

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

the ~~part~~ rest of ~~reuters~~ →

Why ~~impt~~ ~~part~~ of ~~impt~~
part →

~~mtg~~ → ~~re~~ ~~of~~ ~~tbl~~
~~tbl~~
~~tbl~~

✓ Alaska / Johnson →

✓ ~~mtg~~ of ~~tbl~~ →
✓ we need to ~~tbl~~ ~~tbl~~ →
✓

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S NEW MARKETS TRIP

Highlighting the Need for Investment in Native American Communities and on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

July 7, 1999

TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL VISIT THE PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION, HOME OF THE OGLALA SIOUX NATION. The first sitting President to visit a reservation since Franklin Roosevelt, President Clinton today will continue his New Markets trip by visiting the Pine Ridge Reservation and emphasizing investment in Native American communities. Despite our growing economy, many Native American communities have not shared in the national prosperity. The President remains committed to building on his strong record of supporting economic development by launching the New Markets initiative and mobilizing corporate America to recognize the untapped potential of Native American communities.

While he is at Pine Ridge today, the President will talk with residents, visit a housing construction site, participate in a Presidential proclamation signing ceremony in recognition of the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Empowerment Zone, and speak to the Oglala Sioux Nation, as well as to HUD's "Shared Visions" conference on Native American homeownership and economic development.

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES HAVE NOT SHARED IN THE NATION'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

- The unemployment rate for Native Americans living on or near reservations is 50% -- and it is 73% for the Oglala Sioux Tribe in Pine Ridge. (Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Labor Force Report, 1997)
- 29% of Native Americans are homeless, and 59% are in substandard housing. (Indian Health Service, 1997)

THE PRESIDENT WILL BE JOINED TODAY BY CORPORATE EXECUTIVES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEADERS TO HIGHLIGHT THE NEED AND POTENTIAL FOR NEW INVESTMENTS IN NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES. To focus attention on the infrastructure needs, such as housing and information technology, and investment potential of Native American communities, President Clinton will be joined by Franklin Raines, CEO, Fannie Mae; Bart Harvey, Enterprise Foundation; Roger Haughton, CEO, PMI Mortgage Insurance; Donald Lange, President, Mortgage Bankers Association; Rev. Jesse Jackson; Walter Young, CEO, Champion Enterprises; Mark Oman, CEO, Norwest Mortgage; Patrick Conway, Pres., Federal Home Loan of Des Moines; Bruce Morrison, Pres., Federal Housing Finance Board; Stan Kurland, Pres., Countrywide; Jeff Wick, CEO, Wick Building Systems; Curtis Steinbert, CEO, Manufactured Housing Institute; representatives from MetLife; among others.

CORPORATE LEADERS HAVE JOINED THE PRESIDENT IN THE NEW MARKETS EFFORT BY MAKING REAL COMMITMENTS TO NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Fannie Mae

- \$1 million Tri-Party agreement among Fannie Mae, the Oglala Sioux, and Norwest Mortgage that will assist tribal members in purchasing homes on trust lands.
- Fannie Mae will commit to invest up to \$3 million over the next five years through its American Communities Fund, which is an equity investment vehicle.
- A Fannie Mae Partnership Office will be opened in Sioux Falls by October 1. Part of the Investment Plan will be a partnership with the South Dakota Housing Development Authority for first time homebuyers. Fannie Mae will commit to purchase \$35 million in mortgage revenue bonds. Of this amount, \$2 million will be set aside exclusively for Pine Ridge residents to purchase homes at below market interest rates.

Norwest Mortgage

Norwest, in partnership with Fannie Mae, is providing \$1.4 million in loans and providing mortgage counseling to families.

Citibank

Citibank South Dakota announced a \$150,000 Citigroup Foundation grant to fund installation of Classroom, Inc. -- career simulation software in public schools throughout the state. Under the program, Classroom, Inc. software will be installed in 125 schools over the next two years. More than 200 teachers will also receive related computer training.

The Enterprise Foundation

The Enterprise Foundation is working with HUD on the Pine Ridge effort with the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Enterprise has also been part of a team of consultants working with HUD and PriceWaterhouseCoopers to create the non-profit Oglala Sioux Tribe Partnership for Homeownership, which will provide financial help, private-sector low cost financing, downpayment assistance, and homeownership counseling.

The Native American Homeownership Initiative

The Mortgage Bankers Association will team with Countrywide, Norwest, Bank One, FirstStar, M&T, National Bank of Alaska, Washington Mutual, Bank of America, and other private mortgage lenders to more than double the number of government insured or guaranteed home mortgages in Indian Country for each of the next three years. This Initiative will mean 1,000 additional Native American homeowners.

Bank One and George K. Baum & Company

Bank One Capital Markets and George K. Baum & Company have committed to underwrite \$300 million in bonds per year for the next five years to raise funds to be lent

to tribes, tribal housing authorities and individual Native American homebuyers. This new initiative will also result in lower interest rates on mortgages in Indian Country.

Mortgage Insurance Companies of America's Five Year Alliance with Tribes

Members of the Mortgage Insurance Companies of America (MIC) will work to meet the homeownership needs of Native Americans. In all, commitments include insuring a total of \$37 million of home mortgages. Commitments under this initiative include the following:

- The PMI Mortgage Insurance Company recently announced that it has expanded its Native American mortgage insurance initiative nationwide and increased the amount of the commitment by \$20 million. PMI is insuring home mortgages for members of four Indian tribes and is negotiating with others. Under the initiative, PLMI agrees to insure loans that require as little as 1% downpayment from the homebuyer with flexible underwriting guidelines and risk shared between the Indian tribes and PMI. Over 76 loans have already been made and over 100 loans are in process.
- GE Capital will start a pilot program to insure \$2 million in mortgage loans in Indian Country.
- Republic Mortgage Insurance Company will launch the Native American "Financial Independence" pilot project, which will help teach 2,000 Pine Ridge students each year the financial knowledge and tools they need to achieve their financial independence.
- The Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corporation will create homeowner education courses for the country's over 30 tribal colleges and develop new home financing mechanisms tailored to the specific needs of Native Americans.

New \$6 Million Manufacturing Facility

Champion Enterprises has partnered with the Gila River Indian Tribe to open a new \$6 million manufactured housing facility on the Gila River Reservation in Arizona. When it begins operations in late July, the plant will employ approximately 300 new workers. Champion is actively recruiting members of the Gila River Tribe to fill those jobs.

State of the Art Construction Certification Program for Tribal Colleges

- Owens Corning and all of the nation's tribal colleges will work together to bring the Certified Energy Professionals program to Indian Country.
- Owens Corning will train instructors from every tribal college on housing technology and energy efficiency and on the best methods for teaching their students in these areas.

Job Training in Steel Framing

- The North American Steel Framing Alliance, Amity and Worthington Industries will help establish job training courses in steel framing at all of the tribal colleges.
- The companies will also facilitate business relationships between other private companies in the construction industry and Native American economic development organizations.

Cellular Telephone Industry Association's Wireless Foundation

- CTIA's Wireless Foundation has announced its commitment to expand its three national programs to help address some of the communications challenges facing Native American communities.
- Over the next year the wireless industry has agreed to donate 1,000 phones and airtime to improve education and other community activities on Indian reservations across the country.

The United States Telecommunications Training Institute

At the request of the FCC, the United States Telecommunications Training Institute, a non-profit venture between leading U.S. communications corporations and the federal government, will provide training and advice to Native Americans. The USTTI provides tuition-free training each year to communications officials throughout the developing world.

Gateway

Gateway has agreed to work with the Oglala Lakota Community College to develop a curriculum and donate materials to teach Indian students data processing and computer programming. They have committed \$50,000 to the program.

NEW PUBLIC SECTOR EFFORTS WILL FURTHER ADDRESS THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT NEEDS OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- HUD will expand Ginnie Mae's successful Targeted Lending Initiative (currently available only in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities) to increase lending in Indian Country by \$1.5 billion. Targeted Lending attracts mortgage lenders by cutting the fees they pay to place their loans in Ginnie Mae securities by up to 50%.
- HUD has awarded 28 grants totaling \$8 million to tribes and Native American non-profits. The grants will go toward projects such as new housing, utilities, water and sewer lines, and economic development projects.
- HUD's new program, Homeownership South Dakota, a five-year, \$650 million investment plan, will finance affordable housing for 7,500 families. The plan is a comprehensive strategy to assist the state in addressing its housing needs.

Federal Communications Commission

- Informed by recent field hearings, the FCC will be announcing in August several regulatory solutions to improve universal service support for telecommunications in underserved areas, including Native American reservations.

United States Department of Agriculture

- The Department of Agriculture has designated an Empowerment Zone on Pine Ridge and eight Enterprise Communities in Indian Country. The signing ceremony for the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Communities will occur during the Pine Ridge visit.

- The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will hold workshops to improve telecommunications and utility infrastructure in Indian Country. RUS is the federal government lead agency to promote reliable, affordable utility services in rural America.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Water 2000 initiative seeks to bring important infrastructure -- running water and sewer systems -- to Indian Country. Current plans include 12 water projects in 8 states with a total of \$15.9 million in loans and grants.

Department of Commerce Report on Technology Infrastructure

- The Department of Commerce will release a report on technology infrastructure in Native communities showing that only 39% of rural households in Native communities have telephones, compared to 94% for non-Native rural communities. While the report shows that only 9% of rural households in Native communities have personal computers, it finds that nearly 90% of Native schools and libraries have both computers and Internet access.
- The report concludes that the federal government should increase funding for Native communities and work to leverage private resources.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines will award \$1.3 million in grants to the Oglala Sioux Tribe Partnership for Housing, the Rosebud Housing Authority and the Native American Advocacy Project. The Oglala Sioux will use their grant of \$499,000 to build 45 new single-family homes in Pine Ridge.

Construction of Lakota Sioux Heritage Culture Center and Related Infrastructure

- The National Park Service will request \$12 million to construct the Lakota Sioux Heritage Culture Center Complex to replace the current Center in Badlands National Park. The new Center would serve as a link between Mount Rushmore and Wind Cave National Park. The project also would bring revenue directly to Pine Ridge because the new visitor center will contract for its concessions services with the Tribe.
- The Departments of Labor, Defense, Transportation, and Interior, and the State of South Dakota are partnering to build and repair the roads leading to the new Center. These agencies plan to provide job training to the Oglala Sioux Tribe in construction related to the roads and visitor center and to build skills for the long term.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES AND THE PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION

July 7, 1999

ECONOMIC DISTRESS AMONG NATIVE AMERICANS

The Native American population is made up of more than 550 tribes. Of the 1.43 million Native Americans living on or near reservations, nearly 33 percent are under the age of 15 -- compared to 22 percent for the nation as whole.

Half of the total Native American workforce is unemployed. Some reservations have unemployment rates much higher, such as the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (80% unemployment) and the Oglala Sioux Tribe in Pine Ridge (73% unemployment). (Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1997)

On Pine Ridge, 63% of the population lives below the poverty line. (USDA)

POVERTY AFFLICTS TOO MANY NATIVE AMERICANS – AND MANY LACK BASIC NEEDS

- More than one-third of Native Americans were in poverty, compared to 13 percent of the total US population. (Census Bureau, 1995).
- 38 percent of Indians aged 6 to 11 live below the poverty level, more than twice the number for all races in the U.S. (18 percent). (Indian Health Service).
- Just over 63 percent of young people graduated from high school, compared to 77 percent for the total US population. (Census Bureau, 1995; Bureau of Indian Affairs)
- 29 percent of Indians are homeless, and 59 percent live in substandard housing. (Indian Health Service)
- In 1990, almost 20 percent of American Indian households on reservations did not have a sink with piped water, a stove, and a refrigerator, compared to just 1 percent for US households. (Bureau of Census, 1995)
- The majority (53.4%) of American Indian households on reservations do not have a telephone. (Bureau of Census, 1995).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PINE RIDGE, SOUTH DAKOTA

Roughly two million acres, Pine Ridge is the second largest reservation in the U.S. and has a population of 38,000.

Located in the southwestern region of South Dakota and established by an 1889 Act of Congress, the reservation lies on the well-known Badlands National Park and is inhabited by the Oglala Sioux of the Lakotas, the largest of the seven bands that make up the Teton Lakota Nation.

The Native Americans who reside on the reservation suffer from poor health as well as high drop-out rates and unemployment. In 1990, only one industry, a uniform factory in Pine Ridge Village, employed more than a few Oglala. Since then, the tribe has seen an increase in small Indian-owned businesses including cafes, video stores, gas stations and

bookstores. The nearest rail shipping center is 45 miles south in Gordon, Nebraska and the nearest international airport is 130 miles north in Rapid City. There is no public transportation within the reservation.

Shannon County – One of the Nation's Poorest. Shannon County covers more than 2/3 of the reservation and is consistently ranked one of the poorest of the nation's 3,143 counties.

- In 1997, per capita income in Shannon County was \$9,753, 39% of national per capita income of \$25,288 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997)
- Shannon County has a poverty rate of 46.7% (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 57.1% of the people under 18 are in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau)
- The majority of the population does not have access to credit or banking services. Currently, there are no banks within the boundaries of the reservation.

THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE EMPOWERMENT ZONE

The Oglala Sioux Tribe Empowerment Zone – which was named in January 1999 -- represents the first time that Indian tribal land has been designated as an EZ. Indian tribes are participating in two of the five Round Two Empowerment Zones, including the Oglala Sioux Tribe in Pine Ridge and the Desert Communities EZ in California with three participating tribes. Of the 20 Enterprise Communities, eight are tribal entities.

Pine Ridge EZ benefits include \$2 million annually for ten years, employer tax breaks, and technical assistance.

NR P—

I can not blame you eye for
taking the time to write
a letter in my behalf to
~~you~~ you can help.

2, 1, 2

~~As~~ As curriculum + a vltahy
sal, covered w/ public service,
yale

As you know, ~~The~~ The ~~low~~ school
+ its staff are committed to
~~providing~~
high & long history of
public service

I can only hope they will look favourably upon my application.

Test ~~Score~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~year~~
Kun

Your intent is ^{the} ~~my~~ careers +
personal development is just another reminder
of your staff

I am honored to serve in
your administration.

Sup
by post

And you go + I will keep
you graded as my man.

only ~~use~~ power of our property to say over of Admin.

Josh - From Lynn

Daschle

Domenici

Bingaman

Inouye

Ben Rayburn

Dorgan

Rep. Dale Kildee

Rep. Patrick Kennedy

Rep. J.D. Hayworth

466-
2434

THE WHITE HOUSE

Can you put these
in -- we need to show
Congressional support!

- Patrick



Mary L. Smith
02/24/2000 09:26:07 PM

Record Type: Record

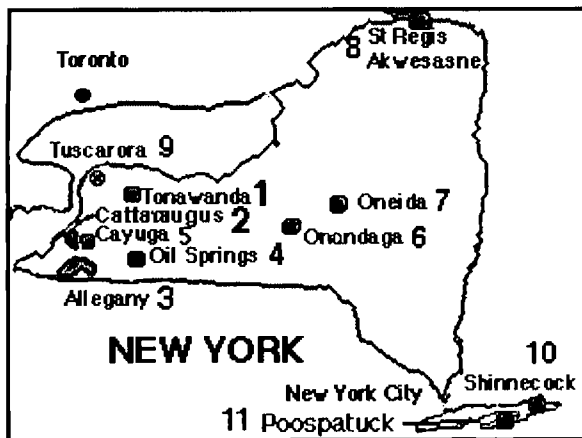
To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: Revised Draft--Amer Ind Dep Stmt.Comments pls to Josh x62554 ASAP. 

looks good --a couple of comments:

1. 3rd paragraph: 3rd sentence -- you imply that 1/3 lack health care -- I don't know that statistic-- so I would say "One-third of American Indians and Alaska (no N) Natives still live in poverty, and **many** lack decent health care."
2. 3rd paragraph -- I can't verify the roads and bridges figure
3. 3rd paragraph --I got a verified figure on the Internet -- I think we can say **over** 80%
4. 4th paragraph -- there are **over** 2 million Native Americans
5. 6th paragraph -- This is so weird -- I was going to suggest that you say Penobscot --who gave you that?
6. about the tribal colleges part -- I would take out "Internet connections"
7. Last paragraph -- I might take out the word "empower" from the last line. Thanks, josh



Click reservations to learn about them. Or use list

6 Nations -- League of Haudenosee (Iroquois) Confederacy

1. [Tonawanda Band of Senecas](#)
2. [Cattaraugus Reservation \(Seneca\)](#)
3. [Seneca Nation of Indians, Allegany Reservation](#)
4. [Oil Springs Reservation \(Seneca\)](#)
5. [Cayuga Nation](#)
6. [Onondaga Nation](#)
7. [Oneida Indian Nation of New York](#)
8. [St. Regis Mohawk Tribe \(Akwesasne\)](#)
- 9.

Other NY Indian Nations -- Long Island Tribes

10. [Shinnecock Reservation, state \(not federally\) recognized](#)

11. [Poospatuck Reservation, Unkechauga Nation](#)

[Treaty with the New York Indians, 1838. January 15, 1838. 7 Stat., 550.](#)

[The Six Nations -- Oldest Living Participatory Democracy on Earth Excellent site. Paintings by John Kahionhes Fadden \(Mohawk artist\), basic historical documents, transcripts of contemporary speeches and articles by 6 Nanytions elders and spokespeople at United Nations, traditional calendar of seasons](#)

[The Six Nations Of The Iroquois -- much shorter, shallower history than the previous, suitable for younger students](#)

[Wampum Belts and Treaties -- resides at this site, part of Beads and Beadwork section. Illustrations of historic wampum belts and the treaties they represent, links to other sites with info on wampum belts.](#)

[The flag of the Iroquois League -- brief history and explanation of symbolism](#)

[Iroquois Thanksgiving Address -- traditional prayer/oratory for opening most formal events, ceremonies and significant political occasions](#)

EASTERN AREA OFFICE
Bureau of Indian Affairs
3701 N. Fairfax Drive

Mailstop: 260-VASQ
Arlington, VA 22203
P: 703/235-3006
F: 703/235-8610
Franklin Keel (Acting)
[\[back to index\]](#)

New York Field Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
100 S. Clinton St., Rm 523
P.O. Box 7366
Syracuse, NY 13261
P: 315/448-0620
F: 315/448-0624
Dean White (Field Representative)
[\[back to index\]](#)

Vernon Isaac, Chief
Cayuga Nation
P.O. Box 11
Versailles, NY 14168
P: 716/532-4847
F: 716/532-5417
(NY Liaison Office)
[\[back to index\]](#)

Raymond Halbritter, Nation Representative
Oneida Indian Nation of New York
Genessee Street, Ames Plaza
Oneida, NY 13421
P: 315/361-6300
F: 315/361-6333
(NY Liaison Office)
[\[back to index\]](#)

Oneida Indian Nation, Vernon, NY -- First nation to post a website in the U.S. Webmaster: (Dale Rood): Large and ever-growing, this website has much info, many photos, and features. Won an Apple award (Best community website) in 1995. Highly recommended official tribal site.

- United SouthEastern Tribes -- a communication section hosted by Oneida for a number of smaller eastern area tribes who do not have their own internet capabilities yet. Mission statement, address-phone contact info for members, no historical, cultural or other info.

Leon Shenandoah, Sr., Head Chief
Onondaga Nation
RR 1, Box 270-A
Nedrow, NY 13120
P: 315/469-8507

F: No Fax
(NY Liaison Office)
[\[back to index\]](#)

Chief Oren Lyons -- Opening Statement, "The Year of the Indigenous Peoples" (1993), in the UN General Assembly

Onondaga Oren Lyons -- Excerpts from article on Ethics and Spiritual Values and the Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Development

Dennis Bowen, Sr., President
Seneca Nation of Indians
P.O. Box 231
Salamanca, NY 14479
P: 716/945-1790
F: 716/532-9132
(NY Liaison Office)
[\[back to index\]](#)

- Seneca Nation -- upstate New York. Tribal government info, not much history or cultural content. Official website.
 - Seneca Nation's tax resistance-- backgrounder, latest developments in roadblocking (april 20) and police. Canadian Settlers in Support of Indigenous Sovereignty site.
 - Seneca Grandma Twyla Nitsch Wolfclan Teachings in what appears to be a sort of NuAgey support group's version of cultural info she was the original source for.

Norman Tarbell, Chief
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
Akwasasne Comm. Bldg., Rte 37
Hogansburg, NY 13655
P: 518/358-2272
F: 518/358-3203
(NY Liaison Office)
[\[back to index\]](#)

- Mohawk Traditional Government -- Centered at Akwasasne, only reservation-reserve that spans the U.S.-Canadian border. The council of chiefs rejects the artificial division into two halves, St. Regis on the U.S. side and the Canadian half north of the border. The current council members are identified and there is a dignified warning against some who are passing themselves off as "chiefs". News of the council and its projects. Akwasasne Notes magazine and bookstore info. Site was prepared by long-time Mohawk pro journo Francis Jock, who had to discontinue parts of it that were a web newspaper, Sarsari's Drum
- Akwasasne Mohawk School -- takes up some school news (but not the pix, poetry, etc by students) that had been on Sarsari's Drum.

Bernie Parker, Chief
Tonawanda Band of Senecas

7027 Meadville Road
Basom, NY 14013
P: 716/542-4244
F: 716/542-9692
(NY Liaison Office)
[\[back to index\]](#)

- [Poodry v. Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians](#) Court opinion of a lawsuit by some members of the Tonawanda band Seneca tribe who were kicked out of the tribe over what appears to have been some kind of dispute with tribal government. Court had a fun time quoting the pretentious fake ceremonial language the tribal government used kicking the dissenters out. Kind of embarrassing to read.

Arnold Hewitt, Chief
Tuscarora Nation
5616 Walmore Road
Lewiston, NY 14092
P: 716/297-4990
F: No Fax
(NY Liaison Office)
[\[back to index\]](#)

- [The Singing Tuscaroras](#) -- much good history here, info on treaties, current events, maintained by Loren Greene, who also provides web access to Native individuals and groups.
- [Indian Defense League of America](#) -- supports sovereignty, particular focus on Jay treaty that Canada and US will allow Indians to cross border unhindered by customs, duties, etc. Holds a protest bridge crossing every year.
- [Deskaheh, Levi General](#) -- early 20th-century statesman and diplomat working for 6 Nations and other Indian rights.
- [Chief Clinton Rickard](#) -- Tuscarora Nation statesman and rights crusader.

Cattaraugus Reservation, Seneca Nation
140 Rt 438
Irving, NY 14081
716/532-4900; 716/532-4907
716/532-9132
Oil Springs: same contacts (NY Liaison Office)
[\[back to index\]](#)

Poospatuck Reservation, Unkechauga Nation
Community Center, P.O. Box 86
Mastic, NY 11950
516/281-6464
(NY Liaison Office)
[\[back to index\]](#)

Shinnecock Tribe

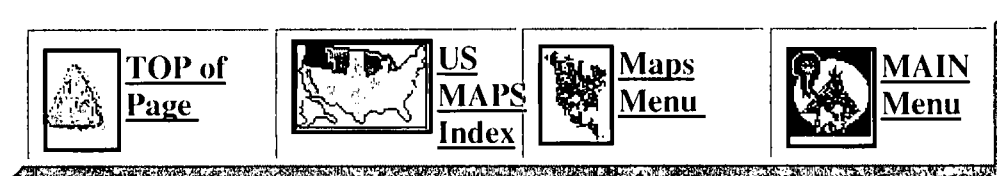
Rte 27-A, Montauk Hwy Southhampton, NY 11968

516/283-9266

State recognized; no BIA office liaison

[\[back to index\]](#)

- [Shinnecock Tribe vs. NY State -- Tax War](#) by the East Hampton Independent



Text, maps and graphics copyright  -- Paula Giese, 1996, 1997 except where elsewhere attributed.

CREDITS: Some information on tribes from BIA server; corrected using Veronica Tiller's "American Indian Reservations and Trust Areas," 1996.

Last Updated: 4/25/97

~~on record~~, and the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years. And as of this month, we have achieved the ~~longest and strongest~~ period of economic growth in our entire history.

Now is the moment to bring the hope of a good job, decent health care, ~~safe communities,~~ ^{QUALITY EDUCATION →} and ~~a quality education~~ to every corner of this nation – from [Pine Ridge, North Dakota] to Window Rock, Arizona. ^{NEW TECHNOLOGY}

That's why I was proud to announce, in my State of the Union Address, the single largest budget increase – ^{more than} over \$1.2 billion – for new and existing programs that assist Native Americans and Indian reservations. This bipartisan budget proposal includes funding to increase economic opportunity, health care, education, and law enforcement for our Native American communities – ~~and to do so in a government-wide, integrated effort.~~

First and foremost, we need to take our children out of trailers and put them in the modern, high-tech classrooms they need to reach their full potential. My budget more than doubles last year's funding to replace and repair schools on Native American reservations. It also includes funds to address the growing digital divide, with grants to tribal colleges for Internet connections and computer training. We simply cannot allow this age of opportunity to be an age of missed opportunity.

While it's important to link with one another through the new information superhighway, we must not abandon our means to reach each other through traditional highways. That's why my budget includes unprecedented funding to improve roads and bridges in Indian Country. ~~Finally~~, it takes steps to strengthen tribal communities through improved public safety and health care. ~~My budget~~ ^{Finally it} increases funding for law enforcement officers and alcohol and substance abuse programs. ~~It also~~ ^{So far} includes a ten percent increase for the Indian Health Service, to continue expanding accessible and high quality health care. Working with members from both parties, representatives from the tribal communities, and leaders from the private sector, I am confident that together we can pass this budget, and give Native Americans the tools they need to succeed.

An old Sioux ~~adage~~ ^{adage} says, "Each of us were created in these lands ... [and from them] will spring the future generations of our peoples." We should all begin this new century by honoring our historic responsibility to empower our first Americans – the Native Americans.

NBBD
↓
BUDGET

years; and the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years. And as of this month, we have achieved the longest and strongest period of economic growth in our entire history.

This is
So if not now, when will we ever step forward to bring the hope of a good job, decent health care, safe communities, quality education and new technology, to every corner of this nation – from Oneida, New York to Window Rock, Arizona?

I was proud to announce, in my State of the Union Address, the single largest budget increase – nearly \$1.2 billion – for new and existing programs that assist tribal nations. ~~This bipartisan budget proposal includes funding to increase economic opportunity, health care, education, and law enforcement for our Indian communities – in a cooperative effort with all the agencies of our government.~~

One of our first steps must be to make sure American Indian children – and children everywhere in America -- have the 21st Century education they need to succeed. ~~We must take them out of trailers and put them in high-tech classrooms.~~ My budget more than doubles last year's funding to replace and repair schools on the reservations. ~~It also includes funds to address the growing digital divide, with grants to tribal colleges for information and technology training. Internet connections and computer training. We simply cannot allow this age of opportunity to be an age of missed opportunity.~~

But we can't abandon our old highway.
He doesn't really go to a new world, link between
While it's important to link with one another through the new information superhighway, ~~but cross~~ we must not abandon our means to reach each other through traditional highways. That's why ~~our land~~ my budget includes unprecedented funding to improve roads and bridges in Indian Country. It ~~also~~ takes steps to strengthen tribal communities through improved public safety and health care. My ~~no less~~ budget increases funding for law enforcement officers and alcohol and substance abuse programs. Finally, it includes a ten percent increase for the Indian Health Service, so that they can continue to expand access to high quality health care. *more muscular* Working with members from both parties, representatives from the tribal communities, and leaders from the private sector, I am confident that together we can pass this budget, and give the people in Indian Country the tools they need to succeed.

I am committed to why we are here, not just for the sake of the future.
An old adage of the Sioux Indians says, "Each of us were created in these lands ... [and from them] will spring the future generations of our peoples." We should all begin this new century by honoring our historic responsibility to empower the first Americans.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR AMERICAN INDIAN DEPARTURE STATEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
February 25, 2000**

Ack: Sen. Akaka; Sen. Johnson; Sue Masten (President, National Congress of American Indians); Kelsey Begaye (President, Navajo Nation); and all the other distinguished tribal leaders.

I have just met with the tribal leaders here with me today. Before I leave, I want to talk briefly about ways we can bring the promise of our prosperity to Indian Country.

Nearly four centuries ago, not far from where we stand today, the Powahatan Confederacy enjoyed a prosperous trading partnership with the newly settled European colonists. As our country grew, many tribes gave up their land, water and mineral rights in exchange for peace, health care, and education from the federal government. They formed solemn and lasting pacts with our country – agreements that the United States has not always lived up to.

While some of today's tribes have found success in our new economy, far too many have been caught in a cycle of poverty and unemployment. Too many have suffered from our government's failure to invest the proper resources in their education, infrastructure and health care.

The facts are all too familiar. American Indian unemployment remains unacceptably high, reaching 70 percent on some reservations. One-third of American Indians and Alaskan Natives still live in poverty and lack decent health care. Indians are the victims of twice as many violent crimes as other Americans. Nearly half the roads and bridges on reservations are in need of repair; many schools are crowded and crumbling. Nearly eighty percent of people in Indian Country aren't connected to the Internet – and one-third of Indian children never finish high school.

These facts are discouraging – but they're not irreversible. That's because of something that no statistic can accurately measure: the potential of the two million members of tribal nations. I am confident that with the right tools and the right support, together we can bring new investment and new opportunity to Native Americans and Indian reservations. That's something I made clear back in 1994, when I met with the leaders from the over 550 federally recognized tribes, in our first government-to-government meeting at the White House; and when I visited the Pine Ridge Reservation this past summer. It's something I made even more clear today.

We are in the midst of the longest and strongest period of economic growth in our entire history. That's why there's no better time than now to make sure Indian Country has the tools needed to succeed in the new economy. For, if not now, when will we ever step forward to bring the hope of a good job, decent health care, safe communities, quality education and new technology, to every corner of this nation – from Penobscot, Maine to Window Rock, Arizona?

I was proud to announce, in my State of the Union Address, the single largest budget increase – nearly \$1.2 billion – for new and existing programs that assist tribal nations. This bipartisan budget proposal includes funding to increase economic opportunity, health care,

education, and law enforcement for our Indian communities – in a cooperative effort with all the agencies of our government.

One of our first steps must be to make sure American Indian children – and children everywhere in America -- have the education they need to succeed. My budget more than doubles last year's funding to replace and repair schools on reservations, and to address the growing digital divide, with grants to tribal colleges for information and technology training, Internet connections and computer training.

The information superhighway links people and communities across great distances. But we can't abandon our old highways. My budget includes unprecedented funding to improve roads and bridges in Indian Country. It also takes steps to strengthen tribal communities through improved public safety and health care. My budget increases funding for law enforcement officers and alcohol and substance abuse programs. Finally, it includes a ten percent increase for the Indian Health Service, so that they can expand access to high quality health care.

Working with members from both parties, representatives from the tribal communities, and leaders from the private sector, I am confident that together we can pass this budget, and give the people in Indian Country the tools they need to succeed. These are important steps, and we have an historic opportunity to get them done this year. I hope the Congress will work with me to seize this vital opportunity.

An old adage of the Sioux Indians says, "Each of us were created in these lands ... [and from them] will spring the future generations of our peoples." We should all begin this new century by honoring our historic responsibility to empower the first Americans.

good job!

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR AMERICAN INDIAN DEPARTURE STATEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
February 25, 2000**

Ack:

Nearly four centuries ago, not far from where we stand today, the Powhatan Confederacy enjoyed a thriving economy and a prosperous trading partnership with the newly settled European colonists. Theirs was a relationship originally based on trade – but one that quickly grew into a partnership and a friendship of trust. As our colonies became states, and our country advanced in size and influence, many tribes – like the Powhatans -- went on to give up their land, water and mineral rights in exchange for peace, health care, and education from the Federal government. Decade after decade, they formed solemn and lasting pacts with our country – agreements that the United States has not always lived up to.

While some of today's tribes have found success in our new economy, too many more have been caught in a cycle of poverty and unemployment. Too many have suffered from our government's failure to invest the proper resources in their education, infrastructure and health care. The facts are all too familiar.

American Indian unemployment remains unacceptably high, reaching 70 percent on some reservations. Over one-third of American Indians and Alaskan Natives still live in poverty and lack decent health care coverage. Indians are the victims of twice as many violent crimes as other Americans. *nearby half the roads and bridges on reservations are in need of repair.* *of people in Indian country*
~~In most cases, people in Indian country don't have the necessary education, training and tools to succeed in the new economy.~~ Nearly eighty percent aren't connected to the Internet – and more than a third of Indian children never finish high school. *too often attend*
~~Those who do attend too often travel on dilapidated roads and bridges to crumbling and overcrowded schools with leaky roofs and peeling paint.~~

These facts are discouraging -- but they're not irreversible. That's because they hide something that no statistic can accurately measure: the potential of the two million members of tribal nations in the United States. I am confident that with the right tools and the right support, we can bring new investment and new opportunity to Native Americans and Indian reservations. That's something I first recognized back in 1994 when I met with the leaders from the 500 federally recognized tribes. And it's something I witnessed first-hand when I visited the Pine Ridge Reservation this past summer during my New Markets Tour.

than now *in the new economy.*
~~And there's no better time to empower Indian country with the tools needed to succeed~~
Our economy is strong and growing stronger. We have nearly 21 million new jobs; the fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rates in 30 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20 years; and the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years. And as of this

month, we have achieved the longest and strongest period of economic growth in our entire history.

If not now, when will we ever step forward to

~~Now is the moment~~ to bring the hope of a good job, decent health care, safe communities, quality education and new technology, to every corner of this nation – from Oneida, New York to Window Rock, Arizona.

~~That's why I~~ was proud to announce, in my State of the Union Address, the single largest budget increase – more than \$1.2 billion – for new and existing programs that assist tribal nations. This bipartisan budget proposal includes funding to increase economic opportunity, health care, education, and law enforcement for our Indian communities – and to do so in a cooperative effort with all the agencies of our government.

one of our first steps must be to make sure all of our children have the
We need to take our children out of trailers and put them in the modern, high-tech classrooms. ~~they need to reach their full potential~~. My budget more than doubles last year's funding to replace and repair schools on the reservations. It also includes funds to address the growing digital divide, with grants to tribal colleges for information and technology training, Internet connections and computer training. We simply cannot allow this age of opportunity to be an age of missed opportunity.

While it's important to link with one another through the new information superhighway, we must not abandon our means to reach each other through traditional highways. That's why my budget includes unprecedented funding to improve roads and bridges in Indian Country. It takes steps to strengthen tribal communities through improved public safety and health care. My budget increases funding for law enforcement officers and alcohol and substance abuse programs. Finally, it includes a ten percent increase for the Indian Health Service, so that they can continue to expand accessible and high quality health care. Working with members from both parties, representatives from the tribal communities, and leaders from the private sector, I am confident that together we can pass this budget, and give the people in Indian Country the tools they need to succeed.

An old Sioux adage says, "Each of us were created in these lands ... [and from them] will spring the future generations of our peoples." We should all begin this new century by honoring our historic responsibility to empower ~~our~~ first Americans.

the

the 21st Century Education they need to succeed. I will expect them to reach their full potential

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN DEPARTURE STATEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
February 25, 2000

Ack:

Nearly four centuries ago, not far from where we stand today, the Powhatan Confederacy had a thriving economy and a prosperous trading partnership with the newly settled European colonists. ^{enjoyed their} It was a relationship originally based on trade – but one that quickly grew into a partnership and a friendship ^{of} based on trust. As our colonies became states, and our country advanced in size and influence, many tribes went on to give up their land, water and mineral rights in exchange for peace, health care, and education from the Federal government. Decade after decade, they formed solemn and lasting pacts with our country – agreements that the United States has not always lived up to. ^{NO} ^{LIKE THE POWHATAN} ^{SWORN OATHS}

Today, while some tribes have found success in our new economy, too many more ^{HAVE BEEN} ^{are} caught in a cycle of poverty, unemployment, and disease. Too many have suffered from our ^{WHO? AMERICA'S} failure to invest the proper resources in their education, infrastructure and health care. ^{THE FACTS} ^{STAY} are all too familiar.

^{NATIVE AMERICAN} Unemployment is at a [x] year high, ^{OF NATIVE A-} over one-third still live in poverty, and on some reservations, more than 70 percent of all adults are without a regular job. Most lack decent health care coverage and, as a result, often live half as long as the average citizen. ^{NOTHING} In most cases, ^{NECESSARY} Native Americans don't have the proper education, training and tools necessary to succeed in the new economy. Nearly eighty percent aren't connected to the Internet. ^{any} Over a third of Native American children never finish high school. ^{THOSE WHO DO ARE IN} ^{CRUMBLING} ^{SCHOOLS} Those who do attend are often in schools in desperate need of repair. They are crumbling and overcrowded, with leaky roofs, peeling paint, and trailers as classrooms. And their roads and bridges are in disrepair, with nearly half in need of maintenance. ^{NOTHING} ^{ADD SAFETY STAFF}

These facts are discouraging. But they're not irreversible. That's because they hide something that no statistic can accurately measure: the potential of the two million members of tribal nations in the United States. I am confident that with the right tools and the right support, ^{together} we can overcome these challenges -- bringing new investment and new opportunity to Native Americans and Indian reservations. That's something I first recognized back in 1994 when I met with the leaders from the 500 federally recognized tribes. And it's something I ^{witnessed} first-hand when I visited the Pine Ridge Reservation this past summer during my New Markets Tour.

And there's no better time to empower Native Americans with the tools they need to succeed. Our economy is strong and growing stronger. We have nearly 21 million new jobs; the fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rates in 30 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20 years; ~~the lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment rates~~

I was proud to announce, in my State of the Union Address, the single largest budget increase – nearly \$1.2 billion – for new and existing programs that assist tribal nations.

One of our first steps must be to make sure American Indian children – and children everywhere in America -- have the education they need to succeed. My budget more than doubles last year's funding to replace and repair schools on ~~the~~ reservations, and to address the growing digital divide, with grants to tribal colleges for information and technology training, Internet connections and computer training.

The information superhighway links people and communities across great distances. But we can't abandon our old highways. My budget includes unprecedented funding to improve roads and bridges in Indian Country. It also takes steps to strengthen tribal communities through improved public safety and health care. My budget increases funding for law enforcement officers and alcohol and substance abuse programs. Finally, it includes a ten percent increase for the Indian Health Service, so that they can ~~continue to~~ expand access to high quality health care.

Working with members from both parties, representatives from the tribal communities, and leaders from the private sector, I am confident that together we can pass this budget, and give the people in Indian Country the tools they need to succeed. These are important steps, and we have an historic opportunity to get them done this year. I hope the Congress will work with me to seize this vital opportunity.

An old adage of the Sioux Indians says, "Each of us were created in these lands ... [and from them] will spring the future generations of our peoples." We should all begin this new century by honoring our historic responsibility to empower the first Americans.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR AMERICAN INDIAN DEPARTURE STATEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
February 25, 2000

Ack: Sen. Akaka; Sen. Johnson; Sue Masten (President, National Congress of American Indians); Kelsey Begaye (President, Navajo Nation); and all the other distinguished tribal leaders.

I have just met with the tribal leaders here with me today. Before I leave, I want to talk briefly about ways we can bring the promise of our prosperity to Indian Country.

Nearly four centuries ago, not far from where we stand today, the Powahatan Confederacy enjoyed a prosperous trading partnership with the newly settled European colonists. As our country grew, many tribes gave up their land, water and mineral rights in exchange for peace, health care, and education from the federal government. They formed solemn and lasting pacts with our country – agreements that the United States has not always lived up to.

While some of today's tribes have found success in our new economy, far too many have been caught in a cycle of poverty and unemployment. Too many have suffered from our government's failure to invest the proper resources in their education, infrastructure and health care. The facts are all too familiar.

American Indian unemployment remains unacceptably high, reaching 70 percent on some reservations. One-third of American Indians and Alaskan Natives still live in poverty and lack decent health care. Indians are the victims of twice as many violent crimes as other Americans. Nearly half the roads and bridges on reservations are in need of repair; many schools are crowded and crumbling. Nearly eighty percent of people in Indian Country aren't connected to the Internet – and one-third of Indian children never finish high school.

These facts are discouraging – but they're not irreversible. That's because of something that no statistic can accurately measure: the potential of the two million members of tribal nations. I am confident that with the right tools and the right support, together we can bring new investment and new opportunity to Native Americans and Indian reservations. That's something I made clear back in 1994, when I met with the leaders from the over 550 federally recognized tribes, in our first government-to-government meeting at the White House; and it's something I made even more clear today. And it's something I witnessed first hand when I visited the Pine Ridge Reservation this past summer.

There's no better time than now to make sure Indian Country has the tools needed to succeed in the new economy. This is the longest and strongest period of economic growth in our entire history.

So, if not now, when will we ever step forward to bring the hope of a good job, decent health care, safe communities, quality education and new technology, to every corner of this nation – from Penobscot, Maine to Window Rock, Arizona?

Draft 02/25/00 4:30pm
Josh Gottheimer

from [X] to [X].

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR AMERICAN INDIAN DEPARTURE STATEMENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

February 25, 2000

Ack: TK

nothing
have to complete a really big
ballo
Blue & leave, I want
to talk briefly
about ways we
can be by 12

I just met with tribal leaders. ~~Today I want to talk to you about some of the further ways~~
we can bring the promise of our prosperity to ~~every corner of America.~~ *Indian only..*

Nearly four centuries ago, not far from where we stand today, the Powhatan Confederacy enjoyed a ~~thriving economy and~~ a prosperous trading partnership with the newly settled European colonists. ~~Theirs was a relationship originally based on trade – but one that quickly grew into a friendship based on trust.~~ As our country advanced in size and influence, *grew* many tribes ~~like the Powhatans~~ gave up their land, water and mineral rights in exchange for peace, health care, and education from the federal government. They formed solemn and lasting pacts with our country – agreements that the United States has not always lived up to.

While some of today's tribes have found success in our new economy, far too many have been caught in a cycle of poverty and unemployment. Too many have suffered from our government's failure to invest the proper resources in their education, infrastructure and health care. The facts are all too familiar.

American Indian unemployment remains unacceptably high, reaching 70 percent on some reservations. One-third of American Indians and Alaskan Natives still live in poverty and lack decent health care. Indians are the victims of twice as many violent crimes as other Americans. Nearly half the roads and bridges on reservations are in need of repair; *many schools are crowded + crumbling.* Nearly eighty percent of people in Indian Country aren't connected to the Internet – and one-third of Indian children never finish high school. ~~Those who do, too often attend crumbling and overcrowded schools.~~

of

These facts are discouraging – but they're not irreversible. That's because ~~they hide~~ something that no statistic can accurately measure: the potential of the two million members of *our* tribal nations ~~in the United States.~~ I am confident that with the right tools and the right support, together we can bring new investment and new opportunity to Native Americans and Indian reservations. That's something I made clear back in 1994, when I met with the leaders from the over 550 federally recognized tribes, in our first government-to-government meeting at the White House; And it's something I witnessed first-hand when I visited the Pine Ridge Reservation this past summer ~~during my New Markets Tour.~~

and it's something I made even more clear today.

There's no better time than now to make sure Indian Country has the tools needed to succeed in the new economy. ~~We have nearly 21 million new jobs; the fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rates in 30 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20~~

really into me (need + had no job in 1992).

Company should get this done

*There are many of both
puts not want to get
this done -*

United States Tribal Addresses

This is not a complete list, but I would like to make it one. Therefore, if anyone has any information to "add to" or "delete from" this list, please send e-mail to Brian Gill

Aberdeen Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
115 Fourth Avenue Southeast
Aberdeen, SD 57401

Acoma Pueblo
P.O. Box 309
Acoma, NM 87034
505-552-6604

Ak Chin Indian Community
Route 2 Box 27
Maricopa, AZ 85239
602-568-2227

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Route 3 Box 640
Livingston, TX
409-563-4391

Albuquerque Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 8327
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Alturas General Council
P.O. Box 1035
Alturas, CA 96101

Anadarko Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Federal Building
P.O. Box 368
Anadarko, OK

Apache Business Committee
P.O. Box 1220
Anadarko, OK 73005
405-247-9493

Bad River Tribal Council
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 45861
715-682-4212

Battle Mountain Band Council
P.O. Box 578
Battle Mountain, NV 89820
702-835-2004

Bay Mills Executive Council
Route 1
Brimley, MI 49715
906-248-3241

Billings Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
316 North 26th Street
Billings, MT 59101

Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417
406-388-7276

Burns-Paiute General Council
Burns, OR
503-573-2088

Caddo Tribal Council
P.O. Box 487
Binger, OK 73009
405-656-2344

Chehalis Community Council
Oakville, WI 85689
296-273-5911

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
United Keetoowah Cherokee Council
2450 South Muskogee Avenue
Tahlequah, OK 74464
918-456-5491

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465
918-456-0671

Cheyenne-Arapaho Business Committee
P.O. Box 38
Conco, OK 73022
405-262-0345

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625
605-964-4155

Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 15481
Ada, OK 74820
405-436-2603

Chippewa Cree Business Committee
Box 137
Box Elder, MT 59521
406-395-4282

Chitimacha Tribal Council
P.O. Box 661
Charenton, LA 70523
318-923-4973

Choctaw Tribal Council
Route 7 Box 21
Philadelphia, MS 39350
601-656-5251

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Drawer 1210
16th & Locust Street
Durant, OK 74701
405-924-8280

Citizen Band Potawatomi Business Committee
Route 5, Box 151
Shawnee, OK 74801
405-275-3125

Cochiti Pueblo
P.O. Box 70
Cochiti, NM 87041
505-465-2244

Coeur D'Alene Tribal Council
Plummer, ID 8385
208-274-3101

Colorado River Tribal Council
Route 1, Box 23-B
Parker, AZ 85344
602-669-9211

Colville Business Committee
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155
509-634-4711

Comanche Tribal Business Committee
P.O. Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502
405-247-3444

Confederated Tribes of Coos Lower
Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians
455 N. 4th Street
Coos Bay, OR 97420
503-267-5454

Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde
Tribal Council
P.O. Box 38
Grande Ronde, OR 97347
503-879-5215

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council
Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855
406-675-2700

Coushatta Tribal Council
P.O. Box 818
Elton, LA 70532
318-584-2261

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians
1376 NE Walnut Suite 1
Roseburg, OR 97470-2027
503-672-9696

Creek Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
918-756-8700

Creek Nation of Oklahoma
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
P.O. Box 404
Eufaula, OK 74432
918-689-3398

Creek Nation of Oklahoma
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
8433 East 64th Place
Tulsa, OK 74133
918-582-9201

Creek Nation of Oklahoma
Kialegee Tribal Town
928 Alex Noon Drive
Wetumka, OK 74883

Crow Tribal Council
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022
406-638-2601

Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Council
P.O. Box 658
Fort Thompson, SD 57339
605-245-2211

Delaware Executive Committee
P.O. Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005
405-247-2448

Devils Lake Sioux Tribal Council
Sioux Community Center
Fort Totten, ND 59335
701-766-4221

Duckwater Shoshone Tribal Council
P.O. Box 68
Duckwater, NV 89314
702-863-0227

Eastern Shawnee Business Committee
P.O. Box 350
Seneca, MO 64865
417-776-2435

Eastern Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20245

Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee Council House
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719
704-497-2771

Elko Band Council
P.O. Box 748
Elko, NV 89801
702-738-8889

Ely Colony Council
16 Shoshone Circle
Ely, NV 89301
702-289-3013

Fallon Paiute Shoshone Business Council
8955 Mission Road
Fallon, NV 89406
702-423-6075

Flandreau Santee Sioux Executive Committee
Flandreau Field Office

Box 283
Flandreau, SD 57028
605-997-3981

Forest County Potawatomi General Council
P.O. Box 346
Crandon, WI 54520
715-478-2087

Fort McDermitt Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council
P.O. Box 457
McDermitt, NV 89421
702-532-8259

Fort Berthold Tribal Business Council
P.O. Box 220
New Town, ND 58763
701-627-4781

Fort McDowell Mohave-Apache Council
P.O. Box 17779
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
602-990-0995

Fort Belknap Community Council
P.O. Box 249
Harlem, MT 59526
406-353-2205

Sill Apache Business Committee
Route 2 Box 121
Apache, OK 7300
588-2298

Gila River Indian Community Council
P.O. Box 97
Sacaton, AZ 85247
602-562-3311

Goshute Business Council
Ibapah, UT 87034
801-234-1138

Goshute Business Council
Ibapah, UT 87034
801-234-1138

Grand Traverse Band
Route 1 Box 135
Suttons Bay, MI 49682
616-271-3538

Hannahville Indian Community Council
Route 1, Community Center

Wilson, MI 49896
906-466-2342

Havasupai Tribal Council
P.O. Box 10
Supai, AZ 86435
602-448-2961

Hoh Tribal Business Council
HC 80, Box 917
Forks, WA 98331
206-374-6582

Hopi Tribal Council
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039
602-734-2445

Houlton Maliseet Band Council
P.O. Box 576
Houlton, ME 04730
207-523-7339

Hualapai Tribal Council
P.O. Box 168
Peach Springs, AZ 86434
602-769-2216

Iowa of Kansas Executive Committee
Route 1 Box 58A
White Cloud, KS 66094
913-595-3258

Iowa of Oklahoma Business Committee
Iowa Veterans Hall
P.O. Box 190
Perkins, OK 74059
405-547-2403

Isleta Pueblo
P.O. Box 317
Isleta, NM 97022
505-869-3111

Jamestown Klallam Tribal Council
305 Old Blyn Highway
Sequim, WA 98382
206-683-1109

Jemez Pueblo
P.O. Box 78
Jemez Pueblo, NM 87024
505-834-7359

Jicarilla Apache Tribal Council
P.O. Box 147
Dulce, NM 87528
505-759-3242

Juneau Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 3-8000
Juneau, AK 99802

Kaibab Paiute Tribal Council
Tribal Affairs Building
Pipe Springs, AZ 86022
602-643-7245

Kalispel Business Committee
Box 39
Usk, WA 180
509-445-1147

Kaw Business Committee
Drawer 50
Kaw City, OK 74641
405-269-2552

Keweenaw Bay Tribal Council
Center Building
Route 1 Box 45
Baraga, MI 49908
906-353-6623

Kickapoo of Oklahoma Business Committee
P.O. Box 58
McLoud, OK 74951
405-964-2075

Kickapoo of Kansas Tribal Council
Route 1 Box 157A
Horton, KS 66349
913-486-2131

Kiowa Business Committee
P.O. Box 3369
Carnegie, OK 73015
405-654-2300

Klamath General Council
Box 436
Chiloquin, OR 97624
503-783-2219

Kootenai Tribal Council
P.O. Box 1269
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

208-267-3519

Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Council
Tribal Office
Route 3, Box 2700
Hayward, WI 54843
715-634-8934

Lac du Flambeau Tribal Council
Tribal Office
P.O. Box 67
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538
715-588-3303

Laguna Pueblo
P.O. Box 194
Laguna, NM 87026
505-552-6654

Las Vegas Colony Council
No. 1. Paiute Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89106
702-386-3926

Lovelock Tribal Council
Box 878
Lovelock, NV 89419
702-273-7861

Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Council
Lower Brule, SD 57548
605-473-5561

Lower Elwha Community Council
1666 Lower Elwha Road
Port Angeles, WA
206-452-8471

Lower Sioux Indian Community Council
Rural Route 1 Box 308
Morton, MN 56270
507-697-6185

Lummi Business Council
2626 Kwina Road
Bellingham, WA 98226-9298
206-734-8180

Makah Tribal Council
P.O. Box 115
Neah Bay, WA 98357
206-645-2205

Mashanatucket Pequot Council

P.O. Box 160
Ledyard, CT 06339
203-536-2681

Menominee Tribal Legislature
P.O. Box 397
Keshena, WI 54135
715-799-3341

Mescalero Apache Tribal Council
Mescalero, NM 87340
505-671-4495

Metlakatla Indian Community Council
Metlakatla, AK 99926
907-886-44

Miami Business Committee
Miami, OK 74355
918-540-2890

Miccosukee Business Committee
P.O. Box 440021
Tamiami Station
Miami, FL 33144
305-223-8380

Minneapolis Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Chamber of Comm. Bldg
15 S. 5th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee
Grand Portage Reservation Business Committee
P.O. Box 428
Grand Portage, MN 55605
218-476-2279

Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee
Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee
Route 3, Box 100
Cass Lake, MN 56633
218-335-2207

Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee
Nett Lake Reservation Business Committee
(Bois forte)
Nett Lake, MN 55772
218-757-3261

Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee
Mille Lacs Reservation Business Committee
Star Route

Onamia, MN 56359
612-532-4181

Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee
Box 217
Cass Lake, MN 56633
218-335-2252

Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee
White Earth Reservation Business Committee
P.O. Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591
218-983-3285

Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee
Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee
105 University Road
Cloquet, MN 55720
218-879-4593

Moapa Business Council
P.O. Box 56
Moapa, NV 89025

Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 939
Miami, OK 74355
918-542-1190

Muckleshoot Tribal Council
39015 172nd Street Southeast
Auburn, WA 98002
206-939-3311

Muskogee Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Federal Building
Muskogee, OK 74401

Nambe Pueblo
Route 1, Box 117-BB
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-455-7752

Narragansett Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 268
Charlestown, RI 02813
401-792-9700

Navajo Tribal Council
P.O. Box 308
Window Rock, AZ 86515
602-871-4941

Navajo Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 1060
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Nez Perce Executive Committee
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID 83540
208-843-2253

Nisqually Indian Community Council
4820 She-Nah-Num Drive SE
Olympia, WA 98503
206-456-5221

Nooksack Tribal Council
Deming, WA 98244
206-592-5176

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
Lame Deer, MT 59043
406-477-6248

Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Nation
Volcic MPH #19, Star Route 2W
Rock Springs, WY 82901
208-238-0916

Oglala Sioux Tribal Council
Pine Ridge, SD 57770
605-867-5871

Omaha Tribal Council
P.O. Box 368
Macy, NE 68039
???-837-5391

Oneida Executive Committee
P.O. Box 365
Oneida, WI 54155-0365
414-869-2214

Onondago Nation
P.O. Box 270A
Nedrow, NY 13120
315-469-8507

Osage Tribal Council
Tribal Administration Building
Pawhuska, OK 74056
918-287-4622

Otoe-Missouria Tribal Council
P.O. Box 68

Red Rock, OK 74058
405-723-4434

Ottawa Business Committee
P.O. Box 110
Miami Oklahoma, OK 74355
918-540-1536

Paiute Tribal Council
600 North 100 East
Cedar City, UT 84720
801-586-1111

Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council
7474 S. Camino De Oeste
Tucson, AZ 85746
602-883-2838

Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine
Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Reservation
P.O. Box 343
Perry, ME 04667
207-953-2551

Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine
Indian Township Passamaquoddy Reservation
P.O. Box 301
Princeton, ME 04668
207-796-2301

Pauma General Council
P.O. Box 86
Pauma Valley, CA 92061
619-742-1289

Pawnee Business Council
P.O. Box 470
Pawnee, OK 74058
918-762-3624

Penobscot Tribe
Six River Road Indian Island Reservation
Old Town, ME 04468
207-827-7776

Peoria Business Committee
P.O. Box 1527
Miami, OK 74355
918-540-2535

Phoenix Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 7007
Phoenix, AZ 85011

Picuris Pueblo
P.O. Box 127
Penasco, NM 87553
505-587-2519

Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Route 3 Box 243-A
Atmore, AL 36502
205-368-9136

Pojoaque Pueblo
Route 11 Box 71
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-455-2278

Ponca Business Committee
P.O. Box 2 White Eagle
Ponca City, OK 74601
405-762-8104

Port Gamble Community Council
P.O. Box 280
Kingston, WA 98346
206-297-2646

Portland Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 3785
Portland, OR 97208

Sacramento Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Federal Office Bldg. 200 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council
Route 2 Box 50A
Mayetta, KS 66509
913-966-2255

Prairie Island Community Council
5750 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, MN 55089
612-388-8889

Puyallup Tribal Council
2002 East 28th Street
Tacoma, WA ?????
206-597-6200

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council
P.O. Box 256
Nixon, NV 89424

702-574-0140

Quechan Tribal Council
P.O. Box 1352
Yuma, AZ 85364
619-572-0213

Quapaw Tribal Business Committee
P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363
918-542-1853

Quileute Tribal Council
P.O. Box 279
LaPush, WA 98350
206-374-6163

Quinalt Business Committee
P.O. Box 189
Taholah, WA 98587
206-276-8211

Red Lake
x 550
Red Lake, MN 56671
218-679-3341

Red Cliff Tribal Council
Bayfield, WI 54814
715-779-5805

Reno Sparks Indian Council
98 Colony Road
Reno, NV 89502
702-329-2936

Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
Rosebud, SD 57570
605-747-238

Santee Sioux Tribal Council
Route 2
Niobrara, NE 68760
402-857-3302

Sac & Fox Tribal Council
Route 2 Box 56C
Tama, IA 52339
515-484-4678

Sac & Fox Nation Business Committee
Route 2 Box 246
Stroud, OK 66529
918-968-3526

Sac & Fox of Missouri Tribal Council
P.O. Box 38
Reserve, KS 66434
913-742-7471

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council
7070 East Broadway Road
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
517-772-5700

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian
Community Council
Route 1 Box 216
Scottsdale, AZ 85256
602-941-7277

San Felipe Pueblo
NM 87001
505-867-3381

San Carlos Tribal Council
P.O. Box 0
San Carlos, AZ 85550
602-475-2361

San Juan Pueblo
P.O. Box 1099
San Juan Pueblo, NM 87566
505-852-4400

San Ildefonso Pueblo
Route 5 Box 315-A
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-455-2273

Sandia Pueblo
P.O. Box 6008
Bernalillo, NM 87004
505-867-3317

Santa Clara Pueblo
P.O. Box 580
Espanola, NM 87532
505-753-7326

Santa Ana Pueblo
P.O. Box 37
Bernalillo, NM 87004
505-867-3301

Santo Domingo Pueblo
P.O. Box 99
Santo Domingo Pueblo, NM 87052

505-465-2214

Sauk-Suiattle Tribal Council
5318 Chief Brown Land
Darrington, WA 98241
206-435-8366

Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Council
206 Grennough Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
906-635-6050

Seminole Tribal Council
6073 Stirling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024
305-583-7112

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1495
Wewoka, OK 74884
405-257-6287

Seneca Nation
1490 Route 438
Irving, NY 14081
716-532-4900

Seneca-Cayuga Business Committee
P.O. Box 1283
Miami, OK 74355
918-542-6609

Shakpee Business Council
2330 Sioux Trail NW
Prior Lake, MN 55372
612-445-8900

Shoalwater Bay Tribal Council
P.O. Box 579
Tokeland, WA 98590
206-267-6766

Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514
307-332-3532

Cayuga Nation
P.O. Box 11
Versailles, NY 14168
716-532-4847

Shoshone Paiute Business Council
P.O. Box 219

Owyhee, NV 29832
702-757-3161

Siletz Tribal Council
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380
503-444-2532

Sisseton-Waahpeton Sioux Tribal Council
Route 2
Agency Village
Sisseton, SD 57262
605-698-3911

Skokomish Tribal Council
N. 80 Tribal Center Road
Shelton, WA 98584
206-426-4232

Skull Valley Executive Committee
c/o Unitah & Ouray Agency
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026
801-722-2406

Sokaogon Chippewa Tribal Council
Route 1 Box 328
Crandon, WI 54520
715-478-2604

South Fork Band Council
Box B-13
Lee, NV 89829
702-744-4273

Southern Ute Tribal Council
P.O. Box 737
Ignacio, CO 81137
303-563-4525

Spokane Business Council
P.O. Box 100
Wellpinit, WA 99040
509-258-4581

Squaxin Island Tribal Council
W 81 HY 108
Shelton, WA 98584
206-426-9781

St. Croix Council
Tribal Office
P.O. Box 287
Hertel, WI 54845
715-349-2195

St. Regis Mohawk Council Chiefs
St. Regis Reservation
Hogansburg, NY 13655
518-358-2272

Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council
Fort Yates, ND 59538
701-854-7231

Stillaguamish Board of Directors
2439 Stoluckquamish Lane
Arlington, WA 98223
206-652-7362

Rockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council
Route 1
Bowler, WI 54416
715-793-4111

Summit Lake Paiute Council
P.O. Box 1958
Winnemucca, NV 89445
702-623-5151

Suquamish Tribal Council
P.O. Box 498
Suquamish, WA 98392
206-598-3311

Swinomish Indian Senate
P.O. Box 817
LaConner, WA 98257
206-466-3163

Taos Pueblo
P.O. Box 1846
Taos, NM 87571
505-758-9626

Tesuque Pueblo
Route 11 Box 1
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-983-2667

Te-Moak Business Council
525 Sunset Street
Elko, NV 89801
702-738-9251

Tohono O'Odham Council
P.O. Box 837
Sells, AZ 85634
603-383-2221

Tonawanda Band of Senecas Council of Chiefs
7027 Meadville Road
Basom, NY 14013
716-542-4244

Tonkawa Business Committee
P.O. Box 70
Tonkawa, OK 74653
405-628-2561

Tonto Apache Tribal Council
Tonto Reservation #30
Payson, AZ 85541
602-474-5000

Tulalip Board of Directors
6700 Totem Beach Road
Marysville, WA 98270
206-653-4585

Tule River Tribal Council
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, ?? 93257
209-781-4271

Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 2182
Mansura, LA 71350
318-253-9767

Turtle Mountain Tribal Council
Belcourt, ND 58316
701-477-645

Tuscarora Nation
5616 Walmore Road
Lewiston, NY 14092
716-297-9279

Umatilla Board of Trustees
P.O. Box 638
Pendleton, OR 97801
503-276-3165

Unitah & Ouray Business Committee
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026
801-722-5141

Upper Skagit Tribal Council
2284 Community Plaza
Sedro Woolley, WA ?????
206-856-5501

- . Upper Sioux Board of Trustees
P.O. Box 147
Granite Falls, MN 56241
612-564-4504

- Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council
General Delivery
Towaoc, CO 81344
303-565-3751

- Walker River Paiute Tribal Council
P.O. Box 220
Schurz, NV 89427
702-773-2306

- Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head Inc.
State Road
RFD Box 137
Gay Head, MA 02535
617-645-9265

- Warm Springs Tribal Council
P.O. Box C
Warm Springs, OR 97761
503-553-1161

- Washoe Tribal Council
Dresslerville Community Council
P.O. Box 2087
Gardnerville, NV 89410

- Washoe Tribal Council
919 Highway 395 South
Gardnerville, NV 89410
702-883-1446

- Washoe Tribal Council
Carson Colony Community Council
502 Shoshone Street
Carson City, NV 89701
702-883-6431

- Wells Indian Colony Band Council
P.O. Box 809
Wells, NV 89835
702-752-3045

- White Mountain Apache Tribal Council
P.O. Box 700
Whiteriver, AZ 85941
602-338-4346

- Wichita Executive Committee
Wichita Tribal Affairs Office

• P.O. Box 729
Anadarko, OK 73005
405-247-2425

Araphahoe Business Council
P.O. Box 396
Fort Washakie, WY 82514
307-255-8394

Winnebago Tribal Council
Winnebago, NE 68071
402-878-2272

Wisconsin Winnebago Business Council
Tomah, WI 54660
608-372-4147

Wyandotte Business Committee
P.O. Box 250
Wyandotte, OK 74370
918-678-2297

Yakima Tribal Council
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948
509-865-5121

Yankton Sioux Tribal Business & Claims Commission
P.O. Box 248
Marty, SD 57361
605-384-3641

Yavapai-Apache Community Council
P.O. Box 1188
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
602-567-3649

Yavapai-Prescott Community Council
P.O. Box 348
Prescott, AZ 86301
602-445-8790

Yerington Paiute Tribal Council
171 Campbell Lane
Yerington, NV 89447
702-463-3301

Yomba Tribal Council
Route 1, Box 24
Austin, NV 89310
702-964-2463

Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo
P.O. Box 17579

El Paso, TX 79907
915-859-7913

Zia Pueblo
General Delivery
San Ysidro, NM 87053
505-867-3304

Zuni Pueblo
P.O. Box 339
Zuni, NM 87327
505-782-4481

Absentee-Shawnee Executive Committee
P.O. Box 1747
Shawnee, OK 74801
405-275-4030

Any updates, changes, or additions, please send mail to: Web Director

[NAS Home](#) / [College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences](#)

NATRACE.499 **Mary's changes 4-27-99**

Part III: The Opportunity We Deserve

[Introduction to Part III]

[Sections 1-4]

...

5. Creating Opportunities for Native Americans

A. Introduction

In 1994, I held a historic meeting at the White House with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal leaders from the over 500 federally recognized tribes. For most of them, it was their first ever visit to the people's house. I hope it is not the last. Native Americans occupy a special place spiritually, culturally, and historically in America. In 1998, I had the pleasure of hosting a White House conference on economic development in Indian country. There I met a young man named Dominic Ortiz from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Dominic graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University, one of this country's tribal colleges, and transferred to the University of Kansas to major in accounting. While at Haskell, Dominic started his own successful business. Dominic's business is not only thriving, it has allowed him to finance his education. Dominic embodies the entrepreneurial spirit sweeping through Indian country. Just as he is creating his own future, we must give all Native Americans the support and tools they need to determine their own futures through their own acts and decisions.

We are living in a time of great prosperity and hope. Our economy is the strongest in a generation. For the first time in three decades, the budget is balanced. There are nearly 18 million new jobs, wages are rising at more than twice the rate of

inflation, home ownership is at its highest rate in history, and unemployment is at its lowest in almost thirty years.

But, for many Native Americans, the picture is quite different. American Indians lag behind the general U.S. population on many socioeconomic measures. According to the 1990 Census, the median family income of American Indians was \$21,750, about 62 percent of the \$35,225 median for all families. And this gap appears to be widening. In 1979, 27 percent of American Indian persons were living below the poverty level compared to 12 percent of the U.S. population. By 1989, 31 percent of American Indians were living in poverty compared to 13 percent of the U.S. population.¹

The Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota is one of the poorest places in America. The stark beauty of the vast plains contrasts with the harsh existence of the people who live there. Housing is scarce, overcrowded, and often lacking indoor plumbing, electricity, or telephones. There is no industry, no factories, and no technology. Two of every three adults living on the reservation are out of work. The average life expectancy for the Oglala Sioux men who live there is 56.5 years, and for women, it is 66 years.² Similar conditions exist on reservations across our nation where the lack of paved roads, telephone lines, and other physical infrastructure serve as major barriers to economic development.

Today we have a real opportunity to expand prosperity to every corner of our nation. Indian Country and Native Americans must not be left behind.

Before Europeans landed on America's shores, Indian nations were self-governing

societies with remarkable scientific, artistic, and cultural achievements. The 558 federally-recognized tribal governments are a permanent part of the political structure of our nation. Since our founding, the United States has recognized many Indian tribes as “domestic dependent nations”³ with sovereign powers over their members and territory and has entered into numerous treaties with various tribes pledging protection and guaranteeing tribal self-government. It is because of this unique status between the federally recognized tribal governments and the United States that Indian status under federal law is characterized as a political rather than a racial or minority classification.⁴

In 1831, Chief Justice John Marshall recognized that the United States has a special trust responsibility to protect Indian tribes.⁵ That trust responsibility is manifested in treaties, agreements, court decisions, statutes, executive orders, and in the overall course of dealings between the federal and tribal governments. These executive, legislative, and judicial actions charge the United States Government with legal and moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust toward Indian Tribes.⁶ Under federal law, the United States has a legally enforceable fiduciary responsibility to protect tribal lands, assets, resources, treaty rights as well as a general obligation to fulfill the mandates of federal laws with respect to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Regrettably, our nation has not always lived up to these legal and moral commitments. Between 1778 and 1871, when the last treaty was signed, Indian tribes ceded millions of acres of land to the United States. In treaties of cession, tribes generally retained or “reserved” lands or rights in lands in exchange for certain federal protections, services, and benefits, such as law enforcement, education, medical care, and

technical and agricultural training. All too frequently, these solemn promises made in treaties were broken. Our failure to invest sufficient resources to meet these obligations has hindered the social and economic advancement of Native Americans and has produced economic conditions on many reservations more analogous to those of third-world nations than of communities in America's heartland.

We also must bear in mind that our nation often has pursued policies that have undermined the capacity of tribal governments to advance the social, economic, and institutional development of tribal communities. As well-intended as these policies may have been in the minds of those promoting them, efforts to coerce the assimilation of Native Americans served largely to weaken and destabilize the very institutions best-suited to serve the community -- tribal governments. The time has come to break decisively with the past and stop trying to impose conditions on tribes. As reflected in my executive order on tribal consultation, we must work with tribes on a government-to-government basis, recognizing their ability to steer their own course and set their own priorities.

Economic Development

Economic and business development is clearly a top priority in virtually every tribal community. Even though economic conditions in Indian country have improved in recent years, American Indian and Alaska Native communities continue to lag behind the rest of the United States with respect to social, economic, and educational attainment levels. Complicating factors such as geographical isolation, under developed infrastructures, and demographics, add to the challenges confronting tribes as they work toward a better standard of

living and quality of life for tribal peoples.

As the new millennium dawns, there is reason to be hopeful, however. A small, but significant number of tribes have succeeded in reducing poverty and unemployment through the aggressive pursuit of new economic activities. Tribal gaming operations have produced the most dramatic success stories. What began with a handful of tribal bingo halls in the early 1980s has grown into a more than \$7 billion a year industry.⁷ The revenues from gaming have allowed some tribes to pursue economic development strategies such as starting new business enterprises, investing in infrastructure, and building concert halls, sports arenas, and golf courses. Gaming tribes are viewing the revenues from gaming as the key to improving the lives of each of their members as well as enriching the entire community.

As lucrative as it has been for some tribes, gaming is not a panacea for every tribe. While over 200 tribes have gaming operations, most of the overall gaming revenue is generated by only a small number of these tribes.⁸ Revenues from the development of natural resources such as timber, minerals, and oil and gas remain a major source of income for tribal governments, and farming and ranching continues as a way of life for many reservations residents. Nonetheless, the mere fact that numerous tribes have achieved significant, sometimes dramatic, measures of success appears to have stimulated a growing sense of optimism throughout Indian Country.

Securing business loans and mortgages is often difficult for individuals in poor, minority communities, but, in Indian Country, it is virtually impossible. Conventional approaches to resolving this situation are problematic on reservations and other Indian

trust lands because of the peculiar legal status of such lands, particularly in the case of mortgages. Reservation land is held in trust by the federal government on behalf of tribes. This trust status and legal protection is extremely important from the perspective of Indian landowners, but there are trade-offs. Banks are extremely reluctant to make loans without collateral or the ability to foreclose on a property in the event of a default. To extend the availability of loans for homes on Indian trust lands without breaching the trust doctrine, the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and Veteran's Affairs have authority to issue government-insured loans. The process, however, is complex and time-consuming requiring coordination between at least two separate federal agencies.

I believe that every American should have the opportunity to own their own home. That is why as part of the first-ever White House Conference, "Building Economic Self-Determination in Indian Communities," I announced a One-Stop Mortgage Center Initiative to streamline lending procedures, coordinate the federal agencies involved in providing support for mortgage lending on reservations, and encourage greater private-sector lending. I am also pleased that the Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund is in the process of developing a study and action plan, which will identify barriers to private lending and investment in Indian country and will recommend solutions in order to increase access to capital and credit for Native American populations.

Education

As I have said many times, one of the essential keys to economic and human development is education. It is critically important that American Indian and Alaska Native students receive the same educational opportunities that are available to other students as these children are the future for their tribes and their communities. The Native American population is young -- 39 percent of the American Indian population was under 20 years old in 1990, compared with 29 percent of the Nation's total population.⁹ We must work with tribes to ensure that future generations of Native Americans, descendants of the great warriors such as Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, are able to forge successful lives, whether on or off the reservation.

Elementary and secondary education is normally thought of as the domain of state governments, but, out of its trust responsibility, the United States is responsible for two school systems -- one serving the children of military personnel and the other serving the children of tribal communities. Of the 185 BIA-funded elementary and secondary schools on reservations today, approximately half of the buildings are over 30 years old, and approximately 20 percent are over 50 years old.¹⁰ Many of these schools require replacement or much-needed health and safety-related repairs and improvements that together comprise a roughly \$700 million backlog.

I have made education one of the top priorities of my Administration. I have challenged the public schools of this country to hire better teachers, to become more accountable, to fund school construction and fix crumbling buildings, and to wire every classroom to the Internet. These same challenges are even more crucial for BIA-funded schools. With buildings crumbling and decaying, it is nearly impossible to wire these

classrooms to 21st century technology. It would be a grave injustice to fail these children. We have a special obligation to prepare them for the future. ~~This is a problem throughout America. That is why I have proposed substantial increases in funding for school construction and repair, with one-half of the bonding authority allocated to the 100 school districts with the largest number of low-income children. This bonding authority is a powerful tool which permits the leveraging of local resources to build new schools and make much needed repairs to older schools. Traditionally, tribes have been denied this tool in order to repair and replace schools on the reservations.~~ For the first time, I have proposed **legislation that permits the leveraging of local resources to help repair and replace these federal schools. This legislation provides for \$200 million in bonding authority in both FY2000 and FY2001 for these federally-funded schools with additional funds which will help attract investors by helping to repay principal.** ~~to that bonding authority for tribes with a mechanism to ensure principal repayment.~~ This **authority legislation** will empower the Tribes to make significant changes in their communities.

Although we must work to improve the BIA-funded schools, we must also work to ensure that the public school system serves American Indian children. Just as in the rest of the population, about 90 percent of American Indian children attend local public schools, while only about 10 percent attend BIA-funded schools.¹¹ These children face unique challenges. Approximately 50 percent of American Indian fourth-graders scored below the basic level in reading and mathematics.¹²

I am proud that I signed an executive order designed to improve the academic performance of American Indian and Alaska Native students in grades K-12. This

executive order institutionalizes a process to ensure that there is strategic planning with respect to Native American students. One of the first outcomes of this process is my proposal to begin training and recruiting 1000 new teachers for areas with high concentrations of American Indian and Alaska Native students. This initiative provides financial assistance to students who commit to teach in the targeted areas, provides assistance for the creation of programs to train teachers, and allows for continuing education to ensure that the quality of teachers remains high.

As we improve elementary and secondary education for Native American students, we must make a college education a reality for each and every American Indian child. Less than two-thirds of Native Americans are high school graduates compared with 75 percent of the rest of the population. Less than 10 percent of Native Americans have bachelor's degrees compared with 20 percent of the total population¹³ and studies show that only about 35 percent of Native Americans who enter mainstream institutions as freshman graduate.¹⁴ We must create support structures in mainstream institutions for Native American students, and we must do more to encourage American Indian students to attend college. I have fully supported this country's cadre of tribal colleges. These institutions, located directly in Indian communities, provide the chance for a college education to students who do not have the funds to attend more expensive schools or the means to leave their families behind to attend schools that are hours away.

Finally, the cultures of American Indian tribes are a rich part of the heritage of this country. The maintaining of Native languages and cultures is critical. Yet, there is an alarming decline in the use of Native languages indigenous to the United States. We

must work with tribes to preserve the rich native languages and culture.

Crime

While we have made remarkable strides in fighting violent crime throughout the nation in the last several years, tragically, in the same period of time, violent crime has been on the rise in Indian country. Recently, the Department of Justice, in its first comprehensive analysis of Indians and crime, reported that American Indians are victims of violent crimes at more than twice the rate of the rest of the country.¹⁵

Use of alcohol is a major factor in violent crimes involving American Indians. American Indian victims reported a drinking offender in 46 percent of all violent victimizations, such as rape, sexual assaults, robberies, and other assaults, about 70 percent of jailed American Indians convicted for violence reported that they had been drinking at the time of the offense.¹⁶

Gangs are also no longer only the province of inner cities. Youth gangs are becoming more prevalent in Indian country. While some of the conditions which lead to gangs elsewhere such as extreme and pervasive poverty, lack of role models, and limited opportunities probably overlap, we must do more to understand the unique nature of gangs in Indian country.

Indian communities often have other unique law enforcement and public safety problems. While soaring homicide rates have shortened life expectancy for black men in urban areas, the death toll on reservations often results from motor vehicle accidents and suicides. For American Indians, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death. Accidents

are the third leading cause of death on Indian reservations.¹⁷

Part of the problem is clearly a lack of police officers and other law enforcement resources. While there are 2.8 police officers per 1,000 citizens in rural counties nationwide, there are only approximately 1.4 officers per 1,000 citizens on Indian reservations.¹⁸ There are only about 2,000 BIA police and uniformed tribal officers patrolling 56 million acres of Indian lands in the lower 48 states, protecting more than 1.4 million residents. By contrast, 3,600 police officers protect the 540,000 residents of our Nation's capital.¹⁹ In addition, departments often are so woefully under funded that patrol cars are most likely to be 5 to 10 years old, with the odometer showing considerably more than the 60,000 miles that federal regulations say should be the maximum. Many Indian police are armed with old six-shot revolvers instead of the semiautomatic weapons that most other police departments have, and most officers do not have bullet-proof vests.

Law enforcement on reservations is also hampered by the overall geographic isolation, the vastness of the area to be covered, and the lack of adequate emergency support services in tribal communities. Many officers must drive hundreds and hundreds of miles to assist other officers. The Navajo Nation alone is 26,500 square miles. It is incomprehensible that a police officer must venture alone, out-manned and outgunned, into an immense landscape. Like many others in poor, minority communities, many American Indians have lost faith in the criminal justice system. There is a perception that the federal government has turned its back on helping to protect these communities.

In order to make Indian people feel safe in their homes and in their communities

and to restore some trust and confidence in law enforcement, I have made law enforcement in Indian country a priority. Since 1995, the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services has awarded approximately \$68 million through 395 grants to 187 Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages. These grants have funded the salary and benefits for almost 900 police officers in Indian Country. In 1997, I directed the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior to collaborate on a plan for a new organizational structure for Indian law enforcement that streamlines budgeting and identifies manpower needs. In addition, I asked Congress for a significant increase in funding for law enforcement and public safety in Indian Country, including funds for new tribal police, detention facilities, juvenile justice programs, and tribal courts, as well as additional FBI agents and Bureau of Indian Affairs officers, so that we might dramatically improve public safety in Indian Country.

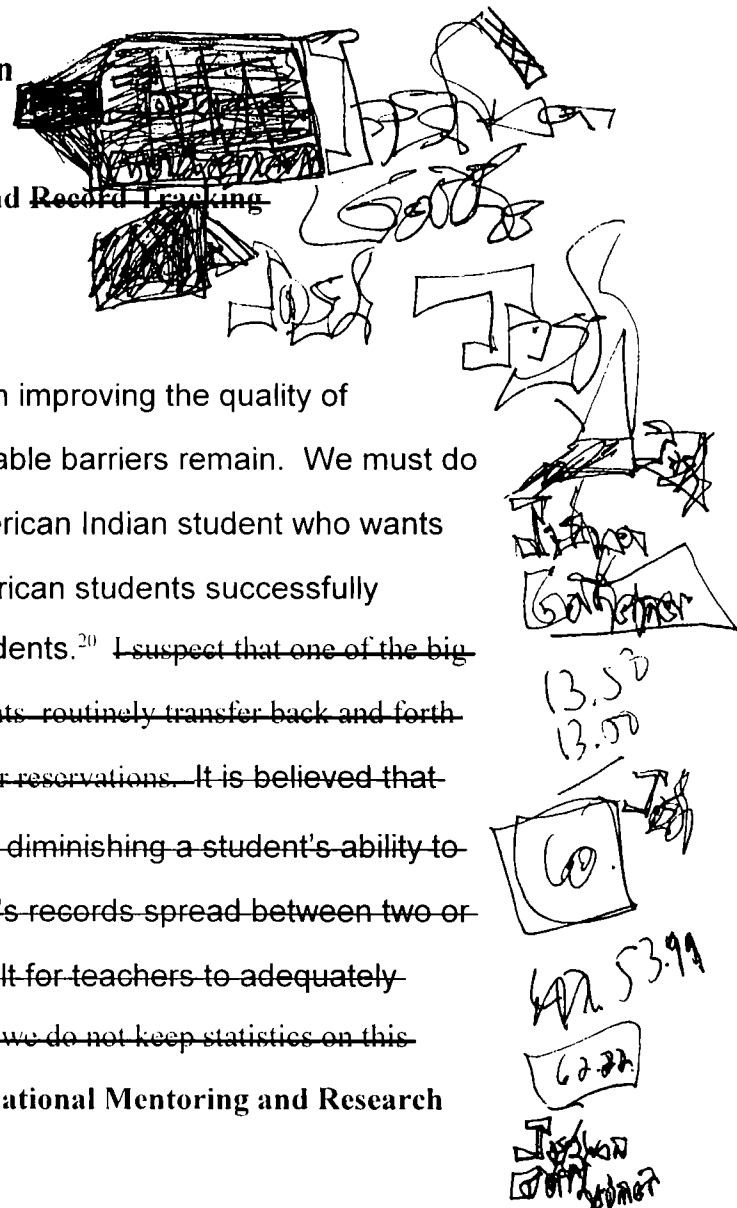
The Interior and Justice Departments' joint law enforcement initiative continues to significantly increase federal law enforcement resources in Indian Country. During the first year of the program, 30 additional FBI agents, 32 new BIA criminal investigators, and over 200 new BIA and tribal police officers, detention officers, and radio dispatchers have been deployed. In addition, through the COPS program, tribal governments will be provided a series of flexible options to address specific and critical community needs by hiring new, fully trained and equipped community police officers or by equipping and training current police personnel. Increasing law enforcement personnel in Indian Country only addresses part of the problem. We should work with tribes to assist in providing alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs, as well as juvenile delinquency prevention initiatives.

Through extensive federal-tribal consultation, it is evident that tribes and tribal communities view economic development, education, and crime prevention as the three areas in need of immediate attention. In addition to federal leadership, there is much that we all can do in the areas of education, economic development, and law enforcement to improve the lives of Native Americans as we work to build One America. The Nation's efforts should focus on the following goals:

B. Education

(1) Comprehensive Educational Mentoring and ~~Record Tracking~~ Research for Native American Students

While we have made significant strides in improving the quality of education for Native Americans, several formidable barriers remain. We must do more to open the doors of college to every American Indian student who wants to take that step. Only two-thirds of Native American students successfully complete high school—far fewer than other students.²⁰ ~~I suspect that one of the big reasons for this is that many Native American students routinely transfer back and forth from BIA-funded schools to public schools near their reservations. It is believed that this process interrupts the educational process, diminishing a student's ability to advance in a normal fashion. Having a student's records spread between two or more school systems also makes it more difficult for teachers to adequately assess a particular child's skill levels. Currently, we do not keep statistics on this phenomenon.~~ As part of my Comprehensive Educational Mentoring and Research



~~Record Tracking System~~ , I am proposing significant changes to rectify this problem.

I suspect that one of the big reasons for this **low high school graduation rate** is that many Native American students routinely transfer back and forth from BIA-funded schools to public schools near their reservations. It is believed that this process interrupts the educational process, diminishing a student's ability to advance in a normal fashion. Having a student's records spread between two or more school systems also makes it more difficult for teachers to adequately assess a particular child's skill levels. Currently, we do not keep statistics on this phenomenon. ~~Through this mechanism, we would keep statistics on the number of American Indians students who interrupt their education by transferring between BIA-funded and public school systems. We would also conduct research on the consequences of this activity. Finally, we would put in place measures to ensure that a complete record of a student's progress is kept in a single location.~~ **In fact, there are many unique factors that influence the educational outcomes of Indian children for which we should conduct research. Through my Native American education executive order, I directed top officials in the federal government to develop a comprehensive federal research agenda on Indian education. Through sustained investments in research and evaluation in this area, I hope to improve accountability, identify best practices, and better understand the barriers to Indian student achievement, such as the effects of frequent transfers between BIA schools and public schools. I have requested \$1.7 million in my FY2000 budget to begin preliminary survey and design work toward meeting critical information needs in Indian education.**

Mentoring and tutoring can also help pave the way to higher achievement and higher education for Native American students. Students who receive mentoring or tutoring on a regular basis are more likely to complete high school and go on to college. I am proposing that we work closely with tribal governments, school administrators, and the tribal citizenry to **encourage and promote** a mentoring and tutoring program for American Indian students. ~~This program could collaborate with AmeriCorps and the National Senior Service Corps.~~ Older students, senior citizens, or other adults in the community can play a major role in preparing a young person for higher education. The mentors could work with students and help them as they advance from grade to grade and ensure that they are on the right track to college. I believe that ~~this new mentoring program~~ **these kinds of activities** will succeed in increasing academic performance in Indian schools. **Local Native American student mentoring programs can take advantage of Federal resources, such as my Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate programs (GEAR-UP) which provides funds for States and local partnerships to help students in high-poverty schools prepare for and attend college by providing early and sustained interventions such as mentoring, tutoring, and academic and career counseling. This Native American mentoring program also could collaborate with AmeriCorps and the National Senior Service Corps.**

Mentoring can also serve to help preserve Native American culture and language. We should work with tribes to come up with to increase the participation of tribal elders in mentoring. Just as the tribal colleges construct themselves to reflect tribal culture, a part of this proposal is to create groups of students

who are assigned to a tribal elder to help support their educational activities. Without recognizing and preserving their culture, these students often are disenfranchised because they do not have any role models. Elders will serve this function by providing guidance and a positive influence to students. Elders can also teach students about tribal history, language, arts, and culture, on their road to a college education. We encourage all schools to create opportunities for the involvement of elders in programs, activities, and mentoring. A two-tier mentoring system can vastly improve the chances that American Indian students will be equipped to obtain a college degree.

(2) Eliminate disparities for American Indians in the public school system

American Indian students attend schools operated by state, federal, and tribal governments. As stated earlier, about 90 percent of American Indian students attend state public schools. Because of this, there is a great opportunity for the states, localities, and tribal governments to work together to ensure that Native American students have equal access to high quality curricula, teachers, classrooms, and materials.

Special attention must be focused on several key factors contributing to the education gap affecting American Indian students. These include, high student mobility rates, high drop out rates, and high teacher turnover rates. To address the problem of high mobility, tribal, state and local governments should have concrete strategies so that students transferring do not fall through the cracks.

While there are unique issues affecting American Indian and Alaska Native

students, I believe that as we work to give all American students the world-class education they deserve, we will see some of the most dramatic gains in our hardest pressed communities. In addition to specific support for Native American students and families, we must overcome gaps in K-12 educational opportunity; provide for high-quality teachers; ensure access to challenging courses; repair and replace old and dilapidated schools; provide technology and training; end social promotion; and hold all of our students to high expectations. If we do all this, we will have made tremendous strides in ending the disparities that plague too many of this Nation's Native American students.

(3) Enhance learning for Native American children through early childhood education which honors cultural traditions

American Indian children often do not come to school ready to learn. They have often had to face serious health and safety issues. Often they do not have access to early childhood education programs, which are linguistically, culturally, and developmentally appropriate. **Head Start, which includes Indian Head Start, provides grants to local, public and private agencies for comprehensive child development services for low-income children up to age 5 and their families. Since 1993, my Administration has expanded Head Start by almost 70 percent. In addition,** the Bureau of Indian Affairs funds over 20 Family and Child Education (FACE) projects, which serve over 1,500 families. The FACE program provides early childhood opportunities for Indian children with curricula and activities that recognize their unique culture and educational needs. All schools systems must focus on early childhood and pre-school programs so that Indian children are given greater assistance that meets their unique educational needs.

These programs should promote school readiness, enhance native language development, and increase the potential for learning among young American Indian and Alaska Native children.

C. Economic Development

(1) Model Community Initiative for Encouraging Economic Development

Essential to the building of One America is the need to bring growth and opportunity to Indian Country. As it is in every other community in America, the private sector must be the engine of growth in Indian Country. But the Federal government can help by catalyzing private sector growth; by supporting development of the infrastructure necessary to set the stage for such growth; and by helping to provide education and training to give Native Americans a better chance to succeed in our modern economy.

One of the best ways to promote economic development within tribes and tribal communities is through the fostering of an entrepreneurial culture. Entrepreneurship and small businesses have always been the backbone of a strong American economy. And these are the keys to job creation and our continued leadership in the global economy of the 21st century. We must work with Indian country to find ways to capitalize on the strengths of small and medium-sized businesses in order to diversify the economies of each and every community. We must provide the tools and assistance Tribes need to nurture home-grown firms, encourage innovation and risk-taking, and enhance investment in new businesses.

Finding the start-up money for new businesses and new building is a daunting task for anyone, but, as I said earlier, access to capital is next-to-impossible in Indian communities. I am proud that the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, which works alongside mainstream institutions in expanding access to capital in low-income communities, has begun several successful activities in Indian Country. The CDFI Fund has invested in a number of Native American-owned CDFIs and CDFIs serving Native American communities. For example, the Fund made a \$1 million grant to First American Credit Union, which provides basic financial services to 15,000 Native Americans throughout Arizona and parts of New Mexico and Utah, helping leverage capital to support small agricultural and Native American craft businesses. The CDFI Fund is also conducting a study on barriers to lending and investment, and will make recommendations for ways to expand access to capital in Indian Country.

I also have made the provision of equity capital to new markets a priority with my proposed "New Markets Initiative." I propose to spur investment for business growth in low and moderate income rural and urban communities, including Indian Country, with initiatives such as targeted Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs); BusinessLINC, which helps link larger businesses to smaller firms; and legislation for tax credits and New Markets Venture Capital Firms, which would provide capital and technical assistance to small businesses. Finally, 18 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes were selected to participate in the Round II Empowerment Zones (EZs) and Enterprise Communities (ECs). Indian tribes are participating in two of the five EZs, including the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and the Desert Communities EZ in California with three participating Indian tribes. Of the 20

ECs, eight include tribal entities. Under these programs, the federal government provides tax benefits for businesses, flexible grants to carry out comprehensive revitalization strategies, and the ability to apply for waivers from federal programs enabling local communities to better address their particular needs.

We also must all work together to ensure that the dream of home ownership becomes a reality in Indian Country. Under my Executive Memorandum, HUD and Treasury, in conjunction with the Interior Department and tribal partners, are helping to streamline the mortgage lending process in Indian Country, cutting down the barriers to private sector home mortgage lending. In addition, HUD, in close cooperation with tribal leaders across the country, is working to create a national housing model called “Shared Visions” to build and renovate affordable housing on tribal lands and to help more Native Americans become homeowners. This model strives to increase the number of affordable, quality homes and to make it easier for Native Americans to obtain mortgages by encouraging private sector partnerships, streamlining federal regulations, and improving coordination among federal agencies and tribes. As part of the project, a nonprofit will be established to provide financial help, low-cost financing, down payment assistance, and home ownership counseling.

Finally, we must help tribal governments to invest in technology infrastructure. Many places on reservations do not have telephones, computers, or Internet access. The Department of Commerce is conducting a study to identify the infrastructure technology needs in Indian country and will set forth proposals to address these needs. The federal government, along with Tribes, states, and the private sector, must work together to ensure that reservations are hooked up to information technology and that the

infrastructure to support this technology are put in place.

By focusing federal resources on improving economic development in Indian Country through creating an entrepreneurial culture, providing access to capital, encouraging home ownership, and investing in technology infrastructure, we will help tribal governments bring growth and opportunities to Indian Country.

(2) Promoting cooperation between the federal government, States, local governments, and the private sector to invest in economic development in Indian country

We must encourage more cooperation between state, local, and tribal governments. Because of the sovereign status of tribes, states cannot directly tax tribal governments. Along with this lack of ability to directly tax tribes, there is a misperception that Tribes do not contribute to the local economy and that revenues flow from states to tribes, but not in the other direction. One study estimates that the annual spending by reservation residents, tribal governments, and reservation-based businesses create over 300,000 jobs and generates \$10 billion in wage and salary income in the national economy. Locally, reservation residents, tribal governments, and reservation-based businesses create \$246 million in annual tax revenues for state and local governments. Reservation residents spend some \$3.1 billion of their \$7.4 billion annual household income off the reservation for consumer goods and services. Tribal governments and reservation-based businesses together purchase consumer goods and services off-reservation totally over \$5.5 billion annually.²¹ From these statistics, it is clear that state and local governments should work in partnerships with tribes to develop

economic strategies for entire regions.

(3) Invest in infrastructure in Indian country, both in technology and through transportation systems

Because of their often remote locations, American Indian and Alaska Native communities stand to benefit greatly from the Information Age, yet are in grave danger of being left behind. A recent Department of Commerce study on Internet and computer usage in American shows that, although many more Americans now own computers, minority and low-income households are still far less likely than white and more affluent households to have personal computers or access to the Internet. Even more disturbing, this study reveals that this “digital divide” between households of different races and income levels is growing.²² States, local governments, tribes, the federal government, and the private sector must all work together to ensure that Indian youth have the access to the Information Age in their classrooms and that Indian communities have access for economic development. We must also continue working with tribes to build roads and to develop water and wastewater systems, including solid waste disposal.

D. Crime Prevention

(1) Tribal Government Based Law Enforcement Initiative

A safe community provides the foundation upon which economic development can flourish for all Native Americans. But we must fight crime and ensure public safety in Indian country the right way. That means developing

federal-tribal-private partnerships that respect tribal sovereignty while making sure that much needed resources are used to improve the quality of life in Indian Country.

Community policing has been the cornerstone of my Administration's law enforcement initiatives. This model provides a community-based approach to law enforcement, by providing flexibility in identifying problems, and creating a partnership between citizens and law enforcement. This model fits well with Indian country with each community having unique but overlapping problems with other Indian communities.

A broader vision, however, is necessary to address the unique needs of tribal communities more comprehensively. That is why I am proposing the **Tribal Government Based Law Enforcement Initiative**. This initiative is based on the idea that comprehensive strategies and coordinated funding are the most effective way for the federal government to assist communities in addressing local problems. There are three primary objectives: (1) to gather insights and information from local leaders to form the basis for effective solutions to their law enforcement problems; (2) to address community problems in a comprehensive way through effective planning and appropriate funding; and (3) to promote inter-tribal exchanges of ideas and experiences, as well as to promote coordination among tribes for more efficient use of resources. Here's how it would work:

- * Through the use of technical assistance, the federal government will work with tribes, on a government-to-government basis, to help them identify the unique law enforcement and public safety problems in their community. Tribes will assess their communities' needs and priorities and develop appropriate strategies to

address them. Through this process, the communities will develop a comprehensive plan to address law enforcement and public safety concerns.

- * The communities will use these plans to apply for law enforcement funds in a new, coordinated process with one application rather than on a piecemeal basis. This will ensure that the communities can maximize the use of federal funding in a coordinated, problem-solving manner. The goal of this project will be to help Indian communities develop comprehensive strategies for improving public safety.
- * The project will have an evaluation component and tribes will be encouraged to set performance goals for reducing crime.
- * This project should be expanded at successive phases to tie into other agencies besides the Department of Justice. Particularly in Indian communities, a large portion of the crime problems are tied to alcohol and substance abuse. In order to address these problems in a comprehensive way, law enforcement should work in tandem with other federal programs to solve the underlying cause of many of the incidents of crime.

This initiative will empower communities to solve their law enforcement problems at a local level and in a comprehensive manner, and rebuild a sense of confidence in law enforcement in Indian country.

- (2) Build cooperation to ensure public safety in Indian communities and provide positive influences for Indian youth to stay out of crime**

Tribal communities are among the youngest population groups in America, and many tribal youth are at risk. The development of youth gangs has been a disturbing trend in Indian Country, and many tribal youth lack for role models and opportunities. It is thus critically important that we develop strategies for creating a more stable environment for tribal youth in both the short and long term.

Through the Department of Justice's "Volunteers for Tribal Youth (VTY)" Program, we will build a federal-tribal partnership project designed to help American Indian tribes enhance or create sustainable community-based volunteer programs. These programs will be specifically aimed at creating positive opportunities for youth and reducing youth and/or gang violence. The Department, working in partnership with 18 federal and national non-profit organizations, will work with tribal communities to identify opportunities for volunteers, including elders, to serve as mentors, tutors, and positive adult role-models for American Indian youth. To that end, this program intends to provide tribal communities with the financial resources, training, technical assistance, organizational guidance, networking assistance, and other resources necessary to create and sustain community-based volunteer programs.

Conclusion

Despite this nation's tragic history, we now have a chance, working together with tribes, to make sure the first Americans take their rightful place as part of One America. Tribal communities stand at the threshold of a new era, filled with the promise of greater prosperity and a higher quality of life. Native American children must have the same opportunities to succeed in our thriving economy as any child. And Native American families must be given the tools to live out their dreams and fulfill their God-given potential. We can make this a reality in the coming millennium if we acquire a better understanding of our sacred and constitutional commitments to American Indians and Alaska Natives and then take the necessary steps to end discrimination, respect tribal cultures, and close opportunity gaps.

Endnotes

1. 1990 Census, The American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut Population.
2. U.S. Patterns of Mortality by County and Race: 1965-1994, Harvard Center for Population

and Development Studies, 1998.

3. Cherokee Nation v. Georgia, 30 U.S. (5 Pet.) 1, 12 (1831).
4. Morton v. Mancari, 417 U.S. 535, 554 n.24 (1974).
5. Cherokee Nation v. Georgia, 30 U.S. (5 Pet.) 1, 11 (1831).
6. Seminole Nation v. United States, 316 U.S. 286, 297 (1941).
7. National Indian Gaming Commission, 1997. **Check**
8. National Indian Gaming Commission. **Check.**
9. 1990 Census, The American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut Population.
10. Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. **Check.**
11. Where get this?
12. 1994 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP).
13. 1990 Census, The American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut Population.
14. USA Today, April 13, 1998.**need better cite**
15. "American Indians and Crime," Department of Justice (February 1999).
16. "American Indians and Crime," Department of Justice (February 1999).
17. Trends in Indian Health, Department of Health and Human Service, Indian Health Service, 1997.
18. FBI's Uniform Crime Report.
19. Washington Post, February 15, 1999.
20. 1990 Census.
21. Prepared statement of Robert F. Robinson, President of the Center for Applied Research, Inc., submitted to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Economic Development Hearing, April , 1998.
22. "Falling Through the NET II: New Date on the Digital Divide," Department of Commerce, 1998.

lexis.com™

Change Client Options Feedback Sign Off Help

Search Search Advisor Get a Document Check a Citation

ECLIPSE™ History

View: Cite KWIC Full

PREVIOUS 11 of 14 NEXT

Text Only Download Fax Email

FOCUS™ - Narrow Results Save As ECLIPSE More Like This More Like Selected Text

30 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1073

Source: All Sources : / . . . : Presidential Documents

Terms: democratic governors' association (Edit Search)

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

May 14, 1994

CITE: 30 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1073**LENGTH:** 4829 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at the Jefferson-Jackson **Democratic Governors Association** Luncheon in Indianapolis**BODY:**

Thank you for that wonderful, rousing welcome. Thank you for your support of tile Democratic Governors. And thank you, you folks here in Indiana, for your support of my good friends Evan and Susan Bayh.

You know, like Evan Bayh, when I was elected Governor of Arkansas, I was the youngest Governor in the country. Indeed, I was the youngest person elected in 40 years. Now 40 years before me, the person who was elected slightly younger than me was Harold Stassen -- *[laughter]* -- who later ran for President eight times. Which shows you that there may or may not be significance to being the youngest Governor in the country. *[Laughter]*

But nonetheless, when I met Evan Bayh, I really resented him. *[Laughter]* I mean, he was so young and handsome, and I realized I'd never be that young again, I'd never look that good again. Come to think of it, I still sort of resent him for that. *[Laughter]* When we play golf he hits the ball longer than I do. When we come in, he graciously fabricates the truth and tells people that I won when I didn't. Then he put the burden on me to try to correct it. Occasionally, I do. *[Laughter]* I really admire Governor Bayh and his wife and his whole administration and all the people who have done so much to change Indiana.

I'd also like to thank your Members of Congress who came with me today: the chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Lee Hamilton; Congressman Phil Sharp, who is retiring against my will, but who is going to be replaced by another good Democrat, Joe Hogsett; Congressman Frank McCloskey; Congressman Tim Roemer. And I want to say a special word of thanks to Congressman Andy Jacobs, who did so much to put over our assault weapons ban last week. I want to acknowledge your former Congressman and your nominee for the Senate, Jim Jontz, wish him well, and say a word of thanks to the other Democratic Governors who are here who have all been recognized but who were colleagues of mine in MY former life when I was a Governor, or as my wife says, back when we had a life. *[Laughter]* Govenor Mel Carnahan, Governor Ben Nelson, Governor Bruce Sundlun, and Governor Joan Finney. I thank them for their personal friendship and for their leadership. I want to thank Katie Whelan of the **Democratic Governors Association** and Ann DeLaney, the chair of the Democratic Party, her husband, Ed, Sally Kirkpatrick, Diane Simone, and all of you who did this today, this wonderful, wonderful lunch, thank you.

I feel almost like I don't have to say anything. I mean, I saw the movie and I heard everybody else's speech. *[Laughter]* It reminds me of the first time I got up to give a speech. This is a true story, in

Doyle
12/20/17

1977, the first speech I ever gave as an elected official, I was an attorney general; I was 30 years old; I was sort of scared. I spoke to 500 people at the annual Rotary Club dinner in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and it was one of these deals where they installed officers and gave out awards. And all but three people who were there got introduced, and they went home mad. [Laughter]

The dinner started at 6:30 p.m., and I got no to speak at a quarter to 10 p.m. And the guy who introduced me was more nervous than I was -- he later became a great friend of mine -- but here is how the introduction to my first public address as an elected official started. He said, "You know, we could stop here and have had a very good evening." [Laughter] Now, he didn't mean it the way it came out. But I feel that way today. You could stop here and have had a wonderful meal, a wonderful celebration of our party and our prospects and our future.

I was glad to see the tribute paid to Evan Bayh and his leadership in Indiana. He proved some things about Democrats that the Republicans kept trying to deny in all their rhetoric and with all their media barages. He proved that Democrats can govern in an austere fiscal climate by cutting spending and without raising taxes. He proved that Democrats understand the importance of jobs in the free enterprise system. And he has worked relentlessly to bring more jobs to this State. He understands the link between economic growth and education. Indiana's Step Ahead program is a real model for this country. The new Gateway Education standards mirror what we're trying to do at the national level.

In 1988, he ended 20 years of Republican governance of the statehouse. The Democrats have come a long way since that election. When he was elected secretary of state, he was the only Democrat in statewide office. Republicans controlled both houses of the legislature, half the seats in Congress. Today you've got five statewide elected officials, including your distinguished attorney general, the first African-American woman elected to statewide office in the history of this State. You have 7 of the 10 seats in Congress, and I hope after this next election, Mayor Mike Harmless will give us 8 of the 10 seats in Indian.

I owe a lot to the years I spent as a Governor. Basically, I ran for President because I was tired of what I thought was the stale rhetoric in Washington, the incredible partisan gridlock, and the politics of division and diversion and often personal destruction, everybody arguing over left and right and liberal and conservative and how this process was and who was up and down and who was in and out. And people in this country were being lost in the whole process, and we were at risk of losing the American dream as we moved toward the 21st century.

I saw hard-working people, business people, and laboring people work hard in the 1980's to improve their productivity and to try to come to grips with the realities of the eighties and the economic competition of the world. I saw all these wonderful teachers and other people trying to revitalize education. I saw community leaders standing against the tide of rising violence and declining family structure to make good things happen.

I knew a lot of Members of Congress who were honest, good, honorable people who wanted to make a difference. And yet always, always, always, what we seemed to be getting out of our National Government was more politics and less performance.

I ran for a very simple reason: because I wanted to get this country moving again and I wanted to see the American people pull together again. I wanted us to go into the 21st century a strong, united, wonderful place, living up to our promise, our potential, our past, and our own ideals. And I was tired of reading all these prognostications that my daughter was going to grow up to be part of the first generation of Americans to do worse than their parents. And I believed we could do better.

I thought we could do it by organizing ourselves around three little words: opportunity for all Americans, responsibility from all Americans, and a belief that we are one community, that we really believe in our national motto, E Pluribus Unum, that we are one from many and that we are all in this together and that ultimately we will go up or down together.

I believed that if we followed those three little words in all of our policies and we looked at the real world, that we could find new ways to rebuild our families and our communities, to honor the American people who elect us all. I believed we could go beyond partisan gridlock. It's been, frankly, a little tougher than I thought it would be. And it's been even tougher to get the message to the American people that we are doing what we said we would do.

Last year, the Congress had the courage to pass an economic program which went beyond rhetoric to reality. It drove down the deficits; it drove down interest rates; it increased investment in critical areas. The Congress had the courage to take on a lot of tough trade issues. We did more to foster the expansion of global trade last year than in any single year in a generation. The Congress was willing to work with me to invest in new technologies and take the controls off exporting many of them in the aftermath of the cold war. And what has happened: 3 million jobs in the first 15 months of this administration, a million in the first 4 months of this year. I'll tell you, my fellow Americans, the other party talked a lot in Washington about delivering for the free enterprise system. They talked, but we delivered.

This week the Congress passed our budget for this year. A budget that, without new taxes, will increase funding for education, for training, for new technologies, for medical research, and still, for the first time since 1969, reduce overall domestic discretionary spending, along with defense reductions -- for the first time since '69 -- by eliminating 100 Government programs and reducing 200 others. This will give us, for the first time since Harry Truman was President -- and with all respect, when it had to happen at the end of World War II -- 3 years of declining deficits in a row, for the first time since the Truman Presidency. They talked about it; we delivered it.

 The Vice President has led a path-breaking effort that we call reinventing Government to try to examine how we do things and how we can serve you better, how we can make Government less bureaucratic and act more quickly and push decisions down to the grassroots level. I'll just give you one example that you can find now if you need to apply for an SBA loan. We've got it down to a one-sheet form, and it takes 2 days to process. And I could give you 50 other examples like that if time permitted. Perhaps the most graphic example is this: Under our budget, we will reduce the size of the Federal Government not by firing people but by attrition, by 252,000 over a 5-year period, so that at the end of the period, the National Government will be below 2 million employees for the first time since 1960. And all of the savings will be put into a trust fund to pay for the crime bill -- 100,000 more police officers on the street. The other party always talked about reducing the size of Government and empowering people at the local level, but we have delivered. That is our job.

We are breaking new ground in education, developing a system of lifetime learning, helping the young people who don't go on to college but do need further training, lowering the cost of college loans and stringing out the repayments but toughening the collection procedures, so that we can open the doors of college education to everyone. You heard a little talk the other day -- a few moments ago about our national service program. I think in so many ways that embodies what this administration is about: opportunity, responsibility, and community. Twenty thousand young people this year will be working in their communities in national service to revolutionize places where they live, to solve problems, and earning money for their education. And year after next we will have 100,000 young Americans doing that.

I'm proud of the work we have done to stand up for the American family. You heard on the film that wonderful woman talking in the Rose Garden about the problems they had been through because that family that you saw, speaking at the signing of the Family and Medical Leave Act, had been wrenched by a childhood illness and being forced to deal with the question of whether the parents would be with the children and lose their jobs or keep their jobs and not be with the children.

I think the most moving personal encounter I've had actually in the White House since I have been President occurred on an early Sunday morning when I came in from my run, and I noticed a family taking a tour, which is very rare on a Sunday morning at about 9 a.m. And I went over and shook hands with them. There was a father, a mother, three children, all girls, And it turned out that the child that was in a wheelchair was one of these Make-A-Wish children, a child with a very serious

illness. And I asked them to excuse me, and I went up and changed clothes, came down with my uniform on so we could take a picture. And I was walking away, and all of a sudden this father grabbed me by the arm. And I turned around, and he said, "Let me tell you something, Mr. President," he said, "I imagine that a lot of days you think that the work you do up here really doesn't matter and doesn't affect people's lives. But" he said, "my little girl is desperately ill, and she's probably not going to make it. Because of the family leave law, I have been able to take some time off from my job to be with my child, without thinking that I am disadvantaging my wife and other two children by losing my job." And he said to me, "It's the most important experience of my life. And it would not have happened if it hadn't been for the family leave law. Don't ever think what you do here doesn't make a difference."

Folks, the family leave law was tied up in gridlock for 7 years. The Brady bill was tied up in gridlock for 7 years. The GATT treaty took 7 years to pass. The crime bill that the Congress is now in conference on has been tied up for 5 years. It is too long for Americans to wait while partisan differences get resolved and people's lives hang in the balance. We are trying to deliver for you up there.

Let me say we have had some support from the other party on some important initiatives, on national service, and I'm grateful for it; on the education bills, and I am grateful for it; on the crime bill, and I am grateful for it. Thirty-eight brave Republicans stood up with the Democrats the other day and voted on the assault weapons ban, and I am grateful for it. But the point I want to make to you is this: A lot of you probably didn't even know some of the things I have said because our national debate is so shrouded in this shrill, uncivil, diversionary rhetoric.

We are moving to break gridlock. But we also have to break the gridlock that is in people's minds. Because no matter what we do in the Government, very few of our specific actions will affect a majority of the American people. If you just take the welfare reform issue, for example, something I care deeply about, we're going to propose a remarkable welfare reform bill which will go with the other things we're doing to try to help people move from dependence to independence, lowering taxes for working people with modest incomes. This year, one in six working families will be eligible for a tax break so they can be successful workers and successful parents, and there will be no incentive to leave work and go to welfare.

Providing for health care for all Americans will mean that no one will want to stay on welfare just to get health coverage for their kids. One of the reasons that people don't leave welfare has nothing to do with the welfare check, it's because if you stay on welfare the Government will pay for your children's health care. If you get off welfare and you take a low-wage job with an employer that in today's market can't afford health insurance, you then pay taxes to pay for health care for people who didn't make the decision you did. That is not profamily; it is not prowork; it is not good policy.

We need a tax structure, a health care structure, a tough child support enforcement system, and an education and training system and ultimately a requirement that people work so that we can change this system as we know it. But to do it we have to know that we share values and we're trying to get this done because it's the right thing for our country, not because it will affect most of us, because most of us aren't on welfare. That is the problem I face all the time, how rhetoric sometimes gets in the way of reality when we're up there trying to do things that I know embody the values of the people of this country and I know will give us a chance to move ahead.

But I know ultimately we cannot prevail unless there is a new spirit among the American people, a new determination to change the way we evaluate politics and politicians and to change the way we live at the grassroots level. And let me just mention two issues. The first is health care. My fellow Americans, we cannot ever -- and you can book this -- we cannot ever get control of the Federal deficit as long as the Government's health care programs, Medicare and Medicaid, are going up at 2 and 3 times the rate of inflation. We cannot hope to be fully competitive in a global economy as long as we spend 45 percent more of our national income on health care than any other country does.

Some of it is money well spent on medical research and new technologies and new drugs and the

things that make us special. Some of it is money we have to spend because we're more violent than other countries. But a lot of it is money we spend because we are the only country that employs hundreds of thousands of people, literally, in doctors' offices, hospitals, insurance offices all across America to see who and what is not covered on the insurance policy. No one else does that. That adds tens of billions of dollars to our system.

Now, if this were easy to fix, somebody would have done it long ago. For 60 years Presidents have tried. Our system is based on -- I mean, my plan is based on some simple ideas. And I don't ask everybody to agree with every detail, but it's based on some simple ideas. If 9 out of 10 people with insurance get it in the workplace and 8 out of 10 people without health insurance have somebody in their family that works and you want the system to be as private as possible, wouldn't the best thing be to say that people who haven't assumed any responsibility for themselves and their workers should assume some responsibility and should do their part as well? Because any student of the health care system will tell you, until you cover everybody, you're going to have massive cost-shiftings, you're going to have uncontrollable elements and costs in the system, and you're going to have abject unfairness. That's why I propose to extend the requirement of covering health care for everybody through employers and employees, not a Government mandate. It's a private system.

The second thing -- what has been the objection to the health care thing? This is what I want to get at; what's happening to our national debate. Because I want to talk about your responsibilities as citizens, one, in the national debate and, second, inaction in the grassroots level. What's happened to the national debate? They say support for my plan has gone down. It has, under the weight of tens of millions of dollars of adverse efforts to try to convince you that it is a Government-run system, that it is horrible for small business, that it is a mindless bureaucracy where crazy people will be making decisions for you. I've seen all these ads. [Laughter]

Now the truth is -- and I've read some of the letters that have gone out -- the truth is quite different. The truth is, it's private insurance, private providers. The Government does the following things: The Government says everybody has to be covered. The Government establishes a pool to give discounts to small business people who would be otherwise in real trouble if they had to pay the full value of a health care policy to try to protect the small business economy. And the Government organizes buying groups so that small businesses and self-employed people can buy insurance on the same terms as Government employees and big business people. Now, that's what we do.

With all respect, the other -- last Sunday, I saw on television a man I very much admire and like, President Ford, giving a speech attacking our health care program, that was doubtless prepared for him by the other party. And one of the lines in this speech -- it was devastating, I mean, it was a hum-dinger -- it said, "They want to set up a national health care board where there are seven people in Washington to decide what is necessary and appropriate for your health care. I don't think we ought to let seven bureaucrats in Washington make decisions that you and your doctors ought to make, do you?" And I said, "Goodness, no. Shoot the guy that put that plan out there." [Laughter] Right? So I go to the office the next day, and I said, "You know, that was not a fair characterization of our plan. But he wouldn't knowingly misstate that. Let's do a little research," because I remembered something. I remembered that President Ford and President Carter, in a nonpolitical atmosphere, were the honorary coauthors of a bipartisan effort to reform the health care system. They had a detailed health care plan very much like ours in which they -- and they wrote an op-ed piece about it, signed by President Ford, proposing two national boards not -- to be fair to them -- not to regulate the health system or make decisions for your doctors but to do exactly what our little board was going to do, which was to evaluate claims by people that there ought to be new benefits added to health care packages and funded. And somebody needed to evaluate it in a nonpolitical, professional atmosphere to see how much these things were costing.

Now, how are you supposed to be active citizens if that's the way the debate's going? So I'm going to write a funny little letter to President Ford and send a copy of his article and underline the board deal, you know. But the point is, he didn't know that, I mean, he just was given a speech. And he is a good man. But don't you see how this kind of debate obscures what really matters?

What matters? What matters is 39 million Americans don't have any health insurance. At any given time during the year, 58 million Americans don't have any health insurance. Now, keep in mind, there's 255 million people in this country. So you add up the statistics. Eighty-one million of us live in families with preexisting conditions: a child with diabetes, a fine mother who has had premature cancer, a father who had a heart attack at an early age, people who, under the present system can't ever change jobs because they can't get insurance or they'd have to pay more than they could ever afford. Three-quarters of us who have insurance in the workplace have lifetime limits, which means if we should happen to have a baby with a terrible health problem that doesn't take the child's life away, we could run out of insurance before the child is old enough to get out of the house, at the very time we need it.

Now, those are the real problems. And I say to you, you should demand, not as Democrats but as Americans, that we face this problem this year, not with smoke and hot air and rhetoric but sitting down across the table as compassionate Americans and resolving it this year, not later.

Let me mention one last issue. Before I came here today, I was honored to go with Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, who is here with us, out to that wonderful site where Robert Kennedy spoke here in Indianapolis the night Martin Luther King was killed, to break ground for a memorial which will be made to both those men and what they have meant to our country and to the lives of so many of us. And we know that at least some of what will be used in the sculpture will be metal that comes from weapons which were turned in in the weapons buyback program here and melted down.

The thing I liked about that more than anything else was that this was something that I could go and celebrate as President but that I didn't have a thing in the world to do with. The citizens of this community' your basketball team, your prosecutor, your local officials, church leaders, they're going to make this work, and in the process, they will change the attitudes and the behavior of people all across this community, without regard to race or income or political party. They are going to give, around this project, thousands of people around here the chance to be Americans in the best sense again.

Now, we're going to pass this crime bill There will be 100,000 police in it. And if they're deployed properly, they'll make a real difference on your streets. They can drive the crime rate down. And we are going to have some tougher punishment in the bill. And we're going to have a lot of prevention money to give these kids something to say yes to before they get in trouble, as well as just telling them to say no. And we're going to have this ban on the 19 assault weapons.

But let me ask you, what is it you wish to discuss about this, and what are your responsibilities? Yesterday in Greenbelt, Maryland, right outside of Washington, there was a 13-year-old boy from a poor family, standing, minding his own business, just won a scholarship to one of the most distinguished private schools in Washington -- standing there on the street minding his own business. These nine kids got in a fight, started shooting, and that boy's dead today.

There's a poor neighborhood in your Nation's Capital that got sick and tired of this kind of stuff, so they just built a fence around their neighborhood and hired guards just like they were rich people in private developments. And they had the same results. Now, old folks are sitting on park benches talking, and the kids are playing, because they've constructed a wall between themselves and the rest of America.

When this assault weapons ban was voted on, it should not have been as difficult as it was. It shouldn't have been as painful as it was. But a lot of good, honest people in Indiana and in other places were told that it was a threat to their right to keep and bear arms. And I understand that. I grew up in a State where more than half the folks have a hunting or a fishing license or both. And most of us grew up shooting 22's and 410's long before we were old enough to drive a car. I understand that. But very few of those Americans were told that that bill contained explicit, I mean written protection for more than 650 sporting weapons even as we were trying to make our streets safe for the police and the people in the face of the awful, bloody assaults we see on our children

every day. Why? Because of the rhetoric.

And I say to you, I will do my best as your President to fight these things. I will do my best to work with the Congress. I'll do my best to stick up for the Democrats when we're leading the way but to also give the Republicans credit when they help, just like I have today. But you have got to change the dimensions of the debate in every community in this country. And you have got to take some personal responsibility for how this happens.

The President and the Congress cannot save all those 13-year-old kids that are standing in front of bus stops today. But you can and your police officers can and your churches can. And maybe the best we can do in the short run is to put those walls up. I say hallelujah to those poor folks. Why should you have to be rich to have a wall behind which your children and your grandparents are safe? That's fine. But consider the irony of that.

In a few months, I will go to Europe to celebrate D-Day, the victory of freedom. I will go to Germany to celebrate our victory in the cold war. Do you remember what President Kennedy said when he gave that wonderful *Ich Bin Ein Berliner* speech? At the Berlin Wall he said this: He said, "Freedom has many difficulties, and our democracy is far from perfect, but we never had to put up a wall to keep our people in." No, we never did. But now millions of us have to put up walls to keep our people out. Is that what Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy gave their lives for? I don't think so.

And I tell you, it doesn't matter who the President is; it doesn't matter how hard the Congress labors. Unless we can change the dimensions of our conversation away from all this division, destruction, the shouting, this uncivil, this often outright dishonest talk, to a calm and more hospitable and more open and more respectful tone and unless people at the grassroots level take personal responsibility for all these kids whose lives are at risk, then the political system cannot produce the results you want.

Of those little words: opportunity, responsibility, and community, I believe with all my heart, by far the most important is community. We're still around after two centuries, folks, yes, because we had good leaders, but most of all because we had good people with good hearts and good values and good minds. And more than half the time they did what was right. It is now required of all of us that we do what is right.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:35 p.m. in the Sagamore Ballroom at the Indianapolis Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to fundraiser Sally Kirkpatrick and Michael M. Harmless, mayor of Greencastle, IN.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

View: [Cite](#) | [KWIC](#) | [Full](#)  11 of 14  [Text Only](#) | [Download](#) | [Fax](#) | [Email](#)
[FOCUS™ - Narrow Results](#) | [Save As ECLIPSE](#) | [More Like This](#) | [More Like Selected Text](#)
30 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1073

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : **Presidential Documents**

Terms: **democratic governors' association** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Friday, February 25, 2000 - 1:13 PM EST

[Search](#) | [Search Advisor](#) | [Get a Document](#) | [Check a Citation](#)
[ECLIPSE\(TM\)](#) | [History](#) | [Change Client](#) | [Options](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sign Off](#) | [Help](#)
[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

Draft 2/27/00 5:15pm
Edmonds

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
THE EAST ROOM
FEBRUARY 28, 2000

Acknowledgments: Governor Leavitt, Gov. Glendening, John Podesta, Mickey Ibarra, members of my Cabinet.

Good morning. And welcome back to the White House. Hillary and I always look forward to this annual gathering. And we especially enjoyed the time we spent with you last night at dinner.

It is hard to believe that I have been involved in some way with these NGA meetings for more than 20 years now. As you know, I have a special appreciation for the work you do to build strong communities and provide critical services to millions of Americans. I have tried, over the last seven years, to be a good partner by giving you more resources and flexibility to meet your local challenges. The fruits of that partnership are evident in everything from our success in cutting welfare rolls and moving millions of people from welfare to work, to enrolling 2 million children in the State Children's Health Insurance Program, to our success in getting 150,000 young people involved in AmeriCorps. And I know I don't have to tell all of you how important it is that we all work together in that same spirit to count every American in this year's census. For all that we have done together and all that we will do in the future, I want to thank you.

Largely because of our joint efforts, we are beginning this new century on a very high note. Just last week, we learned that our economy grew at an annual rate of 6.9 percent in the last three months of 1999 -- the fastest growth in more than a decade. And we've had growth of more than 4 percent for four years in a row, while keeping inflation at its lowest level in 30 years. This is further evidence that we are in the midst of the longest and strongest economic expansion in our nation's history.

Our social fabric is also on the mend. Together, our efforts have cut crime by 20 percent -- the lowest level in 25 years. Teen births are down, seven years in a row. Adoptions are up 30 percent. And welfare rolls have been cut in half to their lowest levels in 30 years.

So, these are good times. But we all know that they didn't happen by accident. We got here because of our commitment to fiscal discipline, investments in our people and a strategy of opening new markets for American products and services. Our task is to build on this progress so we can build an even brighter future for our children.

In a few minutes we will conduct a roundtable discussion of three issues vital to our continued success: health care, trade -- especially the importance of giving American business, farmers and workers access to 1 billion new customers by passing Permanent Normal Trade

Relations for China, and the impact of digital technology on this new economy. We will also talk about what we have already done, and what more we can do to help American families cope with rising home heating oil prices -- especially in the Northeast.

On Friday, I sent a supplemental appropriations request to Congress to replenish the LIHEAP fund to help more hard-hit families through this crisis. We also want to ensure that there is enough money in the fund for others who may need help later in the year when the weather gets hot.

Since January, we have allocated \$295 million to help those in need. In addition to making up that shortfall and ensuring that there are sufficient funds for the future, we are also requesting \$19 million in additional funds for the Department of Energy's weatherization programs. These funds will help increase the energy efficiency of homes and reduce energy costs for families. We are also requesting resources that will help make \$86 million in SBA loans available to small businesses affected by rising oil prices. This will allow home heating oil dealers, for example, to extend flexible payment terms to their heating oil customers who were hit hard by the recent price spike.

I urge the governors who are receiving these LIHEAP funds to adjust eligibility standards to assist as many low and moderate-income families as possible under the law. I also want to remind you that federal law permits states to use Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to provide emergency heating assistance to very low-income families with children.

As you know, Secretary Richardson is conducting a 60-day study of diversifying energy supplies and possibly converting factories and other major oil users to other fuels in order to free up oil supplies for home heating use.

We have also asked refiners to keep producing at full-throttle until this crisis is past. And we directed the Coast Guard to expedite deliveries of home heating oil to the affected areas.

Finally, I hope we can begin a discussion of how to make our economy even more energy efficient so we are not so dependent on the ups and downs of supplies and not so affected by future price increases. Whether in response to an earthquake, hurricane, flood, or farm crisis, Americans have always pulled together to help each other to meet our toughest challenges. Families in the Northeast need our help now -- and we're going to make sure they get it.

Before we begin our roundtable discussion, I want to say a few words about three other issues that are important to every governor in this room and every citizen across the nation: education reform, the current debate over the best way to provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and environmental stewardship.

Over the past seven years, even while we balanced the budget, turned deficits into surpluses and positioned ourselves to pay off the national debt in 13 years, we have still worked together to invest more in our schools and demand more in return. We have worked hard for higher standards, greater accountability and extra help so all children can meet those high

standards. Virtually every state has embraced that approach. Last year, with your help, we enacted a landmark school accountability fund that will provide \$134 million to help states and school districts turnaround failing schools. Last week, I announced new guidelines to help states invest in what works. We can't expect our children to aim high in schools that are performing low. I want to thank you for your partnership in the accountability movement and I want to ask you to stay with us as we work to strengthen our focus on results.

Another issue of increasing importance to states is the growing challenge presented by the lack of prescription drug coverage for seniors. Many people don't know that states, through their Medicaid programs, are the single largest purchasers of drugs in the world. Increasing drug costs are likely to be one of the fastest growing components of Medicaid programs in the years to come. We all recognize that we need to modernize and reform the Medicare program – to extend its life, while making it more efficient, competitive and better able to meet the challenges of the aging of America. I hope, as part of this broader reform, we can work with you to develop a privately contracted, voluntary, Medicare prescription drug benefit. This is a life and death issue for many seniors. We must not let another year pass without taking action. Tomorrow, I am planning to release a state by state analysis of the health, financing, and demographic challenges facing the Medicare program and the tens of millions of Americans it serves.

Finally, let me say that this also is the year to secure permanent funding for the protection of precious lands across our nation. Last year, Congress approved a substantial increase in our Lands Legacy initiative. Two weeks ago, as part of this initiative, I announced \$60 million in grants to states to create parks, save open space and protect forests.

My new budget proposes another substantial increase -- a record \$1.4 billion to protect land and coastal resources. And I am proposing to make this higher level of funding permanent. At least half of this funding would support state and local conservation efforts. Let's work together to make this our gift to the future.

Now, I'd like to call on your chairman and my friend, Gov. Leavitt to make some opening remarks.

Thank you.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR DLC INTERNET TOWN HALL MEETING
WASHINGTON, DC
November 8, 1999**

More than 60 years ago, at the dawn of another era, Franklin Roosevelt told the nation: "New conditions impose new requirements on government and those who conduct government." From that simple proposition, Roosevelt shaped the New Deal, which helped restore our nation to prosperity and defined the relationship between Americans and their government for half a century. As we move into the information age, we have reclaimed the true legacy of Franklin Roosevelt, by making a real commitment to bold experimentation, and to the idea that new times demand new approaches, and often a different kind of Government.

This event is a perfect example of that progress. Once again, our nation is meeting the challenges of an ever-evolving world, by bringing American government and its democratic traditions, through new mediums and to more people. That's what FDR did when he brought democracy into people's homes with the fireside chat. It's what President Kennedy did when he extended democracy with live press conferences on television. And now, in an effort to yet again modernize politics to meet the challenges of democracy in a new era, I am holding this presidential town hall meeting on the Internet.

Today's event is not only exciting because of the technology involved in its execution, but, on a larger scale, for the unbridled potential it represents. When I became President, the Internet was the province of scientists, funded by a government research project. Back then, there were only 130 sites on the Web and only 1.3 million computers connected to the Internet. Today, over 56 million computers are connected to the Internet ... and there are 3.6 million Web sites ... and we are adding new pages at the rate of over 100,000 an hour.

Since 1993, our Administration has worked hard to unleash the power of information technology. Vice President Gore and I set a goal of connecting every classroom and library to the Internet. We are also committed to bridging the "digital divide," so that every citizen has the same opportunity to explore and benefit from this technology. And we have pushed to increase our investment in long-term research to help create high-tech, high-wage jobs.

We've come a long way. The number of classrooms connected to the Internet has increased from 4 percent in 1994 to 51 percent in 1998. The e-rate is providing over \$2 billion to help connect schools and libraries to the Internet. And Department of Education grants are providing training to help 400,000 new teachers use this technology in the classroom.

The Internet also teaches us an important lesson about America. Like technology, our democracy is constantly evolving to meet the shifting winds of change. That's what Vice President Gore and I came to office to do – to replace outmoded and failed ideas of the past with a new vision for the role of government in the 21st Century.

In the early 1990s, long-neglected economic and social problems had piled up. Crime was spiraling, and nobody believed it could be stopped. Poverty was growing. The real wages of working families were steadily falling. There were deficits as far as the eye could see. And the country was told by certain experts that we could not solve our problems, that government was at best useless, and at worst a force for ill.

For too long, both parties put ideology above ideas that work, and posed false choices: between work and family, between the economy and the environment, between being safe and being free, between what makes us different as people and what makes us equal before the law and under God. For too long, government either tried to do too many big things at once and failed, or used those same failures as an excuse to do nothing at all. It was in this environment that the New Democratic movement – or the “Third Way” – began in earnest: the idea that new conditions demand a new approach to government. We said then: opportunity, yes, but also responsibility; and a community of all Americans.

I believe
It was obvious to Al Gore ~~and me~~ that we could not meet the challenges of a new century by returning to the past. We also had to overcome the great neglect of the 1980s. We said that government had to be slimmed and trimmed and reinvented if it was ever going to function as it does best – as a catalyst – and as an active partner to the private sector in creating opportunity, jobs, and hope. And we said that citizens had to take a more active role in serving our communities, in shaping our nation.

Because of our commitment to Third Way principles and the hard work of the American people, our country has made a seismic shift. Over the last six and a half years The American people have created almost 20 million new jobs, with rising wages, the longest peacetime expansion in history, the highest home ownership rate ever recorded, a 30 year-low in unemployment, a 32-year low in the welfare rolls, and a 25 year-low in the crime rate. And by balancing the budget for the first time in a generation, we have changed red ink into black – turning a budget deficit of \$290 billion into a budget surplus of \$123 billion this year, with growing surpluses projected for years to come. And we did all this with the smallest government since John F. Kennedy was in the White House. We must continue that progress by passing a budget that honor our values – with 100,000 new teachers for better schools ... 50,000 new community police officers to keep crime going down ... and stronger efforts to protect and preserve our environment.

The world is starting to take notice of what we have accomplished and where we're headed. Third Way ideas are influencing governance in Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Brazil, to name a few.

In closing, let me say that we must use the new tools of government and technology at our fingertips as a force for unity, not division. We must embrace the potential of technology to usher in a new age of enlightenment, not allow it to be used as a conduit for isolation and hate. And, as my Administration has been working so hard to do, we have to make sure that the opportunities of the Information Age are available to all people, including people with disabilities, no matter where they live, how much money they make, or what color they are.

I could go on and on, but I'm really here to learn from all of the distinguished panelists about how they are applying Third Way principles to governing in their local communities. I also want to hear from everyone else online how these principles are affecting your lives in the Information Age. Thank you.

[You will deliver brief concluding remarks based on the night's conversation.]

Draft 02/28/00 2:15pm
Josh Gottheimer

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR DGA DINNER
WASHINGTON, DC
February 28, 2000**

Ack: DGA Leadership: Gov Patton (Chairman); Gov. Davis (Vice-Chair); Gov. O'Bannon (Chairman, but not present); BJ Thornberry (Executive Director); Mark Weiner (Treasurer). I'd also like to recognize governors who are retiring: Gov. Hunt, Gov. Rossello, Gov. Carper (for Senate race), Gov. Carnahan (for Senate race). DNC: Joe Andrew. Members of Congress; members of my Cabinet; state and local elected officials.

Good evening. Thank you for those kind words, and for your thoughtful gift. In *Profiles in Courage*, President Kennedy said, "The party which, in its drive for unity, discipline and success, ever decides to exclude new ideas, independent conduct or insurgent members, is in danger." You have been ones to provide that drive. ~~The ideas of the men and women here~~ ^{your ideas,} today, your practical solutions and plans for progress have revitalized ~~the Democratic Party.~~ ^{both the} In your state houses and in your communities, you have been ~~the new and independent thinkers,~~ ^{our nation's independent} and insurgent activists ~~of the Democratic Party.~~ ^{insurgents} We are stronger for it -- and America is better because of it.
The Democratic Party is

I can't think of & more wonderfully unready groups - I need that leader
It's hard to believe that it's been twenty years since I served as your chairman -- and more than twenty-two years since I first joined the DGA. As you know, I have a special appreciation for the work you do every day in your states -- building stronger communities and providing the necessary support and services to the American people.

than Democratic governors.
As President, I have been deeply indebted to my experience as a governor -- and to all of you for the many ideas that you have contributed over the last seven years. We have worked together as partners to give the American people the resources and tools they need to make the most of this new economy ~~and of this new world.~~ Because of our joint efforts and the hard work of the American people, we have made great strides.

We have nearly 21 million new jobs; the fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rates in 30 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20 years; the lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment rates on record; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years. We've cut the welfare rolls in half and helped millions move from welfare to work. And as of this month, we have achieved the longest and strongest period of economic growth in our entire history.

Our social fabric is also on the mend. Together, we have cut crime by 20 percent -- to the lowest level in 25 years. Teen birth rates are down, seven years in a row. Adoptions are up 30 percent -- and welfare rolls have been cut in half to their lowest levels in 30 years.

These are good times. But we all know that they didn't happen by accident. The biggest mistake we can make in this time of unprecedented peace and prosperity is to be lulled into complacency. There is important work to be done this year. And there is no better time to do it than now.

Take Long Look Ahead:

Unfinished Business: **PBOR; Sensible gun legislation; Hate crimes legis; Strengthen Social Security, Modernize Medicare (prescrip drug; \$400B/2025); Raise min wage.**

Strengthen Families

Child care; PBOR; FMLA -- extend 10M; Equal Pay. Fatherhood (child suppt). CHIP (2 M) -- now parents. Medicare buy-in (55-65). LTC (\$1K-\$3K)

21st Century Economy

Technology -- transforming our economy. New Markets--invest. rural/inner-city/Nat-Am. EITC. Digital divide. Expand Trade -- freer & fairer trade. IDAs.

21st Century Schools – begin ready learn/ graduate ready succeed

Universal pre-school. Double Head Start. 100K new tchrs. School modern (6K). Summer school & after school. Turn around failing schools; Trained teachers. College opp: HOPE, Pell, work-study. \$30B college oppt tax cut. Computers in Classrooms. Gear-Up. Charter schools.

America – Safest Big Country in World.

100K cops. 50K more. Guns: Brady. Gun licensing. Enforcement. Drug testing prisoners/parolees. Voluntary Ratings.

Protect Enviro (and Grow econ). Lands Legacy endowment; Livability (open spaces, advanced transit system). Global Warming.

Science and Technology. Genome. Internet (50 -- 5B websites) \$3B incr. 21st C. Research Fund. Medical & financial privacy.

Globalization. WTO/China: Protect enviro/child labor. Peace Mid East, Ireland.

One America- AmeriCorps. Philanthropy. Hate Crimes/ENDA. 99% same.

We got here because of our commitment to fiscal discipline, our investments in our people and a strategy of opening new markets for American products and services. We have built a new consensus which recognizes that government does not have all the answers -- but also that we cannot leave people to sink or swim. So, the question now facing our party and our country is not “do we need change?” But: “~~How~~ are we going to continue to change?”

Are we going to continue to build on the good things that are happening in America-- to face the unmet challenges of the 21st Century? Are we going to seize this historic opportunity -- and build the future of our dreams for our children? Or, will we go back to the old approach of

we will
the 1980s that brought us soaring deficits, rising unemployment and stagnant wages? My vote is for the party of Jefferson and Roosevelt, the party of the 21st Century: the Democratic Party.

That's why it's so important that we fight for the thirteen governor seats up next fall – and the 36 up in 2002. With your help, continue to lead our country into the new millennium, building on *our* ~~this~~ progress, bringing the hope of an even brighter future to all our children.

and

EF

Presidential Remarks: Democratic Governors
Association (DGA), National Building
Museum, D.C., Feb 22 99

29547655
SP1334

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

2-22-99

'99 FEB 19 PM 5:29

DGA Dinner, Washington DC 2/22/99

Ack: DGA Chair Gov. O'Bannon & Judy
O'Bannon; Gov. Romer (DNC Chair); DGA
Vice-Chair Gov. Patton and Judi Patton
(Patton only Dem Gov up for re-election in
'99); Katie Whelen (DGA Exec Dir);
Jennifer Rokala (DGA Ntl. Fin Chr); Mark
Winer (DGA Treas.); Minyon Moore (Dir.
Pol Aff); Mickey Ibarra (Dir. IGA).

• Good evening, and thank you for joining us
tonight.

• When Rutherford B. Hayes was the
Governor of Ohio, he described his position
this way, "Not too much hard work, plenty
of time to read, good society, etcetera."

Shortly after he became President, he wrote
in his diary, "I am heartedly tired of this life
of bondage, responsibility, and toil." It sort
of makes you wonder why a Republican
governor would want to be president, doesn't
it?

• All kidding aside, you know that I have
been deeply indebted to my own experience
as a governor and to the Democratic
Governors for many of the ideas that we
have brought to bear over the last seven
years.

Quite sadly ->

COPY

ack - gov after retiring

-> 13
34 in 2002
13 in 2000
she didn't see at
gov seats. one of

✓ 76 IT not an
impt
year

How
many

4 7 Dem Gov
x 6 more Dem
for 100
we have
as
talk back
we
not

DGA -
Andrew
Mand
call

cut from 25% to 10%

• **21st Century Schools** THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

Class Size--100K new tchrs. School 2-3-99

modernization. Computers in Classrooms.

Now, Education Accountability Act: Social Promotion/after school (3x); turn round failing schools; trained teachers; discipline; parent accountability.

• **Strengthen Families**

Child care \$2B; PBOR; FMLA -- extend

10M; Equal Pay for Equal Work

cut from 25% to 10%

• **21st Century Economy**

New Markets -- \$15B jobs in inner-cities

Expand Trade -- freer & fairer trade

-- Trade Agreements
-- Globalization -- WTO -- IMF

• **Crime Bill II**

Guns: Brady => juveniles; restore 5day wait
50K+ police; drug testing prisoners/parolees

• **Enviro livability/lands legacy**

-- Global Warming

• **One America** - AmeriCorps, CFR, ENDA

-- See 21st Century

Kellogg - Bos

Gr - TWA
Lus - Bos
NE
WV
A-TH

British part 8 net

-- ALM common history
-- Foreign CPA
-- Service Bus
-- 15-100-ENR
-- 15-100-ENR

Choc 20% -- Pr of J-7-For 10-100

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

~~• 1992: New Dir, old values, op, resp, com~~
~~• 1992: New Dir, old values, op, resp, com~~

• **Results:** \$290B def⇒\$70B surp. Longst peacetime exp, unempl lwst/1957. 30 yr crime, 30-Welf (cut in ½); 32-Infl; record home ownership. College opp: HOPE, Pell, work-study. Child health: 5M, highest immun ~~Ca, 5M, 3.5~~

America working again. But can't let prosperity lull us into complacency. Meet responsibility to 21st Century.

Ask Gov's to Join in Great Debate: to
make sure we don't squander our historic opportunity -- and making saving Social Security and Medicare, and pay down the debt our 1st priority.

• **Aging of 21st C America**

Save Social Security Now - 62% surplus/15 yrs (2055); work towards 75 yrs (2075)

Medicare 15%⇒2020. Reform/prescr drugs

USA Accounts 12% surpl for tax relief

Pay Down Debt - cut debt 2/3, lowest level publicly held debt since 1917

Targeted Tax Cuts - Long term, child care

Final 9/24/99 9:30am
Josh Gottheimer

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR DNC FALL MEETING
WASHINGTON, DC
September 24, 1999

Ack: Rep. Sanchez, Gov. Romer, Mayor Rendell,
Mayor Archer, Joe Andrew, Andy Tobias, Beth Dozoretz
and all the vice chairs and officers of the party.

When I first ran for President, back in 1991, I called for change: “Change in our party, change in our national leadership, and change in our country.” And today, I can say with some satisfaction that we have accomplished all three. The ideas of the men and women here today, your practical solutions and plans for progress, have revitalized the Democratic Party.

Al Gore and I said that government had to be trimmed and reinvented if it was ever going to function as it does best – as a catalyst – and as an active partner to the private sector in creating opportunity, jobs, and hope.

And we said that citizens had to take a more active role in serving our communities, in shaping our nation.

We took on the hard work of creating real solutions, a task far tougher and greater than creating a palatable agenda for public consumption. We worked hard to wed politics and policy, and put both to the service of progress. That is the ambition that has long animated the Democratic Party.

As the Vice President used to say out on the campaign trail, what should be up was down, and what should be down was up.

Because of the policies the Vice President and I have pursued and the hard work of the American people, our country has made a seismic shift. We put a strategy in place – and the American people have created more than 19 million new jobs, rising wages, the longest peacetime expansion in history, the highest home ownership rate ever recorded, a 30 year-low in unemployment, a 32-year low in the welfare rolls, and 26 year-low in the crime rate.

And by balancing the budget for the first time in a generation, we have changed red ink into black – turning a budget deficit of \$290 million into a budget surplus of \$99 billion this year, with growing surpluses projected for years to come.

The progress we have made is something the American people see every day – in higher paychecks; in the HOPE Scholarships that help send their children to college; in lower interest rates for owning a home and for buying a car. This is the right course for our people. It is making a difference in their lives. And they want us to continue it.

Our approach reflects a new consensus on the proper role of government that is emerging across America. It is a consensus which recognizes that government does not have all the answers, but also that we cannot leave people to sink or swim.

Now, we face a critical choice: whether to move forward with the fiscal discipline that got us here, or return to the budget-bust that brought us recessions and deficits. We must decide whether to invest the surplus to strengthen America in the long term, or to squander it in the short term.

I think the right course is clear. Vice President Gore and I have proposed a balanced budget that puts first things first. You know the elements of our plan: Using the bulk of the surplus to save Social Security. Substantial tax relief, \$250 billion worth targeted to help families save for retirement, and other cuts targeted to help pay for child care and long-term care. A responsible, detailed plan to strengthen and modernize Medicare – using the surplus and cutting costs to secure solvency, providing preventive care and help for prescription drugs.

We must maintain our fiscal discipline. We must continue to invest in our people.

If we do these things, we can lift the burden of debt from the shoulders of the next generation; secure the future of Social Security and Medicare; and ensure a first-rate education and modern schools for our children.

Yesterday, I vetoed the tax bill that Congress sent me, which would have denied us these opportunities. It would have forced drastic cuts in education, health care, and other vital areas. It would have crippled our ability to pay down the debt, save Social Security, and secure and modernize Medicare. I vetoed this bill because it was wrong for Medicare, wrong for Social Security, wrong for education, and wrong for the economy. The American people deserve better.

I have asked Congress not to go home until they have worked with us – in a good-faith effort – to meet these long-term fiscal challenges.

While I was vetoing their bloated tax bill, the Republicans were busy vetoing our future. Yesterday, they passed a bill that would not only seriously undermine our efforts to strengthen public education – but would also spend the Social Security surplus. The bill eliminates our effort to hire quality teachers, to reduce class size, undercuts our efforts to improve and expand Head Start, eliminates the GEAR UP and America Reads programs and cuts educational technology.

What we talk about what it means to be a Democrat, we know it means making education our highest priority. By their actions yesterday, the Republicans have made it their lowest priority.

But our progress must not end with the priorities outlined in our budget. There's still plenty of other work to do. We must keep fighting for the issues vital to so many Americans – issues the Vice President and I have been proud to champion: Protecting the 160 million Americans who rely on managed care with a strong, enforceable patients' bill of rights.

Investing in the education that our children deserve by building new schools, fixing old ones, and hiring 100,000 well prepared teachers. Passing a common-sense juvenile crime bill to prevent youth violence and keep guns out of the wrong hands. Raising minimum wage to reward to the responsibility and dignity of work. Protecting our environment, making it safer and cleaner for future generations. And passing a hate crimes bill that expands protections and removes barriers in our fight against violent acts of bigotry.

But even in this time of unprecedented prosperity, we know there are too many places and too many people that have been left behind.

As Democrats, we know that none of us are secure until all of us are secure. That is why the Vice President and I have fought so hard for our empowerment agenda – to give a hand up to those who through no fault of their own, have not felt the benefits of our economic recovery. We know that America’s future is strengthened by such efforts as EITC, Empowerment Zones, and our New Markets Initiative – which will give businesspeople the same incentives to invest in emerging markets in America as we give them to invest in emerging markets overseas. We need to challenge Congress to support and strengthen these vital priorities.

So, the question facing our party now is not “do we need change?” The question is: “how are we going to change?” Are we going to build on the good things that are happening in America now – to face the unmet challenges of the country in the 21st Century? Or, will we go back to the old approach that brought us soaring deficits, rising unemployment, and stagnant wages?

My vote is for the party of Jefferson and Roosevelt, the party of the 21st Century: the Democratic Party. With your help, I know that we can continue to lead our country into the next millennium.

Final 02/28/00 1:20pm
Edmonds/Gottheimer

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATEMENT ON BUELL SHOOTING
WEST PALM BEACH, FL
FEBRUARY 28, 2000

Hillary and I were deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the fatal shooting of a first-grader allegedly by a classmate at Buell Elementary School today near Flint, Michigan. I believe I speak for all Americans in sending our thoughts and prayers to the young victim's family, the other students at Buell, and the entire Mount Morris township community.

But let me say: If America needed another wake-up call about the need for common sense gun safety legislation, this is it. While the details are still unfolding, we simply must not accept these incidents, which occur way too often in our communities and in our schools.

Again, I say to the Congress, we have an obligation to our children to take action now.

When guns can kill a little girl who was just beginning to live something is deeply wrong and we have a moral obligation to set it right. Let's not wait for another tragedy to happen.

#