



DEMOCRATIC
CONGRESSIONAL
CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Martin Frost, TX
Chairman

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: *Laura Capps*

FAX #: *4565709*

FROM: **Stephanie Cohen, DCCC Communications**

DATE: *7/24*

PAGES TO FOLLOW: *1*

COMMENTS:

*talking pt3. for Sunday's LA
event. call if you have any
questions*

*Thanks for your help
- Stephanie*

**IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH ANY PARTS OF THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE
CONTACT STEPHANIE COHEN AT (202) 485-3517.**

TO: White House Speech Writing Office
FR: DCCC Communications
RE: Talking Points for L.A. DCCC fund raiser
DT: July 24, 1997

MESSAGE

The message for the Sunday event in LA should be similar to the DC event this past Tuesday with the following additions:

- The most important message the President can convey to those at the event is that he needs a Democratic House in 1998 to help address the issues important facing this country.
- Those attending Sunday's event recognize the need for Democrats to win back control of the House, and call for their continued support of the DCCC.
- Thank Martin Frost for his "diligence" and hard work at the DCCC.

Acknowledgments

- Acknowledge the efforts by the entire California Democratic House delegation.

List of California House Members (FYI -- don't need to mention them all by name)

George Brown	Cal Dooley
Ron Dellums	Maxine Waters
Pete Stark	Xavier Becerra
George Miller	Anna Eshoo
Henry Waxman	Sam Farr
Julian Dixon	Jane Harman
Bob Matsui	Lucille Roybal-Allard
Tom Lantos	Lynn Woolsey
Matthew Martinez	Juanita Millender-McDonald
Howard Berman	Zoe Lofgren
Estaban Torres	Walter Capps
Nancy Pelosi	Brad Sherman
Gary Condit	Ellen Tauscher
Vic Fazio	Bob Filner

- Democratic leaders in attendance will be Leader Gephardt, Chairman Frost, Caucus Chair Vic Fazio.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 16, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE DINNER

Hay Adams Hotel
Washington, D.C.

9:54 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Steve gave such a good speech, if I had any sense I would just sit down. (Laughter.) But I thank you for it. Let me thank Joel and David and Monte and Jeff and Ira and everyone else who is responsible for this tonight. I thank Carol Pinsky and Cynthia Freedman for their leadership in our party. I thank Secretary Babbitt for coming tonight, and Ann Lewis from the White House for coming, and Craig Smith, my political director. There may be more people here; I'll hear about it tomorrow if there are. (Laughter.) I thank Senator Lautenberg and Senator Feinstein and Dick and Senator Lieberman -- thank you all for being here.

I really appreciate more than anything else I suppose the fact that there has been established between our administration and I hope between me personally and the American Jewish community a bond of trust which is rooted in our shared values for what America ought to become here at home and for our longing for an honorable and lasting peace in the Middle East. And I thank those of you who mentioned to me going through the line tonight my speech in San Diego a couple of days ago. And I would like to talk a little about that and about the Middle East in what I would call a proper context.

In 1991, when I was attempting to decide whether to enter the Democratic primaries, and only my mother thought I could be elected -- (laughter) -- night after night I would sit at home and say, why do you want to do this. You know, you could say, well, every little boy -- and now, I hope every little girl -- can want to grow up to be President, but that's not a very good reason for other people to vote for you, the fact that you'd just as soon live in the White House as somewhere else. And I was deeply disturbed because I didn't think the country was moving to prepare for the new century.

It was an unusual time because I'd actually had a very good relationship with President

Bush. I was very often the designated Democrat to deal with the White House. I had no burning, negative passion -- I don't understand them very well, anyway. But I really felt that my country was not preparing for the future.

And so I sat down, almost six years ago now, and wrote out what I wanted America to be like in the 21st century. And now I have said it over and over again probably a thousand, maybe two, three thousand times and a lot of people are sick of hearing it. But it's important that you know that every day as President I still think about what I wrote six years ago.

I said that I wanted my nation in the 21st century, first of all, to have the American Dream of opportunity alive for every person here, without regard to their race, their background, their starting point in life. I wanted all of our citizens to be responsible, to take responsibility for themselves, their families and others in their communities. I wanted America to be the world's leading force for peace and freedom and prosperity a generation from now, just as we are today. And I wanted us to become closer as one community with all of our diversity.

And I realized that if you ask the question, what do you want the country to look like 30 years from now, then you begin -- and you answer that, you're much more likely to ask and answer the right questions about what are you going to do tomorrow. Because then it became clear to me that the first thing we had to do was to scrap the economic policy we were following and adopt one that made some sense; that we had to find a way to get rid of the terrible deficits we had and still invest in our future.

Most people said you couldn't cut the deficit and invest more in education and technology and research. I thought you could. We know -- the record is in now. The deficit has gone down 77 percent in four years before this last agreement, and we have invested more. And the country is better off, and our economy has produced a record number of new jobs, biggest decline in income inequality among working families, something very important to most of you, since the 1960s.

I thought we could have a crime strategy that was more than tough talk. I mean, everybody -- you can't have a free country if people are terrified of their own personal security. And I thought the Democrats had made a mistake not taking that issue on, but taking it on in a real way, not just a rhetorical way. So I worked with Senator Feinstein to ban assault weapons. And we worked to pass the Brady Bill. And we heard all these talks, and a lot of our people lost seats in '94 because they had the guts to vote for the assault weapons ban and the Brady Bill.

And they were all told, oh, you're going to lose your gun. Well, as I said in '96 in New Hampshire, I said, a lot of you voted against our people in '94 because they told you we were going to take your guns. And I said, I want everybody who lost their guns to vote for Republicans for Congress and everybody who didn't to vote for the Democrats. (Laughter.) And they were all laughing. But 186,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have lost their guns.

Last year we had the biggest drop in crime in 35 years-- putting these police officers on the street, and we're moving forward with this juvenile justice strategy, based on what's been

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working in Steve and Alan's home town of Boston. There has not been a single child killed with a handgun in a year and a half.

So we're working. We had the biggest drop in welfare rolls in history. Things are moving. You may have seen last week, something that I was told by the cynics would never happen -- in the International Math and Science Survey, our 4th graders scored way above the national average in math and science. They said, oh, no, America's kids are too poor, they're too racially diverse, you'll never get this done. But our educators have been working on this since 1984 all over America.

So then I got hired again '96 -- (laughter) -- and I said to myself, well, now what are we doing to do. I love to tell this story -- I told this story where I was earlier tonight. When I ran for reelection as governor one time a guy came up to me and said, are you going to run again, Bill? And I said, if I do, will you vote for me? He said, probably. What are you going to say? I said, well, I'm going to say I did a good job. He said, hell, that's what I hired you to do. He said that's not a reason to vote for you. (Laughter.) You think about it. I mean, it's an interesting thing.

So I asked myself, what are we going to do. So I asked the right question again. Where are we going to be in 30 years. What do we still have to do. That's what this balanced budget agreement is all about. It balances the budget and has the biggest investment in education in history and opens the doors of college to all Americans, and pays for examinations in math and science for every 4th and 8th grader in the country to see if we're really committed to national academic standards. It helps to bring economic opportunity and empowerment into the inner cities. It's the right thing to do. So that's the first thing I wanted to do.

The second thing I wanted to do was to continue to expand our leadership in world trade, something that's controversial in both parties. But it seems to me like we have evidence now. You know, we have a 4.8 percent unemployment, the lowest unemployment in 24 years; and we had 200 separate trade agreements in the last four years. And we're selling more overseas than ever before and we're the number one exporter in the world again. And I personally do not believe we need to be afraid of making a trade agreement with Chile or Argentina or Brazil, for that matter. And I think it would be a terrible mistake for us to walk away from the chance to reach out to Latin America, to Africa, to Asia, and build closer ties and a better, brighter future.

And the fourth thing I wanted to do was to recognize that we have a problem -- I don't care how well we're doing; as long as 20 percent of the kids in this country are living below the poverty line and are in physical isolation from most of the rest of us, we've got a problem. That's really what the Presidents Summit of Service was all about in Philadelphia. It was about saying every child ought to have a safe place to grow up, ought to have a decent school, ought to have health care -- all three of those things we try to deal with in our budget, by the way -- ought to have a personal mentor and ought to have a chance to serve in the community.

And I thought the Summit of Service is important because it would mobilize volunteers all over America to support and reenforce and carry out the things I'm trying to get done in this

budget and in the juvenile crime bill that was before the Congress.

And then the last thing that I wanted to do was focus on race and ethnic and religious differences, which is why I went to San Diego. Why? Because if we have a growing economy, a good educational system, the crime rate is down, the welfare rolls are down, and we're doing better by kids, and we can't get along when there is no race in the majority in this country, the rest of it will come unraveled. And if we can't get along we will not have the moral force we need to do what needs to be done in the Middle East, in Bosnia, in Africa, and in Northern Ireland, and who knows what's going to happen 10, 15, 20, 30 years from now.

In Hawaii -- Hawaii is the only state in the country today where there is no majority race. In three years there will be none in California. In somewhere between 30 and 50 years there will be none in the United States. It depends on immigration and birth patterns, but somewhere between 30 and 50 years from now we will test the theory that I have heard politicians talk about -- or read them talk about for a century, which is that this is not a nation of place or race, it's a nation of ideals. We are about to find out.

And it seems to me that it would be better for us to find out at a time when we have no riots in the streets, we have no immediate emergencies, we're at the peak of our economic strength and our international influence, when we could take back -- sort of step back and say, now, let's ask this question together one more time: What do we want to be like in 30 years? That's what that whole business in San Diego was about.

So I hope all of you will participate in that, because this is something that has been of passionate significance to the Jewish community for a long time. I really do believe that my life is diminished every time a synagogue is defaced. And I believe when they burned that mosque in the South a couple years ago it diminished my life. And I believe when those churches were burned it diminished my life. And I think that you do.

And so I ask you to help us participate in that. I also have invited you all privately -- I will say this publicly, I'm not ashamed to say it -- you care passionately, all of you, about getting peace in the Middle East; we cannot let this process become unraveled. I cannot tell you how many nights that I have had difficulty sleeping, racking my brain trying to come up with some new thing I could do or say to try to pierce the difficulties of the moment. But you have never been shy in telling me what you thought before, so don't start now. (Laughter.) Because every one of us now has a huge stake in this.

There is some good news here in some areas, and over the next several days we'll be seeing some progress, but there is a lot of -- there are a lot of clouds on the horizon, and we have to keep working at it. But I want you to know that it's not off my radar screen. It's still right there where it was the first day I took office. And I'm going to be disappointed when I leave office if we haven't gone much further. And I still believe we can, and I want you to believe that, and I want you to help me.

But I also want you also to just think for a moment one more time about the implications

of this racial thing, because what I want to do is to get everybody to buy into that vision that we should be one America, that we should celebrate all the differences between us, but think that what unites us is more important; that we should get out the facts, because I've learned that we don't have the facts. I was astonished in the Gallup Poll, polling African Americans and whites just about different racial issues -- they asked African Americans and whites what percentage of our population is black. And the five choices were: less than five, between five and 10, between 10 and 20, between 20 and 49, or over half. Those are the five choices.

By far the biggest plurality -- there was not a majority for any answer -- but by far the most votes went to 20 to 49 percent. The most votes of whites, the most votes of blacks said between 20 and 49 percent of the American population is black. The correct answer is 12. But like 40 percent of both thought that. So if we don't even know what the facts are among us, you can imagine all the things we don't know about in more sophisticated ways, on more critical questions.

Then I want to try to get some honest dialogue going in every community. And the Jewish community has been very active in this in a lot of communities, so I ask you for your help for the White House in this -- help this advisory board I have appointed to reach out to things that are working now and get something like this in every community.

And, finally, we're going to try to come up with some specific, concrete solutions to go forward. But this is a huge deal. We can't hold America together and we can't maintain our position of moral leadership in the world to be for peace in a world that is coming apart around a racial, ethnic, tribal and religious differences unless we can deal with this. And we need to start now, before we have to figure out what we're going to do when things start to fray.

On balance, I'm very upbeat about our country and about the world. And there will always be difficulties, there will always be problems -- it is endemic to human nature. But if we could follow the admonition of the Christian Bible to love your neighbor as yourself, or Rabbi Hillel, who said, what is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man -- which is, it seems to me, just about the same thing -- then this race initiative will have been one well worth taking.

So again I say, I thank you for your support. I ask for your advice and your continued support. And more than anything else, I ask you to help your fellow Americans think about what we want this country to look like when our grandchildren are where we are.

Thank you. God bless you.

END

10:09 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New York, New York)

For Immediate Release

June 30, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT NEW YORK PRESIDENTIAL GALA

The Plaza Hotel
New York, New York

11:25 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Well, you heard Lauren say that Al Gore is the most influential Vice President in history -- I let him have all the jokes. (Laughter.)

I do want to thank my good friend, Peter Duchin, and his orchestra for being here tonight. (Applause.) And I want to thank Mr. Billy Porter for that wonderful song he sang; and thank you, Denise Rich (phonetic), for writing the song, it was wonderful -- and the group, you were all great. Thank you. (Applause.)

You're going to hear a lot more from that young fellow, I predict. If I could sing like that I'd be in a different line of work. (Laughter.)

I want to thank Wynton Marsalis, who has always been there for us repeatedly. (Applause.) We were having a discussion around the dinner table tonight about Wynton Marsalis, a man I admire enormously. And I said I believe that he is the only musician in the world who is the best at what he does in both classical and jazz music. And then someone pointed out that Yo Yo Ma, with the Appalachian Suite, had come pretty close. And he's helped us, too. So I don't care, you can take your choice. (Laughter.) But he's a magnificent man.

And thank you, Lauren Bacall, for being who you are and for being there for us for all these years. Thank you. (Applause.)

Thanks for being here. You know, one of my immutable laws of politics is that no one should ever have to listen to a speech after 11 o'clock at night. And I'm not running again, anyway. (Laughter.) Therefore, I will let you out by midnight. (Laughter.)

I'll be very brief. I want you to remember the last thing the Vice President said. You have helped bring your country to this point through your support, and you are helping us to continue to take it in the direction that it is now headed, which is very different from five years ago.

I am so grateful to have had the chance to serve as President. I'm grateful, especially, to the people of New York who gave us right at 60 percent of the vote in the last election and a huge plurality of well over 1.7 million votes, about 25 percent of our total -- just under 25 percent of our total national plurality came from the generosity of the people of New York State, and I will never forget that. (Applause.)

Judith Hope, our State Democratic Chair, told me that we carried President Roosevelt's home county, which is apparently something that never happened when he was here. (Laughter.) That's just because they didn't know me as well, and I thank them for that. (Laughter.)

Let me say to you, when you go home tonight and you get up tomorrow and you think about why you do all this, I think the most useful question you can ask yourself is: what would you like your country to look like in 30 years; what would you like your country to look like when your children or your grandchildren are your age. That's a question I try to force myself to ask and answer every single day I do this job.

And it may sound trite now because I've said it so many times, but I don't have any better definition of that answer than I did when I started more than six years ago now: I want my country to be a place where the American Dream is alive for everybody who is responsible enough to work for it. I want our country to be a community that's coming together and celebrating the differences among us, not being driven apart by them. And I want us to lead the world for peace and freedom and prosperity well into the next century.

We're a lot closer to that today than we were five years ago -- because of the condition of the economy; because we are ending the structural deficit in the government; because we have developed a serious approach to move people from welfare to work, not to punish them or their children; because we developed a serious approach to reduce the crime rate and make people safer on their streets, not just talk tough about it; because we've made a good beginning in education and the environment and done a lot of things around the world.

But we still have a lot to do. It really matters not only that we balance this budget, but how we do it and whether we really empower people who need to be helped by this budget. If the budget we want passes, it will have -- for people that tell you there's nothing very significant in it, you decide. It will have the biggest increase in children's health coverage since the passage of Medicaid in 1965. It will have the biggest increase in federal support for education since 1965. (Applause.) It will have the biggest increase in federal support to help all kinds of people who need it go to college since the G.I. Bill was passed 52 years ago. I think it's a budget worth

fighting for. It's a budget I'm very proud of. (Applause.)

We still have a lot to do in other areas. We've got a lot to do in the area of the environment. We took a tough decision last week on clean air rules, and we're going to work with our cities and our businesses to meet those clean air rules, but it matters whether the air is clean. There are too many children with asthma in this country, there are too many problems. It matters. (Applause.)

We're going to have to make some other tough decisions. The United States has 4 percent of the world's population; we produce 20 percent of the greenhouse gases that are warming our planet. It's led to the most disruptive weather patterns anybody can remember over the last four or five years. We owe it to our children not to take a stable universe away from them. It's not very complicated.

And can we find a way to grow our economy and do that? Of course we can. We're smart. We can do that. But we have to do it. We still have to find a way to honor the intergenerational compact that is the test of any great society. We do well by the elderly and we don't do very well by the poor and the children in this country -- 20 percent of them are living below the poverty line. And it's hard for them to get the chances they need in life. And I am determined that before I leave office we will balance the intergenerational equities and take care of our children better because we have to for our future. (Applause.)

Finally, just let me say this. I knew something -- I thought I knew something about people who couldn't get along with one another because of their differences, because I grew up in the segregated South. I thought I knew something about that. And then I became President and I saw what happened in Bosnia and Rwanda and Burundi. And I saw what happened when my kinfolks in Ireland still insist on shooting each other over 600-year-old fights that children can barely explain.

And I thought after we signed that first peace agreement in the Middle East we would have an irreversible process because people would see it just did not make any sense to hold on to old hatreds; but they die hard. And I don't care what anybody says -- you know, yes, there is an entitlements issue that we have to face on Social Security, but my generation is not going to bankrupt our children and grandchildren. Fundamentally, that's an accounting problem that will get fixed.

The biggest problem is whether we can muster the wisdom and strength of spirit to treat each other with respect and not just abide each other's differences of all kinds, but to actually relish them and be glad that we have all this diversity in our country. Because if we can do that and then be united as one America by shared values, then we're way the best position in democracy in the world for the next century. But this is a very important thing. (Applause.)

So as you leave here tonight I want you to think about that. We've still got a lot of work

to do before the new century comes in. There are five school districts in America with more than 100 different racial and ethnic groups among the students in them -- within two years there will be 12, before you know it there will be 20. There's only one state in the country that has no majority race, Hawaii; within three to five years, California won't; within 30 years, the United States won't.

We always say we're bound together by our shared values. We're about to find out. (Laughter.) Hold on, we're about to find out. And every one of us who can be in this room tonight because of our financial or political position or whatever, we have a special responsibility to the people who will follow behind us. The United States has got an incredible opportunity here and I'm going to keep trying to make peace in the Middle East and Northern Ireland and do what I can to help Africa. I'm going to do everything I can in this term to try to resolve the differences between Greece and Turkey over Cyprus. I'm going to support what's now going on, finally, where the Indians and the Pakistanis are talking. I'm going to do all that. But just remember, all those people live in America.

And we have other differences, as well. Sometimes I think that we couldn't live if we couldn't look down on somebody who is different from us. Sometimes I wonder if it's just sort of endemic to human nature, you know. Every one of you has done this, I know -- at least I have, I'll plead guilty. Haven't you had a bad day when you just were really down on yourself and you said, well, no matter how bad I am, at least I'm not him or her. I mean, it's almost like endemic and we have to fight that, because we are the most richly blessed country in the world.

Here we are, going into this global society, and everybody's right here. And if we have the discipline to give excellence in education, if we have the discipline to preserve the environment while we grow the economy, if we have the discipline to eliminate the intergenerational imbalance and give children health care just like we give it to senior citizens, if we have the discipline to do these things and to continue to fulfill our responsibilities in the world, the best days of this country are still ahead of us, and the people in this room will not live to see them, and that's good. That's good. That's our responsibility. And that's what this administration is all about and that's what your presence here is helping to further. And for that, we are profoundly grateful. God bless you and thank you. (Applause.)

END

11:37 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Chicago, Illinois)

For Immediate Release

June 25, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT "VICTORY IN ILLINOIS" DINNER
HONORING SENATOR CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN

Sheraton Hotel and Towers
Chicago, Illinois

8:00 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mayor and Mrs. Daley; Reverend Barrow, Representative Jones and Chairman Lapel, Mr. Houlihan. I'm sorry Paul Simon left. I have sat in on so many of his speeches and he sat in on so many of mine -- I was sort of getting used to getting back to our old routine. I miss Paul Simon in the Senate, but I'm glad he's still here caring about Illinois. He doesn't have an axe to grind and I think we ought to listen to his recommendations.

Let me also say that I had a good time, Mayor, when I got off the plane and I took my little helicopter to Meigs Field, soon to be Daley Park -- (laughter) -- and there were still people there when I got out and they said, welcome home, Mr. President, and I love that. Chicago has sort of become my second home, Illinois has. And you all remember that on St. Patrick's Day in 1992 the victory we had here and up in Michigan pretty well assured the nomination and I will always be grateful for that.

And I try to water my Chicago roots whenever I can. You know, we had the Bulls at the White House the other day. And Scottie Pippen got up and referred to me as his "home boy." (Laughter.) After which Michael Jordan said that Hillary would always be first in the hearts of Chicagoans. That's a battle I was glad to lose. (Laughter and applause.)

The Mayor was terrific leading the mayors this year. He did a great job. You should all be very proud of him. And they had a great meeting in San Francisco. I was afraid that his tenure might be tarnished by the outbreak of civil disobedience here when they started inter-league play in baseball. (Laughter.) And I want to congratulate you for doing whatever was necessary to avoid that. (Laughter.)

Let me say, we're all among friends tonight, I want to make a fairly pointed and brief

argument for why I'm here and why I hope that Senator Carol Moseley-Braun will be reelected. In 1992, when I ran for President, I had an idea that we could only change America if we changed the way we were doing politics, if we broke out of the debates which were always dividing people into yesterday's categories. It's okay to be a liberal or a conservative, but it's not okay to be irrelevant in American politics. It's not okay to be divisive for the sake of being divisive. It's not okay to be interested in rhetoric only, and no reality. It's not okay to trap yourself in a pattern of conduct which never permits progress to occur.

And it was obvious to me that we had to change what we had to do, and that we weren't even asking the right questions. So I started with what I thought the right question was: What would I like America to look like when my daughter is my age? How would I like America to go into this new century? What do we need to do to prepare America to go into the new century?

I still believe in what I said then: I want our country in the 21st century to be a place where every American without regard to race, gender, or background, has a chance to live out his or her dreams; where our communities are full of citizens who are exercising their individual responsibilities for themselves, their families, their communities, and their country; where we are celebrating our diversity, but coming together as one America in a strong united community; and where, because we did these things, we can still lead the world to greater peace and freedom and prosperity. That's what I still want for our country in this new century.

What is the principal way we have to achieve that? We have to look at every significant area of national life and ask ourselves, does it create more opportunity for all; does it induce more responsibility from all; does it help us build a community of all Americans? If the era of big government and big centralized bureaucracies is over, that doesn't let government off the hook. Far from it. In some ways, we should be more active. But it does mean we have to focus on what works, which is giving people the tools they need to empower them to seize their own opportunities and solve their own problems and build their own lives and their own community.

So we took that approach. In the economy we said we have to bring the deficit down, it's killing America. But we have to invest more in our children, in our future, in technology and science and research. We can't just stop investing in medical research because we've got a deficit. We have to cut in the right way. And our opponents said it couldn't be done. Some of those in our own party said it couldn't be done because you couldn't cut and invest. And every single person in the other party said that if my economic plan passed in 1993 the country would go into a nose dive, we'd have a terrible recession, it would be the awfulest thing you ever saw. And so every single one of them voted against it, which means that if Carol Moseley-Braun had not been in the Senate we would not have prevailed.

Now, on that alone, she deserves your support for reelection. The state of Illinois is a lot better off today than it was the day I was sworn in as President in 1993, and that economic program we passed by one, single solitary vote in the Senate and in the House is a big reason.

Vice President Gore even had to vote in that. And as he says, whenever he votes, we win. (Laughter.)

But she was there. She stood up. She listened to all the nay-sayers and said, I don't believe that's right. Well, now, before this balanced budget plan passed we cut the deficit by 77 percent; we got 4.8 percent unemployment rate, the lowest unemployment in 24 years; the lowest inflation in 30 years; and something that's very important to Democrats, the biggest decline among inequality among working people in over 30 years. And Carol Moseley-Braun played a major role in bringing that about and she deserves your support because of it and I hope you will give it to her. (Applause.)

We thought we could be tough and smart about crime and give the streets back to the people if we just listened to people like Mayor Daley, who had been a prosecutor, the police officers of our countries, the community leaders, and fashioned a crime bill that made sense. We did it and we supported the innovative work going on in communities all over this country. Last year we had the biggest decline in crime in 36 years-- in 36 years. (Applause.) And not all, but nearly all, of the folks in the other party opposed us on that and said what we really need is tough talk and more jails and nothing else. We said what we need is more police, tougher punishment on people who were serious offenders, but more aggressive efforts to prevent young people from getting in trouble in the first place. And that strategy has worked. That strategy has worked. (Applause.)

Now, it's not as if this is a debatable point. You know, we've had the debate and now we've got the evidence. And it would seem to me that the people of Illinois would want to support someone who is out there advocating policies that work, and a direction that's good for the ordinary citizens of Illinois, for the business community and the working people -- for the poor, the middle class and the wealthy -- because we're going together and we're going forward together.

And I could give you example after example of that. But we have changed the way politics works in Washington. It drives some people crazy but we've done it. There are lots of people who really, I think, in Washington who are just kind of unhappy when the country is happy. You know, they would prefer it if the world really worked like those talk shows, you know, where people scream at each other and call each other names and hurl labels around like they really meant something.

But out here in the real world, in all those little towns I visited on the bus in Illinois in '92 and '96, those people don't need talking heads screaming at each other -- they need reasoned public debate by people who care deeply about their future and what their children's lives will be like, actually producing results that make a difference. And that's what we're trying to do. And that's what you ought to reward, because that's what helps the people of Illinois to build a better future.

And if you just look at this budget debate that we're having -- it's a historic, marvelous

thing. And I still believe, even though we're disagreeing mostly because members of Congress, being contentious as they are, some of them don't want to adhere to the terms of the agreement at some point. But if you look at that agreement, it would balance the budget but it would give us the biggest increase in health care investment for children since Medicaid passed in 1965. It would balance the budget, but it would give us the biggest in educational investment for our children since 1965, and the biggest increase in access to colleges and universities since the G.I. Bill was passed 50 years ago. That's what's in that balanced budget.

And make no mistake about it, those priorities are there because of our side and what we believe and what we brought to the table. And I think they deserve to be supported.

And I'll just give you three specific examples of things that bear the imprint of Carol Moseley-Braun -- one in the past -- I'll give four: two in the budget and one still in the future. Number one, she was a co-sponsor of the Family and Medical Leave Act. It was the first bill I signed as President. (Applause.) Every month, my staff pulls for me a representative sample of mail I get from ordinary American citizens, people I've never met, people I never will meet. And among the most moving letters I have ever received are those that come from people who tell me, my wife got sick, my child got sick, my father was dying; I got to take a little time off from work without losing my job, I got to be true and faithful to my family and true and faithful to my job, and I didn't lose it. I'm a better employee and America is a better place because of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Believe me, if people who thought like us had never attained the White House and kept the majority in Congress when we did, it never would have become the law of the land. The other side said, it's going to hurt the economy. It was the first bill I signed in '93. If it's hurting the economy, it's doing a poor job of it. (Applause.)

I believe we're a better place when people can succeed at home and at work. This is a problem that affects Americans of all income groups. A lot of upper income people tear their hair out worrying about how they can do what they're supposed to do at work and still do right by their children. This Family Leave Act symbolizes the values this country ought to stand for.

Two things in the budget. Number one, in 1993 we knew we would have to do something extra if we wanted our cities and people who had literally been physically isolated from the mainstream of life to have any chance whatever to participate in the free enterprise system and succeed. So we created the empowerment zone concept, which Carol Moseley-Braun supported and Chicago is participating. We created the Community Development Financial Institutions Act to set up banks like the South Shore Bank here in Chicago all over America so that people who could otherwise never get any credit to start their own business -- very often a self-employed business -- in isolated inner cities and poor rural areas would have a chance to do that.

Hillary did a lot of work on these things when we were still living in Arkansas, and has

been all over the world promoting these kind of community financial institutions and these microenterprise businesses and loans to them in developing countries. It is amazing how much your government has done to help people who would otherwise be desperately poor in countries all over the world to get credit to start their own businesses, and we had never done anything to help our own people do the same things. Carol Moseley-Braun was a co-sponsor of that, in this balanced budget amendment we more than double the funds for the community development financial institutions. Everybody ought to have a chance to participate in this economic boom, and it won't be good enough for me until everybody does. And that's what she's trying to do. (Applause.)

Number two, the cities of this country have worked and worked and worked to bring back economic vitality, and we now see unemployment in our 50 largest cities falling by a third in the last four years. We've got economic growth coming back, and one of the biggest barriers to growth in the city is an environmental problem, where sites have been abandoned, where economic activity used to occur, and it is not economical for someone else to come in and redevelop those sites and put people to work because of the cost of environmental clean-up. And our balanced budget -- and these sites, by the way, are called brownfields. Most Americans don't know what that is. You read of -- a brownfield is a place almost always in a city where people used to make money and they left and it's now polluted and people can't afford to go in and make money there again. Otherwise, the cities would very often be the most economical places to invest for new business because that's where the labor pool is -- very often.

So what we have done is to come up with a strategy to give tax credits to people who invest there and also to invest a lot more money through the Environment Protection Agency to try to help clean them up so we can have economic vitality coming back to the cities. Carol Moseley-Braun is one of the chief cosponsors of the brownfields legislation. It's a very important part of Chicago's future, and important to Illinois. And you ought to be for it. (Applause.)

And the last thing I want to say is Carol Moseley-Braun is the first person who came to me and said, Mr. President, I know the national government has never done this before, but we ought to try to do something about the crumbling buildings in our country's school system. We've got too many places like a school district where I was in Florida recently, when I had my unfortunate accident, where the children were going to school in 17 trailer houses, as well as the regular school building. That's how over-crowded they were.

I was in Philadelphia the other day -- the average age of a school building in Philadelphia is 65 years of age. Now, a lot of those schools are very well built, but they're in poor repair. And there are a lot of school districts that simply don't have the property tax base and simply don't have a high enough percentage of parents living in the school district as property owners, to do everything they need to do to rebuild these buildings. I'm trying to put a computer in every classroom and library in the country. It will be of precious little comfort if the ceiling is leaking and the windows are cracked.

And Carol Moseley-Braun said we ought to do something about this. And she persuaded me to offer a partial solution to a huge national challenge. And in the budget agreement I could not persuade the leaders of the Congress, the majority, to go along with it. But I still believe in the end we'll get this done -- especially if you reelect her -- because it's the right thing to do.

But here's a case where she was out front on an issue, she said we have a national interest -- we're fixing to have the biggest increase in investment in education from the National Government in a whole generation and we're going to leave tens of thousands of our children in substandard physical facilities where it will be very difficult for them to learn and for the teachers to teach. And we can't solve the whole problem, but we ought to give states and localities the incentive to do more and say, if you will do more, we'll do more to help you; you have to carry your load, but if you will, we'll do more to help you.

That is leadership. That's what you hire people for. You hire people to make good decisions, to make your life better, to give you the tools to make the most of your own lives and you hire people to look to the future and come up with leadership ideas that may not be accepted when they're first floated but that have merit, that are right and that in the end are going to prevail if you give the people who are advocating them the chance to serve long enough to do it.

That's my simple case to you. This is a better country today because in 1992 the state of Illinois sent Carol Moseley-Braun, a Democrat, to the United States Senate instead of her opponent. If you had sent her opponent there the economic program I advanced would have failed by one vote and this would be a different country today. You should reward people who do things that are good for this country. (Applause.)

And it's a better country because we have someone like her up there advocating these innovating approaches in the environment, in the economy, in families, and in education.

Listen, our best days are still ahead of us. Don't kid yourself, this country has got a brilliant future. But we have to face our challenges.

And I close with this point -- about 10 days ago I went out to San Diego and gave a speech about race -- not yesterday's racial challenges but tomorrow's. And I pointed out, among other things, that today we already have five school districts in America where the children come from over 100 different racial and ethnic groups. In a matter of a year or two, we'll have 12 school districts.

We have a large number of our biggest countries, including this one, where there are people from over 100 different racial and ethnic groups. Today we have one state, Hawaii, where there is no majority race. In three years, California will join Hawaii, and they represent 13 percent of the total population of America. But within 30 years, America will have no majority

race.

We must find a way to work with each other across racial lines, to sit down and talk honestly with each other, and to realize that we have a deep and profound stake in the success of each other's children. That's what I couldn't help thinking about when those kids were up here singing tonight. You didn't care what color they were, did you? And you didn't care what their backgrounds were. And they made you feel better, didn't they? You felt better when they were singing than you've felt all night long. Why? Because they represented the best of you, and all of your hopes for the future.

One of the things I like about Carol Moseley-Braun is, she can work with different kinds of people. She can reach across the lines that divide, and she gets up there every day and tries to get something done. And that's why I tried to become your President. That's the test that I always wanted to measure myself against. But most importantly, that's the right thing for all those children that were up here singing.

So you think about those things, and think about them today, tomorrow and through November of 1998, and send her back to the Senate so we can send America forward.

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

END

8:12 P.M. CDT

The statistics POTUS favors:

economic strategy

50 4.8% unemployment, lowest in 24 years

34th month under 6%

We negotiated 200 trade agreements to get fair and equal access to other markets

More than half our jobs pay above average so many of them are tied to exports

unemployment in our 50 largest cities has fallen by a third in the last four years

lowest inflation in 30 years

200 separate trade agreements in the last 4 years

#1 exporter in the world

~~lowest unemployment rate in 24 years~~

stock market has more than doubled

invest-and-grow strategy

we got rid of 16,000 pages of federal regulations--by attrition, not firing

biggest drop in welfare rolls in history of America in the last five years

rolls are down by more than 20 percent

investing in our future

Urban policy

Passed Brady Bill

passed crime bill

passed assault weapons ban

250,000 186,000 felons have lost their guns

Last year we had the biggest drop in crime in 35 ~~(also said 100)~~ years

20% of kids in this country live below the poverty line

empowerment zone concept, Community Development Financial Inst. Act

I want to open the doors of college to everyone

We have 10 mill kids who don't have health care, and we've got enough money in the balanced budget to cover over half of them

biggest increase in children's health coverage since passage of Medicaid in 1965

we're putting 100,000 police on the street (funded 60,000)

Investment in Education

Intl Math and Science Survey--4th graders ~~above average~~ 2nd in the world

in a school district in Florida, children were going to school in 17 trailer houses as well as the

regular school building--that's how overcrowded they were

average age of a school building in Philadelphia is 65 years

biggest increase in federal support for education since 1965

Goals

To have the American Dream of opportunity alive for every person

The US has 4% of world population, produce 20% of greenhouse gases

Race

Hawaii is the only state without majority race, California in 3 years

In 30-50 years, the US will have no majority race

In Gallup Poll of African-Americans and whites about the % African-American population
most voted for 20-49% bracket of population, actual is 12% of population

We have 5 school districts where children come from over 100 ethnic & racial groups

High school completion rates of whites and African Americans are almost identical.

High school completion rates of Hispanics are 25 percent lower.

Race initiative

Racial reconciliation

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Flushing Meadows, New York)

For Immediate Release

April 15, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE LUNCH

The Brooklyn Botanical Garden
Brooklyn, New York

1:24 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Congressman Rangel said, I guess I can't say "break a leg," can I? (Laughter.) Actually, you could. They told me if I had broken my leg I would have healed quicker.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank all of you for being here. I want to thank Martin Frost for his tireless work on behalf of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. I thank Dick Gephardt for the wonderful work that he has done with me over the last four years and few odd months as Majority Leader, as Minority Leader, and, I hope in January of 1999, as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with your help. (Applause.)

To give you an idea of what this Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee did and what our candidates did in 1996, it is worth noting that even though they were out-spent often by breathtaking margins in the last 10 days -- unimaginable amounts in some of the seats -- with only 9,759 votes spread across 10 congressional districts, the Democrats could be in the majority today. That's how close that election was. And, therefore, your presence here today and your support for them is very important.

I am proud of the things that Mr. Gephardt mentioned. I'm proud of the fact that in 1992 we said we would turn this country around and change the direction of the country and we did. I'm proud of the fact that we changed the economic philosophy that dominated Washington for a long time; that we reversed trickle-down economics and instead said we're going to reduce the deficit and invest in our future, we're going to expand trade and make it more fair.

And the results, I think, are pretty impressive. We've got an unemployment rate today that's the lowest it's been in many, many years, and the unemployment rate today is a full percent

and a half below the average -- the average of the two decades before I took office. So we're working together, we're moving forward.

I am proud of the fact that with the leadership of a lot of the members of the Congress in this room we've taken a serious step instead of just hot-air talk in trying to make our streets safer and our futures brighter for our young people. We had the biggest drop in crime the year before last that we've had in over two decades. We haven't gotten the 1996 statistics yet, but all the indications are that they continue to go down. We are moving in the right direction on that.

And I am very proud of the fact that, again, with the leadership with a lot of New Yorkers in this room, we have put education first on America's domestic agenda again. And I'm very proud of that. (Applause.)

I'm going to do my best to keep doing the public's business, and I will do my best to do it in a fair and open way with the members of both parties in the Congress. But I can tell you, if you look around the room at the people who are here, and you ask yourself, what are the great challenges of the 21st century for America; can we keep the American Dream of opportunity for all who are willing to work for it alive; can we give our children a world-class education; can we deal with the health care and the safety needs of all the poor children who come from different cultures who are in our country and give them a chance to make their full contribution; can we preserve an American community that's one America and still have an enormous amount of respect for the racial and ethnic and religious differences we have among ourselves -- because if we can then we are clearly the best positioned country in the world for the new century.

You have to ask yourselves, who would I like to take the lead in answering those questions and in fashioning the answer. And I know what that answer is for me; I know what that answer is for you. And your presence here today will help the American people make a good decision in 1998.

I'd also like to thank the members of Congress from Brooklyn and the people of Brooklyn for hosting us here today. I have consistently done very well in Brooklyn, as the members never forget to tell me, and I am very grateful for that. (Applause.) And I am honored to be in this beautiful, beautiful place, and I hope to stay and look around a little bit.

I'm going to Queens tonight to Shea Stadium to watch the Mets and the Dodgers play and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's breaking the color line in baseball. And I'd just like to say one final word about that. It's all the more appropriate I think coming as it does right after Tiger Woods' record-shattering performance in the Masters. But it's important to remember that you had, I think, the two great ingredients of a good society at work in both places. In the case of Jackie Robinson you had people who were willing to end discrimination and an owner who was willing to give him a chance. But you also had a highly disciplined, profoundly dignified, greatly talented ball player who was prepared not only physically, but also emotionally and mentally to do what had to be done.

The same thing happened in the Masters last week. And I often believe -- have said this and I will say it again because I believe it -- I think that the elections that really matter in this country are genuinely determined by questions people ask not only about us, but about themselves and how they view themselves in the world in the future we're going into.

And I will say this in closing: I believe that the efforts of Martin Frost and Leader Gephardt and all the members of the New York delegation in 1998 will be successful. If we can get the right kind of balanced budget passed in the Congress, if we can continue to stand up for what's right for America, and if we can make sure the American people are asking the right questions in 1998 of our society and of themselves -- if that happens, I am not worried about the outcome of the elections and, more importantly, I'm not worried about the future for our country.

Again, let me say I'm profoundly grateful to New York and grateful to Brooklyn and glad to be here, and thank you for helping the DCCC. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

1:31 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 16, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE DINNER

The Sheraton Carlton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

8:24 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much. Mr. Mayor, my friend and neighbor, thank for that generous introduction and for your great leadership in Memphis. I'd like to thank all of those who made this dinner possible tonight -- I thank Richard and Janice and Ernie and Bob, who aren't here, and Weldon and Mel Clarke and Marianne Niles and Bill Kirk, Larry Gibson, Marianne Spragen, Jeff Thompson -- everyone else who got all of you here tonight. I'm glad to see you.

You know, when you come to an event like this, even if you've been reelected President, right before you go in you're gripped with this recurring fear that you'll walk through the door and nobody will be there. (Laughter.) So I'm very grateful to see you all here tonight. (Laughter.)

Let me say, too, that I'm delighted to be joined tonight by two members of the White House staff, Craig Smith and Minion Moore. And I see Carol Willis from the DNC. There are a lot of other people from the Democratic Committee here.

I appreciate what the Mayor said about my speech in San Diego, and I thought what I would try to do tonight just for a few minutes is to try to explain how that speech came to be. And we brought a few copies here tonight; if you want one on the way out you can get it. But I thought I would like to explain how it came to be.

In 1992, when I ran for President I had an idea that we could make this country work again if we could liberate ourselves from kind of traditional political battles and think about what we wanted the country to look like in the 21st century, and then think backward and say, well, what would I have to do to get it that way. Don't say in the first instance, well, you can't do both those things; they're inconsistent. Just ask yourself, what would you like our country to look like in the 21st century.

And I wrote a little answer down, and I have said it a thousand times since then. And every single day I think about it. I want my country to be a country where the American Dream of opportunity is alive for every person, not just some. I want all citizens to be good, responsible citizens and assume the responsibilities of citizenship. I want the United States to lead the world for peace and freedom 20, 30 years from now, just like we are today. And I want us to live together as one community where we respect, we even celebrate our differences, but we're bound together as Americans.

Now, those are the things I want. And I wrote it down over five years ago and I've stuck with it ever since. Way back in 1991, before I made the decision to run for President, I said -- nearly six years ago, now -- I said, no point in me running unless I've got a better reason than I'd like to live in the White House. (Laughter.) What will I say when people say, what do you want to do; why are you doing this? And every single day I think about it.

So the first thing I wanted to do was to change the economic policy of the country. I said, we can't keep on spending all this money we don't have -- we're going to bankrupt the country. But we don't want to walk away from the poor or the dispossessed or the future of the country. So we have to find a way to reduce the deficit, for example, and spend more on education, and spend more on preserving the environment because they're our children and our future.

And most people didn't think you could do that. But you can, and we did. We had to do some things that weren't so popular. We got rid of hundreds of programs that I thought we could do without. And we got rid of 16,000 pages of federal regulations -- and by attrition, not firing. The government's 300,000 people smaller than it was. But we're spending more money on education, we're spending more money on the environment and we've cut the deficit by 77 percent. And that's a big reason -- not the only reason, by any means -- but a big reason the economy has done as well as it has.

On crime and social welfare, I thought to myself, there's got to be a way to protect the children and support people in moving from welfare to work, but require them to do it if they can, without hurting the kids. And that's what we've tried to do. We've had the biggest drop in welfare rolls in the history of America by far in the last five years.

On crime, what I wanted to do was to deal with the causes. Anybody can make a tough speech on crime and pass one more bill raising the penalties. But it was obvious to me, having been a governor who built more prison cells than any governor in my state's history, that there would be a limit to how far we could jail our way out of this. There are several states that are already spending more money on prisons than they are on higher education -- several states.

So I said to myself, we can't stop being tough on people who do vicious things; you have to catch them, prosecute them and put them in jail. But we have to stop this from occurring. We have to find a way to prevent crime. And it wasn't so hard to find because already there were people who were beginning to bring the crime rate down by going back to old-fashioned community policing and reaching out to our young people and trying to find kids something to

say yes to, as well as something to say no to.

And so we passed a crime bill. We passed the Brady Bill. We passed the assault weapons ban. I heard all the people say I was going to take all these hunters' guns away and it wouldn't do any good. Well, no hunters have lost their weapons, but 186,000 now felons, fugitives and stalkers have not been able to buy handguns. We were right about that. We're putting 100,000 police on the street. Crime has gone down every year, last year the biggest drop in 35 years.

And I say that not to be self-serving, but to say, if we can get our country always to think about what do we want the country to look like when our grandchildren are our age -- and we're going through a time of change, so we have to think in different ways -- then I think there's a way to find good-faith solutions to these problems. And no one can seriously question that we're better off than we were five years ago in terms of jobs and employment, new minority businesses, biggest drop in inequality since the 1960s among working families. So I said to myself, what do we still have to do, because I never wanted to get a second term just to ratify the fact that I'd done a good job in the first term. You could do that with a gold watch. No one should ever want to be reelected because they've done a good job.

I remember the first time I ran for reelection that I was successful anyway -- (laughter) -- in 1984. I went out and things were going pretty well in my state. And this guy said, are you going to run for reelection as governor. I said, I think so. And I said, if I do will you support me? He said, probably. He said, what are you going to say? I said, I've done a good job and we're better off. He said, Bill, you can't say that. That's what we hired you to do. (Laughter.) That's pretty good, right? You think about that. He said, you can't brag on just doing what you were hired out to do.

I mean, that's -- so I said to myself, what are we going to do in these next four years, what still needs to be done. And I'd just like to mention three or four things and end with the initiative on race, and you'll, I hope, understand why to me we're doing the right thing at the right time.

I said, okay, the economy is better, welfare rolls are down, crime rate is down. Another thing that was encouraging, we just saw that our 4th graders ranked way above the national average on international math and science tests -- something that I was told for years would never happen because we had such a diverse student body and our kids were poor and all that -- I've listened to that for years. But our teachers and others have been out there working to get these standards up and we finally saw it manifested in international competition this year. This is something people have been working on, literally, for 10 years, since the Nation At Risk report was issued -- now, 13 years ago. And it's finally -- you're finally beginning to see people figuring out how to give poor kids the chance to prove they're just as smart as anybody not just in town, but around the world -- and prove that we can make education work.

So I said, what else do we have to do? Okay, one, we have to keep the economy going. The best antidote to all despair and disadvantage is having a chance to make a living, because if

everybody else messes up, as long as you can make a living you can at least take care of your own.

So I wanted to finish the job of balancing the budget in a way that would continue the strategy of investing in our future. And that's why I was thrilled with this budget agreement. I didn't agree with everything in it, but after all, we negotiated it with the leaders of the Republican Party in Congress and the leaders of the Democratic Party.

But it will permit us to balance the budget and it has literally -- literally -- over 95 percent of the investments that I recommended in my budget to the Congress. It enables us to go on and invest in education and to invest in preserving in the environment, and invest in research and development and technology. It enables us to continue to try to grow the economy in the dispossessed areas -- more than doubles the number of empowerment zones that have been so successful in some of our communities, including yours -- more than doubles the number. Has a special initiative for the District of Columbia that we have paid for there in there to try to get D.C. up and going again in a good way. Has a Brownfield Initiative that all the mayors asked for to give private sector incentive to go back and invest in the inner cities in areas that had previously been unattractive because of environmental problems. It has in this budget.

So I said, this is a good thing -- has \$3 billion to give to our communities to help put people on welfare back to work if the private sector can't pick them up. And, I might add for those of you who are concerned about it, the states in this budget get the same amount of money they got in 1994, when the welfare rolls were at their all-time high, which means almost every state in America has got at least a 20-percent cushion that they can use to do things like pay prospective employers the welfare check as a wage and training supplement.

So I'd really like to see the African American business community go out there and hit every state legislature in the country and say, listen, you asked for this, you got it; you've got to give these people a chance to work; give us some of that money and we will train them and give them a job and make sure they're not hurting their kids and they're taken care of in that way.

And that ought to happen all over this country. We are spending much, much more money on welfare today than we would have spent if the old law had stayed in place because the rolls are down by more than 20 percent. But the states have it and they will live to regret it if they don't spend the money now to make folks independent and put them into the workplace and put them into the mainstream of American life.

So all that, anyway, is in this budget. That's the first thing.

The second thing I wanted to do is to emphasize two specific things in education. One of them doesn't cost much money, and that is I wanted to provide funds to help the Department of Education work with the appropriate experts to develop a test that would grow right out of the ones we're using now, we're just not giving them to all kids, to ask every child in the country in the 4th grade to take a reading test, in the 8th grade to take a math test by 1999, based on these international standards so we could see how our children were doing -- with no adverse

consequences to the kids, just a way to see whether we were really challenging our children hard enough to reach the right standards.

Keep in mind, this last international test that showed us way above the average of math and science in the 4th grade was given to a representative sample of American students by race and income and region. Nobody fooled with this. And what I want to do is to see every child have the chance to have the basic education necessary to succeed.

One of things I said in my speech in San Diego -- I don't know if you heard it -- applies to Hispanic Americans, who are legendary for being willing to leave school early to support their parents in low-wage jobs that they have to work long hours at. That was a responsible thing to do 10 years ago; today it's not a responsible thing to do. The high school completion rates of African Americans and whites are almost identical. The high school completion rates of Hispanics are 25 percent lower -- 25 percent lower.

And there is nothing all my social policies will do, nothing all my economic policies will do for any young person who is at least not willing to finish high school and get two years of further training. But a lot of people who have parents in need -- their hearts are in there, they want to quit and go to work, help support their parents, but what happens is they get stuck in these jobs and their incomes go down.

So I'm trying to get people to focus on those first 12 years with a view toward, number one, everybody should finish and, number two, when you finish, your diploma ought to be worth something. And the only way to do it is to have high standards and not be afraid of them, and not punish people if they don't measure up, but just show them where the bar is and then help everybody clear it.

The second thing I want to do is open the doors of college to everyone. And that's why we proposed to give a tax credit worth about \$1,500 a year for the first two years of college, and then a tax deduction for any cost of higher education after that. We know from the 1990 census that every young person -- not every, but most young people -- who get at least two years of college or more get a job with a growing income. And young people who have less than two years of college, or who don't even have a high school diploma tend to get a job with a stagnate or a declining income. We know that's where the break was in 1990. And we know that our economy is now producing more of the high-wage jobs. In the last two years -- that's another thing -- more than half the new jobs in the last two years have been in higher-wage categories. So that's the second thing I wanted to do.

The third thing I wanted to do that I've got some differences in our party about -- and there's a lot of differences within the Republican Party; both parties are split on this -- is to continue to expand the network of trading partnerships the United States has. But we negotiated 200 trade agreements to get fair and equal access to other markets in my first term, and we're now the world's number one exporter again. And one of the reasons more than half our jobs pay above average is that so many of them are tied to exports.

Now, tomorrow the First Lady and I and others are going to announce a very important initiative with regard to Africa that we've been working on for some time and that really was reinforced by her recent trip there. But I would hope that all of you who are business people would help us to continue our normal trade relations with China and to push them on things we disagree with, but to keep involved with them and to continue our reaching out to Latin America even as we reach out to Africa.

You know, we're going to have a billion people in Latin America before you know it. And they're very excited and would like to deal with us. But last year the southern countries in Latin America -- Brazil, Argentina and the others in a group called Mercosur, for the first time ever did more business with Europe than the United States. Why? Because we stopped reaching out to them with our trade agreements. So it's not like these folks aren't going to go on to create a future -- and we have a great opportunity. And if we want more high-wage jobs created so that when we educate young people they'll be able to get good jobs, we have to create the high-wage jobs.

Mr. Brown's father literally gave his life for that cause. And that is the right thing to do. That is not against working people. What is good for working people is to create more high-wage jobs in America. And so I hope you will support that.

The fourth thing that we have to face is that with all of our successes, 20 percent of our kids, at least, are still living in poverty -- minority children, much higher percentages. Now, in the end, no society can permit that without paying an awesome price. And that is something, by the way, that ought to factor into this affirmative action debate, when people say, oh, you don't need it. You cannot leave people isolated for 18 years, from the mainstream of economic and social life and then tell them there are no barriers into college, university or starting your own business. You cannot do that. (Applause.)

So the reason I thought the President's Summit of Service that we did -- the former Presidents and General Powell did in Philadelphia was so important is it gives us a chance to mobilize millions of people around specific objectives that I'm also trying to see the government do its part. And let me just reiterate them real quick.

We want to see that every child has a safe place to grow up. I've got a juvenile justice bill before the Congress now that is both tough and smart, modeled on what they've been doing in Boston, where our Chairman, Mr. Grossman, lives -- where not a single child has been killed by a gun in a year and a half. Don't tell me we can't do that. Not one. (Applause.)

But do we need volunteers? Yes. Why? Because look what they did in Boston. I can pass all the bills in the world, in addition to the probation officers and police officers, to have all these people walking the streets, saving these kids' lives. And you go to any city where the juvenile crime rate is going down, they have both citizens and appropriate action by the public sector.

The second thing we want is for every child to have marketable skills -- I already talked

about that, education. The third thing we want is for every child to have access to health care. And I was really appreciative that -- this is one thing that General Powell and I share a common obsession with. He said, I can't believe we let working families get by without health care. If I proposed to end the health care guarantee for people in the military when I was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, there would have been a riot.

No one in America would think about depriving military people and their children of health care. But we have 10 million kids, for example, who don't have health care. And we've got enough money in that balanced budget to cover half of them. We need to finish the job. We need to finish the job. It's not right. It's not right. (Applause.)

The fourth thing and the fifth thing are things that have to be done at the community level. We want every child to have a mentor, and we want every child to have a chance to serve. And I think that's important. Kids who serve feel more important; they know they matter. And 90 percent-plus of young people in a recent national poll said that they would serve in their community, even poor kids, if just somebody would ask them -- if somebody would ask them and give them a chance.

So those are the things that I'm trying to get down now for our country, to keep this momentum going. But I really believe -- and this brings to me to the race initiative -- right now we just have one state, Hawaii, where there is no majority race. Within three years, California, our largest state, will be the same. Within somewhere between 30 and 50 years, depending on patterns of immigration, it will be true for the nation as a whole.

That means that we really will test whether or not we are not a nation of race or place, but a nation of ideas and ideals. Politicians have been saying that in speeches for a century now -- (laughter) -- are about to find out. (Laughter.) And I don't know about you, but when we find out I know what I want the answer to be.

Think how much time I've spent as your President, and how much time I'm going to spend in the next three and a half years, dealing with hatred and mistrust in the Middle East born of ethnic and religious difference; dealing with hundreds of years of accumulated animosity in Northern Ireland born of their ethnic, originally, and religious differences -- the Scotch-Irish and the Irish, the Protestants and the Catholics; how many hundreds of thousands of people died in Rwanda and how many had to be saved by us and the French and others because of the fights between the Hutus and the Tutsis. Most of us, if we walked down the street in one of those African communities could not tell the difference, but they knew enough to hack each other's children to death.

Or what about the Bosnians, where there is literally no biological difference between them; they are by accident of history divided because of the political forces coming together where Bosnia is now. The Orthodox became Serbs; the Catholics became Croats -- or vice versa -- and the people that were left in the middle were colonized by the Ottoman Empire and became Muslims. But they now are ethnically different and people who lived together as friends and neighbors for decades turned on each other like that.

So when you think everything is hunky-dory here and, oh, we might have an occasional riot when there is a controversial thing like Rodney King, but we won't really ever have a disintegrating energy in this country, you just think about how easy it was for those people to fall on each other.

Now, I know we've got a lot more to lose, you would argue, than they do. But no great nation has ever had a multiracial, multiethnic, integrated society. The Russians are doing a good job, actually, of trying to preserve their democracy with a whole lot of different ethnic groups. And they had that unfortunate difficulty in Chechnya, but there are a lot of Chechens over there where they don't have difficulty. But they live apart -- physically apart, and normally in distinct, what we would call, states. Here we are, together.

So I said to myself, this would be a good time to do this because we're not having a civil rights crisis and we're not under the illusion that there's just this X little problem -- even if it's a big problem -- different perceptions of the fairness of law enforcement, for example -- that if we fix, everything will be hunky-dory and we'll go on. We need to imagine what it's going to be like 30 years from now. Because if you think about it, we can have a good economic policy, a good social policy, we can even begin to do the things we need to do to rescue our children, and if we can't get along together and we don't trust each other and we don't feel that people are treated in the proper way, then the rest of it could just unravel on us somewhere down the road.

Now, that's why I did this. And do I know it will be successful? Do I know that there's some mechanical way to define success? No, I don't know that, but I think it will be. And that's how I want all of us to see this affirmative action debate. Look, if I didn't think we needed it, I'd be happy to shed it. If somebody could offer me a credible alternative and then test it for a year or so and proved that it work, I'd be happy to shed it.

What I know is that we have a vested interest as a nation, without regard to race, in having universities where people of different backgrounds get educated together. (Applause.) In giving people from each different ethnic group in the United States a chance to have their fair share of -- not a quota, but at least a share, a representative group of people in any form of human endeavor, to inspire others to come along. To have economic self-sufficiency.

You know, if you look at why -- why does the United States have an unemployment rate under five percent and a lot of the European countries have higher unemployment rates? One reason is people like you -- small business people, independent business people, people that proved they could put together something, hire a few people, work over a lifetime and build something. And we have a vested interest as a people in saying that there are pockets of economic self-sufficiency and entrepreneurs in every neighborhood in this country. And if we had it, we wouldn't have half the problems we've got today.

You just think about it. If every block in this country had one or two small businesses succeeding on it, there would be people on that block employed, there would be role models for those kids walking the streets to see, there would be people giving money to the school to make sure they don't have to give up their music programs. You just think about it.

So we have a vested interest, all of us, in trying to make sure we can all participate. So, to me, this affirmative action debate is somehow smaller than the larger issue. I will -- I'm doing my best to honor the Supreme Court decision. I'm doing my best to have reasonable standards. I hope that there will be other things we can do as well. That's why I want the empowerment zone to double, the empowerment zones to pass. We've got a lot more economic things we need to do.

But the larger issue is, what do you want this country to look like 30 years from now. Every other question should be answered in terms of that. Once you ask the right question, it's a whole lot easier to come to a common-sense answer.

Now, what we're going to try to do with this race initiative -- just very briefly -- is, first of all, stick with this vision of racial reconciliation, try to get everybody to agree on what we want the country to look like.

Second, get the facts out. Now, that's important. I think when we decide what to do with the welfare system, for example, it would be helpful if everyone in America knew that last year in Chicago there were six applicants for every minimum wage job that opened up and nine applicants in St. Louis. Don't you? I was a little concerned that over 40 percent of African Americans and over 40 percent of whites, when asked what the percentage of the American population was black, said between 20 and 49, when the correct answer is 12. We need to know the facts.

Then the third thing we want to do is to have this kind of a dialogue in every community in the country. We want to recruit and encourage local leadership. And finally, we want to come up with some specific, concrete actions to be done at the national level and at the community level. That's what we're trying to do.

But I wanted you to understand tonight because I want you to be a part of this, I want you to feel like it's yours. And I want you to go out and find your friends and neighbors and ask them to be a part of this. And I want you to find people that don't agree with you on everything and ask them to be a part of this. Because this is a huge deal.

If we can pull this off, the United States will be by far the best-positioned country in the global society of the 21st century. And if we act like we don't have to think about it until the wheel runs off, there is a chance that the wheel will run off. And even if it doesn't, we will never be what we ought to be. That is what this whole thing is about.

So I ask you, go out there and tell people -- if they want to be cynical, skeptical, say, I don't know if it will amount to anything; I don't about that Clinton, he's got to have something to do in his second term -- whatever they're saying out there -- let them say it. Tell them to participate anyway, saddle up; they don't have anything to lose by trying. I'll tell you one thing, if we all try we'll be better off than if we just let it go. (Applause.) So I ask you for your help.

Now, the last thing I want you to know is -- that's why I want you to be proud to be here,

because I think these things that our Democratic Party stands for now are the future. I think they're not just Democratic future, they're not just African American, Hispanic American, you name it -- this is America's future. And we're going to have to make it together. And tonight, by your being here, you're making it more likely that we will do just that.

God bless you. Thank you. (Applause.)

Let me say one other thing before I leave. I don't know who all was here from my office before I got here, but we've got Bob Nash, who is my Director of Personnel is here. (Applause.) If you want to be ambassador, ask him. He has the hardest job in the government. He has to tell one person yes and 10 people no. (Laughter.) And Maurice Daniels, the Vice President's political division person is here. (Applause.)

And let me just say one other thing, too. I want you to know, because a lot of you are friends of hers, that Hillary and I were deeply saddened by what happened to Betty Shabazz, and we've been praying for her, and I know you are, too.

That's a whole other subject, but it ought to remind us that we don't have a kid to waste. You don't want any of them to get away from you. And they do all too soon and all too easily, which is another reason we ought to think about what we came here to do tonight.

Thank you. Bless you.

END

8:55 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Los Angeles, California)

For Immediate Release

June 23, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT RECEPTION FOR DSCC AND SENATOR BARBARA BOXER

The Beverly Hilton Hotel
Los Angeles, California

8:05 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Just a minute, I have to ask Senator Boxer a question. (Laughter.) She said you don't really have to say anything, it's just --

SENATOR BOXER: No, I didn't, I said we wanted you to. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: She said, I've been up here working for you for an hour, keeping the crowd -- (laughter.) I was back there working for her for an hour. (Laughter and applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, in the interest of campaign reform and full disclosure -- (laughter) -- the real reason I'm here is that Barbara Boxer's first grandchild is my second-nephew; it's just a family thing. (Laughter.) It doesn't have anything to do with party or loyalty or agreement or anything. (Laughter.) That's not true. I mean, it's true, but it's not the reason I'm here. (Laughter.)

I'm so glad to see all of you here. I'm glad to see this enthusiasm for the person who is clearly the most enthusiastic member of the United States Senate. (Applause.) I'll tell you something, if the best Democrats in every state where there's a Senate race where we don't have a seat woke up tomorrow with a combination of Barbara Boxer's enthusiasm, self-confidence and courage, we would win the Senate in a walk in 1998. (Applause.)

And I want to thank you for being here for her for a lot of reasons. But I would like to just emphasize two or three. I know Barbara gave her speech, and I know essentially what she said, even though I was in there working for her. But I want to remind you of a couple of things. When I took office in 1993, this state was not in good shape. Even more importantly, the politics of our country was dominated essentially by rhetorical and ideological name-calling, and the

whole drive of every election was basically to see how people could be divided in a way that advantaged the candidate who was trying to do the dividing. And most people just thought, well, it just doesn't matter. No one can seriously assert that now.

I said, if you'll give me a chance to serve, and you give her a chance to serve, we'll change the economic direction of this country and this state. We'll get rid of trickle-down economics. We'll replace it with an invest-and-grow strategy. We'll cut the deficit, invest in our kids and our future, invest in the environment and technology and medical research, still reduce the deficit. We'll expand our trade around the world. And we'll be stronger.

And when Barbara Boxer cast the decisive vote for my economic program in 1993 -- it passed by one vote, including the Vice President -- as he said, whenever I vote, we win -- (laughter and applause) -- I mean, the things that our friends on the other side said were just unbelievable. They said the sky would fall, the end of the world was here, nothing good would ever happen in America again. And we now know what happened. This is not a matter of dispute anymore.

Five years later we have over 12 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment rate in 24 years, the lowest inflation in 30 years, the stock market has more than doubled. (Applause.) And something that's very important to us as Democrats, because you contribute to come here in large measure on behalf of those who cannot afford to be here: we've had the biggest decline in inequality among working people in over 30 years -- in over 30 years. (Applause.)

And none of that would have happened if California had sent Barbara Boxer's opponent to the Senate in 1993 because we would have been one vote short. None of it would have happened. And I could go through example after example after example of that. So I say to you, for the following reasons, you must make sure she wins again.

Number one, she was right when you needed it and California's back, and that's important. Number two, she always sticks up for what she believes in and she's the same every day. She's the same in public and in private. She has integrity in the best sense: her mind and her spirit and her words are always in the same place at the same time. And we need more of that in public life.

And third, and maybe most important, as Bob Torricelli said earlier today and may have said here before I got here, she is really the greatest spirit in the Senate. And let me tell you something, after all this time I've spent in Washington I still remember back before I moved there when I had a life. (Laughter.) And, you know, back where people of different parties spent more time figuring out how they could work together than how they could bad-mouth each other -- back where people were hired to be mayors and governors and they were evaluated based on whether they got results, not how well they could keep people torn up and upset all the time.

And that's what I tried to bring to this country. And it's amazing. There are people in

Washington -- I think that it really makes them sad that America's doing so well. They wake up every day trying to think of some way to put us down, this whole country, and get us back to being angry and mad with one another. And I just keep trying to get everybody to look on the bright side and go forward. She is exhibit A. Barbara Boxer is exhibit A. (Applause.)

And if you think about the kind of challenges we're facing for the future, with all the things that are going well here, we still have some significant challenges. Can we really do what we need to do with the environment and still grow the economy? Yes, but we'll have to work together and be in the right frame of mind so we can have honorable, principled and honest compromises.

Can we really find a way to stop talking about and actually do something about the real and physical isolation of the poorest of our children who have not been touched one whit by this recovery? Yes, but not if we think we can win elections by quick slogans instead of actually doing something about it, and not if we think we can do it as one party or one small group, instead of as an American commitment.

Can we really become the world's first truly great multiracial democracy where no race is a majority? That's about to happen here in a generation -- about to happen here in California within three to five years. Yes, we can, but only if we have a certain largeness of spirit where we respect our honest differences of opinion, where we relish our diversity, but where we know underneath our basic humanity unites us and is more important than anything that divides us.

Now, when this election develops and the people that run against Barbara Boxer try to turn her into some kind of cardboard cookie cut-out of who she really is, and try to sort of perform reverse plastic surgery on her, you remember that when California was in need she was there. You remember that every day she is up there actually getting things done. And remember most of all, she has the sort of spirit, quite apart from any vote on any issue, that is the precondition of America finishing the job of preparing this country for the 21st century and giving all our children the chance to live out their dreams, and getting people to be responsible and to serve their communities and to be good citizens and bringing us together as one community.

California will send a signal to America about whether we can do what we need to do in the 21st century because you are already largely there, in ways that are positive and ways that are somewhat negative. And you have to decide how you will approach what is left to be done. And I'm telling you, this country needs somebody in the United States Senate like Barbara Boxer -- somebody who no matter how tough it gets, won't wilt; somebody who will be the same every day; and somebody who will treat her adversaries with dignity and decency, and will wake up in a positive frame of mind, because that is a precondition for solving any problem that is fundamentally a human problem. And most of the problems we have left start as an affair of the heart.

So stick with her. I'm glad you're here for the kickoff. I want you to be there in the middle. And I want you to be there at the end. And I want to see you on television celebrating on election night.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

8:15 P.M. PDT

Balanced Budget Agreement reflects our values: health care, 5 m. more children; 500 toxic sites, Brownfields (introduced by Sen. Moseley-Brown); fair treatment to legal immig; welfare to work incentives.

4th yr. of a 5 yr. disciplined econ. strategy.

12.1 m. jobs; highest econ. growth in a decade; lowest inflation & strongest investment growth since Kennedy; largest decline in income inequality since the 60's; deficit cut by 77 %.

Urban Policy: CDFI (co-sponsored by Moseley-Braun); 100,000 officers (3,000 in Illinois); unemployment below 6% for 33 months; officer on your block; reduced mortgage rates. welfare to work; 5 yrs. declining crime. Parental involvement in Education. TIMMS test, Northbrook, Ill: First in the World Consortium.

Leadership: China MFN, NATO, Fast track.

Role of Govt: provide tools; reduced the size; campaign reform: free tv.

ONE AMERICA: I'm proud to work with Sen. Moseley-Braun on America's race initiative and thank her for her counsel.

Acknowledgments: Sen. Kerrey,
Sen. Torricelli, Sen. Dick Durbin,
Mayor Daley, Sen. Paul Simon for helping
put this event together. The Happiness
Club-children's choir.

**When Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun was
elected in 1992 she made history -- in
1998 we need to make sure she stays where
she belongs. I'm standing by her.**

**Sen. Moseley-Braun is a voice for America's
working families:** demanded equal pay,
pensions, opportunity for women; worked to
make college education more affordable;
co-sponsored FMLA.

**Sen. Moseley-Braun is fighting to rebuild
America's schools.** First person to
bring to my attention the crumbling of our
schools with her GAO report. Unfortunately,
the Republicans wouldn't allow the funding I
wanted in our budget agreement, but I will
continue to fight. national responsibility.

**We are making an historic investment
in Education: \$35 B in tax relief for higher
ed., HOPE, \$10K deduction, Pell Grants
largest increase in 2 decades,
funds America Reads.**