

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

October 15, 1998.

CITE: 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2059**LENGTH:** 1264 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on the **Budget Agreement** and an Exchange With Reporters**BODY:**

The President. Thank you very much. First of all, I would like to echo much of what has been said. I want to thank the members of our negotiating team. Erskine Bowles' swan song turned out to be quite a show, and I thank him for everything he's done, for me and for our country, but especially for these last 8 days. I thank John Podesta and Maria Echaveste, Jack Lew, Sylvia Matthews, the entire economic team that are back here.

I also want to make it clear that none of this could have been done, in my view, not a bit of it, if we hadn't had a strong, united front from the members of our party in both Houses, led by Tom Daschle and Dick Gephardt, who believe passionately in what we were fighting for for the American people.

And finally, let me say I would like to thank the leaders of the Republican Party who made these agreements with us. And I ask you, as I make my remarks about what I think was most important about them, just think -- we didn't even start this work until after the whole budget year was over. Just think what we could do for America if we had these priorities all year long instead of just for 8 days. And I just can't tell you how grateful I am for these achievements.

Let me give you my perspective. First of all, in terms of the priorities I set forth in the State of the Union Address last January, we did save the surplus for the hard work of Social Security reform early next year. Secondly, we made major strides in renewing our public schools, especially with the truly historic commitment of 100,000 new teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. And thirdly, we made a profound commitment to strengthening our own economy here by assuming our responsibility to stabilize the global economy on which so much of our prosperity depends. Now without the perseverance of the people behind me and those whom they represent, none of that could have happened.

Let's look at the education issues. One hundred thousand new teachers will enable us to reduce class size in the early grades to an average of 18. Over here at this school violence conference that we sponsored all day, one of the things they kept hammering home, all these educators, was we can find the troubled children; we can prevent a lot of these problems if we can have them in small enough classes in the early grades.

We achieved full funding for other important educational initiatives, from child literacy to college mentoring, from after-school programs to summer jobs. We did meet our obligations to the International Monetary Fund. And we honored our obligations to the next generation by strongly protecting the environment, and I'd just like to mention three things: One, we got rid of the most objectionable environmental riders; two, we had a full funding of our clean water initiative, which is very important -- remember, 40 percent of our lakes and rivers are still not clean enough for our people to swim in them -- and three, as the Vice President said, we received a substantial increase to meet our responsibilities in the area of global climate change. So that's very important.

But let me say that in many ways I am most proud of the decision that this budget reflects not to squander the surplus until we meet our responsibilities to reform Social Security for the 21st century.

Yes, there were some disappointments. I wished that we had passed the school rehabilitation and construction proposal. We have to have school facilities so that we can have those smaller classes. And yes, I wish we'd passed the Patients Bills of Rights and campaign finance reform and the tobacco reform legislation and the minimum wage. But we can now go out and have a great national debate about that. The important thing that we have to recognize is that these hard-fought battles and major accomplishments represent, finally, in 8 days what we did not have for 8 months.

We were able to put the progress of the country ahead of partisanship. We were able to put people ahead of politics. And today every American can take a great deal of pride in knowing that we are going to save Social Security, that we are going to have 100,000 teachers, that we are going to continue to move forward on the environment, and that now we are free here in this administration to keep our economy going by meeting our responsibilities to deal with the global economic challenges.

This is a very, very good day for America. And I thank all the people behind me for everything they did to bring it about.

Thank you.

Legislative Agenda for Education

Q. Mr. President, you rattled off a list of many of your priorities which this Congress did not give you, priorities from your State of the Union Address. Why did you -- and all of you, perhaps -- specifically decide to hold the line on the education issue, on the idea of more funding for education, et cetera? Did you think that would have the most resonance with the voters?

The President. Well, no, it's what we believed in. We got the entire education program except for three things. First of all, the huge funding increases for education. But they were properly targeted. This 100,000 teachers -- this is truly historic. The United States -- this is the educational equivalent of what we did when we put 100,000 police on the street. And I will remind you that we now have the lowest crime rate in 25 years. We have never done that before. And we had the same partisan argument then. We were told that it wouldn't work, that it was interference in local government, even though all the police chiefs of the country were screaming, "Give it to us." Now we were told the same thing here.

This is an historic commitment by the United States to put 100,000 teachers out there for smaller classes in the early grades. That, plus the historic commitment we made to after-school and summer school programs, plus the continued funding to hook up all the classrooms to the Internet by the year 2000 -- these things are truly historic.

Now, I wish we had been able to persuade the Republican majority to give us the school construction and rehabilitation proposal because we need modern facilities, and that proposal is a paid-for-tax cut in the balanced budget that would enable us to build or rehabilitate 5,000 schools. I think that's important. I still think we ought to be a nation which says we should have high standards, and I wish we had had an explicit proposal on that. And I believe in the empowerment educational opportunity zones to reward schools that end social promotion and fund more after-school and summer school programs.

Now, those are three things that I would like to have. But we can debate those and work for those in the election. We have differences of opinions, and they have more Members than we do. They're against the Patients' Bill of Rights, and we're for it. They were against reforming -- passing the tobacco reform legislation and against the campaign finance reform. But when you compare where we were for 8 months with where we are today, and how good this is for America, that the things that I talked about in the State of the Union in education, in the environment, in the international economy, and saving Social Security, these are huge victories for the American people.

We did the best we could, and I think the best we did by staying together was very good, indeed.

And I think the American people will believe so, too.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. in the South Lawn at the White House.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

November 18, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2397**LENGTH:** 1530 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on the **Budget Agreement** and an Exchange With Reporters in Istanbul**BODY:**

The President. I am very pleased that our administration and the Congress have reached agreement on the first budget of the 21st century. This budget is a victory, and a hard-won victory, for the American people. It is a victory for our children who now will have better education; a victory for our families who deserve the safer streets and cleaner environment this budget will bring; a victory for farmers, for veterans, for our soldiers in uniform. It is a victory for all who agree that America should meet our responsibilities and maintain our leadership in the world. Simply put, it's a budget that meets our priorities, supports our values, and invests in our future.

The budget makes progress on several important fronts. The first budget of the 21st century puts education first, as it should. That's why I stood firm for our commitment to hire 100,000 highly qualified teachers to lower class size in the early grades. I am pleased that Congress is going to fulfill that promise, and I am also pleased that this budget doubles funds for after-school and summer school programs and supports greater accountability for results by helping communities turn around or shut down failing schools.

The budget makes America a safer place. It invests in our COPS program, which already has funded 100,000 community police officers for our streets and helped to give us the lowest crime rate in 25 years. This agreement will help to hire up to 50,000 more community police officers targeted to neighborhoods where crime rates are still too high.

It strengthens our efforts to preserve natural areas and protect our environment. I am very pleased we successfully opposed anti-environmental riders that put special interests above the national interest.

The budget will also make it possible for millions of Americans with disabilities to join the work force without fear of losing their health care, a terrific advance in the quality of our national life.

Finally, this budget strengthens America's role of leadership in the world by paying our dues and arrears to the United Nations, by meeting our commitments to the Middle East peace process, by making critical investments in debt relief for the poorest countries of the world, by funding efforts to safeguard nuclear weapons and expertise in Russia.

When I insisted that Congress keep working until it finished the job, I hoped and believed we could make progress in all these areas. I believe we can maintain our fiscal discipline, continue to pay down our national debt, and still make the investments we must in our people and our future. That is what we have achieved, and we have done so by working together.

I want to thank the leaders of both parties for their roles in this agreement, and I want to say a special word of thanks to the Democratic leaders and the members of my party in both Houses without whom my struggle for 100,000 teachers, 50,000 police, greater investments in the environment, and paying our U.N. dues could simply not have succeeded. I thank them very much.

Q. Mr. President --

The President. Now, let me just say one other thing, then I'll answer the questions. We are about to start the holiday season, and then we'll begin again. And in the months ahead, I think we have to stay focused on the critical business of this Nation that is still undone, from commonsense gun safety legislation to meaningful hate crimes legislation, from a real raise in the minimum wage to a real Patients' Bill of Rights, from strengthening Social Security to modernizing Medicare and adding a prescription drug benefit. I urge Congress to work with me in meeting these goals in the same bipartisan spirit it took to reach this very important budget agreement.

Thank you.

Across-the-Board Budget Cut

Q. Mr. President, just a week ago, when the Republicans were calling for an across-the-board budget cut of about a half a percent, just a tenth of a percent more than the one that you accepted, you said that it was unacceptable. What makes this one acceptable, sir, and would the budget as the Republicans have written it still, in your opinion, dip into the Social Security surplus?

The President. Well, first of all, when I remember saying it was unacceptable, they were advocating a one percent across the board which some thought would have to be 6 percent to avoid getting in the Social Security Trust Fund. This one is, I think, about a third, a little more than a third of what their last offer was on one percent.

It also is written in such a way as to preserve the management flexibility of the departments so that we can fulfill the mission. Let me give you just one example. When the Pentagon -- do you remember when the one percent across-the-board proposal was made and the Pentagon said, "Gosh, we may have to lay off 38,000 uniform and non-uniform personnel" -- that was on the assumption that they would have to take the across-the-board dollar amount but fulfill every mandate Congress had imposed in the defense budget.

And so now they've given the Secretaries some flexibility so that we can maintain the core responsibilities of Government. Furthermore, we now have agreements in education and in the environment and in other areas which have raised the investment level to such a point that we can take that across-the-board cut, still have a real increase, still be moving forward. So I think we're in a very different environment than we were just a few days ago, and I'm quite pleased by this.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Chechnya

Q. Mr. President, President Yeltsin was pretty tough in defending his military actions in Chechnya and saying that he was going to deal with bandits and terrorists. In your private meeting, was he just as frank? I mean, could you describe the talk and tell us what happened?

The President. Yes. He was very vigorous, and so was I; and you know, we've met together many times. We have a very good personal chemistry, but it didn't stop us from our clear disagreement here.

I would never criticize anyone taking vigorous action against terrorism. I think that's very important. The real question is whether or not the nature of this uprising in Chechnya can be solved exclusively by a military strategy. And I think you could see -- you can sense in this audience -- it's not just the United States; it's virtually all the Europeans don't believe that an exclusively military strategy can prevail, that it will lead to greater than necessary civilian casualties and greater than necessary refugees.

So I can only tell you that he stated his position. I stated mine. But I urged them to try to listen to Russia's friends at this conference and try to find a way that we could work together and move this thing forward. And I am hopeful that you will see some progress here before we leave. I can't say for sure that you will. I hope you will.

Q. Mr. President, you made some conciliatory remarks during your speech. Does that reflect the feeling that maybe you've pushed him as far as you can rhetorically and through any kind of action the Government can take?

The President. I don't know. Everybody else here thought that I was pretty aggressive.

Q. Well, you referred to standing up to the tanks and so forth.

The President. But the point I was trying to make here -- let me just say there are two separate issues here. One is -- and I think this is worth taking a second. There are two separate issues here. One is President Yeltsin's view that what they're doing is right in Chechnya and the differences of opinion we have. The second is the general Russian view with which I take very strong exception that no one should, in effect, comment on or interfere with any internal affair of any other nation. And you heard him refer to American-led NATO aggression in the Balkans.

And so I responded very vigorously about Bosnia, about Kosovo. And the point I made was, when I was very personally complimentary of him is, when he stood up on that tank to save Russian democracy, suppose he hadn't prevailed. Suppose the Russian military had taken him down off the tank, thrown him in jail, and announced they were going to execute him.

I would hope that the entire world represented around that table, that OSCE table today, would have gone into an absolute up-roar of outrage about it and would have saved his life and helped to restore democracy. That's the point I was trying to make, that there are times in the world we live in today when we are forced to make judgments about things that happen within the borders of other countries because they have an impact beyond their borders and because they violate internationally accepted norms of human rights. That's what happened in Bosnia; that's what happened in Kosovo. I think I did the right thing. And I hope it registered on the Russians, and I hope we're going to make some progress. I think we are.

I'll see you all some more in the next day or two, but I've got to go to this lunch.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. at the Ciragan Palace.

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We've also invested in our people with targeted tax relief, to help Americans meet the challenges of work and child rearing. Last year alone, our HOPE Scholarship and Lifelong Learning tax credits helped 10 million families pay for college. Our earned income tax credit helped 15 million families work their way into the middle class. And 25 million families will get \$500 child tax credit. The typical American family today is paying a lower share of its income in federal income taxes than at any time during the past 35 years.

Every year since 1993, we have increased funding for long-term research and development—investments that lead to more economic growth, high-wage jobs, cures for diseases, and a cleaner environment. Funding for the National Institute of Health, for instance, has nearly doubled over the past seven years.

Meanwhile, we have continued to make important investments in our nation's communities. Our empowerment zone tax credits are bringing new business and new jobs to our hardest pressed communities -- from the inner cities to Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta to our Native American reservations. With the help of 100,000 new community police officers and common-sense measures like the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban, to keep guns out of the wrong hands, crime is at a 25 year low. Under the Children's Health Insurance Program, 2 million previously uninsured children now have health coverage.

Third, our strategy has focused on opening markets around the globe. Today, with over tk new trade agreements, including the North America Free Trade Agreement and the Uruguay Round agreements, American workers and firms are competing in more markets around the world than ever before, and our economy is stronger for it.

CONTINUING OUR ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Last year, we took important new actions to secure our economic future, guided by the same three-part strategy. We normalized trade with China, a move that will open China's markets to American products from wheat to cars to consulting services, and ensure that our companies will be more able to sell goods without moving factories or investments there. Congress also passed, and I signed, a 2001 budget that maintains our commitment to fiscal discipline. Under this new budget, will repay tk billion in debt this year alone. And if we stay on this path, we can make America debt-free by 20tk for the first time since Andy Jackson was President in 1835, thereby keeping interest rates low and prosperity going.

The 2001 budget also continues our strategy of investing in our people. It includes the largest-ever increase in funding for the National Science Foundation and major increases in funding for education. With over \$900 million dedicated to school renovation, thousands of local school districts will finally be able to give our children the classrooms they deserve. We've increased by 25 percent funding to meet our goal of hiring 100,000 new, highly-qualified teachers to reduce class size. We've nearly doubled funding for after-school programs to help more than 1.3 million students, while increasing support for teacher training, and for turning around failing schools. And to open the doors of college even wider -- so that more of our young people can walk through them -- we have increased the maximum Pell Grant to an all-time high of \$3,750 -- up nearly \$1,500 since 1993.

The new budget also includes our historic New Markets and Renewal Communities Initiative, the most significant effort ever to help hard-pressed communities lift themselves up through entrepreneurship and access to new capital. With our New Markets tax credit, 40 strengthened empowerment zones, and 40 renewal communities, this initiative will spur billions in private investment in communities that have not yet shared in our great economic revival.

This is a unique moment in U.S. history, a time of unrivaled prosperity and progress, with few internal crises or external threats. We have the responsibility to use our good fortune wisely. If we maintain our current economic strategy, we can sustain our prosperity, expand the circle of opportunity, meet the long-term challenges of this new century, and provide our children the chance to live their dreams.

THE WHITE HOUSE
JANUARY 12, 2001

We have also secured an extra \$817 million to help working families afford child care and meet their responsibilities at home and at work. These and other child care resources will serve over 2.2 million children next year.

To expand the circle of economic opportunity in our hardest-pressed communities, this budget includes funding for our New Markets Initiative – a catalyst for billions of dollars in private investment in communities that have not yet shared in our great economic revival. From the streets of our central cities, to the hills of Appalachia, to the rugged vistas of our Native American reservations, we need to give people the tools of opportunity, so they can make the most of their potential. That means giving businesses strong incentives to invest in our hardest-pressed communities. This is the right thing to do, and the smart thing to do, to keep our economy growing.

This budget deal also includes vital investments in our children and their education. With over \$900 million dedicated to school renovation, thousands of local school districts will finally be able to give our children the classrooms they deserve. We've increased funding by 25 percent to stay on track to hire 100,000 new teachers to reduce class size. We've nearly doubled funding for after-school programs to help more than 1.3 million students, while increasing support for teacher training, and turning around failing schools. And to open the doors of college even wider – so that more of our young people can walk through them – we have increased the maximum Pell Grant to an all-time high of \$3,750 – up nearly \$1,500 since 1993.

If we keep investing in our people and creating opportunities, if we continue to honor and reward work, America's possibilities are truly without limit. By reaching out and working together, I am confident that America's best days still lie ahead.

Thanks for listening.

Draft 12/15/00 5:30pm
Josh Gottheimer/ Paul Glastris

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATEMENT ON BUDGET AGREEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
December 15, 2000

After a long period of negotiation, Congress and I have agreed on a budget for the coming year that is fiscally disciplined and makes the right investments for our nation's future.

First and foremost, this budget caps eight years of commitment to education with dramatic new investment in our nation's schools. This includes an historic \$900 million initiative to help renovate classrooms in thousands of school districts across the country. It includes the largest ever increases in funding for Head Start and the Pell Grant program. It nearly doubles funding for after school programs. It increases by 25 percent funding to meet our goal of hiring 100,000 new, highly-qualified teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. It dramatically expands our GEAR UP and TRIO programs to prepare young people for college. And it boosts accountability with more funding for teaching training and turning around failing schools. With this budget, we have now increased funding for the Department of Education by 76 percent since 1993 -- leaving our children better equipped to learn and succeed in the 21st Century.

Second, in this budget, we're also passing our historic new markets and community renewal initiative -- the most significant effort ever to help hard-pressed communities lift themselves up through private investment and entrepreneurship. With the help of our New Markets tax credit, 40 strengthened empowerment zones and 40 renewal communities, this initiative will spur billions of dollars in private investment to communities that have not yet shared in our nation's great economic revival.

Third, this budget reaffirms our longstanding commitment to expand access to quality health care for all Americans. It includes a multi-billion dollar effort to provide low-income children, seniors, and those leaving welfare for work, with health care coverage. It expands preventive benefits like cancer and glaucoma screenings for Medicare beneficiaries. It ensures quality health care services for those beneficiaries by investing more than \$30 billion in hospitals, home health agencies, hospices, nursing homes, and managed care plans. It will help families caring for aging and ill relatives with essential support services, such as adult day care. It includes a new program to provide people with disabilities with home health services. It increases funding for AIDS prevention, research, and treatment at home and abroad. It boosts support for graduate medical education at children's hospitals, and for food safety efforts. It includes new efforts to improve nursing home quality, and a down-payment to eliminate racial health disparities. And, the budget agreement includes a historic \$20.3 billion investment in biomedical research, nearly doubling our investment in the National Institutes Health.

Finally, this budget will allow nearly 400,000 immigrants who have worked, lived, and

paid taxes in America for years, to stay in the United States legally without fear of being separated from their families.

Every year since 1993, I have worked with Congress to craft fiscally responsible budgets that are true to our values and that invest in the capacity of the American people to seize the new opportunities of the 21st Century. This year's budget does the same – by continuing to pay down the debt, and invest in education, research, health care and other priorities. I am confident that this budget will help keep our progress strong and our prosperity going in the years ahead.

Together, we'll have a bipartisan foreign policy true to our values and true to our friends. And we will have a military equal to every challenge, and superior to every adversary.

Together, we will address some of society's deepest problems one person at a time, by encouraging and empowering the good hearts and good works of the American people. This is the essence of compassionate conservatism, and it will be a foundation of my administration.

These priorities are not merely Republican concerns or Democratic concerns, these are American responsibilities.

During the fall campaign, we differed about details of these proposals - but there was remarkable consensus about the important issues before us: excellent schools, retirement and health security, tax relief, a strong military, a more civil society.

We've discussed our differences; now it is time to find common ground and build consensus to make America a beacon of opportunity in the 21st century.

I'm optimistic this can happen. Our future demands it, and our history proves it. Two hundred years ago, in the election of 1800, America faced another close presidential election. A tie in the Electoral College put the outcome into the hands of Congress.

After six days of voting, and 36 ballots, the House of Representatives elected Thomas Jefferson the third president of the United States. That election brought the first transfer of power from one party to another in our new democracy.

Shortly after the election, Jefferson, in a letter titled reconciliation and reform, wrote this: "the steady character of our countrymen is a rock to which we may safely moor...Unequivocal in principle, reasonable in manner, we shall be able I hope to do a great deal of good to the cause of freedom and harmony."

Two hundred years have only strengthened the steady character of America. And so as we begin the work of healing our nation, tonight I call upon that character. Respect for each other. Respect for our differences. Generosity of spirit. And a willingness to work hard and work together to solve any problem. I have something else to ask of you, I ask every American. I ask for you to pray for this great nation. I ask your prayers for leaders from both parties.

I thank you for your prayers for me and my family, and I ask you to pray for Vice President Gore and his family. I have faith that with God's help we as a nation will move forward together, as one nation, indivisible. And together we will create an America that is open, so every citizen has access to the American dream.

An America that is educated, so every child has the keys to realize that dream. And an America that is united in our diversity and our shared American values that are larger than **race** or party.

I was not elected to serve one party, but to serve one nation. The President of the United States is the president of every single American, of every **race** and every background. Whether you voted for me or not, I will do my best to serve your interests, and I will work to earn your respect.

I will be guided by President Jefferson's sense of purpose: to stand for principle, to be reasonable in manner, and, above all, to do great good for the cause of freedom and harmony.

The presidency is more than an honor, it is more than an office. It is a charge to keep, and I will give it my all. Thank you very much, and God bless America.

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October 16, 1998

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Good morning. Please be seated. I am delighted to be here with the Vice President and Senator Daschle, Congressman Gephardt, Mr. Bowles, who's got a great closing act here -- *[laughter]* -- the terrific representation from Congress and the administration, especially our economic team, and all of you.

Northern Ireland Recipients of Nobel Peace Prize

Before I make some remarks on the budget, I'd like to first say how very pleased I was, personally and as President, that the Nobel Prize Committee has awarded the courage and the people of Northern Ireland by giving the Nobel Peace Prize to John Hume and to David Trimble today. I am very grateful for that.

For 30 years, John Hume has been committed to achieving peace through negotiations, not confrontation and violence. He has been an inspiration to the nationalist community, to all the people of Northern Ireland and, indeed, all around the world. David Trimble, as Unionist leader, took up the challenge of peace with rare courage, negotiating and beginning to implement the Good Friday accord. Both have earned this award.

But I believe there are others, too, who deserve credit for their indispensable roles, beginning with Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, without whom there would have been no peace. Prime Minister Ahern, Prime Minister Blair, Mo Mowlam, their predecessors, without whom there would have been no peace. Other Irish leaders, like Seamus Mallon, and I would like to say a special word of thanks to Senator George Mitchell for his role in the peace talks. The American people appreciate the recognition the Nobel committee gave our Nation in the citation, and we thank all these people for their continuing work for peace.

Budget Agreement

This budget is pretty good. It puts our country back on a path to economic growth.

Yesterday our administration and the Democrats in Congress reached agreement with the Republican leadership on a fiscally responsible balanced budget that seizes this moment of prosperity and wisely invests it in the future. By standing together, we were able to achieve historic victories for the American people.

~~We fought for and won vital new investments, especially for our children. By hiring 100,000 new teachers, we will reduce class size in the early grades to an average of 18. We will enhance individual attention, increase student learning and, as we learned yesterday at the school violence conference, find more kids who are in trouble and need help early, and prevent more bad things from happening while more good things happen.~~

We're also making very important investments in child literacy, college mentoring, after-school programs, and summer jobs, all of them at risk until the people behind me stood firm and united. We fought for and won emergency relief for our hard-pressed farmers and ranchers who are suffering not only from the collapse of world markets but from crop diseases and drought and floods. And we fought for and won an impressive package to deal with this emergency only because the people

behind me were willing to sustain my veto of the first bill, and I thank them for that very much.

We fought for and won a substantial increase in funding for our clean water initiative to help restore the 40 percent of our lakes and rivers still too polluted for fishing and swimming. We won substantial increases in funding to head off the threat of global climate change which disrupted weather patterns in America -- have warned us about in the last couple of years. We fought for and won the ability to protect precious lands in America, and we struck down the worst of the anti-environmental provisions the Republicans had put into the budget bill because of the people who are standing behind me.

And we worked and worked and worked for 8 long months until, finally, we were able to persuade the Republican majority to join with us in funding America's responsibility to the International Monetary Fund so that we can protect the American economy and fulfill our responsibility to stabilize the global economy. It is a critically important thing to our future; it could not have happened if the people behind us hadn't stood strong and united for months and months.

Let me say, I am especially proud of the way we fought and won the right to reserve every penny of the surplus until we save Social Security first. Despite the efforts of the majority, particularly in the House of Representatives, to squander the surplus on election-year tax plans, we are still now well positioned to save Social Security. Although we can take justifiable pride in these accomplishments, let's not make any mistakes here. Eight days of progress cannot totally erase 8 months of partisanship.

We all know that in those 8 months of partisanship, too many dreams of too many families were deferred. The Republican majority is now leaving town to campaign, but they're also leaving a lot of America's business unfinished. Partisanship killed the Patients' Bill of Rights. Rest assured, as my first legislative priority, I will ask the next Congress to guarantee your right to see a specialist, to receive the nearest emergency care, to keep your doctor throughout your course of treatment, to keep your medical records private, to have medical decisions made by doctors, not insurance company accountants. That's unfinished business because of partisanship.

Partisanship killed our efforts to help students stuck in crumbled and overcrowded schoolrooms. We fought and fought and fought and won the right for the 100,000 teachers. Now we've got to fight to give the teachers someplace to teach and to give those smaller classes someplace to meet. This is a battle our children cannot afford to lose.

You know, I must say, of all the things that we disagreed with the Republicans on this year, this one mystified me the most. I would have thought they would like this program, not a Government spending program but a targeted tax cut, fully paid for in the balanced budget, that wouldn't take a dime from the surplus, wouldn't add an inch of redtape to the Government's rules, but would build or repair 5,000 schools. We were right to fight for it, and we ought to take it to the American people and ask them to put progress over partisanship.

Republican partisanship killed an increase in the minimum wage. You can't really raise a family on \$ 5.15 an hour anymore. If we value work and family, we ought to raise the minimum wage. You know, all those arguments against the minimum wage were wrong the last time we did it. We kept on growing, and unemployment now and inflation now are lower than they were the last time we raised it. Only partisanship killed it. I hope we can take that to the American people and come back here in January and raise the minimum wage.

And partisanship killed our best chance at bipartisan campaign finance reform. We had a handful of Republicans who did agree with us on this, but the majority was able to defeat us. Senator Daschle produced a unanimous vote from the Senate Democratic caucus -- absolutely unanimous -- but partisanship defeated us. It said yes to soft money, yes to the status quo, no to reform. The next Connally reform these outdated campaign finance laws, and people will do it who are here with me.

And finally, let me say that partisanship killed the comprehensive anti-tobacco legislation which would have saved millions of young Americans from painful and premature death. I still can't believe

-- I think about it every day -- I still can't believe that the tobacco interests were able to persuade the Congress, with the majority in Congress, to walk away from this. It don't have anything to do with the tobacco farmers; Senator Ford back there took care of that. *[Laughter]* This was about whether we were going to take appropriate action to save our children, and pure, old-fashioned partisanship killed it. The people behind me will save more of our children's lives when the voters give them a chance to do so next January. We're going to do that.

So let me say again, by way of thanks to all of them and to all of you who worked on this, we can be justifiably proud of the hard work and hard-won gains that this budget represents, of the 100,000 teachers, of the after-school programs, the saving the surplus for Social Security, of protecting the environment and advancing the cause of clean water, and a safer global environment, of keeping our economy going strong. But 8 days of progress cannot replace or make up for 8 months of partisanship, to protect our patients, to modernize our schools, to raise the minimum wage, to look out for the 21st century and reform Social Security and Medicare in the right way. We need a Congress that will put people before politics, progress ahead of partisanship.

I will always remember these last 8 days. I will always remember what our caucus, united, was able to achieve. And I will always be grateful to them for what they did for the American people. Thank you very much.

Now, I want to introduce the Vice President and the other leaders. Thank you very much.

[At this point, Vice President Al Gore, Senator Thomas A. Daschle, and Representative Richard A. Gephardt made brief remarks.]

The President. Let me say, as we close, how very grateful I am to all those who have spoken and those who have not spoken, those who are here and those who stood with us who are not here, for giving us a chance to, in the last 8 days, have some very important victories for the American people and, today, for giving us a chance to make it absolutely clear what is at stake in the next 2 years.

When we leave here, I am going to take a brief trip to Chicago to stand with Senator Carol Moseley-Braun. And I think it is worth pointing out today that she is the very first member of our caucus who stood up for the idea that the National Government had an opportunity and an obligation to do something to promote the building and the repair of school facilities for our children's future. I say that to make this point: Every one of us here, standing here, except Mr. Bowles, and he may be about to take the plunge -- *[laughter]* -- every one of us here is here because of the judgment of the American people. The jobs we hold are not our jobs in any fundamental sense; they belong to the American people.

And in 18 days, after a blizzard of advertisements -- probably 2 or 3 times as much from the Republican side as from ours, maybe even more when you count the third party committees and all that -- they will make a decision. The first decision they'll have to make is whether to go and vote in a midterm election, which always, always seems to have lower turnout than the presidential elections.

If we have accomplished nothing else here today, even when our voices reach those who disagree with us, who think we're making a mistake to put 100,000 teachers in the class-room, who think we're making a mistake to fight for a Patients' Bill of Rights or a rise in the minimum wage or better school facilities, if we have done nothing else, I hope we have reminded the American people that, in the end, every one of us gets to raise our voice, to cast our vote, to wield our sign-or-veto pen because of their judgments. And in 18 days, that will be given a chance to render another judgment.

Between now and then, they will have to sort their way through all the conflicting claims and the blizzard of advertisement. But I think that, in the end, many will agree that it is worth going to vote to ratify those who fought for 100,000 teachers and a clean environment and a strong American economy and an America playing a responsible role in the world economy. And perhaps most important of all, people who voted to save the surplus until we save Social Security and honor the

compact with generations and keep our country strong when the baby boomers retire.

In 18 days they'll have a chance not only to support those people but to say, "With my vote, I choose to go back and build world-class school facilities. I choose to say, 'yes, we're going to have managed care, but even people in managed care deserve the right to have medical decisions made by medical doctors, not accountants,' to choose to give people the minimum wage, to choose to save Social Security in the right way, to choose these things."

That's the message. I hope the American people know that the people standing behind me earned their pay the last 8 or 9 days. They were worth every penny of tax dollars they got. And they did it the last 8 months because they fought and waited and stood in storm after storm until the time came when they could stand up and do something right for America. And in 18 days I hope the voters of this country, the citizens, will exercise their power to say, "This is the path I choose." Staying home is not a very good option when so much is riding on a trip to the ballot box.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:36 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to John Hume, leader, Social Democratic and Labor Party, and David Trimble, First Minister, Northern Ireland Assembly, Nobel Peace Prize Laureates; Sinn Fein leader and Northern Ireland Assembly member Gerry Adams; Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland; Prime Minister Tony Blair and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Marjorie Mowlam of the United Kingdom; Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon of the Northern Ireland Assembly; and former Senator George J. Mitchell, who chaired the multiparty peace talks in Northern Ireland.

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Draft 12/14/00 8:55 p.m.
John Pollack

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON
WELFARE CASELOAD REDUCTIONS
AND BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS
THE WHITE HOUSE
December 16, 2000**

Good morning. This week, as I worked to conclude the last budget negotiations of my Presidency, I was reminded how far we have come these past eight years. We now live in a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity, but we didn't get here by accident. We made tough choices based on our core values of opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans. Today I want to talk about two elements critical to our continued success. First, our progress in moving people from welfare to work; and second, our commitment to fiscal discipline and a budget that puts people first.

Vice President Gore and I took office in 1993 with a pledge to "end welfare as we know it." Thanks to comprehensive welfare reform, a renewed sense of responsibility, and the strongest economy in a generation, millions of former welfare recipients now know the dignity of work.

Today, I am pleased to announce that – over the past eight years – we have cut our welfare caseload by more than 8 million people. Last year alone, 1.2 million parents on welfare went to work, determined to build better lives. Nationwide, welfare rolls have been cut by nearly 60 percent, and are now the lowest in more than three decades.

We have been able to sustain this progress year after year because government, the private sector and welfare recipients themselves have all done their part. Together, we are finally breaking the cycle of dependence that has long crippled the hopes of too many families.

When we enacted landmark welfare reform in 1996, I insisted that Congress provide incentives to reward states for helping people find and keep jobs. Today, I am pleased to announce that 28 states will receive \$200 million in bonuses for doing just that. These grants will enable states to help even more parents go to work and succeed on the job. I urge states to use these resources to provide necessary supports – from child care to transportation to training – that can make the critical difference between a welfare check and a paycheck.

We've also worked hard to help families leaving welfare meet the challenge of affordable health care. In the bipartisan budget package I will soon sign, we will extend Medicaid coverage so that thousands of parents who leave welfare can keep the health coverage protecting them and their children. This budget also includes funding to help cover more uninsured children, speed coverage for patients with Lou Gehrig's disease, and increase payments to hospitals, teaching facilities, home health agencies and nursing homes, in order to ensure quality health care.

spending what we don't have. We must not take our economic strength for granted. That's why it's critical we continue to pay down the debt, to keep inflation and interest rates low. That's why we should keep expanding trade, by opening markets abroad ... and, most importantly, keep investing in our people, by closing the skills gap with more training and better education.

Education is an important part of any strategy for economic growth; and in an information age, it's essential. If we want our children to compete in the high tech, high wage job market of the 21st Century, we must ensure they have the skills they need to succeed.

With this in mind, I've met twice this week with congressional leaders to make sure we pass an education budget that prepares our children for the future. When Congress left town last month, we had already reached an historic, bipartisan agreement on education. It would provide much-needed funding to reduce class size, repair crumbling schools, and improve teacher quality. It would also expand Head Start, after school programs, Pell Grants, and support students with disabilities.

We know these are the basic building blocks of a 21st Century workforce. I hope the Congress will keep its commitments to America's children – and pass a balanced budget that makes education the number one priority.

President Lyndon Johnson once said, "We must raise our sights ... to develop more completely our people's talents and to employ these talents fully." If we want to invest in the prosperity of our country, we must invest in the education of our children. Working together, we can complete this year's unfinished business, and prepare our nation to meet the challenges of the years to come.

Thanks for listening.

Message Sent To: _____

Patrick would like you to review this while in the meeting.



Patrick M. Dorton
12/15/2000 02:40:19 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Amy Mall/OPD/EOP@EOP, Sylvia M. Vellino/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: pls deliver to James so he can revise while in the meeting

POTUS on Budget Deal

I am pleased that after a long period of negotiation with Congress we have produced a budget **which addresses key priorities like education**, reflects our nation's values, and leaves us well prepared for the future.

{JAMES PLS EDIT THE EDUCATION SECTION - I assume we want to include GEAR UP at least}

^{only \$7450}
This final budget of my Administration caps our eight years of commitment to education and health with an overall boost in funding for these areas and significant increases in key initiatives. This education budget, which has grown by 18 per cent since last year, includes for the first time resources to help repair aging and crumbling schools, while building on my other priorities by hiring still more teachers to reduce class size, increasing the skills of our teachers, providing funds to help turn around failing schools and expanding after school learning opportunities. It opens the doors of college opportunity even further by setting the maximum Pell Grant college assistance award at a record level of \$3,750, an increase of \$1,500 since the start of my Administration. As I assess our record in education, I am proud of the fact that the budget for the Department of Education has increased by 76 percent during my eight years as President, leaving our children better equipped to learn and succeed both in school and beyond.

This budget also builds upon our commitment to health, with resources for the Department of Health and Human Services increasing this year by 22 per cent and by 90 per cent since I first took office. We have nearly doubled funding for cutting-edge medical research at the National Institutes of Health, research which promises to save many lives and revolutionize medical care. Among the accomplishments of my final health budget are funds to prevent and treat AIDS both at home and abroad, and a new initiative to help lift the burden from families who care for aging and ill relatives by helping provide essential support services. Provisions in this bill to address the financial strains on Medicare providers imposed by the Balanced Budget Act will ensure that high quality care remains available to all medicare beneficiaries, including those in rural areas. Finally it extends healthcare coverage to more

uninsured children, and expands preventative screening programs for seniors. ^

I am also pleased that today the historic New Markets and Renewal Communities Initiative will be enacted. The bipartisan New Markets Initiative represents the most significant effort ever to help hard-pressed communities lift themselves up through private investment and entrepreneurship. Through the New Markets tax credit, 40 strengthened empowerment zones and 40 renewal communities, this historic initiative will help spur billions of dollars in private investment to both rural and urban underserved communities across America. The New Markets Initiative truly represents a dramatic step toward ensuring that every American shares in our nation's unprecedented economic prosperity.

~~This budget will also help hundreds of thousands almost 400,000 immigrants~~

~~at~~ ^{social equity}
This budget also provides ~~some fairness~~ for almost 400,000 immigrants, ensuring ^{that} ~~that~~ those who have been here for years, working and paying taxes. No longer will they fear being separated from their families.

POTUS on Budget Deal

I am pleased that after a long period of negotiation with Congress we have produced a budget which addresses key priorities like education, reflects our nation's values, and leaves us well prepared for the future.

This final budget of my Administration caps our eight years of commitment to education and health with a true landmark budget. This education budget includes an 18 percent increase in resources, the most ever. It includes a new initiative to help repair aging and crumbling schools, while hiring more teachers to reduce class size, increasing the skills of our teachers, providing funds to help turn around failing schools and expanding after-school learning opportunities. It will expand college opportunity by increasing the maximum Pell Grant college scholarship to \$3,750; the \$450 increase is the largest since the program was fully implemented in 1974. It increases funding for GEAR UP and TRIO by a combined \$170 million. As I assess our record in education, I am proud of the fact that the budget for the Department of Education has increased by 76 percent during my eight years as President, leaving our children better equipped to learn and succeed both in school and beyond.

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