

June 21, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: JOSH GOTTHEIMER 
PETE COHEN

SUBJECT: SPEECHES OUTLINING POTUS AGENDA

On several occasions in the last six and a half years, President Clinton has utilized end-of-the-summer message events to present his agenda for the coming months. Their location and press coverage have varied. Below is a brief summary of the events and the press coverage surrounding them.

CAL STATE MONTEREY BAY & ALAMEDA COUNTY LABOR DAY PICNIC:
September 4, 1995

Topic

The President cited positive economic developments, free trade, education spending, expanding college opportunities, the minimum wage, immigration, and downsizing government.

Coverage

These speeches were covered by the press within the context of Republican alternatives being offered in the primary races and the budget showdown with. The press outlined the major issues that the President addressed but the speech did not come across as a definitive statement of agenda. While the *Boston Globe* ran the story on the front page, most major publications placed the story inside the national news section. (See attached speech and articles)

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY: September 9, 1997

Topic

In the address, the President outlined his agenda for the fall – including education, international trade, crime, education, environment, race relations, and campaign finance reform.

Coverage

Press coverage of the speech was positive, but light and buried in the national news sections. The major papers framed the speech as an outline of the President's fall agenda, and most of them enumerated the issues included in the speech. (See attached speech and articles)

HILLCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: September 9, 1998

Topic

The President began by discussing his education agenda, and then moved on to the economy, diversity, Medicare, the environment, and health care.

Coverage

The coverage of the President's remarks was minimized because the Starr Report released during the week of the speech. Education was the only agenda item mentioned. (See attached speech and articles)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TJ

THIS IS MY
ONLY COPY —

JOSH

THANKS
J

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:18 a.m. at the Waikiki Band Shell. In his remarks, he referred to Bishop James Matthew, World War II veteran

and bishop of the United Methodist Church; Capt. James A. Lovell, Jr., former astronaut; and Lt. Col. D.C. Washington, vocalist.

Remarks at the Dedication of California State University at Monterey Bay in Monterey, California September 4, 1995

Thank you so much. It's a gorgeous day. It's a wonderful reception. I thank you. I can't imagine anybody in America who's having a better time on Labor Day than I am right now, and I thank you.

Senator Boxer and Lieutenant Governor Davis, Congressman Mineta, Secretary West, Chancellor Munitz, President Peter Smith, my longtime friend from the time he was the lieutenant governor of Vermont and I was the Governor of Arkansas. We worked on education together. You've got a good person here; you're very lucky to have him. And my good friend Congressman Sam Farr who has worked like a demon for this project and talks to me about it incessantly. You think I came out here because of Leon, but the truth is I showed up today because I couldn't bear to watch Sam Farr cry if I hadn't come. [Laughter] And let me say to Beatrice, I'm glad your daddy is here. If you were my daughter, I'd have been very proud of you here today. You were great. You were terrific. Thank you. Stand up there. Give him a hand. [Applause] Thank you, sir. Thank you.

I want to thank all the others who made this possible, the other distinguished platform guests. And to Milrose Basco, thank you for singing the national anthem. You were terrific. I thank the Watsonville Community Band, the Bethel Missionary Church Choir, the Western Stage of Hartnell College, El Teatro del Campesino, everyone who kept you occupied and entertained in the beginning. I thank the members of the general assembly who worked hard to make this possible.

You know, I was listening to Leon talk about the time he introduced me in Rome. That's really true, he translated my remarks in Rome. We were in the town square there—thousands and thousands of those handsome, robust Romans were around—Leon and I standing before

the cheering crowd. They were chattering away in Italian. The attractive, young mayor of Rome was to my left. I leaned over, and I said, "What are they saying, Mayor?" He said, "Do you really want to know?" [Laughter] I said, "Yes." He said, "They're saying, who's that guy up there with Leon Panetta?" [Laughter] This fall I'm going to take him to Ireland and give him a dose of his own medicine. [Laughter]

We were in there a few moments ago, and I was meeting some of the folks that helped to make this project possible. One lady went through the line and shook my hand, and she said, "Mr. President, follow your heart, and do what Leon tells you to." I want to say if she had told me to do what Sylvia tells me to, I'd come nearer to doing it. [Laughter]

One of the reasons that I felt so strongly—the first time I had a talk with Leon Panetta and I asked him to become head of the Office of Management and Budget, which, in many ways, in a time when we're downsizing the Government and when we have to cut so much and still try to save enough money to invest in things like education, it was really important to me to have someone who not only understood the value of a dollar and how the budget worked but someone I thought had good, basic American values and knew what it would take to build the community of America for the 21st century. That's why I asked Leon Panetta to do that job. And I have to tell you, when you pick somebody you don't know for a position, you don't know real well, it's very difficult to know whether you're making the right decision. You always kind of look for clues, you know. And I'm now old enough and been in enough jobs that I've hired thousands of people to do different things. And I have to tell you, one of the things that made the biggest impression on me, probably because of my own experience, was the partnership that Leon and Sylvia had

working for this congress many years. That's the more of in our country big impression. And I thank

I've got a lot to say to remember much of it. I anything else, remember be the greatest country in century, just as it has been, but only if, we take are before us and approach way that you approached faced when Fort Ord closed the 21st campus for the nia.

We are at a period way we work, the way relate to each other, the beyond our borders, th our lives, the way we t ship of the economy to way we think about the to workers, the way we tive obligations to raise to succeed in the work. These things are underg greater than anything we try since the beginning c we moved from being and rural country into more urban country. V war. We have moved We are transforming ou facturing and agricultur tion-based, technology are changing rapidly. A what we can learn mo determine what we can whether we can earn.

This is a period c change. And when you lenges, it matters not o sions you make but he has always made Ame chips were down and challenges, we overlook brace what we have i gether, and we work fo I have been trying to : ple since the day I : in October '91. This is We've got to work to; work for tomorrow.

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working for this congressional district over so many years. That's the kind of thing we need more of in our country today, and it made a big impression. And I thank you.

I've got a lot to say today, and you may not remember much of it. If you don't remember anything else, remember this: This country will be the greatest country in the world in the 21st century, just as it has been in the 20th century, if, but only if, we take all the challenges that are before us and approach them in the same way that you approached the challenge that you faced when Fort Ord closed and you made this the 21st campus for the 21st century in California.

We are at a period of historic change, the way we work, the way we live, the way we relate to each other, the way we relate to others beyond our borders, the way we think about our lives, the way we think about the relationship of the economy to the environment, the way we think about the relationship of managers to workers, the way we think about our respective obligations to raise our children well and to succeed in the workplace at the same time. These things are undergoing a profound change, greater than anything we have seen in our country since the beginning of the 20th century when we moved from being primarily an agricultural and rural country into being an industrial and more urban country. We are out of the cold war. We have moved into a global economy. We are transforming our economy, even manufacturing and agriculture, into a more information-based, technology-based economy. Things are changing rapidly. And what we know and what we can learn more than ever before will determine what we can earn and, in some cases, whether we can earn.

This is a period of very, very profound change. And when you face these kind of challenges, it matters not only what particular decisions you make but how you do it. And what has always made America great is, when the chips were down and when we have a lot of challenges, we overlook our differences, we embrace what we have in common, we work together, and we work for tomorrow. That is what I have been trying to say to the American people since the day I announced for President in October '91. This is a new and different time. We've got to work together, and we've got to work for tomorrow.

You know, I just had the profound honor of representing all of you as the President to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. It was moving to me in many ways. But I would ask you to remember what happened to this country. If you look back in history now, you think, well, we couldn't have lost. But in the war in the Pacific, we lost all our early battles, and we had to come back. In the war in Europe, before we got in, Great Britain hardly won a battle for 2 years, and they had to come back. When we began, there were 17 countries in the world with bigger armies than the United States had. And we had to put it all together. It looked so inevitable in the light of history, but it wasn't. It happened because free people beat dictators. People who chose to live together beat empires. People who willfully found common ground and bridged their differences joined hands and moved forward. That's how we did that. And don't you ever forget it. And that's what we have to do now if we want this country to be what we expect it to be in the 21st century.

It's amazing how long it took us after the war to learn the lessons of the war in the peace. We honored our veterans. We gave them the GI bill. They had a chance to go to college, they had a chance to buy a home because we recognized our obligations to each other and to the future. We built the greatest economy the world had ever known in the aftermath of the Second World War. We rebuilt our former enemies, Germany and Japan. We rebuilt our allies in Europe who were devastated. We expanded the benefits of global commerce to Latin America, to Asia, and to other places. We did a good job in that because we worked together and we worked for tomorrow. We won the cold war because we were strong and resolute and because eventually people's hunger for freedom brought down the Iron Curtain, because we worked together and we worked for tomorrow.

Now, if you look at what we have to do today in this period of profound change—I will say again, a period of change as great as we have faced in 100 years—we have to change the whole way our National Government works. It has to be smaller. It has to be less bureaucratic. It has to be more oriented toward results and releasing the energies of people and establishing these kinds of partnerships and less oriented toward just telling people exactly what they have to do.

We have got to balance the Federal budget. You know, I say this to all the people who like Government programs that can promote education, as I do. This country never had a permanent deficit in all of our history until 1981. We had deficits when we needed them. When the economy was slow, we'd spend a little more money and juice it up. Then when the economy got good, we'd balance the budget and clear our debts and go on. Or we'd borrow money when we wanted to invest in something, just the way you borrow money if you start a business or build a home or buy an automobile. But we didn't borrow money just to go out to dinner at night. We weren't borrowing money all the time until 1981. And after having been a country now for 219 years now, almost 219 years, we quadrupled our debt in only 12 years.

That's bad for you and me. Our budget would be balanced today if it weren't for the interest run up in the 12 years before I became President and that we have to pay on that debt. It would be balanced today. And next year, unless we have real luck with the interest rates, next year interest on the debt will exceed the defense budget. Now, that's not good. That's not a good thing. Nobody in this audience, I don't care if you're a Democrat or a Republican or an independent or whatever your politics are, you don't want that little baby that was held up to me in the audience a few moments ago to grow up into a world where everybody pays taxes just to pay interest on the debt. Nobody's got any money to invest in this kind of project a generation from now. So we have to do that.

We have to reassert the values that made this country great, that helped us in the war and afterward. We have to have policies and practices that strengthen our families and our communities and that reward personal responsibility. And above all, we have got to equip our people to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Our parents built America and passed it on to my generation. And we dare not let this time pass without making sure that we have given the next generation a chance to live the American dream.

I will say again, there is nothing we have to do at the national level as a people that we cannot do if we follow the directions that you have laid out here: common sense, common ground, higher ground. Think about what we've

got in common. Think about possibilities, not problems. Believe in the future.

Colonel Hank Hendrickson, who was once Fort Ord's commander and is now the vice president of administration for this fine institution, says, and I quote, "On the same ground where we once taught 18-year-old soldiers to fight and survive in a war environment, we are now teaching 18-year-old students to compete and flourish in the global economy." That's what you have done together, and that's what America must do together.

I am proud of the contribution that your National Government could make. I think we owed it to you, with the economic development grants, the environmental cleanup, the help for the displaced workers, the young AmeriCorps volunteers who were working to help people here. I am proud of all that. But that \$240 million was an investment in your future, and you earned it. You contributed to our victory in the cold war. Your Nation could not leave you out in the cold. It was the right thing to do. But you made it possible by all the things that you did here.

So I ask everybody who is cynical about America's future to just look around. You want to know what to do, you want to know how we ought to do our business in Washington, how should we decide how to balance the budget, look around. We ought to behave the way you did. You couldn't run a family, a business, a university, a church, a civic organization, you couldn't run anything in this country the way people try to run politics in Washington—[laughter and applause]—where talking is more important than doing. The night's sound bite on the evening news, if you want to be on it, you know you have to have conflict, not cooperation. If you have cooperation, people will go to sleep, and you won't get on the news. You have to exaggerate every difference and make it 10 times bigger than it is. And you have to be willing to sacrifice every good in the moment for the next election. No one could run anything that way.

So we have an obligation now to do what you do, to do what you did here. The large buildings to my left and right were battery headquarters for artillery units. One is the library, the other is a multimedia center. I don't know whether a Republican or a Democrat turned them into that. I just know it's good for the country because you're going to be better edu-

cated. That's the way we try.

The old airfield will have business planes. And when their numbers, they won't do their business. Not on politics, they'll just be doing their business. Not on are going to be operated

This is happening there know. And Alameda County later, machinists who once ing vehicles together are ing electric cars for the Sacramento, Packard Bell most 5,000 people, including brought back from overseas personal computers at a fraction can do this, folks. It's not hard. It's hard. It requires it's not complicated.

All across America our people are beginning to war economy to the new century. And we are trying to help. We brought the billion a year when I took this year. Interest rates exports are up. Investing technology and research 7 million new jobs, 2 owners, 1½ million new record in this time period

California lagged behind rose so much on the economic So when the cold war worse than other States with earthquakes and fires just wanted to test you you were. Leon's a California a character-builder. [Laughter] on this every day.

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cated. That's the way we ought to run the country.

The old airfield will become an airport for business planes. And when people land and give their numbers, they won't have to talk about politics, they'll just be permitted to land and do their business. Not only that, the golf courses are going to be operated for the public.

This is happening throughout California, you know. And Alameda County, where I'm going later, machinists who once welded Bradley fighting vehicles together are now going to be building electric cars for the 21st century. Up in Sacramento, Packard Bell has already hired almost 5,000 people, including 500 jobs they brought back from overseas, to assemble personal computers at a former Army depot. We can do this, folks. It's not complicated; it's just hard. It's hard. It requires a lot of effort, but it's not complicated.

All across America on this Labor Day, our people are beginning to convert from the cold war economy to the new economy of the 21st century. And we are trying to do what we can to help. We brought the deficit down from \$290 billion a year when I took office to \$160 billion this year. Interest rates are down. Trade and exports are up. Investment in education and technology and research are all up. We've got 7 million new jobs, 2½ million new homeowners, 1½ million new small businesses, a record in this time period.

California lagged behind because California rose so much on the economy of the cold war. So when the cold war was over, you got hurt worse than other States. Then you had to deal with earthquakes and fires and—you know, God just wanted to test you and see how strong you were. Leon's a Catholic; he tells me it's a character-builder. [Laughter] He's advising me on this every day.

But California is coming back. The unemployment rate is down, but much more importantly, people here are building for the long run. That's what this is. This is a decision. This thing we celebrate today is a decision that you made for yourselves, your children, and your grandchildren. It's a decision you made for the 21st century. It's a decision you made by working together to prepare for tomorrow. It's not very complicated. That's what your country needs to do. And that's what I'm determined that we will do.

Now I want to emphasize one of our greatest challenges on this Labor Day when we reward work. One of our greatest challenges is that the global economy works so differently from the economy we've lived in that everybody's work is no longer being rewarded. If you had told me—I thought I understood this economy. I was a Governor for a dozen years. I worked on base closings and defense conversion, everything like that, with committees like the one that made this possible. I thought I really understood this economy. But if you had told me on the day I became President that in 30 months we'd have over 7 million jobs, the stock market would be at 4,700, corporate profits would be at a record high, we'd have 2½ million new homeowners, we'd have the largest number of new small businesses recorded in any 2-year period since the end of World War II, but the median wage would go down one percent, I wouldn't have believed it. And most of you wouldn't either.

But technology is changing so fast, so many jobs are in competition in the global economy, and money can move across national borders like that—and nothing any person in public life can do will stop that—that the working people of this country that are bringing our economy back have not gotten their fair share of our prosperity. And that is our biggest challenge on this Labor Day.

What is the answer? The answer, first of all, is not to close our borders; it's to continue to expand trade because trade-related jobs pay about 20 percent more than jobs that have nothing to do with the global economy. We can't turn away from that. But we have to be for fair as well as free trade. And that's why I'm so proud of the agreement we negotiated with the Japanese over automobiles and auto parts. We want more trade but on terms that are fair to all Americans.

The other thing we have to do is to do more of what you're doing. We must, we must, see that all of our young people finish high school and that everybody, everybody, has access to education after high school. We've got to open the doors of college education to all Americans. Our administration has worked hard to make more affordable college loans available to all the young people in this country. Millions of people now can borrow money to go to college at lower cost on better repayment terms. We have worked hard to try to increase our invest-

ment in education from Head Start through college.

I have two proposals now before the Congress in our balanced budget plan that I pray will pass. One would give American middle class people a tax deduction for the cost of all education after high school without regard to the age of the people who get it. The other would collapse about 70 different Government training programs into a big pot of money. And whenever anybody is unemployed or underemployed or on welfare, they could get a voucher worth \$2,600 a year to take to the nearest community education institution like this one. Don't go through a program; go to your local institution. That's something we could do to provide a "GI bill" in our time for America's working people. Those two things would lift the incomes of the American people.

I also think we ought to raise the minimum wage. Let me tell you, if we don't raise the minimum wage this year, on January 1st of next year, our minimum wage in terms of what the money will buy will be at a 40-year low. I want a high-wage, high-growth, high-opportunity, not a hard-work, low-wage 21st century. And I think you do, too. And that's what we ought to do.

Now, I believe that the reason wages are stagnant for so many people is that we haven't done enough to educate our people. We haven't done enough to try to raise the incomes of our people. The Government can't do all that, however. The people in the private sector have a responsibility, too. The best American companies are out there today sharing their profits with their workers and making sure that they're well-treated. And all American companies on this Labor Day should be challenged to follow the example of the best American companies. The people of this country are our most important resource.

In the next year or so, all of you are going to have to decide what you think the answer to this wage problem is. There are people who will tell you that the answer to the—the real reason middle class wages are stagnant is that welfare people are taking all your tax money away or that we have too many immigrants or that affirmative action is destroying opportunities for the middle class.

Well, let me tell you, in each of those areas, we have problems. But that's not the real reason for the middle class economic anxieties. We ought to move more people from welfare to work because they'd be better off and their kids

would be better off and our country would be stronger. But the welfare rolls are going down as the job rolls go up. It's only 5 percent of our budget. I want desperately to have more welfare reform. I've done more in the last 2 years than was done in the previous 12 years to move people from welfare to work. And I will continue to do that. But if we want to raise wages of middle class people, we have to have good jobs, good educations, and a competitive economic policy.

If you look at the immigration issue, there are problems. We have too many illegal immigrants in the country. We've done what we could to close the borders and to send people back. But you know what? This is a nation of immigrants. Most of us do not have ancestors who were born here. So I've tried to deal with this issue in a responsible way. Former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan of Texas, a great American, headed a commission for us and said, here's how you can relieve the problems of immigration in America and still make us a nation of immigrants.

When I was in Hawaii—let me just tell you one story. When I was in Hawaii for the 50th anniversary of World War II, the commission asked me if I would spend the afternoon playing golf with six veterans of World War II. And I did, and we just sort of lolled around. We didn't even finish the round. We had the best time in the world talking.

Let me tell you, one of those men was a Japanese-American who came to this country on his own as a boy because he dreamed of coming to America. When the war broke out, they put him in an internment camp. He still volunteered to serve his country. By the grace of God, the war ended about 3 days before he would have been on an island fighting against two of his own brothers who were in uniform for Japan. When the bomb was dropped in Japan, it injured his house and his mother, and his youngest brother subsequently died of radiation poisoning.

There's not another country in the world that could tell that story. Why? Because people from all over the world wanted to be part of what is America. And we should never forget that. We'll have times when we can have higher immigration quotas and times when we should have smaller ones because of the economy and how much it takes to absorb people. But we should never, ever, ever permit ourselves to get

into a position where everybody here came from that America is a set of convictions that make us

I feel the same way about action issue. I have lived now. And let me tell you with the affirmative action of the Government. I've always thought it was excessive. And we're reforming it. I tell you that we are trying because we have to give people without gender an opportunity given capacities. We are trying.

I'm against quotas. I'm against discrimination. I'm against anything they're trying to do. I am for making a consensus of American people together at our military. We have the world. Nobody does it successfully integrated in the States of America, and anything. But there was to do that. Last year, new roles were opened in military services, and of them very well. And

So I say to you, let's solve the problems in America in a common sense. Let's do it the way you want. Let's do it in a way that works for the economy.

So, when we come to the got some tough decisions, let's plan to balance the budget. We have two different plans in mind. We have to cut Government spending for that. But we ought to increase education as we balance the budget.

We ought to cut taxes so much and give care and Medicaid and the elderly people in upon them for health care.

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into a position where we forget that almost everybody here came from somewhere else and that America is a set of ideas and values and convictions that make us strong.

I feel the same way about this affirmative action issue. I have lived with this for 20 years now. And let me tell you, there are problems with the affirmative action programs of the Federal Government. I've already abolished one that I thought was excessive, and I was glad to do it. And we're reforming a lot of them. But let me tell you that we are a better, stronger country because we have made a conscious effort to give people without regard to their race or gender an opportunity to live up to their God-given capacities. We are a better, stronger country.

I'm against quotas. I'm against reverse discrimination. I'm against giving anybody unqualified anything they're not qualified for. But I am for making a conscious effort to bring the American people together. If you doubt it, look at our military. We have the best military in the world. Nobody doubts it. It's the most successfully integrated institution in the United States of America, and nobody unqualified gets anything. But there was a conscious effort made to do that. Last year, a quarter of a million new roles were opened to American women in military services, and they're doing every one of them very well. And that's just one example.

So I say to you, let's look at this, let's fix the problems in America, but let's do it with common sense. Let's look for common ground. Let's do it the way you built this great institution. Let's do it in a way that will grow our economy.

So, when we come back to Washington, we've got some tough decisions to make. I've got a plan to balance the budget. The Congress has two different plans in the House and Senate. We have to cut Government spending. I'm all for that. But we ought not to cut education. We ought to increase our investment in education as we balance the budget.

We ought to cut taxes, but we shouldn't cut taxes so much and give such tax cuts to people who don't need them that we have to cut Medicare and Medicaid and hurt our obligations to the elderly people in this country who depend upon them for health care.

We ought to cut the size of Government, and we ought to cut regulation. Let me tell you, we have already reduced the size of your

Federal Government by 150,000 people. It will be reduced by 270,000 people if not another law is passed by what's already been done. We have reduced thousands of regulations. We ought to do more of that. But we should not cripple the ability of the American people through their Government to assure safe food, clean air, clean water, and a decent environment, because we all have a stake in that.

I want all of you to follow this very closely. When I go back to Washington and the Congress takes up its business, this will be no ordinary time. For the first time, both parties are committed to balancing the Federal budget. The question is, how will we do it, and what will the priorities be? And that will determine what kind of country we're going to be.

I believe we've got to work together and work for tomorrow. I do not want any more of the politics of partisan polarization. I believe the American people are pretty much like all of you sitting around here today. You are celebrating an incredible achievement that you know is a good, right, decent thing. And you are here as Americans.

Now, there'll be plenty of things for us to disagree on, but at this moment our national security in the 21st century depends upon our agreeing to invest in our people and to grow our economy and to pull our country together as we balance this budget. So the decisions made in the next 60 to 90 days will determine what kind of country we're going to be into the 21st century. And I ask every one of you, without regard to your party or your philosophy, to implore your Representatives to reach for that common higher ground, to work together, and to work for tomorrow.

Just think about it. By Christmas, if we do our job right, we could have passed a balanced budget, provided for that tax deduction for education expenses, overhauled welfare, expanded educational opportunities, strengthened instead of undermined health care security, and put our people on the road to raising their incomes as they work harder.

We can do that. But we've got to do what you did here. We have got to work together, and we've got to work for tomorrow. Wish us well, insist on it, and help us get it done.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. at the Campus Center. In his remarks, he referred to

Sept. 4 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1995

Lt. Gov. Gray Davis of California; Chancellor Barry Munitz, California State University; and

Beatrice Gonzales-Ramirez, student, California State University at Monterey Bay.

Remarks at the Alameda County Labor Day Picnic in Pleasanton, California

September 4, 1995

The President. Thank you. Can you hear me in the back? Good. Ladies and gentlemen, I am so glad to be here to share Labor Day with you, to count our blessings and to embrace our challenges. But let me just begin by thanking you for that wonderful welcome. I feel right at home, and I'm proud to be with the working families in this country.

I also want to say how very pleased I am to be here with all the distinguished labor leaders and public officials who are here behind me from the State of California—some from our administration—to be here with President Donahue. You know, this is his birthday. He has to celebrate his birthday on Labor Day. He gets a two-fer today, so we ought to say happy birthday, Tom.

I'm delighted to be here with Jack Henning, who still gives one of the best speeches I ever heard; with John Sweeney and Lenore Miller and Chuck Mack and George Kourpias and all the other labor leaders who are here. I thank Judy Goff and Owen Marron for having me here. And I want to say a special word of thanks to the people who represent you in Congress, two of the finest people in the entire United States Congress, Congressman Ron Dellums and Senator Barbara Boxer. They are great people.

You know, we are going through a sea change in American life. You know it, and I know it. What I want to tell you is I believe that when the history of this time is written and people look back on how you and other ordinary Americans lived, they will say that this period represented the biggest challenge and the biggest change to the way we live and work and raise our families of any period since 100 years ago, when we changed from being a primarily agricultural and rural society to being an industrial society and a more urban one.

All of you know the facts. We've ended the cold war. We're moving into a global economy. We have more and more competition and more

and more technology. We have more opportunities and more fears. And there are a lot of good things that are going on today, but there are a lot of troubling things as well.

And I came here to tell you that in the next 90 days in Washington, DC, we're going to make some decisions that will say a lot about what kind of people we are and where we're going. And I believe—I believe that if we decide to work together and work for the future, the 21st century and the global economy will be America's time. But we have to make that decision.

I want a high-wage, high-growth, high-opportunity future, not a hard-work, low-wage, insecure future for the working families of the United States of America.

I've worked as hard as I know how to bring the economy back. But let me ask you this: You all know what the problem is. If I had told you 30 months ago, the day I became President, that the following things would happen—just listen to this as a good news, bad news story. In our country we have over 7 million new jobs. We have 2½ million new homeowners. We have 1½ million new small businesses. We have reduced the deficit from \$290 billion to \$160 billion a year. We have done it while increasing our investment in education and training and technology and research to generate new jobs. We have doubled the loans of the Small Business Administration to try to create more small business opportunities.

We have done all these things. In California, as hard hit as you were by all the defense cuts, the jobs that were lost in the previous 4 years have been replaced and then some. And we're overcoming the impacts of earthquakes and fires and defense cuts. And California's coming back. But you know what? In spite of all of that, the median wage has dropped one percent. That means most working people are working harder for the same or lower wages that they were

making not just 2 years ago. That is the game time.

Are we going to be a snooty, high-wage country, wage country where the money is tight? And that is the thing that we have to decide. I think we have to do, and I want you to decide. You know what we have to do.

The first thing we ought to do is to do no harm; we're going to undo the protections in the workplace for working men and women trying to weaken workplace in partnership with management in America, no obligations to the safety, the American workers.

Then, what is our alternative? Don't cut education more on it. And for the first time to do that to balance the budget is wrong. My balanced budget plan for working families of America, the cost of all education, a balanced budget plan would mean who lose their jobs the right to \$2,600 a year for 2 years of community college or other training institution to get a better education, increase our investment in it.

The second thing we ought to do is fair as well as free trade. We have to deal with the Japanese over the last 20 years was all about. I'm all for free trade, but it's got to be fair. It's got to be fair to workers. We can now compete in the world and win if we do so.

The third thing we ought to do is minimum wage. Let me tell you the evidence to support the minimum wage. The minimum wage is a good thing. But we know one thing, if we do not raise the minimum wage on January 1, 1996, if we do not raise the minimum wage this year, it will cost the money will buy to a lot of the people making minimum wage. Forty percent of the people making minimum wage are the sole support of their families. We have children growing

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making not just 2 years ago but 10 and 15 years ago. That is the great challenge of this time.

Are we going to be a smart-work, high-opportunity, high-wage country, or a hard-work, low-wage country where the middle class is dividing? And that is the thing that ought to inform every decision we make. I think I know what we have to do, and I want you to stand with me because you know what we have to do.

The first thing we ought to do—the very first thing we ought to do is to say we are going to do no harm; we're going to stop trying to undo the protections in the American law for working men and women. We're going to stop trying to weaken workplace safety. Let's work in partnership with managers to make it a safer workplace in America, not walk away from our obligations to the safety, health, and welfare of the American workers.

Then, what is our affirmative agenda? Number one, don't cut education and training; spend more on it. And for those who say we have to do that to balance the budget, I say, that is wrong. My balanced budget plan gives the working families of America a tax deduction for the cost of all education after high school. Our balanced budget plan would give working people who lose their jobs the right to a voucher worth \$2,600 a year for 2 years to take to the nearest community college or other education and training institution to get a better start in life. Increase our investment in education; don't cut it.

The second thing we ought to do is to have fair as well as free trade. That's what the fight with the Japanese over autos and auto parts was all about. I'm all for more trade, but it's got to be fair. It's got to be fair to American workers. We can now compete with anybody in the world and win if we're given a fair chance to do so.

The third thing we ought to do is raise the minimum wage. Let me tell you, there is no evidence to support the claim that opponents of the minimum wage always make, that it costs jobs. But we know one thing for sure: On January 1, 1996, if we do not raise the minimum wage this year, it will drop in terms of what the money will buy to a 40-year low. Two-thirds of the people making minimum wage are adults. Forty percent of the people making the minimum wage are the sole support of their families. We have children growing up on it. It is wrong

to expect people to work for \$4.25 an hour. Let us raise the minimum wage and do it now.

In California, we have a lot of other things to do. We have to maintain the defense conversion programs that our administration has put in place. We should not cut the attempts to build people's future. I have worked as hard as I could to make sure that you knew that the defense contractors and the people that worked on the military bases, who won the cold war for this country, would not be left out in the cold when the defense budget was cut. And we have to keep working on that.

Let me give you an example of the kind of thing I'm talking about. Today, it is my honor to announce that our Department of Transportation is going to give to Cal-Start, a consortium of California companies, \$3.4 million to help them start building electric cars for the future of America.

Men and women who used to weld Bradley fighting vehicles together for our national defense will now build family vehicles that will use smart technology, help the environment, and give people good jobs for a good future for their families. That's the kind of thing we ought to be doing more of in this country. They will be made at what used to be the Alameda Naval Air Station. This is the kind of thing that I want our Government to do, to work with you in partnership for the future.

And just today, right before I came out of here, the head of Amerigon, Lon Bell, and George Kourpias, the head of the Machinist Union, signed an agreement that commits both sides, management and labor, to teamwork and a true partnership on the shop floor, working together, working for tomorrow. America ought to follow that model. We need more of it.

Folks, this is happening all over California. Earlier today, in Monterey, I dedicated the new campus of Cal State on the grounds of Fort Ord. They had—instead of a place that is a shell, an empty shell, they're now going to have a vital university. They had 4,000 applications for the first 600 places open there. And within just a few years, they'll have thousands and thousands of people there, creating more jobs than were there when Fort Ord was running at full steam. That is the future of America, working together, working for tomorrow.

In Sacramento, Packard Bell has already hired about 5,000 people, including 500 people where they've moved jobs from overseas back to the

Sept. 4 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1995

United States to northern California to assemble personal computers at a former Army depot, with more jobs there than were lost at the height of the defense production. That is the future of California and the future of America.

Let me just say one more thing on this Labor Day. In the last 2½ years, we had 7 million new jobs, 2½ million new homeowners, 1½ million new businesses, record corporate profits, the stock market's gone to 4,700. I think it is time for American businesses to follow the lead of our best employers and share more of those profits with their working people. The Government can't do that; business has to do that.

Thirty years ago, in the biggest companies in this country, the average executive made about 12 times what the average shop worker did. Today it's 120 times. It's time for the working people—

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. All right, let me tell you. I'm all for people becoming millionaires. We've had more self-made millionaires since I've been President than any comparable period in American history. And I like that. That's the American idea. But the people of this country that make it go are the average working families. And they deserve their fair share of their own productivity and competitiveness. And it's time to do it.

So when I leave you today, I'm going back to Washington for the critical struggles over the budget in the next 90 days. And I will say again, this is the period of biggest change we've had in 100 years. We are going to shape the future. Are we going forward together, looking toward tomorrow, or are we going to be divided? Are we going to have a high-wage, high-growth, high-opportunity future for your children, or a hard-work, low-wage future for half of the working people in this country? Those are the questions.

Yes, we have to balance the budget, but let's do it in a way that increases our investment in education, technology, research, and the good jobs of tomorrow. Let's don't walk away from it.

Yes, middle class people ought to have tax relief for education and childrearing. But let's don't cut taxes so much just to find tax cuts for people who don't need it and, in turn, turn around and raise the cost of Medicare, raise the cost of nursing home care on ordinary elderly people and their middle-class children who

cannot afford it. That is wrong. We should not do that.

Yes, we ought to reform regulation and reduce cumbersome bureaucracy. You know something—this is something you ought to tell tomorrow when you're talking to people—our administration has reduced the size of Government, the number of regulations, and the number of Government programs more in 2 years than the previous two administrations did in 12. But I did not reduce worker protections and our commitment to clean water, clean air, and safe food. That is nuts. We should not do that. It is not good for America.

So as Congress comes back to work, as you send Ron Dellums and Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein back to their labors, let me tell you, folks, send a message to everybody. This country, it got where it is today because we pulled together and we worked together and we worked for tomorrow.

I just got back from Hawaii, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. I met with veterans from all different races and all different backgrounds who forgot all their differences and worked together. And that's why we won. And when they came home, the GI bill gave them all the chance to go to college and to own their own homes and to educate their children. And that's why America won the cold war and did so well.

This idea, this crazy idea that somehow we can go into the 21st century by weakening our middle class, by dividing our people against each other, by convincing hard-working middle class people that the reason they don't have a good income is because of welfare or affirmative action or immigration—all of which need improvement, and we've done more on that than the guys did before as well—but that's not what's holding your wage down. What's holding your wage down is the inability to get a fair deal in a competitive global economy because we need more investment in education, more investment in training, more investment in high-wage jobs. And you know that in your heart of hearts.

This country never got anywhere being divided against one another. So let's go forward together for a better future.

God bless you all, and thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. In his remarks, he

referred to Tom Donahue, Jack Henning, secretary-Labor Federation, AFL-CIO; Lenore Tail, Wholesale and Depa; AFL-CIO; Chuck Mack, Local 70, and president,

Statement on the Ag Republic of Macedo: September 4, 1995

I welcome the decision. Papandreou and President their Foreign Ministers to to complete an agreement friendly relations between This courageous and vision leaders is an extremely im support current efforts to t ity to the Balkans. It is of intensive diplomatic eff the United Nations mediadent's Envoy, Matthew Niings today in Athens and S ing team lead by Assista Richard Holbrooke.

In this context, I als strong support for the U.

Presidential Determ Rwanda September 1, 1995

Memorandum for the Adm Agency for International D

Subject: Determination to used to Support Administr Activities in Rwanda

Pursuant to the author Section 614(a)(1) of the F of 1961, as amended (FAA that it is important to th the United States to fun of fiscal year 1995 fund

LEVEL 1 - 37 OF 40 STORIES

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USA TODAY

September 5, 1995, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4A

LENGTH: 555 words

HEADLINE: Clinton sounds budget warning // Blasts GOP at Calif. labor rally

BYLINE: Richard Benedetto

DATELINE: MONTEREY, Calif.

BODY:

President Clinton used the traditional Labor Day kickoff of the political season to set the stage for the coming budget battle with Congress.

"The decisions we make in the next 60 to 90 days will determine what kind of country we're going to be into the 21st century," he declared at the dedication of California State University at Monterey Bay.

Later Monday, at a labor union rally in Alameda County, the president said wages are stagnant, even though 7 million jobs have been created since he took office, while corporate profits are at record highs.

He called for an increase in the \$ 4.25 minimum wage and urged companies to share more of their profits with workers.

But while his first speech was non-partisan, he used the labor rally to hammer Republicans for "walking away from working people" and going too far in trying to cut education, Medicare, environmental protection and other programs he says benefit average people.

Today, as thousands of the nation's schools reopen after summer vacation, the president will go to school, too. He'll wind up a two-day visit to California by teaching an eighth-grade history class at Lincoln Middle School in Selma, using the occasion to call for more federal aid to education in the face of GOP plans to cut it.

Clinton said Monday success in the federal budget confrontation, which resumes this week, will depend on Republicans and Democrats coming together for the common good as they negotiate welfare reform, education spending, environmental regulation, taxes and an overhaul of Medicare.

"This is a new and different time. We've got to work together, and we've got to work for tomorrow," he said. "There will be plenty of things for us to disagree on, but at this moment our national security in the 21st century depends upon us agreeing to invest in our people, and to grow our economy and to pull our country together as we balance the budget."

USA TODAY, September 5, 1995

Polls show Americans overwhelmingly want politicians to put partisan differences aside to solve problems.

Clinton said the unity of purpose shown by the World War II generation, the feats of which he celebrated in Hawaii over the weekend at ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the war, should serve as a model.

Clinton chose to frame the budget debate in California, whose 54 electoral votes are essential to his re-election chances. California Gov. Pete Wilson, seeking the 1996 GOP presidential nomination, was out of state and missed the college dedication.

Clinton spoke under sunny skies at the dedication of the college on the site of Fort Ord, an Army base closed last year as a casualty of the Cold War's end. This central coast community lost nearly 17,000 military and civilian jobs.

Clinton hailed the new institution, which is expected to grow from 600 students this year to 10,000 students in 2010, as a prime example of defense conversion, which is going with varying degrees of success around the country.

And as he often does when visiting California, Clinton noted that the federal government sent money - \$ 240 million - to ease the transition.

"That \$ 240 million was an investment in your future, and you earned it," Clinton told 10,000 people at the dedication. "You contributed to our victory in the Cold War. Your nation could not leave you out in the cold."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, b/w, Doug Mills, AP

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 06, 1995

LEVEL 1 - 39 OF 40 STORIES

Copyright 1995 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

September 05, 1995, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A05

LENGTH: 705 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Defends Immigration, Affirmative Action in California Speech

BYLINE: William Claiborne, Washington Post Staff Writer

DATELINE: MONTEREY, Calif., Sept. 4

BODY:

President Clinton today strongly defended affirmative action and immigrant rights on the home turf of one of his would-be Republican rivals, California Gov. Pete Wilson, who has taken a hard-line stance on both issues.

On a day in which the leading Republican presidential hopeful, Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole (Kan.), called for making English the official language of the nation, Clinton decried politicians who he said seek to lay blame for middle-class economic anxieties on immigration policies and programs aimed at ensuring minorities jobs and higher education opportunities through race and gender preferences.

"There are people who will tell you that the real reason middle-class wages are stagnant is that . . . we have too many immigrants, or that affirmative action is destroying opportunities for the middle class," Clinton said in a speech commemorating the opening of the new California State University at Monterey Bay.

Later, addressing a Labor Day picnic at Pleasanton, Clinton returned to the theme, assailing "this crazy idea" of trying to convince middle-class voters that their wages are not rising because of affirmative action and immigration.

"This country got where it is because we worked together, we pulled together. . . . This country never got anywhere by being divided against one another," he said.

Wilson was campaigning out of state today and was represented on the speaker's platform at the new university by Lt. Gov. Gray Davis, a Democrat who praised the administration's base conversion efforts. The university is being built on the recently closed Fort Ord Army base.

While there may be some problems in both immigration and affirmative action policies, Clinton said, more effort is needed to bring Americans together in correcting the problems instead of divisively attacking the programs and

The Washington Post, September 05, 1995

proposing draconian solutions.

Most GOP candidates have attacked affirmative action, which they say often results in reverse discrimination. Wilson has called for denying social services to illegal immigrants and penalizing employers who hire them. Dole, in his Indianapolis speech today, criticized bilingual education as divisive and said all children should be taught in English, but he did not make an anti-immigration speech.

Clinton told his warmly applauding audience of about 12,000 here that "we should never, ever, ever permit ourselves to get into a position where we forget that almost everybody here came from somewhere else, and that America is a set of ideas and values and convictions that make us strong."

Similarly, Clinton said, while some affirmative action programs need reform, "we are a better, stronger country because we have made a conscious effort to give people, without regard to their race or gender, an opportunity to live up to their God-given capacities."

Clinton, who has acknowledged that it will be difficult for him to win reelection without carrying California, said he opposes race- and gender-based quotas and any other form of reverse discrimination.

The last time Clinton weighed in on a major California issue was in 1994, when he opposed the Proposition 187 ballot initiative aimed at cutting off most social services for illegal immigrants. Voters approved the measure by 59 to 41 percent, although it has been blocked by court appeals.

A recent statewide poll by the Field political research group showed that California voters support by a 2 to 1 margin a new ballot initiative to end all race and gender preference programs in hiring and contracting. The Field poll also showed that only 37 percent of California voters are inclined to vote for Clinton.

Clinton said that decisions made in the next 60 to 90 days as Congress resumes "will determine what kind of country we're going to be in the 21st century."

"Now there will be plenty of things for us to disagree on, but at this moment our national security in the [next] century depends on our agreeing to invest in our people, and to grow our economy, and to pull our country together as we balance this budget," Clinton said.

He praised the new state university here as a model of such bipartisan cooperation in military base conversion.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 05, 1995

LEVEL 1 - 40 OF 40 STORIES

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Chicago Tribune

September 5, 1995 Tuesday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 939 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON GEARS UP FOR FALL'S BUDGET WARS;
PRESIDENT CHALLENGES REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES

BYLINE: By William Neikirk, Tribune Staff Writer.

DATELINE: MONTEREY, Calif.

BODY:

Warming up for a tough re-election struggle, President Clinton challenged Gov. Pete Wilson on his own turf Monday and served notice on Republicans that he's politically fit to fight this fall's critical budget wars.

Clinton said the next few weeks in Congress "will be no ordinary time" as he and Republicans debate how to balance the budget. "Decisions made in the next 60 to 90 days will determine what kind of country we're going to be into the 21st Century," he said.

On his way back to Washington after three weeks on the road, the president stepped up his quest for California's 54 crucial electoral votes. He stressed his efforts to increase middle-class incomes and disagreed with Wilson on affirmative action and immigration.

He criticized Washington as a place "where talking is more important than doing" and where "you have to exaggerate every difference and make it 10 times bigger than it is. And you have to be willing to sacrifice every good in the moment for the next election."

In two separate Labor Day speeches, he also called on America's corporate executives to share more of their profits with their workers, noting that median income in the U.S. has declined while profits have risen.

"They (workers) deserve the fair share of their own productivity and competitiveness," he said. "And it's time to do it."

With both audiences, the president sought to identify himself with middle-class voters who hold the key to the 1996 election, saying that he favors a "common ground" approach to solving problems.

"There are people who will tell you that the real reason middle-class wages are stagnant is that welfare people are taking all your tax money away, or that

Chicago Tribune, September 5, 1995

we have too many immigrants, or that affirmative action is destroying opportunities for the middle class," he said.

While the U.S. has problems in each area, he said, "that's not the real reason for middle-class economic anxieties." He said the answer is better education and an economic policy that emphasizes competition.

Several thousand people from this predominantly Democratic area gave Clinton a warm reception as he dedicated the new state university campus on the site of a former military base, Ft. Ord. It is now California State University at Monterey Bay, with 625 students enrolled this year.

He used this unique example of military conversion to emphasize his message that education is the key to economic survival and higher incomes, and should not be slashed by Republican budget cutters.

"We ought to increase our investment in education as we balance the budget," the president said.

Later, in a speech at an Alameda County Labor Day picnic, Clinton used blunter language: "Are we going to have a high-wage, high-growth, high-opportunity future for your children, or a hard-work, low-wage future for half of the working people in this country? Those are the questions."

He favored increasing the minimum wage, announced a \$3.4 million grant to a consortium to help build an electric car, and said he will oppose Republican efforts to cut defense conversion programs and weaken labor laws.

Without mentioning Wilson by name, Clinton said he has tried to deal with illegal immigration in a "responsible way" by trying to close U.S. borders, but added, "But you know what? This is a nation of immigrants. Most of us do not have ancestors who were born here."

The California governor, who last week officially entered the presidential race, favors tougher curbs on illegal immigration, including a constitutional amendment that would bar children of illegal immigrants from becoming citizens.

On affirmative action, which Wilson has criticized sharply, Clinton said "we are a better, stronger country" for having it and he pointed to the military as a prime example of how it has helped achieve diversity.

"I'm against quotas," he said. "I'm against reverse discrimination. I'm against giving anybody unqualified anything they're not qualified for. But I am for making a conscious effort to bring the American people together."

At the picnic, he criticized "this crazy idea that somehow we can go into the 21st Century by weakening our middle class, by dividing our people against each other, by convincing hard-working middle-class people that the reason they don't have a good income is because of welfare or affirmative action or immigration."

In turning to the upcoming budget war, the president said: "I believe we've got to work together and work for tomorrow. I do not want any more of the politics of partisan polarization."

If things work out as he wants, Clinton said that by Christmas, Congress will

Chicago Tribune, September 5, 1995

have passed a balanced budget, provided a tax deduction for education expenses, overhauled welfare, expanded educational opportunities, strengthened health-care protections "and put our people on the road to raising their incomes."

This, however, is an extremely optimistic outlook. The White House and Congress are on a collision course on the budget. Many observers predict that the government will shut down at the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30 because neither side will agree on budget priorities.

The president will depart for Washington on Tuesday after speaking at a middle school at Selma, Calif., and with agricultural leaders at Fresno. He left for his vacation in Wyoming on June 15, and commemorated the end of World War II in Hawaii.

He's also had plenty of time for golf. He played a few holes at the famous Pebble Beach golf course in nearby Carmel Monday morning. He spent the night at the home of oilman Truman Arnold, finance chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

GRAPHIC: PHOTOPHOTO: President Clinton acknowledges cheers at the dedication of the new California State University located on the site of the former Ft. Ord. AP photo.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 5, 1995

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 9, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON "BACK TO WORK"

American University
Washington, D. C.

12:30 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. First, thank all of you for that wonderful welcome. I told President Ladner that after you gave me such a buoyant welcome, I really didn't want to speak. I thought I should quit while I was ahead. (Applause.)

I appreciate the President's welcome and his profound words. I thank Neal Sharma for his introduction and for his leadership here among the students. To Chairman Jacobs and Professor Mintz, Secretary and Mrs. Dalton, City Councilman Thomas; to all the trustees and alumni and faculty and staff and students who are here, and the friends of American University who are here.

There are many people in our administration who graduated from A.U., or who otherwise have affiliation with it, including your former President, Joe Duffy. And one of the most important is here with me today -- former professor Judy Winston, who is the executive director of my race initiative, about which I want to talk a little. But I'd like for Judy to stand wherever she is. She's here somewhere. Thank you, Judy. There she is. (Applause.)

At the start of a new school year, this is a time when students are going back to work, and when those of us here in Washington are going back to work after the August recess of Congress. It is a time of genuine hope and earned optimism for America. And I can hear it in your spirited voices here today. I think it's a good time for me to talk to you and to our country about what we have to do in the remaining months of this year to make the most of this moment in preparing our country for the 21st century.

It is now, hard for me to believe, almost six years since I first announced my candidacy for President. Then, in late 1991, America seemed to be moving toward the new century with uncertain steps. Dramatic changes in the way we live and work and relate to each other and the rest of the world threaten the values by which we live our lives. We were in danger of becoming

a more divided nation at the very moment when we needed to be moving forward resolutely together.

On the day I declared my candidacy I said that our mission as a people must be to keep the American Dream alive for all who would work for it; to keep America the world's strongest force for peace and freedom and prosperity; and to bring our own people together across all the lines that divide us into one America. America's oldest and most enduring values -- opportunity for all, responsibility from all, a community of all -- these things had to remain strong and vibrant in a new and different time, which required a new course of action.

Our nation has remained young and strong now for over 220 years by always meeting new challenges in ways that renew our oldest values. That is the wellspring of our greatness. Our nation was not founded on religion or race or geography, but on a set of incandescent ideals, which have been reiterated and reaffirmed and reembraced at every critical moment in our history -- Lincoln at Gettysburg; the Progressives forging a new freedom for an Industrial Age; Franklin Roosevelt rescuing America from the abyss in the name of our oldest ideals; Dr. King challenging America to live out the true meaning of our creed. At every single moment of challenge and change, we Americans have found a way to keep these old ideals not musty words scratched on parchment, but instead, living guideposts for a new era.

For four and half year now, Americans have worked to make this a time of change for our generation. We set a bold new economic course, reducing the deficit by over 80 percent even before the recent balanced budget agreement, expanding exports through over 200 trade agreements, and investing in our people and their future. We set about establishing America's credibility in the post-Cold War world, forging new alliances and standing up for our values from Bosnia to Haiti. And we addressed a generation's accumulation of profound social problems, bringing work and responsibility and community action to bear on the challenges of crime and welfare and poverty. And we began to build a new government, not intent on doing everything, but not content to do nothing; instead, a progressive government committed to giving people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives.

Today we see the results. Unemployment remains below 5 percent; nearly 13 million new jobs since 1993; inflation remaining low and stable; investment growth and consumer confidence at their highest levels in a generation; after decades when they remained flat, finally family incomes beginning to rise again. Violent crime has dropped dramatically for years now. We have seen the largest drop in welfare roles in history. And many of our poorest urban and rural communities are in a springtime of renewal.

In late July, America reached a new milestone when I signed into law the first balanced budget in a generation. This was about more than numbers on a ledger. It embodies the single largest increase in aid to education since 1965. (Applause.) It includes the biggest increase in aid to help people go on to college and to community colleges and to graduate schools. (Applause.) The biggest increase since the G.I. Bill was passed 50 years ago -- and it will literally open the doors to college education to every person who is willing to work for it. (Applause.)

It includes the largest single investment in health care since the passage of Medicaid in 1965, largely designed to insure up to 5 million children who don't have health insurance today. (Applause.) It restores just benefits for legal immigrants, and billions of dollars -- (applause) -- are provided to help move people even more from welfare to work.

Now, after years in which the deficit dominated our politics and dampened our economy, America finally has lifted that burden from the next generation. After years in which the two parties seemed often as tired and trapped as punch-drunk fighters in a ring getting smaller and smaller, finally we found a way for Democrats and Republicans to work together for the national interest. And in so doing, we've proved to ourselves that America can still work.

We are steering the vast changes underway today in technology, trade and our social makeup -- the very changes that once produced so much doubt and unease -- in ways that will ensure that they will become powerful forces for good. In all this I want to emphasize that we are not merely riding the crest of the latest rise in the economic cycle. Our economic plan with the balanced budget at its center is the platform on which we are building America's future. Americans of this generation are forging and leading an entirely new economy. A larger proportion of Americans work in a computer industry today than worked in the auto industry at the height of the 1950s. And in the cutting edge industries of the future -- computers, biotech, aerospace -- America leads the world. But America also leads the world again, for the first time since the 1970s, in automobile production and sales.

In this new economy there still will be ups and downs; there will be recessions and crisis; they'll demand action. But the economy has fundamentally changed. Once, the wealth of people came mainly from the gold in the ground or the abundance of our farmland or the power of our factories. Now you know as well as anyone it will come from the skills of our people and the power of our imagination.

The news is good today. And in the face of good news the easiest thing to do is to rest, to take a vacation, to believe our work is done and to be satisfied that our challenges are met. But complacency is not an option and vacations have to remain short in a time still full of challenge and change. There is, in fact, a lot more to do to renew our values, to strengthen our nation, to deal with problems still unresolved, if we are really going to give you the 21st century you deserve. Now we have to take the steps that are clearly before us. And the time to start is now, this fall, with a series of concrete actions we can take to cap a year of real progress for America.

First and foremost, we must press on to make opportunity available for all of our people. Equal opportunity is our central value, but the very meaning of that has fundamentally changed. For example, in the 19th century, opportunity meant access to a land grant. In the 21st century, it will mean access to a Pell Grant to a community college, to a trade school, to a university. (Applause.) And more education is important. We have made enormous progress. As I said, this budget contains the biggest increase in funds to help give people access to higher

education in 50 years; not only the largest Pell Grant in our history, but in the last two budgets 300,000 more work-study position, new opportunities for savings in IRA for college education, and tax credits which will literally make it possible for everybody in the country who doesn't have any access to college to get two years of college, and will help people to pay for four years and for graduate school. Nothing like this has ever been done before, and it will revolutionize opportunity when it comes to getting a college education. (Applause.)

But I want to explain something that's very important about why we're focusing on the next three months. The balanced budget agreement contains a five-year plan for balancing the budget and contains the tax cuts. It has a spending plan in it. But the spending plan still has to be implemented every single year. And that is what Congress will do in the next three months in passing appropriations. So they have to authorize the money for the Pell Grants. They must authorize the money for the work-study slots. They must authorize a doubling of funds for computers in every classroom so that we can meet our goal of hooking every classroom and library up to the Internet by the year 2000. It must authorize the America Reads initiative -- which will help us to mobilize some of those community service folks you were talking about, work-study students all across the country, thousands of AmeriCorps students going into our schools, working with teachers and parents to make sure every single 3rd grader in this country can read independently. We have to do that. (Applause.)

We also must get through the appropriations process with our commitment to national education standards intact. We know, for example, that America has the finest system of higher education in the world, and people come from all over the world to be a part of it. And I'm very proud of that. We also know, however, that we do not do as well as we should in our K through 12 education for all of our children. Of course, it's harder in America than a lot of other places -- we have more diversity. We have more racial diversity, we have more linguistic diversity, we have more cultural diversity, we have more income diversity than we would like. The other diversity is all to the good, I think.

But we are making progress. For the first time this year on the international math and science scores, our nation ranked well about the national average in math and science scores -- well above the world average in math and science scores -- for 4th graders. But we still ranked below the world average in scores for 8th graders, as our children meet adolescence and all the difficulties that many of them face come to bear. We have to do better.

We are the only major nation in the world that does not have high, clear, uniform academic standards of excellence in basic courses in public education. We don't have them. It is a legacy of our state constitutional responsibility for education K through 12 and local control of the schools. But uniform standards -- mathematics are the same in Maine and Montana. And children have to learn to read whether they live in Washington or the southern tip of Florida.

We are now on the brink of being able to have a nonpartisan board set up by Congress for this purpose, to approve the development of examinations of 4th graders in reading and 8th graders in math. There are some who don't think we should do it. They say it's a federal power grab. It isn't. The tests are voluntary. No state, no school district has to participate. The

government is not developing the tests, we're simply paying for it.

But I hope that all of you who got here to this university will look at all their 52.2 million children enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade in America now, the biggest number of children ever, from the most diverse backgrounds ever -- we are robbing them of the future you are here to claim if we let them get out of school without the basic skills they need to succeed in the university. And I hope you will support our efforts at national standards. (Applause.)

Now, your student body president made a wry remark about Social Security -- (laughter) -- and I know a lot of you don't think it's going to be there. But it is. (Applause.) It is going to be there. (Applause.) Clearly, one of our most serious responsibilities is to make sure that Social Security and Medicare are there for the next generation of Americans. It is wrong to let people pay into the fund for a benefit they will never receive. That is wrong.

We will begin in the next three months to build on this budget agreement in dealing with Medicare. This budget agreement extends the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by a decade. In fact, the structural changes that we have build in may even save enough money to carry it far beyond that. But we will also appoint -- the leaders of Congress and I -- members of a bipartisan commission to study Medicare and make recommendations for how it can be preserved for the next generation of Americans well into the 21st century.

We have shown that we can put our fiscal house in order while improving services for our elderly. Now we have to secure the future of this program. And then, we'll be beyond that to deal with Social Security as well. We can do this. If we can balance the budget, we can plainly do this. These are problems that revolve around demographic changes in our society and we owe it to you not to have to face this burden. I am confident that we will fulfill our responsibilities. (Applause.)

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The next thing we have to do is to continue our efforts to expand trade to the rest of the world. The United States is now the world's number one exporter again. But we must continue to do this. We must continue to do it not only because it is right for us, because it is right for the world. Let me just give you a couple of interesting statistics. We have less than 5 percent of the world's people in this country; we have about 20 percent of the world's wealth. We cannot maintain our wealth unless we sell what we have to the other 95 percent of the people in the rest of the world.

Second, the growing economies of the emerging countries, principally in Asia and Latin America, but also increasingly in Africa, are going to grow much more rapidly in the next 10 years than the advanced economies of America, Canada, and Europe. If we participate in that growth, we can move huge numbers of countries now classified as poor nations into the ranks of middle-income nations, where millions of children will have a more decent, more humane, more supportable future; where democracy will thrive; where we will have good partners not only in

economic relationships, but also in solving the other problems of the world when you have to take responsibility for them.

The United States has a clear, clear obligation to continue to expand the frontiers of trade. And tomorrow, in the East Room at the White House, I will launch a campaign to persuade the Congress to renew the traditional authority presidents have had for over 20 years now to break down foreign barriers to America's goods and services. This is very important to you and your future.

We do not need to be afraid to trade with the rest of the world. We are the most productive economy in the world. There will always be changes in this economy. There will always be new jobs being created and some going away. But on balance, we have benefitted for 60 years by leading the way to integrate the world's economies. And that will promote peace; it will promote freedom; it will promote stability; it will raise the level of living standards in other parts of the world even as it maintains America as the world's most prosperous nation. And I hope you will support that as well. (Applause.)

As we expand opportunity, we must also continue to demand responsibility from our citizens. Among other things, we have a common responsibility to do all we can to strengthen our families for the 21st century. This new economy puts extraordinary pressures on parents, demanding more time away from their children, imposing new demands for affordable child care, bombarding children themselves with commercial images that make it harder than ever for them to be raised according to our most basic values.

We are working to pass a juvenile justice bill to help keep our children out of gangs, off of drugs and away from guns. We will host the first ever White House Conference on Child Care, to explore ways all sections of society, including our government, can better address perhaps the greatest problem facing working parents today. And we must make this historic opportunity real in our efforts to protect our children from the dangers of tobacco by passing sweeping legislation that focuses first and foremost on reducing smoking among young people. More people die from that than any other problem in our society today. (Applause.)

Next, we must meet a very large environmental challenge in the next three months. We will work toward a worldwide climate change treaty this December in Kyoto that protects the environment even as it promotes global growth by committing the nations that sign on to it to specific, clear guidelines in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. We know -- (applause.) You can clap for that -- that's all right. (Applause.)

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Now, there are students here from all over the world, students from all over our country. Many of you have witnessed -- and your families have witnessed -- in your own homes, significant changes in climatic patterns in the last decade, and more extreme climatic developments. It is becoming a part of the common parlance of America, all over the country, to talk about the

500-year flood we had along the Mississippi River. One member of Congress, who happened to be a member of the other party, said to me the other day -- he said, "Mr. President, we've had three 100-year floods in the last five years in my home state." He said, "Does that mean I get to wait 500 years before we have another bad flood?"

Many of you who are studying this issue know that a panel of over 2,500 scientists has concluded that the climate of the Earth is significantly warming in ways that will have not entirely predictable, but almost certainly destructive consequences unless we do something about it.

This is something that will affect people of all incomes, of all backgrounds, from all parts of our country, and, indeed, the whole world. We need the young people of America, particularly the university students who are in a position to study this issue, to make this a gripping national issue. And we also need people who have the confidence in our ability to break new technological and scientific barriers to stand up and say, you cannot make me believe that we can't reduce greenhouse gas emissions substantially and still grow the American economy. We could reduce them 20 percent tomorrow with technology that is already available at no cost if we just changed the way we do things.

Now, this will be a very controversial debate. And there will be people who say, President Clinton has spent five years killing himself to revitalize the American economy and now he's going to take it down overnight by committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in America. That is not true. But if you let the sea level rise and we flood the southern coast of Florida and we flood the southern coast of Louisiana, and we otherwise disrupt what life in the United States is like over the next 50 years, then your children will pay the price for our neglect. We can grow this economy and do right by the environment. I think you believe that, and I need you to help me convince the American people that it can be done. (Applause.)

Finally, let me say we have a responsibility to improve the way our political system works. The amount of money raised by both parties is more than doubling now every four years. The primary driving thing is the cost of access to you, the voters. That is what is driving this, the cost of access -- through television time, through radio time, through mail, through printed materials. One of the things we have to do is to guarantee free or reduced air time for candidates for offices so that they won't need so much more money. (Applause.) And we are seeking that now.

But there is also a very important piece of legislation sponsored by Republican Senator John McCain and Democratic Senator Russ Feingold which will come to the floor of the Senate later this month. Every year I have been President I have supported a good campaign finance reform bill. And every year I have seen the bills blocked by a filibuster in the United States Senate -- every single year. Now, the people who don't want it this year say they're going to do it all over again. They may do it, but if they do it this year we intend to see that it happens in the full glare of public light. I ask for your support for campaign finance reform this year. (Applause.)

The third thing we have to do is to do a lot of work in the next three months to advance our interests and our leadership around the world. We live in a world very different from the Cold War world, and we still have to do a lot to shape it. We have an opportunity to lock in the gains of democracy and stability and free market, and lay the foundations for the century in which you will live most of your lives.

So far this year, we have ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, so our soldiers and citizens will be safer from the threat of poison gas. (Applause.) We have worked hard to build an undivided, democratic, and peaceful Europe for the first time in history -- inviting Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to join NATO. I look forward to working with the Senate to ratify this historic step next year, and I'm pleased today that a group of America's leading citizens endorsed it.

We're forging new partnerships with Russia, with Ukraine, with Europe's other new democracies, working with all of our friends in Europe to give the people of Bosnia a chance to share in Europe's democratic future. (Applause.)

First we stopped the war and turned killing fields into playing fields again, and bomb shelters into schools. Now we have to redouble our efforts to build a lasting peace. In the months to come, we will continue to pursue peace in the Middle East, in Northern Ireland; continue to fight rogue states and terrorists; continue to make sure our military and diplomacy are the strongest in the world. But above all, in the remaining months of this year, we are going to reach out to our hemisphere and to Asia.

Over the last decade in the Americas, coups, conflicts, and command economies have given way to democracies and free markets. Next month I'm going to Venezuela, Brazil, and Argentina to work to expand trade, to fight drugs, to protect the environment and to strengthen our partnerships. The Americas can become a stronghold for our own peace and security.

By the way, 70 percent of our increased trade in the last year has come from the Americas, from our own neighbors in our hemisphere and we should stick with them. (Applause.)

Because I want this effort to be truly bipartisan I reached my hand across the aisle to choose an Ambassador to one of our most important allies and neighbors, Mexico, when I asked the Republican Governor of Massachusetts, Bill Weld, if he would serve. (Applause.) I believe still that he is the best person to be Ambassador to Mexico. (Applause.) And I believe -- and I would believe this if there were a president of another party with a nominee with whom I did not agree -- I believe when a president nominates someone for a job that person is entitled to a hearing before the Foreign Relations Committee, and I think he ought to get it. (Applause.)

This fall, the President of China will come to Washington. China is home to a quarter of the world's people. In less than two decades, its economy may be the largest on Earth. America has a profound interest in seeing that China is stable, open, at peace with its neighbors.

We want it to embrace political pluralism and the international rules of civilized conduct. We want a China that works with us to build a secure and prosperous future. China will choose its own destiny; but if we engage China, instead of isolating ourselves from her, we can help to influence the path it takes.

President Jiang's visit is an important opportunity, not so much for grand statements and dramatic gestures as for constructive work on common challenges like the one we face on the Korean Peninsula, or protecting the environment, or stopping the spread of nuclear weapons, and for expanding the frontiers of free trade between us. It's also a chance for us to address candidly and face to face our differences on issues like human rights and religious freedom.

Sitting down together across the table is far more likely to produce progress than pointing fingers across the Pacific. So when President Jiang comes here, I hope the American people will welcome him, and will say, yes, we have things that we disagree with you about, but you represent a quarter of the world's people, a large measure of the world's future, and your people and our people will be better off if we find a way to forge that future together. (Applause.)

Finally, in the next three months, we will be working for new ways to preserve perhaps the most fragile value of all, the bonds of community that binds us together as Americans. In this century, we have absorbed wave after wave of immigrants, drawn here by our abundance and our ideals. This century has seen unparalleled racial progress as African Americans and other minorities join the American mainstream. Still, the very forces of progress that are propelling us forward could also pull us apart, threatening to isolate us -- each with our own Web page, but linked by few human bonds of community.

The age-old dilemma of racial inequality, racial prejudice, or just plain old fear and mistrust of people who are different from us is compounded by the new task of absorbing new immigrant groups into what is already the world's most diverse democracy. Within a decade our largest state, California, will have no majority race. Within just a few decades this entire country will have no majority race. (Applause.) We can study the demographic patterns and know what America will look like in the 21st century, but we have to look inside to imagine what America will be like in the 21st century. That answer is up to all of us.

I have asked the nation to join me in a great national conversation about race, an effort redress imbalance, to root out hatred and prejudice, to deal with real underlying problems that may have nothing to do with race but that manifest themselves in racial inequality and tensions, and, above all, to bring Americans of different backgrounds together to face one another honestly across the lines that divide us.

Your President noted that you have people from 140 different racial and ethnic groups here on this university campus. Good for you. You can be America's laboratory. You figure it out and let us know. (Applause.)

This diversity of ours is a Godsend. It is a huge gift in a global economy and a global

society. If we can find a way not only to respect our differences but to actually celebrate them, and still say what binds us together is even more important, we will have solved the conundrum that is paralyzing Bosnia -- that is still leading to people blowing themselves up to kill innocent children in the Middle East -- that has my people in Ireland still arguing over what happened 600 years ago -- that has led to vicious tribal warfare in Africa, leaving hundreds of thousands of people hatcheted to death. And yet, look around this room.

This is a question of imagination, of vision, of heart. And it is also very important to be hard-headed about it; until everybody has economic opportunity that is real and educational opportunity that is real and streets that are safe, there will be racial disparities in America which will manifest themselves in things that look like racial discrimination whether they are, or not. We have to deal with the underlying real causes here, as well. (Applause.)

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But don't kid yourselves -- fear of people who are different is an underlying real cause. How did people get to be Serbs or Croats or Muslims in Bosnia? How did they belong to the Orthodox Church, the Catholic Church, or the Muslim faith in Bosnia? It's an accident of history, of geopolitics going back hundreds and hundreds of years. The people are biologically indistinguishable. But they were more than happy to abandon decades of peace and begin within weeks to murder each other with abandon and shoot each other's children not very long ago.

There is something in us all that in our most defensive periods makes us want to find somebody else we can look down on -- I mean, no matter how bad it is for me, at least I'm not her or him. Isn't there? And every one of us at some point in our life has been guilty of that in some way or another.

You come here in this magnificent university environment, you cheer with your great enthusiasm and hope for the future, you look at each other and you're different and you like it. That's the way we've got to make daily life in America. People have to get up in the morning and feel good about this country with all of its diversity, because we have to know what's good about the differences between us and celebrate them, and we must know, too, what it is that binds us together: What are the requirements of membership in the American community? What do you have to believe in and be willing to live by and be willing to stand up for in order to be an American? That is what we are going to do. We have to visualize our future as a truly multiracial, multiethnic, multireligious democracy that still runs in a straight line from here all the way back to George Washington. I'm convinced we can do it, but I'm convinced that all of you have to lead the way.

Now, let me say that a lot of this work has to be done with Congress. And I'm very pleased by the relationship that we had working on the balanced budget. I'll work with them to do everything we can to implement the budget, to confirm the judges and the others who await action. We are in uncharted territory, to some extent, but we know the times demand action of us, and I am sure the American people, without regard to their party, want us to work together in

the public interest.

For all of you who are students here, consider this: It is now 844 days to the year 2000 -- to a new century and a new millennium and a new era of human endeavor. Will it bring new progress, new prosperity, and new greatness for America? It is basically up to us.

Thirty-four years ago here at American University, President Kennedy delivered what many people believe was his greatest speech. It was an era bristling with superpower tension, but President Kennedy looked forward and saw a day when the Cold War was a thing of the past. Because of decades of work to uphold our values by Americans of both parties, we are now living in the world John Kennedy imagined 34 years ago at American University. (Applause.)

So I leave you with this thought: It all depends on your imagination. It all depends on your imagination. Think how many children's lives we could save in all these trouble spots of the world if all the people with power and the people that support them just imagined their future in a different way -- just took their heart and their head together and came up with a different picture than the one they see before them every morning when they get up. It is the most important force in the world.

President Kennedy imagined the world we are living in today, 34 years ago in the speech here at American University. Now it is up to you and to me and to our fellow Americans to imagine what the 21st century will be, and then to do what is necessary to make that vision a reality for all our people. That is what I came here to ask for your help in doing -- for your help and for that of every other American. You've got a lot riding on it, and I'm betting that we're going to get there.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

1:14 P.M. EDT

LEVEL 1 - 30 OF 32 STORIES

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USA TODAY

September 10, 1997, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6A

LENGTH: 345 words

HEADLINE: Clinton lays out fall agenda Top goals: Trade, education, Weld

BYLINE: Bill Nichols

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton laid out his goals for autumn Tuesday, an agenda dominated by trade, education and the nomination of former Massachusetts governor William Weld as ambassador to Mexico.

In a speech at The American University, Clinton said that despite the passage of a balanced budget plan in July, "complacency is not an option and vacations have to remain short. There is, in fact, a lot more to do." Clinton's fall goals:

-- A campaign for "fast-track" trade authority, which he will officially kick off today. (See story below.)

-- Weld's confirmation, which has been blocked by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, R-N.C. Clinton made his strongest comments yet: "When a president nominates someone for a job, that person's entitled to a hearing before the Foreign Relations Committee, and I hope he gets it."

Helms agreed Tuesday to hold a committee meeting to discuss his refusal to consider Weld's nomination, but not to consider the nomination itself.

-- Legislation to curb the effects of smoking "that focuses first and foremost on reducing smoking among young people."

-- National education standards and testing of fourth-graders and eighth-graders, a policy that has attracted significant congressional opposition.

-- A national policy for curbing the emission of gases that some scientists believe contribute to global warming.

Clinton surprised some aides by saying "greenhouse gases" could be reduced by "20% tomorrow with technology that is already available at no cost."

USA TODAY, September 10, 1997

Clinton faces opposition from the business community on limiting the gases. Many industry leaders fear limits will boost their costs. Few in the White House think the final number will be close to 20%.

-- Campaign finance reform. Clinton threatened to put the spotlight on Republicans if they try to kill the McCain-Feingold reform bill that Congress will debate this fall.

-- Foreign policy issues, especially next month's Washington visit by Chinese president Jiang Zemin.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, b/w, Greg Gibson, AP

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LEVEL 1 - 24 OF 32 STORIES

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The New York Times

September 10, 1997, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 20; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 1016 words

HEADLINE: Students Hear Clinton Tell Of Priorities For the Fall

BYLINE: By JAMES BENNETT

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Sept. 9

BODY:

Declaring the economic and political drag of budget deficits to be a thing of the past, President Clinton moved on today to a broad agenda for the rest of the year, trying to summon support for a grab bag of causes from expanding trade to tightening pollution controls to passing wide-reaching laws to restrict tobacco.

Speaking to his second audience of students in two days, Mr. Clinton again called on Congress to support his plan for new national tests measured against voluntary standards in reading and math.

Mr. Clinton also threatened today to direct "the full glare of public light" toward any senators who try to block legislation to tighten campaign finance laws. But even as he spoke this afternoon about the peril of money in politics and a Senate committee sharply questioned a former top Democratic official about fund-raising, Mr. Clinton planned to attend two dinners tonight to raise \$550,000 for the Democratic National Committee.

Addressing the students and faculty of American University here, Mr. Clinton invoked John F. Kennedy's vision of a world free from the cold war, articulated 34 years ago at the same university.

"It is up to you and to me and to our fellow Americans to imagine what the 21st century will be, and then to do what is necessary to make that vision a reality for all our people," he said.

Mr. Clinton addressed topics as open-ended as whether the rush of technology could leave citizens "each with our own Web page, but linked by few human bonds of community." But he also raised more specific matters, urging for the first time in weeks that his nominee for Ambassador to Mexico, William F. Weld, receive a hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Clinton assured his college audience that Social Security would survive to benefit them, and pledged in the next three months to appoint members of a new commission to study Medicare. He also called on Congress to take this

The New York Times, September 10, 1997

"historic opportunity" to pass "sweeping legislation that focuses first and foremost on reducing smoking among young people."

The President was raucously received by some 4,000 students and faculty members packed into a basketball gymnasium, and flashbulbs pulsed from the bleachers throughout his 41-minute address. Like most of the President's other major addresses this year, the speech today divided into the triad of "opportunity, responsibility, community," familiar from his 1996 campaign.

One senior aide billed the address, which Mr. Clinton worked on in the last two weeks of his vacation, as a "back to work, back to school, America's back" speech. And Mr. Clinton provided a remarkably upbeat assessment of the nation's health, pointing to low inflation and unemployment as the products of an economy so robust that "many of our poorest urban and rural communities are in a springtime of renewal."

He lavishly praised the recent agreement to balance the budget by 2002.

"Now, after years in which the deficit dominated our politics and dampened our economy, America finally has lifted that burden from the next generation," Mr. Clinton said. "After years in which the two parties seemed often as tired and trapped as punch-drunk fighters in a ring getting smaller and smaller, finally we found a way for Democrats and Republicans to work together for the national interest."

After he turned to foreign policy, however, Mr. Clinton sounded slightly defensive as he described his plans to meet here later this fall with President Jiang Zemin of China. He called the meeting "a chance for us to address candidly and face-to-face our differences on issues like human rights and religious freedom."

He said that "sitting down together across the table is far more likely to produce progress than pointing fingers across the Pacific."

Linking free trade with the growth of democracy, Mr. Clinton called for expanded trade with Asia and other parts of the world. On Wednesday he plans to announce a campaign to persuade Congress to increase his powers to negotiate trade agreements.

For the first time since his address to the United Nations on June 26, Mr. Clinton returned to the subject of global climate change. He is trying to build public support for reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases before a summit on climate change in December in Japan.

Mr. Clinton warned that, if it is not checked, climate change could cause flooding in southern Florida and Louisiana over the next 50 years, and he said Americans could take cost-free steps to cut emissions of gases that contribute to climatic warming.

"We could reduce them 20 percent tomorrow with technology that is already available at no cost if we just changed the way we do things," Mr. Clinton said, but offering no specific suggestions.

His aides said today that they could not determine the source of his 20 percent figure, but that he was referring to measures like much more widespread

The New York Times, September 10, 1997

use of refrigerators and light bulbs that require less electricity.

While the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee continued today to investigate the price of access to politicians, including the President, Mr. Clinton turned that subject around, saying the primary cause of the mounting cost of campaigns was "the cost of access to you, the voters." He called for free or reduced advertising time for politicians.

Mr. Clinton repeated his support for campaign finance legislation sponsored by Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, and Senator Russell D. Feingold, Democrat of Wisconsin, saying, "Every year I have been President, I have supported a good campaign finance reform bill."

Under the McCain-Feingold bill, much of the money Mr. Clinton planned to raise at the events tonight -- the unlimited donations to parties classified as "soft money" -- would be illegal. Michael D. McCurry, the White House press secretary, wearily repeated today that the Democrats would not "unilaterally disarm" by abandoning soft money.

"We'll continue to try to change the rules even as we try to compete effectively under the rules," Mr. McCurry said.

GRAPHIC: Photo: President Clinton spoke of the need for campaign finance changes and expanded trade yesterday at American University in Washington, winning applause from Neal Sharma, the leader of the student federation there. (Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 10, 1997

LEVEL 1 - 14 OF 32 STORIES

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The Boston Globe

September 10, 1997, Wednesday, City Edition

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. A8

LENGTH: 532 words

HEADLINE: Clinton unveils back-to-work agenda;
Emphasizes trade, Weld effort

BYLINE: By Ann Scales, Globe Staff

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

President Clinton yesterday unveiled his back-to-work agenda, which includes pursuing authority to negotiate new trade agreements and the nomination of former Massachusetts Governor William F. Weld as his ambassador to Mexico.

In a speech at American University, where 34 years ago President John F. Kennedy delivered a speech on arms control still remembered for its eloquence and vision, Clinton laid out an agenda for three months. Some items have drawn opposition from the Republican-majority Congress.

Besides Weld and free trade, Clinton said he intends to push for education standards, tougher environmental laws, a tobacco settlement that reduces teenage smoking, and a racial and ethnic dialogue.

The president also promised to challenge Congress to overhaul campaign finance laws, even as he was planning to attend two fund-raisers last night expected to raise about \$ 550,000 for the Democratic Party.

"The news is good today. And in the face of good news, the easiest thing to do is to rest, to take a vacation, to believe our work is done and to be satisfied that our challenges are met," said Clinton, who returned to Washington Sunday from a three-week vacation on Martha's Vineyard. "But complacency is not an option, and vacations have to remain short in a time still full of challenge and change."

Before the break, Clinton and congressional leaders agreed on a plan to balance the budget and cut taxes, following what the president said were "years in which the two parties seemed often as tired and trapped as punch-drunk fighters in a ring getting smaller and smaller."

But a spending plan still has to be approved every year, he said, and battle lines are being drawn over education funding because of the opposition from Republicans and some Democrats to his plan to develop tests for fourth-grade

The Boston Globe, September 10, 1997

reading and eight-grade math skills.

"There are some people who don't think we should do it," he said. "They say it's a federal power grab. It isn't. The tests are voluntary. No state, no school district has to participate."

On free trade, Clinton said he will launch today "a campaign to persuade the Congress to renew the traditional authority presidents have had for over 20 years now to break down foreign barriers to America's goods and services."

Clinton's speech was often interrupted by applause, including his support of Weld as Mexico ambassador. Clinton said he still believes Weld is the best choice.

Clinton also said he expected opposition to his support for guidelines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and urged students "to make this a gripping national issue."

In the end, he devoted the bulk of his speech to his yearlong race initiative, invoking memories of Kennedy's speech at the same university. Clinton said the "very forces of progress that are propelling us forward, could also pull us apart, threatening to isolate us, each with our own web page."

Saying Kennedy imagined a day when the Cold War was a thing of the past, Clinton said, "We have to visualize our future as a truly multiracial, multiethnic, multireligious democracy that still runs in a straight line from here all the way back to George Washington."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, President Bill Clinton addressing an audience at American University yesterday in Washington. He outlined his agenda for the rest of 1997.
/ AFP PHOTO

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 10, 1997

LEVEL 1 - 31 OF 32 STORIES

Copyright 1997 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

September 10, 1997, Wednesday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 1005 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Vows Fight for Campaign Finance Law; Revisions in Social Security Also Pledged

BYLINE: John F. Harris, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

President Clinton vowed yesterday to wage a public fight to pass a campaign finance reform bill this fall and to revamp Social Security by the time he leaves office -- two politically volatile issues that he avoided in his first term.

After supporting an overhaul of fund-raising laws in the 1992 campaign, Clinton, in five years, has never launched a high-profile effort to pressure Congress to send him a bill. Each year, legislation died after filibusters in the Senate, and opponents are saying they will use the same tactic when the measure comes up later this month.

"They may do it, but if they do it this year," Clinton told an audience of students and faculty at American University, "we intend to see that it happens in the full glare of public light."

On the question of entitlement spending programs for the elderly -- the soaring costs of which threaten to break the budget in the next century -- Clinton said Medicare would be addressed by a commission to be named by him and Congress later this fall.

He was less precise about Social Security but, using some of the most direct language he has used to date on the subject, he promised to do something soon. "I know a lot of you don't think it's going to be there" by the time today's young people retire, Clinton told the students. "But it is. . . . It is wrong to let people pay into the fund for a benefit they will never receive.

"These are problems that revolve around demographic changes in our society and we owe it to you not to have to face this burden," he said, adding that his administration "would fulfill our responsibilities" to curb the cost of Social Security.

Clinton's address, billed by aides as a "back-to-work speech" after his three-week summer vacation, was a recitation of his fall schedule. And he said education -- including increased funds for Pell grants to help college students

The Washington Post, September 10, 1997

with tuition and voluntary national tests for fourth- and eighth-graders -- would be the centerpiece of the domestic agenda. Following his review of the tobacco settlement, the president said he hopes to shepherd passage of tobacco legislation "that focuses first and foremost on reducing smoking among young people."

On foreign policy, Clinton promised to overcome critics -- most of them in his party -- who oppose legislation giving him power to negotiate free-trade agreements on a "fast-track" basis, and to resist those who urge that he ostracize China. Chinese President Jiang Zemin is coming here for a summit next month. "Sitting down together across the table is far more likely to produce progress than pointing fingers across the Pacific," Clinton said.

He also appealed on behalf of former Massachusetts governor William F. Weld (R), his nominee to be ambassador to Mexico. Weld has been blocked by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), who chairs the Foreign Relations Committee; while Clinton has urged confirmation, he has yet to take on Helms directly.

"I believe when a president nominates someone for a job that person is entitled to a hearing before the Foreign Relations Committee, and I think he ought to get it," Clinton said.

Clinton also told his young audience they have the greatest stake in finding a way to limit "greenhouse gases."

The Clinton administration will help draft a global treaty to deal with climate change at a United Nations conference in Kyoto, Japan, in December. He said he wants students to "make this a gripping national issue."

On campaign finance, Clinton's remarks yesterday were greeted with skepticism. He has promised to fight on behalf of a bipartisan bill sponsored by Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Russell Feingold (D-Wis.), which would ban the unregulated "soft money" contributions of the sort that are at the heart of the controversy over Democratic fund-raising.

"If President Clinton has decided to make a major effort for passage of campaign finance reform, that would be welcome," said Fred Wertheimer, president of Democracy 21, a group pushing for the McCain-Feingold legislation. "It's fair to say this hasn't happened in the past."

This time, White House aides said, the president would make speeches and lobby lawmakers.

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), who has consistently opposed campaign finance legislation, accused Clinton of highlighting the McCain-Feingold proposal this fall as a diversion from his alleged abuses in raising money for the Democratic National Committee. "The 'full glare' of the American people is already on the problem -- the problem is violations of existing law," he said.

White House officials said yesterday Clinton has made it clear that he wants a revamping of Social Security to be achieved by the time he leaves office, but that he is still mulling options for when or how to advance the issue. In the past, he has said establishing a commission, similar to the one being set up for Medicare, is an option.

The Washington Post, September 10, 1997

A leader of the Concord Commission, a group pushing for entitlement reform, said she was encouraged even by Clinton's vague pronouncements. "They are committing to the process" of making changes, said Executive Director Martha Phillips. "They are not up to advocating substance yet, but they're talking process and that is good news."

Clinton, aides said, began working on yesterday's speech while vacationing on Martha's Vineyard, and was making changes in the hours before delivery. White House senior adviser Rahm Emanuel said it was intended to "serve as the music and the notes that Washington will read off of this fall."

The lyrics on Clinton's sheet had a heavy share of boasting. He said his policies deserve credit for lower crime and a rising economy.

"We are steering the vast changes underway today in technology, trade and our social makeup," Clinton said. "In all this I want to emphasize that we are not merely riding the crest of the latest rise in the economic cycle. Our economic plan with the balanced budget at its center is the platform on which we are building America's future."

GRAPHIC: Photo, dayna smith, Neal Sharma, American University student body president, joins laughter as students and faculty members hear AU President Benjamin Ladner tell President Clinton that six sitting presidents have served on the school's board of trustees, effectively putting him on the spot before his address.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 10, 1997

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Orlando, Florida)

For Immediate Release

September 9, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT HILLCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Orlando, Florida

1:10 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. When President Waldrip was up here speaking, I had two overwhelming thoughts. One is that even though I had been made a member of the PTA, she was one incumbent president I could never defeat in an election. My second thought was I wish I could take her to Washington for about a month -- it might change the entire atmosphere up there. She was unbelievable.

Let me say how delighted I am to be here at Hillcrest. I want to thank Principal Scharr for making me feel so welcome. And, Claire Hoey, thank you for what you said about the education of our children. And thank you both for the comments you made about the First Lady and the work we have done over the years for children and for education.

I'd like to thank Governor of Puerto Rico, Pedro Rosello, my longtime friend, for being here. It's quite fitting that you would be here at this school, which is committed to bilingualism and to a multicultural future for America. I'd like to thank three members of the United States Congress who came with me today -- Representatives Corrine Brown, Robert Wexler, and Peter Deutsch. They're all here in the front row, and thank you for coming. Thank you, Anne MacKay, for being here. And I'd like to thank the state representatives who are here -- Shirley Brown, Lars Hafner, and Orange County Chair Linda Chapin, and the Superintendent of the Schools Dennis Smith.

Let me say to all of you, I was so excited when I heard about this school because it really does embody what I think we should be doing in education, and in a larger sense, what I think we should be trying to do with our country. And I'd like to begin by just saying a few words about it.

First of all, the principal has already outlined it better than I could, along with what your teacher and your PTA president said, but this is a school that has a lot of different kids in it -- not only different ethnic groups, they have different religions, they have different cultural heritages. Their parents have different financial circumstances -- I would imagine breathtakingly different. And yet, if you look at them all together, they're all a part of our future.

And we say in our Constitution, we say in our laws that every one of them is equal not only in the eyes of God, but in the eyes of their fellow Americans. This school is trying to make that promise real for all of them. And in creating a community in which they all count and all have a chance to live up to the fullest of their God-given abilities, they're doing what we in America ought to be doing. I also think some of the strategies are very good. I think the school uniform policy is a good one. I've tried to promote it because I think it promotes learning and discipline and order, and gives kids a sense of solidarity, and takes a lot of heat off parents without regard to their income, and sort of reinforces the major mission of the school. I think that's a good thing. I think having a school-based academic strategy is important. I think the literacy programs are profoundly important. And I'm very glad you are involved in reading recovery. So there are so many things that I think are quite good about this school, and I thank you for giving me and Lt. Governor MacKay the chance to come by here today.

I want to talk about what we're trying to do in Washington for education and to support not only this school, but the truly extraordinary effort that Governor Chiles and Lieutenant Governor MacKay have made here over the last few years to support Florida's schools. And let me begin by backing up a step.

I'm very grateful as an American to have had the chance to serve and to be a part of what our people have accomplished in the last six years -- to have the lowest unemployment rate in a generation; to have in just a few more days the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years; to have the lowest crime rate in 25 years; and the smallest percentage of our people on welfare in 29 years; and the lowest inflation rate in 32 years; and the highest home ownership in American history. And we did it while downsizing the national government to its smallest size in 35 years and investing more in states and localities and schools. I'm grateful for what all of the American people have done together.

But my focus today is on what we should do with that. What should we do with that? Because normally if people have been through some very trying times and very challenging times and they reach a kind of a plateau, the easiest thing to do is to sort of say, whew, now let's just sort of sit back, relax and enjoy it. I think that would be a mistake, because the world is changing very fast. You see that, don't you, if you pick up _ and see what's happened in the stock market -- you know? We had a great big day, yesterday; we had not such a good week or so before that. And when you read and you say, well, why is all this happening? Are a bunch of companies going broke or are a bunch of new companies making a lot of money? And you read between the lines and see, no, no, it's a lot of things that are happening around the world. What does that mean?

The more we become a part of the world in America, with the diversity of our population, the more America becomes a part of the world beyond our borders in our economic and other partnerships. And the world is changing so fast that I believe what we should do with these good times is not to pat ourselves on the back, but to say, hey, thank goodness, we finally have the security and the resources to face the long-term challenges of this country. And that is what we intend to do with our good times.

That is what I have asked the American people, in this season when as citizens we think about voting to think about, what are we going to do to deal with the long-term challenges of the country. When these children get out of high school, all the baby boomers will start retiring. I know that; I'm the oldest of the baby boomers. The baby boom generation are roughly Americans between the ages of 52 and 34. And until this group of school children that came into the last two years, we were the biggest group of Americans ever. Now, if we retire without making some changes in the Social Security system and reforming the Medicare system so it takes care of seniors, but does it in a way that doesn't put unconscionable burdens on younger people -- if we don't do that, then by the time we retire, one of two things is going to happen: either the baby boomers are not going to have a very good retirement, or we're going to have it at the expense of lowering their standard of living -- because there will be, for a period of time, two people working -- only two people working for every one person retired. No one wants that.

We're in good shape now. That's why I say we shouldn't spend any of this surplus that, hopefully, we will have for several years, that we'll begin to realize on October 1st -- we shouldn't spend it all in a tax cut or a spending program until first we know we've taken care of Social Security and Medicare, because I don't know anybody in my generation that wants to undermine their future to take care of our retirement. That's a big issue.

We have to prove in this global economy with, as you know in Florida, with a lot of global warming -- you had all those fires this year, you had the hottest year in history, the hottest month you ever had in June -- you know about that. We've got to prove we can deal with environmental challenges and grow the economy. Believe it or not, there are a lot of people that _don't believe that. There are still a lot of people who think that it is impossible to have an economic growth in any advanced society unless you are deteriorating the environment. I don't believe that, I don't think the evidence supports that. We've got to prove that. We have to prove that.

We have to prove that we can give both quality and affordable health care to all our people -- the 160 million people in managed care plans. People still want to know if they get hurt they can go to an emergency room, if they need a specialist they can see it, and their medical records are going to be protected. We have to prove we can have the most cost-effective health system and still maintain quality.

So we've got these big challenges and we've got to deal with all these challenges in the global economy you've been dealing with, reading about. But let me say to you there is no more important challenge than giving every one of these children -- especially if they start out in life without all the advantages that a lot of other children have -- a chance to get a world-class education. There is no more important long-term challenge for America.

That is what will make us one America, whole, together, respecting each other's differences, when everybody's got a chance to sort of live out their dreams.

You know, we've all got this on our mind -- I don't know if you all know this, but when I

got off the plane today, the young man that caught Mark McGwire's home run last night was there waiting for me because he was flown down to Disney World today, which I thought was a real hoot with his family. And last night, late last night, I talked to Mark McGwire and his wonderful young son, who's in uniform and always out there. And I got to thinking about what's Mark McGwire going to do with the rest of his life? What's he going to do with the rest of his season?

And I'll tell you what I think he'll do. I think he'll hit more home runs and play more baseball and do more things. But that's what you've got to think about America. How would you feel if Mark McGwire announced, well, I've been working real hard to do this all my life and if it's all the same to you, I think I'll skip the last 18 games. Right? Or if it's all the same to you, I think I'll just stand up there and see how many times I could walk. You would be puzzled, at least, wouldn't you?

Well, that's the kind of decision we have to make as Americans. What are we going to do with our good economy? What are we going to do with our improving social fabric? I'd like to see our country become modeled on what you're trying to do here at Hillcrest.

And in specific terms, I want to say there are some things before the Congress today, some specific education bills that I think respond to the needs of the American people. And no matter how well you're doing, you know there are still some needs out there. I was especially impressed by what you said you were doing with new mothers and newborn children and trying to get kids off to a good start. Hillary and I had a conference on early childhood and the brain not very long ago, and I think we have all underestimated how much good can be done in those first couple of years of life. And that's very good. Let me tell you -- sort of set the scene here. The Department of Education today is releasing a report that shows that while we're making progress, students that live in high-poverty areas continue to lag behind other students in 4th grade reading and math scores. Fewer than half of all the 4th graders in the high poverty areas are scoring at basic levels of performance in math. Now, I will say again, you rebuke that whole idea that there has to be a difference in people based on the income of their parents or the nature of their neighborhood. That's what you're trying to prove does not have to be. And I believe that as well.

So let me just briefly review the agenda that these members of Congress -- these three here -- are supporting, that we're going to try to pass in what is just a very few weeks left in this legislative session. I want smaller classes in the early grades all across America. You've got that here. We have a program that would hire 100,000 teachers in the early grades. If we hired the 100,000 teachers -- it's in our balanced budget -- we could lower class size to an average of 18 in the early grades all across America. I want Congress to help me create safer schools, to continue to build partnerships with local law enforcement and schools. Just this morning, the Justice Department has released over \$16 million to 155 law enforcement agencies across the country to make sure we have community-based organizations to prevent crime in the first place.

This school -- I understand you do a lot of work and loan out some computers so families

can learn about computers. I think it's important that we hook up every classroom and every library and every school in America by the year 2000. We have a bill to do that in Congress and we want to pass that bill.

We also have responses specifically to that education report I mentioned -- a bill in Congress to create what we call Education Opportunity Zones, as well as expanding funding for Title I. It would give extra help to the classrooms, the schools, that are prepared to end social promotion, but not tag kids as failures -- that want to have after-school programs, that __ want to have summer school programs, that want to have extra help for kids who need it -- that need more resources to do the kind of intensive effort that this reading recovery program here, for example, requires.

Everybody knows it's one of the best programs in the world. Unfortunately, too many schools don't do it because it costs money to do it -- because you really have to give intensive help to these children at an early age.

So I think that's important. A part of that would be paying the college expenses of 35,000 young people who agree when they get out of college to go out and teach off their college loans by going into under-served areas and urban and rural areas in America. I think that's worth doing.

And finally, we're trying to fully fund our America Reads program, which will make sure that we give enough reading tutors and trained volunteers to enough schools to make sure every 8-year-old in this country -- every one -- can read a book independently by the time they're in the 3rd grade.

Now, this is very important stuff. And so far I can't tell you how it's going to come out in Washington. But remember, I'm not increasing the deficit, this is in the balanced budget that I presented to Congress. The money is there, so the issue is not whether the money is there; the issue is what are our priorities and what are we going to do with the money.

Now, notwithstanding what Representatives Wexler, Deutsch, and Brown want to do, the House of Representatives voted to actually cut \$2 billion off these programs. The Senate has not done so yet. They've been a little more encouraging. I don't want this to be a partisan issue; education should be an American issue. When I go to a school and walk up and down and shake hands with kids, I don't look for a political label on their uniforms. This is an American issue. But it is a big issue.

So I would just ask all of you to make it as clear as you can that you'd like for us in Washington to put the same priority on education that the parents and the teachers and the kids do at Hillcrest; that you would like for us to try to create an American community like the one that you are trying to create with your children here at this school; and that there are very specific opportunities Congress is going to have in the next three weeks where a "yes" vote or a "no" vote is required, and you'd like to see us vote yes for our children and our future.

Thank you very much. Thank you.

LEVEL 1 - 22 OF 23 STORIES

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Chicago Tribune

September 10, 1998 Thursday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 1058 words

HEADLINE: STARR DELIVERS CRITICAL REPORT;
LOYALISTS HEAR WORDS: 'I LET THIS COUNTRY DOWN'

BYLINE: By Mike Dorning, Tribune Staff Writer. White House correspondent Roger Simon contributed to this report from Washington.

DATELINE: CORAL GABLES, Fla.

BODY:

On the day when the report that could determine the future of his presidency rolled through the streets of Washington, President Clinton delivered his most sweeping public apology and appealed for America's forgiveness.

As the nation neared a climactic moment in the drama that has consumed the White House, the president reverted to form Wednesday and took to the hustings, campaigning for his party and his political life.

In his swing through Florida, originally intended to highlight education initiatives, Clinton made his latest bid for public support, first in Orlando, later in Coral Gables. Minutes before news of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report broke, the president was onstage delivering the kind of remorseful-sounding apology his aides had been advocating for some time.

"I've done my best to be your friend, but I also let you down," Clinton told Democratic loyalists gathered for a \$300,000 luncheon fundraiser in Orlando. "I let my family down, and I let this country down. But I'm trying to make it right. And I'm determined never to let anything like that happen again."

Clinton said he was appearing before the group to seek "your forgiveness" and ask that the coming weeks be "a time of reconciliation and healing."

"These have been the toughest days of my life, but they may turn out to be the most valuable--for me and my family. And I have no one to blame but myself for my self-inflicted wounds," he added.

It was a similarly contrite Clinton who met earlier Wednesday with House Democratic leaders, whom he must count on to be his defenders as the House weighs whether to proceed with impeachment proceedings. Under pressure to go well beyond his initial admissions of error, Clinton is expected on Thursday to offer similar apologies to Senate Democratic leaders and to members of his

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Cabinet.

"It was a serious, solemn meeting," said a senior White House official. "The president led off the meeting in a highly personal way. He talked of his family, his child. He expressed regret for his behavior. He said he had let his colleagues down. The president never used the words lie, deceive or mislead in his discussions with the Democrats.

"Each member then responded and expressed an opinion. None suggested that he go on television and address the nation again, and there are no plans for that I am aware of," the official said.

Along with members of Congress, those in attendance included Vice President Al Gore, chief of staff Erskine Bowles, deputy chief of staff John Podesta, director of public liaison Maria Echeveste, counselor Doug Sosnik and legislative liaison Larry Stein.

When asked if resignation or impeachment were mentioned in the White House meeting with Democrats or if the president has ever talked about them, the aide said, "absolutely not. I can tell you virtually unequivocally that these are not being discussed."

The matter of the Starr report did come up. "One of the congressmen said the report was not facts, just allegations and that Starr would present them in the harshest light possible," the aide said. "He said: 'Let's see what he's got.' "

The White House staff learned of the Starr report's delivery chiefly through members of the media, according to aides, who said official word reached the president late in the lunch at Orlando. He had no reaction.

Clinton, noted for his ability to compartmentalize facets of his life, showed no visible signs of distress when he arrived in Florida. At the Orlando airport, he was smiling and laughing when he met Tim Forneris, the groundskeeper who chased down Mark McGwire's record-breaking 62nd home run.

Clinton soon was working a rope line of children at an elementary school and laughing on a dais at a PTA president's joke.

Speaking to pupils at Hillcrest Elementary School, he turned McGwire's record into a parable. Nominally, it was about the need for America to press forward with social improvements. But it also could be read as a signal against resignation.

"How would you feel if Mark McGwire announced, well, I've been working real hard to do this all my life and (if) it's all the same to you, I think I'll skip the last 18 games?" Clinton asked.

"Well, that's the kind of decision we have to make as Americans," he answered.

At the luncheon fundraiser, he faced a receptive audience even as Democratic office-holders elsewhere sought to distance themselves. A day earlier, Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening rebuffed Clinton by boycotting a presidential visit, but in Florida, gubernatorial candidate Buddy MacKay was at Clinton's side all day

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long.

Just before the program began, Clinton sat immobile for a few moments, with his eyes closed and a look of meditative concentration on his face. MacKay then introduced him by quoting Martin Luther King Jr.'s admonition that "in the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends."

Clinton was subdued as he delivered his apology. Saying the past weeks had been "the toughest days of my life" and that he had "no one to blame but myself," Clinton tacitly admitted he had disgraced his office as he told the story of a schoolboy he had met earlier in the day. The child told him he wanted to grow up to be a president "like you," Clinton said.

"I want to be able to conduct my life and my presidency so that all the parents of the country could (think it) good if their children were able to say that again."

As he moved past his apology and onto political themes for the fall campaign, Clinton became animated, resuming his characteristic sweeping gestures. By the end of the speech, he had a relaxed hand resting in the pocket of his suit jacket. Clinton ended with a plea that the congressional elections not be decided based on his behavior but instead "be about you and your children and your future." Shortly after he stepped down from the stage, he learned that Starr had released the report to Congress.

In Coral Gables, he again hit the theme of forgiveness during a dinner which raised \$700,000 for the Democrats.

"I've tried to do a good job taking care of this country, even when I haven't taken such good care of myself and my family and my obligations," he said. "I hope that you and others I have injured will forgive me for the mistakes. . . ."

THE STARR REPORT. THE PRESIDENT'S DAY.

GRAPHIC: PHOTOS 2PHOTO (color): "I let my family down, and I let this country down. But I'm trying to make it right. And I'm determined never to let anything like that happen again," President Clinton told Democrats in Orlando. Orlando Sentinel photo by Joe Burbank.; PHOTO: President Clinton boards a helicopter Wednesday at the White House as he begins his trip to Florida. During the Florida swing, set up to highlight his education priorities, he made a new bid for forgiveness. AP photo.

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HEADLINE: Clinton Gives Apology, Receives Support at Florida Fund-Raiser

BYLINE: Terry M. Neal, Washington Post Staff Writer

DATELINE: ORLANDO, Sept. 9

BODY:

President Clinton left Washington and ventured to Florida today to help raise \$ 1 million for another embattled Democrat -- gubernatorial candidate Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay -- and to attempt to mend his own sagging political fortunes.

As a growing number of key Democrats in Washington and around the country continue to distance themselves from Clinton, MacKay gave him a heartening endorsement, declaring that he had been a great president and a friend to Florida and that he wouldn't be abandoned in his troubled times.

Quoting the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., MacKay said: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends. Mr. President, we are not going to be silent. We are going to speak out in support of the work you are doing to improve people's lives."

Clinton, who had just apologized to the crowd for his mistakes and asked for forgiveness, took the lectern and said "that if God lets me be an old man, I will never forget what Buddy MacKay said."

The fund-raiser was the second event Clinton attended in Orlando today. Earlier, he spoke at Hillcrest Elementary School, a multiracial, inner-city school with an innovative literacy program, to tout his administration's education agenda. And, as he does in most speeches on the road, he spoke of the strong economy and declining crime rate that have marked his six years in office. He did not mention the scandal engulfing his presidency.

He urged the 200 or in the crowd to support his legislative priorities that would put 100,000 new teachers in classrooms across the country and announced that the Justice Department had released more than \$ 16 million to 155 law enforcement agencies around the country to work with community groups to create safer schools.

Some in the crowd said the Lewinsky saga paled in comparison with the agenda that Clinton had laid out for the American people.

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"He is the president, and he is the leader of the Democratic Party," said Connie Smith, 59, who runs an early education program. She said Clinton's enemies were trying to detract from his accomplishments and "create an atmosphere in which we cannot attend to the business of this country."

As he spoke at the two Orlando events this afternoon, the president was interrupted at least twice by shouts of "We love you, Bill!" and loud applause. About 350 people packed the Marriott Hotel for the fund-raiser, offering up at least \$ 500 each to dine on something called "seafood beggar's purse with lobster sauce," in an effort to raise \$ 300,000 for the state Democratic Party. Party officials estimated a separate \$ 5,000-a-couple fund-raiser at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, south of Miami, tonight would raise an additional \$ 700,000 for state Democrats. There, too, Clinton offered apologies to a sympathetic audience.

After the Orlando event, some attendees said they were satisfied with Clinton's apology. "He asked for forgiveness, but I think his work speaks for itself," said Lashune Harris, 32, a housing authority official from Tampa. "I think we need to move on, and I think people should realize what he's done for this country."

Those who attended the three Florida events were strongly pro-Clinton. But that was not necessarily the case for those who lingered outside the events. Dozens of voters gathered outside the Orlando hotel and some held signs with the most direct and harsh messages: "Impeach the Pervert"; "Shame"; and "Starr for President" were among them. And when he arrived in Coral Gables, a crowd of several hundred shouted and held signs, including "Save Our Daughters" and "Stop Clinton."

Republicans were eager to seize the opportunity to lambaste MacKay and the Democrats for playing host to Clinton. MacKay's campaign has struggled to get off the ground and he has consistently lagged from 15 to 20 points behind Republican nominee Jeb Bush in polls.

State GOP Chairman Tom Slade blasted MacKay's decision to allow Clinton to help him and his party raise money. He said MacKay should have followed the example of Maryland Gov. Parris N. Glendening, who pulled out of an event with Clinton, and showed that "morality means more to us than fund-raising." Slade added that association with the president would hurt MacKay and other Democrats come Election Day.

Privately, some Democrats said that MacKay had little to lose considering the polls. Clinton would probably do more good than harm for MacKay, they said, noting that \$ 1 million was serious money.

But a number of key Florida Democrats didn't attend, including Gov. Lawton Chiles, who officials said was on a long-planned international trade trip. Sen. Bob Graham didn't attend, citing Senate business. Even MacKay's running mate, Rick Dantzler -- who attended a fund-raiser with Vice President Gore a month ago -- was nowhere to be seen. A spokesman said Dantzler was in the panhandle for a long-planned campaign swing. Three Florida House Democrats did attend the Orlando fund-raiser, and Clinton singled out Rep. Peter Deutsch for joining him in Miami.

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State Democratic Chairman Mitch Ceasar said inviting Clinton was the right thing to do: "Obviously, we are pleased that the president is aiding our Democratic nominee. Obviously, we wish the situation had not occurred, but we think he's done a good job for the country."

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