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About the DGA

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The Democratic Governors' Association (DGA) was founded in 1983 to support the candidacy of Democratic Governors throughout the nation. The DGA provides political and strategic assistance to Gubernatorial campaigns. In addition, the DGA plays an integral role in developing positions on key state and federal issues that effect the states through the Governors' Policy Forum Series.

The Democratic Governors' Association is an independent, voluntary political organization consisting of the Governors of the states and territories who are members of the Democratic Party.

In 1998 the Democratic Governors' Association is ~~chaired by Puerto Rico Governor Pedro Rosselló. Serving as Vice Chair is Governor Frank O'Bannon of Indiana.~~ Former Governors that have served as DGA Chair or as members of the Executive Committee include President Bill Clinton (Arkansas), Ambassador Jim Blanchard (Michigan), Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt (Arizona), Secretary of Education Richard Riley (South Carolina), Ambassador Madeline Kunin (New Hampshire), Governor Ray Mabus (Mississippi), and Governor Ann Richards (Texas).

Vice-Chair Paul Patton^{of} Kentucky Chair ~~Frank~~ Frank O'Bannon^{of} Indiana

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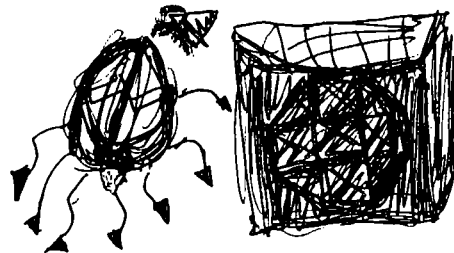
EXEC. COMMITTEE not named

DGA Dinner, Washington DC 2/23/98

Acknowledge: DGA Chair Gov. Rossello (Ro-SAY-oh) & Maga Rossello; DGA Vice Chair Gov. O'Bannon & Judy O'Bannon.
SEP 23 PM 12:19

- Good evening, and thank you for joining us tonight. I'd like to mention an issue that Gov. Rossello and I discussed a little earlier - the status of Puerto Rico.
- In the centennial year of Puerto Rico's acquisition by the United States, it is high time we respond to the aspirations of the 4 million U.S. citizens who live in Puerto Rico and allow them to determine their ultimate political status. They have local self-government, but their islands are not fully a part of our country and they do not have votes in their national government.
- There is bipartisan legislation in Congress to create a process for resolving this issue, a process that gives Puerto Ricans the power to vote on the long discussed options: statehood, commonwealth, or national sovereignty, be it independent or linked with the U.S.
- I'm disappointed that some people question the option of statehood because of Puerto Rico's Hispanic culture. But we made Puerto Ricans citizens, drafted them, and extended most laws to them. We should not now use their culture to bar Puerto Ricans from voting rights and responsibilities in our

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country if they want them.

- This issue is not just about Puerto Rico, it is about who we are as a country. We are one America, a nation that includes a multitude of cultures bound by common ideals. We should honor every one of them.

- **Less than 700 days to 21st Century, time to build America within reach, strengthen Nation for 21st Century:** Nearly 15M new jobs; Unemp 4.7% -- 24 yr low; core inflat. lowest in 30 yrs; crime ↘ 5 yrs in a row, welfare rolls 27 yr low; fam. income ↗ \$2,200; real wages ↗; mid. class taxes lowest in 20 yrs; record homeownership.

- **An Economy that offers Opportunity:** 1st Bal Bud 30 yrs; Save Soc. Sec. 1st; min wage. Edu: Last yr: you can go to college - - HOPE, Pell, Ed IRA's, loans. Now: Avg class size 18 with 100k new teachers; school modernization; standards, Ed Emp Zones, no social promotion. Trade: 1/3 growth, record exports; training dislocated; fast track; IMF.

- **A Society Rooted in Responsibility:** Hlth Care BOR, Medicare Buy-in. Tobacco; FMLA; Child Care: Quality, Safety, Affordability; Juv. Crime; drugs, welfare.

- **A Nation that lives by Community:** CFR/Free TV; IRS; Clean Water, food safety, climate change; One America.

- **The Future:** 21st Century Research Fund.

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Presidential Remarks: Democratic
Governors Association Dinner,
Ammi Shoreham, D.C.,
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But balancing budget is yesterday's legacy:

SEVEN CHALLENGES for future to seize promise of age of poss:

Cherish children, keep families together. Violence off television, parents have power to decide what children watch. V Chip victory. End tragedy of domestic violence. Say to all parents: sacred responsibility to love/raise/support child.

Provide all Americans w/education for new century. Renew schools, throw college doors open wider. Standards; Choice; Computers. College merit schol; 1M work study; right kind of tax cut: for tuition.

Help every American willing to work achieve economic security. Raise minimum wage, approaching 40-year low. Protect workers' pensions.

Access to health care, Kennedy-Kassebaum. GI Bill for workers.

Take streets back from crime/gangs/drugs. Crime finally declining.

Communities, police departments coming together to take back streets.

Crime Bill helping: 1/3 of 100,000. NH: deer season; must not repeal

Brady Bill, 44,000; assault weapons ban, 19. Now: more, especially for young. Break gangs like mob. Renew assault on drugs, home and abroad.

Leave environment safe and clean for next generation. Generation of bipartisan effort: air & water cleaner, children safer. Challenge

businesses: find cheaper ways to meet tougher standards. Strengthen citizens' right-to-know.

Maintain leadership fight for freedom and peace. Middle East to Northern Ireland, Haiti to Bosnia, America leading world toward peace.

Make democracy work: Shrink government, campaign fin. reform.

CONCLUSION

Challenges we face as we move into future: Stronger families. Better education. Access to health care. Safer streets. A cleaner environment.

Together, can do all these things. Meet any challenge, achieve any goal.

Need people like you: make sure American people know what we're doing, how high the stakes are. Critical year. Already done so much, but:

Accept one more challenge: Don't stop. This is a critical election.

Redouble your efforts. Make 1996 a great year for the Democratic party, and help America take the future by storm. Thank you, God bless you.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 23, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION DINNER

Washington Convention Center
Washington, D.C.

9:07 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for that wonderful, wonderful welcome. Thank you, Governor Rossello, for your remarks and your leadership. It's good to see you and Maga here. And let me say it's a great tribute to you and to Governor O'Bannon and Judy O'Bannon and the other governors here that this is the most successful DGA fundraisers in history. Thank you, and thank Katie Whalen and all the staff. You did a wonderful job tonight.

I'm delighted to be here with all the governors and a lot of former governors who came back to see me. We all had our pictures taken together -- ex-governors. And I began to think about that ex thing. I don't know how many of you saw the wonderful movie, Amistad. But it's a fabulous movie. But I went to the Washington premier and I was sitting back in the audience, and Anthony Hopkins, who is a magnificent actor, was portraying John Quincy Adams, who after he left the White House served eight terms in the Congress, and made the argument before the Supreme Court in behalf of the people who were turned into slaves on the ship and brought over here. But when he was preparing -- there's a great line in the movie where John Quincy Adams says of himself -- he said, there is nothing in life more pathetic than a former President.

So I got to thinking, I hope that's not true.

I like being a former governor. [I was the chairman of this group in 1980 -- ¹⁹~~18~~ years ago. I'm the only person who ever served as chairman of this group who was not yet old enough to vote. And that's because Jim Hunt made me do it.

But for nearly 20 years now, I have followed the fortunes of the Democratic governors. And I want to try to emphasize tonight one of the points that Governor Rossello made about the importance of the '98 elections and why it matters what the party affiliation -- but more importantly, what the philosophy, the values, the direction of the governors is and will be as we move quickly into a new century.

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I'd like to begin with a kind of a representative issue that is rather unique in American public life, the issue that Governor Rossello's whole career embodies -- that of Puerto Rico. This is the centennial year of Puerto Rico's affiliation with the United States. And I think that it is time that we responded to the aspirations of the four million U.S. citizens who live there and allow them to determine their ultimate political status.

The people in Puerto Rico have local self-government, but they do not have votes that are fully votes in their national government. My colleague, when I was a governor, was Carlos Romero Becerra who now represents Puerto Rico in the Congress, and he does a great job. I'm glad to see him back there.

I have always said that the people of Puerto Rico should decide for themselves, and Congress ought to give them a chance to do that, what they want their relationship to the United States to be. There is now a bipartisan bill making its way through the Congress to establish a process for resolving this issue that gives Puerto Ricans the powers to vote on the long-discussed options of statehood, commonwealth or national sovereignty, independent or linked with the United States.

Some people question the option of statehood because of the Hispanic culture of Puerto Rico. And with all respect, I disagree with them. After all, this is an issue for the 21st century for America.

Consider the history: We have made Puerto Ricans citizens. We have drafted them into the Armed Forces. We extend most laws to them, especially those that are convenient to us -- the rest of us. To use their culture, to bar them from voting rights or responsibilities in our country if they so choose to seek them by majority vote is wrong. And this is not primarily about Puerto Rico, but about the rest of us. What are our values? What is our culture? How can we make one America in a world and a nation ever more diverse? We have to begin by saying, it doesn't matter what your ethnic or racial or religious heritage is; it matters only if you embrace the ideas of the founders as embodied in the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

I say that because I think tonight I want to bring you back to first principles. I've spent a lot of time over the -- well, going back to at least to 1984 trying to modernize the Democratic Party, trying to get rid of all the things that people used to be able to say about us that would keep us from winning the White House, that would keep us in almost a defensive position constantly in the national political debate.

I have constantly argued that we had to go beyond the debate that paralyzed Washington in the 1980s between those who said government was the problem and those who said government was the solution, to embrace nationally a philosophy that was embedded in the work of every Democratic governor I ever worked with, going back to the 1970s -- the belief that government ought to be no bigger than necessary; ought to be as little inefficiency and ought to be as little bureaucracy in the government as possible, but that government should be

progressive, should be committed to being a good partner, should be a catalyst for new ideas at work and, most important of all, should be absolutely unequivocally committed to giving people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives and to making sure everyone had a fair chance at their version of the American Dream.

So I spent a lot of time on that and I think there's a lot of evidence that it works. The government is the smallest it's been since President Kennedy was here, but we have done more to open the doors of college to all Americans, for example, than ever before. We are making the biggest investment in child health in a generation, as Governor Rossello said. My present balanced budget has the largest effort to improve kindergarten through 12th grade education in the history of the republic.

So I spent a lot of time talking about how we have modernized our party and how there is a third way that broke the logjam of the '80s. But what I want to say to you tonight is the most important thing is all modernizing our party did was to give us a way of being true to the oldest ideals of both our party and our nation.

Who came here and why in the beginning? A bunch of folks came here who had suffered all kinds of persecution -- political persecution, religious persecution. And what did they want to do? They wanted to be rid of the arbitrary, abusive exercise of unlimited power by people in government. Why? Because they thought free people who could direct the government instead of being directed by it could do a good job of first protecting liberty; second -- go back and read it at the beginning -- pursuing happiness; and third, forming a more perfect union.

And I would argue to you that at every important time in the history of this country, our country's greatness has depended upon our willingness to reaffirm those three missions. We had to deepen the meaning of our freedom, widen the circle of opportunity, and strengthen the bonds of our union.

Now, the Democratic Party may not have always been right. But in the 20th century, from Woodrow Wilson through Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman and John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson and Jimmy Carter to the present day, I don't think you have any doubt which party was more constantly standing up for always, always deepening the freedom of the American Dream and broadening it to more people, and expanding the circle of American opportunity, and trying to hold this union together and make it stronger and stronger instead of letting it be thrown apart. I don't think you have any doubt.

So I say to you tonight, if we're going to strengthen this country for the 21st century, we at the national level have to create an economy based on opportunity for all. That means we have to bring the light of free enterprise to the neighborhoods and the urban areas and the rural areas that haven't felt it yet. It means we have to give our country the best system of K-12 education in the world for everybody, not just a few. It means we have to do a lot more to continue to grow the economy.

Now, if we already have 4.7 percent unemployment -- the lowest in 24 years -- the lowest inflation rate in 30 years, the highest homeownership in history. Which party is most likely to finish America's mission? And you know as well as I do, those of you who are governors or who work for governors or who have been governors, a great deal of the remaining work of building this economy has to be done community by community, state by state.

If we want, as I said in the State of the Union, a society based on responsibility -- what does that mean? It means people ought to be able to have health care if they're good, responsible citizens and they're willing to do what they can for it. We ought to let people who are over 55 who have been cast aside by their employers buy into the Medicare system and not be bereft for 10 years when they're very vulnerable. We ought to pass the Health Care Patient's Bill of Rights. We ought to do more to make child care safer and more affordable and more accessible. We ought to do more not only to protect our streets from juvenile crime, but to open our schools between the time the learning in the classroom is over and the parents get home, so we give kids something positive to do and keep them out of trouble in the first place. These are the missions of building a society based on responsibility.

Now, I can do some things with the Congress to achieve those goals. But how all these programs are implemented along with welfare reform -- will welfare reform be a way of empowering people to move from welfare to work so that people can succeed at work and succeed as parents and take care of their children, or will it be just a back-handed way to save money.

Now, there are a lot of governors in the other party who have done some things I agree with. But, on balance, who do you think is more likely to build a society based on opportunity, that tries to lift everybody up and give everybody a chance, and rescue the kids that have been left behind, and build strong families and strong communities? I think you know the answer to that. And I think you're proud to be here tonight, just like I am, because of the answer to that question.

If we want to build a nation that lives by community -- what does that mean? It means we have to continue to improve the environment even as we grow the economy -- cleaner water, cleaner air, safer food, fewer toxic waste dumps. It means we have to meet our challenge of doing our part on the issue of global warming. And it means we have to do it in a way that uses technology and common sense and creativity to continue to create jobs and grow the economy as we improve the environment. Now, which party is more likely to do that?

If we want to be one community, we have to be willing to reach across the divides of America. Look at the last 20 years. Which party has tried to win elections by bringing people together, and which has tried to win elections by driving a wedge through the heart of the American electorate? I'm proud to be here tonight with all of you, and I think you know the answer to that question.

So, as I have said many times, I want to say one more time, we have to give it to our friends in the Republican Party. From the time Abraham Lincoln was elected until the time

Teddy Roosevelt left office, if we are honest, we will say they did a better job than we did of standing for deeper freedom, wider opportunity, and a stronger union. Those were not our best years. But from the time of Woodrow Wilson to the present day and toward the 21st century, we may not have always been right, but we were always on the right side.

And so, I ask you to think about that. I'm proud of the fact that our administration has done more than my two predecessors of the Republican Party in giving more power to the states. I'm proud of the fact that we have waived more federal rules in more areas in five years than they did in 12 years. I'm proud of all that because I trust the concept of the states as laboratories of democracy. But the more responsibilities the governors get, the more it matters who the governor is.

And I want you to think about that. And when you go home tonight, I want you to ask yourself if you agree with my definition of what it means to be an American and to meet our challenges and to do the right thing at every moment of challenge and change. This is a big change time. This is huge.

You know the other night after the State of the Union address our web page had 400,000 hits on the Internet? One web page. And, of course, there are millions upon millions of web pages. You know how many places there were on the web when I was elected President? Fifty - 50 -- five years ago. And they all belonged to physicists. So if you could have gotten in, most of you would have been like me and you wouldn't have understood it. That is just a metaphor for how the world is changing. Knowledge, the whole volume of knowledge, doubling every five years.

Hillary came up with this idea that we should honor the end of our service here after two terms with a gift to the millennium entitled "Remembering the Past and Imagining the Future." We want to save Old Glory and the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, those four things -- and get communities all over America to do the same. And we want to have the biggest investment in the future in medical and other research in the history of America to look toward the future.

But in the end all this new-fangled stuff and all this change will only work to make us a happier, healthier, stronger people if we end where we started. A great line from T.S. Eliot, "the end is in our beginning" -- we have to end where we started. You be proud when you leave here tonight, because you belong to a party that is fighting to expand and deepen the meaning of freedom, and to widen the circle of opportunity, and to make this a stronger United States of America. I'm proud, and I'm proud of you for being here.

Thank you and God bless you.

END

9:25 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 3, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL DINNER

Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D.C.

6:40 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you, Governor Dean, for that wonderful introduction. And I thank the orchestra for playing me in. (Laughter.) Thank you, Governor Rossello, for your leadership in the DGA. And to our DNC General Chair, Governor Roy Romer, thank you for agreeing to do that. I hope it made the Democratic Governors feel better; it sure made me feel better when you did it. (Applause.)

Our Democratic National Chairman, Steve Grossman, thank you for being here tonight. And thank you, Santita, for singing again. You got me in a good humor before I had to come out and speak.

You all know that the Vice President is coming over later -- I'm just the warm-up act. (Laughter.) But that's probably as it should be. At least that's what he asked me to say right before I left the White House. (Laughter.) I thank you for understanding why I can't be here all evening. As you know, the State of the Union is tomorrow night, and I hope that the governors who are here will be staying for it. We have a place for all of you.

It's a very different city than it was a year ago. A year ago we had a cold wave -- and a cold wave in politics so bad that it shut the government down. And the American people had something to say about it in the months ahead after that, and then

definitively in November. And it's a lot warmer outside this year than it was last year. And I like it. (Applause.)

All of 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 four years.

Our country has produced 11.2 million jobs, for the first time in history in a four-year presidential administration. (Applause.) We have -- crime has come down in every year. The welfare rolls have dropped by 2.24 million, the largest amount in history.

Inequality among working people has started back down again, after a 20-year increase, with particular drops for single parents working to support their children, the elderly, and African Americans.

In the last four years, thanks to the work that we have done together, we have, first of all, reversed our country's addiction to supply-side economics, and substituted for it an economics based on investing in people, expanding trade, reducing the deficit, and ultimately, balancing the budget in the right way. (Applause.)

We have restored the family and community as the centerpiece of our social agenda with initiatives like the Family and

Medical Leave law, which we celebrated the fourth anniversary of just this week, and which I hope to expand in this coming session of the Congress -- and I hope you will help me do that. (Applause.)

When it comes to crime and welfare we replaced rhetoric with action, and that's why results have flowed. We have redefined the role of government -- no longer do the American people believe, and no longer are they being told that government is the enemy. They know that the role of government is to be our partner to give us the tools to solve our problems and to create the conditions in which Americans can flourish.

And finally, we have reaffirmed the importance of our national community. No longer is it commonplace in our national politics to see victory come from dividing Americans by race, by gender, or in any other way. And I'm proud of that; perhaps proudest of all that we have rebuked the people who want to divide us as a nation. That's what the Democratic Party is all about. (Applause.)

In the next four years -- well, you have to wait until tomorrow night to hear about that. (Laughter.) But let me say that in the next four years I will still depend upon the Democratic Governors for your ideas; two of them you know I have embraced with particular vigor -- the HOPE Scholarship, pioneered by Governor Zell Miller in Georgia -- (applause) -- and the idea of providing national certification to the most excellent teachers in America, pioneered by Governor Jim Hunt in North Carolina. I thank you both for that. (Applause.)

What I want to leave you with is that I think in the last four years we've basically unlocked the potential of our country by fixing a lot of things that were wrong and by redefining what the stakes are. In the next four years we have to take initiatives to shape America for the next 50 years. And what I want you to think about when you go back home is this: It's not very often that a country has a period of such enormous peace and prosperity and yet, is still confronted by such great challenges. And what has brought us to this moment in history is the incredible rate and scope of change of the time in which we live.

We're not just moving into a new century and a new millennium, we're moving into a whole new way of doing things. It's changing the way family life works, it's changing the way work life

works, it's changing the way people relate to each other in society and across national borders. It poses particular challenges for our educators, but also challenges for all the rest of us.

We're also learning a lot of things that impose new responsibilities on us. I know that the Democratic governors heard from my friend, Rob Reiner, who is sitting out here at this table, who is passionately concerned about what happens to children from the time they're born until they're two or three years old. We now know things about those years that we never knew before. And that imposes upon us responsibilities we never had before -- because we now know we can prevent problems from occurring we didn't think we could, and we can unleash potential we didn't know was there, and that requires us to behave in a different way.

So, tomorrow night, I'm going to try to talk about the next steps I think we have to take. But I want you to think in big terms about this. Every time a governor is elected who has real vision and real understanding and a real willingness to take prudent risks to tap the potential of this moment. We have advanced the cause of freedom and democracy, and we've given more people a chance to light up their own lives. That's really what all this is about.

Democracies normally don't do very well in times of peace and prosperity. They sort of get complacent and kind of go to

the golf course twice a week. Sounds like a good idea to me.
(Laughter.) Unfortunately, we don't have that luxury now -- not if we're going to do what we ought to do.

So that's what this is about tonight. In the next two years we'll be seeing 38 governors races come up for a vote of the people, affecting 80 percent of the people who live in this country. And the decisions that will be made by those governors will chart the course for the next century. This is a very, very important time to be making these judgments. And I can tell you, having now been President for four years and having been a governor for 12 years -- I could tell you a lot of things about that -- (laughter) -- but the point I want to make is there are a lot of things that a President can do and a lot of things a President can't. There are some things that can and will only be done by the governors of this country, working with people throughout the states. It matters a great deal.

You know that. That's why you're here tonight. But as you think about this tonight and tomorrow night at the State of the Union and the work that I'm going to help you do in the next two years to try to make sure we elect more people from our party to the statehouses to move this country forward, just remember, usually democracies get lazy in times of peace and prosperity. The changes and the challenges of this time do not permit us to do this. If we do it we will regret it for a very long time. If we don't, you ain't seen nothing yet.

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

END

6:50 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 22, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN TOAST AT NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION DINNER

State Dining Room

10:30 P.M. EST



THE PRESIDENT: Good evening. Governor and Mrs. Voinovich, Governor and Mrs. Carper, ladies and gentlemen, welcome again to the White House. Hillary and I always look forward to this night every year. It brings back a lot of happy memories. And I'm especially glad to have you here this year.

I want to begin by thanking you, all of you, for the contributions that you have made to the success that the United States is now enjoying. The American people have the lowest unemployment rate in 24 years, the lowest crime rate in 24 years, the lowest welfare rolls in 27 years, the lowest inflation rate in 30 years. And a lot of that credit goes to you and the people with whom you work and the commitments that you have made to forge the right kind of government for this new era in which we live.

A lot of you work every day at building a government that is smaller but more effective, that works as a catalyst and a partner, does actually give our people the tools they need to make the most of this remarkable time in which we're living.

I also want to say I looked at the document you prepared for your meeting -- I read it this afternoon while I was thinking about a few other things, but I enjoyed it very much. And I think it shows that you agree with me that these good times impose upon us a special obligation to make the most of them, to strengthen our country for the century ahead.

You know, this country was founded by people who came here seeking relief from the arbitrary exercise of absolute power. They thought they had a better idea. They thought that when free people were able to pursue happiness and work to form a more perfect union, they could build a truly remarkable society. And more than 200 years later, I think we'd all have to admit that they were right.

I have said many times, but I would like to say again, that it seems to me that at every important time in our country's history we have been faithful to the basic ideas of our founders,

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no matter what the challenge was. We have always improved America when we deepen the meaning of our freedom, widen the circle of opportunity, and strengthen the bonds of our union.

For your contributions to that, I am profoundly grateful. I hope you enjoy this evening. I look forward to tomorrow. And I'd like to ask everyone here to join me in a toast to the governors of the 50 states and all the territories and everybody else who is here.

(A toast was offered.)

END

10:34 P.M. EST

So tonight let us renew our pledge to work in partnership for the good of all our people. It is in that spirit that I ask you all to stand now as I offer a toast to Governor and Mrs. Carper and to all of the governors and their spouses, and to our beloved United States.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 29, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN TOAST AT GOVERNORS DINNER

State Dining Room

8:41 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the White House, again for many of you, and for the first time for some. This is always one of my favorite evenings of the year; one of Hillary's favorite evenings; a chance to see old friends and think about old times and look to the future.

Two years ago, when I had the opportunity for the first time to host this dinner, after having been on the other end of it for 12 years, I pledged to you that I would take the experiences that we had shared together and strive to form a new partnership with the governors and with the states. After two years, I think it's fair to say that we have made good on that pledge. And tonight, I want to renew that pledge as we debate the astonishing range of opportunities and challenges that are ahead of us.

I also want to thank those of you who have gone out of your way to give me the opportunity to make good on the pledge when you thought we were slipping a little. (Laughter.) And I want to thank those of you who have acknowledged what you thought we were doing right. In particular, two of the governors, not of my party, who went through the line tonight and complimented the partnership of the federal government and various agencies I appreciate very much.

I think every American now wants government to expand opportunity and to shrink bureaucracy; to empower people to make the most of their own lives; to enhance our security, but not to do those things that it ought not to do. Working in partnership with us, many of you have pioneered ways to reform health care, education, and to reform welfare, free of federal rules and regulations, which had previously encumbered you. We have done our part to be good partners. We have reduced the deficit; we have reduced the size of the government; we have reduced regulation in important areas.

We have also done what we could to improve our performance. I cited in the State of the Union, and I cite again, something

THIS IS THE 19TH NGA DINNER
I'VE ATTENDED AT THE WH - BUT
AND MY 7TH MAKING THE TOAST

that those of you who have had the misfortune to have disasters know, which is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and all those who work in the disaster area -- the Department of Transportation, HUD, and others -- are no longer a disaster when disaster occurs. They are there working in partnership with you. And we want to do more of that.

In that spirit now, we begin a new year of debate; working on welfare, perhaps the most important thing we can do from the point of view of all the people of all of our states, without regard to party, or region, or race, or income.

We had a very good meeting yesterday with a bipartisan group of governors, local officials, members of Congress, and I thank those of you who participated.

The Vice President will also be presenting a second round of reinventing government proposals which will cut further spending and reduce the federal role, and give more responsibilities to the state. And as you know, we are proposing a tax relief package which focuses primarily on education and giving people tax reductions in return for educating their children and themselves.



I hope as we go forward, we can agree on the things which we don't think the federal government should be doing. And I hope we'll also be agreeing on some things we think we should do. There is a plain national interest in protecting the essential needs of the children of this country. We clearly can do some things right, in a non-bureaucratic, creative way. And I think the best example of that is AmeriCorps, our national service program, which has worked closely with many of you in this room tonight.

I want to close by saluting your distinguished Chair, Governor Dean, and Judy, and all of you for all you have done. For those of you who have worked with Hillary and with me over the years, and with the members of our Cabinet, particularly those who are former governors -- and I see Governor Babbitt, and Governor Riley here -- let me say that there is no more rewarding experience than being able to reach across the lines that divide us to feel that we are really making a difference in peoples lives; that we are giving the American people a government that is leaner, but not meaner; one that really does help them make the most of their own lives. I think that's why we all got into this work, and if we'll just keep that in mind, I think when we're all done, we'll be very proud.

I'd like to propose a toast to the Chair of the National Governors Association and to his fine wife, and to all the governors and their spouses tonight.

To the governors and their families, thank you.

(A toast is offered.) (Applause.)

END8:52 P.M. EST

Draft 2/18/99 9pm
Josh Gottheimer

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNORS
ASSOCIATION DINNER
THE WHITE HOUSE
February 21, 1999**

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen -- Governor and Mrs. Carper, Governor and Mrs. Leavitt -- welcome again to the White House.

When Huey Long was Governor of Louisiana, he rebuilt the governor's mansion as an exact replica of the White House. When they asked why he did it, Long said, "so I'll get used to living in it." So I'd like to welcome everyone except Governor Foster to the White House today.

All kidding aside, Hillary and I always look forward to this night every year. It brings back many happy memories. As you know, I have a deep appreciation and respect for governors and the work you do. I guess it's only natural, because before I was President Clinton, I was Governor Clinton, and I count that experience as one of the great blessings of my life.

Seven year ago, when I had the opportunity for the first time to host this dinner, after having been on the other end of it for 12 years, I pledged to you that I would take the experiences that we had shared together and strive to form a new partnership with the governors and with the states. After seven years, I think it's fair to say that we have made good on that pledge. And tonight, I want to renew that pledge as we debate the astonishing range of opportunities and challenges that are ahead of us.

As I told the Congress last month, the State of the Union is strong. Our economy is thriving, with nearly 18 million new jobs, wages rising at more than twice the rate of inflation, the highest home ownership in history, the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years, and the lowest peacetime unemployment since 1957. And we could not have done these things if we hadn't done them together-- by reaching across party lines to meet our common challenges.

I look forward to working together to make the right choices for future generations -- to make sure we don't squander our historic opportunity to save Social Security and Medicare, and pay down the debt. We can make good on that opportunity, while making tax relief like USA Accounts, and while making targeted tax cuts in areas from urban investment to clean energy technology, and from child care to long-term care. That is the way we should use our surplus: We should invest it. Invest it in America's future.

The plan I presented calls on all of us -- not just Congress, but all of us -- to act now to take advantage of this ~~fleeting~~ moment of opportunity -- and to give all of our people the tools they needs to make the most of their lives.



Clear the fax

FAX Transmittal

DATE:

2-18-99

TO:

Michael WALDMAN

FAX:

202-456-5709

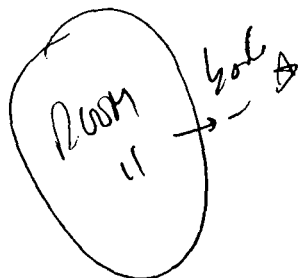
FROM:

Shelley Remer

PAGES:

3

NOTES:



FOK TOUR 2/21

Shelley Remer, Director
2850 Quebec St. NW Washington, DC 20008
202-362-4491
FAX: 202-363-7236

Waldman





FAX Transmittal

DATE: 2-19-99

TO: michael waldman

FAX: 202-456-5709

FROM: Shelley Remer

PAGES: 2

NOTES:

Please add the
following to the
2/21 WHITE HOUSE TOUR

Shelley Remer, Director
2850 Quebec St. NW Washington, DC 20008
202-362-4491
FAX: 202-363-7236



THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 4, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
DURING THE
NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION DINNER

8:57 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening. Governor and Mrs. Thompson, Governor and Mrs. Miller, ladies and gentlemen, welcome back to the White House. It's always a delight to have all of you here. I look forward to it every year, but I especially look forward to it this year.

As all of you know, we are living through a time of enormous change and great opportunity. I rather think the founding fathers would enjoy what is going on here today because we are debating a lot of first principles of American government; what should government do, which level of government should do it, what are our ultimate objectives. These are questions that governors live with in a very practical and immediate way every single day. And they are questions that, frankly, I have relished being a part of this public debate in America.

We are obviously moving into a time that is very different from any the American people have ever lived in before. Our economy is changing. We are now clearly in a global village that will be dominated for the rest of our lifetimes by information and technology. That requires certain changes in government, as well.

I believed when I came here, and I believe more strongly today, that the great questions before us are how we can make the American dream available to all Americans who are willing to work for it, how we can come together to deal with our challenges and our problems as one community amidst all our diversity, and how we can maintain the leadership of our great country for peace and freedom throughout the world.

We have many challenges, and I tried to deal with those at some length in the State of the Union address. One of our greatest challenges is to give the American people a government that commands their confidence and that does its part in meeting our common problems. We have reduced the size of the government in the last three years, it's now as small as it was in 1965. Next year it will be as small as it was when President Kennedy was

J. CLINTON
L GOVERNORS

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and to all of the governors and their spouses, and to our beloved United States.

Draft 2/18/99 9pm
Josh Gottheimer

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNORS
ASSOCIATION DINNER
THE WHITE HOUSE
February 21, 1999**

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen -- Governor and Mrs. Carper, Governor and Mrs. Leavitt -- welcome again to the White House.

When Huey Long was Governor of Louisiana, he rebuilt the governor's mansion as an exact replica of the White House. When they asked why he did it, Long said, "so I'll get used to living in it."

All kidding aside, Hillary and I always look forward to this night every year. It brings back many happy memories. As you know, as a former Governor, I have a deep appreciation and respect for governors and the work you do. I count that experience as one of the great blessings of my life.

Seven years ago, when I had the opportunity for the first time to host this dinner, after having been on the other end of it for 12 years, I pledged to you that I would take the experiences that we had shared together and strive to form a new partnership with the governors and with the states. After seven years, I think it's fair to say that we have made good on that pledge. And tonight, I want to renew that commitment as we debate the astonishing range of opportunities and challenges that are ahead of us.

As I told the Congress last month, the State of the Union is strong. Our economy is thriving, with nearly 18 million new jobs, wages rising at more than twice the rate of inflation, the highest home ownership in history, the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years, and the lowest peacetime unemployment since 1957. And we could not have done these things if we hadn't done them together -- by reaching across party lines to meet our common challenges.

The plan I presented calls on all of us -- not just Congress, but all of us -- to act now to take advantage of this moment of opportunity -- and to give all of our people the tools they need to make the most of their lives.

As I've said so many times before, this success stems not only from the hard work of the American people and the work we're doing here in the nation's Capitol. It also stems from in large measure from the work you are doing in the capitols of our states. From innovation in education...to reforms in welfare...to improvements in health care, we need to

So tonight let us renew our pledge to work in partnership for the good of all our people. It is in that spirit that I ask you all to stand now as I offer a toast to Governor and Mrs. Carper

and to all of the governors and their spouses, and to our beloved United States.

Draft 2/18/99 9pm
Josh Gottheimer

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As I've said many times before.

NOT A STUMP SPEECH
I look forward to working together to make the right choices for future generations -- to make sure we don't squander our historic opportunity to save Social Security and Medicare, and pay down the debt. We can make good on that opportunity, while making tax relief like USA Accounts, and while making targeted tax cuts in areas from urban investment to clean energy technology, and from child care to long-term care. That is the way we should use our surplus: We should invest it. Invest it in America's future.

The plan I presented calls on all of us -- not just Congress, but all of us -- to act now to take advantage of this moment of opportunity -- and to give all of our people the tools they needs to make the most of their lives.

As I've said to you up here before we work better with each other we still can reach across state party lines. That's what governor in 56 capitals ask you help help help. need to need of people

So tonight let us renew our pledge to work in partnership for the good of all our people. It is in that spirit that I ask you all to stand now as I offer a toast to Governor and Mrs. Carper and to all of the governors and their spouses, and to our beloved United States.



Jeffrey K. Nussbaum @ OVP
02/18/99 12:46:11 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: other governor humor

same deal

----- Forwarded by Jeffrey K. Nussbaum/OVP on 02/18/99 12:42 PM -----



Jeffrey K. Nussbaum
02/18/99 11:00:46 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Paul D. Glasiris/WHO/EOP @ EOP

cc:

Subject: other governor humor

----- Forwarded by Jeffrey K. Nussbaum/OVP on 02/18/99 10:56 AM -----



Jeffrey K. Nussbaum
02/18/99 10:33:18 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Eli G. Attie/OVP

cc:

Subject: other governor humor

When Huey Long was governor of Louisiana, he rebuilt the governor's mansion as an exact replica of the White House. When he was asked why he did it, he said, "so I'll get used to living in it." So I'd like to welcome everyone except Governor Foster to the White House today.

You're all welcome to stay awhile, music will be out in the foyer. It's been a wonderful evening for Hillary and for me. And, again, you're welcome and I look forward to seeing you tomorrow. Thank you. Thanks again, it was great. (Applause.)

END

11:15 P.M. EST

living in this house. We have also given an unprecedented amount of power back to state and local governments and to individual citizens. We are about to do some more of that. And that is obviously what you are here to work on and try to reach common agreement among yourselves first, and then with the leaders of Congress and the White House. I am looking forward to this.

The thing I wish more of our citizens knew is how hard we are working to do the right thing over great issues of high principle. This is not a normal political debate. It is a profoundly important discussion of the direction our country will take, and what all our responsibilities will be in seeing that that direction is achieved in a way that benefits all the American people.

I am looking forward to our discussion tomorrow morning, to all the times that we have together, and I know that all the members of the Cabinet and the White House are, as well. To each of every one of you who has participated in trying to formulate the new policies, and trying to reach across partisan and other divisions to reach common ground, I thank you again for that. To each and every one of you who has had a good working partnership with our administration, I thank you for that.

I look forward to further progress. I do believe that the American people are now living, and will move into a future, which is characterized by greater possibilities for more people than have ever lived in this society. And what we have to do is to make sure that we can go forward together, and that every single one of our citizens who is willing to do what it takes can realize those possibilities in his or her own life; and that all of our children, without regard to their race, their income, their region, their station in life, have a chance to be a living embodiment of the American Dream.

If we keep that as our goal we can bridge our differences. And when we leave here, and when the work of this year is done, we will be much better prepared to reap the benefits of that age of possibility. It is in that spirit that I ask you all to stand now as I offer a toast to Governor and Mrs. Thompson and to all the governors and their spouses, and to our beloved United States.

(A toast was offered.) (Applause.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: -- (in progress) -- Gary Morris, thank you, Gary Hooker. We are doubly blessed tonight that Gary joined us because he just got married, and he's still here. And his wife, Elizabeth is here; thank you for coming. Please stand up. (Applause.) This man has a great gift and I'm so glad he shared it with us tonight.

THE WHITE HOUSE
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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNORS
ASSOCIATION DINNER
THE WHITE HOUSE
FEBRUARY 2, 1997

'97 FEB 2 PM4:35

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
2-3-97

- 1 -

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen -- Governor Miller and Mrs. Miller, Governor Voinovich and Mrs. Voinovich -- and welcome to the White House. Hillary and I look forward to having you here every year, and it is especially nice to see you tonight.

2-3-97

When I hosted this dinner for the first time 4 years ago, I pledged to form a partnership with you based on our common experiences and our mutual goals. And in the 4 years since then, we have more than honored that pledge. Just look at what we've achieved by working together: our national government is the smallest it has been since President Kennedy was in office.

Bill Klinefelter
@ Skel Wilson

Our economy is the strongest it has been in 30 years, more of our people are working and fewer of our people are on welfare, and our communities are safer. We could not have done these things if we hadn't done them together -- by reaching across party lines to meet our common challenges.

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Gordon Stewart
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On Tuesday, I will go before the Congress and the people of the United States to report on the state of our union, and on my plan to prepare America for the 21st century.

I presented a plan

It is a plan that calls on all of us -- not just Congress, but all of us -- to act now to take advantage of this fleeting moment of opportunity: to balance the budget and still invest in our future, to bring all of our people into the American mainstream, and to give all of our people the tools they need to make the most of their lives.

③ *Send*

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You are an essential part of that plan, and I am committed to listening to your concerns as we put it into action.

It has been said that "it is a community of purpose that constitutes society." We are that community of purpose.

Q PARTNERSHIP (A)

And we must continue to work together in the coming days and months -- the American people want us to, they are counting on us to, and they deserve nothing less from us. So tonight, let us renew our pledge to work in partnership for the good of all our people.

And now I would like to ask you to join me in a toast, to Governor Miller and Mrs. Miller, to Governor Voinovich and Mrs. Voinovich, and to all the governors and their spouses.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 12, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION RECEPTION

The Mayflower Hotel
Washington, D.C.

8:47 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Loretta. Thank you, Katie. Thank all of you who had anything to do with this fundraiser. This is an exercise of true affection because Howard Dean would probably win next year if none of us gave him a penny. But I am delighted to be here. 7

Senator Leahy and I were standing back there when Howard was giving his remarks, and he said, he suffered through 16 years of Republican leadership, the deficit was going up before I came in. And I said, you know, Pat, it was really only 12 years, it just seemed like 16.

I'd like to say a special word of thanks, too, to Senator Pat Leahy, who is truly one of the finest people in the entire United States Congress and one of the most effective. Whether the issue is economic policy, agriculture policy, social policy, foreign policy, his passion to remove the scourge of land mines from the Earth, Pat Leahy is always there. And we can be proud that he represents not only the state of Vermont, but all of America very well.

I'd also like to say that whatever it is that Howard Dean knows, or whatever it is that he eats for breakfast every morning, if I could give it to every other Democratic office holder and would-be office holder, we would immediately become the majority in the Congress and we would have about 35 governors. I have to tell you, I think a big part of it is just producing for people, actually doing what you say you're going to do at election time. And I very much appreciate what he said about what we've tried to do here in Washington.

One of the -- I'm delighted -- I love to do fundraisers and events for Democratic governors or the Democratic Governors Association in Washington because one of the things that I learned when I moved to Washington and what I feared was that people don't think that those of us who have been governors exist out there. And we might as well be in a zoo somewhere.

When I came to Washington, I would read editorials from the prominent newspapers

saying that if you cared about the deficit and crime and welfare, you were stealing Republican issues. And I said, now, wait a minute, the last time I checked, the debt of this country quadrupled under a Republican President, crime was going up when I took office and the welfare rolls were expanding. And since I've been in office, we've cut the deficit by 92 percent, crime has gone down every year, and the welfare rolls have dropped by three million. I think those are American issues the Democratic Party has done very well on, and I don't understand all this.

Out in the country, you know, Democrats care about the deficits and welfare reform and safe streets. And you know what? Democrats care about them in Washington, too. We passed a crime bill in 1994 overwhelmingly with Democratic support with a little Republican support. We passed the economic program in 1993 only with Democrats. And we began the welfare reform effort through the Executive Branch, as Howard Dean said; then I vetoed two bills first because I refused to take away the guarantee of health care and nutrition from children, and I wanted to have enough money for child care if we were going to require people to go to work. So we got it right and the results were good for America, and I'm proud of that.

But one last point I want to make. This has been a very good year for the United States in Washington. We had an enormous effort to pass the balanced budget that has things that I think every Democrat in this country and every American ought to be proud of. It's the biggest investment in health care for poor children since 1965 -- Howard talked about that -- biggest investment in education since 1965, biggest investment in helping open the doors of college to all Americans since the G.I. Bill 50 years ago. Substantial reforms of Medicare, including efforts to improve what we're doing in diabetes that the Diabetes Foundation says are the most important advances in the care of diabetes since insulin was developed 70 years ago. We have added 12 years to the Medicare trust fund and given our seniors more choices. This was a big deal.

We also are working on expanding NATO to ensure our partnership in security in Europe. We've passed the Chemical Weapons Convention, a big issue. One of the big disputes we're having with Saddam Hussein now and these inspectors is that these inspectors in Iraq have found enough potential chemical, biological and incipient nuclear technology, more than was destroyed in the Gulf War. We want to wipe the prospect of chemical warfare off the face of the Earth. We don't want a bunch of terrorists with laboratories in briefcases going from airport to airport wreaking havoc in the world of the 21st century that our children will live in. We took a big step toward that. So this has been a good year.

But in addition to my affection for Governor Dean and my gratitude to the people of Vermont for voting for Bill Clinton and Al Gore twice by big margins -- and my desire to help members of my party, I want -- I think it's very important that you understand that even though sometimes I get the feeling around here many people don't remember that the governors or the mayors or the county officials, for that matter, are really out there doing a lot of things -- the governors are especially important for the strategy that I'm pursuing for America to succeed.

We got \$24 billion for children's health; that's good. What's step two? The governors have to design a program that works. And I promise you every governor with any sense in this

country without regard to party is going to wonder what Howard Dean is going to do with the money because they know that Vermont has done the best job of expanding health care coverage for children. So it matters who the governor is.

You can put more money into education, but the governors have to decide how it's going to be spent. We won a huge battle which we're going to be really highlighting in the next couple of days when we sign the appropriations bills -- to get the Congress after months and months of contentious fighting to embrace the notion that we ought to have national standards of academic excellence and national exams in reading and math for elementary students and 8th graders. But what happens afterwards? Education is the primary province of the states. The federal government can facilitate national excellence in education; the governors have to ensure it.

In the environment, we're trying to clean up 500 toxic waste dumps and prove we can have clean air, clean water and safe food and grow the environment. We can provide funds, we can have federal standards; but in the end, the specific work is largely done in the states.

And as we move into this new era where we have to have more flexibility, more partnerships and more common sense, in which we want to reject the kind of ideological false choices we're often confronted with in the political debates here, the partnership that exists and the quality of it and the quality of the people that do the work at the state level -- the partnership with the federal government will be critical in terms of how Americans actually get to live and what kind of world our children actually grow up in. That's what this is about.

So in so many ways the governorship is more important than ever before. We have tried to give more responsibility to the states. We've also tried to give them more things to do. And it has succeeded in places like Vermont, which have had visionary leadership.

I can only hope and pray that every governor will do the job that I know that he will do -- in health care, in education, in the environment, in building a solid future for our children. You're going to help him to do it by your presence here tonight, and I'm very grateful to you. Thank you.

END

8:55 P.M. EST

Fred Duval 02/17/99 01:36:17 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: NGA Remarks

Call me after youve looked at this

----- Forwarded by Fred Duval/WHO/EOP on 02/17/99 01:37 PM -----

Gov
CHILET

BTW
PMMOD

Fred Duval 02/12/99 10:27:54 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: NGA Remarks

I don't presume to be a speechwriter or policy advisor - but I do have some strong instincts about what will work for the Governors Roundtable remarks. Thus, I would like to lay out a suggested construct for the Presidents remarks for you to adopt, consider, edit, or reject as you wish.

I. Opening

1. former colleagues - 16th (?) NGA mtg I have attended etc.
2. Memory of Gov. Chiles - whose civility left a mark on all of us...

II. Six Years of a Successful partnership - Effective federalism.

1. As a former Governor, I understand the federal/state role.
2. Our record demonstrates this:
 - Unfunded Mandates Bill
 - COPs program
 - CHIP program
 - Welfare reform
3. Last year we met in this room and you presented the following goals:
 - Transportation Finance - Govs Schafer and Patton made this case for you and working together we passed it - all 27 billion.
 - Internet taxation (Gov Leavitt and Romer made this case and we worked together to get this passed)
 - Workforce development Act - Gov Ridge (?) presented this and I signed it.
 - Regulatory Reform - Gov ? presented this and I signed Thompson-Levin
4. Through the year we worked on other issues successfully together:
 - FICA Ruling - Treasury has opined that states are not required to pay FICA for workfare - major cost savings to states.

Cost Allocation - Congress required us in the Ag Research Bill to allocate your costs, and after hearing clearly from you we accepted your state-by-state methodology for doing so.

EPA Air regs- We were required to issue new standards but - after hearing from you - the states were given significant tools of flexibility.

Each of these issues presented federalism issues and we respected the states role.

III. Our Budget is a Win for States

Prior to the release of our budget we met with you and you expressed two priorities, (1) don't cut existing commitments, and (2) invest in kids.

Our budget does that - and more - for the states

- a. fully funds SSBG
- b. no Medicaid cuts
- c. Head Start increase
- d. COPs increase
- e. Welfare increase - emphasis on fatherhood per your lead
- f. School Modernization initiative
- g. Class size initiative
- h. Livability initiative

These budget commitments reflect both the importance of the level of funding , but are consistent with our effective federalism - they give you the tools and flexibility to do your job (livability, welfare, SSBG).

IV. Looking Ahead: Preparation for the 21st Century Economy

As we look ahead, using this partnership - this effective federalism - that has worked to tackle welfare, children's health etc. how to we prepare our workforce for the 21st Century economy. Theme of partnership - accountability and flexibility . Two components: (1) Workforce training, and (2) Education Accountability

Workforce Training - describe our initiative

Education Accountability /Flexibility

- a. We have learned from the states : examples. Ridge, Hunt, etc.
- b. We can't have any failing schools... federal role to assure that
- c. We won't tell you how to do it - only that you find a way to do it - and we will give you the flexibility to do that:

ED-Flex - break out of reauthorization

Teacher Block Grant

V. Additional tools of flexibility - NPR initiative (Oregon plan)

Message Sent To:

Michael Waldman/WHO/EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Steve Ricchetti/WHO/EOP
Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP
William H. White Jr./WHO/EOP

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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December 1, 1998, Tuesday, PM cycle

SECTION: Business News

LENGTH: 359 words

HEADLINE: TWA, Machinists begin talks

DATELINE: ST. LOUIS

BODY:

Trans World Airlines has begun 11 days of contract negotiations in hopes of averting a strike by its union Machinists.

The National Mediation Board was supervising the talks, which began today at an undisclosed location under a news blackout.

The International Association of Machinists for months has been seeking to be released from mediation, which is necessary to trigger a 30-day countdown for a strike. The union has said that failure to reach a labor agreement by Dec. 11 will do that by putting the talks at an impasse.

After that date, the three members of the mediation board would still have to decide whether further negotiations would be hopeless.

Under the Railway Labor Act, airline unions can't strike until they go through several mandatory steps, including the 30-day cooling-off period.

The machinists represent 16,500 TWA employees. Its members include all unionized workers at TWA except pilots and dispatchers.

TWA and the union have been in contract talks since February 1997, and mediators have been involved since July 1997. The machinists are negotiating separate contracts for flight attendants; mechanics and passenger-service workers.

TWA has not made a written pay proposal to the machinists because the union wants the company to guarantee that it will not close operations, such as maintenance bases or hubs, company spokesman Jim Brown said.

"What the union has demanded is that we not close anything, period," Brown said. "We cannot run a business that way."

TWA employees are seeking repayment for billions of dollars in concessions they gave up to bail out the airline during troubled times. TWA has said it will give the machinists raises that will bring their pay closer to parity with industry average.

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BODY:

The International Association of Machinists (IAM) said Tuesday that four of five bargaining units rejected a tentative contract with Northwest Airlines.

IAM District 143 President Keith Foster said the union has contacted the airline and the National Mediation Board to schedule further talks.

Foster said mechanics, baggage handlers and office and security workers rejected the deal by margins of 70 to 80 percent. Results will be released today.

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January 26, 1999

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Final 02/17/98 8:30pm
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON LONG-TERM CARE TAX CREDIT
DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
February 18, 1999**

Acknowledgments: Gov. Shaheen; Beth Dixon; Karen Goddard; Shawn Minotti; David Robar; other panelists TK

I want to thank the Governor for her remarks, and I especially want to thank her for all she's doing to improve the quality and availability of health care here in New Hampshire. I think her proposals are good ones. And I think they will go a long way toward helping the people of New Hampshire meet the challenges of health care in the 21st Century.

Today, our panelists will discuss a number of these challenges: from the rights of patients to the concerns of small businesses providing coverage; and from the health care needs of children to those of the elderly and people with disabilities. My administration has been working for six years now to make progress in these areas; and my latest balanced budget renews that commitment. We remain focused on the future. And that is why I want to talk this morning about meeting the greatest challenge of the new century: the aging of America. As the Baby Boom becomes the Senior Boom, long-term care will become a growing need. So it is more important than ever that we help families provide that essential kind of care for their loved ones. In my balanced budget, I have proposed and paid for a long-term care tax credit of \$1,000 to help families do exactly that.

I will say more about that proposal in a moment. But first, let me paint the larger picture, and say that a long-term care tax cut is exactly the kind of tax cut we should be making. As you know, we are engaged in a great national debate right now about how to use the budget surplus. Now, we can all agree that America should have tax cuts. But there are two very different ways we can go about it. First, there is the old way -- failed and full of risk -- that some Republicans are trying to resurrect. They are saying: splurge today, save tomorrow. That's not the approach that Vice President Gore and I have proposed. Our approach says invest today, save for tomorrow. Our kind of tax cut doesn't destroy our fiscal discipline, but preserves it. Our kind of tax cut is not indiscriminate, but is, instead, targeted to meet people's real needs for the future. Above all, our kind of tax cut allows us to meet our responsibility to future generations -- and to invest the lion's share of the surplus in saving Social Security and Medicare first.

Even some Republican moderates, like Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, see

the wisdom in this approach, in targeted tax cuts. I look forward to ^{working together} ~~working with them~~ to make the right choices for future generations -- to make sure we don't squander our historic opportunity to save Social Security and Medicare, and pay down the debt. As I said in my State of the Union Address one month ago, we can make good on that opportunity, while providing tax relief like USA Accounts, and while making targeted tax cuts in areas from urban investment to clean energy technology, and from child care to long-term care. That is the way we should use our surplus: We should invest it. Invest it in America's future.

As I have said: In the future, in the 21st Century, America will be an aging nation. And as the ranks of the elderly grow, so do the numbers of vulnerable Americans who cannot fend for themselves. Already, millions of households are caring for elderly relatives and neighbors and people with disabilities. It is the cycle of life. Our parents worked and saved and sacrificed for us in our youth; adult children are working and saving and sacrificing for their parents in old age.

Providing long-term care at home is, more and more often, a common choice, but it is rarely an easy one. We heard about these challenges at the Family Conference the Vice President hosted in Nashville last summer; and he is now helping to lead our efforts by holding a series of forums across the nation. We have seen that out-of-pocket expenses can be high, since long-term care is rarely covered by private insurance or Medicare. Moreover, caregivers who hold jobs outside the home -- and that is a vast majority -- may have to take unpaid leave or work fewer hours to fulfill all their responsibilities.

We have taken steps to ease the burdens on these families in a number of ways: by strengthening Medicare, by extending the trust fund, by promoting prevention and cracking down on fraud and abuse. But the aging of America in the 21st Century will require more of us. The long-term care tax cut I proposed last month would help to meet the needs of individual families, empowering them to do what is best, showing them how very much we value the work they do. And it is only one part of our comprehensive long-term care initiative: I have also proposed a national Caregiver Support Program, as well as new steps to help Medicaid pay for home- and community-based care. Caregiving is a vital and sacred compact among generations -- and one we should recognize and reward as a nation.

There is more we must do to improve health care in America. We should join together across party lines to pass a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights -- as well as the landmark legislation proposed by Senators Jeffords, Kennedy, Roth, and Moynihan to allow people with disabilities to keep their health insurance when they go to work. Congress should also pass my plan to help small businesses insure their employees, since it is the smallest companies that often face the greatest difficulty in providing coverage. And we must keep working until our uninsured kids have the coverage they need and deserve. In 1997, we passed the largest

investment in children's health in a generation, helping extend coverage to up to 5 million children; and now, in states across the country, Governors like Jeanne Shaheen are working to find and enroll every single eligible child. In this way, we are all working together to build a stronger and healthier America for the 21st Century.

I know our panelists have some important perspectives to share. I am looking forward to starting that discussion.

[The President asks the panelists a question TK.]