mark the 107th month of this economic expansion, America will achieve the longest period of prosperity in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a remarkable revival of the American spirit. Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, sending teen births down seven years in a row and adoptions up by 30 percent? Seven million of our fellow citizens have broken the bonds of poverty. Seven million Americans have ~~moved from welfare to work.~~ *left and on many* *up*

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people. You work every day to pay your taxes, raise your families and live your dreams. Thanks to you, our nation is prepared for the new century.

My gratitude also goes to all of you in this chamber who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

In 1993 we passed an historic deficit reduction plan that helped put America on track to the longest economic expansion in our history. Tonight I want to recognize a man who played a key role in that effort, my first Secretary of the Treasury, your former colleague and always a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentsen.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong?"

But in the best traditions of our nation, from the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all and a community of all Americans.

That's how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by discarding government but by reinventing it, and moving forward with fiscal discipline. That's how we have cut crime – not by debating prevention or punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That's how we have protected our environment – not by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by pursuing both.

Opportunity and responsibility: That's how we ended welfare as we knew it. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That's how we are opening the doors to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. ~~That's how~~ We have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. ~~That's how~~ We have seized the opportunities of a global era – with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products. ~~And that's how~~ we are meeting the threats to peace by standing against ethnic and religious hatred, and standing up for our interests and values around the world.

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. But we have work to do and great goals to reach. We will get there only if we stay on the path that got us here. Building on our progress ... always moving forward ... always gaining ground.

But we must not let our renewed confidence grow into complacency. Because you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. So let's get moving.

I ask you again this year to set aside the surplus to pay down the debt. To save social security, and extend its life the next 50 years. I ask you to secure Medicare so that this generation of older Americans -- and the next -- never have to worry about medical care. And let us provide a prescription drug benefit so that no senior has to choose between medicine and food.

I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. Pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Pass meaningful hate crimes legislation. And I ask you again to raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the start of our journey. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt at the dawn of the last century called "the long look ahead."

We live in revolutionary times. The way we communicate. The way we work. The way we learn. The way we live. The way we are and the people we are becoming. ~~We have not only passed a point in time, we~~ have crossed our bridge into the 21st century. We must now shape a 21st century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community, equal to the challenges of our times. America is an ongoing revolution. We are, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom has not been accomplished with one march -- but requires constant commitment and sacrifice. And always with our eyes on the prize. The dreams that drive us on are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides step by step.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. We need first and foremost a 21st century revolution in education, guided by our faith that all our children can learn and that all our people can succeed.

For seven years we have pursued a fundamental strategy on education: Invest more, yet demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades, for two years in a row. This year, I call on Congress to make it three in a row.

Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-ferd] Elementary in South Carolina. Classified five years ago as one of the state's worst-performing schools, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs to help students to

meet those standards. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. The principal of Beaufort, Ruth Summerlin, is with us here tonight. Thank you for proving what all our children can do.

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools -- to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that many states and districts have managed to turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down and allow parents to choose other public schools for their children. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts more resources to do the same. This year, let's double that investment. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.

We know that children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 160,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. If we do this, we can build the foundation for universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to reward good teachers, and to ensure that bad ones leave the classroom, swiftly and fairly.

We know that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair -- with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose a new, \$1.3 billion to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide -- so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today there are 1700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3000, so that when parents choose a public school they have real choice.

We know that to make the American Dream more achievable, we must make college more affordable. For seven years, we have taken actions, on a bipartisan basis, to reach that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Our efforts are clearly paying off. Today, 67 percent of students who graduate high school go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet still, millions of middle class families are feeling the strain of paying college tuition. They need help.

In an economy that increasingly runs on brain power, we should give tax relief to people who are investing in education. My budget provides a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut, to help millions of middle-class families pay for college. It will give families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs--providing as much as \$2,800 in much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus Hope Scholarships and other aid, we can say that every American who wants to go to college can go.

We must also say to middle school students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may think college is unaffordable, or not for them, that it is for them. My budget doubles to 1.4 million the number of at-risk middle school students who receive mentoring by college students. It offers disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. And it provides grants to colleges to help disadvantaged students succeed once they're in college.

If you have any doubt that by reaching across party lines, we can lift the lives of children, consider this: the thirty percent increase in the number of children adopted out of foster care. The first real increase in thirty years. And it happened because a bipartisan majority worked with us to make it happen. And we are improving foster care for the children it serves and supporting those who turn 18 and leave foster care without a permanent home. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has led in this effort, someone who has worked tirelessly for children as long as I have known her: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families. That has been the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage. When you work hard and play by the rules, you should be rewarded. From your standard of living to your self-respect.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for working families. The "E" in "EITC" is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone the EITC

helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. They're working hard to reach the middle class. And we should help them.

Two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved funds for 110,000 more working families to live closer to the workplace. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

We must never forget the Americans who have no home but the shelters or the streets. At a time of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to ending homelessness and ensuring that all Americans – every veteran, every person with a mental illness, every family – have a place to call home. I want to thank someone who has made that her personal mission. Who is working day after day directly with homeless people Tipper Gore.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making \$7K a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means \$7K more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1993, many workers lost their coverage when they changed or lost their jobs; many lost their jobs when they took time off to care for a sick loved one. And when employers failed to provide it, many working families had nowhere to turn to provide health care for their children.

Working together, we have changed that: by providing family and medical leave; by protecting coverage between jobs; and by passing a Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. Our goal is to cover up to 5 million; so we're well on our way. The more children we cover, the more can begin healthy lives: the childhood immunization rate is now 90 percent, an all-time high.

But there are too many – far too many – uninsured children. To enroll more of them, we should go where they're found – schools, churches, child-care centers – and do it there. And

let's take an even bigger step. In four out of five cases, uninsured kids have uninsured parents. So let's do what Vice President Gore suggests and enroll the parents, too. I propose new legislation to make these parents eligible for the programs that cover their kids.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit, to make this option more affordable.

We must also do more to care for the caregivers – the record numbers of American families providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common choice, but rarely an easy – or inexpensive – one. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. This year, let's triple that – to \$3,000. That would cover up to 60 percent of a family's long-term care costs. Let's recognize and reward the sacrifice they're making.

If we really want to reward work and family, let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: more single mothers are working than ever, and the women's unemployment rate is the lowest in almost 50 years. But women earn less than 77 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. We should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. My budget also provides much needed resources to enforce present equal pay laws, and to train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs.

This year, I again propose a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars.

And to absent parents who owe child support, we should pass legislation that says: we'll help you do right by your children, but from now on, you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. In the face of enormous pressure from the gun lobby, the Senate, acting with courage and responsibility, and with a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President, passed the legislation. This year, I hope the House will finally follow suit. The lives of our children depend on it.

Last year, in Littleton, Colorado, we all saw what can happen when guns are allowed to fall into the wrong hands. One of the students killed at Columbine High School was Daniel Mauser, age 15. Daniel was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. It is hard, maybe impossible, to comprehend the grief his father Tom must feel. But Tom has translated that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to advocate for tougher gun safety laws. His presence here is an inspiration. Passing common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states require licenses for handgun purchasers as well.

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books, I say: we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we must do more. I propose to hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. I thank those gun manufacturers who have worked on this. And I invite all manufacturers to help us keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. The entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programs and video and Internet games. This year, I ask the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents what they need: a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons and jails, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. More often than not, drugs are a major part of the problem. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are up to 70 percent less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time. I also propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so that they can become responsible citizens, family members, and employees.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

For our economy to continue enjoying rapid growth without inflation, we need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets. It is vital that businesses find new opportunities and new workers. I believe they exist right here in America -- in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we can expand the circle of opportunity to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

Businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in foreign markets. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$15 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. I thank you for your commitment and I pledge to work with you.

Last summer, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. My budget increases our investment in health care, education,

law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to the first Americans -- Native Americans.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I feared it would work well in good times but not in bad -- especially for family farmers. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We simply must change the Farm Bill and strengthen the Farm Safety Net.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the "digital divide" -- between those with access to the new economy and those without it. The technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can share in our prosperity. My budget creates technology centers in 1,000 neighborhoods across our land -- connecting poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also mobilizes the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Every American must have the tools to succeed.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

It is not enough to master the possibilities of the new economy at home. We must also lead in the revolution that is reshaping the global economy -- and indeed the entire globe.

At the dawn of this new century, the economic and military might of America are unrivaled. These are the measures of American power, as they have long been. But the central reality of our time is globalization -- a process tearing down barriers between nations, peoples, economies, and cultures so that what happens anywhere is felt everywhere. The change can be liberating and threatening. But the bottom line is clear: The world is coming together around ideals Americans have long proclaimed, fought for and tried to live. And it is our open, creative society that stands to benefit more than any other.

Globalization is irreversible. The way to advance our interests is to stand at the center of every vital global network. America will remain a strong leader by being a good partner -- to old allies and to new ones, and to nations that need a helping hand. And we will remain true to what makes us Americans by standing strong for our values.

International trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and growing fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade -- and the WTO -- more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. What we seek is a global economy based on the rule of law.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules America does. For America's companies and workers, this will open new opportunities in every sector of China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal

Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is vital not just for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our plans to open new trade opportunities with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we do so, we will help Americans master the new economy . . . and help others to become masters of their own future.

Still, our modern world is bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders clinging to power or waging war on their neighbors. History teaches that big wars start small. And when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is our common humanity that suffers.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update; essential that America does its share.] We should be proud of our role in building peace from Northern Ireland, to East Timor, to Africa . . . in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey . . . and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and made it possible for a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic, and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who, each in his own way, has given his best – and America's best – to the cause of peace. In Kosovo, when Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – flying straight into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring home the pilot of a downed American plane. And in Northern Ireland, when the peace process stalled, I asked the man who had done so much to start it to go back again to save it. And now, thanks to George Mitchell, the people of Northern Ireland finally have a working government representing all parties. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, you have our gratitude, and our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A central challenge of this new century is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, Russia is weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But so much else has changed: 5,000 Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving by our side, keeping peace in the Balkans. Russia's long journey to democracy may be difficult, it may not be complete; but it is profoundly important to America and the world. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part.

In China, we must promote our interests with firmness, but not in fear. China cannot buy stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces of change. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

We face another challenge: whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire new means to undermine our defenses. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror – chemical, biological, nuclear – easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat. By working with Russia to keep deadly weapons and materials secure and continuing to reduce our nuclear arsenals; by restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; by preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors; and by strengthening global standards against proliferation. I am committed to working with the Senate - on a bipartisan basis - to build a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

America is increasing its preparedness for potential biological attack, and developing a system to defend ourselves against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. My budget devotes \$2 billion to protect our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country.

To have a more stable world, we must narrow the gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of the new economy while another lives on the bare edge of survival. Expanded trade is part of the answer. But the real answer is freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by countries like Colombia, fighting for its own people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drug trafficking. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia; and I count on your support. And if we want to put the drug lords out of business, let's go after what they value most: their money. This year, I will propose legislation to crack down harder on money laundering, here and around the world.

America must help more nations to break the bonds of disease that hold down their people. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests \$150 million in the global fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in a new initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry: if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them and, together, lift millions of lives.

All this comes down to a single central challenge, the most important one of all, will America continue to lead. In the 20th Century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now, America must choose: to direct the new forces of history or be driven by them.

The choice is clear. America must not grow complacent; we cannot presume that the fight for freedom is fully won. No peace can endure unless it is backed by the leadership of great nations. So America must lead boldly and consistently and without reservation. Because freedom is always in America's interest.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st-Century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the one percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building a stronger global community will only strengthen our own community here at home.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment – and to finally put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. For as our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; and taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land.

But our communities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose to strengthen this initiative with new funding to help communities build advanced transit systems and save farms, parks, and other precious open spaces.

As we work to protect our land, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the

Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, the seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year.

There is no question that we can reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Thanks to remarkable new technologies, I am absolutely convinced that we can do it in ways that will produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

In California, the Departments of Energy and Housing and Urban Development helped build a moderate-income housing community with windows that keep out four or five times as much heat and cold as ordinary windows do. With these and other readily-available technologies, we thought we'd be able to save homeowners 40% off their energy bills. It turns out, they're saving 65%.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, the world got a chance to see cars we've helped automakers develop which use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon. Next on the horizon are even more efficient cars powered by fuel cells that emit pure water and nothing else. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To spur these new technologies, I propose giving our families a tax credit worth up to \$3,000 a car when new super-efficient vehicles hit the showroom floor. But let me be clear: We have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. I want to thank the automakers who have joined our Partnership for New Generation Vehicles and I ask more of them to join with us to design a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

We must also meet this worldwide challenge by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. It is simply no longer true that to prosper you have to pollute the air and endanger the Earth. Nations that long for the level of prosperity we take for granted need not follow the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Innovations in science and technology are key not only to enhancing the environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, advances in the quality of our lives.

In the last century alone, the life expectancy for the average American has increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of far greater advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better. Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. Since so many diseases have a genetic component, the completion of this project will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS.

Consider the implications: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

Thanks to the Human Genome Project, scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they are already working to create precision proteins that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Not if but when they succeed, millions and men and women will be cured of this dread disease – even those whose symptoms have not even begun to emerge.

[insert acknowledgment and introduction of Michael J. Fox]

Advances in science and technology will surely produce quantum leaps in many other fields as well. In the future we will have new materials ten times as strong as steel but ten times lighter ... computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak ... devices the size of sugar cubes that can store all the information contained the Library of Congress.

These and other innovations could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to the rise of the Internet and other information technologies. And the high-tech jobs this industry creates are high-wage jobs paying nearly 80 percent more than the private-sector average.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will increase support for biomedical research, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research. We will also help propel NASA's never-ending quest in space. NASA's missions to Mars and into the heavens beyond are just as important to humankind today as the brave sea voyages of the explorers hundreds of years ago. As President Kennedy once said, "We choose to do these things not because they are easy but because they are hard."

It is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said

when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us -- enhancing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

COMMUNITY

At a time of unprecedented prosperity, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to reach out beyond ourselves to help those who are less fortunate and to build stronger communities. The most important work of America occurs outside the realm of government -- in our houses of worship, in our clubs and charities and volunteer groups. Service is not only the way we tackle some of our most pressing problems -- from drug abuse and homelessness, to health care and crime -- it is one of the best ways to come face to face with our common humanity. Our differences suddenly become less important when you are working side by side with your neighbors to rebuild a church, battle a flood or feed the hungry.

So, our long look ahead must include ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. We are already in the midst of a new service movement in America. And one of the things I am most proud of is our efforts to support that movement through greater partnerships with private citizens. This is a new model for government that energizes private resources for noble public ends. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving welfare. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Over the past seven years we have created many other successful partnerships. To fight drug abuse and AIDS. To teach our young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To fight crime and promote community policing. To promote racial healing and build One America. To prevent youth violence. To create cleaner cars. To help our young people serve.

When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless--often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

If we really do believe that charity begins at home, we must do more to reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only people who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives that will allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction. That will not only help them, it will be an incentive for more Americans to give to worthy causes.

There are more than twice as many seniors today as there were in 1960. And by 2030, the senior population will grow by over 75 percent. I hope to be one of them. This is a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve.

So, tonight, I say to seniors across America -- we need you. We need your work, your wisdom and your service. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are.

We must do more to bring more people into the circle of citizenship and service -- from supporting the efforts of faith-based organizations to increasing our investment, as we are this year, in teaching English and civics to new immigrants.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. Two generations ago, Franklin Roosevelt used the new medium of radio for his fireside chats. Starting next month, I will use the new medium of the Internet to launch Webside Chats. These interactive discussions will give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

America is demographically undergoing one of the great transformations in our history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there is likely to be no majority race in America. We know what America will look like then. The question before us tonight is: What kind of America will we be? In a more

interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen in recent years, from Northern Ireland to Africa ... from Bosnia to the Middle East, racial and ethnic conflict too often spark war and terror. And no country is exempt from hatred – even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In just the last year, we've seen the shootings and killings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we not only tolerate diversity, we celebrate it. Diversity is our greatest strength – and we must protect it. We must without further delay, pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of every American. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. That is why my budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from religious leaders to corporate leaders to lawyers to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember, all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent. Science affirms what faith has always taught us: the differences between us are nothing compared to our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the state of the union, I approach it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop, with a new millennium spread out before us. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead even wider frontiers of possibility.

So, as we take our long look ahead, we must ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise?

Tonight, let us pledge to ourselves and to our children:

At a time of undreamed of economic growth, we will, step by step, bring prosperity in reach of every American in every community.

At a time of record surpluses, we will, step by step, make America debt free for the first time since 1835.

At a time when Americans are living longer than ever, let's make sure they live healthier than ever. Let's provide quality, affordable healthcare for everyone in America.

At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, let us realize their full promise and, at every step, harness our progress to our values.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and protect the environment, let's also prove that, step by step, we can reverse climate change and make our planet a more livable place.

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's finish the job of making America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more parents are working, let's ensure that all parents have the tools to do well at work and at the most important work of all – raising their children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's guarantee that every child will begin school ready to learn and will graduate ready to succeed.

At a time when globalization brings both new promise and new perils, let us continue to be the world's indispensable nation.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always pledged to be – one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

We know we will not be able to do this in one year alone. Or even in the decade ahead. But we will reach these goals, the way we always have: working together, moving ahead, step by step, as One America.

When the framers were crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin was often seen in Independence Hall looking at a painting of the sun low on the horizon. When, at long last, the Constitution finally was signed, Mr. Franklin, said: "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Today the sun continues to shine brightly on America, as each successive generation relights the fire of freedom. Even after 224 years, the American revolution continues -- and we remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. And that is our destiny.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values – of freedom and democracy – been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

We are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong – the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, but something even more important: a revival of the American spirit. ~~Across our land we see a renewal of responsibility and the bonds of community.~~ Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, sending teen births down seven years in a row and adoptions up by 30 percent? ~~Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.~~

And to our people:

Tonight it is clear: We have built our bridge to the 21st Century.

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people. You pay your taxes, raise your families and live your dreams. You are the body and soul of America. Thanks to you, our nation is prepared for the new century.

My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

In 1993 we passed an historic deficit reduction plan that helped put America on track to the longest economic expansion in our history. Tonight I want to recognize a man who played a key role in that effort, my first Secretary of the Treasury, your former colleague and always a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentsen.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong?"

But in the best traditions of our nation, ^{state old fight 5/11 CIA} from the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to ^{we} set things right. We replaced ~~outdated ideologies~~ with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all and a community of all Americans. ~~That was~~ ^{those} have been our principles. And day after day, we've been putting them into practice.

That's how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That's how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That's how we have protected our environment – not by ~~regulating a trade-off between~~ ^{putting} economic growth and environmental progress, but by achieving both. ^{9/9/01}

That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – by ending dependency and empowering millions to go to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That's how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements, by standing against ethnic and religious hatred and standing up for our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. ~~Never in my lifetime has our nation known such progress, prosperity and promise.~~ But we must not let our confidence grow into complacency. ~~That would be a big mistake, because we~~ still have a lot of work to do...a lot of goals to reach.

We will reach them if we stay on the path that got us here...building on our progress, step by step, always moving forward, always gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. So let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security, extending its life beyond the Baby Boomer generation. Let's reform and modernize Medicare, lengthening its life and adding a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. And let's raise the minimum wage.

But that will only be the start of our journey. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called "the long look ahead."

Tonight, I will propose the ^{1st steps} ~~first steps~~ into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a ~~New Opportunity~~ Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: "Opportunity for all."

This new agenda updates an old American value for the Information Age. Two centuries ago, at our nation's founding, opportunity meant, most of all, the freedom to carve a farm and an existence out of the frontier. Fifty years ago, opportunity meant a high school education – or even the G.I. Bill – and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means changing careers and a lifetime of learning. It means mastering the tools and technologies of the new economy, in which ideas and information are the keys to success.

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. They must be guided, first and foremost, by our faith that all children can learn and all adults can succeed.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades, for two years in a row. This year, I call on Congress to make it three in a row.

~~With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.~~

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-ferd] Elementary in South Carolina. Classified five years ago as one of the state's worst-performing schools, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs to help students to meet those standards. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local

parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. The principal of Beaufort, Ruth Summerlin, is with us here tonight. Thank you for proving what all our children can do.

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents. *And too many more that want to put off the reckoning.*

*back if
stuck*

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools -- to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

We know that many states and districts have managed to turn around their worst-performing schools--or shut them down and allow parents to choose other public schools for their children. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts more resources to do the same. This year, let's double that investment. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.

\$1B

We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 160,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can build a foundation for providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America.

\$1.3

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to improve teacher quality. It will help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest people into the teaching profession. It will help raise salaries for good teachers, and ensure that bad teachers leave the classroom, swiftly and fairly.

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair -- with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose a new, \$1.3 billion program of grants and interest-free loans to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide -- so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today there are 1700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3000.

We know that to make the American Dream more achievable, we must make college more affordable. For seven years, we have taken actions, on a bipartisan basis, to reach that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Our efforts are clearly paying off. Today, 67 percent of students who graduate high school go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993.

But as the benefits of a college degree have gone up, so have tuitions. Millions of middle class families are feeling the strain, and they need help. We give tax relief to businesses that invest in new plants and equipment. In an economy that increasingly runs on brain power, we should give tax relief to people who are investing in education. My budget provides a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut, to help millions of middle-class families pay for college. It will give families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs--providing as much as \$2,800 in much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus Hope Scholarships and other aid, we can say that every American who wants to go to college can go.

We must also say to middle school students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may think college is unaffordable, or not for them, that they can go to college. The aid is there, if they prepare. Our Gear Up program does that, by matching college student mentors with at-risk middle school students. My budget doubles the number of students who can participate in Gear-Up to 1.4 million young people. It also helps bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet. It offers disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. And it provides grants to colleges to help disadvantaged students succeed once they're in college.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

If you have any doubt that by reaching across party lines, we can lift the lives of children, consider this: in the last four years, we have increased the number of children adopted out of the foster care system by 30 percent. That is the first substantial increase in 20 years, and it happened because a bipartisan majority in Congress worked with us and made it happen. Tens of thousands more children now enjoy the warmth and confidence that comes from having a permanent place to call home. And we are improving foster care for the children it serves and supporting those who turn 18 and leave foster care without a permanent home. Tonight, I want to honor the person who led our administration's efforts to achieve these goals, someone who has worked tirelessly for children as long as I have known her: First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. The basic goal of so much of what we have done – from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage – has been to encourage work and to reward working families; to give more opportunities for a better life to all responsible enough to work for it.

When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should happen. From your standard of living to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for working families. The "E" in "EITC" is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I again propose that Congress expand the EITC – substantially. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the typical family to pay three months' mortgage or eight months of health care coverage. And it's an added incentive to work their way into the middle class. They're working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

Two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – rent subsidies to help working families live closer to the workplace. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

We must never forget the Americans who have no home but the shelters or the streets. At a time of prosperity, we must dedicate ourselves to ending homelessness and ensuring that all Americans – every veteran, every person with a mental illness, every family – have a place to call home. I want to thank someone who has made that her personal mission. Tipper Gore.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with the funds secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making \$TK,000 a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means \$TK00 more for child-care costs. Let's get this done. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1993, many workers lost their coverage when they changed or lost their jobs; many lost their jobs when they took time off to care for a sick loved one. And when employers failed to provide it, many working families had nowhere to turn to provide health care for their children.

Working together, we have changed that: by providing family and medical leave; by protecting coverage between jobs; and by passing a Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. Our goal is to cover up to 5 million; so we're well on our way. The more children we cover, the more can begin healthy lives: the childhood immunization rate is now 90 percent, an all-time high.

But there are too many – far too many – uninsured children. To enroll more of them, we should go where they're found – schools, churches, child-care centers – and do it there. And let's take an even bigger step. In four out of five cases, uninsured kids have uninsured parents. So let's do what the Vice President suggests and enroll the parents, too. I propose new legislation to make these parents eligible for the programs that cover their kids.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit, to make this option more affordable.

If we really want to reward work and family, let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: more single mothers are working than ever, and the women's unemployment rate is the lowest in 47 years. But women earn only 75 cents for every dollar men earn. ~~That's just not good enough.~~ We should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. My budget also provides much needed resources to enforce ~~present~~ equal pay laws, and to train more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs.

This year, I again propose a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. ~~Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the dignity of a paycheck.~~ Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

~~and must work~~
And to absent parents who owe child support, we should pass legislation that says: we'll help you do right by your children, but ~~from now on~~ you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

For our economy to continue enjoying rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that corporations find new workers, new opportunities, and new markets. I believe they exist right here in America – in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations – places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places – joined by many of you – to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we can expand the circle of opportunity to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

Businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in foreign markets. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$15 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. I thank you for your commitment and I pledge to work with you.

Last summer, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I feared it would work well in good times but not in bad – especially for family farmers. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We simply must strengthen the farm safety net.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the “digital divide” – between those with access to the new economy and those without it. The technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can share in our prosperity. My budget creates technology centers in 1,000 neighborhoods across our land – connecting poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also mobilizes

the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. ~~Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.~~

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

Our international trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector or China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At the dawn of this new century, the economic and military might of America are unrivaled and our ideals are undiminished. These are the measures of American power, as they have long been. But the central reality of our time is globalization – the growing interdependence of our world, a world drawn closer together by new technologies like the Internet and new threats like global warming, or terrorism, that know no borders. Globalization is irreversible. The only way to advance our interests is to stand at the center of every vital global network. In a world ever changing, ever more interconnected and interdependent, America will remain a strong leader by being a good partner – to old allies and to new ones, and to the nations that need a helping hand. We will remain true to what makes us Americans by standing strong for our values. We have an opportunity, and a deep responsibility, to strengthen our own peace and freedom by helping others to secure theirs.

So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will define the 21st Century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders clinging to power or waging brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where we have interests at stake and the chance to make a difference, we must be peacemakers. History teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is all of humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of America's role in bringing peace to Northern Ireland, to East Timor, to Africa . . . in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey . . . in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return to their homes in Kosovo. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic, and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who have placed power and persuasion in service of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unloosed terror in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, I asked the man who did so much to start it to go back one more time to save it. And now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, you have our gratitude, and our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, Russia is weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But think how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a thousand years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy may be hard, but it is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part.

In China, we must promote our interests with firmness, but not in fear. China cannot buy stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces that empower its people to seek better lives. [We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.]

A third question is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire new means to undermine our defenses. For the same technologies that put the likes of cell phones in so many hands will also make weapons of terror, including biological weapons, easier to conceal and to use.

We must meet this threat – not with panic, but with prudence – working with Russia to keep deadly weapons and materials secure and continue to reduce our nuclear arsenals. Restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran. Preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And strengthening global standards against proliferation. I am committed to working with the Senate – and on a bipartisan basis – to build a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also increasing our preparedness for a potential biological attack, and developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations – while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my budget devotes \$2 billion to protect America's cyberspace from hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st-Century world will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must struggle to deliver for their people.

We must stand by democracies like Colombia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as did war. My budget calls for a \$150 million investment in the global fight against this and other global infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the one percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. In the face of enormous pressure from the gun lobby, the Senate, acting with courage and responsibility, and with a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President, passed the legislation. This year, I hope the House will follow suit. The lives of our children depend on it.

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Last year, in Littleton, Colorado, we all saw what can happen when guns are allowed to fall into the wrong hands. One of the students killed at Columbine High School was Daniel Mauser, age 15. Daniel was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. It is hard, maybe impossible, to comprehend the grief his father Tom must feel. But Tom has translated that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to advocate for tougher gun safety laws. His presence here is an inspiration. Passing common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states ~~have~~ *require* licenses for gun purchasers as well. *2 hand*

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books, I say: we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today

than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we must do more. We should hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. I thank the gun manufacturers who are working with us to find new ways to make sure that the guns they sell don't end up in the wrong hands. Invite the rest of the industry to join us.

Every parent I know worries about violence in the media. The entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programs and video and Internet games. This year, I ask the industry to go farther. Let's do as the First Lady has suggested, and give parents what they need: a single, voluntary rating system for all their children's entertainment -- a system that is easy to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons and jails, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. More often than not, drugs are a major part of the problem. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are up to 70 percent less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time. I also propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible family members, citizens and employees. (This will be good for our communities, and, at a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, good for our economy.)

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have no higher obligation to our children, and their children, than to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor this commitment -- and to finally put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. For as our economy has grown, we have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; and taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments -- adding to the tens of millions of acres we are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land.

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But our communities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose to strengthen this initiative with new funding to help communities build advanced transit systems and save farms, parks, and other precious open spaces.

As we work to protect our land, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, the seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year.

There is no question that we can reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Thanks to remarkable new technologies, I am absolutely convinced that we can do it in ways that will produce more widespread, more sustainable economic growth.

In California, the Departments of Energy and Housing and Urban Development helped build a moderate-income housing community with windows that keep out four or five times as much heat and cold as ordinary windows do. With these and other readily-available technologies, we thought we'd be able to save homeowners 40% off their energy bills. It turns out, they're saving 65%.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, the world got a chance to see cars we've helped automakers develop which use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon. Next on the horizon are even more efficient cars powered by fuel cells that emit pure water and nothing else. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To spur these new technologies, I propose giving our families a tax credit worth up to \$3,000 a car when new super-efficient vehicles hit the showroom floor. But let me be clear: We have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. I want to thank the automakers who have joined our Partnership for New Generation Vehicles and I ask more of them to join with us to design a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.

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We must also meet this worldwide challenge by giving developing countries the tools to grow in ways that strengthen their economies and protect the environment. So tonight, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help these countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. It is simply no longer true that to prosper you have to pollute the air and endanger the Earth. Nations that long for the level of prosperity we take for granted need not follow the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Innovations in science and technology are key not only to enhancing the environment. Sustained investments in scientific research will also yield dramatic, almost miraculous, advances in the quality of our lives.

In the last century alone, the life expectancy for the average American has increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of far greater advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better. Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. Since so many diseases have a genetic component, the completion of this project will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS.

Consider the implications: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

Thanks to the Human Genome Project, scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they are already working to create precision proteins that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Not if but when they succeed, millions and men and women will be cured of this dread disease – even those whose symptoms have not even begun to emerge.

[insert acknowledgment and introduction of Michael J. Fox]

Advances in science and technology will surely produce quantum leaps in many other fields as well. In the future we will have new materials ten times as strong as steel but ten times lighter ... computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak ... devices the size of sugar cubes that can store all the information contained the Library of Congress.

These and other innovations could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to the rise of the Internet and other information technologies. And the high-tech jobs this industry creates are high-wage jobs – paying nearly 80 percent more than the private-sector average.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will increase support for biomedical research, information technology, clean energy, and university-based research. We will also help propel NASA's never-ending quest in space. NASA's missions to Mars and into the heavens beyond are just as important to humankind today as the brave sea voyages of the explorers hundreds of years ago. As President Kennedy once said, "We choose to do these things not because they are easy but because they are hard."

It is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

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If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us -- enhancing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

COMMUNITY

~~At a time when America's cup of prosperity is literally running over,~~ we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to reach out beyond ourselves to help those who are less fortunate and to build stronger communities. The most important work of America occurs outside the realm of government -- in our houses of worship, in our clubs and charities and volunteer groups. Service is not only the way we tackle some of our most pressing problems -- from drug abuse and homelessness, to health care and crime -- it is one of the best ways to come face to face with our common humanity. Who you are and what you look like suddenly become less important when you are working side by side with your neighbors to rebuild a burned down church or prevent a flood or feed the hungry.

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pr: / So, our long look ahead must include ways to widen the circle of citizen service until it embraces every American. We are already in the midst of a new service movement in America. And one of the things I am most proud of is our efforts to support that movement through greater partnerships with private citizens. This is a new model for government that energizes private resources for noble public ends. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving welfare. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Over the past seven years we have created many other successful partnerships. To fight drug abuse and AIDS. To teach our young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To fight crime and promote community policing. To promote racial healing and build One America. To prevent youth violence. To create cleaner cars. To help our young people serve.

When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the AmeriCorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

If we really do believe that charity begins at home, we must do more to reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only people who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives that will allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction. That will not only help them, it will be an incentive for more Americans to give to worthy causes.

Old line: getting more done

There are more than twice as many seniors today as there were in 1960. And by 2030, the senior population will grow by over 75 percent. I hope to be one of them. This is a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve.

So, tonight, I say to the seniors across America – you do not ever have to outlive your usefulness. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are. It will be good for you and it will be good for America.

We must do more to bring more people into the circle of citizenship and service – from supporting the efforts of faith-based organizations to increasing our investment, as we are this year, in teaching English and civics to new immigrants.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

America is demographically undergoing one of the great transformations in our history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there will be no majority race in America.

We know what we will look like 50 years from now, the question before us tonight, is what will we be like. As we have seen in other parts of the world and throughout history too many times diversity is used as a force for division, not unity. From Northern Ireland to Africa to Bosnia to the Middle East, we see that racial and ethnic conflict are often the root causes of war and terrorism. And no country is exempt—even our own.

We have to face the fact that in this country, hate is also a catalyst for racial and ethnic violence. The dragging death of a man in Texas because he was black. The murder of a young man in Wyoming because he was gay. In the last year, we have seen the shootings and the killings of African Americans, a Filipino, a Korean American and Jewish children -- all because of racial or ethnic hatred. We must make it clear. This is not the American way. In this country, we not only tolerate our diversity, we celebrate it. And we have to protect it. That is why we must, without further delay, pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of every American. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. That is why my budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation—from religious leaders to corporate leaders to lawyers to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us. ~~As we begin a new century, may that truth finally set us free.~~

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My fellow Americans, this is the seventh time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, even larger frontiers of possibility.

So, as we take that long look ahead, we must ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and how will we meet them?

Tonight, let us pledge:

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let's bring prosperity into every community in America.

At a time of record surpluses, let's keep going until America is debt-free for the first time since 1835.

At a time when Americans are living longer than ever, let's keep going and provide quality, affordable healthcare for everyone in America.

At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, let us realize their full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and clean the environment, let's prove we can reverse the tide of climate change and leave our planet a safer place.

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when the world is becoming more interdependent, let's continue to be the world's leader for peace, freedom and prosperity.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

These are big goals, worthy of a great nation. We will not reach them all this year, or maybe not in the decade ahead. But we will reach them, the way we always have, one step at a time. And always remember, as long as our dreams outweigh our memories, we can be forever young. That is the destiny of America.

And so, tonight, whether you are climbing to new heights of affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next hundred years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

BC v. ex.

REED 41

No more than 10 challenges
Charter schools - 1 to 2000 (more than 1600, nearly 2000)
School repair - how many schools 8,000
Adoption - how many. HRC?
Housing vouchers - explain
C. care - how many? 150,000?

Draft5 01/19/00 11:15pm

HC - this needs to be big. Despite our best efforts, union is going up. Here's what they're doing

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

UNITED STATES CAPITOL

WASHINGTON, DC

January 27, 2000

Ex-offenders

Gov. cast the breaking vote. Challenge Cong.

- What is state licensing proposal?

- Call on response from unforgotten

- Refer to Mercer - drama

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: Tonight I have the honor of delivering the first State of the Union Address of a new century and a new millennium.

37-44m

5:55m

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never have our values - of freedom and democracy - been more ascendant around the world. Never have we had such a blessed opportunity - and, therefore, such a profound obligation - to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We end the 20th Century, and begin the 21st, at a high point in our history. There is no better moment to reflect on our hopes and dreams for our children. No better moment to make big plans for our nation. No better moment than today.

Today we are experiencing a remarkable American renaissance. Twenty million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate ever; the highest home ownership ever. And next month, America will achieve the longest economic expansion in our nation's history.

My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong - the strongest it has ever been.

We are experiencing not only a renaissance of the American economy, but something even more important: a renewal of the American spirit. Across our land we see a revival of responsibility. . . a renewal of the bonds of community. Who would have thought that in just seven years we could cut the welfare rolls in half, and moved millions from welfare to work? Who would have thought that we could cut crime by one quarter, to its lowest level in more than 30 years? Who would have thought that we could reverse virtually every terrible social trend of the last few decades, from teen pregnancy going down, to adoptions going up? Our social fabric, once frayed, is on the mend.

the longest decline in crime in record

births

7 yrs in a row

by 30%

Rosa's
Hansen,
not by 70%
for
reverses
clearer

Tonight it is clear: Our nation is prepared for the new century.

It is also clear that the American people - by the hard work they do every day - deserve the credit, and our thanks. My gratitude also goes to the many of you, here in this chamber, who

have worked with us to make the tough decisions, to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people. I thank you.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political stalemate, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, a best-selling book asked: "What went wrong?"

But in the best traditions of our nation, of the time of Lincoln and the two Roosevelts, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all; but also responsibility from all. That's how you build a community of all.

?
> weak

That's how we turned decades of record deficits into back-to-back record surpluses – not by denigrating government but by reinventing it, and acting with fiscal discipline. That's how we have cut crime – not by debating between prevention and punishment but by doing both, and doing them better – passing the Brady Law that has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals, and funding 100,000 community police to make our neighborhoods safer. That's how we have protected our environment – not with old-style regulations but with new approaches and technologies.

That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – by ending dependency and empowering millions to go to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – by offering new approaches, like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million working Americans have used to care for sick loved ones. That's how we have opened the doors of college to all – with HOPE scholarship tax cuts, more Pell Grants, and more affordable college loans. That's how we have engaged 150,000 more young Americans in citizen service – building One America, one community at a time, through AmeriCorps. And that's how we have seized the opportunities of a global era – by expanding trade with more than 270 new agreements and extending our values around the world.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. In the year 2000, we have results. We have built our bridge to the 21st Century. Now, let us lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt called "the long look ahead."

Let us look beyond this year, ^{mistake} even beyond this decade, and ask ourselves: How will we make the most of this moment of promise? What are our biggest challenges, and how will we meet them?

Tonight, let us pledge:

At a time of unprecedented economic growth, let's bring prosperity into every community in America.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, let's ensure that they are also living better – and healthier.

At a time when technology is transforming our world, let's realize its full promise and make sure our values guide our progress.

At a time of steadily falling crime, let's make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more families are working families, let's ensure that parents have the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising children.

At a time when knowledge is the key to the new economy, let's make sure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, let's finally become what we've always known we can be: one nation, under God, indivisible.

These are big goals. We may not reach them this year. But I believe we will reach them. And we will get there the same way we got here: not in one single leap, but step by step – always building on our progress, moving forward, gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. And for too long, this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's get moving. This year, let's strengthen Social Security. Let's modernize Medicare with a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. Let's pass a real patients' bill of rights. Let's pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. Let's pass meaningful hate-crimes legislation. Let's raise the minimum wage. ~~Let's~~

The American people deserves progress, not partnership.

But that will only be the beginning of our journey.

Responsibility?
Tonight, I will propose the first steps into the bold new frontier of the 21st century. I will begin with a New Opportunity Agenda for this new era—an agenda rooted in responsibility, and designed to create a stronger and more inclusive community. At its core is a simple, powerful, fundamental principle: "Opportunity for all."

This new agenda updates an old American value for the Information Age. Two centuries ago, at our nation's founding, opportunity meant, most of all, the freedom to carve a farm and an existence out of the forest frontier. Fifty years ago, opportunity meant a high school education – or even the G.I. Bill – and a job for life. Today, opportunity means something different. It means having a computer and knowing how to use it. It means changing careers and a lifetime of learning. It means mastering the tools and technologies of the new economy, in which ideas and information are the keys to success.

Our first steps into the 21st Century must be the right steps. They must be guided, first and foremost, by our faith that all children can learn and all adults can succeed.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

For seven years we have pursued a simple strategy on education: Invest more, and demand more in return. Offer opportunity, but demand responsibility. We have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools. We are closing in on our goal of connecting every classroom and library in America to the Internet. And for two years in a row, Congress has supported our effort to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This Congress must continue that support. (Applause?)

With these and other efforts, our students are learning more. Scores on college entrance exams are going up, even as more students from more-diverse backgrounds are taking the test. And some of the most impressive academic gains are happening in schools in some of America's poorest neighborhoods.

Schools like Beaufort [B'YOU-fert] Elementary in South Carolina. Five years ago, Beaufort was classified as one of the state's worst-performing schools. But under a new principal, Ruth Summerlin, Beaufort embraced accountability and higher academic standards, and started afterschool and summer school programs for students who were behind. Today, Beaufort's math and test scores exceed the state average, and local parents are pulling their children out of private schools and putting them in Beaufort. Ruth Summerlin is with us here tonight.

I have visited schools like Beaufort all across America -- schools that have turned themselves around with the same proven formula: greater accountability, higher standards, and the conviction that all students can learn. Unfortunately, there are too many low-performing schools in this country that are not applying these lessons -- schools where, year after year, children fail to get the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of their God-given talents.

Last year, from this podium, I proposed an Education Accountability Act, to fundamentally change the way the federal government invests in our schools -- to support what we know works, and stop supporting what doesn't. This year, I challenge Congress to not only pass that measure, but to make dramatic new investments in ideas we know are working.

failing schools? We know that quality afterschool and summer school programs boost academic achievement. They also keep children off the street in the hours before parents get home from work, when juvenile crime soars. Tonight, I propose that we double our investment for afterschool and summer school. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards -- and to beat them. ?

¹⁶⁰ We know that our children who learn early learn best. And since 1993, we've put over 150,000 more children in the successful Head Start pre-school program, and improved the quality of Head Start. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. With this increase, plus greater investment in early learning, we can ~~take the first step~~ toward providing universal pre-school for every four-year-old in America. [check w/VP]

We know that if we want our children to learn, we need good teachers and principals. Tonight, I propose new efforts to help states and school districts recruit the best and brightest

876
714,550

build the foundation

people to teaching, ^{reward good teachers} ~~train principals as leaders~~ and get rid of bad ones. [And we must finish the job of hiring 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size.] ^{redundant}

We know that antiquated classrooms get in the way of learning, and that ^[5,000] a third of all schools in America are in serious disrepair – with leaky roofs and antiquated electrical wiring. Tonight, I propose new investments to make immediate, urgent repairs to ~~our~~ schools. I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – so we can take our children out of trailers and put them in modern classrooms. And let's make our high schools safer and better by investing in making them smaller. Let's make sure our kids go to schools where everybody knows their name.

^{MOVE TO p. 4} [We know that we must turnaround failing schools – or shut them down. Last fall, Congress passed my plan to give districts the resources to do so. This year, let's double that investment. Let's also increase our investment in charter schools, to give parents more choice. ^{1 → 1600+} And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up across the board.

We must also do more to help high school students prepare for, and succeed in, college. We must increase tutoring and mentoring efforts, bring advanced placement courses to schools in isolated rural areas via the Internet, and offer disadvantaged students the same test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores on college entrance exams. [TK, Schumer/ college tax ideas]

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

It is often said that the foundation of American life is the family. [?] [I would add "the working family," for it is through work that we support our families, and pass on our values to our children.] That is why the basic goal of so much of what we have done -- from reforming welfare to raising the minimum wage -- has been to encourage and reward work; to give more opportunities for a better life to all families responsible enough to work for it.

Simply put: When you work hard and play by the rules, good things should ^{happen} follow. To your standard of living, to your savings, to your self-esteem.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit, a targeted tax cut for low-income working families. The "E" in "EITC" is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. As one of my first actions as President, I asked the Congress to dramatically expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans in 1998 work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993. [?]

Tonight I propose that we expand opportunity by substantially expanding the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that this tax credit rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work, and expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. That's enough for the average family to pay three months' mortgage or eight months of health care

coverage. And it's an added incentive to make their way into the middle class. They're working hard for it. We should help them to reach it.

For people who play by the rules, there's something else that should be within reach: their place of work. But two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers – to let more Americans live where opportunities abound. This year, let's more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

Wherever they live, working parents need quality child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for 1.25 million children. But child care should be better, safer, and more affordable. It's what our children deserve and what working parents need. My child care initiative would increase and improve care for 150,000 more children. And it's time we make the child care tax credit refundable to help families who need it most. Parents should be able to balance work and family – not have to choose between them.

Three years ago, we created a new way for hard-pressed working families to provide health care for their children: the Children's Health Insurance Program. In less than a year, enrollment CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. But we must do more. (As Vice President Gore has been saying,) if states are looking to insure more children, they should go where the children are – in schools, churches, and child-care centers. And we should take the next step and enroll their parents, too. Nine million of them are eligible, but uninsured. And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. We should allow them to buy into Medicare.

[Tipper Gore, Mental Health – TK]

And let's make sure that men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today, women earn 75 cents for every dollar men earn. That's just not good enough. My budget provides much needed resources to enforce equal pay laws, and to train women for high-paying, high-tech jobs. And we should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. That will go a long way toward opportunity and dignity for working women.

This year, I am proposing a progressive savings initiative to help low- and moderate-income families work and save for retirement. [policy TK]

Franklin Roosevelt once said that "personal responsibility, guided by collective conscience, is the discipline of democracy." We have no greater responsibility than to love and support the children we bring into this world. Yet nearly one child in three in America today grows up in a home without a father – and these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. I know many single mothers do a magnificent job of raising their children. But their task is made infinitely harder when there is no father to contribute income and love; to share the burdens and joys of parenthood; to teach the boys to be men and the girls to expect respect from men. Four years ago, we made an historic reform of welfare that has helped millions of mothers move from dependency on a welfare check to the

dignity of a paycheck. Demanding and promoting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform.

We have already begun, over the last seven years, to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by denying them drivers' licenses and ~~creating a national database to tracking~~ them across state lines. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled. And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off, and the teenage birth rate is falling.

This is progress. But we must accelerate that progress, step by step, until the day that every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin by toughening measures against ^{Parents} fathers who owe child support, such as booting their cars. We can give fathers even more incentive to contribute by allowing more of their child support payments to go directly to their families.

And to absent ^{from now on,} parents who owe child support, we should say: we'll help you do right by your children, but ^(pass a law that says) you have to go to work, and pay them what you owe.

CARLOS

Helping absent parents and others join the culture of work is good not just for them and their families. At a time when businesses across America have labor shortages, it is also good for our economy. Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join with us in a partnership to provide jobs to those leaving the welfare rolls. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 former welfare recipients. Yet these companies need still more new workers. And they say they are increasingly willing to hire from a growing pool of potential labor: the half-million ex-offenders who leave our prisons every year. Tonight, I propose a new initiative to train, counsel, and more carefully monitor ex-offenders so they can become responsible employees, family members, and citizens. }

For our economy to continue to enjoy rapid growth without inflation, it is vital that our corporations find not just new workers to hire, but new opportunities to invest, and new markets in which to sell. I believe these new markets exist right here in America—in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations -- places that have not yet been blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places -- joined by many of you -- to shine a spotlight on the enormous opportunities in America's new markets.

Now, more than ever, we have the means to expand the circle of opportunity wide enough to include the men and women at its margins, so that no one who's willing to work is left behind as our nation moves ahead. For business, it's the smart thing to do. And for America, it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I believe businesses should have the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in new markets abroad. In this year's budget, I call on Congress to double our New Markets Tax Credit, to spur \$12 billion in new equity capital for our untapped markets. We should also greatly increase funding to help large-scale businesses expand or relocate to our

inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones.

Speaker Hastert, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with my administration on common ground for New Markets legislation. So let's work together to finish the job.

Last July, I became the first President to visit an Indian reservation since Franklin Roosevelt. That's far too long. In this new century, let's honor our historic responsibility to Native Americans – the first Americans. My budget increases by more than \$1 billion our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure. Indian Country is a new market America should not – and must not – ignore.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I was concerned it would work well in good times but not as well in bad times. In recent years, our family farms have endured droughts and floods and financial crises abroad. Our New Markets Initiative will help them diversify their economic base. But let's also do more than mend the farm safety net – let's strengthen it.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on another challenge: the growing "digital divide" between those who have access to the new economy and those who don't. But the very technology that drives our expansion also creates tools to ensure that everyone, from the city to the farm to the reservation, can join in building our nation. My budget creates 1,000 new technology centers to connect poor communities to the economic mainstream. It also helps mobilize the combined force of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to increase Internet access in low-income areas. Because you can't get in the game until you have the tools to play.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

As we move to master the possibilities of the new economy at home, we must also lead in shaping a global economy that extends our prosperity – and expresses our values.

Our international trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs and brings us new products and technologies. We need to keep that trade growing, and make sure it grows fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about dignity of work and quality of life. And it means remembering that a global economy based on rules is far preferable than one with no rules at all.

That is why China should join the WTO and live under the same trade rules we do. And when it does, America's companies and workers should gain new opportunities in every sector of China's vast market. I ask Congress to lock in this opportunity by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China. This is a good deal for America. It will level the playing field in U.S.-China trade, and it is a chance to help China along the road to change.

When we engage in the global economy, we are investing in our shared future. Growth from trade is not just vital for us, but for the 1.3 billion people around the world who still live on less than a dollar a day. To help pass opportunity on to them, we should do our part – our full part – to reduce the debts that cripple the world's poorest nations. I ask Congress to support that effort, and to finalize our initiatives to unlock new trade with Africa and the Caribbean Basin. If we stay engaged, we will be helping Americans master the new economy . . . and helping others around the world become masters of their own future.

At a moment when American power is unrivaled and the world is coming together around ideals we have lived by and died for, we have a responsibility to lead. Never forget the Americans who struggled to give us this chance. Never forget that hundreds of millions of people live in peace today because of the Americans who rest in peace in graves marked and unmarked across the world. We have come too far, sacrificed too much, to stop the world and get off now; we must continue to shape the world. So let us look beyond our borders to the big questions that will shape the 21st century world, and look within for the strength to find the answers.

A central question is whether our security will be threatened by regional conflicts, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions, that pose the risk of wider war. With all its amazing advances, our modern world is still bedeviled by our oldest failing – fear of those who are different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by unscrupulous leaders trying to cling to power or make brutal war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But when our interests and our values are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For history teaches that all big wars start small, and when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction because of who they are, it is our common humanity that suffers.

We should be proud that we have helped bring the Middle East closer than ever to comprehensive peace. [Update on Israel-Syria; essential that America does its share].

We should be proud of the role America played in bring peace to Northern Ireland... in helping to end the bloodletting in East Timor...in supporting efforts to end Africa's cruel wars.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who made it possible for a million innocent people to return home to Kosovo last year. Now, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

With us today are two Americans who've shown how both power and persuasion can serve the cause of peace. When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide – and when an American plane went down, he flew into the teeth of Serbian air defenses to bring its pilot home. When the peace process in Northern Ireland was in trouble, the man who did so much to start it went back one more time to save it, and now, with George Mitchell's help, the people there have a working

government with all parties represented. Captain Cherrey, Senator Mitchell, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our determination to finish the work you helped begin.

A second question is whether our former adversaries, Russia and China, emerge in the coming century as stable, prosperous, democratic partners of the United States.

Today, we face a Russia weakened by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya. But never forget how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian troops serving with us in the Balkans; a constitutional transfer of power from one leader to another for the first time in a 1000 years of Russian history. Russia's long journey to democracy is profoundly important. A generation from now, let it be said we did our part to help.

As for China, we must promote our interest with firmness, but not fear. China cannot buy its stability and stature at the expense of freedom. But let us not isolate China from the global forces empowering its people to seek a better life. We want to see China on the inside, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

A third question for the new century is whether terrorists and hostile nations will acquire the means to undermine our defenses, and make us live in fear again.

Thanks in part to the biggest counter-terrorism operation in our history, the millennial celebrations passed without a violent attack. But this age-old threat, magnified by modern tools of destruction, remains real.

To prevent terrorists and potential adversaries from acquiring deadly weapons, we must work with Russia to keep nuclear weapons secure and continue to reduce our arsenals. We must restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran's, and continuing to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors. And we must strength global standards against proliferation. That is why I am committed to working with the Senate on a bipartisan basis to rebuild a consensus for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are also developing a system to defend America against missile attack from outlaw nations, while working to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. And my balanced budget devotes \$2 billion to defend America's cyberspace against hackers, criminals and potential adversaries.

A fourth question is whether the stability of the 21st century would will be threatened by a growing gap between rich and poor. We just cannot accept a future in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the edge of survival.

A large part of the answer is freedom. With the hopeful transitions to democracy in Nigeria and Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet even countries making all the right choices must sometimes struggle to deliver for their people.

We must stand by democracies like Columbia fighting for their lives – and for our lives – against narcotics traffickers. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia and I count on your support.

We must stand by impoverished nations held back by debt and disease. My budget calls for a new \$150 million investment in the global fight against AIDS and other infectious killers. And I will call on our partners in the G-7 and around the world to join us in a Millennium initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines to countries that might otherwise never be able to afford them. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry – if you develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, AIDS and TB, we will help pay for them, and we will lift millions of lives together.

The final questions are the most important of all: Will America continue to lead? How do we see ourselves and our role for the next century?

In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by circumstance. Now we have to choose whether to shape the world. But it's really no choice at all, not if we want our children to know peace and prosperity and the promise of a better day. We could choose to see our role as a burden. I choose to see it as a blessing, a privilege, a responsibility.

That's why we have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to work together to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform.

We must also continue to fund the 1 percent of our budget that supports our international engagement and keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, you worked with me to do that and to resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember that building the right kind of global community is vital for a strong, secure American community . . .

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Here is another heartening statistic. The overall crime rate in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest continuous decline in crime ever recorded. It happened because we took more responsibility for helping America fight crime, from passing the Brady bill to funding 100,000 new community police officers. Last fall, Congress agreed to support my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, with special help for high-crime neighborhoods. Congress must continue that support this year.

But while we are grateful that America is much safer, no one believes America is safe enough. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make America the safest big country in the world.

We must begin by doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and juveniles. Last year, Congress listened to the gun lobby, rather than the American people, and ~~gave up a~~ *failed* chance to require Brady background checks at gun shows and child safety locks for all new

handguns. Passing this common-sense gun safety legislation should be the very next action of this Congress.

But we can and must do more. States require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. To reduce firearms accidents and keep guns out of the wrong hands, tonight I propose that states have licenses for gun purchasers as well.

To those who say that instead of strengthening gun laws, we should better enforce gun laws now on the books. I say, we already are. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we should do more. We must hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must supply law enforcement with the tools to trace the origin of every gun used in a crime in America. And we must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene anywhere in America to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

M. A. S. E. P.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. It's time to help the gun industry accelerate development of these smart guns. It's time for the gun industry to take responsibility too, and reform the way it does business -- and help bring down gun violence in America.

Another vital measure we can take to reduce the crime rate is to provide more supervision, and demand more responsibility, from the hundreds of thousands of offenders who leave our prisons every year. We know that those on parole or probation who use drugs are [tk]-times more likely than others to commit another crime, but half as likely to do so if they get drug treatment. We must provide them that drug treatment, along with drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

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The tragic school shootings in Littleton and elsewhere have been a terrible reminder of how vulnerable our children are to violence—and how much more we must do, at all levels of society, to protect them. Last year, I launched a national grassroots campaign to bring experts and local communities together to identify the most effective responses to youth violence. We also began funding efforts by local communities to develop comprehensive solutions to school violence, and this year we must increase our support of this vital endeavor.

Every parent I know worries about the amount of violence in the media. I believe the entertainment industry should respond to parents concerns. I give the industry credit for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings not just on movies but on TV programming and video and Internet games. This year, ^{Talk the language to} we must go farther. Let's give parents what they most need: ^{voluntary} ~~one~~ rating system for all their children's entertainment—a system that is easy to understand and enforce. Tonight, I want to honor the person who has championed this idea, and been a champion of children and families as long as I have known her, your First Lady and my wife: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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At its best, popular culture can uplift and educate us even as it entertains us. Joining us tonight is someone whose half-century of work has appealed to the very best in our children – indeed, in all of us. We already miss reading “Peanuts” each day, but Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Snoopy will never be far from our hearts. We thank you, Charles Schulz, for your creations, and for being here with us.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We have an abiding responsibility to be wise stewards of our air, water, and land. And because of new technologies, we also have the opportunity to do so in ways that enhance economic growth.

I am grateful for the many opportunities Vice President Gore and I have had to honor this commitment to future generations – and to finally put to rest the long-outdated notion that a strong economy and a healthy environment are incompatible goals. For as our economy has grown ever stronger, our environment has grown ever healthier. We have rid countless neighborhoods of toxic waste; ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families; taken unprecedented action to improve the air we breathe.

Two weeks ago, I visited the north rim of the Grand Canyon and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres of forests and deserts and wilderness we are preserving for all Americans, for all time. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we have protected for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States.

But our population and our cities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save wildlands, protect coastlines, restore wildlife, and preserve small but sacred green spaces. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

As we rise to protect our land, we must also help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – and yet they are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help developing countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, their irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to heed the writing on the wall, our seas will rise and natural disasters will become more frequent with each passing year. America must act. America must lead.

Tonight, I announce three new efforts to do just that. First, I propose a [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt clean-energy technologies and avoid the costly trade-offs that we made in the past. With these new technologies, they can expand their economies, improve the lives of their people, and protect the environment at the same time. Second, to strengthen efforts at home, I propose closing the loophole that allows old power plants to foul the air our children breathe and to continue spewing more greenhouse gases than any other source. Third, I call on the auto industry to help move the next generation of vehicles -- cars that get 70 or more miles to the gallon -- from the laboratory to the showroom floor.

We must put 21st century technology to work in building a 21st century economy in harmony with the environment. We must make sure this country of ours lasts through the ages.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As we enter this new era, it is already clear: technology is making it a millennium of miracles. They promise dramatic improvements in health, in our economy and in our quality of life.

Biotechnology -- and our growing understanding of human genetics and physiology -- promises new treatments for disabilities and real cures for dread diseases. We are now on the brink of sequencing the human genome -- the very code of life -- which could bring cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and AIDS. The new science of nanotechnology that allows us to manipulate molecules -- even atoms -- could help us detect tumors as small as a single cell, or develop molecular computers that can store on a cube of sugar the entire contents of the Library of Congress.

With longer, healthier, better lives, we are redefining what it means to be old. Consider this: if we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, right now we could empty half the nursing home beds in America. If we could delay the onset of adult diabetes, we could save \$30 billion in health care costs.

In the future we will have new materials as strong as steel but ten times lighter. Ultra-clean fuel cells for cars whose only byproduct is water clean enough to drink. And computers that can translate spoken English into foreign languages and vice versa as fast as you can speak.

These and other technologies could change the way we work and live as surely as the Internet does today. Fully one-third of our recent growth is due to information technology. And the high-tech jobs it is creating are high-wage jobs -- paying nearly 80 percent more than the typical private-sector job.

For all these reasons, my budget will include a \$3 billion increase in the Twenty-First Century Research Fund. These investments will increase support for biomedical research, nanotechnology, information technology, clean energy and university-based research. This is more than an investment in research and development -- it is an investment in America's future. And we cannot move forward without it.

But it is up to all of us to ensure that this new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment. The advances we seek must be guided by the values we hold dear.

First and foremost, we must ensure that our privacy -- financial and medical -- is protected. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken steps to protect our people's financial records. But these are only the first steps, as I said when I signed the financial modernization bill into law. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination -- so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies -- to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety. Because no American should ever fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

Nearly forty years ago, as America began its exploration of space, President Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is knowledge to be gained ... for the progress of all people. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man." If we take the right steps together, we can be confident that our progress will be a force for good.

COMMUNITY

In 1835, the great foreign chronicler of America Alexis de Toqueville observed that in America, helping others is not just charity or compassion, it is a sign of good citizenship. De Toqueville was among the first to notice something that is still true of America today: much of what is noblest in our public life occurs outside of government--in the churches, charities, and volunteer groups, to which average citizens contribute money, and their time. We have long relied on this community of active citizenship to meet some of our toughest social challenges. In the 21st Century, we must strengthen and expand this community as never before.

To tap the full potential of philanthropic institutions, we must broaden the base of those who give. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to do just that. Lower and middle income Americans who give deserve what wealthier Americans can get: a tax deduction for contributions to charity.

We can also do more to bring communities of faith into the circle of service. Faith-based organizations work tirelessly everyday to help Americans fight drug and alcohol abuse and to provide opportunities for young people to get back on the right track or to stay out of trouble in the first place. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups.

We can do even more to elevate the cause of citizen service. When I first ran for this office, I had faith that if we gave our young people the opportunity to serve their communities, they would answer the call. Together, we created AmeriCorps in 1994, and today, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have served in countless ways, from teaching children to helping the homeless—often working with non-profit organizations.

Today, AmeriCorps graduates, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are an enormous pool of know-how and can-do. We need to tap that resource. Tonight, I propose the creation of the AmeriCorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

The AmeriCorps oath concludes with the words: I will get things done. Let us do the same. Let us build on the success of AmeriCorps, fund it fully, and keep it strong for all time.

Of course, the most fundamental responsibility of citizenship begins in the voting booth. More than half of our children live in households where neither parent votes. Too many simply think politics doesn't matter. But it does. So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. Vote.

And this is the year of the census, so you have a unique opportunity to not only stand up and be counted, but to make your voice count.

One of the wonders of our time is the way technology is expanding the community of citizenship, creating new ways for individuals to get involved in the democratic process. A few months ago, I held the first Presidential on-line town meeting. Starting next month, I will launch a series of what I call "Webside Chats"—on-line discussions focused on issues and ideas. We can give more Americans the opportunity to share their views and be a part of our national community.

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From the beginning, that community has been enriched by new immigrants. Like those before them, today's new immigrants are renewing the spirit of America. And like those before them, they know they must learn English to reach their full potential.

Demand for English language classes is so high that some states have even resorted to a lottery system to pick students. We must be clear: learning English should be an opportunity available to all -- not a raffle. My budget boosts support for English as a second language and links classes with civics education. So as new immigrants learn English, they can also become fluent in the rights and responsibilities of American life.

We are more diverse than ever before. The face of America is changing. We all know that. The question ahead is not: how will we look? But, what will we be? What will we choose as a community to do with our diversity?

This fall, as a part of our ongoing millennium celebrations, the First Lady and I hosted a discussion with Eric Lander, one of America's leading geneticists, who is with us here tonight. Dr. Lander explained that all human beings genetically are 99.9 percent the same. Science seems

to affirm what faith has always taught us: that the differences between us are nothing compared to the common humanity that unites us all.

We are more united than ever, but we have work to do. We cannot ignore the hatred that spawned such recent incidents as the murder of young Matthew Shepard or the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas. Rather than give into hate, the Byrd family transformed their hate to a new foundation for racial reconciliation. We're honored to have [TK Byrd] with us tonight.

Let me say again, discrimination and violence against anyone because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry or disability is wrong. We must also make it illegal. I ask the Congress once more to pass, without further delay, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

And finally, to make the most of our economic and social progress we have made together, we must continue our journey to building One America in the 21st century. That means rededicating ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in housing, education, federal contracting or any other aspect of American life. My budget increases funding substantially for civil rights enforcement at the EEOC and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division—to make sure that protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – from lawyers to religious leaders to corporate leaders to make sure every American can help build the One America of our dreams.

We know there is only one way to achieve that kind of nation—not through machines or money or might. Above all, it must flow from the human spirit. Let us take on the unfinished work of our time. Let us do our part to lift the burden of race and make the promise of America the practice of America.

My fellow Americans, this is the seventh time I have had the privilege of this high moment. Each time I have approached it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us, vast frontiers of possibility yet to be explored.

The children of the future will see: generations of Americans earned this moment – earned this opportunity – and we have an obligation to make the most of it. Not even the most far-sighted of our forebears could have predicted that American ingenuity and spirit would lead the world to these unprecedented heights of prosperity and peace. And we can only imagine the heights to which we will climb in this new century.

And so, tonight, whether you are settling in the comfort of today's growing affluence or climbing out of the shadows of yesterday's despair, look up and see that the sun is rising on a new century of hope and possibility in America. Look up and take your place in the procession

of Americans, great and small, whose gifts to the past have brought us to this moment of great promise. Now it is your time. You are our gifts to the future. Together, we can make the next 100 years, America's greatest century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

Draft10 01/26/00 4:45am

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

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Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity and social progress with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rates on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years. *We have built a new era*

Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 25 percent, to its lowest level in more than 30 years. Teen births have dropped seven years in a row and adoptions are up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls have been cut in half by more than 7 million to their lowest levels in 30 years.

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, most of the credit belongs to the American people.

My gratitude also goes to all of you in this chamber who have worked with us to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people.

Eight years ago, it was not so clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. ~~Then~~ our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: "America: What went wrong?"

~~But~~ In the best traditions of our nation, America[^] determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with a bold, new vision anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans.

We went beyond the debate over whether government was the problem or the solution – one of the false choices that had paralyzed Washington for too long. Instead, we reinvented government, transforming it into a catalyst for new ideas, a partner that gives our people the tools to solve their own problems.

With the smallest federal government in 37 years, we turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We cut crime: not by choosing prevention or punishment, but by choosing both, with 100,000 community police and the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals. We protected the environment: not by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by choosing both – by cleaning the air and water, and protecting precious land.

We emphasized both opportunity and responsibility. That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – requiring work, but protecting health care and nutrition for children, and investing more in child care, transportation and housing for their parents who are making the move from welfare to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – with family leave, which 20 million Americans have used to care for a newborn child or a sick loved one.

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. More important, America again has the confidence to dream big dreams, and the chance of a lifetime to make them real. The great question before us is how to make the most of this moment.

We live in revolutionary times: The way we work. The way we learn. ~~The way we live.~~ The way that, more and more, we are connected to each other and to people all around the world. My fellow Americans, we have crossed the bridge we built to the 21st Century. Now, we must shape a 21st-Century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community. We must be, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

Theodore Roosevelt, at the dawn of the last century, said that “the one characteristic more essential than any other is foresight. . . it should be the growing nation with a future which takes the long look ahead.”

So let us lift our sights and describe the view – our vision – of the century ahead. Let us set great goals, and take the next steps to reach them. At a time of expanding prosperity and receding crime, at a time of globalization, a time when science and technology are transforming our world, let us take the long look ahead and pledge:

To ensure every child begins school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed. To bring prosperity to every American community, and ensure that no working parents raise their children in poverty. To eliminate the debt for the first time since 1835. To make America the safest big country on earth. To reverse the course of climate change and leave a cleaner, safer planet. And to become at last what our founders pledged us to be so long ago – one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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These are great goals, worthy of a great nation. We will not reach them all this year. Not even this decade. But we will reach them. Let us remember that the first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single year. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides toward great goals by moving step by step: building on our progress, always gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's begin with them.

I ask you to pass a real patient's bill of rights. To pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. And, again, I ask you to raise the minimum wage.

L. W. Jones (R)

Two years ago, I stood before you as we reached our first balanced budget and said: Let's show our responsibility to the next generation, by maintaining our fiscal discipline and saving the Social Security surplus for Social Security. Because we refused to stray from the path of fiscal discipline, we are doing something that would have seemed unimaginable seven years ago: We are paying down the national debt. If every one in this chamber will join me in staying on this path, we can pay down the debt entirely in 13 years and make America debt-free for the first time since 1835 when Andrew Jackson was president.

In 1993, we began to put our fiscal house in order with the Deficit Reduction Act, winning passage in both houses by just one vote. Your former colleague, my first Secretary of the Treasury, helped lead that effort – and he is here with us tonight. Lloyd Bentsen, you have served America well.

Beyond paying off the debt, we need to make sure that the benefits of debt reduction go to preserving two of the most important guarantees we make to every American – Social Security and Medicare. I ask you tonight to work with me to make a bipartisan down payment

on Social Security reform by allocating the interest savings from debt reduction to ensure that it is strong and sound for the next 50 years.

But this is just the start of our journey.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

First and foremost, we need a 21st century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every child can learn. At a time when education is more than ever the key to our children's future, we must ensure that all our children have that key. That means universal preschool and afterschool, the best trained teachers in every classroom, and college opportunities for every student in America.

For seven years, we have worked hard to improve our schools, with opportunity and responsibility: Investing more, but demanding more in return. Since 1993, we have nearly doubled investment in education and training. At the same time, we have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools.

Reading scores, math scores, and college entrance scores are up. And some of the most impressive gains are in schools in poor neighborhoods.

All have succeeded with the same proven formula: more accountability, higher standards, and extra help to ensure all children can reach those standards. I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula. It holds all states and school districts accountable for progress, and

rewards them for results. Each year, the national government invests more than \$15 billion in our schools. It's time to change the way we invest that money, to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

Change? If you have any doubt...

As we demand more than ever from our schools, we should invest more than ever in our schools.

Let's double our investment to help states and districts turn around their worst-performing schools – or shut them down. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making test scores go up.

Let's double our investment in afterschool and summer school programs. They boost academic achievement and keep children off the street and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards. And we will be on a path toward what I believe should be a goal for our nation: that in [TK] years, every public school in America will offer afterschool and summer school, and every child will be able to go.

We should achieve another goal as well: making sure every child has access to quality preschool. Since 1993, we've put nearly doubled our investment in HeadStart and improved its quality. Tonight, I propose we add another \$1 billion to HeadStart, the largest increase in the program's history. If we continue this level of new commitments, then we can provide quality preschool to every child in America by 20[TK].

We know that children learn best in smaller classes with good teachers. For two years in a row, Congress has supported my plan to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This year, I ask you to make it three in a row.

And to make sure all teachers know the subjects they teach, tonight I propose a \$1 billion teacher quality initiative. It will recruit more talented people into the classroom, reward good teachers for staying there, and give all teachers the training they need to meet high standards.

We know real public school choice works. That's what charter schools provide. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in America. Today there are 1,700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of 3,000.

We know we must connect all our classrooms to the Internet. We're getting there. In 1994, only three percent of classrooms were connected. Today, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, more than half are. But we can't finish the job when a third of all schools are in serious disrepair, many with walls and wires too old for the Internet. Tonight, I propose \$1.3 billion to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. And I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools – to put our students in modern classrooms and get them out of trailers.

We know smaller high schools are safer and help students learn more. But since World War II, American high schools have grown five times bigger. [CK] We should double our

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efforts to help districts convert factory-style high schools into smaller schools, where children can get more individual attention and support.

We must do more to prepare students from disadvantaged backgrounds for college and convince them that the money is there and they can go. Two years ago, Congress crossed party lines to create our Gear Up program, enabling college students to mentor at-risk middle-school students. I propose to double the number of children we reach, to 1.4 million; and to offer disadvantaged students the same college test-prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores.

We know that to make the American Dream achievable, ^{for all} we must make college affordable. ^{for all} For seven years, on a bipartisan basis, we have taken actions toward that goal: larger Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Today, 67 percent of high school graduates do go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet millions of families still strain to pay college tuition. They need help.

I propose a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut. It will give middle class families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus another Pell grant increase, we ^{will} ~~can say we~~ have made four years of college available to all. \$2 ~~for~~ for 30%. ✓

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families. In a world where the demands on parents are greater than ever, our goal must be to give every parent the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all – raising their children. That means making sure every child has loving care and that none grow up in poverty; that all parents have the tools to bring children up right; and that every family has the support to care for aging parents.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my first Address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure it rewards marriage just as it rewards work; and we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. Americans working hard to reach the middle class should not raise their children in poverty.

In today’s world, we can’t reward work and family unless men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: the female unemployment rate is the lowest in 47 years, and the female-headed household poverty rate is the lowest ever

her
recorded. Women still earn only about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. We must do better by providing the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, training more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs, and passing the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only a tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with funds already secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make that tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making under \$25,000 a year, that could mean up to \$2,400 more for child-care costs. We all say we're pro-work and we're pro-family. Passing this proposal would prove it.

Tens of millions of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still don't have the opportunity to save. Too few can make use of IRAs and 401-K retirement plans. That is why I have long supported so-called Individual Development Accounts that help working families to save for a first home, or a college education, or a dignified retirement. I believe it is time to lift this idea to a new level. We should expand Individual Development Accounts until we can reach every low- and moderate-income family in America. We will match their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save. I also propose

a major new tax credit for any small business that provides a meaningful pension to all its workers.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. We have made sure workers can keep their coverage when they change jobs or take time off to care for a sick loved one. We have increased coverage for preventive tests. And in 1997, we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program – CHIP – so that workers who don't have health coverage through their employers can get it for their children. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. We're on our way to our goal of 5 million.

But there are still more than 40 million Americans without health insurance, more than there were in 1993. Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President Gore's suggestion to make hard-pressed parents eligible for the insurance that covers their kids. Together with our children's initiative, this would enable over 10 million Americans to have the health care they need. With these steps alone, we can cover nearly one quarter of the uninsured in America.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose that we also give them a tax credit when they do so, to make this option more affordable.

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When the Baby Boomers retire, Medicare will be faced with caring for twice as many of our citizens – and yet it is far from ready to do so. We must not ask our children to shoulder our burden. We must strengthen and modernize Medicare now.

My budget includes a comprehensive plan to reform Medicare and make it more efficient and competitive. It dedicates nearly \$400 billion of our budget surplus to keep Medicare solvent past 2025, and, at long last, to add voluntary, affordable coverage for prescription drugs.

Lifesaving drugs are an indispensable part of modern medicine; no one creating the Medicare program today would even consider excluding coverage for prescription drugs. And yet more than three in five seniors now lack dependable drug coverage. ^{the point is} We cannot let another year pass without giving all our seniors ~~affordable prescription drugs~~.
this lifesaver

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common but difficult and costly choice. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. Frankly, that wasn't enough. This year, let's triple it to \$3,000 – and pass it.

L. H. W.

And we can't forget a health care need too often overlooked: mental health. My budget makes the largest increase ever to expand community mental health services. I want to thank the person who led the first White House Conference on Mental Health last year, who has led all our efforts to break down the barriers to decent treatment of mental illness: Tipper Gore.

Taken together, these proposals mark the largest investment in health care in the 35 years since the creation of Medicare. We owe it to our people to make that investment this year.

Nearly one in three American children grows up in a home without a father – these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Clearly, demanding and supporting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform. We have already begun to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support. As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993.

We must work toward the day when every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin with ^{we} tougher measures against fathers who fail to pay child support, from booting their cars to denying them passports. But we should also do more to help these fathers find work so they can pay child support. My budget will help 40,000 fathers go to work and do right by their children.

SHANK
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If there is any issue on which we can reach across party lines it is in our common commitment to reward work and strengthen families. Remember what we did last year. We came together to help people with disabilities keep their health insurance when they go to work. And we came together to improve foster care; to support those who leave when they turn 18; and to increase dramatically the number of foster children who find loving families. A ^{majority} bipartisan majority worked with us to make it happen; and I thank you. And of course, I am also very grateful to the person who has led our efforts from the beginning, who has worked tirelessly for children and families for thirty years now: my wife, Hillary.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest decline on record, thanks to a national consensus on community police, sensible gun control, and effective prevention ~~that~~ we helped to forge. But nobody believes America is safe enough. So let's set a higher goal: let's make America the safest big country in the world.

Last fall, Congress supported my plan to hire ~~up to~~ 50,000 more police officers, concentrated in high-crime neighborhoods. I ask you to continue that support this year.

Soon after the Columbine tragedy, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. With courage -- and a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President -- the Senate faced down the gun lobby, stood up for the American people, and passed this legislation. But the House failed to follow suit.

We've all seen what can happen when guns fall into the wrong hands. Daniel Mauser was only 15 years old when he was gunned down at Columbine. He was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. Like all parents who lose their children, his father Tom has borne unimaginable grief. Somehow Tom has found the strength to honor his son by transforming his grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to fight for tougher gun safety laws. I pray that his courage and wisdom will move this Congress to

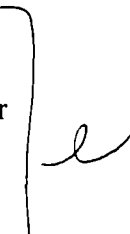
make common-sense gun safety legislation the very next order of business; and I thank him for being here tonight.

We've shown that we can strengthen gun laws and better enforce laws already on the books. [Federal] gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we must do more. I propose to hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must give law enforcement the tools to trace every gun – and every bullet – used in a crime in America.

do Tonight, I *be* propose legislation requiring handgun buyers *before* to get a photo-ID license from their states, showing that they passed a Brady background check and took a gun safety course. [Every state already requires hunters and automobile drivers to have a license. They should do the same for handgun purchasers.]

little to this:
Today, the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in the 25 *other* industrialized nations – combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. I ask Congress to fund research in technologies for *them* Smart Guns – ~~guns that can only be fired by the people who own them~~. I also call on responsible leaders in the gun industry to work with us on smart guns and other steps to keep guns out of the wrong hands and keep our kids safe.

Every parent I know worries about the impact of violence in the media on their children. I thank the entertainment industry for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings on TV programs and video and Internet games. But the ratings are too numerous, diverse, and confusing. ^{to really be useful to parents} Therefore, I ask the industry to accept the First Lady's challenge to develop a single, ^{clear} voluntary rating system for all children's entertainment, one that is easier for parents to understand and enforce.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. We should make sure that ex-offenders who sincerely want to turn their lives around get the treatment and training to stay off drugs, find jobs and become responsible citizens. 

OPENING NEW MARKETS

We need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets, start new businesses, and hire new workers right here in America – in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and on Indian reservations – places not yet blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places – joined by many of you – to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in communities from the Mississippi Delta to Watts to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Everywhere I've gone, I've met talented people eager for opportunity, eager to work. I say: let's put them to work.

For business, it's the smart thing to do. For America, it's the right thing to do. And if we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I ask Congress to give businesses the same incentives to invest in America's new markets that they have to invest in foreign markets. Tonight, I propose a New Markets Tax Credit more than twice the size I proposed last year. With this and other incentives, we can spur \$22 billion in private-sector capital to create new businesses and help firms expand or relocate in inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones – which, with Vice President Gore's leadership, have been bringing prosperity to distressed areas for five years now.

I thank the business leaders who are not just seizing these opportunities – but creating them. And I challenge every business to do the same.

This is not a Democratic or a Republican issue; it is an American issue. Mr. Speaker, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on the stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with us. I thank you for your commitment and I look forward to working with you.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the gap between those who have the tools to succeed in the new economy, and those who don't. This “digital divide” is the great civil rights challenge of the Information Age.

We must go beyond connecting classrooms and libraries to make the Internet available to all citizens. My budget provides funds to establish over 1,000 community computer centers, and funds to ensure that all new teachers are trained to use the Internet. It also contains tax incentives for corporations to help close the digital divide. And I ask high-tech leaders to help America reach a great goal. By 2010, ~~let's make the computer and the Internet as common in homes as the telephone is today.~~

I hope we can also agree to make special efforts to support our Indian reservations, where unemployment is as high as 70%, and poverty remains rampant. My budget increases our investment in economic and job development, health care, education, and law enforcement by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to empower the first Americans.

John McCain

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I said there was a great danger it would work well for family farmers in good times but not in bad. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices. Congress cannot stand by and watch the Freedom to Farm Bill become a Freedom to Fail bill. We simply must work together to strengthen the farm safety net, invest in land conservation, and create new markets by expanding our program for bio-based fuels and products.

John McCain

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

We cannot realize the possibilities of the new economy just within our own borders. We must also lead and shape another revolution that is tearing down barriers and building new networks among nations, economies and cultures: globalization.

It is the central reality of our time. Change this profound is both liberating and threatening. But there is no turning back. And our open, creative society stands to benefit more than any other – if we understand and act on the new realities of interdependence. We must maintain our military and economic might. But we cannot lead without being at the center of every vital network, as a good neighbor and partner. We cannot build our future without helping others build theirs.

We must push forward on a new consensus on open trade. Those of us who believe passionately in the power of open trade must ensure that trade is about lifting both our living standards and our values, and never about tolerating child labor or a race to the bottom on the environment and worker protection. Make no mistake: Open markets and a rule-based trading system are the only viable ways to raise living standards, reduce global poverty and assure the free flow of ideas. There is only one direction for America on trade: we must go forward.

And we must reach out to make developing economies our partners in prosperity – which is why I ask Congress to finalize our groundbreaking African and Caribbean Basin trade initiatives.

Globalization is about more than economics. Our purpose must be to bring the world together around democracy, free markets and peace. And we must resist the forces that threaten the world with deadly weapons, acts of terror and poisoned appeals to ethnic and religious hatred.

With that in mind, let me describe the fundamental challenges I believe America must meet to shape the 21st century world in a way that advances our interests and serves our ideals.

First is to encourage our former adversaries Russia and China to emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic nations. Both are being held back from reaching their potential: Russia by the legacy of communism, by economic turmoil, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya; China by the illusion that it can buy stability at the expense of freedom.

But think how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian soldiers serving with ours in the Balkans; Russian people electing their leaders for the first time in a thousand years. And in China, a society more open to the world than ever before. No one can know for sure what direction these great countries will choose. But we must do everything in our power to see that they choose wisely, to be constructive members of the global community, and not outside it.

That is why we must support those Russians struggling for a democratic future; continue to reduce our nuclear arsenals and to help Russia safeguard weapons and materials that remain.

That is why Congress should support the agreement we negotiated to bring China into the WTO, by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations. Our markets are already open to China. This agreement will open China's markets to us. It will advance the cause of peace in Asia and promote the cause of change in China.

A second challenge is to protect our security from conflicts that pose the risk of wider war. America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. For when human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, it is our common humanity that suffers. And left unresolved, such tragedies can throw whole regions into turmoil and threaten us more directly.

We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to a comprehensive peace; building peace in Northern Ireland; working for peace in East Timor and Africa; promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey; working to defuse crises between India and Pakistan; defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, enabling a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide. And when another American plane went down over

Serbia, he flew into the teeth of enemy air defenses to bring his fellow pilot home. Captain Cherrey, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A third challenge is to keep the inexorable march of technology from giving terrorists and hostile nations the means to undermine our defenses. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat: by helping Russia keep its arsenal secure and reducing both our nuclear arsenals; restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors. We are increasing our preparedness against biological attack and developing a system to defend against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. My budget devotes \$2 billion to protect our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country.

I also hope we can have a bipartisan dialogue this year to build a consensus on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which will eventually lead to its ratification. America must remain a leader in the struggle for a safer world.

A fourth challenge is to ensure the stability of our planet is not threatened by a gulf between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the

cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the bare edge of survival. We must do our part, with expanded trade, expanded aid and the expansion of freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by neighboring countries like Colombia, fighting for its people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drugs. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia; and I ask for your support.

In a world where 1.3 billion people live on less than a dollar a day, we must do what the Pope and so many other religious leaders have asked: reduce the debts of the poorest countries. I ask Congress to continue to support our effort.

And America must help more nations break the bonds of disease that hold their people down. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests \$150 million in the fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in an initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that gives an incentive to private industry: develop vaccines for diseases like malaria, TB and AIDS, and we will help pay for them. Together, we can save millions of lives.

All these challenges come down to one question: Will America continue to lead? In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now America must choose: to shape the new forces of history or be driven by them.

To lead, we must remain strong, keeping our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. And it raises salaries for our men and women in uniform and ensures our veterans the thanks and honor they have so richly earned.

We must also continue to fund the one percent of our budget that supports the diplomacy that keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year. And let's remember: building a stronger global community will only strengthen our community here at home.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

I am grateful for the opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor our responsibility to the environment – and finally to put to rest the notion that you can't expand the economy while protecting the environment. As our economy has grown, we have rid more than 500 neighborhoods of toxic waste and ensured cleaner air and water for millions of families. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve roadless lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we are protecting for all Americans, for all time.

But our communities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. Tonight, I propose creating a permanent conservation endowment to restore wildlife, protect coastlines, and save natural treasures from California redwoods to the Everglades. This Lands Legacy endowment represents by far the most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks, not parking lots, and parents can be home with their kids instead of stuck in traffic. Tonight, we propose new funding for advanced transit systems ... for saving precious open spaces ... and for helping major cities around the Great Lakes protect their waterways and enhance their quality of life.

We must also help other nations protect their natural resources. The rainforests are home to more than half the world's species – yet these sanctuaries are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, irreplaceable forests.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, deadly heat waves and droughts will become more frequent, coastal areas will be flooded, economies disrupted.

Many people in the United States and around the world believe we can't cut greenhouse pollution without slowing economic growth. In the Industrial Age that was true. In the digital economy, it isn't. New technologies make it possible to cut harmful emissions and provide more growth.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, automakers unveiled cars that get 70 to 80 miles a gallon – the fruits of a unique Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles, led by the Vice President. We're helping to bring the benefits of advanced space research into our homes with solar roofing tiles and fuel cells that produce all the electricity a family needs – and no pollution. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To help spur these new technologies, I propose giving major tax incentives to businesses for producing clean energy ... and to families for buying energy-saving homes, appliances, and the next generation of super-efficient cars.

Because global warming is a global challenge, I also propose a new \$100 million initiative to help developing countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies. We must help them follow a cleaner, more modern path to economic growth.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the new century, innovations in science and technology will be key not only to the health of the environment but to miraculous improvements in the quality of our lives and advances in the economy.

Later this year, researchers will complete a first draft of the entire human genome – the very blueprint of life. It is important for every American to recognize that their tax dollars have fueled much of this research – and that this and other wise investments in science are leading to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent disease. For example, scientists have recently identified three genes that cause Parkinson’s Disease – and they will soon begin to test therapies that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Patients with some forms of leukemia and breast cancer may soon receive sophisticated new drugs that precisely target cancer cells, with little or no risk to healthy cells. And researchers are working on methods of directly stimulating the spinal cord in ways that would to allow people who are paralyzed to walk.

Science and engineering innovations are also propelling our remarkable prosperity. Information technology alone now accounts for one third of our economic growth, with jobs that pay almost 80 percent above the private sector average. Without government-funded research, computers, the Internet, and communications satellites might not even exist.

We must continue this research. The future will bring devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can speak... materials ten times stronger than steel at only a small fraction of the weight ... DNA computers the size of a droplet that would have the processing power of the fastest supercomputers available today.

My budget will include an unprecedented \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund, the largest increase in civilian research in a generation. We will boost support for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, double the largest dollar increase for the National Science Foundation in its history, and greatly expand funding for information technology, clean energy, nanotechnology, university-based research, and NASA's never-ending quest in space.

As new breakthroughs are made, we must use them in ways that reflect our most cherished values. First and foremost, we must safeguard our citizens' privacy. Last year, our administration proposed rules to protect every citizen's medical records. We have also taken the first steps to protect the sanctity of financial records. Soon I will send legislation to the Congress to finish the job.

We should also take action to prevent genetic discrimination – so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself ensure strong privacy protections. And tonight, I challenge on-line companies to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

My budget also makes a significant investment in eliminating medical errors, which TK *[Jennings will complete]*. Our medical professionals work wonders every day, but Americans should never have to fear that their health care will jeopardize their health.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will only quicken in the century before us – enhancing our lives, and the lives of our children, in ways that we can only begin to imagine today.

COMMUNITY

Because people today must cope with so many profound changes, it is even more important that we strengthen the bonds of our local communities and our national community.

No tie binds different people together like citizen service. There is a new spirit of service in America—a movement we have supported with AmeriCorps, an expanded Peace Corps, and unprecedented new partnerships between government and private citizens.

For example, four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join us in helping people move from welfare to work. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 of our fellow citizens off the welfare rolls.

YU?

Over the past seven years, we have created many other successful partnerships with businesses, foundations, and community groups. To battle drug abuse and AIDS. To teach young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To prevent youth violence. To promote racial healing.

We can do more to help Americans help others.

If we believe that charity begins at home, we must reward lower and middle income citizens who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only those who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction.

Faith-based organizations are on the frontlines in our communities helping Americans fight substance abuse, providing opportunities for young people to get back on the right track. We must do more to support the good works of organizations like Lutheran Social Services in Brockton, Massachusetts which runs a Second Chance Home for unwed teen mothers. We can ~~do this and still respect~~ ^{however} the line between church and state. *and have an obligation to help our fellow citizens.*

There is even more we can do to breathe fuller life into the idea of citizenship. That's why we're proposing to invest more in teaching civics and English to new immigrants.

Our national community is undergoing one of the greatest demographic transformations in history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there will be no majority race in America.

In a more interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen around the world, racial and ethnic conflict too often spark terror and war. And no country is exempt from hatred—even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In the last year, we've seen the shootings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we must do more than tolerate diversity – we must celebrate it. Without further delay, we must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The work of building One America must be the work of all Americans. We must rededicate ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Tonight, I propose the largest ever investment to enforce America's civil rights laws. Let's make sure protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and to help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. Now we are reaching out across our nation – to religious leaders, to corporate leaders, to the legal community, to enlist all Americans in building One America.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember: all human beings, genetically, are 99.9 percent the same. Modern science now affirms what ancient faith has taught us: the most important fact of life is our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the State of the Union, I approach it with great hope and expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead, even wider frontiers of possibility.

We should be filled with gratitude and humility for our prosperity and progress, awe and joy at what lies before us, and determination to make the most of it.

When the framers finished crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin stood in Independence Hall and reflected on a painting of the sun, low on the horizon. He said, "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting." "Today," Franklin said, "I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Well, today, because each generation of Americans has kept the fire of freedom burning and lighting new frontiers of possibility, we bask in the warmth of Mr. Franklin's rising sun.

Now it is our time. We will be judged by the deeds and dreams we pass on to our children. And on that score, we will be held to a high standard, indeed. Because our chance to do good is so great. After 224 years, the American Revolution continues. We remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. That is our destiny. And this is our moment.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
UNITED STATES CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC
January 27, 2000**

PRES DAVG ✓
ST-OFF ✓
FORWARD ✓
GWS ✓
REBUTAL ✓
SENIOR COUNCIL ✓

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity, social progress, and self-confidence with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity – and, therefore, such a profound obligation – to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs in the last seven years. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rate on record; the highest home ownership ever; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years.

Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 25 percent, to its lowest level in more than 30 years. Teen births have dropped seven years in a row and adoptions are up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls have been cut in half by almost 7 million to their lowest levels in 32 years.

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, most of the credit for what we have achieved belongs to the American people.

My gratitude also goes to all of you in this chamber who have worked with us to put progress above partisanship for the sake of our people.

Eight years ago, it was not clear to most Americans that there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock, and discredited government. In 1992, at a time of rising crime, mounting deficits, and high unemployment, the title of a best-selling book asked: "America: What went wrong?"

But in the best traditions of our nation, America determined to set things right. We replaced outdated ideologies with bold, new ideas anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans.

We went beyond the debate over whether government was the problem or the solution to a government dedicated to giving the American people the tools to solve their own problems, to being a catalyst for new ideas, and a partner with Americans in all other walks of life.

With the smallest federal government in 37 years, we turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We refused to keep making the false choices that paralyzed Washington for too long. We cut crime, not by choosing prevention or

punishment, but by choosing both, with 100,000 community police and the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of a half-million criminals. We protected the environment, not by pitting economic growth against environmental progress, but by choosing both – with cleaner air, safer water and food, and record amounts of precious land protected.

We emphasized both opportunity and responsibility: That's how we ended welfare as we knew it – requiring work, but protecting health care and nutrition for children and investing more in child care, transportation and housing for their parents who are making the move from welfare to work. That's how we have helped parents to succeed at work and at home – with ideas like Family and Medical Leave, which 20 million Americans have used for childbirth or to care for sick loved ones, and immunizing 90 percent of our children for the very first time. And that's how we are opening the doors of college to all – with more Pell grants, more affordable college loans, and already almost 5 million recipients of the HOPE Scholarship. That's how we're building One America, one community at a time, through Americorps, with over 150,000 young Americans doing citizen service as they earn money to further their own college education. [That's how we seized the opportunities of a global era – with 270 new agreements to expand trade and open markets for American products, while pushing for an end to child labor and advances in the global economy and environment. That's how we've advanced our interests around the world – by standing up for peace from Bosnia to Ireland to the Middle East; by expanding NATO; by building new partnerships in Asia, Latin America and Africa; by fighting terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.]

In 1992, Vice President Gore and I had a roadmap. Today we have results. More important, we have the chance of a lifetime to build the future of our dreams if we keep moving along the path that got us here, building on our progress ... always moving forward ... always gaining ground.

But you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's begin with them.

I ask you to pass a real patients bill of rights. To pass common-sense gun-safety legislation. And, again, I ask you to raise the minimum wage. [MC]

Two years ago, I stood before you as we reached our first balanced budget and said let's show our responsibility to the next generation, by maintaining our fiscal discipline and saving the Social Security surplus for Social Security. Because we resisted the temptation to stray from the path of fiscal discipline, we are doing something that would have seemed unimaginable seven years ago. We are paying down our national debt. If every one in this chamber will join me in staying on this path, we now know that we can pay down the debt in 13 years and make America debt free for the first time since Andrew Jackson was president in 1835.

In 1993, when we took our first major step to put our fiscal house in order with the passage of the deficit reduction act, I asked your former colleague, my first Secretary of the Treasury, and a true American statesman, Lloyd Bentsen, to lead that effort. By just one vote in

both houses, we succeeded, sparking this long boom. Secretary Bentsen, you have served America well.

Beyond paying off the debt, we need to make sure that the benefits of that debt reduction go to preserving two of the most important programs for every family in America – Social Security and Medicare. I ask you tonight to work with me to make a bi-partisan down payment on Social Security reform by allocating the interest savings from debt relief to ensure that it is strong and safe for the next 50 years. [*MC above?* We should also use the benefits of debt reduction to secure Medicare so that this generation of older Americans -- and the next -- never have to worry about medical care. And to provide a prescription drug benefit so that no senior has to choose between medicine and food.]

But all of this is just a start. Now we must lift our sights and take what Theodore Roosevelt, at the dawn of the last century, called “the long look ahead.”

We live in revolutionary times. The way we communicate. The way we work. The way we learn. The way we live. The way we are increasingly connected to each other and to people around the world. My fellow Americans, we have crossed the bridge we built to the 21st century. Now we must shape a 21st century American revolution of opportunity, responsibility, and community. We must be, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

The first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single day. The challenge of expanding freedom was not accomplished with one

march. The dreams for which we strive are always bold. But the lesson of our history and the lesson of the last seven years is that we make great strides toward them step by step.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

First and foremost, we need a 21st century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every child can learn. With the largest, most diverse group of students ever, and an economy that rewards education more than ever, we must set the highest goals for education ever: Every child who needs it should have access to preschool. Every child who needs it should have access to afterschool and summer school. Every child should learn from [good] teachers. Every student should finish high school with a diploma that means something. And every student should be able to afford a college education.

For seven years, we have worked hard to improve our schools, with opportunity and responsibility: Investing more, but demanding more in return. Since 1993, we have nearly doubled investment in education and training. At the same time, we have helped nearly every state set higher academic standards for their schools.

Scores on college entrance exams are up, even as more students, from more-diverse backgrounds, are taking the test. Some of the most impressive academic gains are in schools in poor neighborhoods.

I have visited some of them. All have succeeded with the same proven formula: more accountability, higher standards, and extra help to ensure all children can reach those standards. I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula. It holds all states and school districts accountable for progress, and rewards them for results. Each year, the national government invests more than \$15 billion in our public schools. It's time to change the way we invest that money, to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

As we must demand more than ever from our schools, we should invest more than ever in our schools.

Let's double our investment to help states and districts turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down. And let's give bonuses to states that succeed in making scores go up.

Let's double our investment in quality afterschool and summer school programs. They boost academic achievement and keep children off the street and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.

We know that children who learn early learn best. Since 1993, we've put over 160,000 more children in Head Start and improved its quality. Tonight, I propose the largest funding increase for Head Start in history. This is a big toward our long-term goal: universal pre-school for every child who needs it. [*early #s?*]

We know that children learn best in smaller classes with good teachers. For two years in a row, Congress has supported my plan to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This year, I ask you to make it three in a row. But with two million teachers retiring in the next decade, we must do more. Tonight, I propose a \$1 billion initiative to bring the best and the brightest into teaching, to get bad teachers out of the classroom, and to reward good teachers – because none of us would be here without them.

We know real public school choice works. That's what charter schools provide. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in America. Today there are 1,700. My budget assures that we will meet our goal of funding 3,000.

We know we must connect all our classrooms to the Internet [to close the digital divide in education]. In 1994, only 35 percent of schools and only three percent of classrooms were connected. Today, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, 89 percent of schools and 51 percent of classrooms are hooked up. The money is there to finish the job. But there's a problem. A third of all schools are in serious disrepair – ~~not just with leaky roofs but with walls too old to wire to the Internet~~. Tonight, I propose \$1.3 billion to help 5,000 schools make immediate, urgent repairs. And I renew my call for a tax credit to help build or modernize 6,000 schools nationwide – to put our students in modern classrooms and get them out of trailers.

We know that smaller high schools are safer and help students learn more. But since World War II, American high schools have grown five times bigger. We should double our

efforts to help districts convert large, factory-style high schools into smaller schools where the often-cruel forces of peer pressure can be softened by the influence of caring adults.

We must do more to prepare young students for college and convince them they can go. Two years ago, Congress crossed party lines to create our Gear Up program, enabling college students to mentor at-risk middle school students. I propose to double the number of children reached, to 1.4 million, and to offer disadvantaged students the same college test prep courses wealthier students use to boost their scores.

We know that to make the American Dream achievable, we must make college affordable. For seven years, on a bipartisan basis, we have taken actions toward that goal: more Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarship tax cut. Today, 67 percent of high school graduates go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet, millions of families still strain to pay college tuition. They need help.

I propose a landmark \$30-billion college opportunity tax cut. It will give middle class families a tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in tuition costs -- providing as much as \$2,800 in much needed tax relief. With this new college opportunity tax cut, plus another Pell grant increase and other aid, we can say that we have made four years of college available to all.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families, in a world where more and more parents work, but the most important work of all – still – is raising children.

One of the most powerful incentives to work has been the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families. The “E” in “EITC” is about earning; about working; about taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my first address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand the EITC, and we did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way into the middle class – double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure that it rewards marriage, and family, just as it rewards work; and we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children. Our plan would provide those families up to \$1,200 more in tax relief. Americans working hard to reach the middle class should not raise their children in poverty.

In today’s world, we can’t reward work and family unless men and women get equal pay for equal work. Working women have made significant strides: the female unemployment rate is the lowest in 40 years, and the female-headed household poverty rate is the lowest ever recorded. But women still earn only about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. We must do better by providing the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, training more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs, and passing the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Working parents need quality, affordable child care. Many spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide care for about 1.75 million children. But that's only one tenth of those eligible under federal law. My child care initiative, along with funds already secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 650,000 children.

To help millions of parents with moderate incomes, we should expand the child care tax credit. And let's take the next big step. Let's make the tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making under \$25,000 a year – too little to earn a refund today – that means up to \$2,400 more for child-care costs. We all say we're pro-work and we're pro-family. Passing this proposal would prove it.

Tens of millions of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still don't have the opportunity to save. Too many work for a small business that lacks the resources to provide pensions. Too few can make use of the IRAs and 401-Ks that so many Americans are using to accumulate wealth, or save for a first home, a college education, or a dignified retirement. Every working family should have that chance. Tonight, I propose a major new initiative to ensure that all Americans can save. These new [TK] Savings Accounts will give low- and moderate-income families the help they need – matching their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save. I also propose a major new 50 percent tax credit for any small business that provides a meaningful pension to all of its workers. [IDAs]

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. We have made sure workers can keep their coverage when they change jobs or take time off to care for a sick loved one. We have increased coverage for preventive tests. And in 1997, we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program, ^(CHIP) so that workers who don't have health coverage through their employers can get it for their children. In less than a year, enrollment in CHIP has doubled, to 2 million children. We're on our way to our goal of 5 million. [To ensure that we meet it, I propose that we enroll children where they are: schools, HeadStart classrooms, and child-care centers. Because every child in America deserves a healthy start in life.]

"how far it goes - nobody cares"

But there are still more than 40 million Americans without health insurance, more than there were in ⁹³1994, ~~when I tried to offer coverage for all the uninsured.~~ Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President Gore's suggestion to make hard-pressed parents eligible for the insurance that covers their kids. This ^{typical on children's} would enable 6.5 million parents, ~~along with their children,~~ ^{10 or 11 million} to have the health care they need. With these steps alone, we can cover nearly one quarter of the uninsured in America.

And let's give a real, affordable option to the fastest growing group of uninsured: people between 55 and 65 who lose their coverage. Last year, I proposed that we let them buy into Medicare. This year, I propose we also give them a tax credit when they do so, to make this option more affordable.

Michael / Mary / Mary

Taken together, these proposals mark the largest investment in health care in the 35 years since Medicare. We owe it to our people to make that investment this year.

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. More and more this is a common but difficult and costly choice. Last year, I proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for long-term care. This year, let's pass it – and triple it to \$3,000.

We can not neglect a health care need too often overlooked: mental health. My budget makes the largest increase ever to expand community mental health services. I want to thank the person who led the first White House Conference on Mental Health last year, and who, for seven years, has led our effort on all fronts, from [TK] coverage to the needs of the mentally-ill homeless, to break down the barriers to decent treatment of mental illness: Tipper Gore.

Nearly one in three American children grows up in a home without a father –these children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Clearly, demanding and supporting responsible fatherhood is the critical next stage of welfare reform. We have already begun to crack down on fathers who fail to pay child support by ~~denying them drivers' licenses and creating a national database to track them across state lines.~~ As a result, child support payments have doubled since 1993. ~~The number of unwed fathers who legally acknowledge their paternity has tripled.~~ And the percentage of children born into unwed homes, after skyrocketing for decades, has begun to level off.

We must work toward the day when every father in America takes responsibility for his children. We can begin with tougher measures against fathers who fail to pay child support, like booting their cars and denying them passports. ~~And we should require fathers who can to work -~~ ^{but we also do want to help those} ~~and help them find work - so they can pay their child support.~~ ^{fall}

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Carlos Rosas of St. Paul, Minnesota enrolled in the *Parents Fair Share* father's program in 1996 when he was not making enough to keep up with his child support payments to his 13-year-old son, Ricardo. Carlos graduated from technical school, landed a good job, and now supports his son, both financially and emotionally. Contrary to conventional wisdom, many fathers, like Carlos, want to do right by their children, and we should help them. ~~Carlos is with us tonight. And we should let him know that we support his commitment to support his child.~~

[program?]

^{by the way}
If there is any man or woman
We know we can reach across party lines, to reward work and strengthen families.

because my budget wants
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Remember what we did last year. We came together to help people with disabilities keep their health insurance when they go to work. And we came together to improve foster care; to support those who leave it at age 18; and to increase dramatically the number of foster children who find loving families in permanent homes. A bipartisan majority worked with us to make it happen; and I thank you. Of course, I am also grateful to the person who has led our efforts, who has worked tirelessly for children and families for thirty years: my wife, Hillary.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped every year for the past seven years -- the longest decline on record, with a national consensus on community police, sensible gun control, and effective prevention we have helped to forge. Yet crime is still too high, its victims too many. Its high time we adopted the only sensible goal for our nation: to make America the safest big country in the world.

Last fall, Congress supported my plan to hire up to 50,000 more police officers, concentrated in high-crime neighborhoods. I ask you to continue that support this year.

Last year, after the Columbine tragedy, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. With courage -- and a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President -- the Senate faced down the gun lobby, stood up for the American people and passed this legislation. But the House failed to follow suit.

We've all seen what can happen when guns fall into the wrong hands. Daniel Mauser was only 15 years old when he was gunned down at Columbine High School. He was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. Like all parents who lose their children, his father Tom has borne unimaginable grief. Somehow Tom has found the strength to honor his son by transforming that grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence to fight for tougher gun safety laws. I thank him for being here tonight and pray that his courage and wisdom will move this Congress to make common-sense gun safety legislation the very next order of business.

We've shown that we can strengthen gun laws and better enforce laws already on the books. Federal gun crime prosecutions are higher today than in 1992, and are up 25 percent since 1998. But again, we must do more. I propose to hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers who supply guns to criminals and juveniles. We must give law enforcement the tools to trace every gun used in a crime in America. We must create a national ballistics network capable of tracing almost any bullet left at a crime scene to the gun of the criminal who fired it.

The states should help too: They already require hunters and automobile drivers to have licenses. They should do the same for handgun purchasers.

there as

The gun industry should take more responsibility to improve the design, marketing, and distribution of firearms. Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 is nine times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized nations--combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. I thank the gun manufacturers who are developing these smart guns, and ask all other manufacturers to join them. And I ask Congress to help by increasing funds for research in these technologies to keep our kids safer.

Every parent I know worries about the impact of violence in the media on their children. I thank the entertainment industry for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings on TV

*agreed
when
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programs and video and Internet games. But the ratings are too numerous, diverse and confusing. Therefore, I ask the industry to accept the First Lady's challenge to develop a single, voluntary rating system for all children's entertainment, one that is easier for parents to understand and enforce.

del (I propose an initiative to help parents understand ratings & to help them get the best of the best)

Every year, hundreds of thousands of offenders leave our prisons, only to wind up back in trouble with the law. Two-thirds of ex-offenders who are sent back to prison are drug abusers. But if they get drug treatment, they are far less likely to commit another crime. We must provide them with that treatment, along with regular drug testing and a simple bargain: stay clean and you stay free; do drugs and you do more time.

more regular drug testing & prod. by gov't
|
more in charge

OPENING NEW MARKETS

We need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets, start new businesses, and hire new workers right here in America – in the inner cities, poor rural areas, and Indian reservations – places not yet blessed by our nation's prosperity. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of these places – joined by many of you – to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in these communities. Everywhere I've gone, I've met talented people eager for opportunity. They're eager to work. I say: let's put them to work.

For business, it's the smart thing to do. For America, it's the right thing to do. And if we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it?

I ask Congress to give businesses the same incentives to invest in America's new markets as they have to invest in foreign markets. Tonight, I propose a New Markets Tax Credit more than twice the size I proposed last year. With this and other new incentives, we can spur [\$TK billion] in private-sector capital to create new businesses and to help firms expand or relocate to our inner cities or rural areas. And we should increase the tax incentives that promote growth in our Empowerment Zones – which, with Vice President Gore's leadership, have been bringing prosperity to distressed areas for five years now.

I thank the business leaders who are not just seizing these opportunities – but creating them. I challenge every business to do the same.

This is not a Democratic or Republican issue; it's an American issue. Mr. Speaker, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and Reverend Jesse Jackson on stage at Englewood High School, in your home state of Illinois, and pledged to work with us. I thank you for your commitment and I look forward to working with you.

I hope we can also agree to make special efforts to support our Indian reservations, where unemployment is as high as 70%, and poverty remains rampant. My budget increases our investment in health care, education, law enforcement, and infrastructure by more than \$1 billion. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to empower the first Americans – ~~Native Americans~~.

We must also fulfill our obligation to our farming communities, the lifeblood of our land. When I signed the farm bill in 1996, I worried it would work well for family farmers in good times but not in bad. In recent years, they have endured droughts, floods and historically low prices due to financial crises abroad. We must strengthen the farm safety net and invest more in farm conservation. The Freedom to Farm Bill cannot become a “freedom to fail” bill.

This spring, I will lead a New Markets tour to focus on the disturbing gap between those who have the tools to succeed in the new economy, and those who don't. The “digital divide” along lines of education, income, region, and race is the great civil rights challenge of the Information Age.

We must go beyond connecting classrooms and libraries to make the Internet available to all citizens wherever they live. My budget provides funds to establish over 1,000 community computer centers and tax incentives to corporations to help close the digital divide, and open a new era of opportunity for all.

Challenge

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

It is not enough to master the possibilities of the new economy at home. We must also lead and shape the revolution that is sweeping our world: globalization. It is the central reality of our time – a process tearing down barriers and building new connections between nations, peoples, economies, and cultures.

Globalization is irreversible, driven even faster by the explosion in information technology. Change this profound is both liberating and threatening. But our open, creative society stands to benefit more than any other – if we understand and act on the new realities of interdependence. We must maintain our military and economic might. But we cannot lead alone. We cannot lead without being at the center of every vital network, being a good neighbor and good partner. We cannot build our future without helping others to build theirs.

International trade now accounts for one-quarter of our economy. It creates good jobs, new products and technologies, more competition and less inflation, and more consumer choices at lower prices. We need to keep that trade growing, and growing fairly. That means enforcing our own rules to protect our workers, our industries, and our environment. It means making international trade – and the WTO – more open and responsive to concerns about the dignity of work and the quality of life. And it means a global economy based on the rule of law.

We must also reach out to developing economies to make them partners for prosperity and security. I ask Congress to finalize our groundbreaking African and Caribbean Basin trade initiatives.

But mastering the demands of globalization means more than economics. Our purpose must be to sustain the forces of integration – those brining the world together around democracy, free market and peace – helping them prevail. And we must resist the forces of disintegration, those threatening the world with deadly weapons, acts of terror and poisoned appeals to ethnic pride, making sure they fail.

With that in mind, let me describe to you the fundamental challenges I believe America must meet to shape the 21st century in a way that advances our interests and serves our ideals.

One is to encourage our former adversaries Russia and China to emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic nations. Both countries are being held back from reaching their potential: Russia by the legacy of communism, by economic crisis, by a cruel and futile war in Chechnya; China by the illusion that it can buy stability at the expense of freedom.

But think how much else has changed: 5,000 former Soviet nuclear weapons dismantled; Russian soldiers serving with ours to keep peace in the Balkans; Russian people democratically electing their leaders for the first time in a thousand years of history. And in China, a society more open to the world than ever before, with the nascent stirring of democracy and one million village elections. No one can know for sure what direction these great countries will choose. We can make sure that we do everything in our power to see that both are on the inside of the global community, playing by the rules, not on the outside denying them.

Congress should support the agreement we negotiated to bring China into the WTO, by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations. If we do, America's companies and workers gain new opportunities in every sector of China's vast market, but China gains no new access to ours. This agreement is good for America and will promote the cause of change in China. [That is why we should continue to work to reduce nuclear weapons with Russia and to safeguard the weapons and materials that still exist.

A second challenge will be to protect our security from conflicts that pose the risk of wider war, especially those rooted in ethnic and religious tensions. Our modern world is still bedeviled by our most ancient failing – fear of those different from us. In too many places, that fear is exploited by cynical leaders clinging to power or waging war on their neighbors.

America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers. When human beings anywhere are singled out for destruction, our common humanity suffers. Left unresolved, such tragedies can throw entire regions into turmoil, overwhelm the world's capacity to help the innocent, and threaten us more directly.

We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to a comprehensive peace. We should be proud of our work in building peace in Northern Ireland. We should be proud of our efforts from East Timor to Africa; in promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey; in working to defuse crises between India and Pakistan, and in defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, enabling a million innocent people to return to their homes. Today, instead of struggling to defeat something evil, we can focus on building something good: a Europe undivided, democratic and at peace for the first time in history.

When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror in Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide. And when another American plane went down over Serbia, he flew into the teeth of enemy air defenses to bring his fellow pilot home. Captain Cherrey, we honor you with our gratitude, and with our promise to finish the work you helped begin.

A third challenge is to keep the inexorable march of technology from giving terrorists and hostile nations the means to undermine our defenses, and force us to live in fear again. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat: restraining nuclear and missile programs in North Korea and Iran; preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors; increasing our preparedness against biological attack and developing a system to defend against the missiles of outlaw nations – while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia; and protecting our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals in any corner of any country. My budget supports all these efforts.

We must also strengthen global standards against proliferation. I hope we can have a bipartisan dialogue this year to build a consensus on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which will eventually lead to its ratification. America must remain a leader in the struggle for a safer world.

A fourth challenge is to keep global stability from being threatened by a gap between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which a part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while another lives on the bare edge of survival. We must do our part – with expanded trade, expanded aid, and the expansion of freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. Yet new democracies need help in delivering for their people. We must stand by neighboring countries like Colombia, fighting for its people's lives – and for our children's lives – against the poison of drugs. I have proposed a two-year, \$1.6 billion package to help Colombia fight drugs, develop its legitimate economy, and strengthen democracy and human rights. I ask for your support. And if we want to put the drug barons out of business, let's go after what they value most: their money. This year, I will propose legislation to crack down harder on money laundering, here and around the world.

In a world where 1.3 billion people live on less than a dollar a day, we must also do our part in the global effort to reduce the debts of the poorest countries. I ask Congress to continue to support that effort.

And America must help more nations break the bonds of disease that hold down their people. It is unacceptable that last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests \$150 million in the fight against this and other infectious killers. And I will ask the world to join us in an initiative to speed the delivery and development of vaccines. Today, I am proposing a tax credit that will say to private industry: if you develop vaccines for

diseases like malaria, TB and AIDS, we will help pay for them, and together save millions of lives.

[And I will ask Congress to increase our support for international family planning by \$170 million. That money will help families live healthier lives, and it will save the lives of thousands of women and children.]

All this comes down to a final challenge, the most important of all: will America continue to lead? In the 20th century, America was thrust into global leadership by the forces of history. Now America must choose: to shape the new forces of history or be driven by them.

The principles of opportunity, responsibility, and community, which have driven our renewal at home apply to our role in the larger world – if we want to reap the full promise of the interdependent, information era, we must shoulder our responsibilities in the global community. And we must remain strong. We have reversed the decline in defense spending that began in 1985. We must continue to keep our military the best trained, best equipped in the world. My budget invests in readiness and in 21st century weapons. It raises salaries for our men and women in uniform and ensures America's veterans the thanks and honor they have so richly earned.

We must also continue to fund the one percent of our budget that supports the diplomacy that keeps our soldiers out of war. Last year, Congress worked with me to maintain that commitment and resume paying our UN dues and arrears. Let's do it again this year.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

I am grateful for the many opportunities the Vice President and I have had to honor our responsibility to the environment – and finally to put to rest the notion that you can't expand your economy and protect the environment at the same time. As our economy has grown, we have rid (over 500?) neighborhoods of toxic waste, ensured cleaner drinking water for millions of families, and taken unprecedented steps to improve the air we breathe.

In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve pristine backcountry lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments – adding to the tens of millions of acres we are protecting for all Americans, for all time. Not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has the nation come together to save so much precious land in the continental United States. [*# FDR?*]

But our communities are growing, and our commitment to conservation must keep growing as well. So tonight, as part of my Lands Legacy Initiative, I propose creating, for the first time, a permanent conservation endowment to save our wildlands, protect our coastlines, and restore our wildlife. This endowment would provide nearly \$1.5 billion each year – by far the largest, most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a major new effort to help make communities more livable – so children will grow up next to parks rather than parking lots, and parents don't

sit in endless traffic when they could be home with their kids. Tonight, we propose new funding for advanced transit systems ... for saving farms and other precious open spaces ... and for helping the major cities around the Great Lakes protect their waterways and enhance their quality of life.

As we work to protect our natural resources, we must help other nations that are struggling to protect theirs. The rainforests are the lungs of our planet – the source of more than a quarter of the oxygen on earth. Yet these lush sanctuaries of life are disappearing at the rate of more than 50 acres a minute. Tonight, I propose a new plan to help countries from the Amazon to the Congo Basin strengthen their economies by preserving, rather than destroying, irreplaceable forests. [?]

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium – and that if we fail to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases now, deadly heat waves, droughts, and floods will become more frequent, coastal areas will be flooded, economies disrupted.

Many people in the United States and around the world believe we can't cut the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change without slowing global growth. In the Industrial Age that was true. In the Digital Economy, it isn't. New technologies make it possible to cut harmful emissions and provide more widespread growth.

Last week, at the Detroit Auto Show, automakers unveiled cars that use advanced materials and dual fuel sources to get 70 to 80 miles a gallon – the fruits of a unique Partnership for New Generation Vehicles the Vice President has led. We've helped develop windows that drastically cut energy bills by keeping out four or five times as much heat and cold as normal windows do. We're helping to bring the benefits of advanced space research into our homes with solar roofing tiles and fuel cells that produce all the electricity a family needs – and no pollution at all. Before you know it, we'll be producing clean fuels from crops and getting the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To help spur these new technologies, I propose giving major tax incentives to businesses for producing clean power from crops, wind, or sun ... and to families for buying energy-efficient homes and appliances. And when new super-efficient cars hit the showroom floor, we should provide people who buy them with up to \$3,000 in tax credits, effectively cutting their sticker price and ensuring even greater appeal.

[Because we have the technology to make all new cars more fuel efficient right now. So tonight, I call on auto industry leaders to join us in designing a new strategy for reversing the recent decline in average fuel economy. You've committed to higher efficiency in Europe. Let's do the same right here at home.]

Because climate change is a global problem, I propose a new [\$100 million] initiative to help developing countries adopt the newest clean-energy technologies, so they can achieve prosperity without following the old patterns of growth that brought us global warming.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the new century, innovations in science and technology will be key not only to the health of our environment but to almost miraculous improvements in our health and our economy.

In the last century, the life expectancy for the average American increased from 47 to 77 – thanks to discoveries such as penicillin and the development of vaccines for many childhood diseases. Today, we are on the cusp of advances that will not only help us live far longer but far better.

Later this year, researchers will finish the first complete sequence of the human genome – the very blueprint of life. This will lead to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent diseases from Alzheimer's to cancer to AIDS. If we delay the onset of Alzheimer's by just five years, we could empty half the nursing home beds in America.

Scientists are already working on an artificial retina to treat certain kinds of blindness, and methods of directly stimulating the spinal cord to allow people who are paralyzed to walk.

Scientists have recently identified three of the genes that cause Parkinson's Disease – and they will soon begin to test elegant therapies that will turn off these faulty genes for good. Tonight, I want to thank these scientists for their brilliant work. I also want to salute Michael J.

Fox – the talented actor, director, and producer who was diagnosed with Parkinson’s nine years ago. Michael, on behalf of the million Americans struggling with Parkinson’s, I salute you for your leadership in the hunt for a cure.

Advances in science and engineering are also the engine of our economic growth. Because of our early investments in developing microprocessors, satellite communications, and the Internet, America now leads the world in information technology – an industry that accounts for one third of our economic growth and that generates jobs that pay almost 80 percent above the private sector average wage.

In the future, we will have devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can speak, enabling anyone to tap into the world’s knowledge instantly – from anywhere ... materials ten times stronger than steel at only a small fraction of the weight ... unimaginably powerful computers made with DNA strands rather than silicon chips. These and other breakthroughs may enhance our economy and our society even more profoundly than the Internet does today.

For all these reasons, my budget will include an unprecedented \$3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund. We will boost support for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, double the largest dollar increase ever for the National Science Foundation, and greatly expand funding for information technology, clean energy, university-based research, and NASA’s never-ending quest in space.

We must use these new breakthroughs in ways that reflect our most cherished values, so that the new age of science and technology is also a new age of enlightenment.

First and foremost, we must ensure that citizens' privacy – financial and medical – is protected. This year, our administration will finalize rules to protect every citizen's most sensitive information, his or her medical records. We have also taken the first steps to protect our people's financial records, in last year's sweeping financial modernization bill. I will soon send legislation to the Congress to complete this important unfinished business.

We will also take action to prevent genetic discrimination – so no employer ever reviews your genetic records along with your resume. We will make sure that the actions of the government itself contain strong privacy protections. And tonight, I want to issue a strong challenge to on-line companies to do more to protect their customers' privacy.

Also: report, review action.

Second, we know that our medical professionals work wonders every day; but we also know that their first obligation is to do no harm. My budget makes the largest investment in history to eliminate medical errors and enhance patient safety.

If we do all these things, we can ensure that the march of human discovery will bring fewer burdens and even more blessings than we can imagine today.

COMMUNITY

In the era of globalization, we must work even harder to strengthen the bonds of our local communities and our national community.

No tie binds different people together like citizen service. There is a new spirit of service in America—a movement we have supported with Americorps and an expanded Peace Corps, and unprecedented new partnerships between government and private citizens.

Four years ago, I asked corporate leaders to join us in helping people move from welfare to work. Today, 12,000 companies have hired nearly 650,000 of our fellow citizens.

Over the past seven years, we have created many other successful partnerships. *with* *[Names]*
To battle drug abuse and AIDS. To teach young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To fight teen pregnancy. To prevent youth violence. To promote racial healing. To help our young people serve.

But there is much more to be done, we need more citizen servants.

Veterans of AmeriCorps, like veterans of our military and the Peace Corps, are a pool of know-how and can-do. Tonight, I propose the creation of the Americorps Reserves to activate former AmeriCorps members in times of crisis including natural disasters.

Our senior population represents a huge army of workers and volunteers who want and deserve a chance to serve. So, tonight, I say to seniors across America – we need your work,

your wisdom and your service. Get involved if you are not and stay involved if you are.

[*Eldercorps?*]

If we believe that charity begins at home, we must reward lower and middle income Americans who tithe and contribute to charities. Right now, only those who earn enough to itemize can claim a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to allow low and middle income citizens to claim that same deduction.

Faith-based organizations are on the frontlines in our communities helping Americans fight substance abuse, providing opportunities for young people to get back on the right track. We can respect the line between church and state and still do more to support the good works of these groups. [TK Specific examples to come]

There is even more we can do to breathe fuller life into the idea of citizenship. That's why we're proposing to invest more in teaching civics and English to new immigrants. That's why in this year of the census, every one of us must not only stand up and be counted. We must also stand up and be heard.

So I say to all Americans: whatever your party, whatever your ideology, whatever you do, make your voice heard. This year America charts a course, for a new century: Vote.

We are going to use 21st century technology to open new doors to the democratic process. Two generations ago, Franklin Roosevelt used the new medium of radio for his fireside chats.

Starting next month, I will use the new medium of the Internet to launch Webside Chats--- interactive discussions to connect more Americans to our democracy.

Our national community is undergoing one of the greatest demographic transformations in history. Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years there will be no majority race in America.

In a more interconnected world, will we make diversity our greatest strength? As we have seen in recent years, from Northern Ireland to Africa...from the Balkans to the Middle East...racial and ethnic conflict too often spark terror and war. And no country is exempt from hatred—even our own.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In the last year, we've seen the shootings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of who they were. We must draw the line. This is not the American way. In America, we must do more than tolerate diversity--we must celebrate it. Without further delay, we must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. [*Tighten*]

The work of building One America must be the work of all Americans. We must rededicate ourselves to the ideals of justice and opportunity for all that are at the heart of our democracy. No American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job,

going to school, or securing a loan. Tonight, I propose the largest ever investment to enforce America's civil rights laws. Let's make sure protections in law are protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office on One America to coordinate our efforts and help build community partnerships for racial reconciliation. We are reaching out across our nation – to religious leaders, to corporate leaders, to the legal community to enlist the help of American in building the One America of our dreams.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists, said something we all need to remember: all human beings are genetically 99.9 percent the same. Modern science affirms what ancient faith has taught us: the most important fact of life is our common humanity.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the state of the union, I approach it with great hope and great expectations for our nation. But there is no escaping the fact that tonight is different. For tonight, we stand on a mountaintop, with a new millennium spread out before us. Behind us we see the expanse of American achievement, and ahead even wider frontiers of possibility.

We should be filled with gratitude and humility for our prosperity and progress, awe and joy for what lies before us, and resolute determination to make the most of it.

Tonight, as we take our long look ahead, let us pledge to ourselves and to our children:

At a time of undreamed of economic growth, we will, step by step, bring opportunity to every American in every community.

At a time of record surpluses, we will, step by step, make America debt free for the first time since 1835.

At a time when our people are living longer than ever, we will, step by step, ensure that they live healthier, with quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans.

At a time when science and technology are transforming our world, we will, step by step, realize their full promise and, at every step, harness our progress to our values.

At a time when we have proved we can grow the economy and protect the environment, we will, step by step, reverse climate change and secure our planet for our grandchildren.

At a time of steadily falling crime, we will, step by step, make America the safest big nation on Earth.

At a time when more parents are working, we will, step by step, ensure that all parents have the tools to succeed at work and in raising their children...and that none of those children are raised in poverty.

At a time when knowledge is the key to our children's future, we will, step by step, see to it that all of them begin school ready to learn and graduate ready to succeed.

At a time when globalization brings both new promise and new perils, we will continue to be the world's indispensable nation – a strong leader and a better neighbor.

At a time when America is growing more diverse than ever, we will become at last what our founders pledged us to be so long ago -- one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

This is the long look ahead, unreachable in one year, but clearly within reach of a great people with big dreams, [determined to work together and move ahead, step by step.]

When the framers were crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin reflected on a painting of the sun, low on the horizon, ^{the} hanging in Independence Hall. He said, "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Well, today because each generation of Americans has kept the fire of freedom burning and lighting new frontiers of possibility, we bask in the warmth of Mr. Franklin's rising sun. Now it is our time. We will be judged by the deeds and dreams we pass to our children. And on that score, we will be held to a high standard, indeed. Because our chance to do good is so great. After 224 years, the American revolution continues. We remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. That is our destiny. And this is our magic moment.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.